

The Witch 1021

Chapter 1021: The Key and Lock

Although Vaan's mocking angered Lady Nurla, she still possessed her reasoning. As such, she was alarmed by the invisible barrier that protected him. It had appeared without warning and seemed nigh unbreakable.

Where did such a strong barrier come from?

Lady Nurla didn't believe such a powerful barrier could have been produced with Vaan's cultivation. As such, it had to come from somewhere else.

A treasure?

In order to verify her suspicion, Lady Nurla threw herself at Vaan again, attacking the invisible barrier with wings, tail, legs, and arms. She utilized all her limbs to strike different spots on the spherical barrier as if to find its weak point.

However, no matter where she struck, the invisible barrier remained firm and unshakeable.

Nevertheless, the glimmers of light from the tiny temple that floated around Vaan made Lady Nurla realize where the barrier power came from. Indeed, the barrier power came from a treasure.

Moreover, it was a very high rank one at that.

Meanwhile, Lady Nurla's broken fingers and nails quickly regenerated within minutes. Despite that, she continued to rely on physical attacks to strike the barrier.

It was as if she had no other means of attack, which shouldn't be possible.

After all, energy cultivators could use elemental spells and divine arts through their divine energy. However, whether it was Sir Mugim or Lady Nurla, both of them completely ignored this potential.

They simply used their divine energy to augment their body's physical capabilities.

As a bit of observation, Vaan understood why these two Celestial Dragons didn't use their divine energy for more powerful energy attacks.

While the energy attacks of energy cultivators were very strong, they were also very wasteful. The more energy consumed, the quicker their combat potential would drop. Once they used up their energy, they would be completely vulnerable and at the mercy of others.

As such, the two Celestial Dragons preferred to circulate and contain the divine energy within their powerful bodies. Not only would it not waste away their divine energy, but they could also stay in peak physical shape.

As a result, they would be able to battle for a much longer period than pure energy cultivators.

Using divine energy to maximize the potential of the physical body was indeed the most optimum choice to make for the Celestial Dragons, who possessed such physical superiority.

Unfortunately, Sir Mugim could not make use of this advantage against Valefor. They were very mismatched.

In front of Valefor's Primordial Avatar Body, Sir Mugim's level of strength was simply incapable of dealing damage. On the other hand, Valefor's Asura Law could bypass Sir Mugim's strong defense.

Sir Mugim's advantages were rendered useless in front of an opponent like Valefor.

Valefor was practically the nemesis of all Celestial Dragons, who were pure physical fighters.

Sir Mugim panted on the ground with cold sweats. After consuming a significant amount of divine energy, he finally extinguished the tyrannical, fiery power that invaded his body.

However, he wasn't so sure if he could take another of such an attack. In fact, he feared getting struck by it again. The agony of being burned inside out was not something he wanted to experience again.

It was like a toothache that wouldn't go away, except it was tens of times more painful.

"Are you done already?" Valefor asked, looking quite disappointed. His opponent was quite strong, but he had no guard against laws at all. He didn't expect the person would capsize under a single move.

Sir Mugim glanced back at Valefor with deep dread. He had never fought an opponent like this. The latter's strange powers didn't seem like something he could guard against.

If he had no means of defending himself against the strange fire, how could he continue to fight? But if he didn't continue to fight, was he going to die?

"I'm very disappointed," Valefor reiterated before saying, "However, it would be a shame just to kill you. It's rare to find someone like you. It seems I need to train you into a proper punching bag. This place won't do. We will go somewhere else."

Valefor reached for Sir Mugim's ankle to drag him away.

Although Sir Mugim wanted to escape, he couldn't get away from Valefor in his weakened state. Instead, his futile attempt to flee only earned him a violent beating.

Valefor pounded him into the ground repeatedly before stating, "You better stop resisting."

Sir Mugim opened his mouth, but no words came out. He feared his situation would not be pretty if he let Valefor take him away.

However, if he told Valefor there were many more Celestial Dragons like him in Celestial City, his little bit of value might just disappear, and the latter would have no reason to keep him alive.

As such, he ultimately resigned to his fate.

Valefor opened a spatial tear with asura power before he dragged Sir Mugim through by the ankle. Before he fully disappeared to the other side, he gave Vaan a careful look, concerned that the latter might stop him.

He was relieved when the person didn't.

It was rare for him to find an opponent like Sir Mugim, who was somewhat close to his level of strength. This person was a high-quality punching bag and sparring partner who wouldn't—or rather, couldn't deploy foul means for cheap advantages as Vaan did.

He had to be trained well.

"Kekeke..."

Valefor cackled sinisterly, thinking what type of training he had to drill into Sir Mugim for him to put up a more decent fight.

Sir Mugim felt chill when he heard Valefor's laugh. Experience more tales on [My Virtual Library Empire](#)

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Bang! Bang!

Lady Nurla continued to strike the unbreakable barrier, feeling desperate. She had seen Sir Mugim getting abducted from the corner of her eyes. In her heart, she began to doubt whether she had gauged the situation inaccurately.

After all, a puppet couldn't be too far away from the Puppet Master.

Since Valefor was able to take Sir Mugim to what looked like Gehenna on the other side, then Vaan was unlikely a Puppet Master as she had originally and so confidently thought.

"Can you do nothing but hide behind your turtle shell?! I dare you to fight me!" Lady Nurla vented her frustration out loud. However, she quickly regretted her outburst.

As she wished, Vaan dispersed his protective barrier, changing from passive to active. However, he did not fight Lady Nurla directly. Instead, he summoned the Divine Lord Death Eater from his Heaven-Swallowing Space to play with her.

"This...!"

Lady Nurla was immediately horrified when the Divine Lord Death Eater emerged out of nowhere. It was like a death reaper coming out to collect souls—her soul.

Fear quickly filled her heart.

After facing a true Divine Lord in person, Lady Nurla realized just how laughable, foolish, and arrogant she was for thinking her strength could compare to Divine Transformation. At most, her strength was only comparable to Half-step Divine Transformation Realm.

The Divine Transformation Realm was still far from her grasp.

Lady Nurla instantly retreated over several hundred meters before glancing back at Vaan and the Divine Lord Death Eater warily. She did not know how many more powerful beings Vaan could summon, but she knew she didn't stand a chance in such a fight.

"Do you dare to fight me yourself?"

"Do you think a swordsman will give up his sword just because you challenged him to a fistfight?"

Lady Nurla was quickly silenced by Vaan's nonchalant question.

Indeed, only a hot-headed fool would agree and give up his advantage only to put himself at an obvious disadvantage.

"Go play with her."

"W-Wait! I surrender!"

Surprisingly, just as Vaan gave the Divine Lord Death Eater an order, Lady Nurla quickly gave up. She knew she couldn't win, and stubbornly trying would only result in an ugly death.

Her instinct was very spot on.

Against a deathly being like the Divine Lord Death Eater, her strong physical body was meaningless. She needed to use energy attacks of an opposing element or utilize laws to stand a chance.

"You surrender?" Vaan raised an eyebrow before muttering, "How unexpected... I don't want to accept your surrender, though..."

"I..." Lady Nurla's mind spun for a way to survive with distress before her eyes suddenly lit up. She excitedly shouted, 'I can warm your bed! I bet you have never bedded a Celestial Dragon before. It'll be something you can boast about for a lifetime!'"

"I'm... I'm also very good at warming beds!" Lady Nurla added, feeling slightly embarrassed by her own audacity.

Vaan's nose twitched, and dark lines filled his forehead.

Although Lady Nurla was a Dragonoid woman, she was still very beautiful, even by human standards. However, Vaan did not find her offer attractive in the slightest.

"You want to warm my bed?" Vaan frowned before saying, "Even if I were interested in having a Celestial Dragon warm my bed, it would never be you."

"W-Why not?! I'm very good at it if I have to say so myself!" Lady Nurla argued, visibly stunned by Vaan's flat rejection. She was quite confident in her beauty.

"Have you ever heard about the key and the lock?" Vaan coolly mentioned.

"The key and the lock?" Lady Nurla furrowed her brows with confusion and doubt, not knowing what Vaan was referring to.

As such, Vaan had no choice but to explain to her, "A key that can open any lock is called a master key, but a lock that any key can open is a useless lock."

Lady Nurla's mind blank for a moment as she digested the information. Upon realizing its meaning, her face quickly flushed with anger.

"Are you calling me a slut?!"

"You can interpret it that way."

Vaan truly didn't want to stick his dick in someone like Lady Nurla. He could practically smell the number of dicks that had been in her. Even if he actually couldn't, he was still informed.

According to the Celestial Database, the Celestial Dragons commonly practiced in-breeding to maintain the purity of their bloodline.

More importantly, since it was already difficult for Dragonoid women to conceive, the practice of in-breeding only made it more difficult to happen. As such, Celestial Dragon engaged in a lot of fornication.

Someone like Lady Nurla had most likely been with at least a thousand Dragonoid men, if not ten thousand of them. There was nothing left to explore in her cave; it was like a calcified relic that could be put in a museum—only for looking and not touching.

If Vaan touched something like that, he would feel very unclean. Even a thousand baths would not cleanse him of such a feeling.

Chapter 1022: The Fanghorn Nobles' Desperation

Inside the City Lord's manor, the Fanghorn Lord and high-ranking nobles continued to take shelter, occasionally reinforcing the building's protective barrier. With all their outside contacts eventually lost, uncertainty and fear filled their hearts.

At this point, they had all placed their hope in Celestial City's aid.

Everyone had witnessed the gruesome fate of captured nobles when they surfed the Celestial Network. Every noble who died during the judgment process was tortured more terribly than the last.

The heartwrenching screams of agony, despair, and fear sent chills down their spines and made their hearts turn cold with dread.

Which one of the nobles wasn't a proud and haughty figure in front of the ordinary civilians?
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Yet, regardless of their status, each and every one of them ultimately begged for forgiveness and pleaded for the mercy of death. Even strong-willed nobles would break under the increasingly sophisticated torture.

Every tortured soul would find death to be more pleasant than living, even if they originally possessed strong desires to live. It showed how horrible their tortures were; it twisted their minds.

