

The Witch 741

Chapter 741: Dana's Arrival

Back at central command, Emperor Varan soon heard the distant rumbling of many footsteps. He immediately felt confused, knowing there shouldn't be any more reinforcements.

The ducal factions and other houses have sent all the troops they could spare into the Great Ratholos Army.

Whatever troops they had left were used to assist their families and other civilians in their evacuation. They shouldn't have returned even if they completed the evacuation so quickly.

'Could it be the Sea Emperor and people from Dragon Palace?' Emperor Varan thought with some excitement.

Although he had sent the request, he didn't hold much hope that they would come to the empire's rescue so quickly. After all, Dragon Palace was located on a lone island very far offshore.

It would take two days for a round trip with their fastest messenger.

However, if the Sea Emperor and Dragon Palace's people managed to come, they would have a greater chance of winning the war.

Few people knew about it, but the Great Ratholos Empire, in fact, had two guardian beasts and clans. The Red Wyvern Ancestor and his Red Wyvern Clan guarded the land, and the Dragon-Serpent King and his Sea Serpent Clan guarded the sea.

Naturally, Emperor Varan never thought of the Sea Serpent Clan coming to the empire's aid. After all, the Sea Serpent King and his kin could not come on shore.

However, the martial warriors cultivated at Dragon Palace were not the least bit inferior to those who practiced on the Black Mountain. As such, their force couldn't be ignored. They should provide substantial help if they could come.

Unfortunately, Emperor Varan's hopes were dashed when he found out who came.

"Father, I have brought some fighters to aid you!" Princess Dana announced as she arrived with a small army of martial warriors from the Martial Hall, a few wyvern riders, and her private guards.

Emperor Varan almost fainted from anger immediately before he harshly reprimanded her, "What are you doing here, Dana?! You should be on your way to Dragon Palace with the rest of your sisters!"

"You want me to run while our capital is under attack by demons? No way! I want to stay and fight! Let me share your burden, father!" Princess Dana replied defiantly.

"Share my burden? More like add to it! You can't do anything with your meager power! If something happens to you, your mother will even skin me!" Emperor Varan barked, firm on his stance.

Many nearby martial warriors immediately wore strange expressions.

Perhaps people outside didn't know much about Princess Dana. However, the martial warriors from Martial Hall were well aware of how powerful she was.

Princess Dana was extremely skilled in sword arts and physical enhancement magic. Few below the Transcendent rank could be her opponent; even Transcendents could be cut by her sword if they weren't careful.

Whether it was the sharpness of her sword or her skills as a sword master, many within the Martial Hall acknowledged both.

Nevertheless, no one dared to refute Emperor Varan's words.

Meanwhile, Vaan was prepared to leave. He wasn't interested in sticking around to listen to Emperor Varan's family bicker.

"Remember to do what I asked, Emperor Varan. We must find Galen's wife if we want to communicate with Hecate," Vaan reminded.

"Of course, Venerable Dragon God!" Emperor Varan acknowledged with a nod.

At the same time, Princess Dana was about to lash out at Vaan for ordering her father, the emperor of a mighty empire.

However, she was quickly stunned by how her father addressed him.

Princess Dana gave Vaan a quick re-evaluation, but her doubt intensified. He was far too young, and he didn't look like a dragon in the slightest.

How could he be this so-called Venerable Dragon God?

Nevertheless, her father was a wise ruler. He wouldn't be fooled by a nobody pretending to be someone important. As such, she refrained from acting on impulse and observed a little longer.

"Grandmother, Eniwse, Aeliana—all of you should stay back. It's too dangerous on the battlefield, and your cultivation is not high enough," Vaan said.

"Alright," Victoria nodded with a warm smile.

In any case, she only came to find her grandson, and she had already succeeded. There was no need to follow him to the battlefield. Although she was a High Witch, she didn't want to burden her grandson with her presence on the battlefield.

Meanwhile, Aeliana and Eniwse complied without a single complaint.

On the other hand, Princess Dana's expression wrinkled. She thought Vaan's instruction would increase the chance of her father sending her away.

Why couldn't they just let women fight if they wanted to fight? How could they not know the danger?

They just wanted to help!

"If you want to fight on the battlefield too, just say it. We women have to stand together and take a firm stance! We can't let others decide what we want to do!" Princess Dana incited, hoping Victoria, Eniwse, and Aeliana would speak up for her.

Men could fight. But women could fight, too!

Suddenly, all attention shifted to Princess Dana. Aeliana also approached her without a word, making her intention unclear. It confused Princess Dana. She wondered what Aeliana wanted from her.

Couldn't she say her piece from where she was? Why the need to come over?

Pak!

Aeliana's intention became evident when she raised her hand and slapped Princess Dana across the left cheek without warning, stunning the latter.

"Why did you slap me...? I was speaking up for you..." Princess Dana said, staring at Aeliana with a dumbfounded, incomprehensive look.

"No, you spoke for yourself. I slapped you because I didn't like the way you looked at my lord. You better fix your attitude," Aeliana coldly stated before adding overbearingly, "Also, when my lord speaks, you better listen."

Princess Dana became even more dumbfounded as she stared at Aeliana. She didn't mind the slap as much as the questions in her heart.

The lady was clearly such a strong-minded woman, and her cultivation didn't seem lacking either.

Why would she listen to the so-called Dragon God with such obedience? What spell did he cast on her to acquire such loyalty and devotion?

The martial warriors were also stunned by Aeliana's unexpected and unreasonable slap. But after they recovered, they quickly became furious.

"H-How dare you lay a hand on the Third Princess!" the martial warriors roared, drawing their swords at Aeliana.

Aeliana's act also displeased Emperor Varan, but he couldn't stand silent and watch the situation escalate further.

"Stand down!" Emperor Varan thundered with a darkened, grave expression.

Chapter 742: Wild Thoughts

Once Emperor Varan's order was heard, every agitated warrior quickly lowered their weapons and took a step back. Even if they were unsatisfied, they wouldn't dare to defy his command.

"Are you alright, Dana?" Emperor Varan asked shortly after with a hint of concern.

After all, it was such a loud and crisp slap. A considerable amount of force must have been used in it.

"I'm fine, father," Princess Dana calmly replied, her eyes briefly sparkled.

Although she received a hard slap, her skin only reddened. It did not become bruised. She didn't even feel angry from the slap. On the contrary, her interest and curiosity grew.

From young to adulthood, she had always been treated well by the people around her.

Even though she was a woman, she was still the emperor's daughter. As such, no one ever dared to hurt her. At most, they would only say some unsavory things due to her life choices.

All her sparring partners would also subconsciously hold back against her.

However, this was the first time someone actually raised a hand against her. Moreover, there wasn't a shred of leniency in it.

As such, Princess Dana couldn't help but become interested in Aeliana.

People were always mindful of her status or smitten with her beauty. Those who tried to befriend her in the past all did so with ulterior motives. As such, she never had anyone she could regard as a true friend.

Only someone who could disregard her beauty and status would treat her sincerely as a person, and only such a person was worth befriending.

"Kukuku, that's a pretty extreme thing to do and say to someone you just met. I'm Dana. How should I address you?" Princess Dana casually greeted with a chuckle, extending a hand for a handshake.

