

The Witch 761

Chapter 761: Inevitable Descent

With the black pillar standing between Pangea and Gehenna, only those who could withstand the gravitational pressure could travel between the realms.

Only the strongest beings were granted passage, no matter how big the opening.

At the very least, that would continue to be the case as long as the black pillar wasn't destroyed or the crimson light domain didn't expand.

Vaan was quite confident in the sturdiness of the black pillar. But after learning about the Asura Law, he was not so much anymore. Whether Abaddon could destroy the black pillar remained to be seen.

However, based on his estimate, he had about thirty minutes until the small shifts in the black pillar left a slight opening of the crimson light domain, connecting the two realms.

'Half an hour... What can I do to increase our chances of survival and victory?' Vaan mused.

Although Hecate had warned him not to face Abaddon, he had no choice but to do so. There wasn't a single person on their side who could stand up to Abaddon's power.

He was aware that abandoning the imperial capital and waiting for Hecate's arrival was the most logical choice for survival.

However, he also found it unacceptable.

He had already become everyone's pillar of support. He couldn't disappoint them or abandon them. Thinking back on it, his old self would be quite surprised by his choice; he was living for things other than himself.

Nevertheless, the best future couldn't always be obtained through safe measures, and the best growth could only be found through trials and tribulations.

After a moment, Vaan decided his course of action.

"Thank you for your assistance, Lady Ophelia. However, you should leave this area now. Great Devil Abaddon will most likely descend in another half an hour," Vaan informed.

"What will you do?" Ophelia asked with surprise, vaguely sensing something.

"Whatever I can to buy time until Lady Hecate arrives," Vaan said before turning to Narvim. "I'll be counting on you to keep Lady Ophelia safe, Lord Narvim. She is crucial for keeping in contact with Lady Hecate."

"Understood, Supreme Leader. You can leave that to it," Narvim acknowledged.

Shortly after, Vaan relayed the news of Abaddon's inevitable descent to Emperor Varan, Henrietta, Astoria, and Dragon Lord Astarot and had them withdraw their forces to a safe distance away from the black pillar.

No one knew how the following battle would turn out, but its magnitude would be much greater once Abaddon descended.

"Vaan, if there's no other way, I will borrow my master's power to deal with Abaddon once and for all," Henrietta promised.

Vaan paused before glancing at her with a frown, asking, "And what kind of price do you have to pay for that?"

"..." Henrietta remained silent, unable to answer.

"Don't worry. That time won't come," Vaan calmly smiled and patted Henrietta's shoulders, reassuring her, "I will make sure of it."

On the side, Astoria couldn't help but clench her fist, feeling powerless. She lacked both trump cards and power to help Vaan carry his burdens. She was too weak!

'I need more power!' Astoria cried in her heart.

Rumble...!

The world suddenly shook.

However, it was hard to determine whether it came from the other side of the black pillar or the world itself.

...

After giving the united forces some instructions, Vaan used his remaining time to pay a secret visit to the treasuries of the top families in the imperial capital.

"Stop! You can't be here! This is the private property of the Goldleaf family! Ah, you can't do that! That belongs to the Goldleaf family! Stop, please!

The family head will kill me!" a Goldleaf guard protested, knowing he wasn't Vaan's match.

He could only helplessly watch Vaan break into the Goldleaf family's treasury and loot everything seemingly of value.

"Who cares about a treasury when Great Devil Abaddon is about to descend? There won't be anything to protect if we lose this war. Just blame everything on the vampires," Vaan casually stated.

Shortly after he finished looting, he immediately left for the next family treasury that secretly hoarded Deepsea Silver.

In a short ten minutes, the treasury of seventeen top families was quickly plundered, regardless of objections and protests. Coincidentally, these seventeen families belonged to Duke Zohar and Duke Gamliel's factions.

Secretly possessing Deepsea Steel was a capital offense.

Thus, once it was exposed, the protest against Vaan quickly turned into a pleading to keep the secret from the emperor.

"I'm plundering your treasury. You're not going to stop me anymore?"

"Hahaha, what plundering? You speak too seriously, Lord Pendragon. We are willing to gift everything to you! Please, by all means, take whatever you want. Hahaha..."

"Then, why are you crying?"

"Crying? No, no, no... These aren't tears of sadness; these are tears of joy! I'm just happy someone is so kind to take such dangerous goods off my hands, hahaha..." a family head said despite looking extremely reluctant to part with everything.

