

Mana 271

Chapter 271 - A Deadly Team

In the hellish atmosphere of the First Realm of Hell, two figures had grouped together as they moved against a horde of Infernals with ease on their faces. They were powerful beings at the peak of Saint Rank, their identities being even more special as they occupied a position as disciples of the Celestials.

There were powerful rotating golden spears that let out a holy aura around one of them, each of these spears being more than five meters large as they went forward to crush the heads of all the Infernals they neared.

The other Celestial Disciple was controlling holy chains that sought their own enemies, wrapping around them tightly before the life was squeezed out of their bodies.

Every time that these Celestial Disciples killed the infernals a red light would be released from their dead bodies as it entered into the bodies of the disciples, bolstering their strengths little by little.

The two celestials had happened to teleport near each other when they first entered into the First Hell, and they grouped up as they began hunting down the infernals at high speeds.

They continued to traverse the first realm of hell as they soon came upon a new group of beings that they had not expected to find in this realm. The celestial disciple hoisting the golden spears in the air noticed them first, their gazes turning and watching as a group of what seemed to be undead beings traversed through the blazing atmosphere of the first hell, with their weapons cutting down any infernals that rushed towards them.

From what they could see, there were a handful of undead that reached the Saint Realm, with the majority of the ones moving being transcendent or lower. They didn't feel threatened by the appearance of the group as they simply wondered about this peculiarity.

If it was something peculiar, it meant it was something that the disciples of celestials would check out. They exchanged glances as the two disciples went towards the group of undead. They were sent into this infernal hunt not just to reduce the number of infernals, but also to monitor any changes or unexpected events that occurred. The appearance of thousands of undead in the realm of hell was not the norm, as Necromancers were not a group that was among the allies of the Celestials.

The celestial disciple controlling the golden spears commanded one to descend as she first wanted to test whether these new undead individuals were beings made from the first hell or if they were creatures that were being controlled by something else. The spear thundered down towards the undead group as the celestial disciples watched expectantly when something drastic occurred!

VOOM

At a speed invisible to the n.a.k.e.d eye, a bubble of red blood had spread out to cover everything in their surroundings!

"Blood World."

They heard the words soon after the bloody world had wrapped around their bodies, their gazes changing briefly as a golden light appeared on each of their bodies and they activated defensive abilities.

They had not sensed any enemies nearby, nor had they expected one to appear that made it impossible to perform spatial movements and heavily restricted their physical movements.

The two celestial disciples covered each other's backs as they glanced upon their newly appearing enemy. Their gaze was met with a devilishly handsome silver-haired Vampyre Prince that looked at them coldly while the blood world continued to expand around them.

Along with the expansion of the bloody world, undead similar to the ones they had seen before had begun to appear en masse, although these ones were much more powerful than the ones who observed for.

OONG

Essence rumbled and roiled as multiple huge Bone Dragons and undead Blue Phoenixes appeared in the bloody air. This did not stop until six fully formed bone dragons and six fully formed blue phoenixes valiantly appeared, their bodies letting out terrifying levels of strength that seemed to be at the peak of the saint rank.

As if this was not enough, a new species of undead that very few would come across nowadays made their appearance for the first time. Their size was not as impressive as the dragons or the blue phoenixes, but it was their eerie aura that they released which made one feel a shiver down their spine.

It was the undead known as Specters! Becoming available for the Abhorred Lich Emperor to summon after Noah placed more points into the [Undead Legion] ability, these Specters were beings that weren't formed from physical matter, but spiritual. They were a rare species of undead to come across as those who did not specialize in spiritual attacks normally found themselves at wits ends when they faced such enemies.

The specters had an appearance white in color, their bodies holding a teardrop shape as a ghastly skeletal figure could be seen, two blank dark eyes and a wide crooked mouth being the only other things that appeared on their faces.

The crooked mouth released a ghastly air the moment it opened, six of these Specters appearing as they surrounded the Celestial Disciples along with multiple other High Tier Undead. The Celestial Disciples felt a foreboding feeling as multiple more golden spears appeared in their roundings, along with numerous golden chains being cast as they released even more abilities.

"Fate's Eye!"

"Fate's Eye!"

Golden light spread out as both of the disciples gained a golden third eye on their foreheads, their bodies releasing a domineering aura as an inviolable Law of Fate, something that very few could influence, surrounded their bodies.

One of them spoke.

"Friends, I do not know your purpose here, but are you sure you want to go through with this?"

The devilishly handsome Vampyre Prince listened to this, a cold smile covering his face as he replied.

"Oh, I most definitely want to go through with this."

Prince Cassius waved his hands in the wide Blood World as lines of blood began to move, sharp teeth growing visibly larger in his mouth as he licked his bloody lips and acted like a being conducting a grand symphony of blood. He had his own reasons for taking down Celestials, but he would be lying if he said he didn't enjoy the delectable blood that ran through their veins. He did not know if it was because the blood was drenched in the law of fate, or if the celestial disciples were uniquely chosen with high qualities. All he knew was that he would be draining every single bit of blood until their bodies faded away into nothingness.

Alongside him, eerie Undead Spectors released spiritual attacks as Bone Dragons and Phoenixes sent out devilish attacks towards the powerfully glowing Celestial Disciples surrounded by a golden aura of fate!

Chapter 272 - A Grandmaster Makes a Move

"Constrain."

OONG!

Multiple bloody lines began to chase the celestial disciples in the bloody world as the undead also made their move. Vigorously poisonous draconic breaths left the jaws of the Bone Dragons while blazing blue fire was released from the undead phoenixes. Most terrifying of all were the Specters, which released an engulfing eerie ghastly light that went on to attach onto the bodies of the celestial disciples.

Their mobility was heavily impaired by the lines of blood chasing them down, and now to their horror, they found their bodies attached in what felt like a sticky substance that continued to sap the life out of their bodies. This was the eerie ghastly light that the Abhorred Lich Emperor's Specters released, the Lich itself standing on top of one undead phoenix as it continued to wave its Skull Staff and directed the forces around them.

The golden spears, nor the golden chains could block these spiritual attacks from the Specters, the celestial disciples finding themselves cornered in just a matter of seconds.

"Fates protection!"

"Fates protection!"

They powerfully spoke as a golden light went on to cover their bodies, the ghastly light from the Specters momentarily breaking contact, but the golden light did not last long enough as it was quickly broken through, and the sticky feeling of life being sapped out of their bodies returned.

Even the Vampyre Prince was looking at these newly appeared Specters with slight apprehension as even he himself was not confident in fully dealing with spiritual beings.

He would have to unleash some of his ultimate abilities just to survive or injure them. His mind changed even more when he thought about the being behind this legion of undead that he had been traveling with.

His strong confidence in his own power still reigned supreme as he observed the faces of the Celestial Disciples visibly aging as their life force continued to be drained helplessly, his gaze turning sour as he

felt the strong smell of blood coming off of them reducing as time passed. He turned towards the undead Skeleton Knight near him as he spoke.

"Hey, your little pets are draining all of their life force."

"...Isn't that the goal?"

Noah, who was safely hidden a distance away in the Spiritual Land replied quizzically to the Vampyre Prince as he heard the voice ringing out once more.

"Leave one for me to take care of."

The Skeleton Knight which Noah was looking through looked at the Vampyre that was licking his lips as if he was looking at the most perfect meal ever made as he shook his head and sent a command for his undead to focus their attacks on only one celestial disciple.

The disciples wanted to get more words out as they found their lives actually hanging by a thread, their gazes were that of confusion and fear as nothing in their training prepared them for a situation like this.

Nothing in their teachings of fate had allowed them to foresee this catastrophic event occurring to them. The bloody world they were in continued to constrict them tighter and tighter as the attacks from bone dragons and the undead Phoenixes rained down. For one of the Celestial Disciples, their lifeforce continued to be sapped away by the terrifying Specters that they could not defend against.

It was a terrifying and hopeless sight as in only a matter of minutes the golden light that the disciples were releasing had all but faded away, their body looking aged and ancient as gray hairs could be seen on their head. The disciple looked like they had aged more than a hundred years in a matter of minutes as immense fear crept in.