However, Aeliana surprisingly took a step back in retreat. She glanced at Princess Dana with an incomprehensive, doubtful look. Princess Dana's reaction was not the reaction she had in mind.

What was wrong with this person?

She gave her such a hard slap. Yet, she was not angry and even laughed it off like it was nothing.

Indeed, Princess Dana only felt a bit of sting from the slap and nothing more.

When she saw the incoming slap, her body was subconsciously strengthened with physical enhancement magic. As such, she did not even budge from her spot.

While Aeliana was taken aback, Emperor Varan and the others were completely dumbfounded.

How could anyone smile after receiving such a hard slap like that?

If it were them in Princess Dana's shoes, they would have been furious. After all, Princess Dana didn't even say anything seriously offensive. That slap had been unwarranted.

'Did the slap awaken something in Dana that shouldn't have been awakened?' Emperor Varan frowned with concern.

Meanwhile, Vaan took notice of the situation with interest.

Sometimes, a lot could be learned about a person's character just by observing their attitude towards certain situations.

For example, the ability to tolerate unfairness to oneself with a genuine smile showed open-mindedness, strong will, and good nature, among other things. While such a person wouldn't necessarily be a saint, they would never commit evil.

However, such a person would also be especially stubborn on things once they had made up their mind.

Emperor Varan wouldn't be able to stop Princess Dana unless he used force.

"I apologize in place of my woman, Emperor Varan. She had acted out of line and committed an offense against your daughter," Vaan said before making a suggestion, "How about this: I will designate some dragons to protect her on the battlefield."

"That way, she will get her wish of fighting, and you can also be at ease with her safety. I'm sure you also know you won't be able to change her mind once she has decided. And if you feel that is not enough, you can also send some experts to watch her."

"Forcing the matter will only hurt your relationship," Vaan added.

Princess Dana was pleasantly surprised by Vaan's suggestion. She couldn't help but find him more pleasing to the eye.

On the other hand, Emperor Varan was surprised by Vaan's generosity.

It would be a hard war against the vampires, yet Vaan was willing to spare some valuable dragons to watch his willful daughter.

Just based on that, the displeasure he felt towards Aeliana quickly vanished. Emperor Varan felt honored that the Dragon God gave him such consideration as compensation for a minor offense.

He helped him resolve a headache so easily.

Indeed, he could add some experts to protect his daughter. However, their security couldn't be compared to the dragons, who wielded powerful magic.

Suddenly, Emperor Varan had a wild thought – Was the Dragon God generous because he was also interested in his daughter?

His daughter was an unwanted and unwedded woman because no warrior wanted their wife to be stronger than them, while inferior men weren't qualified to ask for her hand in marriage.

Although there were dozens of Transcendent-rank warriors in the Great Ratholos Empire, they were all old foggies. It was also impossible for Emperor Varan to marry his daughter to such old men.

Such old men would die in a few decades and turn his precious daughter into a widow for hundreds of years.

How could he do that to his daughter?

As such, if the Dragon God was interested in his daughter, that couldn't be better news! The Dragon God was a dragon among men and the best possible candidate to be her husband!

That slap turned out to be a blessing! – Emperor Varan thought as he became immersed in his wild delusions and ambitions.

Meanwhile, Victoria inched closer to Vaan and whispered, "Are you thinking of adding her to your harem, Grandson? If so, Grandmother approves. She looks tender, but her body is so firm and powerful. Evidently, she is extremely healthy and fit."

"She'll definitely bear you a strong and healthy son. If you need help, Grandmother can be the matchmaker for you," Victoria quietly added.

After hearing that, Vaan's lips couldn't help but twitch.

He provided a solid solution to resolve any potential resentment from affecting Emperor Varan's loyalty. He had no other intentions.

Why did others think he did?

Chapter 743: Victoria's Discovery

"Grandmother, you don't need to get involved in my love affairs. I already have many women. As such, you don't need to be anxious to hold your grandchildren. I'm afraid you don't have enough arms to hold them all in the future," Vaan calmly replied.

Victoria was immediately astonished by Vaan's claim. Given how amazing and capable he was, she knew he would have multiple women.

However, how many women did he exactly have to make that claim with such confidence?

"This... Who else is your woman, Grandson?" Victoria couldn't help but ask.

It was already a slim chance to hook her grandson up with Henrietta since he already had multiple women. However, that slim chance could turn into impossible if he had too many.

"Hm, let me see..." Vaan briefly paused before mentioning, "There are the two princesses of the Delarosa Marquisdom, Linetta and Lillias. There is also Aeliana's mother, Solana, who lives in Sunpeak City, and Dahlia and Hester from Redpine City."

"Oh, you should have already seen Astoria, who is now the Holy Empress of the Holy Knight Empire. And there's also Henrietta, who you came with. So far, she's my official wife," Vaan casually stated.

Victoria's mind blanked for a moment before she asked, "Can you repeat that last part, my dear grandson?"

"You mean Henrietta, my official wife? We wedded fairly recently, if I may add. Surely, you know her," Vaan said.

"Oh, I know her, alright. I know her all too well," Victoria replied with an unfathomable and thoughtful look. Soon, her shoulders trembled as she started chuckling, "Kukuku. So, it was like that..."

"Hennie, oh, Hennie... How could you hide such important information from me, his maternal grandmother?" Victoria uttered to herself with a sly and amusing look.

She had been wracking her head, thinking of ways to bring them together. But as it turned out, the two were actually married already! She never needed to do anything. The problem was already solved.

She just didn't know—all because someone didn't tell her.

But why didn't Henrietta tell her about it?

Well, it wasn't hard to guess her reason. She could imagine what Henrietta thought and felt when she realized their relationship.

Henrietta was just too embarrassed and ashamed to tell her.

'How should I use this information to my advantage? It looks like Henrietta and I are going to need to talk! Hehehe, how amusing! How fascinating! How great! I'm definitely going to have fun with you!

How dare you hide this matter from me?'

Victoria couldn't stop giggling as she imagined various ways to tease Henrietta and see her embarrassed state.

She could have made a fool of herself if her grandson had not told her.

...

Meanwhile, Henrietta suddenly felt a cold shiver while she was fighting on the battlefield, causing her skin to be crawling with goosebumps.

Although she didn't know how she could get cold shivers while covered in flames, she didn't get a good feeling about it.

'Is my danger sense ticking off? The demons must be plotting something dangerous!' Henrietta thought as she increased her killing power.

Boom!

Jet-black flames smothered the land, vaporizing countless vampires caught in its sweep.

Henrietta's black fire became the vampires' nightmare as they trembled in fear before its destructive might. In front of a Transcendent Witch with Demigod-level combat power, there wasn't anything the vampire army could do to resist.

They needed someone stronger to face her!

However, not a single member of the Night Parade came forward. None of them wanted to leave the crimson light domain and suffer a reduction in their power.

Although they didn't fear Henrietta like the rest of the vampire army, they feared Vaan. In their minds, facing Vaan was the same as facing Thanatos, and there was nothing more dreadful than fighting Thanatos in Gehenna.