Nevertheless, Vaan accumulated over ten tons of Deepsea Steel, including many more rare minerals, magical plants, and sea monster materials.

"Don't worry. If we win this war against Abaddon, your contributions will be remembered, and you will all be hailed as heroes in the future," Vaan casually stated.

"That's great and all, but... Never mind..." the family head sighed.

...

Time ticked, and eventually, what was bound to come, came.

Boom!

Under another powerful impact, the black pillar tilted again, causing a triangular beam of crimson light from the dimensional crack to emerge on its side.

The path between the two realms had been opened once again, albeit a small one.

Moments later, a dark figure emerged from the opening on the side of the black pillar, blocking some of the crimson light shining through from the other side.

Given the figure's casual movement under the black pillar's suppressive power, Vaan didn't need to guess who it was.

Great Devil Abaddon has descended!

Abaddon swept his studying gaze across the foreign land before him. Due to his high vantage point, he could see much of the imperial capital's southern half.

The mountains of vampire corpses near the foot of the black pillar immediately made him frown.

However, he didn't find it surprising, considering the first and second vampire armies had their path of retreat sealed off.

Swish!

Vaan boldly appeared within Abaddon's line of sight but kept a safe distance between them.

"You're the Soul Master?" Abaddon's frown deepened.

Chapter 762: Water Illusion

Abaddon heard that the human Soul Master was a Peak Demigod. Thus, when he saw Vaan, he was already 90% certain he was the human Soul Master mentioned to him.

The 10% doubt was due to Vaan's Celestial Dragonwolf form.

Nevertheless, before Vaan was given a chance to respond, he was immediately bombarded with blood and dark spears, each targeting every inch of his body.

In a mere instant, Vaan's body was skewered into a porcupine-like state by hundreds of blood and dark spears.

However, Abaddon didn't feel the slightest relief from killing Vaan as he sensed his attacks meeting little resistance. It didn't feel right, given Vaan's fleshly defense must be far tougher than ordinary human flesh. In fact, it felt like stabbing the surface of a water body.

It didn't take long before he got his answer.

The porcupine-like Vaan deformed, losing resemblance to a living being as it turned into a large puddle of clear water on the ground.

The skewered body had not been Vaan's true self but merely his projection on a body of water. However, the level of attention to detail made his water projection look no different from being his true self.

After all, the water projection wasn't just shown from one side but from all sides and angles, and it had fluid movements matching his own.

It could have been considered a water clone if not for its lack of combat power. As such, it was only a water mimic at best.

Nevertheless, it was still good enough to trick Abaddon.

Even Abaddon did not feel good about attacking a fake body. It immediately reminded him of his frustrating battle with Hecate.

"Another trickster, huh?" Abaddon uttered gloomily.

However, just as he said that, multiple spatial rifts opened before more bodies of Vaan stepped out. Moreover, they all gave him smug, contemptuous looks like they were looking at a fool.

A large vein immediately protruded on the corner of Abaddon's face.

Even though Abaddon knew they were most likely all fake, he could not stand such blatant disrespect and insolence in front of him.

How dare they look down on him?

Pip, pip, pip!

Abaddon casually struck down every copy with a blood spear through each head.

However, the blood spear only briefly deformed the body of water before it reformed Vaan's image. At the same time, the blood spears disappeared into the space rift behind them.

For their destinations...

Puchi!

"Arghh!"

Abaddon suddenly yelped in pain, finding several dozen blood spears impaled in his back. His blood immediately boiled with anger, knowing he had struck himself.

"You cunning little rat... I'll kill you!! Show yourself!" Abaddon roared furiously.

Another three dozen copies of Vaan emerged from newly formed space rifts before they lunged at Abaddon, surprising him. He didn't expect them to move on the offense.

They weren't the same copies as the ones made from Hecate's illusory power. Upon further study, they didn't seem as real and lacked attacking power.

Since they lack attack power, moving on the offense was pointless... unless the real one was hidden among them!

Abaddon immediately narrowed his eyes and singled out a copy that seemed different. He swiftly grabbed it single-mindedly as it came at him, ignoring the rest.

At the same time, Vaan seemed to have sensed the danger as he halted his advancement to retreat.

However, he reacted too slowly and fell into Abaddon's grasp.

Although Abaddon felt his hand passing through a thin layer of water, he also came in contact with solid clothes right after.