The other disciple felt even more suffocated as countless bloody lines tied up their limbs, making them immobile as a devilishly handsome Vampyre neared. His cold hands touched the neck of the immobile celestial disciple as he felt the fearfully pumping blood through the major veins and arteries, his eyes being clouded by a layer of bloody light as he opened his jaws widely and sank his teeth in.

Noah observed the wildy joyful expression on the Vampyre Prince's face as he felt goosebumps in the Spiritual Land, with his attention quickly being taken away as he noticed something above the blood world.

Invisible to the n.a.k.e.d eye, a golden aura had descended into the First Realm of Hell as it looked to be searching for something. It stayed in the air above the blood world briefly as it began fading soon after, having not found what it was looking for and not being able to remain there any longer.

Unsuccessfully the golden light could only fade away once more. At the same time, another 2 celestial disciples had fallen in the First Hell.

Far in the distance across multiple planets, in a Celestial Star where a powerful Grandmaster was watching golden circles floating on a board, an expression of great disappointment and slight fury had appeared in his face as he had lost two more pieces.

Two pieces were lost, and yet he wasn't any closer to finding out exactly who was responsible for the recent events. His gaze was one of pondering as he raised his powerful hands and made a few calculations, standing from the calm monastery he was in as he gazed far off into the distance.

The Grandmaster was an old schemer and monster, having gone through a great deal of things and being very experienced. He was thinking of the best way to quickly nip a problem in the bud as he thought of the being trying to unravel fate. He was still indecisive as the choice he made now would actively go towards the plot of this being.

The Celestial continued to ponder when he felt a slight tremble from one the two golden circles still floating on the board, and he watched expressionlessly as his own disciple, Drax, met his death. His expression did not remain bland for long though, as finally, with the death of this disciple, a new signal was sent back!

The grandmaster's aura captured this signal as he finally glanced upon the being that reaped the life of his own disciple, his expression changing as he came across the blurry image of a ferocious Infernal.

The image gradually cleared as the Grandmaster used various abilities to lock on to the target which should have been caught by a technique the moment he killed his disciple, and his expression turned grim as he used his expansive experience when looking at the image of the Infernal in front of him.

His experience was wide and vast, quickly coming to an understanding that an Aberrant had risen in the First Hell!

Aberrants were powerful Infernals that later on went on to become Generals or Scions of the Infernal Lords, with the most powerful Aberrants actually gaining the title of Infernal Lord itself if they grew powerful enough.

A dangerous light passed through the Grandmaster's eyes as he wondered.

'Was this the plot of the one interfering with fate? Allowing this Aberrant to rise into an Infernal Lord in the future?'

A few thoughts passed through the Grandmaster's mind as he stared at a single golden circle, the largest one that represented the most powerful Athena, that continued to shine brilliantly.

The rapid set of events nailed the decision the Celestial did not want to carry out as his aura blazed outwards from the Monastery.

OONG

"I'll be going out briefly."

A few words spread out from him and into an unknown location in the Celestial Star as his body shot out of the monastery surrounded by resplendent medicinal herbs, and he tore through the atmosphere of the star before he quickly appeared above in space.

He gave a brief glance to the shining star below him as his aura grew even larger, his gaze one of calmness as a golden aura wrapped around him, and he streaked across space in an unbelievable speed towards one location- The First Realm of Hell!

This was something extremely shocking as Celestials such as himself never moved personally when it came to issues, using their mysterious skills and abilities to manipulate the workings of fate behind the scenes, occasionally sending out their Celestial Disciples to act on their behalf.

Even if they had to personally accompany them, like in the case of a Grandmaster accompanying Athena to closely watch her mission that concerned a certain destroyed world, they would not personally act!

This was because they were very proficient in the Law of Fate, and knew the immense effects that came with every action that beings like them took. For the sake of maintaining Order, they enjoyed using proxies as they could keep their hands free of karma and continue to conduct things behind the scene.

The action of this Grandmaster to move out personally was heavily considered in his mind as he knew it could have unintended consequences for the future, but he still made the decision to go.

He had expected one or two of the disciples he sent out to possibly face their deaths, but never four of them, and never had the thought that he would not even be able to find out the identity of the killer until only a single disciple remained alive.

This killer...was actually an Aberration in the First Hell, a being that held the qualifications of becoming an Infernal Lord in the future!

He could not let this Aberration continue to grow, and even more so, he could not let the vibrant Athena face death in its hands. Others could be sacrificed. Others could die. But not her. To achieve the goal of destroying this Aberration early while also ensuring Athena's life, he would have to personally move this time.

His gaze was determined as his vigorous power that was multiple levels above the Void Rank streaked across space at speeds much faster than even light itself.

Chapter 273 - A Prelude

The festive aura that had colored the atmosphere of the various powers that were gathered in sh.i.p.s around the door of the First Hell slowly began to dwindle as more and more powers knew of the deaths of their disciples or trainees.

Many of these powers had various ways to keep track of the status of their disciple, the number of those facing death quickly becoming known as murmurs began to spread throughout. They could all feel it- something was different about the Infernal Hunt currently taking place!

"Too many of our disciples are losing their lives, and too quickly at that!"

"Something is wrong, our Core Disciples would never be taken down this easily. We need to send others in to investigate."

Various interstellar sh.i.p.s were sending communications back and forth as disorder continued to increase, with no answers in sight as the being responsible, the Infernal Aberration, reaped the lives of trainees and disciples so fast that not a single one had been able to come out alive from the encounter.

This was true, until just recently!

A distraught disciple from a Sect in the World of Cultivation was teleported back to their ship, and they returned with great fear in their faces, their body being greatly injured.

After they were healed, terrifying words came out of their mouths that allowed for the observers around to finally get a grasp of what changes had occurred in the First Realm of Hell.

"A...An Infernal with power much higher than the Void Firmament realm is in the First Hell!"

"What!"

"Impossible!"

Unbelievable shouts were released from those that heard the words from the distraught disciple, as they directly violated the one rule all of them understood about the Infernal Hell- the fact that any being higher than the Void Firmament rank would be rejected from the First Realm of Hell.

The Saint Realm disciple shook their head despondently as they released defeated words.

"I- I watched my fellow disciple ripped apart in less than a second, the only reason it did not get to me too was because I cowardly activated my medallion the moment Senior Sister Judy died in front of me."

The Void Realm Elders of this organization listened to the account of their disciple as their gazes hardened, sharing this information with the other powers surrounding them as they quickly began to move.

Though it seemed unbelievable and against established knowledge they knew, they quickly acted as the organizations that could contact their disciples through unique ways sent messages for them to use their teleportation tools to quickly return.

Those that did not have ways could only look on anxiously as they felt the lives of more and more disciples quickly snuffed out. Unease began to spread amongst the various powers gathered around the door of the First Hell as they did not know exactly what to do!

If the information was true, this meant that even if the Elders of the various powers at the Void Firmament Realm entered to try and save their disciples, they would be facing a similar situation of battling a terrible infernal that was a rank above them. Hesitation filled their faces as they did not know how to proceed, but this did not last long as an oppressive aura could suddenly be felt rushing towards them from a certain direction.

The various powers turned to a particular direction as they felt the aura of a ridiculous level of power they normally never came across rush towards them. Only a second passed before this aura became visible to the n.a.k.e.d eye, arriving with grandiose fashion it shimmered gold.

It felt like a blazing being had torn through space and arrived near the door leading to the First Hell as they stood valiantly in space, their aura wildly pulsating out and making many of those nearby feel an oppressive force pushing down on them.

The light slightly dimmed as those watching finally saw the image of a wizened old man serenely standing in space. The gaze of the old man glanced at the door of hell briefly before it turned towards the Interstellar Sh.i.p.s around it, peering through all the layers as it honed in on the figureheads of the powerful forces lying within.

Soon after, multiple figures at the Void Rank could be seen coming from their sh.i.p.s as they gathered around this powerful old man. Their gazes were those of tension and slight fear as they came closer and closer to him, hearing a resounding voice traveling through space and into their ears.

"An Aberration has appeared in this Infernal Realm, one that the disciples will not be able to handle."

