

The Shining Star Above The Heaven

#Chapter 191: Davian Falucci - Read The Shining Star Above The Heaven Chapter 191: Davian Falucci

Chapter 191: Davian Falucci

Inside the main bedroom, the room's condition is surprisingly clean and neat, without a single stain. This starkly contrasts with the rest of the mansion, which resembles a sinking ship, with broken furniture scattered everywhere. However, there are strange liquid stains in several parts of the room, and an odd smell lingers in the air. A few naked women lie scattered around the room, appearing unconscious, though their halted breaths show they have been dead for some time.

In the middle of the room, there is a large bed, spacious enough for five people to sleep on. The sheets are damp with strange liquid stains scattered here and there. On top of the bed lie several figures—six naked women and a naked man. All of the women appear to be dead, except for one who stares blankly at the ceiling with unmoving, lifeless eyes. The man, sitting cross-legged as if in cultivation, has a handsome, serene face, the kind that would soothe anyone's heart with its calm expression.

His body is well-proportioned, with no excess fat, and his "little brother," his prized asset, has a size that would make him hold his head high in pride. At this moment, he is circulating energy according to his cultivation technique. Not long ago, he had "enjoyed" these women to fuel his cultivation. Unfortunately for them, they couldn't endure his stamina, and his cultivation technique, which absorbs energy from the opposite sex, left the women exhausted and ultimately led to their deaths.

"Aish, just as I thought, these women can't satisfy me, and they've done nothing to increase my cultivation—they're too weak! I'll have to look to a bigger city; they must have stronger women there," the man thought to himself. He then opened his eyes and looked at the last woman still breathing, the one with the deadpan gaze.

"Ah, as expected from the wife of the town lord, she is incredible. Even if she couldn't increase my cultivation, she's still the finest woman in this town," he mused to himself. He then moved his body over hers, positioning his 'little brother' toward her pleasure hole, which still leaked fluid.

"Well, I'll devour every last bit of your worth, so let's continue," he said softly. Just as he was about to enter, he suddenly sensed something and looked toward the sofa at the edge of the room. To his shock, he saw that someone was already there—a handsome young man with black hair.

"You know, after seeing all this, I have to reconsider what I should do with you. What kind of torture would suit you best, Davian Falucci, successor of the Lust Devil?" the young man said.

After teleporting into the room, Aldrian was greeted by a strange smell that stirred his sexual desire. Recognizing it immediately as a type of aphrodisiac, he dispelled its effects with his energy circulation. He then turned his gaze to Davian Falucci, the successor of the Lust Devil. With his stealth technique and being within his own domain, Aldrian's presence was undetectable, even to a peak emperor.

Before attacking the mansion, he had already established his domain, ensuring its range extended to the mansion. Now, his domain covered the entire building. He was thoroughly disgusted by the scene before him; he knew that devils who cultivated the energy of lust would have an intensified desire for all things. Living beings can lust for many things—power, women, men, and more—but the most prominent and widely known is the lust for sexual gratification.

They can increase their cultivation through dual cultivation, a method that requires two people of the opposite sex to engage in intercourse in order to cultivate. This is one of the most popular cultivation techniques on the continent. For couples who have become dao companions, they can assist each other in their cultivation.

However, there is also a vile form of dual cultivation that only benefits one side during the intercourse. In this technique, one person absorbs the cultivation of the opposite sex, causing damage to the victim's cultivation, eventually draining them to the point of death. This is the technique most commonly used by devils, as it is one of the easiest ways for them to increase their power.

As Davian's instincts kicked in, he quickly created his domain, but he was shocked when Aldrian suddenly appeared in front of him and punched him in the gut, targeting the area where his dantian was located. However, Davian anticipated the attack, activating his shield technique. His Middle Emperor stage aura erupted, destroying the bed and sending the bodies of the women flying to the side. Aldrian noticed that one of the women was still alive and teleported her to a safe location before launching his next attack.

At that moment, Aldrian used gravity to weigh down Davian, then channeled the death laws through his palm. Davian, feeling his body grow heavy, struggled to create enough distance between them. When he saw the dark energy manifest on Aldrian's palm, a chill ran down his spine, sensing the terrifying power within it. But that wasn't all—Aldrian then used spatial lock, freezing Davian's body in place. Desperate to escape, Davian used everything at his disposal, unleashing his domain's power to try and influence Aldrian.

Davian's domain shares similar properties with the Lust Devil's—illusion and hypnotic effects. As an Emperor stage cultivator, he can influence hundreds, even thousands, of

people within its range. The problem, however, is that he doesn't realize his domain has no power inside Aldrian's domain. Even if he uses his illusions and hypnotic techniques on Aldrian, they will have little to no effect within Aldrian's domain.

Even outside of Aldrian's domain, Davian's illusion and hypnotic techniques would have difficulty affecting Aldrian due to his strong mental fortitude. When Davian attempted to put Aldrian under his influence, he was stunned to see Aldrian's eyes locked directly on him. Suddenly, Davian was overcome with the sensation of impending death, feeling as though his body were being swallowed by darkness.

"BREAK!"

He instantly knew it was just an illusion and roared as he broke it, but in that short time, it was enough for Aldrian's palm, covered in death energy, to strike Davian's abdomen. The strike destroyed Davian's shield technique, as the death energy, not only strong but also corrosive. The palm hit directly at Davian's dantian and instantly shattering it. The combined death and golden energy also infiltrated Davian's body through the force of the blow.

He spurted a large amount of blood as his dantian was destroyed, and before he could react, Aldrian followed with another strike. Grabbing Davian's forehead, Aldrian injected him with golden energy.

"Aargghh!"

Davian screamed in pain as Aldrian struck both his soul and body simultaneously. This time, Aldrian directly injected his golden energy while also using death energy to amplify the pain, making it far worse for Davian than anything the devils in the dining room had experienced. Aldrian's face remained expressionless, there was no smile like before—only a calm demeanor. Yet beneath that calm exterior, there was an anger he kept hidden.

He didn't care. He could torture this man more brutally because, as an emperor stage cultivator—or what Davian used to be before Aldrian destroyed his dantian—Davian possessed a stronger soul and mental fortitude. That would allow Aldrian to play with him a little longer. This was also a way for Aldrian to release the pent-up anger he'd felt ever since entering this town.

After about 20 seconds of pain, Aldrian finally released Davian, and his body instantly slumped to the ground. His body twitched as his eyes rolled back, the veins in his body standing out like red snakes beneath his skin. However, Aldrian still didn't feel satisfied, so he blanketed Davian's body with his golden energy, imbuing it with healing properties. He healed Davian just enough to keep him awake.

Davian gasped at the sudden warmth, his eyes locking onto Aldrian once more.

"You... do you know who I am? You will regret—"

However, he was cut off as Aldrian inflicted pain on his body again, only to heal him shortly after.

"The Lust Devil will find your family—"

Aldrian cut him off by inflicting pain again, then healing him, pain, healing, pain, healing. He repeated the cycle over and over, and soon, Davian's mental fortitude began to crack. His soul, already damaged from the repeated torture, could barely withstand the strain.

"Please—please spare me."

Davian, that already had his cultivation crippled, experienced pain that he had never felt before, again and again. At this time, he would do whatever he could to stop Aldrian, even if he had to beg. However, Aldrian still was not satisfied, he still felt something lacking, something that would complete his torture. He looked at all of the dead bodies of the naked women and then at Davian's manhood. A wicked grin spread across his face before he looked into Davian's eyes.

Davian suddenly felt a foreboding feeling as he saw Aldrian's sudden smile. He also noticed Aldrian briefly glance at his manhood before that wicked grin spread across his face. Only then did he understand what Aldrian intended to do. He watched as Aldrian used two fingers, covering them with his sword intent.

"NO PLEASE! SPAR—"

Slash

Chapter 192: The Cleanup Done

Slash

"AAARRGGHHH!!!!"

The shriek of pain echoed through the entire mansion and could even be heard in the surrounding area. With the town left eerily silent after Aldrian had killed all the devils, the scream became even more chilling as it faintly carried far into the distance.

Without hesitation, Aldrian cut off Davian's manhood. As he looked at the severed part, he felt a sense of satisfaction and sighed. He then glanced at Davian, who was writhing in pain and seemed close to death, but Aldrian healed the wound, keeping him barely alive.

Aldrian sighed, "You're truly lucky. If I weren't in a hurry, I'd play with you much longer. Well, consider it fate, and thank you for playing along." With that, Aldrian touched Davian's forehead and began searching through his memories. As usual, he broke the seal and shattered the devil lord's sense before reading Davian's memories. Once finished, Aldrian considered killing him instantly, but on second thought, he decided on a better option.

He would make sure this man didn't just die but died in utter humiliation. Aldrian smiled at the thought as he left the barely alive, now-unconscious Davian for the time being. He then moved toward the woman, noticing her faint but weakening breaths. Though still alive, her breathing was growing weaker with each moment. Aldrian took a robe from his storage ring and covered her exposed body with it.

The woman, finally feeling another's touch, looked at Aldrian with a weak movement. Her eyes seemed to regain some clarity, and as she gazed at him, her mouth moved—she wanted to say something, but no sound came out. Understanding her intent, Aldrian leaned closer, bringing his ear to her lips to better hear what she wanted to say.

"Ki...kill...me."