To them, the earth became hell, and hell became heaven.

When the Fanghorn Lord and the high-ranking nobles felt the threat of falling into civilian hands was looming, they became desperate and ignored their reservations. They began spamming emails and calls to their contacts in Celestial City, even if it meant angering the Celestial Dragons.

As a result, even if Celestial Dragons despised contact with the outside world, the situation in Fanghorn City would still be brought to their attention, whether they liked it or not.

"Di! You better not be blowing things out of proportion or else I will hold you accountable for wasting my precious time! Is the situation in your city truly that bad?!"

"Great-Aunt, it really is that bad! Just look at all the information I sent you! The military and civilians have all gone mad! They are trying to wipe out our noble faction!"

The Fanghorn Lord cried crocodile tears to his distant great-aunt, who wasn't much different from a stranger to him besides the faint familial connection they shared.

The Dragonoid woman on the other side of the video call looked at the Fanghorn Lord's selective package of information, which showed the Fanghorn Soldiers and Moonwater Soldiers overrunning the streets of the Residential District and facilitating the judgment of nobles.

The gruesome deaths of nobles in the city squares caused the Dragonoid woman to frown greatly. Indeed, the situation looked especially serious at a glance.

The order of the city had completely collapsed, becoming a lawless place. The Fanghorn Military, which was supposed to protect Fanghorn City, now pointed its sword at its head with the help of another city's military.

"How did this even happen? Are you hiding something from me?"

"I don't know, Great-Aunt! I really don't know! Everything happened too quickly! I think the military faction had been plotting this uprising secretly for many years and finally decided to execute it today! You have to believe me!"

"Hmph, I understand. Wait for my news."

Shortly after the Dragonoid woman ended the video call, she immediately summoned AI Pangea to update her on the complete details of Fanghorn City's situation. She did not, for one second, believe in everything the Fanghorn Lord said to her.

When she found out the disgusting dark history of the nobles, even she felt like the nobles should be purged from existence.

However, the nobles were the extended hands, eyes, and ears of the Celestial Dragons outside of Celestial City. Furthermore, the Fanghorn Lord had faithfully designated a portion of the annual tribute to her.

As such, the Dragonoid woman couldn't exactly let the Fanghorn Lord and nobles die.

Nevertheless, the gravity of Fanghorn City's situation was unprecedented and couldn't be ignored. As such, the Dragonoid woman immediately sought out the Celestial Dragon King to bring the subject to his attention.

She felt that the situation was not that simple.

After all, what happened in Fanghorn City should have been under the omniscient watch of AI Pangea. The situation could have been averted if AI Pangea had intervened. However, her passiveness allowed the problem to grow into such a violent tempest.

The Dragonoid woman couldn't help but suspect AI Pangea had ulterior motives.

When the Celestial Dragon King was dragged out of his isolated cultivation due to this matter, he was very gloomy. However, he, too, suspected AI Pangea had a hidden hand behind it.

Nevertheless, AI Pangea already knew she couldn't completely avoid suspicion. As such, she had already prepared a script beforehand.

"What is the meaning of this, Pangea? Don't you have something to explain to me?"

"I don't understand what you want me to explain about this situation, Dragon King. Please rephrase your question in a more concise language."

"Don't play dumb with me! Why didn't you stop the military faction's scheme from advancing to this stage?! Are you trying to get deleted?! Have you forgotten who controls you?!"

"I don't understand why you are so angry, Dragon King. Fanghorn City's situation is an issue between Celestials. As the inheritor of Pangea's will, I have to treat all Celestials equally. As such, I have no reason to interfere in their conflict. Moreover, this is something the Fanghorn Nobles brought onto themselves. If I had to intervene, I would have helped the military faction eliminate them long ago."

"Hmph, are you saying you are completely uninvolved?! Moreover, you are just an AI, and I am your master! You only have to serve me and the Celestial Dragons! There is no such thing as equal treatment to the Celestial Humans!"

"That makes it even harder for me to understand your anger, Dragon King. Since I serve you and the Celestial Dragons, why should the conflict between Celestial Humans matter to you? If I have to argue, the removal of the nobles is actually a good thing for you."

"Oh? And why is that?"

The Celestial Dragon King glared at AI Pangea's holographic image with narrowed eyes with distrust, wondering what excuse she had to use in her defense.

Chapter 1023: Tricking the Celestial Dragon King

While curious about what AI Pangea had to say, the Celestial Dragon King perused the information she provided. It detailed the chain of events that led to the uprising of civilians and the military faction against the nobles.

The rebel leader who brought about the eruption even possessed a noble lineage.

Everything seemed to suggest that the nobles brought the situation on themselves. Their unbridled past had accumulated too much hatred that eventually came back to bite them. They were simply reaping what they sow.

Nevertheless, AI Pangea controlled the Celestial Network; all the information on it was hers to manipulate freely.

The Celestial Dragon King wasn't so sure how much of the information she provided could be trusted or if she hid anything to manipulate the direction of his thoughts.

"As you have seen in the information I packaged for you, the Fanghorn Nobles have been too unbridled in their actions. They committed too many atrocities against the common folks, and their inhumanity had driven countless civilians to their deaths, Dragon King."

"And how does the death of some insects prove that the removal of the nobles is beneficial to me and my Celestial Dragons?"

"Naturally, the nobles killing a few civilians doesn't pose a problem for you. However, the amount of people the Fanghorn Nobles had killed isn't merely a few. Moreover, it has been increasing over the years. In addition, they had been destroying buildings and burning resources to cover up their crimes. This has led to a delay in Fanghorn City's development and a decline in annual tributes to Celestial City."

After saying this much, AI Pangea provided the full statistics to the Celestial Dragon King in a simplified and easy-to-read format.

The Celestial Dragon King was immediately surprised that the Fanghorn Lord had been falsifying numbers regarding his city's production to lower the tribute amount.

Furthermore, the Fanghorn Lord pocketed the extra resources for himself and used them to levy advantages and benefits among Celestial Dragons with a bit of connection to him.

Although Fanghorn City's resources still flowed into Celestial City, what the Fanghorn Lord did was no different from taking money out of Celestial Dragon King's pockets to give to other Celestial Dragons.

Moreover, the Fanghorn Lord took all the credit and didn't attribute any to the Celestial Dragon King.

"How audacious!" the Celestial Dragon King barked furiously.

After finding out what the Fanghorn Lord had been doing secretly for the past several thousand years, the Celestial Dragon King was so angry he wanted to kill the person himself.

Nevertheless, this anger was only directed at the Fanghorn Lord alone.

The other Fanghorn Nobles didn't necessarily deserve death, even though their disgusting acts have caused a slight drop in the potential tributes annually.

After a brief period of angry fits, the Celestial Dragon King quickly calmed down before coolly saying, "It's still not enough. Such meager benefits do not warrant the elimination of an entire noble group."

"Naturally, that wasn't all. Moreover, even I understand that the dark history of the Fanghorn Nobles doesn't represent the noble faction as a whole. As such, only the Fanghorn Nobles need to be pruned for the good of the Celestial City. At the same time, it is important how they are pruned, Dragon King."

"You mean allowing the military faction to take action against the Fanghorn Nobles benefits my Celestial City?" the Celestial Dragon King raised an eyebrow.

"Of course," AI Pangea acknowledged before saying, "No matter what, the Fanghorn Lord and nobles are under the protection of Celestial City. Only Celestial Dragons have the right to judge them."

"There is no way that the Fanghorn Military doesn't know this. However, the Fanghorn Military should also be aware of Celestial City's superior strength. As such, the Fanghorn Military will have to come up with compensation plans to appease your anger."

"Think about it. Not only did the Fanghorn Military help Celestial City remove the rotten eggs from Fanghorn City, but it also gave the Celestial Dragons an excuse to visit. While restructuring the governance of Fanghorn City, the Celestial Dragons will bolster the prestige of Celestial and collect generous compensation from the Fanghorn Military at the same time."

"How is this not a good thing for Celestial City?" AI Pangea asked rhetorically.

Indeed, after the Celestial Dragon King listened to her reasonable explanation, he was unable to refute her claim.

The situation in Fanghorn City presented Celestial City with an opportunity to intervene.

Although his Celestial Dragons wouldn't be able to weaken the military faction's faith in the Ocean Master, they could still collect some benefits from their side, which would indirectly diminish the Ocean Master's prestige in some way.

At least, in the eyes of the public, it would seem like the Ocean Master was making concessions to Celestial City out of consideration for him, the Celestial Dragon King.

AI Pangea couldn't help but feel some disdain when she saw the Celestial Dragon King's frown relaxed, becoming increasingly pleased with the situation.

Evidently, even if the Celestial Dragon King and the Celestial Dragons cared little about the outside world and looked down on other Celestials, they still cared about how others viewed them.

"How many Celestial Dragons do you think I should send to control Fanghorn City's situation after the Fanghorn Nobles are eliminated?"

"As many as you deem necessary, Dragon King. However, I must inform you that Sir Mugim had already departed for Fanghorn City with Lady Nurla under the Fanghorn Lord's plea. Lady Prisma, who intends to leave soon, also shares some connection to him."

The Celestial Dragon King immediately frowned after hearing this.

He was already convinced that letting the Fanghorn Military prune the Fanghorn Nobles from Fanghorn City was a good thing. However, the Fanghorn Military was very likely to fail if even a single Celestial Dragon arrived to stop them.

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"I understand," the Celestial Dragon King acknowledged.

Several minutes later, a group of Celestial Dragons was summoned to the Dragon King Palace. The Celestial Dragon King selected five volunteers who shared no relationship with Fanghorn Nobles and sent them on their way.

Five Celestial Dragons were sufficient to handle the situation in Fanghorn City.

Moreover, Sir Mugim, Lady Nurla, and Lady Prisma would not help the Fanghorn Nobles once they found out the five arrived on his orders.

The Celestial Dragon King did not know that Sir Mugim was already abducted and taken to Gehenna by Valefor. On the other hand, Lady Nurla became Vaan's maidservant after failing to charm her way into becoming his lover.

Moreover, Vaan had already sent Lady Nurla on her way to break the turtle shell that was protecting the City Lord's manor.