The tense gazes of the Void Rank finally gained some understanding as they connected the dots with the words of the frightened disciples, with one of the Void Rank figures, Elder Spacewarp of the Profound Astral Sect, taking the initiative to ask.

"What can we do?"

The gaze of the powerful Celestial Grandmaster landed on him as he craned back, hearing a reply soon after.

"The Aberration cannot be left alive, while the disciples still in the First Hell need to be saved. You all..."

His gaze pointed towards each of the Void Rank figureheads as he continued.

"...will be going in personally to help take down this Aberration."

The expressions of the powerful beings became tenser as they heard this, one of them voicing out with a low tone,

"Esteemed Sir, we would sadly just be fuel for this Aberration to grow stronger. Our power isn't-"

"Hush."

A simple word caused utter silence in the surroundings as the Celestial Grandmaster raised his hands, multiple golden lights releasing from his fingers as they descended into the bodies of the Void Rank Elders and Leaders of various powers.

OOOM

A holy golden light descended onto the bodies of the figureheads as golden runes became etched into their bodies, feeling an overflowing abundance of strength overflowing through them as they looked at their own bodies in shock.

"You are now acting as my Incarnations, capable of descending into the First Realm of Hell because of your levels of power, yet being able to use much more with your temporary status."

The figureheads at the Void Realm felt tremendous strength flowing through them as they looked towards the Celestial Grandmaster with shaking hearts.

"Quickly go in and meet up with Athena. She will guide you all as you face the Aberration. Failure will not be an option."

The figureheads of multiple powers nodded their heads as they became accustomed to this new feeling of strength, their figures turning into streaks of light as the golden light covering them pulled them towards a certain direction.

A slight wrinkle appeared on the Celestial Grandmaster after he used a tremendous amount of essence to descend some of his will and power to create the Incarnations, but this wrinkle was quickly wiped away as his body returned to its vigorous power in less than a second.

His gaze now went back towards the doorway leading to the First Hell as it peered through the various layers and tried to discern what was happening inside.

In the Infernal Realm that was the First Hell, Noah had his eyes closed in the Spiritual Land as he was actively using [Insight] once again. Working in conjunction with the Vampyre Prince, they had successfully taken down another two Celestial Disciples, which would only leave two more, Athena and Drax.

He wanted to see if he could decipher their location by observing multiple possible pathways when he came across a particular pathway that made him open his eyes in shock.

The Skeleton Knight that was conversing with the Vampyre Prince about their next direction adopted a difficult expression as the golden flames danced in its eye sockets, the undead surrounding it coming to a halt as Prince Cassius peeked out of his blood bubble and asked.

"What's wrong?"

His question was only met with a rapid movement of essence as he spread out his senses to discover the Undead Legion around him slowly fading away as the Abhorred Lich Emperor waved its golden Skull Staff and sucked them into an unseen space.

Noah's voice contained a tone of somberness as it rang out again while this process was occurring.

"Huge change of plans. Multiple Void Realm beings are soon entering the First Hell, and each of their bodies holds a sort of power that resembles a technique of Celestials."

"What?!"

Prince Cassius asked with surprise as the Undead around him all but disappeared as if they never existed, with the Lich turning into a streak of light and disappearing soon after, only the bloody bubble that he was in remaining in the air.

His senses perked up as in the next instant, the figure of a being that was somewhat famous in the World of Cultivation, the well known wastrel of the Profound Astral Sect, Crixus, appeared in the air next to him.

"You?"

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Chapter 274 - Skill Trees and Resets

The Vampyre Prince looked at Crixus with unfamiliarity as stern words came out of the newly appearing figure.

"Come on, we have to move fast."

"What have you found out exactly?"

Many thoughts and calculations were passing through Noah's mind as he began shooting towards a particular direction, the Vampyre Prince easily keeping up with him. Noah looked at his stat panel as he replied.

"I am not completely sure, but because of our actions and something else in this Infernal Realm, an actual bonafide Celestial is most likely pulling the strings and watching what is happening in here."

Their figures streaked through the fiery skies at high speeds as they ignored the maddened infernals below them, Noah continuing.

"We now have to keep in mind our identities, and how we should be acting if something had gone wrong in this Infernal Hunt that forced multiple Void Realm beings carrying the stench of Celestials to enter."

A gaze of understanding passed through Prince Cassius as he was about to speak, when both he and Noah felt the aura of a tremendously powerful being exploding out quite a distance away from them, but towards the direction that they were heading into.

Their gazes slightly changed as they looked at one another. The more knowledgeable Prince Cassius voiced out.

"That aura can only be from an extremely powerful Infernal, one that should have already ascended to the Second Realm of Hell, but somehow it is still here. That should be the reason for the Celestial's intrusion."

Noah nodded his head as he pieced everything together while recalling the golden aura that appeared above the Blood World that Cassius had cast when they had killed two Celestial Disciples. He watched how this aura had descended the moment the two disciples faced their death, and yet it wasn't able to locate them because of the unique feature of the Vampyre Prince's skill, it faded soon after.

The only two Celestial Disciples that he and the Prince had not come across were Athena and Drax, and it was highly likely that the latter, Drax, had faced death in the hands of this powerful Infernal whose aura they could feel from a tremendous distance away. Following this thought process, it meant that the Celestial who was intruding currently had this Infernal as the target, and they thought that this single Infernal was the culprit for the deaths of all the other disciples that had occurred in this Infernal Hunt!

Noah continued to ponder, his mind focused on the mentality of Celestials as he asked the Prince,

"From what you know about Athena, how likely is she to survive the encounter with this powerful Infernal?"

Prince Cassius looked at Noah closely as his expression became somber.

"The reason I believed you when you told me I would meet Athena and it would not end well for me...it was because of the few pieces of information that we had managed to uncover about her over the years. From what we have gathered, in the Void Realm, she has no opponents."

His silver hair shone as he gazed towards the direction they were flying in and continued to speak.

"If she were to be matched with the powerful aura of the Infernal that we are sensing all the way out here, then I would give her chances of survival...at least 50%"

Noah listened with a thoughtful expression as he replied.

"Well, it seems the intruding Celestial doesn't even like those fifty-fifty odds, and will be sending in multiple powerhouses whose powers feel like the peak of Void Realm towards that same direction."

"...Her life would then pretty much be guaranteed."

Noah nodded as he continued to think before he replied.

"Let's go see how the situation develops. With the arrival of all of these forces though, it seems we will only be acting in the capacity of helpful disciples from other powers at this rate."

Noah was explaining his thoughts to Prince Cassius as they continued to shoot forth in a particular direction, with more than half of his attention placed on the next Saint+ skill he had been preserving some of the Infernal Skill Points for.

He was currently Crixus, a disciple of the Profound Astral Sect, and he could not be seen using Necromancy by the multiple powerful Elders and Sect Masters that would be entering the First Realm of Hell under the watch of an Unkown Celestial.

He held the skills of the dead Crixus and could imitate him fully, but even better yet was the one space related ability he had raised from Saint to Saint+ with the combination of [Aberrant Saint] and a skill he gained from the Magus called Black Serpent, the [Progenitor Transformation].

The product of these two skills was something that he had already maxed the proficiency of during his 8-day 'cultivation' period when he acted as Crixus in the Profound Astral Sect, where he was actually in the Time Space of the Spiritual Land raising the power and proficiencies of many of the skills he collected for more than two months.

The product was a skill that had come a long way. From the bases of [Dictatorial Kaiju- Hydra], to the [Calamitous Leviathan], to the [Aberrant Saint], the more offensive space related ability he wanted to play with next using the Skill Points was called [Amorphous Space Beast].

SAINT+ [Amorphous Space Beast] (0/15):: A unique creature in the Universe that was synthesized from a variety of abilities. Because of its characteristic, it sometimes appears as a calamitous dragon, and other times as a leviathan with an uncountable number of tentacles. Abilities include Spatial Cage, Destabilize, Shattered Star, and Miniature Space.

The skill was spectacular, with the Spatial Cage ability allowing him to create individual cages that held his enemies in place, the Destabilize ability allowing him to influence a wide area and not allow spatial movements, the Shattered Star ability allowing him to throw his enemies the force of an exploding star, and the Miniature Space being the extremely small black hole he could pull his large body as well as his enemies into.