Aldrian looked into the woman's eyes. They were still deadpan, but he knew she had finally realized that it was over—that she had been released from the torment of the devils but her cultivation was severely damaged and almost drained; she would have to restart her cultivation and consume expensive pills. Her life could still be saved if Aldrian chose to help, using his golden energy to alleviate her pain, though he wasn't sure if it could repair her broken dantian or restore her cultivation.

"Kill...me."

He sensed the woman's will to die once more, and with a sigh, he looked into her eyes before gently closing them with one hand. When he lowered his hand, her eyes were shut, but there was a faint smile on her face, as if she had found peace. Her breath had already ceased, and her soul had departed from the world. Aldrian felt it for a brief moment, a sensation brought on by his deep understanding of the death laws.

Before ending her life by gently crushing her soul with his golden energy, Aldrian gave her a beautiful illusion—one where she lived happily with her family, free of any burdens. Though the moment passed in the blink of an eye in reality, the woman felt as if she had been enjoying it for a long time. Aldrian could only lament her cruel end, but he was glad to have at least allowed her to forget the terrible humiliation she had suffered before her death.

"Rest in peace."

He then looked at all the women's bodies and arranged them side by side before covering them with sheets. Once again, he could only lament their terrible fate, knowing

this was often the plight of the weak. This was not the first time, nor would it be the last. The only way to end this was through power itself.

In the end, to prevent all of this, ultimate strength was still needed." He then remembered the words of the monk he had met in the Forgeheart Kingdom.

"However, not every being's heart can hold righteousness, and even if they have a righteous heart, not all of them can bear the weight of that righteousness,"

"I hope you can always walk the path of righteousness, the path of the 'sovereign.'"

Walking the path of righteousness was truly heavy. Aldrian had started to understand, more or less, what the monk had meant by the weight of righteousness. He had seen similar scenes in some of his visions, but this time, he faced them directly, and the impact was much clearer. As he looked upon the destruction of so many lives, his heart grew heavy and uncomfortable.

"The path of the Sovereign, huh... Why does it have to be the path of the Sovereign? Why does it have to be the path of the ruler?" he thought to himself.

He set aside those thoughts for the moment and teleported to the place where he felt the people's fate gathering in the town—the center of the town lord's mansion. There, he created his domain, making the entire town part of his power.

"Arson Vuran, I order you to send some helpers to Ilyon Town to arrange security before anyone from the Rivas family arrives. Once the Rivas family takes over, you can pull back your forces."

Arson Vuran, stunned by the sudden voice transmission from Aldrian, widened his eyes at the mention of Ilyon Town.

"I don't know if you already know this, but Master, Ilyon Town has already fallen to the devils. Although I just received reports that you destroyed the invasion force in Vicanti, there are still many unknowns in Ilyon. We can't just barge—"

"I've already cleared the entire Ilyon town of devils."

"..."

Arson Vuran nearly forgot that Aldrian was the real monster here. As the master of the Thunderous Shadow Pavilion, he had already received detailed reports from the first and second fingers, who had infiltrated Vicanti with reinforcements. The invasion had been successfully stopped. The first and second fingers had also gathered many assassins, following Aldrian's orders to prioritize the Rivas family. While assassins weren't particularly useful in large-scale battles on an open field, they played a crucial

role in supporting forces and eliminating high-value targets, especially when the enemy was caught off guard or distracted.

Aldrian then sent another voice transmission to the First and Second Fingers.

"First Finger, Second Finger, stop gathering information on Irene Rivas. I order you to head to Ilyon Town now to establish security there, I've already cleared the entire Ilyon town of devils and I've informed your pavilion master to send some helpers to assist."

As their master, Aldrian could naturally sense their presence when they were still in Rivas City. He thought that they must be still in Vicanti, searching for information on his mother.

The sudden voice transmission from Aldrian startled the First and Second Fingers. Having witnessed their master's power on the battlefield, they could only silently gulp, wondering why they had ever dared to offend someone like him in the past.

After witnessing their master disappear, the First and Second Fingers immediately resumed searching for information on Irene Rivas, as their master had ordered. Although their findings were not particularly optimistic, they planned to continue their search and reach her location if necessary. However, it seemed that their master had gathered his own information far more effectively than they had, which filled them with shame. To think that Aldrian had reached Ilyon Town in such a short time. Without further questions, they quickly made their way to Ilyon Town, undetected, with a few groups of assassins following them.

In the heart of the devil's territory, the Devil Lord sat on his throne when he sensed a disturbance that had lingered for some time. He realized that he had lost some of his high-ranking devils, the very ones he had sent to the Rivas Grand Duchy. He wondered what had happened there. He also felt that the senses he had over these devils within the seal had been instantly destroyed by an unknown force, leaving him with no knowledge of who was responsible.

"Or maybe it's that guy who comprehends death laws?" he thought.

"If it's really him, then I'll have to end this sooner than expected. Heh, whatever, my purpose is already achieved. This will add oil to the fire."

He then said to himself,

"Tell the Lust Devil to stop his game and move to the position where the Wrath Devil is. We'll conclude our 'greeting' there."

"As you wish, my lord." The voice from the shadow echoed before falling silent again.

Aldrian, having already made Ilyon Town his domain, dashed north toward the site of the battle between the Rivas family and the devils before Ilyon's fall. He extended his senses to their maximum as he surveyed the surrounding area, taking in the vast destruction. The only clue he had, even from Davian, was that his mother had successfully escaped the Lust Devil's grasp and was being pursued by him. At that time, the Lust Devil flew north, so Aldrian took the same direction. He only hoped his mother would hold on until he arrived.

Chapter 193: Irene's Location

Ilyon town is not actually the closest place to the initial border between the devil territory and the Doria Empire. There is another place the devils have already passed through to reach Ilyon. the fortress town of Falanis. This town, which fell under devil control after being attacked several times during the initial phase of the invasion, has become their new buffer zone before orthodox cultivators can reach the devil territory.

Before the invasion, people could clearly see the devil territory from this town, as the sky above the devil territory was blood-red and ominous, even from a distance. However, since the devils took control of this place, the red sky has started to move, and now part of it hovers directly above the town. The ominous atmosphere has also grown so intense that mortals without any cultivation risk being driven insane just by staying there.

Thick negative energy has already started to manifest in this town, gradually shaping it into a place that supports devil cultivation. If the town is not retaken quickly, orthodox cultivators will face significant challenges due to the negative energy, which corrupts everything in its path. The air, the earth, the water—everything will become unusable for humans, benefiting only devil cultivators. This corruption can only be cleansed using holy energy.

As the day neared its end, a small part of the sun sank below the western horizon, further enhancing the eerie atmosphere surrounding Falanis Fortress. However, unnoticed by anyone, a figure suddenly appeared in the sky above the fortress. He stood there, gazing downward, observing the state of the town. Just like Ilyon, this fortress town had been mostly destroyed by the devils' attacks, and he could also sense the heavy presence of death energy here.

He could only guess that there were at least hundreds of thousands of casualties on both sides to create such thick death energy. Of course, no one else here could perceive or sense this death energy except him. With so many casualties and such rich death energy, this place not only benefited the devils but also served as a valuable opportunity for him to enhance his mastery of the death laws.

However, at this moment, he was not in the mood to focus on comprehension. He was determined to find any trace of his mother here, and he would do so by cleaning up the way he had with Ilyon town. Without hesitation, he disappeared, and moments later, the only thing the devils in this place knew was the sudden death of their comrades, followed by their own demise, accompanied by screams of pain and terror.

At an unknown place.

The area was shrouded in darkness, with no light to be seen. The air was thick with humidity, and droplets of water clung to the ceiling. Stalactites and stalagmites dotted this place, suggesting it was an untouched, natural cave. In one corner of the cave lay an unconscious woman in armor. Her armor showed dents in several places, and her beautiful face was marred only by bloodstains drained from her mouth.

A few moments later, she gasped as she woke up and began to look around. However, due to the darkness of the environment, she couldn't see anything. She had to rely on her senses, but she used them cautiously, not wanting to alert anything that might be lurking in the area. Moreover, she was on the run from someone she had to avoid at all costs.

"Fortunately, my escape artifact is working as intended. If not, I would have had to kill myself before that bastard could touch me," Irene thought.

When she was almost caught by the Lust Devil, she managed to dodge his grasp and strike him with her technique. However, there was no way her technique could harm the Lust Devil, though she still had her low divine-grade armor. The Lust Devil then took out his famous artifact: a middle divine-grade long chain, with a knife tip, intending to subdue her.

He almost got her, but just then, one of her escape artifacts automatically activated, sending her to a random location 5,000 kilometers away. The sudden shift caused by the powerful space laws rendered her unconscious for some time, as this escape artifact was intended for use by king-stage cultivators. Luckily, no one found her while she was out, and she silently thanked the heavens for it.

She then sensed something amiss in the atmosphere, feeling uncomfortable and sick. She circulated her energy to alleviate the discomfort, and only after that could she relieve the unsettling sensation.

"Where is this place? Why is the atmosphere here so ominous and stifling? This... this is thick negative energy!" she thought, but she didn't panic and kept walking.

She walked, following the path her senses guided her on, and before long, she finally saw an exit. Cautiously, she stepped outside, and as she took in her surroundings, her

eyes trembled at the sight. The sky was blood red, and the land around her resembled a no man's land rather than a living environment. Dead trees and bones were scattered everywhere, and the thick negative energy painted the air with a red and black hue. All of these elements combined to create the eerie atmosphere surrounding her.