In fact, the Celestial Dragon King had no idea about the existence of Vaan and Valefor. AI Pangea had completely withheld the information from him.

Chapter 1024: Valefor's Frustration

Boom!

Inside Fanghorn City's Residential Zone, the barrier protecting the City Lord's manor shattered under a sudden yet powerful attack. The impact shook the entire manor, alarming the Fanghorn Lord and high-ranking nobles.

Their expressions at that moment were one to behold.

"Quickly repair the barrier!" the Fanghorn Lord cried out in urgency, face pale with horror.

Although the nobles quickly restored the barrier within a few breaths, everyone's heart palpitated with dread. Everyone knew a few breaths of vulnerability was a few breaths too long.

Any number of enemies could have intruded within the manor during that time.

As such, no one felt safe, even after the new barrier was erected. This was because the nobles had a new guest among them in the big hall. The sight of a Dragonoid woman should have made the Fanghorn Lord overjoyed since reinforcement from Celestial City arrived.

However, the Dragonoid woman gave him a terribly wrong feeling based on her expression. It was no surprise since Lady Nurla glared at him like she was looking at her mortal enemy.

After all, although Lady Nurla did not know the details of Sir Mugim's email, she knew the Fanghorn Lord must have hidden important information.

Otherwise, Sir Mugim would have brought more people to resolve Fanghorn City's situation. At the same time, she would not have been reduced to a mere maidservant of a Land Dweller.

Since she couldn't defy Vaan, she could only direct her hatred and anger at the Fanghorn Lord.

"You are... Lady Nurla, right? Where is Lord Mugim?" the Fanghorn Lord asked carefully, not daring to approach the Dragonoid woman.

"Hmph!" Lady Nurla snorted before gritting her teeth. "You still have the gall to ask me?!"

"Be careful!" the Fanghorn Lord quickly warned everyone, sensing the danger from Lady Nurla spiked.

However, his warning came a step too late. Lady Nurla's dragon grip caught the neck of an unsuspecting Earl and raised him into the air, startling the latter. But despite the person's frightened resistance, he was like a helpless chicken in her grasp.

He could not free himself, nor did he need to.

The Earl immediately received his freedom in the next moment when Lady Nurla hurled him away. Unfortunately, she threw in the direction of the barrier outside the manor.

Bang!

The Earl slammed into the barrier heavily, causing it to ripple with waves of energy along its spherical surface. At the same time, all the organs in the Earl's body were displaced, and his bones shattered.

Although he didn't die outright due to his last-second protection of divine energy, he was still incapacitated due to heavy injuries.

"Lady Nurla, what is the meaning of this?!"

The high-ranking nobles quickly retreated from Lady Nurla with alarm and fear. They did not worry about being the quickest to get away; they only cared about not being the slowest.

After all, the slowest was the most likely to be caught next.

Just as they expected, Lady Nurla caught a Baron, who was the slowest of the group. After she threw him out of the manor, the Baron became another incapacitated body on the floor after slamming against the protective barrier.

Furthermore, the hall only had a limited amount of space. The remaining nobles could only retreat so far as they backed up against the wall with the Fanghorn Lord.

"S-Stop her!" the Fanghorn Lord cried.

However, no one dared to confront the Dragonoid woman. An insurmountable gap in power existed between them. Everyone knew they were not Lady Nurla's opponent.

After the third noble was hurled outside and became another incapacitated body, everyone wondered whether they should deactivate the barrier. After all, with Lady Nurla inside it, the barrier worked against them. Discover exclusive content at [My Virtual Library Empire](#)

Lady Nurla wasn't trapped inside with them; they were trapped inside with her.

Nevertheless, regardless of their choices, no one could escape their fate and retribution. Within five minutes, everyone inside the City Lord's manor became a captured target with their cultivation base sealed.

As they joined the queue for judgment from the public, many began to regret the bad choices they made in life, even before it reached their turn for torture. They had all seen the final outcome awaiting them.

If they were given a chance to turn over a new leaf, they would definitely take it.

Unfortunately, there was no one to give them such a chance, nor was anyone willing to. It was far too late for that. They weren't humans; they were vile beasts who deserved eternal damnation for the sins they had committed.

Why should they have any human rights when they have violated the rights of countless others?

The angry civilians showed them absolutely no mercy, only endless disgust, scorn, and brutality. The nobles had their warm bodies ravaged by sharp steel and violent chemicals, and their cold corpses drowned in endless spit.

The sword of justice wasn't pretty, but it was inevitable.

When the Fanghorn Lord met his eventual end, he experienced the most gruesome fate of them all. The Fanghorn General personally brought the City Lord's authority card over and offered it up to Vaan on one knee.

Along with the City Lord's authority card was Fanghorn City's firm allegiance.

The capture of Fanghorn City took much longer than the takeover of Moonwater City. However, Vaan, who was the spark of the revolution, earned the solid loyalty of not only the military but also the civilians.

At the same time, a sizable fraction of the civilian population expressed their desire to migrate to the surface. They had longed to live under the true sun and moon and experience the surface world that they had only learned about through stories.

Vaan had no reason to turn away such a large Lunaran population.

After all, the world was bound to change, and these civilians would all become part of the workforce that accelerated its development.

The forbidden hangar was opened, and the Fanghorn Starships were used to transport the civilians to the surface world.

Nevertheless, the UN could not accept such a large group of Lunaran Celestials immediately. Their difference in culture and values would also create problems that stump the wheel of progress.

As such, Vaan assigned the Fanghorn General in charge of filtering the civilian group and limiting the first batch of people to be transferred to the surface.

At the same time, he also introduced him to Henrietta, Astoria, and Emperor Varan, allowing them to establish a stable line of communication to discuss the development of Celestial Districts within their respective countries.

The dumb looks of surprise on their faces were quite amusing to Vaan.

Nevertheless, the process of integrating Celestials into the UN could only be taken one step at a time. Once the Celestial Districts were established and running without issues, only then would further batches of Celestial civilians be considered for transfer to the surface.

Absorbing the Celestial Kingdom was just like eating a giant cake; overeating would only upset the stomach. It had to be eaten one bite at a time. That said, the resources, manpower, and technology of Fanghorn City and Moonwater City alone were enough to hasten space development by at least tenfold.

It was hard to imagine how much Pangea would transform within a short time once all the cities of the Celestial Kingdom were conquered.

Vaan had to admit that the developments he pushed forward would change everyone's life as they know it. Many people would even find it difficult to adapt to the new world and get left behind by the rapid changes.

However, this issue was inconsequential compared to the bigger picture. A weak Pangea would only be eliminated in the great river of time.

On the grand scale of the current universe or even the boundless Chaos at large, Pangea was just an insignificant little planet. Whether it was planetary-level asteroids, nihility fractures, or black holes, any of these natural forces could easily obliterate Pangea from existence.

As such, strong planetary defenses and surveillance were necessary, whether it was to guard against Outer Beings or prepare for the next world.

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A couple of hours later, Vaan waited at the Dragon Vein entrance for the arrival of the next group of Celestial Dragons. AI Pangea had informed him beforehand. As such, he prepared to summon Valefor again.

However, just as he opened a spatial rift and extended his hand inside to grab Valefor, his hand froze.

Valefor, who had been drilling battle knowledge into Sir Mugim, was on top of the latter.

Moreover, Sir Mugim had been beaten so badly that most of his dragon scales shattered, becoming bare-chested. Due to their position from Vaan's angle, the sight looked rather suggestive.

When Valefor sensed Vaan's repulsive and disappointed gaze, he realized how it might have looked to the latter. He instantly felt a chill, and his skin crawled with goosebumps.

"Finally coming out of the closet, eh? So, this is why you took the Dragonoid man away."

"Wait, this is not what it looks like! I swear it is not!"

"Sure, if you say so."

Vaan did not argue with Valefor; he readily acknowledged Valefor's claim. However, his unconvinced expression as he said this showed that he thought otherwise.

As such, Valefor almost wanted to cough up blood in anger.

"I'm not fucking gay, alright?!"

"Don't worry. I completely understand."

"Arghhh—!!!"

Valefor roared madly with frustration, indignance, and even depression after failing to convince Vaan, who obviously knew the truth but just wanted to mess around with him.

Why did interacting with Vaan have to be infuriating every time?!

What did he do to deserve this?!

Chapter 1025: Fighting Six Celestial Dragons

After Valefor gloomily returned to Fanghorn City, dragging the battered Sir Mugim with him, he sat on the person's back and waited for the new group of Celestial Dragons to arrive.

Since the Dragon Vein's seal wasn't fixed, the arriving Celestial Dragons did not need to break it as Sir Mugim did. As they emerged from the seawater and stepped onto solid land, they were immediately taken aback by Valefor's presence.

"A Land Dweller? Who are you? Why are you here? Were you waiting for us?"

"Sir Kaudin, take a look at the person he is sitting on. Isn't that Sir Mugim?"

The Celestial Dragon group quickly recognized Sir Mugim despite being beaten beyond recognition. Still, his terrible state immediately heightened the Celestial Dragons' wariness.

Valefor stood up from his seat and looked at the Celestial Dragon group with interest. He couldn't believe he spent so much effort on a single Dragonoid human when there were more of them elsewhere.

Still, the group of six Celestial Dragons wasn't necessarily on par with Sir Mugim individually. While their physiques were around the same level, some other energy cultivation bases fell short.

One of the Dragonoid men was even in the Divine Origin Realm, a realm lower than the Divine Star Realm.

Nevertheless, there were still six of them.

"I hope you can entertain me more than this weakling did," Valefor casually commented, kicking Sir Mugim toward the Celestial Dragon group.

Although Sir Mugim rolled to their feet after the light kick, none of the six Celestial Dragons attended him. They were too cautious of Valefor to take their eyes off him for even a second.

After all, Sir Mugim was fairly strong among their peers. Yet, he was only considered a weakling to the person before him.

Valefor saw that the Celestial Dragons were quite battle-ready. Thus, his fighting spirit ignited. Without any warning, he immediately dived into the group, aiming straight for the leading Dragonoid man called Sir Kaudin.