Yet he held a troubled expression as he realized the number of Skill Points would be enough to upgrade it to Void Rank, but he wouldn't be left with any points to spread across the stupendous abilities of

whatever skill tree he chose in the future. He wanted to first see what the possible pathways would be as he added 15 points until the advancement was possible.

SAINT+ [Amorphous Space Beast] (15/15)- Skill Point requirement met. 0/2 SAINT+ Skills are needed for advancement to two possible Skill Trees: >> **Void Walker**- A path geared towards greater proficiency in the Law of Space. Additional abilities include Fracture, Supernova, and Space Mirror. >> **Lesser Cthulhu**- A profoundly rare creature to come across in the wide expanse of space. Additional Abilities include Morph, Child of Space, Portals of Terror, and Sever.

A truly spectacular selection appeared in front of his eyes as he almost came to a stop, his mind rapidly moving as he was tempted to briefly stop and farm just a few more Skill Points from the Infernals.

He looked at the Skill Tree of the [Abhorred Lich Emperor] as an idea struck his mind, seemingly nonsensical but at the same time, he couldn't stop himself from asking if it was a possibility. He focused on his connection to the Planetary System of his homeworld as he asked.

"The Infernal Skill Points that are already added to certain abilities, is it possible to...redistribute them?"

The idea seemed far-fetched, but too many unbelievable and fantastical things continued to occur around him and he couldn't help but ask. The reply came less than a millisecond later.

[Of course, the Skill Points are a form of a unique quantifiable essence that reside within you. You can easily move them around from one ability to another if you wish. The only downside is the temporary deactivation of a Skill Tree if you completely remove the points associated with it, but you can just as easily redistribute the points as you wish thereafter.]

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The monotone voice of the Planetary System replied as Noah could feel his heart pumping even faster. He didn't think the idea of Skill Reset would actually be something that was possible. He thought he had discovered everything there was to the Skill Points that could only be gained from the Infernals in the Realms of Hell, but it seemed there was still much to discover as time went on!

He gazed at the number of Skill Points he could play with in the Abhorred Lich Emperor skill tree while also thinking of what Skill Tree to choose for the evolution of the [Amorphous Space Beast]

[Lich Lord of Abomination] (15/15):: Abilities- Summon Poison Totem(2/5), Summon Undead(5/5), Noxious Outburst(3/5), and Dereliction of the Sainly Poison Lord(5/5) >> [Abhorred Lich Emperor](22/30) :: Additional Abilities- Undead Legion(5/5), Will of the Undead Emperor(5/5), and Delay Death(5/5)

His time had been used wisely and efficiently as he moved with the Vampyre Prince, making great strides with the Skill Tree of the Lich as he distributed the points as the Infernals fell. His eyes shone a dangerous light as he simply sent a command while watching the number of points in each of the parentheses of the skills, the light shining even brighter as he watched the numbers reduce and go down to zero, while the counter for free Infernal Skill Points he could use rapidly filled up.

This...was simply too fantastic!

His gaze turned to the two possible paths of evolution for the [Amorphous Space Beast] skill that he could now distribute a large number of skill points into, being able to bring out the strongest forms of the new abilities the moment he chose the Skill Tree. Now, which would it be? The [Void Walker], or the [Lesser Cthulhu]?

Chapter 275 - The War Princess, Athena

In the blazing fires of the first hell, a lone woman was flying through the skies under the protection of two golden glowing elementals carrying huge hammers. The elementals were unique beings that could be summoned as protectors by knowledgeable Celestials, and came from an ability called [Empyrean Guards]

[Empyrean Guards] was a skill that was only used by the most proficient of the Celestial Disciples, as it was one that was commonly used by Celestials themselves. The initial stages could summon one Empyrean Guard that let out a holy fate aura, and it acted on their summoner's behalf to bring justice to all those that stood against them.

There were two Empyrean Guards flying next to the dark skinned Athena, their bodies letting out impeccable strength at the Void Rank. The Empyrean Guards carried golden hammers in each of their hands, and these hammers would release resplendent rays of light that went on to strike and obliterate all the infernals that they came across.

It was through these summoned guards that Athena continued to rack at points that she now neared the top position that the Vampyre Prince was holding on to. She was continuing her duty of wiping out the infernals when her beautiful expression changed as she looked in a particular direction. Her gaze that was calm and cool changed slightly, as she felt a tremendously powerful force coming.

The force was barreling towards her at extremely high speeds and would most likely be there in only a matter of seconds. She had already ascertained this rushing enemy to be an Infernal as it let out an unbearable stench.

She also felt the power that seemed to be in the Void Realm, and yet it wasn't in that realm at the same time. But even with this wild level of power, this infernal had somehow managed to remain in the First Realm of Hell.

Athena's gaze hardened as in the midst of all this, wisps of understanding were coming out as she began analyzing the significance of this Infernal. Her expression became stern as unlike what many others would do when faced with a power of crazy levels coming towards them, she did not leave. She did not teleport away nor use her medallion as a life-saving tool.

No, she chose to meet this coming enemy head-on.

Essence erupted from her as she prepared to match the powerful enemy that was coming, a holy golden light releasing from her. The extension of bringing out the holy aspect from the Law of Fate was something that very few Celestials could manage to do. Those that were learning how to manipulate fate or influence it could very rarely dip their hands into the pool that pulled out this tremendously powerful holy aura. This special power added a domineering effect to one's attacks, making those facing them feel an oppressive feeling from the depths of their souls.

Athena's rumbling essence summoned two more Empyrean Guards as all four became drenched in abundant golden light and were reinforced in power. The bodies of the Empyrean Guards became larger as two shining white wings erupted from their backs, making them much faster.

The four guards each stood in front of Athena as they prepared to clash with the coming infernal. She did not have to wait long as the Infernal was rushing towards her unique signature at rapid speeds, its body tearing through space as it arrived in a grandiose fashion.

BOOM!

A tremendously powerful sound reverberated throughout as the only greeting the Aberration gave to the enemies that it met was a powerful attack that almost always reaped their lives.

Athena took a look at the appearing Infernal in front of her, observing his unique features and the blue runic inscriptions that covered its horns. Many things came into place as she used her abundant knowledge to put all the information together.

She looked at this infernal that had not ascended to the Second Realm of Hell even though its power very clearly did not match the maximum allowed level at the First Hell. She observed the blue runic inscriptions to be the origins of the diametrically opposed beings that this Infernal had killed. It had consolidated its power, reinforcing its strength more and more as it rose to higher levels and yet still remained in this realm.

Her gaze became even more stern as she fully decided to fight this terrible foe no matter what it took. From her abundant knowledge, she was able to come to a conclusion that this was an Aberration, and she knew that Aberrations could eventually become the Generals or Scions of the Infernal Lords, and in some rare cases, those that were talented enough could rise to become actual Infernal Lords in the future.

She could not let this happen!

Too many deaths would be caused by the rise of a new Infernal Lord, even if this Aberration in front of her only carried a possibility. She would be there to prevent the possibility, even if she had to lay down her life.

This was a promise she made to herself a long time ago, before she even joined the ranks of Celestials. She grew up with war and death all around her, watching her family, friends, and anything she was close to die as the years passed. While watching all the senseless deaths from years of war, she told herself that if she had the power to bring a stop to all of it, she would do it without a second thought!

Thoughts and wishes did not make the Universe flow in a perfect order though, strength did. She had no strength and could only watch her world gradually turn to ruin, her life saved by a single Celestial as fate still had something in store for her.

Over the years she spent being trained by the Celestials and learning the ideology that allowed them to look at the larger picture of Order and Balance, she had always continued to ask herself, what exactly did fate want from her?

This singular pondering on fate allowed her to exceed all expectations when learning the techniques that relied on the Law of Fate, giving her the special position she held today, but she was still searching.

She traversed many stars over the last few years as she intervened and stopped the destruction of worlds, and at the same time took the lives of many that would only sow discord and more chaos in the universe.