"Dammit! How can there be so many strong humans and dragons? The weakened suppression should have made this war easier than three hundred years ago! But it's actually harder!" Melchior cursed, biting his lips with a nasty look.

The stress of being pushed toward death twisted his mind, turning him into a true devil. He couldn't stop thinking of ways to torture humans and dragons for putting him through this situation!

They all deserved eternal damnation! Die, die, die! Just die! They should all die!

Madness filled Melchior's eyes.

He was prepared to give a destructive order when a powerful, ancient voice sounded behind him, "What's going on here? It looks like you are having a hard time facing the humans... and dragons, huh? Should I lend a hand?"

Melchior immediately turned to look before his twisted expression transformed into surprise and shock.

"E-Eighth Progenitor! Why are you here?" Melchior exclaimed, his eyes widening with more surprises as he sensed the Eighth Progenitor's power.

It had only been a few hours since Edwin Luther awakened from his long slumber.

However, his power had already risen to the third stage of the Divine Blood Realm after paying a short visit to the Luther family. He didn't just retrieve his divine blood; he even absorbed the Blood Ancestor's divine blood found in his traitorous descendants.

Although doing so would put him under the Blood Ancestor's control due to the latter having superior cultivation, it didn't matter to him as long as he could drink to his heart's content in the human world.

"Why can't I be here?" Edwin Luther nonchalantly glanced at Melchior and said, "You can be here, but I can't? Is there a rule that states you have the first bid on all the blood here?"

"N-No, of course not!" Melchior replied nervously, but his heart was surging with joy, knowing a Vampire Lord would join the war much earlier than expected. "However, you have to be careful, Eighth Progenitor!"

"Your power will be suppressed by a level if you leave the domain!" Melchior reminded him out of consideration.

However, it only earned him the Eighth Progenitor's contempt.

"Hmph!" Edwin Luther snorted before barking, "Even if my cultivation drops back down to the second stage of the Divine Blood Realm, do you think anyone below the Divine Rank can threaten me?! Are you looking down on this Lord?!"

"I wouldn't dare, Lord Edwin!" Melchior cowered.

"That's what I thought! Hmph! I feel insulted that such a timid vampire like you is also in the Divine Blood Realm like me," Edwin Luther spat before saying, "Watch and learn how this Lord does things!"

Shortly after, Edwin Luther transformed into a shadow of bats, shrieking piercingly as he flew out of the crimson light domain.

He headed straight to the dragons in the sky with gleaming blood lust.

Chapter 744: Tranquil Fury

Dragon Lord Astarot's group naturally became the Eighth Progenitor's first target. After all, they possessed a superior bloodline to the humans and posed the most threat.

Other than Vaan, Dragon Lord Astarot was the only other Demigod on the side of humans.

The Eighth Progenitor couldn't help but salivate as he closed in on the group of red dragons suppressing the vampire armies from the sky. He definitely had to feast to his heart's content.

His thirst for blood had not diminished after 700,000 years of slumber. In fact, the long sleep increased his thirst instead.

Swish!

The air seemed to give way to the Eighth Progenitor, allowing him to soar swiftly through the sky. It was like the natural laws of the world around the Eighth Progenitor were affected wherever he traveled.

Nevertheless, he closed the distance on Dragon Lord Astarot's group in a very short time.

At the same time, Dragon Lord Astarot sensed the impending threat. The frightening aura intimidated him, even from thousands of meters away.

His severe gaze locked on the swift, shadowy flock of black bats. He immediately knew there was more to it than how it appeared.

"Be careful!" Dragon Lord Astarot quickly warned.

But given the speed of the shadowy flock of black bats, the warning came too late. It had already reached the dragon group by the time he had finished warning his kin. It gave them no time to react at all.

"Come here, my lovely prey—!"

Just as the Eighth Progenitor re-materialized into his true form without losing travel momentum, his expression abruptly changed.

A timely spatial portal appeared right before him, giving him no time to react. As such, he flew straight into it, not knowing what lay on the other side.

However, the Eighth Progenitor wasn't even given the time to guess. He immediately found out in a split second.

Boom!

The Eighth Progenitor flew out of a different spatial portal and kissed the surface with a resounding impact, shattering the ground and shaking the earth.

A small crater was instantly formed. Half of the Eighth Progenitor's body was stuck below ground, and his legs dangled in the air.

A few moments later, the Eighth Progenitor broke out of the earth with towering rage.

"Fuck—!! Who dares to mess this with Lord?!" the Eighth Progenitor furiously cursed with chunks of soil still stuck to his face. Even some of his teeth were missing, revealing spots of black abysses when he spoke.

In an instant, his elegant appearance had been reduced to a sorry mess, similar to that of a poverty-stricken beggar.

The spatial portals had come without warning, forcing the Eighth Progenitor to ram his head into the ground with a force that wasn't inferior to the first stage of the Divine Rank.

Naturally, the Eighth Progenitor wouldn't come out of it unscathed.

Back in the sky, Dragon Lord Astarot was pleasantly surprised after seeing Vaan appear before him.

"Supreme Leader!"

"Focus on the stronger foes within the vampire army. This Vampire Lord is too strong for all of you. I will deal with him personally."

"Understood, Supreme Leader!"

...

It didn't take long for the Eighth Progenitor to lock onto Vaan's figure and determine he was the culprit behind his miserable state. All his hatred and anger were immediately directed at him.

"Human! It was you, wasn't it?!" the Eighth Progenitor roared.

Black wings suddenly sprouted from his back, and with a powerful flap, the Eighth Progenitor soared into the sky with sonic momentum instantly.

At the same time, powerful gusts of winds slammed into the ground before dispersing in all directions. A few unstable buildings were struck and crumbled apart.

"I'll kill you—!!"

The Eighth Progenitor's death threat was abruptly cut short as he shot straight into another spatial portal and smashed himself into the ground again.

Moments later, the Eighth Progenitor burst out of the earth with an even more miserable appearance. Several teeth had shattered, and his face was filled with dirt and blood.

The impact was noticeably stronger than the last one, as all buildings within a hundred-meter radius collapsed under the earthquake.

The Eighth Progenitor's anger reached a new peak.

Right then, Vaan's casual words sounded in his ears, "Why do you have to be so mad? The current look suits you better."

"Argh, you insect!!! You have completely infuriated this Lord! I will drain the blood from your corpse and torture your remains for a thousand years to appease my anger!!" the Eighth Progenitor cursed.

Boom!

The Eighth Progenitor launched himself into the sky at an even greater speed than the past two movements. At the same time, large amounts of darkness rotated around his body like a drill. The surrounding air was flung far away by the whips of darkness.

The Eighth Progenitor's thought process was simple.

Whether it was time or placement, Vaan's last two spatial portals had been so precise that they made it impossible for the Eighth Progenitor to evade. As such, he just had to travel far faster than Vaan could precisely summon his spatial portals.

However, the outcome was far from the Eighth Progenitor's expectation.

Boom!

The Eighth Progenitor flew straight into Vaan's spatial portal again and smashed into the ground.

Although the crash wasn't as impactful as the previous two times, the Eighth Progenitor ended up drilling several hundred meters deep into the earth.

Rumble...!