"This... this is devil territory?!" she thought, shocked. But then she sighed, unsure whether she was lucky or unlucky that her escape talisman had brought her here. She pushed those thoughts aside and walked further from what appeared to be a small cave entrance. She didn't know exactly which part of the devil territory she was in, but based on her estimation, she was at least 500 kilometers deep inside the territory.

There were a few problems with her being here. Despite what seemed like a short distance for someone of her cultivation level, the immediate issue was that it was still quite far to walk back to the border. She would need to use her movement technique to travel faster, but there was another problem. She had already expended a significant amount of energy in the last battle and hadn't had time to cultivate and replenish it.

If she tried to cultivate here, not only would she be unable to replenish her energy, but she would also risk awakening an inner demon. The thick negative energy in the area would affect her in many ways, so she had no choice but to avoid cultivating for now.

Even now, she had to use her energy as efficiently as possible to repel the negative effects of the energy here, so she couldn't afford to use her movement technique to reach the border. She did have energy replenishment elixirs, but their supply was limited, and they wouldn't restore all of her energy. And that was not even considering the potential obstacles she might face on her journey back. She would need to plan her route as carefully as possible.

She pondered for a moment before deciding to begin her journey back. It was better than lamenting her fate for being sent here without doing anything. She looked at the setting sun, determined which direction to take, and immediately set off towards the south, where the border of the Doria Empire lay.

"I hope that bastard doesn't find me here." She still had one more escape talisman, but she didn't want to rely on it—it was a double-edged sword. If she were suddenly teleported deeper into devil territory, it would be the same as signing her death sentence, especially in her current condition. With that thought, she continued walking, silently hoping that the heavens would help her on this journey.

Back at Aldrian's location, he floated in the sky above the Falanis fortress. After completing his cleanup here, he finally found a clear direction for where he needed to go next.

"The Lust Devil is pursuing my mother, and it seems he's heading back to the devil territory," Aldrian thought, gazing into the distance where he could see the edge of the devil territory. The meaning was clear to him, he had to venture into the devil territory, as it was the most likely place where his mother could be. Having already made this fortress town his domain, he now had two domains within the Doria Empire.

Without much hesitation, he moved toward the devil territory, using his teleportation, not wanting to keep his mother waiting.

On the other side of the battlefield, the situation had reached a stalemate as the Rivas family's main force reinforced the fortress city of Karak. After weeks of fierce battles with the devils, the balance began to tip when the Wrath Devil appeared, causing the Rivas family's forces to lose ground. Fortunately, Grand Duke Rivas had brought one of the Rivas family's legacy artifacts, the Divine Rain Sword. With the support of the imperial family, they managed to thwart the Wrath Devil, though at the cost of several casualties.

At this time, Grand Duke Rivas sat inside the command post of the city, unable to concentrate. A few hours earlier, he had received the news that Ilyon Town had fallen, and when he inquired about his daughter's condition, there was no information. His worry over her safety consumed him, leaving him unable to focus on anything else. To make matters worse, with the fall of Ilyon, the devils now had the opportunity to launch an attack on Vicanti, pinching his position from the side.

He was filled with frustration and stress at this moment, but suddenly, one of his retainers rushed toward him and whispered something in his ear. Something that made him raise his eyebrows.

Chapter 194: Entering the Devil Territory

Aldrian kept teleporting until he finally arrived at the border of the devil territory. Only after he stopped to sense his surroundings did he fully grasp how ominous and terrible the energy here was. The energy of heaven and earth in this place had been so thoroughly corrupted by negative energy that even the air contaminated. This energy also began to affect his mind, urging him to give in to his baser instincts. He frowned at the environment, wondering how any living being could endure such conditions.

"Oh well, for those who strive for strength at any cost, they will endure even if it means living in a place like this."

The devils are people who seek power through shortcuts, willing to sacrifice their morality to gain strength. To achieve this, they must absorb the negative energy, which inevitably corrupts them. Despite the ominous environment, there is no shortage of people eager to step into this place, driven by various reasons to chase power. This is why the devil territory never runs out of people. And even if no one willingly comes, the

devils themselves can just capture others, and forcibly convert them into devil cultivators.

Aldrian could feel the negative energy constantly trying to influence him. He quickly circulated his own energy, and the unsettling sensation vanished immediately. Even without relying on his energy, his mental fortitude was already strong enough to resist the effects of the negative energy in this place. However, it was far more convenient for him to move freely without any disturbances caused by this energy.

Aldrian dashed forward and entered the devil territory, but he soon stopped, realizing he had no idea where to go next.

"Those people only mentioned that the Lust Devil is returning to the devil territory, but if I want specifics, I'll have to find them myself."

He didn't know which route the Lust Devil had taken from this point, but he thought he could ask someone nearby. For instance, he could sense a group of devils not far from him. Since earlier, he had been expanding his senses to their maximum, scanning the entire area for anything unusual. Eventually, he detected a group of devils who had established what seemed to be an outpost. Without hesitation, he dashed in that direction.

After a few moments, he found a camp with more than a dozen devils, who appeared to be enjoying their time. Without hesitation, he teleported into the center of their post. Using his illusion, he incapacitated all the devils, freezing them in place. Aldrian then read their memories before killing them.

From the memory of one of the devils, Aldrian learned that the Lust Devil was moving deeper into the territory. He also discovered that the devils had taken prisoners from Falanis and Ilyon. They were using a portable teleportation portal to deliver logistics and send the prisoners to the devil fortress, located 200 kilometers north. This fortress, a long-established stronghold of the devils, was situated near the border of the Rivas Grand Duchy.

That place was quite large and held significant strategic value, as it directly defended the region from the Rivas Grand Duchy's forces, should they attempt to breach the devil territory. It was one of the forefront fortresses, forming a critical defense point along the border. Aldrian thought that if he could erase the devil's forces there and save the prisoners, it would create a much-needed opening for the Rivas Grand Duchy to breathe easier.

After making his decision, Aldrian teleported to that location. If anyone were to see him from the sky, he would appear like a ghost, materializing and vanishing at different spots, yet always moving in the same direction.

There are two fortresses that the devils have placed near the border with the Rivas Grand Duchy. One of these fortresses, called Sazim, is a key stronghold for the devils stationed along the border. It serves as one of the spearheads pointing directly at the Rivas family, and it has been the site of the most frequent clashes with them.

These fortresses have a long history with the Rivas family, and Sazim is one of the major sources of their headaches in this region. Situated atop a hill, the fortress is difficult to attack but easy to defend. Furthermore, the advantageous environment makes it challenging to mobilize a large army, as they would need to prepare artifacts with holy properties to shield themselves from the negative energy in the area, which would be a costly endeavor.

Inside Sazim, there were many new faces, but they were not devils. Instead, they were people who had been taken from Fanalis and Ilyon. Their numbers reached into the thousands, and they were gathered on a large, flat ground. Among them were men, women, children, and the elderly, a mix of both civilians and soldiers. Shackled at the wrists, they were forced by the devils to sit, helpless in their captivity.

The shackles were no ordinary shackles, once worn, they prevented a person from circulating their inner energy, effectively sealing their cultivation. Due to the effect of the negative energy in the area, some of the captives began to lose their sanity, but the devils struck them until they fell unconscious. The faces of the people were marked with fear and anxiety, as they didn't understand why the devils had brought them here when they could have simply killed them and been done with it.

A few moments later, someone walked toward a higher platform where all the people could see him. He was a devil with a Middle Emperor-stage cultivation with his striking pale skin and red eyes. His gaze swept over the prisoners before he shouted at the devils.

"Separate the males and females. Let the females leave the field." His orders were quickly followed by his subordinates, who separated the prisoners whether they were children or the elderly. Once only the men remained in the field, the devil on the platform began chanting something. Before long, a giant symbol appeared beneath the feet of the men, emitting an ominous red light.

Many began to panic as the red light transformed into a pillar, trapping all the men inside. A few seconds later, they felt a searing heat rising within their bodies. The heat intensified until they were screaming in agony, their bodies writhing in pain as they desperately tried to break the barrier. However, without any cultivation to help them endure the burning torment, their resistance was futile.

The devil atop the platform continued mumbling his chant, but suddenly, he sensed something in the sky above the vast field. Before he could even focus on what it was, he was shocked to see the red pillar lose control and shatter. The men, finally able to

breathe a sigh of relief, felt the intense heat vanish, allowing them to escape the burning torment.

The devil on the platform frowned as he looked up at the sky, where he saw a man—more precisely, a young man—floating in midair, as if he were a King stage or higher cultivator. All the devils were stunned by the sudden interruption, their gazes turning toward the sky. It was only when the devil atop the platform looked up that they finally saw the young man. They couldn't sense his presence at all, only noticing him when the devil on the platform did!

However, there were other bizarre occurrences. The negative energy in the area suddenly began to thin out, causing all the devils present to widen their eyes in shock. This was an impossible occurrence—after all, the negative energy had been shaped here since ancient times and had never dissipated, no matter the circumstances. Although the negative energy remained thick, they could feel it gradually diminishing in both quantity and quality as time passed.

"Who are you?! State yourself!" the devil on the platform shouted at the young man. His voice, amplified by devilish energy, reverberated across the entire field, causing the ground to tremble. The people there had to cover their ears, the pressure on their eardrums so intense it felt like they might burst. Other high-ranking devils in the fortress soon emerged from their posts, having sensed the sudden appearance of this intruder.

However, the young man's eyes simply swept over them, as if he didn't care about the devil's question. The vein on the devil's forehead bulged in anger at being ignored by the unknown young man. Enraged, he shouted to his underlings.