She always continued to ponder on the teachings of the Celestials all these years while searching. She was taught to train her will to become as strong as possible, because she would be forced to take actions that very few had the wills to carry out. Very few could see the larger goal when it came to taking the lives of a few to save an insurmountable number of others. Yet, she continued to ask herself, was this the path that fate wanted her on? She had never found an answer, but she continued to live by her ideals as she chose to stand against this Infernal.

She knew her power might not be a match against this terrible beast in front of her, but she would do it nonetheless as this beast could be a cause for a tremendous amount of chaos in the future. She couldn't have that, as she stood to maintain order. She would stand against this beast because that was who she was.

She was the disciple that was most proficient in her understanding of fate that she brought shock to the higher echelons of Celestials. She was the War Princess, the one who stood for order and balance!

YAAH!

She let out a valiant scream as she summoned long golden hammers into her hands as well, joining her four Emyrean Guards as they flanked and attacked the Infernal letting out powerful waves of power.

The Aberration looked at this being it could not kill with its first attack as it sensed the abundant amount of essence clustered within this one being, its eyes turning greedy as it wanted to devour her right away. The wide expansive wings on its back let out fumes of flames as it swiped its powerful claw forward, multiple tendrils of flames appearing as they formed into larger spinning flames, eventually becoming terrible tornadoes of hellish flames that multiplied all around him.

With a wave of its hands, more and more hellish rotating flames appeared and rushed towards the beings glowing in golden energy and holding huge hammers in their hands, along with the resplendent Athena valiantly rushing forth towards it!

BOOM!

A momentous battle had begun in the First Realm of Hell.

At the same time, multiple figures at the Void Rank entered, their bodies covered in a golden aura. These were the incarnations that the Celestial Grandmaster had sent forth, powerful beings of the Void Realm that were now reinforced with the power of a Celestial.

Their bodies let out wild vibrations of strength as the golden aura around them continued to pull them forward towards one single location, towards the only Celestial Disciple remaining in the First Realm of Hell.

Chapter 276 - A Skill Tree of Ultimate Proportions

The choice to make between [Void Walker] and [Lesser Cthulhu] was actually simple. From looking at the fact that [Lesser Cthulhu] provided more abilities, as well as the description of the abilities coming from a 'profoundly rare creature' across the universe, Noah chose this skill tree right away.

After using two of the few remaining SAINT+ skills he had worked hard to raise and combine in his last session in the Time Space, he felt the resonance of essence rumble within him once again as he synthesized yet another Void Rank Skill. He felt the explosion of something unknown inside of his origin as this upgrade brought about an even more profound sensation than when he advanced the skill tree of the Lich Emperor. Dwelling in the sensation for a bit, he opened the Skill Tree of the [Lesser Cthulhu] and observed the new additions.

VOID [Amorphous Space Beast] (0/15) :: Abilities- Spatial Cage(0/5), Destabilize(0/5), Shattered Star(0/5), and Miniature Space(0/5). >> [Lesser Cthulhu] Additional Abilities- Morph(0/5), Child of Space(0/5), Portals of Terror(0/5), and Sever(0/5).

Morph(Active) (0/5) :: As a beast of mystical origins, you can briefly call upon your bloodline as you take the form of a terrible entity. While this form is active, +5% Complete Damage Absorption, +50% Physical Damage, +50% Elemental Damage, +50% Elemental Resistance, +50% Attack, Casting, and Movement Speed

Child of Space(Passive) (0/5) :: You feel the love from the space surrounding you. No energy is required to withstand the void of space. All space-related abilities are boosted by 50%.

Portals of Terror(Active)(0/5):: Portals leading to the most destabilized and destructive regions of the universe are summoned as they release their catastrophic energies at their summoned location. Maximum number of portals: 3

Sever(Active)(0/5) :: An ability geared towards an element that very few beings are able to tap into. Allows the user to access the elusive Aether Element as a ray of Aether that severs all it comes into contact with, even space itself, is cast. Can only be active for 1 second.

A spectacular set of skills that almost brought him to a complete halt appeared before his eyes.

The skills were crazy powerful, to say the least, with the thing drawing most of his attention being the [Sever] ability that introduced a new element he hadn't heard of all that much, Aether!

An element that was extremely hard to find being used even by the most powerful beings, being one of the sources of power that very few could tap into. Yet this advancement to [Lesser Cthulhu]...actually gave him a gift as stupendous as that.

The [Sever] skill drew his eyes in because of the new element, but the other abilities were just as crazy, with the [Portals of Terror] being something unique that he had never even thought about, and was itching to see just what apocalyptic power would be released from portals that connected to uninhabitable destabilized regions of the Universe.

Just those two would have been enough to make one extremely powerful at the Void Rank, but the other two abilities were on the same stage, if not even higher!

[Child of Space] directly boosted all space-related abilities, and the even more important thing about it was the statement under the skill description that said that no energy would be required to withstand the void of space.

This was something so profound that Noah felt he was running out of words to portray this type of power. Take the example of the Void Realm cultivators who could steer the Interstellar Warsh.i.p.s and traverse the void of space with their own bodies. Whether it was using the sh.i.p.s or just traversing the void themselves, they had to continuously be using their Void Realm essence to survive the void of space.

Those that were more powerful in the Void Rank could travel across stars with no issues, while the newly advanced Void Rank beings could only be able to spend a few hours at most before their essence ran out and they found themselves suffocating in space.

Yet this single ability from this skill tree advancement would allow Noah to withstand the void of space with no energy. This was how crazy [Child of Space] actually was!

His mind continued to become shocked as he thought more and more deeply about this, asking himself just exactly what he had stumbled upon. The advancement of [Lesser Cthulhu] seemed to not just be a skill in name, and he wondered just what mysteries stood behind the entity that this skill included in its name. He even wondered about the future advancement after this- would he be able to find one that wiped away the term 'Lesser', or something even crazier?

His question would go unanswered as he observed the other skill that made his heart shiver. The boosts in elemental and physical damages, resistances, and speeds of his movements and skills he was used to. But it was the new boost that tugged at his heartstrings the most. This wasn't even the terrific picture of the form he would be able to take upon activating [Morph] and taking the form of this [Lesser Cthulhu], a form of a terrible beast that was rarely seen across the universe. No, this was because of one of the features that was described once he took the form of this [Lesser Cthulhu].

Complete Damage Absorption.

It felt like his mind was exploding as he read these words, gradually becoming calmer as he saw the percentage of 5% next to it. But this 5% was before he added skill points to this ability. As for Skill Points...he now had an abundant amount of them!

This ability was simply one that would absorb the percentage of the damage shown, no matter who it was from, and it would completely absorb 5% of it. How high would this percentage be raised once he maxed this ability with the skill points?

He once more thanked the spectacular feature of being able to simply move his Skill Points around as he wished, as the skill points from the [Abhorred Lich Emperor] skill tree were now all free points he could use on the [Lesser Cthulhu] skill tree abilities.

This meant...that he could add points until he maxed all of the skills without a second of waiting! It wasn't something that he thought he would be able to do before, and he had already made plans to return to the First Hell whenever this Infernal Hunt ended to farm day and night for more skill points. Currently though, this feature came in as the best possible save.

It was a truly exhilarating feeling as he watched the numbers for the four abilities go from 0/5 to 5/5 in the blink of an eye. He felt even power bubbling in his body as one of the skills was Passive, where it would always provide the boosts that it showed. Just from the passive boosts of [Child of Space] alone, he felt as if he could tear through the space around him with ease as his body felt weightless.

Unknowingly, his body began to smoothly advance faster and faster, the Vampyre Prince that was easily keeping up with Noah's still Saint Rank attributes glancing towards his disappearing figure in shock as it suddenly left behind a sonic boom and began disappearing from his sight. The genuine Void Rank Vampyre Prince looked at this sight with his sharpened jaws falling down as this was speed that was even faster than his!

Noah came to his senses a second later as his body came to a halt, and he waited a few seconds before Prince Cassius caught up and looked him up and down like a freak. Noah couldn't help but let a burst of joyful laughter out as they resumed their path towards the battle taking place far ahead, the clashes of power which they could already feel from this wide distance.