"I got you now, you little bastard!" Abaddon roared heartily, giving a hard pull.

However, in that exact instant, he also felt an equal tugging force on his back, pulling him away.

Abaddon's eyes instantly widened in surprise. He realized his hand had passed through an inconspicuous pocket-size spatial portal and grabbed himself. At the same time, Vaan gave him a disdainful look before deforming into a puddle of water.

Abaddon thought he had caught Vaan's true body, but it was just another water copy that looked a little more real than the rest!

He was fooled again!

Nevertheless, Abaddon didn't have time to be angry. He felt some slight threat coming from the rest of the three dozen copies as they lunged at him with different attacks – Some manipulated fireballs, some controlled wind blades, and some fired water bullets.

The copies might be fake, but the power of laws was very real!

Unfortunately, such a pitiful amount of law power was far from enough for Abaddon to take seriously—at least, that was what he wanted to believe.

However, the slight sense of threat he felt couldn't be wrong.

As such, Abaddon immediately covered himself in a blood field, protecting his body from all angles.

Rumble...!

Several dozen attacks quickly bombarded the blood field.

Whether they were fireballs, wind blades, or water bullets, they all dissipated after striking the blood field. Such was a natural result, according to Abaddon's expectation.

However, his eyes once again widened in surprise, discovering dozens of tiny holes in his blood field.

Some unknown power was actually corroding his blood field!

It took Abaddon a moment before associating it with the Death Law. Only the Death Law could be so silent and subtle yet deadly effective against his Blood Law!

After Abaddon reinforced his blood field, the growing holes became negligible. They couldn't reach him.

Ultimately, there was too big of a difference in the power level between Abaddon and Vaan.

Even so, if Abaddon had been a little more careless and underestimating of Vaan, he might have been slightly harmed. If that happened, it would have been a colossal joke, a stain Abaddon could never wipe clean.

How could a Peak Demigod hurt a Peak Rank 6 Divine Being?

Nevertheless, Abaddon had to admit Vaan was extremely talented. He was so young yet already so skillful with so many laws—just what to expect of a Soul Master!

Truly a person too dangerous to be left alive.

"Enough!" Abaddon roared, eyes glimmering with intense crimson light.

Asura Domain!

The surrounding space suddenly turned dark, crimson, and heavy with killing intent and blood lust. The atmosphere felt so suffocating that even the other laws were suppressed.

As such, Vaan failed to maintain his power of laws within the affected area, and all his copies shattered at once.

'So this is the Asura Law? Truly overbearing,' Vaan smacked his lips.

Chapter 763: Moonside

Asura Law...

The publicly undisputed ultimate fighting law in Chaos – Not only could it enhance the user's combat prowess, but it also suppressed all other laws.

Nevertheless, this Origin Law was also like a double-edged sword.

When Abaddon summoned the Asura Domain, Vaan immediately felt his accumulated malice and sins. It was like countless billions of tormented souls had been shackled to it, screaming for freedom and release.

However, Abaddon would never grant them such wishes; the more he killed, the stronger he grew,

A normal person would have succumbed to their guilt and sins, but not Abaddon.

"Come out, Soul Master! If you don't come out, I will start killing everyone dear to you! I will wipe out entire countries and slaughter every last human if that is what it takes to find you!" Abaddon threatened.

Crackle...!

Moments later, a space rift split open in the air before Vaan emerged. His appearance was immediately met with another one of Abaddon's fatal blood spears.

However, Vaan's body also burst into another puddle of water.

Given Abaddon's blatant malice and killing intent directed at him, Vaan knew there weren't any chances of talking or reasoning. The other party would kill as soon as they were given the opportunity.

As such, he also wouldn't foolishly hand himself out on a silver platter.

Nevertheless, Abaddon's gloominess intensified.

Having fallen for Vaan's tricks multiple times, Abaddon already knew Vaan wasn't easy to catch despite possessing the overwhelming power to destroy him.

Abaddon would only be chasing shadows unless Vaan decided to fight him head-on.

"Of course, a little rat like you wouldn't dare to come out and face me. However, you have also exposed your weakness," Abaddon coldly stated with disdain.

"You are buying time to protect these humans. Perhaps some of them are even important to you. I wonder if you will continue to hide away when I am killing every last one of them—!"

Abaddon was about to depart for the densest group of humans when a large spatial portal opened, followed by Vaan's cold laughter on the other side.