"Kill him."

From various parts of the fortress, giant arrows were launched toward the intruder, the power of the arrows was enough to take down a King stage cultivator, as the arrows themselves were powerful artifacts. However, to everyone's shock, the arrows were swallowed by a spatial crack, only to return with greater power when another crack appeared. A loud explosion followed, and fire erupted as the ballistas that had launched the arrows were destroyed.

After that, two of the King stage devils flew into the sky to attack the intruder with their spears. They did not underestimate the unknown young man, who seemed to have comprehended the space laws. However, they halted their movements when small sparks of lightning suddenly erupted from the young man's body, growing bigger and stronger. A chilling sensation washed over them as they felt the power and aura emanating from the lightning.

The aura of the heavens!

Chapter 195: Attacking Sazim

When Aldrian arrived at Sazim, he instantly created his domain and quickly understood the Middle Emperor Stage devil's intention: a sacrificial ritual. He had a rough idea of why the devils had become more ferocious and powerful this time—it was because of this. From the memories of the devils he had slain, the vast field was in fact, a sacrificial ground. Although he didn't fully understand the mechanism, it seemed that once the victims were gathered and the ritual was activated, they would be turned to ashes. As their remains vanished, the devils could absorb the energy from the vast field.

To grant their entire invasion force this power boost, the devils sometimes even resorted to sacrificing their own kind, ensuring that all members of the force would benefit. Additionally, they had been kidnapping people from neighboring countries like the Doria and Vindas Empires for a long time. All of this demonstrated that the devils had been planning to use this ritual for quite some time.

He also discovered another new fact when he created his domain: the thick negative energy was "purified" within its boundaries. The negative energy seemed to return to a level balanced with other energies. It couldn't be completely erased because it acted like yin and yang in relation to other energies, but it could be controlled to a certain extent.

Negative energy will always exist as part of the natural order, as all beings inherently possess characteristics such as pride, greed, wrath, envy, lust, gluttony, and sloth. When negative energy disrupts the balance and becomes overwhelmingly stronger than other energies, it leads to a result like the devil territory—a place consumed by "death," devoid of rules or morality, where only the desires of sin are followed.

This discovery was especially useful for Aldrian, as the overwhelming negative energy irritated him and reminded him of that "creature." He couldn't help but wonder if it was what the devils referred to as their devil god. However, he set those thoughts aside as the devils attacked him. After firing a few arrows at him, they began sending their minions instead. Pressed for time, Aldrian knew he needed to end this quickly and rescue the prisoners.

He focused intently on the devils below, heavenly lightning crackling around his body as the aura of the heavens radiated from him. Unlike his usual wide-area attacks, he couldn't risk using them here due to the presence of many non-targets. Instead, he carefully selected the devils as his sole targets, his mind working at full speed to mark only them.

The two King Stage devils, who had been staring at Aldrian with wide eyes, began to tremble under the weight of his heavenly might. In fact, it wasn't just them—everyone below, including those in the entire fortress, could feel the heavens power emanating from Aldrian. The force of the lightning alone was powerful enough to kill even King Stage beings instantly.

There was no more hesitation, no more doubt. The two King Stage devils knew that if they didn't stop Aldrian's attack, they were doomed. So, they threw their Peak Heaven-grade spears, already imbued with devil energy, at Aldrian. The power of the spears was enough to kill even a peak King Stage cultivator, and they flew directly toward Aldrian's body. Their intent was clear—to disrupt his technique, even if they couldn't kill him instantly.

The other devils below also reacted, launching their own elemental technique attacks from below. It was a spectacular sight, with many things happening simultaneously. As for Aldrian, while he stood within his domain, he was the ruler of this place. With a wave of his control, he created space cracks that swallowed all the incoming attacks, even those from the Emperor Stage devils.

They were shocked that Aldrian could use a space technique while simultaneously preparing his lightning technique. Using a combination of the two elements within the same technique made sense, but unleashing two different techniques with distinct elements at the same time was unheard of.

Each technique has its own flow of energy and requires precise control to be shaped successfully. While different techniques can be unleashed in quick succession, doing so at the same time is impossible. So, when they saw that Aldrian could control the space technique while simultaneously channeling lightning, they were shocked. It was like moving forward and backward at the same time—something that shouldn't be possible!

After the space crack swallowed the incoming attacks, Aldrian unleashed the lightning from his body like a slithering dragon. With the speed of light, the lightning struck the devils' bodies in multiple places. They couldn't hide from the lightning as long as they were within his domain. The devils used their own defense techniques, but once the lightning struck, it was futile. The lightning was powerful enough to kill even low Emperor Stage cultivators.

The two King Stage devils closest to Aldrian were instantly turned to ashes when struck by the lightning, and all the devils below followed them. Hundreds of devils were electrocuted to death, leaving only blackened corpses behind. Only a few Emperor Stage and King Stage devils, who had defense talismans, managed to survive. However, their defense talismans were instantly destroyed upon activation.

After killing most of the devils within his domain, Aldrian teleported all the prisoners to a safe location, far from any remaining devils. He then focused on the remains of the devils still within his domain. Since his domain didn't cover the entire fortress, a few lower-cultivation devils outside of his domain remained alive and rushed toward the source of the attack.

Although they could feel the might beyond their ability to counter, they knew they had to defend the fortress at all costs. It was better to die here than face punishment from their

superiors in the capital for dereliction of duty. For Aldrian, this worked in his favor, as it would make his task much easier.

After killing the small fry, Aldrian teleported to the high-ranking devils still alive: three at the Emperor Stage and two at the King Stage. He needed to incapacitate them as quickly as possible to prevent any desperate actions, like taking the prisoners hostage. True to his expectations, the King Stage devils had already moved to seize the hostages. Observing Aldrian, who attacked the devils with such incredible precision, they assumed he had come to save the prisoners.

But Aldrian wouldn't let them succeed. He had already teleported to one of the King Stage devils. The devil was shocked by Aldrian's sudden appearance, but he didn't panic. He attacked Aldrian with a palm strike, but Aldrian easily dodged it and struck the devil's abdomen with a punch imbued with a combination of death energy and golden energy.

The palm strike instantly shattered the devil's dantian. Aldrian then teleported again, this time towards the other King Stage devil, who was about to touch a child. Before the devil's hand could reach the child, Aldrian appeared in front of him. The devil grinned and struck Aldrian with a punch, having feigned the move to lure Aldrian into taking the bait.

"Got you!" the devil sneered.

However, Aldrian simply grabbed his wrist and used death energy to corrode his hand. The devil wanted to scream, but Aldrian struck his abdomen, instantly shattering his dantian.

Now, only the three Emperor Stage devils remained, and Aldrian could see they had fully transformed into their devil forms. Seeing Aldrian's power, they decided to give it their all to bring down the young man. Aldrian moved swiftly, increasing the gravity where the three devils stood. Taking advantage of their shock from the sudden change in gravity, he teleported behind one of the Emperor Stage devils and struck him with death energy.

The devil, still unbalanced by the sudden change in gravity, instinctively focused his defense on his back—after all, he was an Emperor Stage devil. However, when Aldrian's punch struck the devil's back, his defense instantly shattered, breaking both his spine and ribs. The devil spat out a large amount of blood and was thrown to the ground. Aldrian didn't stop; he teleported to the next target, but the other two devils had already anticipated Aldrian's tactic and prepared a wide-area attack for his next teleportation.

The two devils then unleashed a combined wind and fire wide-area attack, creating a wall of fire and wind that surrounded them. But unfortunately for them, they suddenly felt a sharp sword intent before their technique was split horizontally, severing their feet,

and they instantly dropped to the ground. Aldrian had already teleported above them and with fast movement he stabbed one with his sword directly at the dantian and punched the other with overwhelming force.

Aldrian nodded before disappearing, only reappearing ten minutes later. The captives stared at him in amazement, witnessing how easily he rendered the devils powerless, unable to do anything against him. Despite the intense battle, Aldrian showed no sign of exhaustion, maintaining a calm expression. The captives couldn't help but wonder: Who was this young man?

The Shining Star Above The Heaven #Chapter 196: All to the Sazim - Read The Shining Star Above The Heaven Chapter 196: All to the Sazim

Chapter 196: All to the Sazim

After dealing with the devils, he teleported to the place where he had relocated the prisoners for safety, a vast area in the west side of his domain, large enough to hold thousands of people. Upon his sudden appearance, the prisoners, initially stunned, turned their gazes toward him. However, their expressions soon changed, and they now looked at him as if he were a god.

Aldrian inspected each of them, and after ensuring there were no problems, he addressed them.

"I will send you back to the Rivas Grand Duchy. I'll drop you off in Falanis and Ilyon Town—both towns have been liberated, so you don't need to worry about your safety there."

"Thank you, Savior! Thank you for saving us!" an old man exclaimed, his voice filled with gratitude. "May we know the name of your great self, so we can remember your incredible feat?"

"You can call me Aldrian, that's all. Now, those who wish to go to Falanis, please stand on my right side. Those who wish to go to Ilyon, stand on my left side," he instructed.

The crowd didn't fully understand what Aldrian intended to do, but they still obeyed his command without hesitation.

"Sir Aldrian," the old man spoke up, his expression puzzled. "We were brought here through a portable teleportation portal, but there isn't one here now. How do you intend to send us back?"