He looked at the newly updated and fully maxed abilities of the [Lesser Cthulhu] skill tree as he enjoyed the feeling of being as light as a feather as he streaked across the blazing skies of the First Realm of Hell.

Morph(Active) (5/5) :: As a beast of mystical origins, you can briefly call upon your bloodline as you take the form of a terrible entity. While this form is active, +30% Complete Damage Absorption, +300% Physical Damage, +300% Elemental Damage, +300% Elemental Resistance, +300% Attack, Casting, and Movement Speed

Child of Space(Passive) (5/5) :: You feel the love from the space surrounding you. No energy is required to withstand the void of space. All space-related abilities are boosted by 300%.

Portals of Terror(Active)(5/5):: Portals leading to the most destabilized and destructive regions of the universe are summoned as they release their catastrophic energies at their summoned location. Maximum number of portals: 8

Sever(Active)(5/5) :: An ability geared towards an element that very few beings are able to tap into. Allows the user to access the elusive Aether Element as a ray of Aether that severs all it comes into contact with, even space itself, is cast. Can only be active for 6 seconds.

Descriptions that made his heart feel crazy levels of power appeared before his eyes, the thing taking the most attention being the 30% Complete Damage absorption that he would have whenever he took the form of the [Lesser Cthulhu]. This wasn't a normal modifier, and it actually meant that he would only ever take 70% damage from whatever was attacking him for as long as he kept that one ability active.

It was a truly eye-opening ability that he wanted to observe the effects of as soon as he could, but his attention was pulled away as he sensed the powers of multiple figures converging at the same location they were going to.

[Child of Space] had expanded his senses to wild degrees, as it felt like he had eyes that could hone into every nook and cranny of space for tens of miles around him. His senses brought into focus the gloriously shining form of Athena facing off against a terrible Aberration with abhorring levels of strength.

Coming into this scene at the same time as them were multiple Elders and Sect Masters from neighboring powers that were now drenched in the golden light of Celestials.

The Incarnations that the Celestial Grandmaster had sent forth had arrived to lend their aid to the prized Celestial Disciple.

Chapter 277 - A Grand Battle I

The newly arriving Incarnations looked forth at the sight of Athena valiantly holding off against the Infernal Aberration as they quickly moved to reinforce her.

The battlefield they were delving into was a terrifying one, with constantly rotating hell storms that would raze anyone that was not paying attention to the ground.

OOOH!

Vigorous yells resounded as the powerful Elders and Leaders of Various powers arrived on the battlefield and reinforced the one being fighting against a tyrannical beast. Their eyes shook at the level of power that this simple girl let out, being even higher than the four golden Empyrean Guards she was smoothly alternating with as she defended and let out attacks methodically.

A few Elders were lost in the rhythm of battle when they came close, being astonished at the movements of Athena and the summons that she controlled as she weaved across the dangerous tornadoes of hellfire, defended against a constantly appearing and disappearing Infernal, as well as throw out rays of golden light from the huge hammers she wielded to land perfect strikes on the body of said infernal.

It felt like a beautiful dance that they could get lost in watching!

They quickly shook themselves out of their reverie as they moved to join the battle, one particular Elder turning his attention to another direction as he found two figures arriving at the same time as them, and he knew one of them very closely.

"Crixus!"

Elder Spacewarp looked at the Wastrel of the Profound Astral Sect in shock as he thought this son of Elder Baldwin would be the last person to rush towards danger and lend aid to fellow disciples.

This was especially so because the other top disciple of the Profound Astral Sect, William, had long since used his life-saving tool to return to the ship.

Elder Spacewarp looked at Crixus and the powerful being he recognized to be the Prince of the powerful Pureblood Vampyres of the Underworld as he sent a message that only Crixus could hear.

"Leave this place quickly boy! We have this handled, but I won't be able to protect you if this beast turns its attention on you!"

Noah had arrived at the spectacular battlefield where one particularly powerful enemy of his was valiantly facing off against a powerful Infernal that let out levels of power which had already passed what could be considered the Void Rank.

He was shocked at the beautiful dance that seemed to be occurring as Athena controlled the pace of the battle against this maddened Infernal with ease, weaving in and out of the powerful hellish flames and deadly attacks as she defended and counterattacked with no issues.

Her body let out a holy fate's aura that he wasn't fully confident in being able to pierce right now, the only possibility of him injuring her being if he used the abilities of the [Lesser Cthulhu] and activated its spectacular skills.

Now, with the addition of multiple Elders and Leaders from various powers that were reinforced with the strength of an observing Celestial, he could not make a single move against Athena!

His mind rapidly moved as it seemed he would have to go along the path he had talked about with Prince Cassius earlier- and that was to act as helpful disciples as they continued to monitor the situation.

If this immensely powerful Infernal in front of them happened to be even more terrifying than they imagined, maybe there would still be a possibility. But from watching how the battle seemed to be in a stalemate with the exquisite control that the War Princess held over the battlefield, the joining multiple other Void Rank beings reinforced by a Celestial's power only meant that things had turned bad for this Infernal.

Putting on the expression of a righteous disciple, Noah sent back a message to the concerned Elder Spacewarp as he and Prince Cassius moved closer to the battlefield.

"I'll be fine, Elder! I will stay in the periphery and try to help, and will use my medallion at the instant sign of danger!"

His gaze looked firm and resolute as Elder Spacewarp turned to look at his expression with shaking eyes.

'Had the wastrel disciple of his sect actually grown this much?'

The Elder was occupied with the wrong thoughts as Noah observed the tides of the shifting battle, looking for any changes that would allow him to obtain the most rewards out of this situation.

The one reward he wanted the most was an important one- the death of this extremely powerful woman that let out levels of power that made him frown even now!

But this seemed like an impossibility at this point in time, and he might have to settle for the reward of increasing his status within the Profound Astral Sect as he achieves the goal of obtaining their Absolute Space Technique, and the possibility of even gaining the trust of the Celestial that was observing things from the outside of the First Realm of Hell, as well as the powerful disciple in question herself, Athena.

Whatever path opened itself up in front of Noah, he would take it!

The Void Rank Prince Cassius was a bonafide expert himself, moving to act naturally as the Prince of the Pureblood Vampyres and led aid to their allies. Multiple drops of blood that acted as homing missiles rushed towards the Infernal as a rain of blood exploded on the battlefield.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

This brought a brief respite to the constantly maneuvering Athena as she glanced at the beings that came to reinforce her, nodding her head as she observed the golden celestial aura covering them with a happy smile. One of the Elders came close to her and proclaimed.

"We came under the guidance of the Grandmaster to aid you. He mentioned for us to...follow your lead."

The leader of a powerful organization scratched their heads warily as they revealed the intentions of the observing Celestial Grandmaster outside of the First Hell.

A shining light erupted from Athena's eyes as she heard this, her smile becoming even more brilliant as she nodded.

"Good. Listen to my commands, and we shall destroy this Aberration before it can grow any further!"

She was smiling widely because she found out that even at this juncture, the Grandmaster was still using it as a chance to train her, this time letting her work with multiple Void Realm beings as she had the task to eliminate this Infernal in front of them.

Her brilliant eyes gazed upon the Aberration as she began letting out multiple commands to the newly arrived Elders and Sect Leaders, her hands coming together in front of her chest as she chanted a few words.

"Empyrean Armament!"

OOONG

Brilliant golden essence erupted out as the four [Empyrean Guards] surrounding her became streaks of light that shot towards her body, a holy aura that many were seeing for the first time descending around them as they felt oppression deep to their very cores.

Noah was observing this development closely as his gaze became more and more somber while he continued to gain just a bit more understanding of this powerful enemy of his.

Chapter 278 - A Grand Battle II

[Empyrean Armament!]

The words were the prelude to a confounding brilliance that made even the hellish Infernal pause briefly, a blooming golden flower becoming apparent in the eyes of all those watching the battlefield.

Four powerful [Empyrean Guards] became streaks of light as they entered into Athena's body, making her seem like a glowing mass of light as the first thing that became visible was exquisitely shining white wings that let out oppressive vibrations in the blazing skies of the First Hell.