The earth shook with rumbling tremors before the Eighth Progenitor furiously burst out of the ground, flinging rocks and soil in all directions.

Soon, the Eighth Progenitor glared at Vaan in the sky with a gaze so intense that his eyes bled.

"Sigh, falling for the same trick twice is one thing, but for it three times is another. You must be the dumbest Vampire Lord I have ever met. Or perhaps you just like to eat dirt?"

Vaan's insulting words sounded, further fueling the Eighth Progenitor's anger.

Right from the first move, Vaan established an absolute position by putting his opponent in an unstable state of mind.

In a battle between people with undetermined differences in power, the one with the calmer state of mind was usually the victor.

The Eighth Progenitor was so enraged that his trembling body screamed with anger. But after a moment, he suddenly became frighteningly still and quiet.

All his anger seemed to have disappeared as he calmed down, but that was far from the truth.

'Tranquil fury...' Vaan's gaze immediately turned serious.

Chapter 745: Size Reduction

The angrier one was, the harder it was to control one's power and choices. This was especially true for one whose anger had reached the limit; their judgment would be completely clouded by rage.

People under such a state were predictable, making them easier to deal with.

However, there also existed a special state of mind within that rageful state called Tranquil Fury. It allowed the being to have full control despite angry beyond belief.

Such a special state of mind, which combined the advantages of anger and calmness, would make a person even stronger than their usual peak combat effectiveness.

Vaan didn't expect the Vampire Lord to enter such a supernatural state after being angered by him.

It completely nulled his previous efforts.

After the Eighth Progenitor entered [Tranquil Fury], he did not rush to attack Vaan again. Instead, he dusted his messy black and white suit and cleaned up his appearance.

Only after the Eighth Progenitor found himself presentable did he give Vaan his attention.

"I must admit, your decisiveness and intelligence are commendable if nothing else, Human. You knew we vampires of high rank greatly value our pride and honor and made use of it. Because of this weakness, I've eaten a few losses," the Eighth Progenitor calmly commented.

But then, his gaze suddenly sharpened, and he added, "However, that is as far as you go. You are, after all, just a mere Demigod. The disgrace and shame you have inflicted upon this Lord, I will repay them a hundredfold!"

"Less nonsense. Just make your move, Vampire," Vaan coolly stated, welcoming the Eighth Progenitor with a taunting gesture.

The Eighth Progenitor's gaze immediately gleamed with a dangerous light.

In the next instant, he transformed into another shadowy group of several hundred black bats and flew towards Vaan. Although their speed wasn't as fast as before, it wasn't slow either. In fact, it was still fast.

However, Vaan could tell it was the Eighth Progenitor's manageable speed. Such a speed would allow him to make abrupt maneuvers in response to sudden situations.

To confirm his guess, Vaan summoned a spatial portal right before the black bat group's flight path.

Swish!

The black bat groups instantly redirected their flight path, splitting off into four smaller groups as they flew around the newly appeared spatial portal. Moments later, they regrouped and traveled as one.

'Sure enough... Then, how about this?' Vaan's gaze flickered.

After closing the last spatial portal, he waved his hand, creating another five spatial portals in a two-layer formation – one in front and the other four slightly behind at different angles.

Swish!

The Eighth Progenitor's black bat group immediately split into four smaller groups again to evade the first spatial portal. They also narrowly escaped the four subsequent spatial portals in their anticipated evasion paths by splitting into even smaller groups.

'Ha, I knew you would be able to summon more than one portal! But even if I did fall into it, do you think I would still hurt myself like before?' the Eighth Progenitor snickered in his mind as he almost reached Vaan.

However, what greeted him was a dozen more layers of spatial portals, each facing weird directions as if they were anticipating several steps ahead of the Eighth Progenitor.

The Eighth Progenitor almost fainted from anger.

The more his group of black bats branched out into smaller groups, the more difficult it was to control them all with his mind. However, the Eighth Progenitor had no choice but to continue branching to evade all the spatial portals.

Unfortunately, that wasn't the end of it.

Vaan's dozen layers of spatial portals weren't stationary. He controlled them all with precise calculations of the Eighth Progenitor's flight paths, trapping all his bats like casting out a net before roping them in.

In an instant, the Eighth Progenitor found himself trapped within an ever-changing maze formation of spatial portals. Furthermore, none of these spatial portals' destinations seemed to be the same as the previous ones.

The Eighth Progenitor could feel a strong sense of threat from each of them as if something dangerous was awaiting him on the other side. As such, he didn't dare to enter them and evaded them with all his effort.

At the same time, Vaan studied the Eighth Progenitor's shadow bat movement.

He discovered that even if the Eighth Progenitor transformed into hundreds of bats, he only had one main consciousness in control of them all. Thus, the more division in the groups of bats, the more division in the Eighth Progenitor's focus.

Under the intense game of cat-and-mouse between Vaan's spatial portals and the Eighth Progenitor's bat forms, the latter failed to keep up with Vaan's forceful division of them.

The Eighth Progenitor eventually lost control of a major part of the collective group, causing numerous small groups of bats to fly mindlessly into Vaan's spatial portals.

His connection to them was instantly cut off.

But at the same time, the significant decrease in connections to the bats also greatly restored his focus.

The Eighth Progenitor immediately saw an opening in the maze formation of spatial portals. He quickly charged through the opening with his remaining bat groups.

Only after breaking out of the spatial formation did the Eighth Progenitor's bats regroup to re-materialize his true form and appear before Vaan.

"I've finally caught you now, Human!" the Eighth Progenitor smiled victoriously.

He was still ten meters away from Vaan. But he didn't believe Vaan could escape from him within this distance, even if he could skillfully wield his spatial abilities.

However, his smile slowly disappeared as he felt something slightly wrong with his field of vision.

When did the human become so big?

Clap, clap, clap...

Vaan clapped as he calmly applauded the Eighth Progenitor, who had been reduced to a third of his original body mass. The rest of the latter's body was still stuck in their bat form, mindlessly roaming a small subspace.

"Good job. Do you want a pat on the back for that, Little Vampire?" Vaan asked intriguingly.

He had only abducted the Eighth Progenitor's body-transformed bats out of curiosity for the consequences. But the result proved to be far more amusing than he anticipated.

"Y-You! Damn, Human! What the hell have you done to this Lord's noble body?!" the Eighth Progenitor shrieked after realizing his small figure.

Even his refined voice seemed to have turned childish.

The Eighth Progenitor wanted to puke blood in anger. He had greatly underestimated this human. In fact, this human was far more horrifying than he could imagine.

The human's control of space was especially disgusting.

Chapter 746: Another Threat

The Eighth Progenitor had never encountered such a bizarre situation before.

Although he had been reduced to a third of his original body mass, he didn't feel the pain of losing two-thirds of his body.

In other words, two-thirds of his body was still out there somewhere. They had not been destroyed. He only lost his connection to them. It was as if some restrictive barrier or unreachable subspace had isolated them.

"Bastard Human! Where have you put the rest of this Lord's noble body?! Return this Lord's noble body at once, or this Lord will make you regret it!" the Eighth Progenitor threatened.