"Hahaha! I expect no less from a devil. Even with absolute strength, you resort to underhanded means to force out a mere Demigod. I wonder if you feel proud of yourself? The other Great Devils must be looking down on you, hahaha!"

"Since you are so pathetic, I will give you a chance to find me. I am on the other side of this portal. If you enter, you will likely find me. But then again, you are too much of a disappointment for a Great Devil. I doubt you dare."

Abaddon's fury and gloominess continued to intensify even further. However, he took a moment to study the large spatial portal in the sky.

A boundless sea of stars and a lone white moon could be seen on the other side. Evidently, it had to be somewhere in outer space.

After knowing that, Abaddon concluded it was a trap.

Although the cruel environment of the void wouldn't be able to harm him, it would still be a great inconvenience if he was sent far away and allowed the humans to buy more time.

"Kekeke, do you think I am a fool? You are just trying to trick me and buy more time. If so, why would I fall for it? I prefer to kill humans to force you out," Abaddon chuckled sinisterly.

"Hehehe, if only doing so would actually force me out," Vaan calmly replied from the other side of the portal.

"Abaddon, you say you are not a fool, but you have already fallen for multiple of my tricks. Between us, you are definitely the fool, not me. And since I am not a fool, what makes you confident that I would come out to stop you from killing other humans?"

"It is true that they are my weaknesses, but what good will it do for me to come out? I don't have the power to stop you. Since I am powerless to change that, why would I risk my life doing something pointless? Do you think someone intelligent and vengeful like me will do that?"

"I'll tell you what – I can't protect them now, but I can definitely kill you in the future, Abaddon! I have already given you a chance. It's up to you whether to take it!" Vaan coldly stated.

Abaddon coldly snorted, unable to retort.

Shortly after, Abaddon stubbornly dashed toward the dense human group in the distance. But at the same time, Vaan's large portal started shrinking.

In that short instant, Abaddon's expression changed. He immediately changed his mind and turned around, diving straight through the closing portal with impeccable timing.

The portal disappeared along with all traces of Abaddon and Vaan.

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Abaddon found himself floating in the void with a beautiful white moon ahead. However, he didn't have the heart to enjoy its pretty sight as gloom shrouded his heart.

Killing humans was something he could do anytime.

On the other hand, if he let the Soul Master escape, his days would be numbered. Furthermore, he wouldn't be able to sleep peacefully during those days.

As such, he had no choice but to chase the Demigod Human, knowing he was walking into a trap.

"Little rat, where are you hiding?! You better not have tricked me again!" Abaddon bellowed.

Despite the vacuum of space having nothing to carry sound, Abaddon's empowered voice still traveled far and wide through the void.

It was seemingly backed by the power of law.

Nevertheless, Abaddon's calling was quickly greeted with a flame arrow zooming in from several tens of thousand meters away.

Although the flame arrow carried the destructive force to annihilate any Peak Demigod, such pitiful power was nothing in front of Abaddon.

Pish!

With a cold snort, Abaddon casually slapped the flame arrow away like he was shooing away flies.

Afterward, he immediately flew toward the starting point of the flame arrow's appearance, which came from around the moon.

"Is this where you want to play? You are more foolish than I thought. True, this place is the domain of space. However, it is also the domain of darkness!"

Abaddon quickly shot around the moon to see where Vaan was hiding.

However, what awaited him was an enormous dark hole on the surface of the moon. As for Vaan, he was nowhere to be seen.

Rumble...!

'Something is coming!'

Abaddon's gaze immediately turned serious, sensing something emerging from the moon's abyss.

Chapter 764: Abaddon's Dismay

Abaddon scrutinized the abyss on the surface of the moon but failed to see through its veil of infinite darkness. Even though he had perfect night vision, he still couldn't see the bottom of the hole.

Just as he moved closer to check, he finally saw what was emerging from the moon's abyss – It was an enormous moving body of earth.

Roar!

The pure earth elemental worm roared, causing the surrounding space to tremble like frail glass on the verge of shattering.

'What the...!'

Abaddon immediately retreated several thousand meters back, eyes widened in shock at the thing before him.

"What kind of earth elemental is this?!" Abaddon exclaimed.

He was instantly taken aback by the powerful spacequake the pure earth elemental worm generated.

However, he soon realized it was only an Early Rank 6 Divine Being.