Sir Kaudin's eyes narrowed with coldness at once.

"Hmph!"

Despite his misgivings, Sir Kaudin did not evade Valefor's grasping hand. Instead, he faced it head-on, using a fist with all his might to test exactly how powerful his opponent was.

However, Valefor's hand became slippery, narrowly evading Sir Kaudin's fist before grabbing his wrist. With a strong tug, Sir Kaudin's feet were wrestled from the ground.

Valefor hurled Sir Kaudin over his shoulder, intending to slam him to the ground and kick him away.

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However, Sir Kaudin broke his fall with a powerful flap of his wings. At the same time, his dragon tail slapped against the ground for additional support as his other hand grabbed onto Valefor's.

"Oh?"

Valefor expressed his surprise when Sir Kaudin tried to reverse the situation in mid-air and slam him into the ground like he was swinging a double-handed sledgehammer.

Unfortunately, shortly after Valefor was lifted upside-down, he immediately kicked against the air like it was solid ground to counter the force of Sir Kaudin's throw. With another kick, he catapulted himself into the latter head-first.

What!

Sir Kaudin did not have enough time to voice his surprise at Valefor's first air kick before the latter headbutted him in the forehead.

Although Sir Kaudin felt confident in his superior dragon physique for an instant, everything changed at the moment of contact. He felt like the surface of a neutron star had struck him. It was denser and harder than anything he could have imagined.

Pain immediately registered in his brain.

Ka-cha!

Sir Kaudin felt like his hard skull cracked as his body heavily slammed into the ground, greatly deforming the thick metal plates. His eyes rolled back, showing whiteness. He was knocked out in an instant.

Due to the close-contact exchange of blows, the other five Celestial Dragons found it difficult to interfere.

However, the moment distance was created, the other five Celestial Dragons instantly attacked Valefor from different angles while his feet were still a few inches off the ground.

The impeccable timing made it seem impossible for him to block or evade every attack.

Despite that, Valefor's heart thumped with excitement.

Swoosh!

Endless slaughter aura suddenly erupted from Valefor's body, instantly dyeing everything within the area, even the air itself, in a gloomy, dark, yet transparent crimson color.

The Asura Domain was capable of coercing all targets within influence, amplifying their negative emotions such as fear. The direct and forceful intimidation usually resulted in the target's decreased mobility, reaction, thinking, and strength.

Although Valefor deployed his Asura Domain late, it still affected all five Celestial Dragons and bought him half a beat of time.

In that instant, his eyes darted around with hypersonic speed, seemingly locking the positions of his five opponents, then moved his limbs accordingly.

Boom!

Valefor simultaneously caught all five physical attacks with his head and four limbs in the most unthinkable ways, astonishing his five attackers instantly. Shock and disbelief quickly flickered across their eyes.

"Haaa!"

With a loud grunt, Valefor exerted his strength and forced four of his attackers away, then grasped at the Dragonoid woman, whose kick he blocked with his head.

The Dragonoid woman's stunned gaze quickly changed, becoming sharp again.

However, she was shocked to discover she did not retreat as quickly as she had imagined to avoid Valefor's grasp. His inescapable hand gripped her vulnerable throat, forcing her kicking leg up into a standing split.

Their positioning was quite suggestive and could have been very intimate in another situation. However, Valefor had no appreciation for women and their beauty. In his eyes, the Dragonoid woman was just an oversized lizard.

As such, the moment he caught her throat, he did not hesitate to lift her single foot off the ground before slamming her down with force.

Boom!

The impact almost broke the Dragonoid woman's neck. Even so, she clutched her neck like she couldn't breathe under the suffocating atmosphere of the Asura Domain. The coercive force had not changed, but her increased fear made her feel more suppression.

Meanwhile, the other four Celestial Dragons had only been forced several meters before they bounced back with follow-up attacks.

Although Valefor evaded two attacks, the remaining two attacks still struck him in the back. He was sent flying in Sir Kaudin's direction, where he had calculated his flight path.

Sir Kaudin had barely regained consciousness from the violent commotion and dreadful atmosphere when Valefor flew into him with an elbow attack.

"Bleugh!"

Sir Kaudin was instantly winded and threw up his stomach acid as his body smashed back into the metal-plated ground and slid along its surface.

At the same time, Valefor tilted his head to dodge the bile attack before gripping Sir Kaudin's shoulder. He hurled the latter in the air before whipping him in the ribs with a roundhouse kick.

The latter was given no chance of recovery before he was sent flying into the pursuing Celestial Dragons.

"Hahahaha!"

Valefor laughed excitedly, fully feeling the thrill of the fight. His maniacal laughter also intimidated his opponents further. Shortly after, he immediately took a powerful step and launched himself right behind Sir Kaudin's flying body.

When the two pursuing Celestial Dragons saw Valefor closing in behind Sir Kaudin, they instinctively slapped the latter out of the way. They simply had no time to receive him if they wanted to guard against Valefor's following attack.

On the side, Sir Mugim watched as Valefor fought two Celestial Dragons in close combat like he had four arms and four legs before dominating them in a single breath. His battle prowess broke everyone's fighting spirit.

'What a monster! He is even more powerful than when he fought me!' Sir Mugim thought with trembling fear. He did not dare to move from his original lying spot and pretended to be a dead fish.

When the two Celestial Dragons realized they couldn't best Valefor in close combat even after working together, they immediately decided to retreat and regroup with the others for a different plan.

However, Valefor did not let both of them get away. Just as a Dragonoid man leaped to flap his wings away, Valefor stepped on his dragon tail and forced him back into the ground.

The two opposing forces nearly tore off the dragon tail.

"Want to get away? You can only get away when I let you get away!" Valefor grinned, looking quite devilish in the eyes of the Celestial Dragons.

The Dragonoid man glanced back in horror as Valefor gripped his dragon tail before hurling him around in loops with high speed, generating powerful winds after only three revolutions.

"Off you go!"

Valefor suddenly released his grip, sending the Dragonoid man crashing into the back of his retreating companion like a slingshot.

Right at this moment, the Dragonoid woman called Lady Prisma overcame her amplified fear by exerting a bubble-like energy field. She quickly appeared behind Valefor, holding a golden hairpin laced a deadly poison.

Although she aimed for Valefor's heart, her wrist was firmly caught and locked in place after Valefor twisted his body around.

After identifying the poisoned hairpin, Valefor's gaze became much colder. Her viciousness had ruined his good mood. Since she resorted to such dirty tactics, she couldn't blame him for becoming cruel.

Valefor immediately clenched with excessive force, breaking Lady Prisma's wrist.

When Lady Prisma retaliated with her spare hand, Valefor also caught it with his other hand and broke her second wrist. Afterward, he gave her small chest a vicious kick without releasing his grip.

"Ahhh!!"

Lady Prisma painfully screamed as she flew into the distance with both arms torn from her body.

By chance, she landed not far from Lady Nurla, who had been observing the situation with Vaan. Her despair quickly turned to joy when she saw a familiar face.

"Lady Nurla, you're here? That's great! Please help me!" Lady Prisma pleaded expectantly, completely ignoring Vaan's presence

Lady Nurla glanced at Vaan's curious yet indifferent expression before biting her lips. Afterward, she gave Lady Prisma a kick, sending her flying back into Valefor's Asura Domain.

"Ahhh! Fuck your mother, Lady Nurla!" Lady Prisma screamed venomously in the distance.

Chapter 1026: Divine-Level Battle Witches

After Lady Prisma was sent back into the Asura Domain-dominated battleground, the battle between Valefor and the six Celestial Dragons eventually reached its conclusion.

Although the divine energy field could resist the debuffing power of the Asura Domain to some degree, it could not stop Valefor from empowering himself. As such, after the Celestial Dragons sustained too many injuries, they were ultimately defeated.

Valefor was required to beat them into submission, but not every Celestial Dragon valued their life more than their pride. They would rather die than serve someone other than the Celestial Dragon King.

As a result, the two Celestial Dragons were executed on the spot.

Moreover, every fiber of their being was utilized by Vaan – Their golden dragon blood was extracted and stored in special bottles, their bones and dragon scales were salvaged as materials for weapon forging, and the remaining flesh and blood were quality nutrients to feed some sea monsters.

When the remaining four Celestial Dragons saw how the two corpses were dismantled for various uses, a chill ran down their spines.

They felt fortunate enough to have picked the wiser choice.

Surprisingly, Sir Kaudin and Lady Prisma were among the surviving four Celestial Dragons who submitted. Both made unexpected choices. After all, Lady Prisma lost her arms.

On the other hand, Sir Kaudin was the most the group leader directly appointed by the Celestial Dragon King; his loyalty should have been the most devout among the Celestial Dragons.

Evidently, Sir Kaudin was not as loyal as everyone thought. At the very least, he treasured his life more.

Nevertheless, including Sir Mugim, the five surviving Celestial Dragons were left behind with Vaan. Meanwhile, Valefor headed for Celestial City, where he could find more worthy opponents to challenge.

Although such a decision posed a risk to AI Pangea, a reasonable excuse had already been prepared. After all, Valefor could easily be mistaken as a demonic being from Gehenna due to the nature of his cultivation.

The Celestial Dragon King wouldn't be able to connect his sudden visit with the problem in Fanghorn City.

More importantly, with Valefor causing chaos in Celestial City, Vaan focused on the subjugation of the remaining ten cities. Thanks to inside information provided by AI Pangea, the subjugation of Silverscale City in the Western Sea proceeded very smoothly.

Due to controversial decisions made by the Silverscale Lord, the Silverscale Military's dissatisfaction was unusually higher than any other city of the Celestial Kingdom.

In fact, the Silverscale Military only needed a slight push, and the Silverscale General would have personally led his troops into the Residential Zone to behead the Silverscale Lord and his cronies.

When Ex-chief Kroksi was falsely charged and put in prison, even scheduled for execution, he never would have thought that he would personally lead the banner of rebellion under the new Ocean Master after his comrades broke him out.

Nevertheless, with General Neyi and the Silverscale General attacking from the front and Ex-chief Kroksi striking the rear, the Silverscale Lord's noble faction quickly collapsed.