The light gradually died down as it revealed the being connected to the gloriously glowing wings. The figure of Athena was fully covered from head to toe with a golden armor that screamed of power!

Two spiked swords trembling with a white destructive light that was just asking to be released to her enemies were on her hands, numerous golden runic markings inlaying her golden armor that went on to

even cover her head completely. Only two brilliantly glowing eyes could be seen between the gaps as the sword in her right hand pointed towards the fiery skies, and the sword in her left hand pointed towards the Infernal Aberration that was looking at her with extreme passion.

This passion in the Infernal's eyes continued to grow as it greedily wanted to devour this being glowing all in gold, as her essence smelled the sweetest out of everyone here, and would improve his own strength the most when he devoured her.

OOOH!

The Infernal let out a battle cry as the fiery skies became even redder, storms of hellish flames continuing to form as they obscured everything, its gaze voraciously going towards the woman pointing a golden sword towards it and ignoring all the attacks from the surrounding Void Realm beings.

Athena held her gaze steady, one sword pointing towards the sky and one pointing towards the rushing Aberration as her essence rumbled, and she cast yet another skill.

"[Smite of Liberation]."

OOOONG!

Wild levels of mana leaked out from the direction where she pointed her golden sword, the tip of an even larger outline of an immensely large corporeal blade began to form.

The reddish skies of the First Hell began gaining a hue of gold as with every passing millisecond, the shape of this stupendously powerful blade become larger and larger as it pierced through the fiery sky and descended towards the Aberration at crazy speeds!

The Infernal Aberration felt this tremendously powerful blade descending down as its gaze hardened, looking up with slight care as its body streaked across space and moved to a different location.

What happened next left those in the battlefield with slacked jaws as the insanely large corporeal golden blade descending from the skies changed directions and streaked across the skies towards the Infernal even faster than before, its might burning with righteous golden light as it smashed onto the Aberration.

BOOM!

SMASH!

A flash of light. A brilliance of unknown proportions.

"GAAH!"

The Infernal let out a scream of pain for the first time ever as a large rupture spread out from its chest all the way to its head. Eerie muscles wriggled to reform as a holy power prevented them from coming together, its gaze turning bloody as it glanced towards the woman responsible who was already giving more commands towards the mute Void Realm beings in the surroundings.

"Move! You, flank its left. You..."

Various commands were quickly released as the Void Realm beings moved according to Athena's words and let out attacks from different positions that made it extremely difficult for the injured Infernal to defend.

"WAAAHH!"

The Aberration let out a guttural howl as the blue runic markings on its horns glowed brighter, pillars of defensive hell flames forming all around him as it moved to defend and attack the swarming enemies around it.

Noah observed this continuing battle with stupefaction as the image of the golden armored woman carrying deadly swords and gloriously shining white wings continued to release just crazy levels of attacks and skills while commanding an aura of a veteran of a battlefield as she moved herself and the Void Realm beings like pieces on a chessboard.

The being that was even closer to the battle, Prince Cassius, was glancing at the nearby Athena with blood-red eyes as he controlled his hunger and followed her directions to let out even more attacks towards a certain direction.

The Infernal Aberration began to feel suffocated as it realized every direction it tried to move, an attack would already be there waiting to meet it, causing it to be contained in one area as it couldn't move freely!

It felt cornered as every move it tried to make, there would always be someone to counter it.

The one responsible for this was looking through the slits of her golden armor as she continued to let out powerful attacks while reading the flow of the battle.

Unbeknownst to all the beings here, she could observe invisible white lines coming off from the body of the Infernal, and these lines told her exactly what move the Infernal would be making even before it made the move!

This was a skill that was unique to her, one that allowed her to lead and direct the flow of battle as if it was a grand symphony.

This was why she had gained the title of the War Princess, and this was just another one of the features that made her unique!

One of her hands pointed to the fiery skies of hell once more as another one aimed the sword it was holding on to towards the Infernal Aberration that continued to be increasingly cornered.

OONG!

Yet another corporeal golden sword of momentous size began descending from the skies as one could hear the screams of the surrounded Infernal that continued to receive the full attacks of multiple Void Realm beings.

This Aberration would have no chance to become a General or a Scion of an Infernal Lord in the future, much less hold the title of an actual Infernal Lord.

Its fate was sealed the moment it met the War Princess born from countless battles.

Chapter 279 - Valiant! Powerful!Terrifying!

A stupendous sight was playing itself out in the First Realm of Hell as an immensely large golden sword pierced through the skies and struck the cornered body of the Infernal Aberration once more.

BOOM!

World shaking rumblings ensued as yet another grave injury was dealt to the Aberration, its mind registering waves of pain as it looked at the beings surrounding it in immense fury.

Even more attacks rained down from the bodies of the Void Rank Leaders from various powers that were currently serving as incarnations of a Celestial, injuring its body even more as the will of the Infernal began wavering.

It felt such a large amount of pain that even its strong body could no longer continue to withstand it, and its thoughts unwillingly went to a phase of planning it did not want to carry out yet as its eyes were still lingering on the body of the brilliantly glowing being with white wings.

It breathed calmly as something clicked inside its body, essence being moved to the correct places as like a door being unlocked by a key, its realm went above the Void Rank so that it could escape from this hellish situation through ascending to the Second Realm of Hell!

"What!"

"Stop it!"

Vigorous words were heard from the surrounding as they felt the changes and tried to move rapidly, not wanting to let this Infernal Aberration slip out of their fingers like this. They were dismayed as none of their attacks would be fast enough to disrupt the essence of a being that was making a breakthrough.

This breakthrough would be finished in less than a millisecond, and the moment it did this Infernal would begin the process of ascension and escape from its certain guaranteed death!

Even Athena looked forth in anger as her wings and essence vibrated rapidly, but even she knew she wouldn't be fast enough to land an attack that would disrupt a breakthrough of a being such as this.

It was at this moment though, with everyone feeling cheated as the Infernal Aberration was right about to slip from their grasp, a multicolored aurora of light that was even faster than the speed of light pierced the chest of the Infernal and directly disrupted the path of essence that was needed for its breakthrough!

[Sever.]

A barely inaudible whisper just happened to reach the ears of those listening really closely at this moment.

...!

Immense shock and pain entered the mind of the Infernal as it felt the energies of its body suddenly run amok as they exploded in disorder, its eyes, along with the eyes of Athena and all the Void Rank beings in the surroundings turning towards the direction where the multicolored aurora of light came from.

Many wore shocked expressions, with a particular Elder Spacewarp wearing an ecstatic expression as a wild laughter erupted from him.

"Haha! Genius! Genius! You were no wastrel at all!"

The powerful beings quickly processed their shock as they moved to take this opportunity to land attacks on the Infernal that was about to escape but failed, its breakthrough stopped midway as one of the very few things that could stop a being's breakthrough to the next rank actually struck it!

To bring to a stop someone's breakthrough, they either had to be hit with an extremely powerful attack that took their attention and disrupted the order of the breakthrough, or the even rare case where the energies of the one performing the breakthrough were brought to a complete disorder through the use of a special attack.

The reason for their shock was that this exact special attack had been the one that brought the essence of the Infernal into disorder, and because they knew the identity of that multicolored aurora of light that pierced through the skies faster than the speed of light to land on the body of the Infernal.

It was power that stemmed from an extremely elusive element that very few would have the genius or capability of tapping into, the extremely mysterious element of Aether!

Ranked among the highest sources of energies in the Universe, attacks created from this element were extremely fast and deadly, most of them exceeding the speed of light. Another factor that made the Aether element so deadly was the fact that it brought with it destructive energies that would immediately cause a disorder of essence dwelling within the bodies of its targets.

In the most opportune time, the attack exceeding the speed of light had erupted from a disciple that was closely watching the battle from the sidelines- it was none other than Crixus!

This was the reason for the shocked looks from the Void Rank beings all around, even the jaw of the Vampyre Prince dropping to the ground as they looked towards Noah as if looking at some sort of incredible genius.

But this was the only way that beings who were able to tap into the power of Aether were known as- monstrous geniuses with such amazing comprehension that would only allow them to grow into powerful figures in the future.