The spacequake made the pure earth elemental worm appear more powerful than it seemed. But since it was only an Earth Rank 6 Divine Being, he had nothing to fear.

"Is this your trump card, human?" Abaddon uttered with contempt.

After the pure earth elemental worm locked onto Abaddon's figure, it instantly pursued him in a frenzied state, greatly attracted by his powerful blood energy.

Abaddon immediately narrowed his eyes.

"You dare challenge me? Know your place, worm!" Abaddon thundered, eyes shimmering with a dark glow.

Darkness swiftly surged into the area, weaving around the pure earth elemental worm's colossal body like a web cocoon.

"Die!"

Abaddon clenched his fist.

The dark cocoon immediately shrunk in that instant, crushing the pure earth elemental worm caught within its countless threads of darkness.

Bits of grounded rocks and soil oozed out of the tiny gaps while the rest of its earthen body was either diced up by the constriction or compressed to the limits. It was reduced to a fifth of its original size.

Although it still seemed whole, it had already been diced into thousands of pieces. Only the constricting threads of darkness held it together.

After the darkness dissipated, the pure earth elemental worm slowly floated apart.

However, the pure earth elemental worm quickly reformed its broken body moments later. All its missing parts were returned to their original place and state within seconds and didn't seem to have been damaged in the first place.

Shortly after, the pure earth elemental worm resumed its pursuit of Abaddon.

"What!"

Abaddon's eyes widened in surprise, not expecting the pure earth elemental worm to survive such an attack.

Divine-rank elemental spirits were immune to physical attacks but not magic, let alone the power of law, which, in a sense, was a stronger form of magic. As such, the Divine-rank earth spirit should have been destroyed by the Darkness Law.

However, the reality was quite different from his expectations.

'A variant species?' Abaddon suspected.

Nevertheless, variant or not, the earthworm was just a little more tenacious than normal Divine-rank elemental spirits. It would still die once its energy was exhausted.

Abaddon quickly followed up with another darkness attack – an enormous spear of darkness. It was immediately hurled at the earthworm's mouth shortly after forming.

Since the last attack failed to destroy the earthworm from the outside, Abaddon intended to destroy it from the inside next.

However, a large spatial portal suddenly appeared between the two. It immediately swallowed the spear of darkness before disappearing. The moment it did, Abaddon felt a sense of danger from behind.

"This trick again?" Abaddon uttered gloomily.

Abaddon blew away the spear of darkness with an equal opposing power of darkness he had gathered in an instant.

However, in the next instant, his figure soon disappeared into the gaping maw of the colossal pure earth elemental worm. He was quickly greeted with thousands of razor-sharp teeth threatening to tear his body apart.

However, under the protection of the Darkness Law, the pure earth elemental worm failed to break Abaddon's defense.

From the outside, Vaan silently observed the situation from an obscured location among the floating space debris. After watching the earthworm swallow Abaddon, his expression remained unchanged.

He knew the pure earth elemental worm was not enough to deal with Abaddon.

Just as Vaan expected, the pure earth elemental worm's colossal body soon exploded from the inside out, sending its huge masses of earthly debris shooting into the depths of the dark void.

At the same time, Abaddon emerged from within, eyes sharply scanning the dark surroundings in search of Vaan.

"Come out! I know you are hiding around here!" Abaddon barked.

Nevertheless, he didn't have time to continue searching for Vaan as he noticed the pure earth elemental worm reforming itself, albeit at a slower pace.

The speed of its reform did not change, but it took longer due to its body parts being further away. That said, not all of its body parts returned to become one whole with its main body again. They were blown too far away to be recalled.

However, parts of the moon were quickly absorbed to make up for the missing parts.

"Still not dead? Truly tenacious," Abaddon frowned.

Following Abaddon's displeased look, the pure earth elemental worm was destroyed another six times through different means of attack. Each time it reformed, Abaddon became more and more surprised.

Even after he used the Asura Law, Abaddon still failed to slay the pure earth elemental worm.

"What the hell is this thing?! Why won't you die!? What the fuck do you want from me?! You're just a damn worm!" Abaddon cursed with dismay.

The pure earth elemental worm was like a piece of shit he couldn't get rid of once he stepped on it. No matter how many times its body was destroyed, it would reform itself and pursue.

"Piss off!" Abaddon roared, increasingly furious and annoyed.