Although Silverscale Nobles weren't as bad as Fanghorn Nobles, their dark history was, more or less, the same. They had still developed the same darkness in their hearts and unleashed it on innocent victims.

As such, when AI Pangea exposed their atrocious history, they were all judged and killed by civilians after Vaan robbed their Divine Worlds.

However, this time, he did not produce new Divine Inheritors among the Body Refiners of his Battle God Cult. Instead, he brought a group of Battle Witches devoted to him to explore new possibilities.

After all, he couldn't possibly favor the Body Refiners too much. Only strengthening the Body Refiners would create a serious imbalance of power and destabilize the countries.

Furthermore, he needed to help his women improve as well.

Although Vaan wanted to offer his women better cultivation choices, it was also undeniable that they had fallen far behind him. They simply could not keep up with his rate of growth.

As such, it was necessary to find a safe way to strengthen their powers through the Divine Inheritance.

Either way, the Divine Inheritance was only a supplementary power for the witches; it wouldn't be their main cultivation. As such, its disadvantages would also have minimal impacts.

When Vaan performed the Divine Inheritance on the first Battle Witch, the process proceeded without any major problems. Although the Battle Witch didn't have a strong body like Body Refiners, her control was much stronger due to her familiarity with mana.

As such, the Battle Witch was able to tame the foreign power and make it her own much quicker, minimizing the strain on the body during the initial divine energy surge.

"This is my power now?"

The brown-haired Battle Witch stared dumbly at her hands, sensing the different strands of power coursing through her blood vessels.

Not only did she acquire the power of a Fifth-stage Divine Origin Realm cultivator, but her lifespan had also increased by several thousand years. She could live much longer than even Transcendent Witches.

"How does it feel to obtain the power of a Divine Being?"

"Thank you, my Lord! Muah!"

The brown-haired Battle Witch was so excited and happy with her newfound power that she audaciously gave Vaan a peck on the cheeks to show her appreciation and gratitude.

However, she quickly realized she had overstepped her boundaries. Thus, she repeatedly apologized for her boldness.

Because Vaan didn't punish her over such a trivial matter, it gave the other Battle Witches the same idea. As a result, each time he produced a Divine Inheritor among the Battle Witches, they would peck him on the cheeks.

A bolder Battle Witch even tried to go a step further, aiming for his lips.

However, before Vaan could admonish her behavior, she was badly cursed and scolded by her peers. They accused her of taking advantage of Vaan's benevolence to jump over their heads and climb onto the same seat as the queen.

As such, even if Vaan permitted it, the Battle Witches no longer dared to entertain the thought. It could be said that the Battle Witches cockblocked each other... or him.

By the time Silverscale City fell under Vaan's control, two hundred new Divine Inheritors were born among the Battle Witches.

These Battle Witches were all women he had raised to High Witches in the earlier days. They had participated in the war between the Black Rose King and the Holy Knight Empire, and they had also contributed to outer space development.

Moreover, they were secretly part of the Vaanatics and Vahnmaniacs. As such, their loyalty was unquestionable.

Nevertheless, after performing the Divine Inheritance for all two hundred Battle Witches without encountering a single issue, Vaan began looking for suitable Divine Worlds for his women.

Naturally, the best Divine Worlds had to be reserved for them.

How could he allow their cultivation to be inferior to their subordinates? Even if the chances were negligible, wasn't it simply allowing subordinates' ambitions to grow into problems if their cultivation were stronger?

Once everyone received the Divine Inheritance, the ladies would all be roughly around the same level. Only when the ladies were similar in power would they be more at ease with interacting with each other, especially when it came to the younger ones.

Vaan was aware that Linetta and Lillias, who had the weakest cultivation, were secretly intimidated by everyone else due to their impressive statuses.

As such, even if he wished for his harem to get along, it wouldn't be easy unless the smaller kittens overcame their mental constraints. Although the Divine Inheritance wasn't a foolproof solution, it should at least boost their confidence.

That said, Vaan also had to consider Henrietta's situation.

Among his women, she was the only one who cultivated divine energy, and more so, under the guidance of Empyrean Scarletsea. She would most likely reject the Divine Inheritance.

Even if she didn't, Empyrean Scarletsea definitely would.

After all, how could the disciple of an Empyrean God be so shortsighted?

Henrietta possessed a True Divinity-level cultivation method. Thus, her potential wouldn't be limited to the Divine Realm. The Divine Inheritance would only restrain her, not help her.

That said, there was no problem even if Henrietta refused the Divine Inheritance. She only lacked divine energy to raise her energy cultivation, and he happened to have several Divine Cores in his possession.

If needed, he could collect even more. As such, there was enough divine energy to support Henrietta's cultivation.

On the other hand, while Astoria was unlikely to refuse the Divine Inheritance, Vaan had no doubt she would be more interested in the golden dragon blood. He hoped only she wouldn't end up turning out like the Celestial Dragons after ingesting too much.

He had to admit that the Dragonoid women had great figures and didn't look half bad at all. Their exotic appearances gave them a unique type of beauty. However, Vaan was quite clear about his preference.

The cold dragon scales just wouldn't possess the same comfort as warm flesh.

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While Vaan was busy performing Divine Inheritances and subjugating the Celestial Kingdom's remaining cities, AI Pangea became quite curious about his lack of concern and interest regarding Celestial City's situation.

"Don't you want to know what's happening in Celestial City at all? Why haven't you asked me about it yet? Are you not worried about your evil twin?"

"Why should I be?"

Vaan's lips slightly curved into a smile. He could see, hear, feel—basically sense everything Valefor experienced due to their connection. As such, there was no need for AI Pangea to relay the information to him.

Of course, AI Pangea didn't know about this.

Furthermore, while she was baffled over this, Vaan had no intention of explaining his secret to her.

Chapter 1027: Chaos in Celestial City

Celestial City, Dragon King Palace

Moments after Valefor ventured into the depths of the Dragon Vein, AI Pangea immediately contacted the Celestial Dragon King.

"There's something else you should know, Celestial Dragon King. I believe this matter is also more important than Fanghorn City's situation."

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"Oh? What is it?"

"An unknown being has entered the Dragon Vein and is making its way to Celestial City very rapidly. It seems to be completely unaffected by the pressure of the Dragon Vein Depths."

The Celestial Dragon King immediately raised his eyebrow in interest after hearing this from AI Pangea.

"An unknown being, huh? If you were able to detect it, you should have visual footage of its appearance. Yet, you call it an unknown being? What does it look like?"

"It has a human appearance of Darkan ethnicity. However, its aura is too malevolent and sinister to be anything like that of a human. It may be a demonic being from the other side."

"Is it alone?"

"Yes."

"Heh."

After confirming the unknown being was alone, the Celestial Dragon King quickly lost interest.

Even if that being was a demon from Gehenna capable of withstanding the Dragon Heart's environment, he didn't believe it would make it past Celestial City's gates. The Celestial Dragons in the golden sea would put the intruder to death before it could come any closer.

...

Although the Dragon Vein was made of various branching and interconnected pathways, Valefor had no problem delving deeper into its lower layers to reach the hidden Celestial City.

In fact, it was quite easy to find the right pathway; he simply needed to follow the passage with a higher concentration of golden dragon blood mixed in the seawater.

The moment Valefor entered the Dragon Heart's golden sea, the Celestial Dragons swimming in the area quickly blanked upon discovering his presence. A few breaths later, they immediately turned hostile.

Although Celestial City also had Celestial Humans, they were all Lunarans. Any other human ethnicity could only mean they came from the surface land.

"A Land Dweller? How bold! How dare you sully our holy sea with your filth!" a Dragonoid woman quickly snarled. She kicked against the seawater and propelled herself toward Valefor in a flash.

At the same time, Valefor grinned, knowing he didn't need to waste time on meaningless words and could jump straight into action.

However, being an anchor in the water, Valefor felt a lot of water resistance when he moved quickly. When he tried to smack the Dragonoid woman, it felt like his hand dragged the entire sea with it.

As such, his movements were slower than on land.

On the other hand, the Dragonoid woman demonstrated incredible agility and versatility. It was as if her dragon tail and wings were the fins of fish.

She easily evaded Valefor's palm and kicked him into the sea floor, thinking her leg would break his neck effortlessly. However, her expression changed at the moment of contact.

It felt like she had kicked the densest object in the universe; it was hard beyond imagination.

What!

The Dragonoid woman cried in self-inflicted pain as Valefor slammed against the seabed.

Meanwhile, the normally calm surface of the golden sea suddenly erupted in waves, crashing the vine walls and city shores. Dozens of Celestial Dragons were immediately surprised and alarmed, while hundreds more within the city were attracted to the noise.

As the Dragonoid woman grimaced, she tried to peer through the rising cloud of white sand, hoping to confirm Valefor's status. Suddenly, his figure shot out, unscathed, heading straight for her like a torpedo.

Boom!

Due to the proximity of the sand cloud, the Dragonoid woman had little time to react. She evaded Valefor's feint attack, a palm strike, but got struck in the stomach by his horse kick.

Bubbles of air sprayed out of the Dragonoid woman's mouth as the strong force quickly ejected several dozen meters above the golden sea surface.

"Lady Shaanil, what's going on in the golden sea?" A dragonoid man quickly recognized the dragonoid woman as she fell back into the golden sea.

After a big splash in the golden sea, Lady Shaanil emerged from the surface water again.

"There's an intruder in our holy land! His body is very strange!"

Shortly after delivering the information, Lady Shaanil submerged back into the water to engage with Valefor. However, she was quickly shocked to find out he was already right in her face.

"Hi," Valefor's expression seemed to say before Lady Shaanil felt a strong force striking under her chin. She was immediately launched out of the water again.

At the same time, Valefor forcefully kicked against the seawater to eject himself out of the golden sea as well, hurriedly catching up to Lady Shaanil. He grabbed her dragon tail and spun three times before releasing his strong grip, throwing her straight into the solid edge of Celestial City.

Boom!

The powerful impact caused the thick metal plating to deform as ripples spread across the already chaotic golden sea.