Aldrian smiled at the old man, and once everyone was arranged, they suddenly vanished like ghosts, leaving him alone in the fortress. Earlier, he had already cleaned up the fortress, removing the remnants of the devils during a brief ten-minute absence.

As for the disappearance of the prisoners, it was thanks to a convenient ability of his domain. He could send objects or people to his different domain. Not only could he teleport himself, but he could also transfer others to any of his domains, functioning as seamlessly as moving within a single domain. Technically, these many domains are all part of his one domain, but scattered across different places.

With the prisoners rescued, Aldrian teleported to where the incapacitated devils lay. It was time to delve into their memories!

While Aldrian was cleaning up the Sazim Fortress, Irene continued walking carefully through the land of the devils. At times, she would run, and at other times, she would walk. She kept heading south, and fortunately, there had been little disturbance since she left the cave. Occasionally, she saw devils flying south, indicating they were at least at the king stage. Irene hid as best as she could, making sure they couldn't find her. The dark red sky after sunset also helped conceal her, and luckily, no devils had discovered her presence so far.

She had almost covered a quarter of the distance to the border when she saw a group of five devils flying toward her direction. She immediately hid again, blending herself with the surrounding nature—no sound, no movement, no flow of energy. She remained completely still, doing nothing. The negative energy of the area tried to influence her, but she managed to resist it for the time being. As the group of devils drew near, she coincidentally overheard some of their conversation.

"We still don't know, but we lost contact with Sazim and can't use the teleportation portal there."

"For whatever reason, they can't be contacted. We have to check it. It's so strange that no one is receiving the call."

"Wait..."

Suddenly, they stopped as one of them looked down toward Irene's direction. Irene's heart raced, as it seemed he had sensed her, even though she was doing her best to keep her presence hidden. Had they found her somehow? In truth, she wasn't sure if she could deceive these devils, as they were at least king stage or higher, but she did her best nonetheless.

"I think I sensed something over there," the devil said, pointing in Irene's direction, before flying slowly toward it. Irene tried to control even her heartbeat, ensuring that no

one, not even herself, could hear it. The devil seemed to be getting much closer to her position. She braced herself for a confrontation, as the devil almost seemed to see her. But just as he was about to get too close, he suddenly stopped moving. The other devils appeared stunned, before they took out their communication artifacts.

"All units in the area under the responsibility of Sazim Fortress, we have received reports that the fortress has been taken over by an unknown faction. You are to go to Sazim and retake it at all costs."

The devils were stunned and exchanged looks. Had Sazim fallen? Countless questions raced through their minds, but they still obeyed the order. Without hesitation, they flew toward the direction of Sazim Fortress at full speed.

Irene remained motionless in her position, and only when they had flown far enough did she release a sigh of relief.

"The heavens help me,"

But Irene had doubts when she heard the report.

"Sazim Fortress has fallen to an unknown faction? How is that possible? The fortress that's been such a thorn in our side has fallen to an unknown force? Who are they?"

She knew how difficult it was to capture Sazim, given its terrain and environment. Was there a rebellion among the devils in Sazim? Irene inwardly shook her head. It was impossible for the devils to betray their lord. The power the Devil Lord wielded was far too strong, and the devils knew their fate if they ever turned against him.

However, she also considered this news a great opportunity. Whoever had taken over Sazim, she could head there for support, and she could also receive their assistance. In her mind, she believed that the faction attacking Sazim must be friendly, and she couldn't pass up the chance to reach them.

With that thought in mind, she immediately moved toward the direction where the devils had flown, unaware that the danger was already closer to her than she could have imagined.

At the cave where Irene had teleported to, a handsome man stood, surveying his surroundings. To those who didn't know his identity, they would be struck by how handsome he was, unaware of any danger. However, for those who knew who he was, he was one of the most feared individuals in the devil territory.

The Lust Devil glanced at the darkness of the cave, then turned his gaze to the outside. His sharp eyes were like those of a hawk that had already spotted its prey. After Irene escaped using the escape talisman, he followed the trace of the spatial movement it left behind. The thing about the escape talisman was that it could be traced, if the opponent

was someone like the Lust Devil, albeit with difficulty. However, for him, being able to detect things marked by him, it became much easier.

The Lust Devil managed to leave his mark on Irene's armor using his divine artifact, and he could sense the trace of this mark through space. He followed it carefully. The spatial movement of the escape talisman was quite complex, so he had to stop many times to ensure the direction the mark was leading him. The mark appeared and disappeared in the void of space, but he was still able to follow its general direction.

"She was here earlier. Ah, Irene, Irene, you're really stubborn, but I like it. I'll have to punish you for it once I get my hands on you." He then glanced to the south.

"If I were in her shoes, of course, the first thing I would do is assess my location. After that, I'd head south, toward the Rivas Grand Duchy." He thought to himself.

"My lord has already ordered me to go to the location of the Wrath Devil, but this is a great opportunity to catch her. There's no chance like this, she's already in my grasp. Ah, I'll have to catch her quickly so I can move on to the Wrath Devil."

Determined, he flew in the same direction Irene had taken, resolved to catch her at any cost.

Right now, Aldrian floated high in the sky above Sazim, watching as more and more devils approached the area—tens, hundreds, thousands. The numbers kept increasing, like a swarm of wasps and ants. Aldrian observed them with a serene expression, his gaze fixed on one direction as he thought to himself.

"The Lust Devil is moving in that direction," Aldrian thought. He could feel that he was getting closer to his mother, but he still needed to deal with the incoming devils. The entire Sazim Fortress had now become his domain. In other words, from this moment on, this place was no longer under the control of the devils; they would never be able to restore the fortress to its former state.

He then decided to create a formation to protect the fortress from the devils—an impenetrable defense and killing formation capable of eliminating even a peak Emperor-stage cultivator. After his experience on Dragon Back Mountain, Aldrian had deepened his comprehension of formations. He could now create complex formations that even an Emperor-stage cultivator would not be able to breach. Furthermore, this formation was supported by his domain, so he was confident that no one would be able to get past it.

He closed his eyes and focused fully, drawing on his domain's energy, before creating a massive, transparent formation around the fortress. It expanded, covering the entire structure, including the sky, designed to block any devils or intruders attempting to

attack. After a few moments, he completed the formation. Now, he could head toward the direction of the Lust Devil without any concern!

The Shining Star Above The Heaven #Chapter 197: Close Call - Read The Shining Star Above The Heaven Chapter 197: Close Call

Chapter 197: Close Call

After Aldrian sent the prisoners back to their designated destination, they were shocked to find themselves already in their own town. Many of them began crying out in joy. As they looked towards the devil's territory—more specifically, the direction of Sazim Fortress—they started kowtowing in that direction.

"Thank you, thank you," many voices resounded throughout the two towns.

In Ilyon, the First and Second Fingers that Aldrian had asked to come had already arrived, accompanied by some people from the Vicanti to help arrange the town's security. They also received information from Pavilion Master Arson Vuran regarding Aldrian's orders, which granted them access to the Pavilion's connections within the Doria Empire. As skilled assassins, they naturally had some ties inside the Rivas Grand Duchy. Using these connections, they pulled some strings to have mercenaries and adventurers assist in guarding and cleaning the town.

They also provided the Rivas family with information about Ilyon town, allowing them to send their men to begin the reconstruction process. With this, they had fulfilled all of Aldrian's orders for Ilyon town.

However, when they first arrived, they were deeply shocked by the destruction the devils had wrought upon the town. They could only lament the fate of the many innocents here. Yet, one thing stood out that made them realize what Aldrian had done to the devils in this town. Almost all of the devils were dead with their expressions frozen in terror, much like those in the Battle of Vicanti.

They were killed in a horrific manner, their dantian crushed, and they seemed to have endured extraordinary pain, with veins bulging on their skin and all of their orifices bleeding before they were killed. They also found the naked bodies of women, covered with white sheets, and assumed it must have been their master's doing.

At this time, many began working to gather the corpses of both the victims and the devils, separating them throughout various parts of the town. It was clear that all the work was part of their plan, and they would return to the shadows once the main force of the Rivas family arrived.

Returning to Aldrian's location, he looked in the direction where the Lust Devil was last seen by the devils at Sazim Fortress. The devils here, of course knew that the Lust Devil had passed through this way, as it was their area of responsibility, and the Lust Devil did not seem to hide his presence. Having already surrounded the fortress with his own formation, Aldrian then disappeared from the sky and teleported to the ground.

After that, he kept teleporting in the direction of the Lust Devil. Along the way, he encountered many devils rushing toward Sazim Fortress. If he wanted to reach his destination quickly, he would have to pass through these devils, as there was no other route. From the deeper parts of the devil territory, many devils were coming in large numbers. Whether Aldrian liked it or not, he had to confront them. It would have been different if Aldrian wanted to hide, but he was in a rush to save his mother.

Some of the devils Aldrian encountered were at the King stage, and they instantly sensed his presence, taking battle stances as they assumed he was with the hostile unknown faction that had taken over the fortress. They attacked him, but Aldrian simply dodged and teleported past them without much thought.

"Stop him! Don't let him go!"

One of them shouted, and all the devils who heard him began flocking in Aldrian's direction. However, how could they catch Aldrian when even low Emperor stage cultivators couldn't follow his teleportation? They could only watch as he disappeared into the distance, but they didn't give up and continued chasing after him. The group numbered in the tens, with some King stage devils among them.