However, given his small size and childish voice, his threat didn't seem to carry any weight.

"Now, now. Little Vampire. You shouldn't talk like that. Didn't your mama ever teach you manners and respect?"

"Argh!! How dare you mock this Lord! I'll kill you, Human!"

Vaan's provocation proved effective as he pulled the Eighth Progenitor out of his [Tranquil Fury] state.

In his rage, the Eighth Progenitor recklessly charged at Vaan, wanting to tear him apart with his bare hands. Only such brutality would grant him satisfaction.

Furthermore, as a Vampire Lord in the third stage of the Divine Blood Realm, his physical prowess was far superior to Royal Vampires and other lower-ranking vampires. Even if his cultivation had been suppressed to the second stage of the Divine Blood Realm, he definitely still had the capacity to destroy a mere Demigod.

However, Vaan's Fourth Dimensional Sense told him differently.

Losing two-thirds of his body meant that the Eighth Progenitor also lost two-thirds of his divine blood.

The divine blood was the source of his immortal-like life force and strength.

Without it, the Eighth Progenitor should only be able to wield one-third of his original physical might.

Furthermore, there was also the difference in size and reach...

Vaan reached out and grabbed the Eighth Progenitor's small head, immediately stopping the latter in his tracks.

"Fuck! Bastard! Shitty Human! I'll fight it out with you! Give me back my body!" the Eighth Progenitor cursed as he rained dozens of fists at Vaan.

However, none of his fists managed to reach Vaan. He flailed about like a child throwing a tantrum.

Even his kicks could barely reach him.

Nevertheless, Vaan had to admit that even with one-third of his physical strength, the Eighth Progenitor was still stronger than him.

Only after he entered [Celestial Dragonwolf Transformation] and raised his physical attributes by 50% did he possess the strength to stop the Eighth Progenitor's relentless assault from reaching him.

"Give me back my body! Give it back! Give it now! Argh—!!!" the Eighth Progenitor roared madly.

Knowing he couldn't reach Vaan's body, he shifted his target to his arm and madly clawed at it.

However...

High-pitch screeches sounded. The Eighth Progenitor's claws scratched at Vaan's sturdy flesh and dragon scales but failed to break their defense, only leaving white marks.

When the Eighth Progenitor saw that, his shock almost surpassed his rage. Even so, it only lasted a moment before his mind screamed with overwhelming danger.

Pzzt!

Vaan sent a wisp of nothingness toward the Eighth Progenitor's soul. In the same instant, the Eighth Progenitor transformed into a group of shadow bats to escape his clutches.

'Noo—!'

The Eighth Progenitor mentally screamed as the overwhelming sense of annihilation reached his divine soul.

In that same instant, the Eighth Progenitor's gaze turned cruel and vicious. He decisively sliced off the disintegrating section of his divine soul to preserve the rest of it. Only then was he able to escape certain death.

However, cutting off a piece of his divine soul didn't come without consequences. It was equivalent to crippling his divinity and talent.

Unless he could fix his damaged divine soul, it would never progress and would even decline over time until death claimed him. He estimated that he only had five hundred years to repair it.

Fortunately, his divine soul had undergone soul quenching to become divine.

Otherwise, if it were any other life form underneath the divine rank, their soul would have dispersed the moment they sliced their soul. The difference was like popping an air balloon and cutting a jelly.

...

After the Eighth Progenitor re-materialized his true form a safe distance from Vaan, he stared at him with terror. His fear of death was greater than his anger. Thus, he no longer dared to attack Vaan rashly.

Unexpectedly, Divine Beings could also be killed so easily.

The Eighth Progenitor would have undoubtedly died if he had not been decisive or fast enough.

Meanwhile, Vaan sighed with slight regret for allowing the Eighth Progenitor to escape with his life. It was such a perfect chance to kill the latter—if he had not been wary of his surroundings.

He did not enter the [Celestial Dragonwolf Transformation] state for the Eighth Progenitor alone.

"Why don't you stop hiding and come out? Do you think I can't sense you if you lurk in the darkness?"

"Hahaha! Sure enough, you were aware of my presence! You must have transformed when you felt my killing intent! Furthermore, you certainly didn't leave any openings for me to exploit! How impressively sharp and quick-witted!"

Demetrius Diablo, the Fifth Progenitor, revealed himself after canceling his invisibility spell. He wore a big grin of confidence, but an even greater curiosity plagued his heart.

"You're the most impressive Peak Demigod I've met," Demetrius Diablo praised before suddenly pausing. "No... you've already surpassed that threshold. It's just a matter of time before you reach the Half-step Divine Rank."

"Still, I can't help but be curious. You see, I'm quite proud of my invisibility spell. So, it hurts my pride a little that it didn't work as intended. When exactly did you find out I was lurking nearby?" Demetrius Diablo asked.

"Right from the start, obviously," Vaan nonchalantly replied before smiling provocatively. "Why? Did you think you were truly out of sight? All I saw was a white worm sneaking his way over in plain sight, thinking no one could see him like the idiot he was."

The Fifth Progenitor's grin quickly vanished, replaced by gloomy, cold, killing intent.

"You are... courting death!"

Chapter 747: Flee!

Although the Fifth Progenitor was infuriated by Vaan's insult, he did not rush to attack him like the Eighth Progenitor did. He had seen what Vaan could and did do to the Eighth Progenitor.

With a combination of ability and wits, Vaan played the Eighth Progenitor like a fool.

Furthermore, he even discovered a terrible weakness in [Shadow Bat Movement]. Using such a movement before a spatial-ability user was akin to asking for death.

As long as parts of one's shadow bats were sealed away, one would lose some of their fighting abilities.

Although this only reduced one's physical aspects and not one's power of laws, a reduction in combat effectiveness was still a reduction nonetheless.

Having learned from the Eighth Progenitor's mistakes, the Fifth Progenitor certainly wouldn't repeat them.

"Lord Demetrius? When did you get here? Well, never mind that. Please help me out here! This Demigod Human mustn't be underestimated! He has comprehended a very destructive law!" the Eighth Progenitor requested as he coughed.

However, given his childish voice, the Fifth Progenitor found it hard to take him seriously despite making a mental note of his words.

"Lord Edwin, you seem to be in terrible shape. Of course, I will help you deal with this insolent human. You don't have to worry about that. I won't make the same mistakes as you either," the Fifth Progenitor coolly stated.

After cleaning up his house, he secretly followed the Eighth Progenitor to the human world, thinking he couldn't let the latter enjoy all the benefits of the human world for himself.

However, the Demigod Human had given him a great surprise in terms of abilities, wits, and judgment,

Nevertheless, he, too, had risen to the third stage of the Divine Blood Realm after absorbing the blood of his descendants. With the experience of the Eighth Progenitor's mistakes, he wouldn't suffer the same fate fighting the Demigod Human.

However, the Eighth Progenitor had experienced first-hand terror of fighting Vaan. As such, he was clearer on some things.

"You don't understand, Lord Demetrius!" the Eighth Progenitor gritted his teeth and shouted, "Do you think I suffer this terribly because I merely underestimated my opponent?!"