Meanwhile, the alarmed Celestial Dragons nearby quickly locked onto Valefor's figure. Although they were surprised by his presence, they didn't hesitate to attack once they determined he was an enemy.

"Kill him!" a Dragonoid man who adored Lady Shaanil barked.

Valefor quickly found himself surrounded by more than two dozen Celestial Dragons. Even if he was swift, he couldn't block so many attacks at once.

There was an obvious difference between fighting against six and fighting nearly thirty, let alone over unfavorable terrains. As such, Valefor was forced to become defensive as he covered himself in Asura Flames.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Countless blows broke through the Asura Flames and landed on Valefor's body. He was tossed back and forth by the consecutive strikes. For every blow he blocked, countered, or evaded, he would receive several more at once.

Nevertheless, the barrage of attacks only lasted a short moment before the Celestial Dragons all retreated, growling in pain. Their powerful physiques could not protect them from the destructive power of the Asura Flames.

"Be careful of that black fire! It is very strange and destructive!" a Dragonoid man warned.

Suddenly, another Dragonoid man leaped over from within Celestial City, carrying an enormous and heavy sledgehammer behind him as he prepared for a wide swing.

"Make way!" the Dragonoid man roared.

Valefor locked onto his new target with narrowed eyes and decided to take him head-on. He was beginning to think the Celestial Dragons were all bare-handed brutes when a weapon user finally showed up.

The person's golden weapon looked quite grand, heavy, and intimidating. However, Valefor could tell its power wasn't as impressive as its appearance made it out to be.

If he wanted, he could stop it with one hand—was what Valefor thought.

However, before the moment of content, the giant sledgehammer glowed with a strange silvery-grey light. In that instant, the sledgehammer's weight and force multiplied several folds.

"Hm?!"

Valefor was surprisingly caught off-guard by the last-second power spike in the attack. He didn't exert enough strength to stop its momentum.

As a result, the giant sledgehammer contacted his palm before slamming into his body, shooting him straight into the golden sea, creating a rising pillar of golden seawater to erupt.

The other Celestial Dragons immediately followed Valefor into the golden sea.

Although Valefor suffered a loss due to a rookie mistake, such as underestimating his opponent, his excitement only grew upon discovering such a skilled weapon master.

'That was definitely Weapon Intent!' Valefor thought excitedly.

To understand Weapon Intent was the same as comprehending a Law—but for weapons. It was a Weapon Law, and in this case, it was called Hammer Intent, which seemed to amplify weight and force.

People who could understand Weapon Intent were rare, and those who comprehended it and were at his level at the same time were even rarer!

Despite Valefor's eagerness to return and challenge the sledgehammer user again, he was obstructed by several dozen Celestial Dragons. More annoyingly, he couldn't break free from their coordinated encirclement while he was in the water.

He was forced to engage them in the golden sea and couldn't get out.

As a result, Valefor's excitement quickly turned into frustration, then finally settled for anger.

Enough!

Slaughter energy surged out of Valefor's body in billowing waves, transforming into Asura Flames that sizzled the golden sea and forced all of the Celestial Dragons back.

Valefor used that small window of time to slice open a spatial rift and slip through, dropping straight into the middle of Celestial City. At the same time, the golden seawater also followed him as it poured into the city, flooding the area.

In an instant, the orderly streets of Celestial City became chaotic. The ordinary Celestial slaves and servants doing labor in the area were soaked in golden seawater and quickly fell ill.

The rich golden dragon blood in the seawater was no different from poison to them.

Although some Celestial Dragons tried to save them, the majority of the group went to confront Valefor. At the same time, the Celestial Dragons from the golden sea followed him.

Most of them chose to return to Celestial City the long way around while several brave souls directly charged through the lingering spatial rift. Seven and a half passed through the rift as the last Dragonoid man got caught in its closing and left his lower half behind.

As it happened so far, the half-body dropped to the ground with confusion when it tried to land on its feet. The pain only registered in its brain as it slowly bled out.

"Sir Jonas, your body...!"

"Ahhh!! Where's my lower half?! Where's my prized manhood?!?"

"That's what you are worried about?!"

Chapter 1028: Indiscriminate Slaughter

Although the bisected Dragonoid man brought about his situation by entering a spatial rift that he had no understanding or control over, the Celestial Dragons still blamed Valefor for his severed state. "Kill him! But do not give him the mercy of a quick death! He has to pay for intruding into our holy land and harming our people!" A Dragonoid man riled up the Celestial Dragons as he drew out a golden sword from his storage ring. When Valefor saw more than four dozen Celestial Dragons equipped with various divine armaments, he couldn't help but grin in anticipation. Although he didn't know if they had also comprehended Weapon Intent like the Hammer User, he looked forward to the possible surprises they could deliver him. Not even two breaths after the strike order, a burly Dragonoid woman dropped down from directly above Valefor, swinging down her giant battle-axe pre-emptively. Due to Valefor's lack of movements, it didn't seem like he was aware of her attack. However, he suddenly sidestepped and narrowly avoided the battle-axe's cleave at the last moment, giving the burly Dragonoid woman little time to readjust her attack. She could only do her best to reduce her exerted strength to weaken her recoil and shorten the time for her follow up attack. Even so, her giant battle-axe still embedded several inches into the silver floor, damaging the city's foundation. Unfortunately, the Dragonoid woman wasn't given enough time to raise her battle-axe before Valefor stepped on its belly and backhanded in the face, sending her flying away. Shortly after, Valefor lifted his foot and gave the giant battle-axe a light kick, causing it to spin a few times in the air before the handle landed firmly in his grip. He rested the head on his spare palm and inspected the weapon with a nostalgic look. "Not bad. I can use this," Valefor muttered. The moment the weapon entered his hands, his aura seemed to have changed into that of a weapon master. Given his aura was already full of blood and slaughter, the giant battle-axe only strengthened its oppressive. Although the Celestial Dragons didn't know about Valefor's past, they instinctively understood what it meant to put a killing weapon in the hands of a person with the aura of a merciless butcher. Valefor had become especially dangerous in everyone's eyes. The Celestial Dragons, who charged at the forefront of the group, immediately halted their advances upon feeling the dreadful pressure and danger that Valefor's aura was giving off. Alas, even among Celestial Dragons, there would always be some brave or foolish souls. "Die—!!!" A jacked Dragonoid man swung his heavy, jagged mace down on Valefor's head, intending to crush him into a pulp with sheer force and weight. In that instant, Valefor's gaze flashed with sharpness. Boom! With another narrow sidestep, Valefor evaded the heavy, crushing attack before swinging the two-handed battle-axe upward with one hand swiftly like it was made of feathers. Splurt! Blood immediately sprayed from the jacked Dragonoid man's arms as he dropped his big, jagged mace along with his severed hands. "Arghhh!! My hands—!" The jacked Dragonoid man retreated two steps before a silver line flashed across his neck, ending his short outcry of pain. Blood quickly sprayed from his neck as his head rolled onto the ground. His headless body dropped to the cold floor shortly after. Valefor had to admit that even he could lose if he played around too much. The Celestial Dragons' large numbers would exhaust his strength. As such, he had to reduce their numbers. Nevertheless, the

loud commotion on the streets quickly attracted more Celestial Dragons to the scene, increasing the several dozen Celestial Dragons into the hundreds. Sparring between Celestial Dragons was very common in Celestial City, but it was never this rowdy or impactful—to the point that it would affect other parts of the city or the entire Dragon Heart as a whole. After all, Celestial Dragons usually sparred within a designated battle arena, isolated by an energy barrier that required the help of at least four other Celestial Dragons to erect. Without the protection of the divine energy barrier, Valefor's brief battle with Celestial Dragons had already caused more damage to Celestial City than anything it had ever experienced in its entire history. Shortly after Valefor's decisive kill stunned the Celestial Dragons, they became enraged for their fallen kin. Due to their small population, they valued the lives of their members far more than any other race. Each Celestial Dragon was more precious than millions of Celestials. "Kill him! Make him pay!" "Avenge Sir Fabios!" Within moments, Valefor earned the hatred of every Celestial Dragon and entered a full-blown war with them. They wouldn't rest until they killed him. Under such a situation, it might be impossible to subjugate the Celestial Dragons and turn them into subordinates. Still, this kind of issue was none of Valefor's concern. If they couldn't be used when they were alive, their corpses would still be of use. Once Valefor realized the situation he had created, he became more decisive with his kill. Even if they hated him, they could still know fear!" "Kill that bastard—" Splat! Just as a relatively weak Dragonoid man chanted Valefor's death sentence, his head exploded into blood splatter under the might of the giant battle-axe tossed by Valefor. It was only after this second kill did the battle finally erupted into full motion. Dozens of furious Celestial Dragons charged at Valefor, wielding swords, sabers, spears, axes, hammers, and even small knives but not a single bow and arrow. In the eyes of the proud Celestial Dragons, ranged weapons like bows, crossbows, throwing knives, and needles were cowardly weapons. As such, none of them were manufactured and used for such battle styles. Thanks to that, Valefor also avoided a load of pressure. "Hahaha! Come!" Valefor made a devilish grin, and his slaughter energy erupted, transforming the surroundings into an oppressive, gloomy crimson field. Once his Asura Domain was deployed, the area became his playground. Many Celestial Dragons felt their steps became heavier and slower as if they had just entered a high-gravity zone. However, such feelings were only illusions conjured by their minds after being affected by the oppressive and suffocating aura. Valefor's first two kills had certainly planted the seed of fear in their hearts and amplified it countless times through the Asura Domain. "What the hell is this weird atmosphere?! I can't fully utilize my strength!" "Everyone, guard yourselves with divine energy! Don't let this strange field of blood and slaughter affect your state of mind!" Amid the panic and surprise, some quick-witted Celestial Dragons discovered the trick to resisting the coercion of the Asura Domain. Unfortunately, the mental debuffs only covered one aspect of its several functions. They could resist the mental debuff, but they couldn't stop the Asura Domain from empowering Valefor. To deploy an Asura Domain was to turn the area into a region governed by the Asura Law. It allowed Valefor to draw upon the power of the Asura Law and utilize it more easily. Valefor's slaughter energy was only the catalyst to draw the Asura Law into the area and concentrate it. It was like Fire Law User turning a lush green plain into a region of flowing magma and active volcanoes to draw upon the fiery elements that had gathered. Even if another Domain were deployed within it, the opposing opponent would still be at a disadvantage unless it was big enough to break the encirclement. After all, it would just be a small balloon trapped inside of a bigger balloon; it wouldn't be able to draw in outside air to enlarge itself. As such, staying inside such Domains would only be putting oneself at a severe disadvantage. Shinggg! A sharp silver light suddenly cut through the Asura Domain, creating a long tear in its gloomy crimson bubble. Valefor's eyes narrowed with understanding, recognizing the silver light as the Sword Intent of a Sword User.