They also reported their findings to other nearby units to help them catch Aldrian. At this moment, the situation among the devils in this region was quite chaotic, as they had to retake Sazim Fortress and had found this intruder deep within their territory. This intruder could pose a threat if allowed to roam freely, as they didn't know what kind of abilities he possessed. Aldrian, however, remained unfazed, even as thousands of devils began chasing him. He kept moving forward, feeling that he was getting closer to his mother.

At the same time, Irene hid behind one of the dead trees in the forest—or at least, what could be called a forest, as it was a vast area filled with many dead trees. She couldn't move as freely as before due to the sudden surge in the number of devils passing her from all directions, heading toward Sazim Fortress. Watching their reactions, she thought that the situation at Sazim must be dire for the devils to deploy so many of their forces to retake the fortress.

After the wave of devils had passed, Irene began to move again. She occasionally used her movement technique, eager to join whatever faction was in control of Sazim as quickly as possible. She had to move fast to avoid encountering another wave of devils

heading toward the fortress. However, there was a setback to using her movement technique—each time she used it, her elemental traces were left behind, which could be tracked by high-ranking cultivators.

But she didn't have any other choice; it was a matter of time—whether she would be found first or reach Sazim first. She continued using her movement technique and even drank an energy replenishment elixir to prevent her energy from draining.

Suddenly, Irene felt movement from afar, or more precisely, from behind her. She immediately searched for a hiding spot and found a pile of bones of varying sizes. She hid inside the giant skull of a beast, large enough to conceal her body, and stopped moving. She had used this method several times before, so she was confident it would work again. She didn't peek or even look, afraid that doing so would compromise her position.

Each second felt like an eternity as she waited for the devil to pass. Only when she could no longer hear or sense anything through her five senses did she finally peek from behind the bone. She looked to her right and left but saw no movement. Just as she was about to continue her journey, she instantly used her ice technique, covering the surroundings with a frozen environment and ice spikes protruding to protect her.

She then used her movement technique to create distance when she sensed movement from behind her. She turned to see a man appearing in the middle of her ice field, and her eyes widened.

"You truly have sharp senses and are decisive, my dear. That is how my woman should be." The man's voice was soothing, but to Irene, it was her nightmare.

"Why does it have to be him?!"

The Lust Devil had finally found her, and her worst fears had come true. Even now, as she looked at his figure, her body trembled, and sweat dripped from her forehead. She was on the "edge of a cliff" with no way to escape, except for the last escape talisman. She truly didn't want to use it for obvious reasons, but with no other choice, she crushed the talisman in her hand. However, to her shock, it didn't work.

Looking at Irene's efforts to escape, the Lust Devil merely smiled as he spoke to her.

"Oh dear, do you think I would make the same mistake twice? I've already made this entire area impervious to space laws," he said, then took out an artifact shaped like a small pyramid.

"So, my dear, you'll have to work much harder if you want to escape."

Looking at the artifact in the Lust Devil's hand, Irene fell into despair. There was no way she could get out of this situation now. She thought of suicide to evade the humiliation,

but suddenly, she remembered Aldrey and Aldrian's figure, a figure she had already considered as her husband, and a figure representing the fruit of their love—her son, a figure she had last seen a few years ago. She dreamed of her happy family, dreaming that they would live together in harmony in the future.

"I want to see them!" Her eyes cleared, filled with new determination. She decided to use the Rivas family's secret technique to boost her power and unleash her most powerful elemental technique. She would pour everything she had into this attack and leave her survival to fate, knowing it would be her only chance.

The Lust Devil watched Irene with amusement, seeing her futile struggle as nothing more than entertainment.

"Good, good. Show me your most powerful attack. After you've depleted all your strength, I'll enjoy your body."

Irene ignored his words, focusing solely on gathering all the energy she had left. She knew her attack wouldn't be strong enough to kill the Lust Devil, but she would give it everything she had. She would not give up—not for her little family.

Her body and the surrounding environment's temperature began to plummet, and soon, snow began to fall, blanketing the area. A fierce, icy wind whipped through, forming into a tornado that twisted violently around her. The entire area within a five-kilometer radius was now engulfed in a blizzard of ice and snow. The howling winds and spiraling tornadoes were capable of freezing any being to death, while countless ice swords formed in the gale, slashing and stabbing everything in their path. This was her signature technique—the one that had earned her fame as the "Blizzard Witch". A wide-area technique powerful enough to kill even opponents with higher cultivation.

The Apocalypse Blizzard

She held the technique for as long as she could, to the point where she felt on the brink of fainting, but she knew she couldn't afford to lose consciousness here. She continued to pour everything she had into the attack, her will steadfast despite the overwhelming strain. But eventually, she could no longer hold it.

With a final surge, she canceled the technique. The blizzard subsided, and as the energy left her, she collapsed to the ground. Her body was completely drained, and the side effects of the Rivas family secret technique kicked in. She felt weak—so weak that she could no longer feel her lower body.

She wanted to sleep, to rest, but her determination forced her to glance at the condition of the Lust Devil, hoping that at least her attack had left some mark, some injury. But the reality was cruel. Her heart trembled as she saw that he was still unharmed. The blizzard she had poured all her energy into hadn't even left a scratch on his clothes. His smiling face remained directed at her.

She tried to drag her body in the opposite direction, her every movement a desperate attempt to escape. She couldn't afford to be captured by the Lust Devil. But his grin only widened as he leisurely walked toward her, savoring her struggle. She pushed herself harder, trying to hold onto consciousness. But no matter how much she tried, she could sense him getting closer and closer, until she was within his reach, and she could do nothing to stop it.

"Now I really have you, my dear," he said, his grin widening as he reached for Irene's body. Sensing his hand move toward her, Irene was overwhelmed with despair.

"Aldrey, Aldrian."

However, the Lust Devil suddenly halted his hand as he swiftly dodged backward, narrowly avoiding a slash that almost struck him. In an instant, he was standing 500 meters away, frowning at the sudden intrusion. His gaze turned toward the source of the attack—a strike powerful enough to cut through the spatial barrier created by his artifact. He now looked at the sudden appearance of a young man now standing in front of Irene.

For the first time, his danger senses tingled at the sight of this man, whose blue eyes similar to Irene's locked onto him with killing intent. It was the first time in a long while that he wore a serious expression in front of an opponent.

Chapter 198: Against the Lust Devil 1

Irene was stunned by the sudden appearance of this man. Although her vision was half-closed, she could still make out his solid back. She didn't know why, but his presence made her feel safe. She wanted to ask his identity, but she was too tired to even open her mouth, and all she wanted to do was faint.

"Rest well. I'll take it from here."

Those were the words she heard from the man. As if hypnotized, her vision faded into darkness, and she fell asleep. Aldrian, seeing his mother finally resting, sighed in relief. Fortunately, he had arrived just in time. The massive ice-element technique that was visible from afar revealed this location to Aldrian. Recognizing it as his mother's, he had immediately dashed to the site, certain she was engaged in a battle.

When he saw that his mother was nearly caught by the Lust Devil, he immediately retrieved Eternal Spirit from his storage ring and unleashed a slash attack to disrupt the devil. Knowing he couldn't underestimate a member of the Seven Deadly Sins, he wielded his middle divine-grade sword without hesitation. Now, he released his killing intent toward the man who had caused his mother's suffering. His killing intent could be felt throughout his entire domain.

However, he suppressed it as quickly as it came. He knew he couldn't afford to be swayed by his rage at this critical moment. He had to maintain a cool head, understanding that any drastic change in his mood or intent would affect his entire domain. Fighting with feelings of rage would only disrupt his combat ability. Closing his eyes, he calmed his mind, making himself one with nature, one with the universe.

The Lust Devil's focus was now on Aldrian, sensing his cultivation at the peak Earl stage. However, the sword in his hand was something impossible for a mere peak-stage cultivator to wield—the middle divine-grade sword. The sword strike that had nearly hit him also showed that this young man was proficient with the sword, seeming unaffected by the setback of wielding a divine-grade weapon.

He then sensed many presences approaching from afar. Looking at the situation, though frustrated, he knew he had to make a choice, and he had already made it.

"Ah, you're lucky this time, young man. I have to leave, I don't have time right now. Let's continue our meeting another day." He said with smile.

He had thought he could subdue Irene without hindrance and then proceed to the Wrath Devil's domain. However, with the appearance of this strange young man, he had to abandon his plan. He still had his lord's orders to follow, and while it was a pity to pass up this opportunity, he knew there would be other chances in the future. He then attempted to move in the opposite direction using his movement technique but stopped after a few moments when he sensed the space in front of him had solidified, like a brick wall.

"No, you will not leave this place. Do you know I came here by following you? Thanks to you, I was able to find her, and I want to reward you for that," the young man said while walking closer. However, he ignored Aldrian, keeping his attention fixed on the spatial barrier in front of him.

He could sense that this spatial barrier was extremely strong, requiring much more effort to break. His face turned solemn. If this young man could create a barrier of such strength, he must be a cultivator of equal power—or perhaps even stronger than a space element cultivator like the Greed Devil. He looked at Aldrian, who now regarded him with serene eyes. This time, he couldn't sense any killing intent or reaction from those blue eyes. But he could feel it—this was the most dangerous state of his, someone who concealed his expression so completely that it was impossible to discern his thoughts.

The Lust Devil, as an Emperor-stage cultivator had his instincts and pride, prompting him to instantly create his domain. The domain extended five kilometers from him as its epicenter, a clear sign he was ready to face Aldrian. Although the domain was much larger than Aldrian's, Aldrian regarded it with a calm gaze. He briefly glanced at his mother before teleporting her body to Sazim.