"No matter how much I overestimate my opponent, it's impossible for a normal Peak Demigod to reduce a Divine Being like me to this pitiful state! There is too big of a gap in our abilities!"

"If you were secretly watching the whole time, you should have seen how skillful his control of the Spatial Law was, Lord Demetrius!" the Eighth Progenitor reminded.

"I've naturally seen his skillful control of..."

The Fifth Progenitor was about to dismiss the Eighth Progenitor's words when a sudden realization made him break into cold sweats.

Indeed, the Demigod Human had impressive control of the Spatial Law, summoning spatial portals in difficult-to-evade times and places to trap the Eighth Progenitor.

However, a condition had to be absolutely met to create such a situation – the Demigod Human had to be able to keep up with the Eighth Progenitor's movements!

The Demigod Human's limited perception shouldn't have been able to keep up with the Eighth Progenitor's movements. But the reality was that the Demigod Human's perception did, in fact, keep up with his movements!

What did that mean?

It meant the Demigod Human's perception was abnormally more powerful than his given soul rank! Furthermore, his perception was at least comparable to the second-stage Divine Rank or higher!

The Eighth Progenitor noticed the Fifth Progenitor's comprehending look before he spat, "So, you get it now, Lord Demetrius? He must be a fucking Soul Master! A fucking Soul Master, you hear me?"

"Ahh!!"

The Eighth Progenitor screamed in anguish, knowing the Second Progenitor had screwed him over.

The so-called obstacle that the Second Progenitor mentioned didn't refer to the resisting human armies or the dragons.

It referred to a single person – a potential Soul Master!

If the Second Progenitor himself wasn't afraid of confronting a potential Soul Master, why would he need to wake up the rest of them from their long slumber? To share the glory?

The Second Progenitor wasn't so selfless!

"Fuck your grandmother, Second Progenitor!" the Fifth Progenitor cursed before turning toward the crimson light domain to flee back to Gehenna. "Fuck this shit! I want no part in this!"

Fighting a Soul Master had too many uncertainties and risks that he would rather not take.

Swish!

The Fifth Progenitor immediately turned into a blur of shadows as he darted through the sky, zooming back to the crimson light domain at his quickest speed.

However, Vaan didn't intend to let him escape.

"Since you came, don't think about leaving," Vaan coolly stated, instantly appearing in front of the Fifth Progenitor, blocking his flight path.

Seeing that, the Fifth Progenitor became even more determined to flee. He used all his power to execute a forceful maneuver around Vaan.

However, he still fell into Vaan's spatial portal.

The Fifth Progenitor heavily smashed himself into the ground several thousand meters further away from his destination and wanted to cough up blood on the spot.

In front of the power of space, distance was non-existent.

His speed would be countered unless it exceeded his opponent's perception – The Fifth Progenitor knew that. Yet, he still utilized his quickest speed to escape, resulting in the same mistake made by the Eighth Progenitor.

"Human!" the Fifth Progenitor furiously burst out of the earth, roaring with a bloodied body, "I do not wish to fight you! Why must you force my hand?!"

"Fifth Progenitor, you have no shame! You said you would help me deal with this human! Yet, you fled at the mention of a Soul Master! Where is your pride and honor?! Are your words so worthless?!" the Eighth Progenitor childishly cursed from a distance.

"Ptui! Fuck pride and honor! My life is more important! What use have I of pride and honor if I'm dead?!" the Fifth Progenitor spat contemptuously, adding, "I've just woken up after 700,000 years! I want to enjoy my life, thank you very much!"

Shortly after, the Fifth Progenitor fled towards the crimson light domain again. At the same time, his mind spun for solutions as he tried to determine the best escape.

Meanwhile, Vaan frowned in the air.

It was his second time hearing about Soul Masters. Moreover, the Vampire Lord seemed to be very afraid of them.

Chapter 748: Space Containment

If all Vampire Lords feared Soul Masters so much, Vaan found it hard to believe they could threaten him. Furthermore, they were still manageable around this level of power.

However, if he had to face an even stronger Vampire Lord, the situation could turn out differently. Not to mention, there was still the Great Devil Abaddon to worry about. There was truly too big of a power gap between them.

'A weak Vampire Lord would fear me because they cannot defeat me, but a strong Vampire Lord would destroy me to end my growth...' Vaan's gaze sharpened.

'Humans and vampires are already warring with each other. An irreversible feud has been established between our races. Given how big the Vampire Lords reacted to me being a potential Soul Master, Great Devil Abaddon will hunt me down with everything he has if he comes to learn of it...'

'It seems Great Devil Abaddon is truly my tribulation,' Vaan frowned.

Since that was the case, he naturally couldn't let the vampires report any news to their Blood Ancestor, even if he needed to take drastic measures.

...

Shortly after the Fifth Progenitor made his second attempt to escape, the Eighth Progenitor didn't dare to stay. After all, if the Fifth Progenitor were gone, the Eighth Progenitor would become Vaan's main target.

"Didn't I say to stay?" Vaan's gaze turned serious.

He immediately jumped in front of the Fifth Progenitor with a single step, instantly creating dozens of moving space cracks to entrap him.

The Fifth Progenitor managed to evade the relentless pursuit of Vaan's space cracks for several breaths before he was caught in their encirclement like a cornered king in a game of chess.

There was nowhere for the Fifth Progenitor to run.

The Fifth Progenitor was eventually swallowed by one space crack and found himself in an independent subspace cut off from the rest of the world. Two minutes later, the Eighth Progenitor also joined him.

"Where are we, Lord Demetrius?" the Eighth Progenitor quickly asked.

The Fifth Progenitor frowned, taking a moment to observe the empty void filled with darkness.

If not for the absence of stars and other celestial bodies, the dark void could have been mistaken for a place in the sea of stars. Even so, it was no different from one; it was also a cold, dark void, merciless to life.

However, the Fifth Progenitor and Eighth Progenitor were both Divine Beings in the Divine Blood Realm. Their vampiric bodies were powered and sustained by blood energy.

As such, they wouldn't be suffocated by the absence of air in the short term.

"This seems to be an independent subspace created by the Demigod Human... Although it looks boundless at a glance, its space is actually limited. There's an invisible wall containing us," the Fifth Progenitor analyzed.

"Oh? In that case, we only need to shatter this wall to break out of this spatial containment."

The Eighth Progenitor quickly understood.

"I don't believe a Peak Demigod's Spatial Law is stronger than my attainments in the Shadow Law!" – was what the Eighth Progenitor disdainfully believed.

However, after he found the boundary of the subspace and assaulted its wall with his strongest shadow attack, the subspace remained stable and firm.

His attack did not change anything.

It was as if the shadow attack was thrown into a bottomless abyss, devoured without a trace.

"W-What?! That's impossible!" the Eighth Progenitor exclaimed with surprise and disbelief.

His physical abilities may have been lowered, but his shadow power was still at the second stage of the divine rank. His shadow attack should have been more than powerful enough to shatter the space power of a Peak Demigod.

However, the reality was quite different from his expectations!

At the same time, the Fifth Progenitor's crimson eyes narrowed before he uttered, "Sure enough, a Soul Master's perception cannot be measured by normal standards."