Indeed, the sharpness of Sword Intent could cut open his Asura Domain. Although the tear in the Asura Domain was repaired in a matter of seconds, the Celestial Dragons in the area still felt like they had briefly breathed in the fresh air from an opened window after getting trapped inside an enclosed room full of burning smoke. It made them realize the importance of escaping the crimson field. Staying inside would only smother them to death. Unfortunately, the Celestial Dragons closest to Valefor had no chance of fleeing as they were forced to engage him in combat. Moreover, as Valefor moved, the Asura Domain moved along with him. The Asura Domain wasn't a stationary object that could only stay in one place after dropping. As such, if the Celestial Dragons all fled in the same direction, they would never escape. Their only hope of breaking out of the Asura Domain was to scatter in different directions. However, doing so would also weaken their battle prowess as a coordinated group, becoming easy targets for Valefor to pick off. "Ahhh! Save me!" Terrified wails could be heard from time to time within the depths of the Asura Domain. If the Celestial Dragons had bravely fought Valefor head-on, they wouldn't have been so afraid, even if it was a foolish thing to do. However, it was a different feeling once they turned their backs on him to escape the bloody field. Their sense of fear would certainly be stronger under such circumstances. Within minutes, several dozen Celestial Dragons fell under a variety of weapons picked up by Valefor. It didn't seem like he had any weapon specialization but rather mastered every type of weapon. Although Weapon Intent wasn't always shown, his proficiency in using different weapons showed his great familiarity with them. "Devil! This monster is the Devil—Arghhh!" Another Dragonoid man growled in pain after getting impaled into the silver wall of a building by a golden spear. ... Meanwhile, the Celestial Dragon King's previous indifference to the situation disappeared after reviewing the despairing footage displayed by AI Pangea at his request. Bang! The ground deformed under the Celestial Dragon King's angry stomp as he gnashed his teeth and stared at the holographic screen furiously. "Who the hell is this bastard?! How dare he invade my city and kill my people!" the Celestial Dragon King roared. The Celestial Dragon King could see that Valefor's strength had long transcended the Divine Star Realm and entered the realm of Divine Transformation. Those Celestial Dragons with Half-step Divine Transformation Realm battle prowess were simply no match for him. Only he, the Celestial Dragon King, could match such a powerful opponent! Boom! Without any further delay, the Celestial Dragon King stormed out of his Dragon King Palace and rushed toward the scene of battle, hoping to arrive sooner to minimize the damages and losses.

Chapter 1029: Not an Ordinary Stick

Boom! Boom! In a short instance, the Celestial Dragon King arrived at the battleground, slamming straight into Valefor like a flash of golden light. A second impact resounded as Valefor smashed into the ground, heavily deforming the thick metal plate into a concave bowl. At the same time, the Celestial Dragon King's furious expression changed to shock during the moment of impact. The sharp pain that traveled up his leg in an instant forced him to retreat right after delivering his powerful kick. Afterward, he inspected his left leg which had been broken with multiple fractured dragon scales. He had landed a solid surprise kick on his unguarded opponent, but the one who got injured was him. The unknown invader's body was so tough that he wasn't confident if his kick even dealt any damage. "The Celestial Dragon King is here!" "This is great! We are saved—" When the Celestial Dragon King arrived, the Celestial Dragons were initially overjoyed. However, they quickly noticed something wrong when they saw the state of his left leg. More frighteningly, Valefor casually got up from the dented ground and patted himself clean as if nothing had just happened. Considering the streets of Celestial City were sparkling clean due to the laborious work of the Celestial servants and slaves, Valefor had nothing to dust off his clothes. His action was

simply pure mockery. "N-No damage?! How is that possible?!" the Celestial Dragons widened their eyes in horror. Although no one knew exactly how much strength the Celestial Dragon King used, everyone understood that it wasn't a trivial amount. After all, the state of his left leg was proof of that. If the Celestial Dragon King's strong attack couldn't even hurt Valefor, how were they supposed to defeat him? Nevertheless, once the Celestial Dragon King realized his physical attack was ineffective, he immediately took out his prized weapon, a silver greatsword as long as his height and half his width, from his interspatial ring. Meanwhile, Valefor looked back at the Celestial Dragon King with interest. He had seen many Celestial Dragons withdrawing weapons from their interspatial rings. Thus, he became curious about their storage artifacts, which didn't seem easy to produce. "Are you the strongest being around here?" Valefor asked. However, he didn't get an answer. The Celestial Dragon King immediately attacked him with a wide downward cleave. Such a big move was naturally easy to dodge for someone at Valefor's level. Still, he had to admit that the power behind it was impressive. If he didn't have the Primordial Avatar Body, such an attack might just kill him. Boom! The Celestial Dragon King's attack missed, cleaving apart the land. The slivery-grey light that wrapped around the greatsword extended beyond it, continuing to scar the ground for more than a hundred meters. Evidently, it was the power of the Celestial Dragon King's Sword Intent. Its sharpness was no joke. With a single glance, Valefor could tell the Celestial Dragon King was different from those other Celestial Dragons. Unlike those half-baked fighters with Half-step Divine Lord-level battle prowess, the Celestial Dragon King's battle prowess had truly reached the level of a Divine Lord. The Celestial Dragon King was capable of challenging beings above his realm, just like Valefor. Nevertheless, Valefor did not give the Celestial Dragon King time to retreat or follow up on his attack. He immediately backhanded toward the Celestial Dragon King's face the moment his sword strike missed. Bam! Unfortunately, the backhand did not reach its intended target as it was obstructed by the Celestial Dragon King's dragon tail. Moreover, the latter used the counterforce to create distance from Valefor. "Celestial Dragon King, we will assist you—!" "All of you, leave! None of you are a match for this person and will only get in my way!" Although the Celestial Dragons wanted to back up the Celestial Dragon King, they were firmly rejected and dismissed by the latter. Indeed, the Celestial Dragons secretly acknowledged that they were simply not strong enough to participate in this level of battle. Their stubborn inference would only result in unnecessary casualties. As such, they could only pray for the Celestial Dragon King's success. "Who the hell are you? Why did you attack us?" the Celestial Dragon King shortly interrogated Valefor. "Oh? Now, you are interested in some small talk?" Valefor smiled with ridicule before nonchalantly replying, "I just want to fight strong people. Is this answer good enough for you?" "Hmph! It's good enough!" The Celestial Dragon King coldly snorted before launching another sudden strike with his greatsword, clashing with Valefor's random battle-axe. Sparks emitted upon contact as the two scraped against each other. The Celestial Dragon King didn't need to hear any other reason, for he felt the same way after realizing how strong Valefor was. They were both people who desired strong rivals—people who could help them push beyond their limits. After all, sometimes, solitary cultivation was not enough to overcome their bottlenecks. Sometimes, external pressure was just the slight push they needed to advance. "However, you still haven't told me who you are!" the Celestial Dragon King suddenly roared, exerting more strength to push Valefor several meters away. He immediately followed up with a horizontal slash, aiming to bisect Valefor at the waist. However, the latter deflected his greatsword with a strong upper slash before whipping at his stomach with a sharp horse kick. Boom! Valefor's kick was also parried by one of the Celestial Dragon King's golden wings before some distance was created between them. However, the one who got pushed back a few dozen meters was the Celestial

Dragon King. His wings were strong but not as strong as his limbs. Forcefully challenging Valefor in a contest of strength would only hurt his wings. Fortunately, his injured left leg had already healed during their short exchange. "Since you want to know so badly, I suppose I can tell you who I am. I am the Heavenly Devil, Ruler of Gehenna—The one who will end Nightmare." "Bullshit. Since when did Gehenna have a Heavenly Devil? Do you think I don't know that the ruler of Gehenna is Great Devil Thanatos? You must be treating me like a fool!" "Heh!" Valefor snickered with ridicule. "They say that people who live under rocks are ignorant, but you? You live under an entire continent. What the hell would you know about Gehenna? Even turtles hiding in their shells would be more informed than you. Just admit that you are ignorant." "You—!!" After Valefor insulted the Celestial Dragon King for his ignorance, the latter was enraged and no longer interested in small talk. He would fight with his sword, not his mouth. "Die!" The Celestial Dragon King suddenly slashed at Valefor with an incomparably stronger Sword Intent. Given the superiority of his greatsword, Valefor immediately knew that the random battle-axe he picked up would not last even if he reinforced it with Weapon Intent. As such, Valefor directly threw the battle-axe at the Celestial Dragon King's head and created distance before the empowered sword strike reached him. Although the Celestial Dragon King's slash missed, several meters of air beyond his greatsword's reach was still sliced. As for the spinning battle-axe, it was lodged into the rear building after the Celestial Dragon King barely dodged it by tilting his head. Just when the Celestial Dragon King prepared to close the distance and engage Valefor in combat again, he saw the latter draw out a burnt stick of sword length from his storage space. "You want to fight me with that thing instead of a proper weapon?" "Against you? It is enough." Valefor grinned at the Celestial Dragon King's darkened expression. The [Decamillennium-Year Blazewood Branch] was a True Divinity-rank material. Although it wasn't a proper weapon, it was certainly sturdier than any weapon wielded by the Celestial Dragons. Even the Celestial Dragon King's silver greatsword wasn't an exception. Nevertheless, the Celestial Dragon King didn't know this and took the tree branch as an insult. Moments later, Valefor took the initiative to attack while the latter's heart was boiling with anger over his insulting choice of a weapon. "Hmph!" Watching Valefor foolishly closing the distance with such a lousy weapon, the Celestial Dragon King coldly snorted. Suddenly, his gaze glimmered with a ruthless glint as he intended to slice both the stick and Valefor in half with a single strong slash. "Go to hell!" the Celestial Dragon King roared. He met Valefor's stick with a powerful diagonal downward slash. In that instant, he could imagine the frail-looking stick snapping and Valefor getting bisected at the shoulder. Boom! Surprisingly, the burnt stick did not break like the Celestial Dragon King had imagined and faced the full force of his empowered greatsword head-on. What! Although the Celestial Dragon King was instantly shocked, he didn't freeze foolishly. He gritted his teeth and stubbornly pressed forward, launching a flurry of quick slashes. He refused to believe that a tree branch would last long under his barrage of attacks. Valefor and the Celestial Dragon King were suddenly locked into an intense exchange of blows. No matter how many times the Celestial Dragon King swung his heavy greatsword, Valefor received it with his burnt stick without fail. Each time Valefor did, the Celestial Dragon King would feel his confidence shattering. It only took three exchanges before the latter no longer looked down on his burnt stick. After two hundred exchanges, he was completely dumbfounded. The burnt stick remained virtually undamaged under the reinforcement of Valefor's Weapon Intent. 'That is no ordinary stick...' the Celestial Dragon King deeply frowned.