This was why Elder Spacewarp had been ecstatic while he landed even more attacks on the disordered Infernal. It was because his sect now had a monstrous genius that was rarely found across the Prime Worlds!

The body of 'Crixus' looked dilapidated of energy as he seemed to be breathing heavily, indicating that the single second where he released that aurora of multicolored Aether had taken all of his mana.

The brilliantly glowing Athena had her eyes shine with a mysterious light as she looked at the struggling infernal still hanging on while deadly attacks rained down from all around. She wanted to finally put a stop to it before it regained order of its essence and tried breaking through again. The Infernal Aberration was heavily injured enough that her last attack would be able to completely seal its fate and end this whole ordeal.

"Scatter."

She sent a command to the surrounding Void Rank beings as instantly, the fiery red skies of the First Realm of Hell gained a brilliantly glowing golden hue.

The Leader and Elders of powerful organizations quickly pulled back from the vicinity of the Infernal as they felt a tremendous amount of power coagulating in the area!

[Judgement]

OONG

A simple word escaped Athena's armored lips as the golden hue that had spread all around quickly materialized into the sharpest rods of spears. A deadly gleam escaped her eyes as she waved her hand down, the numerous spears circling the Infernal raining down and piercing it from every single possible direction.

THUCK! THUCK! THUCK!....

Numerous horrendous sounds continued to resound in the region as for the next few seconds, countless spears skewered the body of the Infernal Aberration until one could not even distinguish one of its body parts from another.

Multiple spears pierced it thoroughly as it was nailed to the ground, with the scene clearing to show a mass of flesh still clinging to life, but this life would soon be wiped away as Athena clenched her fist tightly, causing the numerous spears piercing the body of the Infernal Aberration to shine dangerously as the attack that came from a simple skill called [Judgment] was fully carried out.

BOOM!

A field of golden energies ruptured out with the struggling mass of flesh of the Infernal at the center, blinding people's eyes as they spread out their senses to see a scene of shattered void that was rapidly reforming.

The Infernal Aberration that had power exceeding the Void Realm, a being that held the qualifications to possibly become a future Infernal Lord, had faced his death in the hands of multiple Void Realm beings, as well as the timely help of a Saint Realm disciple that made the last attacks possible. But, even more of the attention was taken in by the most brilliant fighter in the battle today, the powerful Athena!

The eyes of many of the Void Realm beings turned towards the War Princes as gulps could be heard from a few of them, this witness of powerful attacks shaking them to their core. First was a disciple from the Profound Astral Sect showing his genius as he stopped the escape of the Infernal, then it was this Athena that continued to shock all of them with her immensely powerful attacks that they did not want to be at the ends of. A few words erupted in their minds as they looked at the region where the attack had landed, a region of space itself had shattered and was only now reforming.

Valiant!

Powerful!

Terrifying!

Those were the only words to describe what they were seeing, but their attention was quickly pulled away by a raucous Elder Spacewarp who went towards Crixus with a wide smile on his face.

"Boy, you should have exposed your genius sooner. You're going to make your father the biggest braggart once he learns of you comprehending the element of Aether."

The face of Crixus looked tired and proud as he looked at the Elder of his sect with a weakened smile, the eyes of Athena and the remaining beings all turning to look at him as well.

Chapter 280 - Averted Fate

Noah's face was that of smiles and enthusiasm as he accepted the gazes of the powerful Void Rank beings, but his heart was cold as a variety of thoughts continued to rise and fall. If he couldn't achieve his objective of taking down this crazy powerful Athena currently, he would go the other path and start scheming!

She was extremely powerful right now that even with the insane abilities of the [Lesser Cthulhu], he wasn't too confident in being able to kill her quickly and without leaving a trace for an uber powerful Celestial to come looking for him.

He needed to first get his hands on the Absolute Skill that would allow him to look past the shackles of a Spatial Lock if his enemies were ever to lay one on him, as well as even more skills similar to what the Vampire Prince held that allowed for him to escape the detection of the Celestials!

So if he could not make any grand moves at this moment in time, he would scheme for now, and even get on their good side as he awaited for an opportunity to arise.

...

Unbeknownst to Noah, an opportunity outside of his wildest dreams would arrive soon enough.

Outside of the First Realm of Hell, the Celestial Grandmaster replayed the scenes of the battle that led to the ultimate death of the Aberration as mysterious golden lights coursed through his eyes.

His expectations for Athena were exceeded once again as she showed tremendous control and battle power over all the aspects of the fight. This was truly the lead disciple over the past few years, with very few holding a candle to her brilliance in the various Celestial Stars where they trained new disciples.

When his thoughts arrived at disciples, he briefly recalled his own disciple, Drax, that had fallen under the hands of the dead Infernal Aberration, as well as the other three disciples that died even earlier than him.

He only felt that it was a slight loss, but looking at the grander scheme of things, the disciples' deaths were put to good use in this ordeal. Because of their sacrifices, they had successfully been able to stop the future advancement of an Infernal Aberration that held the qualifications to become an Infernal Lord in the future. This was a high achievement that would go on to prevent countless deaths and disorder that another rising Infernal Lord could have caused.

A few lives lost for the maintenance of order and livelihood of countless worlds was worth it in the Celestials' eyes.

The Grandmaster still couldn't solve the mystery as to why the first three deaths did not show him the Infernal, but he put this aside for now as he focused on the singular issue that the Celestial Star he was on had lost a significant number of disciples in this one mission, and it would not hurt to bring in suitable candidates to quickly fill up the gaps.

His peering gaze went back to the image of the courageous Saint Realm disciple that had stood in the dangerous battlefield where attacks at the peak of Void Realm were being thrown around. In this dangerous battlefield, this disciple had played a crucial role in the death of the Infernal Aberration as he displayed a genius sense of timing and showed the even more monstrous ability of being able to tap into the power of Aether.

At Saint Realm, he was able to release an attack that injured and threw the essence of a being that was breaking the shackles of the Void Realm, a rank above his, into disarray successfully. These were the types of talents that the Celestials favored, these were the beings they would put their resources into training as they watched the working of fate to see if they would have a grand path laid out for them in the future.

The Celestial Grandmaster also observed the Vampyre Prince at the Void Realm that let out powerful attacks that could injure the Infernal Aberration, but this Vampyre Prince seemed subpar!

The Celestials looked for the talents that could skip levels and be able to stand toe to toe with those more powerful than them, a being that was simply outstanding in the same realm like this Vampyre Prince was not worthy of raising in the Celestial Grandmaster's eyes!

So he continued to look at the disciple under the name of Crixus. A genius disciple that had comprehended the rare element of Aether and possessed astute battle sense. Who knew what levels of comprehension he would be able to achieve under the guidance of Celestials?

The Grandmaster made up his mind as he sent a message to the Incarnations he had sent in the First Hell, as well as the leaders of the powers still waiting outside the doorway in their Interstellar Sh.i.p.s. The message was one confirming the end of the Infernal Hunt as a major threat had been taken down in the First Realm of Hell!

His thoughts went in another direction after he sent this message as he moved his fingers in the air and watched the appearance of multiple strings of fate. These strings were something only he could observe and understand as he calculated what the events that transpired today brought to the overall order and balance of the surrounding lands.

His expression rapidly changed as he observed the probable chaos to have increased even more!

Various thoughts passed through his mind as his expression became clouded, not understanding why the defeat of an Aberration that would have brought untold chaos did not actually reduce the unraveling of fate that had been initiated by an unknown being some time ago, and it had even further enhanced it.

'Was my appearance here the cause?'

The Grandmaster pondered the consequences of his own hand that he played as he could not find an answer at the current time, and he actually found himself back to a place even further than square one as the unraveling of fate had now worsened even more, still portraying a future where chaos would increase.

His gaze became somber as he observed the gradual return of the beings he had added his power to go aid Athena, watching as the impromptu Infernal Hunt came to a close with the death of a powerful Infernal Aberration.

They were returning as conquerors that had vanquished a terrible evil that would have caused countless chaos in the future, but the Celestial Grandmaster had different thoughts coursing through his mind.

Had they truly averted that fate?