"I'm afraid this human's comprehension of the Spatial Law is no weaker than the second stage of the divine rank. Furthermore, his mastery and control of space is unlike anything I have ever seen."

"Perhaps even the law power of a Third-stage Divine Being will not be able to shatter this spatial cage," the Fifth Progenitor guessed.

"You're telling me that even if this world's laws didn't suppress our powers by a level, we still wouldn't be able to escape? That is ridiculous!" the Eighth Progenitor spat with a heavy expression.

"A Peak Demigod with space power on par with Third-stage Divine Beings... This kind of talent is truly heaven-defying and unprecedented. Gehenna has never produced this level of talent in his entire course of history..."

"Well, Gehenna is only a single realm within a sea of countless realms that exist throughout the boundless Chaos. What we perceive as unprecedented could, in fact, be common in our Eternal Darkheaven Sector," the Fifth Progenitor casually mentioned as he continued studying the subspace for a weak spot or opening.

However, after a moment, he suddenly paused.

"Dammit, my mind mustn't be functioning properly after such a long slumber. I can't believe I forgot something so crucial!" the Fifth Progenitor exclaimed, smacking his head.

"What did you remember, Lord Demetrius?" the Eighth Progenitor asked.

"No matter how high the human's comprehension of the Spatial Law is, he is still a Peak Demigod!" the Fifth Progenitor reminded, adding, "His soul power is still less than us. If we keep blasting this wall with our power, we will deplete his mental energy and cancel this spatial cage!"

Just as the Fifth Progenitor prepared to barrage the space wall with his law power, Vaan's voice sounded in the dark subspace, "If I truly wanted to kill you, you'd both be dead already. Do you believe it?"

The Fifth Progenitor immediately frowned, preparing to retort with disdain.

However, the Eighth Progenitor responded faster as he fearfully answered, "I do! I definitely believe it!"

"Lord Edwin, you..."

The Fifth Progenitor glanced at the Eighth Progenitor in astonishment and confusion, not expecting him to be more fearful of his life than him.

However, such a low-level threat shouldn't have triggered such a strong reaction.

Nevertheless, the Eighth Progenitor saw what the Fifth Progenitor was thinking. He quickly explained, "I already told you not to underestimate this human. The Law of Space isn't the only law he comprehended."

"He has another law power than is, in my opinion, even more terrifying than his spatial power. In fact, it reminds me of Thanatos's Death Law," the Eighth Progenitor mentioned.

The Fifth Progenitor immediately felt weak at the mention of Thanatos's Death Law. That just proved how dreadful of an existence the Supreme Great Devil was to them.

"It's not impossible to let you both live. Shall we negotiate?" Vaan's offer sounded.

Chapter 749: Negotiation

"Negotiate?" the Fifth Progenitor immediately raised an eyebrow before asking warily, "What is there to even negotiate between us, Human?"

"That's something I want to find out," Vaan coolly replied before continuing, "Perhaps we can find some common grounds to negotiate after we talk. You mentioned you have been asleep for 700,000 years. Why don't we talk about that first?"

"It has been 300 years since Pangea and Gehenna have known each other's existence. Much had been learned from each other during this period. However, only Vampire Lords like you two have remained completely unknown until now."

"Why is that so? Why did you sleep for 700,000 years? How many Vampire Lords are there?" Vaan asked.

Fortunately, the destructive power of nothingness was still vivid in the Eighth Progenitor's mind, which made it a little easier for them to talk.

"Hmph! Do you think we slept for 700,000 years because we wanted to?" the Fifth Progenitor snorted before saying, "I can see you are trying to fish some information out of us. However, it won't be that easy."

"How can we find some common grounds if you are not even willing to divulge some information? I guess I will just have to kill—"

"Wait! I'll talk!" the Eighth Progenitor suddenly exclaimed before quickly spilling, "We were put into forced sleep 700,000 years ago due to falling for the Blood Ancestor's schemes!"

"Furthermore, the Blood Ancestor had put all twelve Vampire Lords into forced sleep. The Second Progenitor has awakened us all, and he currently serves the Blood Ancestor."

"Please don't kill me!" the Eighth Progenitor pleaded while having some ideas.

Since the Fifth Progenitor didn't care about his pride and honor when it came to his life, there was no need for him to hold onto his.

Given his damaged divine soul, it was unlikely that he would be able to fix it within 500 years while serving under the Blood Ancestor's tyranny. To begin with, he had no idea how to repair it.

On the other hand, a Soul Master might know how to fix his damaged divine soul.

Furthermore, he ultimately hated the Blood Ancestor for putting him into forced sleep for 700,000 years. Thus, he was more than happy to work with humans if there was a good chance of defeating the Blood Ancestor.

That said, he did absorb some of the Blood Ancestor's divine blood. As such, he could no longer feel his hatred for the Blood Ancestor. If he were only a Royal Vampire, he wouldn't even be able to harbor thoughts of betrayal, let alone act on them.

Fortunately, he was a Vampire Lord. Thus, the Blood Ancestor's control over him was looser. At the same time, even if he didn't feel the hatred, he had not forgotten about it.

Such grievance had to be avenged once one wielded the ability.

Meanwhile, the Fifth Progenitor was not happy with the Eighth Progenitor spilling the information so easily. He wasn't completely against cooperating with the Demigod Human.

However, feeding the other party useful information would only reduce the benefits they could fight for during the negotiations.

"I see..."

Vaan had a thoughtful look after learning Great Devil Abaddon's relationship with the Vampire Lords wasn't harmonious.

"In other words, the twelve Vampire Lords hate the Blood Ancestor to the bone. It seems possible for us to join forces and defeat him together," Vaan said.

However, he immediately received the Fifth Progenitor's ridiculing laughter.

"If that were possible, we naturally wouldn't have minded joining hands with you humans to defeat him. However, that is physically impossible for us," the Fifth Progenitor coldly stated.

"We have the Blood Ancestor's divine blood in our bodies. Thus, he has some control over our wills. While it is still possible to harbor treacherous thoughts, we lack the capacity to act on them. Furthermore, if we were directly in front of the Blood Ancestor, he could even take control of our minds and manipulate our bodies as he wills it."

"We can't help you fight the Blood Ancestor, nor do we have the power to defeat him. So, how can you even speak of working together? More importantly, what benefits do we even get from working with you?"

"Besides liberation from the Blood Ancestor, we don't seem to gain any benefits from you. On the other hand, even if we have to keep serving the Blood Ancestor, we can at least feast on you humans," the Fifth Progenitor coolly said.

If it weren't for the fact that they were in a sealed space, detached from reality, the Fifth Progenitor would not have dared to speak so much nonsense with Vaan.

"That is under the presumption that you are alive to enjoy your blood feasts. It is quite bold of you to assume you can live until then if you stay on the Blood Ancestor's side," Vaan calmly stated.

The Fifth Progenitor's expression twisted, but he was unable to retort.

Vaan pondered for a moment before asking, "Suppose I can remove the Blood Ancestor's divine blood in your bodies. That would free you from the Blood Ancestor's control, yes?"

"Yes, but so what? You still haven't answered the important questions, Human," the Fifth Progenitor stated.