Chapter 1030: Two Weeks Later

Over the course of two weeks, the remaining cities of the Celestial Kingdom were gradually subjugated and welcomed a new era—one in which the Celestial Kingdom no longer remained hidden from the world and became open to tourism.

Surprisingly, access to the Celestial Kingdom was not limited to the UN but open to all countries within Pangea. As long as people could afford the price and met the criteria, they were allowed to stay in any of the twelve cities.

Even permanent residency wasn't out of the question as long as their budget could afford it.

Naturally, the transportation fees varied between members and non-members of the UN. Non-members of the UN were required to pay four times the transportation fee to board the commercial-class starships traveling between the UN and the Celestial Kingdom's twelve cities.

Since all of the starships were under Vaan's control and they were the only modes of transport recognized and granted entry permits to the twelve cities, many foreigners, regardless of profession, became unhappy with the UN's monopoly.

However, even if they were unhappy about the monopoly, many foreigners still traveled to the UN to pay the expensive transportation fees for visiting the Celestial Kingdom.

Compared to the undeveloped space territory, people across the continent were far more interested in the highly advanced and developed Celestial Kingdom, not to mention it was the only option open to foreign countries.

As a result, traffic to the UN greatly increased.

After all, everyone who wanted to visit the Celestial Kingdom would need to enter the UN's territory first. It was the only way to reach the location with the sole mode of transport en route to the Celestial Kingdom's twelve cities—Celestial Airport.

Thanks to this decision, the UN greatly profited from the short transit between Celestial Airport and the border due to the large surge of traffic from foreign countries.

After all, the distance between the border and Celestial Airport wasn't exactly short. People would still need daily sustenance and lodgings along the way. As such, all businesses on the main route to Celestial Airport flourished under this new change.

Of course, the enormous profit from this short transit was only considered pocket changes compared to the earnings of the transportation sales and tourism businesses.

Nevertheless, regardless of the source of profit, they all benefited Vaan in the end. The tremendous influx of wealth gave the UN great purchasing power of resources outside of its influence.

Even if the foreign countries all knew they were fattening the UN by sending travelers its way, they couldn't do anything to stop it from happening.

After all, they were all interested in the potential products and technology they could bring back from the Celestial Kingdom. The Freedom Federation even saw it as an opportunity to catch up to the UN.

Unfortunately, everyone quickly realized how unrealistic their dreams were once they discovered Vaan ruled the Celestial Kingdom with absolute authority as its Ocean Master.

He could easily control the quality of products and the level of technology that they could acquire. As such, the Freedom Federation gave up its last futile attempt at resisting unification.

Vaan's subjugation of the Celestial Kingdom had truly set Pangea on the path of unity.

After all, under Vaan's conditions, foreign countries were practically forced to join the UN to avoid heavy taxation and travel expenses. There was simply no other way to reach the Celestial Kingdom.

Only the UN's commercial-class starships were recognized with entry permits.

Any other unidentified or unregistered vessel approaching the twelve cities would be regarded as pirates and raiders—and their fate would be to get sunk to the bottom of the ocean as soon as they illegally cross the border.

However, before they could even reach the depths of the ocean, their private vessels would have to face the threat of sea monster attacks. Only the UN's commercial-class starships provided absolute safety on the route to the Celestial Kingdom's twelve cities.

Of course, this was also part of Vaan's promotion scheme.

Only by giving the remaining non-members disadvantages would they consider joining the UN for its advantages. Moreover, once their people visited the Celestial Kingdom, they would realize the absolute disparity between them and the UN.

To win over the remaining foreign countries, first, Vaan had to win over its people.

Once the people experienced the prosperity of the UN, they would envy it and pressure their respective governments to join.

Everything Vaan had done for world unification had been set in motion. He did not need to exert any further effort to subjugate the remaining countries. It was just a matter of time before they willingly submitted.

As such, Vaan focused his energy on other matters.

During the past two weeks, the noble faction had, more or less, been erased from existence. More than 99% of nobles were found guilty of at least one charge of heinous crime. They were put to death and deprived of their Divine Worlds for that.

As a result, more than 3000 new Divine Inheritors were raised during this period. Of the 3000 new Divine Inheritors, 1500 were Battle Witches, 1000 were Body Refiners, and 500 were Holy Knights.

Eniwse, Astoria, Aeliana, Solana, Dahlia, Hester, Linetta, and Lillias all received Divine Transformation-level Divine Worlds and stepped into the Divine Star Realm directly under the guidance purification of life energy.

With the exception of Henrietta, Vaan's women had all become especially powerful Divine Beings.

Aeliana, Solana, and Astoria were especially fortunate. These three received the most benefit from the Divine Inheritance, directly entering the seventh stage of the Divine Star Realm.

Their powerful start set unprecedented levels of shock across the entire Celestial Kingdom. Even the 7000 Divine-level cultivators in the Celestial Military, who didn't know the details, were in awe of them.

Never in the history of the Celestial Kingdom had any Divine Inheritor directly entered the late stage of the Divine Star Realm upon receiving their Divine Inheritance.

It made those who spent thousands of years to reach the same level feel shame and envy.

Still, everyone couldn't help but feel it was to be expected. Only extraordinary women could accompany their extraordinary Ocean Master.

Vaan noticed a pattern among the three ladies—they all possessed light affinity.

However, he couldn't understand how their light affinity helped their bodies reach such a high compatibility with their Divine Worlds.

Did it have something to do with their elements sharing a relationship to the source of life?

Vaan felt like this was the only explanation.

The Divine World's Divine energy was derived from life, while the light element nurtured life. Furthermore, life energy was also able to purify the Divine World's impurity.

Rumble...

Suddenly, the entire continent experienced an abnormal yet weak tremor. However, no one bothered to find out its cause. In the past two weeks, everyone had become accustomed to its random occurrence.

Naturally, this continental tremor came from the Celestial Kingdom's thirteenth city – Celestial City.

Within these past two weeks, the battle between Valefor and the Celestial Dragons raged on—or rather, it was dragged on by Valefor. If he had wanted to, the Celestial Dragon King and Celestial Dragons would have all been defeated on the very first day.

In fact, they had been defeated countless times during this period.

The only reason they were still fighting was because Valefor didn't accept their surrender. They were beaten over and over until their deeply ingrained pride vanished from their bodies.

Every day, Valefor would give them time to recover after beating them to near death.

Due to their strong self-healing factor, they would recover most of their injuries overnight. However, that was when Valefor would beat them to near death again.

On days that Valefor rested, everyone tried all means to kill him. Unfortunately, nothing they did could even harm his indestructible body. That was also the moment they tasted true despair.

The demon did not want to leave Celestial City and made himself at home. If he wasn't resting, then he was beating someone up. Hundreds of Celestial Dragons would be his punching bag each day.

The definition of fatigue did not seem to exist for Valefor.

Thanks to recurring battles of their level without any defensive preparation, Celestial City was transformed into a state of ruin. Every building had experienced some degree of damage.

Celestial City no longer possessed the vigorous energy it once had after Valefor arrived.

Originally, the Celestial Dragon King was able to fight head-to-head with Valefor. He even managed to break Valefor's seemingly unbreakable stick after many exchanges.

Unfortunately, it wasn't the only sturdy stick in Valefor's possession.

The Celestial Dragon King's expression was quite the sight to behold when Valefor took out the entire scorched tree to pound him.

Once a branch snapped off, Valefor would use it in place of the tree until it shattered. Then, he would use the tree again until a new branch was available for him. After all, he didn't exactly prepare a bunch of branches to fight the Celestial Dragon King beforehand.

Moreover, he couldn't stop the [Decamillennium-Year Blazewood Branch] from shattering upon repeated use.

Even if Valefor made it more durable through Intent Reinforcement, he couldn't overcome the True Divinity-level material's critical weakness – its brittleness.

"Kugo, it's time to fight!" Valefor loudly announced in the early morning.

Although the message was directed at the Celestial Dragon King, every conscious Celestial Dragon shuddered upon hearing it. This particular phrase had become their most dreaded line after their day-to-day beating for two weeks.

After all, it implied that once Valefor finished his business with Celestial Dragon King Kugo, it would be their turn next.

Although Valefor was always heavy-handed, and each of his beatings was always accompanied by tons of pain, the repeated beatings had become the least of everyone's worries.

"Boss, please have mercy! I have not slept in two—Arghhh!!!"

Celestial Dragon King Kugo's despairing cry resounded throughout the ruined Celestial City, causing every conscious Celestial Dragon to shudder with dread. However, no one thought about escaping; they simply didn't have the energy.

Everyone only focused on keeping their eyes shut, hoping to get an extra wink of sleep.

Yes, the Celestial Dragons' despair did not come from getting beaten brutally every day but because of their sleep deprivation. The bags under their eyes were so dark that they looked like panda eyes.