The Lust Devil was stunned, unable to detect any spatial disturbance or changes in the surrounding energy, even though they were within his domain. It felt as if Irene had simply vanished without a trace or sign.

"His mastery of space laws is greater than the Greed Devil's," the Lust Devil thought.

He had to admit that the Greed Devil was the master of space laws among the members of the Seven Deadly Sins. This fact was well-known across the continent—the Greed Devil was an extraordinary space element cultivator, he even knew that the Greed Devil could create a secret realm, though its location remained unknown. For a space element cultivator to move something from one place to another without causing any disturbance in space or energy, it was as if Aldrian *was* the space itself, an ability even the Greed Devil could not achieve.

The Lust Devil then took out his ultimate armament—a middle divine-grade artifact—a long chain with a sharp blade at its tip. He wielded it as though it were an extension of his own body, demonstrating his mastery over the weapon. This artifact was known as the *Chain of the Underworld's Guardian*.

An artifact created by an orthodox master blacksmith who defected to the devils more than a million years ago, the *Chain of the Underworld's Guardian* had since become a symbol of the Lust Devil, passed down through generations. The chain itself could extend at will and possessed a terrifying ability feared by cultivators across the continent. This chain blade can curse an opponent if they are struck by the artifact, and the curse can only be lifted by the Lust Devil himself.

He walked slowly toward Aldrian, but as he approached, he saw Aldrian take something from his storage ring. It was covered with a black sheet, and Aldrian suddenly threw it toward the Lust Devil. The Lust Devil assumed it was some kind of trap and intended to destroy it, but he noticed the black sheet fell not directly at him, but 30 meters in front of him. Once the sheet settled, it revealed its contents and accidentally rolled right to his feet.

Once he saw what it was, his eyes trembled violently. At his feet lay a shattered manhood, and from it, he sensed an aura he knew all too well—the aura of his successor.

"YOU SON OF A BITCH!!!"

He instantly dashed toward Aldrian at full speed, striking with his chain. The chain broke the sound barrier, but Aldrian parried it with his sword. Aldrian's expression then shifted into a grin as he dashed toward the Lust Devil in return.

"Yes, that's the expression I wanted to see!" Aldrian exclaimed as he unleashed multiple slashing attacks toward the Lust Devil. Each strike was powerful and heavy,

forcing the Lust Devil to dodge and block, he could feel the sheer force behind each blow. The Lust Devil then activated one of his techniques.

Guardian of Destruction

The surrounding terrain suddenly trembled violently and cracked open. From the cracks, a dark light erupted, and the ground crumbled inward, revealing the massive form of a golem. The golem was made of rock, shaped like a knight clad in full-body armor. Its eyes and the cracks in its body glowed black. It rose from the earth as if it had emerged from the underworld, its immense body as large as a small hill.

ROAR!!!

The golem roared with a sound that could be heard from afar. As for the Lust Devil, he was already atop its right shoulder, shouting at Aldrian,

"You will regret offending me!"

To be honest, he didn't consider Davian Falucci as his dearest, and in fact, he saw him as a person to be wary of. As the Lust Devil, he knew the kind of desires lust could awaken in men, and he certainly didn't want Davian touching what was already his. There was no one he considered family in this world. However, since Davian had been successfully chosen as his successor, whether he liked it or not, he had to nurture him—and he had already invested resources in him.

For Davian to be humiliated, the Lust Devil felt a deep sense of humiliation as well. His pride could not accept the fact that this young man had disregarded him by severing Davian's manhood. He could still sense that Davian was alive, as his life force had not yet faded, but knowing that his manhood had been severed, the Lust Devil realized that this young man must have subjected him to excruciating torture.

The giant golem then unsheathed its massive sword before swinging it. Despite its colossal size, its movements were surprisingly swift, as if its size posed no hindrance. The very space seemed to tremble under the force of the sword strike, but Aldrian merely observed calmly.

Aldrian then channeled his domain's power into his body, and with a single slash, he shattered the incoming sword. The loud boom and the crumbling rock sent the surrounding landscape into chaos. In an instant, Aldrian teleported beside the Lust Devil and slashed at his head. The Lust Devil, still stunned, barely managed to block the strike with his chain. Now, he could see Aldrian's face up close.

"As expected from a member of the Seven Deadly Sins. Then how about this?"

Suddenly, a black energy surged in Aldrian's other hand, making the Lust Devil's eyes tremble.

Chapter 199: Against the Lust Devil 2

The Lust Devil felt a horrifying sense of death emanating from the black energy that appeared on Aldrian's hand—something he had never experienced before.

"What is that?! It's something that can even affect my soul! What kind of energy is this?!" He felt as if his soul could be sucked in by the black energy, his mental state shaken by its presence. He had experience dealing with necromancers; in fact, one of the Seven Deadly Sins specialized in summoner-type abilities and could control corpses like a necromancer. He had sensed the aura of death from them before. But this black energy was on a completely different level—it was as if he were standing before 'Death' itself. No other sensation accompanied it; it was pure, unrelenting 'Death.'

Aldrian clenched his hand into a fist and attempted to punch the Lust Devil in the abdomen. However, the Lust Devil wasn't about to let that ominous energy touch him. He swung the chain to the side, both to block the incoming punch and to create room to dodge and retreat from Aldrian. Meanwhile, the giant golem attempted to disrupt Aldrian by slapping at him with its other hand. Aldrian glanced at the incoming strike and teleported onto the golem's head in an instant.

The Lust Devil hovered in the air, his gaze fixed on the section of the chain he had used to block Aldrian's black energy. A black spot had formed on the divine-grade artifact, and he was utterly shocked. The black energy seemed to corrode even the durability of a divine weapon—something he had never encountered before.

"What the fuck is that energy?!"

Aldrian merely smiled at the Lust Devil. Seeing the effect of the death energy defy common sense was something he had anticipated. Under the heavens, no being could withstand the touch of 'Death.'

The Lust Devil suddenly locked eyes with Aldrian. In that instant, Aldrian felt as though he had been dragged into hell itself, the searing heat of hellfire engulfing him. However, the scene shattered instantly, and Aldrian noticed the Lust Devil was already closing in. When the Lust Devil saw Aldrian looking in his direction, he was visibly shocked.

To think that Aldrian could break his illusion in such a short time—yet the Lust Devil was already too close to cancel his attack. Without hesitation, he shaped his devil energy into two palms and unleashed them toward Aldrian. From his palms, he fired massive pillars of fire, each one powerful enough to kill a Middle Emperor Stage cultivator. As the fire pillars closed in, Aldrian created a large spatial crack to swallow the flames, redirecting them outside his domain, where he saw the devils pursuing him.

The thousands of devils watching the great battle from afar were stunned by the sudden appearance of the massive fire pillar and scrambled to disperse. Unfortunately, not all the devils were agile enough to avoid it, and the fire pillar struck hundreds of them. They

watched in horror as the flames burned everything in its path, turning a 5-kilometer area into a sea of fire.

They tried to form a barricade to block Aldrian's escape, but it became clear that if they continued to push themselves, they would only be seeking death.

The Lust Devil frowned as he watched his attack get redirected, but he quickly moved to the side as the golem's giant sword swung toward Aldrian again. The golem could create another sword as long as there was energy stored in its core.

Aldrian teleported to the side of the golem, but once he arrived, he was stunned by the heaviness of the space around him. Looking at the Lust Devil, he raised an eyebrow in realization—the Lust Devil had actually comprehended the space laws ! It seemed he was controlling the surrounding space, trying to pin Aldrian in place.

However, Aldrian could feel that the Lust Devil's comprehension of the space laws was far weaker and more shallow than that of the Greed Devil or even his own. He easily broke free of the spatial constraint, but the giant sword of the golem had already taken advantage of the split second when Aldrian was still in the same position. With a slash, the giant sword almost struck Aldrian, but he teleported once again, dodging the attack in that brief moment.

The Lust Devil frowned as he watched, still unable to believe how easily Aldrian could use space laws. It seemed he didn't even need to circulate energy or do anything special—he just disappeared and reappeared in another location as effortlessly as breathing. With such an ability, it would be impossible to catch Aldrian or land an attack unless the Lust Devil could somehow constrain his movements.

"If I can't catch you or catch you off guard, then how about this?"

Suddenly, the golem took a stance and stabbed its sword into the ground, causing the earth to tremble. From the surrounding area, wind currents began to spiral, growing larger with each passing moment. A giant tornado rose toward the sky, tearing through the land and causing chaos in the heavens. The dark night over the devil's territory, already eerie with its blood-red sky, became even more chaotic with the appearance of the colossal tornado.

All the devils surrounding the battlefield began to retreat, hoping to avoid being sucked in and killed by the tornado. However, the Lust Devil wasn't finished with his technique. He combined the tornado with fire, and the dark night was suddenly illuminated by the dancing fire pillars reaching toward the sky. The land transformed into a scorching hell, burning everything in its path, with the fire spreading like a relentless wave across the terrain.

At this part of the devil's territory, the terrain became unrecognizable, consumed entirely by the flames. Even the air itself burned with scorching heat, and any living being who

tried to breathe in would find their lungs seared. Even space seemed to ripple and burn under the intense heat. This was the Lust Devil's strategy to catch Aldrian—he could teleport anywhere, but if he destroyed everything around him, there would be no place left for Aldrian to dodge or teleport.