"The Blood Ancestor is a Peak Rank 6 Divine Being, someone at the tenth stage of the Divine Blood Realm. Even if we join forces, we won't be able to defeat him. So how do you plan on doing so?"

"And what benefits can we gain from working with you, hm? How is working with you better than serving the Blood Ancestor? Won't you just turn on us after we help you get rid of the Blood Ancestor?" the Fifth Progenitor mentioned with a sharp look.

Indeed, if Vaan couldn't satisfy the Vampire Lords' demands, he would not be able to gain their cooperation, even if he could liberate them from the Blood Ancestor's control.

However, letting them feast on the human world as they pleased was also not an option he could give.

He needed more information.

Vaan immediately shifted his attention to the Eighth Progenitor. This one easily spilled the most information and was easier to manipulate.

Chapter 750: Negotiation (2)

It was hard to understand the consequences of slicing one's divine soul unless one experienced it. However, it seemed to make one's mind vulnerable and easily subjected to the will of others as far as Vaan was concerned.

Shortly after Vaan appeared inside the subspace, he immediately directed his coercive gaze at the Eighth Progenitor.

"If you can cleanly remove the Blood Ancestor's divine blood from our bodies, we will be freed from his control. However, his divine blood has fused with our bodies. Extracting it won't be easy, Sir," the Eighth Progenitor explained.

"So, it's still possible then," Vaan calmly nodded.

Shortly after, he coerced the Eighth Progenitor into spilling more information. Through the Eighth Progenitor, he quickly learned about the Evernight Territory and its current state of affairs compared to 700,000 years ago.

Naturally, the Fifth Progenitor wasn't happy with the Eighth Progenitor's compliant attitude. Unfortunately, he could not do anything besides verbal complaints—not that the Eighth Progenitor would listen to him.

On the other hand, he didn't want to antagonize Vaan.

Meanwhile, the Eighth Progenitor was too busy trying to get on Vaan's good side to save his own skin. He did not care about any cooperative benefits as long as his damaged divine soul could be repaired.

After all, if he could not repair his divine soul within 500 years, it would all be useless, no matter how many benefits he had.

"Sir, do you think you can fix my divine soul if I cooperate with you?" the Eighth Progenitor hopefully inquired.

Vaan immediately glanced at him.

Ding!

<You have read the target's information with your Fourth Dimensional Sense>

<Your proficiency in perceiving hidden information from the void has slightly increased>

<The Gehennan information has been compiled>

=====

[Target's information]

Name: Edwin Luther

Race: Vampire

Class: Night Lord

Age: Over 750,000 Gehennan Years (+100,000 Pre-evolution Gehennan Years)

Position: Progenitor of the Luther Family

Existence level: Third-stage Divine Being (Suppressed to Second-stage Divine Being)

Abilities: [Blood Control] [Shadow Manipulation] [Higher Regeneration] [Shadow Bat Movement]
[Second-stage Divine-rank Shadow Law] [Bat Authority] [Call of the Night] [Shadow Detection]
[Summon Shadow] [Devour] [???] [???] [???]

Status: [Fearful] [Anxious] [Damaged Divine Soul] [Mentally Vulnerable]

Note: The target's damaged divine soul is slowly but gradually disintegrating. It is estimated to take 497 Gehennan Years before complete disintegration. Further information is required to restore the target's damaged divine soul.

Note 2: The target is currently mentally vulnerable, making it easier to be subjected to the wills of others. The Boundless Sea and Sky Aura can increase the target's favoritism and likelihood of listening to the host.

Note 2.1: As a first-generation vampire, the target still possesses some of its original traits, thereby subjecting it to the influence of the Boundless Sea and Sky Aura, albeit very limited.

=====

After perusing the Eighth Progenitor's information, Vaan knew he didn't have enough information about the soul aspect to restore damaged divine souls.

However, he wasn't worried about this. He was certain that his knowledge in all aspects would vastly increase once he spent some time in Chaos. After all, a vaster sky had a greater wealth of knowledge.

More importantly, he was currently more interested in the extent of the Boundless Sea and Sky Aura's influence on Vampire Lords.

When Vaan decided to release some of his Boundless Sea and Sky Aura, the Fifth Progenitor didn't show the slightest reaction on the surface.

On the other hand, the Eighth Progenitor's fear and anxiety slightly subsided, replaced by a greater sense of dependence on Vaan. At the same time, his subconscious disdain and hate toward the human aspect of Vaan also disappeared.

'Interesting...' Vaan thought.

"I cannot promise something I cannot do. I know too little about the soul aspect, let alone the divine soul. So, I currently do not have the means to restore your divine soul, Edwin Luther," Vaan calmly admitted before adding, "However, since you have hopes for me, that must mean you believe in my potential as a Soul Master."

"As such, I can at least promise that I will do my best to restore your divine soul within 500 years if you swear to serve me," Vaan stated.

"Sir, if you can really extract the Blood Ancestor's divine blood from my body and restore my divine soul within 500 years, I swear I will faithfully serve you for as long as I live," the Eighth Progenitor promised without hesitation.

The Eighth Progenitor seemed to have forgotten that Vaan was the very reason for his damaged divine soul.

However, the Eighth Progenitor didn't blame Vaan for that. It was his fault for challenging a Soul Master. Furthermore, a damaged divine soul as his punishment was considered quite light.

In fact, it could even be considered a blessing if Vaan restored his divine soul and allowed him to be served since Soul Masters had great destinies. Following such beings were bound to be more glorious than terrorizing a backwater realm.

Nevertheless, after the Eighth Progenitor made his vow, the Fifth Progenitor felt his worldly views collapsing. He couldn't believe what he heard.

After all, the Eighth Progenitor didn't promise to work with the Soul Master but to serve him for life.

Although the Fifth Progenitor could understand why the Eighth Progenitor made the choice, considering the future aspect of a Soul Master, the choice was still made far too hastily.

It didn't seem like something the Eighth Progenitor would normally do. After all, such an important life choice would require careful consideration.

Nevertheless, after Vaan confirmed the Eighth Progenitor's stance, he shifted his attention to the Fifth Progenitor. He had already learned the necessary information to negotiate with the Vampire Lords and gain their cooperation.

"Fifth Progenitor, I believe there is no need to discuss additional benefits, right? After all, defeating the Blood Ancestor is already the greatest benefit to you. With the Blood Ancestor gone, you will have the whole Evernight Territory to split among yourselves," Vaan coolly stated.

"That's true..." the Fifth Progenitor reluctantly admitted with a forced smile, knowing he wouldn't be able to gain additional benefits from the human side.

"As long as your side doesn't invade our world and backstab us after defeating the Blood Ancestor, simply defeating the Blood Ancestor is indeed our greatest benefit to us Vampire Lords."

"However, you still haven't answered the most important question – How can we defeat the Blood Ancestor?" the Fifth Progenitor solemnly asked.

"If we add Hecate into the fight, what do you think of our odds of winning?" Vaan coolly replied.

The Fifth Progenitor's expression immediately changed.

Indeed, if Great Devil Hecate could really join the fight against the Blood Ancestor, their victory was almost guaranteed.

However, that was under the presumption that they could gain Great Devil Hecate's cooperation.