After a minute, the massive fire tornado began to recede, revealing the giant golem with the Lust Devil perched on its right shoulder. Half of his energy remained after unleashing such a powerful technique. It had been a long time since anyone had pushed him to this point—he hadn't used this technique in ages. The entire 15-kilometer area had transformed into a sea of flames, and the fire showed no signs of dying down anytime soon.

Even if someone wore low-grade divine armor to protect himself, they still wouldn't be able to endure this attack. It was powerful enough to kill even a high Emperor Stage cultivator with ease! In fact, even a peak Emperor Stage would need to avoid this technique if they didn't want to be fatally wounded.

The Lust Devil spread his senses, trying to locate Aldrian amidst the sea of flames. After a few seconds, unable to detect Aldrian's presence, he believed he had succeeded and began to grin. But then, he was stunned as he noticed a strange disturbance in one part of the fiery field—an area of space that seemed wobbly. Suddenly, a footstep emerged from it.

He was shocked that Aldrian had actually come out of it, and he instantly realized what Aldrian had done.

"He's creating a space shield using a space pocket! To be able to utilize the basic concept of a secret realm with such ease and in such a short time!"

What Aldrian did was essentially create a separate space between himself and the outside world, forming his own space pocket. This concept is similar to a secret realm but much simpler. While a secret realm is a vast, complex space pocket, Aldrian's technique involved creating a small, personal space to shield himself from the Lust Devil's attack.

However, creating such a space required more time than the Lust Devil's technique activation time. To form a separate space in just a few seconds, Aldrian's comprehension and control over the space laws and spatial energy had already surpassed that of any space element cultivator on the continent at this time!

He really didn't understand how this young man was so skilled, yet why his name and face weren't famous and resounding across the continent? His eyes never left Aldrian, realizing that he was truly facing a burdensome opponent this time. Then, he saw Aldrian raise his sword above his head and direct his gaze toward him.

"Now it's my turn to show you something interesting," Aldrian said.

Suddenly, from the Eternal Spirit, a pillar of golden light shot into the sky, splitting the clouds. The power behind it was immense, and the Lust Devil knew that this was something that could even kill him!

Chapter 200: The Golden Pillar

A pillar of golden light split the sky of the devil territory. Because the golden pillar was so conspicuous in the night, its light was visible even from Fanalis Town and beyond. The dark night of the devil territory, where Aldrian stood, became as bright as day. The devils who looked at this golden light felt their hearts shake, they couldn't believe they had tried to hold someone with this kind of power. No, they were delusional to think they could catch Aldrian.

The Lust Devil looked at the golden pillar with a rigid smile. From this pillar, he could sense a power strong enough to kill—no, to be exact, to obliterate him if he didn't do something.

"Fuck!"

A few minute earlier.

In the area where the city fortress of Karak was located, Grand Duke Rivas gazed at the distant scenery of the vast grassland, now marked with many traces of battle. His expression seemed pensive, as if deep in thought. Not long ago, he had received information that made him raise his brows. It was good news, a welcome change after a string of bad tidings he had received recently. The invasion force of devils that had tried to attack Vicanti had been defeated, and even Ilyon had already been retaken.

At first, he didn't believe that the situation had suddenly flipped, given how pessimistic things had seemed. Even with reinforcements from the imperial family, they couldn't easily thwart the devils, who were like crazed war dogs. However, after sending someone to confirm the information, he was surprised to hear that it was true, and all the witnesses provided their testimony. It was the appearance of one person that had flipped the entire battlefield.

He wondered, who was this person? Was he an emperor-stage existence? All the testimonies claimed that this person was only at the peak Earl stage, but he doubted that was his true cultivation. Not only had he acted in Vicanti, but it was also said that this person had liberated Ilyon—the place where his daughter had last been seen. This brought some relief to his heart, as they could now check on his daughter's condition.

"An incoming attack!"

Suddenly, he heard a shout from a soldier in the distance, and he finally saw an army of devils, with the Wrath Devil at the forefront. The Wrath Devil had a large axe strapped to his back, and his aura was intimidating. He looked in the direction of Grand Duke Rivas with a mocking expression and shouted to his armies.

"Let's go! Kill those Rivas dogs, and whoever breaches the city will receive huge rewards!"

"UWOOO!" The war cry of the devils resounded in the dark night, and all of them suddenly transformed into their devil forms, something unusual for devils. Grand Duke Rivas frowned at these crazy bastards, who seemed to be going all out from the start. He took their transformation seriously. For them to use their devil forms right away—was there another strategy at play, perhaps one of their trump cards?

Rumble!!

Suddenly, a pillar of red light appeared at the front line of the devil army. The entire battlefield shook with a sudden tremor as a giant silhouette of a beast emerged within the red light, visible even from the city. The silhouette had four heads, and its massive body was like a small mountain. The aura it exuded was enough to make everyone present feel a chill, as the pressure from the high Emperor-stage beast spread throughout the city.

ROAR!!!

The beast's roar shook the eardrums of all beings in the region. Grand Duke Rivas stared at the creature in shock, recognizing what had suddenly appeared.

"A fucking Hydra."

He was truly in shock. How the hell did the devils get their hands on a Hydra, a rare spiritual beast that was almost extinct on the Barisan continent? He already knew the devils had used a Hydra in Balin, but it was instantly killed by the mysterious swordsman, so he thought the devils had none left. To think that they now had another Hydra, and this one was even far more powerful than the one at Balin.

Grand Duke Rivas gritted his teeth. If the devils had called upon this beast, it seemed this would be their toughest battle yet, with an even greater chance of losing. Although he possessed his family's legacy artifact, the middle divine-grade Divine Rain Sword, his strength was still insufficient to fully unleash its potential. And with the high Emperor-stage Hydra before him, he had no confidence in killing it. The Hydra's cultivation was higher than his—he was only at the middle Emperor stage. To kill the Hydra, he would need time and for no one to disrupt their battle.

The problem was, the Wrath Devil was still here, making the situation even grimmer for the coalition forces. There was one other middle Emperor-stage expert from the imperial

family as backup, but that still wasn't enough to contend with the combined threat of the Hydra and the Wrath Devil. The Wrath Devil, with the same cultivation as the Hydra, could barely be thwarted by their combined efforts and the divine-grade artifact. Now, with the devils having two such beings—and one of them being another Hydra—the odds seemed even more impossible.

"Prepare the ballistas and the archers! Don't give up! They're using their last trump card. As long as we win this, we will secure a full victory for the entire Rivas Grand Duchy! So don't falter! Fire as many arrows as you can! Use every technique at your disposal! Give everything you've got! They'll be even more ferocious!" Grand Duke Rivas shouted.

Although he didn't know how the devils had gotten their hands on the Hydras or why the creatures had chosen to serve them, he knew he had to defend the city. The rumbling sound of the incoming devil army tried to shake the coalition forces. Even though they were battle-hardened soldiers who had survived many battles here, the appearance of the Hydra raised their sense of desperation about the current fight.

However, suddenly, everyone saw a bright golden light on the horizon to the northwest from their position. The devils also noticed the light and turned to look in that direction—the direction of the devil territory. This left everyone here confused, each person with their own thoughts.

For the coalition forces, they thought the devils were launching another of their schemes. As for the devils, they couldn't understand the sudden appearance of the golden light. From the direction, it seemed to be coming from the region where Sazim Fortress was located, but they hadn't received any notice about this sudden occurrence.

The Wrath Devil also stopped to look at the golden light, and now he could finally see its shape—a golden pillar that reached up to the sky. It was so high that he thought it might have pierced the heavens. After a few seconds, he didn't know why, but it seemed as though the golden pillar was falling toward their direction. A split second later, he was in shock as he realized the golden pillar was, in fact, heading straight for them!

"Shit!"

He then told the Hydra to stop as he saw the incoming golden pillar falling toward their position. The Hydra also looked up at the golden pillar coming straight down toward them. As an Emperor-stage spiritual beast, the Hydra had the intelligence of a human and could even speak like one. Upon seeing the golden pillar, it immediately raised its defenses. Proud of its regeneration and immense strength as a Hydra, it planned to take the falling golden pillar head-on.

As the golden pillar approached, growing larger with each passing moment, the Hydra finally sensed the immense power it wielded. His four heads widened their eyes in shock as he realized that the power of this golden light could instantly obliterate him if it

struck. In a panic, he moved away from Karak, trying to evade the pillar's path. The Wrath Devil, sensing that the golden pillar was about to fall on the city, followed suit.

Grand Duke Rivas could only watch in despair as the golden pillar descended, knowing it was beyond his ability to defend against. However, the tip of the golden pillar, shaped like a sword, actually dropped 700 meters from the fortress wall.

RUMBLE!!!

The wind swept outwards as the golden pillar struck the ground, causing the very space to collapse along its trajectory. The pillar slammed into a quarter of the devil army attacking Karak, instantly killing thousands. The golden pillar then disappeared on its own, but a deep chasm remained in its wake, creating a straight line from the distant horizon.

The space crack also created a spatial storm that took another thousand of the devil's ranks, throwing their army into chaos before the space slowly began to mend itself. The Wrath Devil and the Hydra could only watch as the spatial storm had sucked in and killed many of their forces.

The Wrath Devil then suddenly received a call from his communication artifact. As he continued to look at the deep gorge, which created a straight line towards the horizon, he heard the voice from the artifact,

"Enough for now. Retreat with all of the soldiers to the devil territory."