Abaddon became so preoccupied with the pure earth elemental worm that he seemingly forgotten about Vaan.

Meanwhile, Vaan continued to lurk nearby, observing in silence.

Abaddon's cultivation was dropped to the ninth stage of the Divine Blood Realm after he descended into Pangea. But after following him to the sea of stars, it rose back up to the tenth stage of the Divine Blood Realm.

The worldly suppression was only limited to the Pangea planet and didn't extend outside of it.

Although Vaan was aware he had to face Abaddon at his full strength in the sea of stars, it was necessary if he wanted to make use of the pure earth elemental worm to delay him.

And by the looks of it, his plan was quite effective.

Abaddon felt like his authority was being challenged by the pure earth elemental worm's relentless pursuit and refusal to die.

Chapter 765: Quasi-Fourth Dimensional Being

It had been some time since Vaan last visited the moon.

Last time, he could only reach it after three hours of travel. But now that his Spatial Law had advanced by leaps and bounds since that time, it only took him an instant to reach it.

Originally, it would have taken him four months of space travel to reach the asteroid field region and eight months for a round trip. However, that time estimation had also been reduced to roughly eighteen minutes one way and thirty-six minutes for a round trip.

What seemed unreachable once was now within his sights.

It was incredible that advancing his Spatial Law by twelvefold would result in a nearly eleven-thousandfold increase in distance coverage.

Nevertheless, being able to do this much should be expected of him, considering his comprehension of the Spatial Law was on par with Second-stage Rank 6 Divine Beings.

Stellar travel was expected of Rank 6 Divine Beings, and those specialized in the Spatial Law should be the best at it.

If there was a chance, Vaan definitely wanted to visit the asteroid field region to look for opportunities and treasures. But before that, he had to deal with Abaddon and the Evernight Territory.

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[Target's information]

Name: N/A

Race: Earth Spirit Worm (Quasi-Fourth-Dimensional Being)

Age: Over one million Pangean Years

Existence Level: First-stage Rank 6 Divine Being

Abilities: [Magnetic Field Generation] [Earth Manipulation] [Gravity Control] [Eternal Spirit]
[Organic Devourer]

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After obtaining the Fourth Dimensional Sense, Vaan was able to learn more about the pure earth elemental worm. Not only that, he could also see its true form.

All this while, Abaddon had only been destroying the Earth Spirit Worm's third-dimensional form.

Unless the core of the Earth Spirit Worm's fourth-dimensional aspect was destroyed, it wouldn't be killed—no matter how many times its third-dimensional form was shattered into oblivion.

However, Abaddon could not perceive the fourth dimension, let alone interact with it. Thus, he was fated to never be able to kill the Earth Spirit Worm.

That said, it was still interesting to watch Abaddon making the attempts.

Each time Vaan saw the Earth Spirit Worm blown apart, the shattering of its earthen parts was like that of breaking an outer shell; the inner main body remained unaffected.

Furthermore, this inner main body was like the invisible Outer Beings he had seen in his past-life memories. It could hardly be seen and even harder to interact with.

However, Vaan didn't find this strange.

It was like trying to fit a whole apple into a single point on a straight line that had just been drawn on paper. Furthermore, that single point on the straight line hosted an entire universe of its own.

Physically, the apple couldn't be there, and yet it was.

As a quasi-fourth-dimensional being, the Earth Spirit Worm was like that apple. Its main body existed in a different dimension parallel to the third physical dimension, except a small part was more connected to the third-dimensional world than normal fourth-dimensional beings.

What Vaan didn't understand was how the quasi-fourth-dimensional being came to be.

Considering his chaosverse didn't have Chaos's protection as it still existed outside of it, it was no surprise that Outer Beings could invade it.

However, how was the quasi-fourth-dimensional being created?

Was it the offspring of those Outer Beings? Why wasn't it a complete fourth-dimensional being if that was the case?

Of course, Vaan never considered the possibility of a fourth-dimensional being with a third-dimensional being copulating to create it.

The sheer thought of it was borderline ridiculous.

Vaan thought of several other plausible explanations for the Earth Spirit Worm's existence, but he could only look into it another time.

If there was an opportunity to kill Abaddon, then there was no need to wait until Hecate arrived.

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Abaddon destroyed the Earth Spirit Worm's physical form over fifty times before realizing it was pointless to continue since he understood it couldn't be killed.

But at the same time, if he didn't do so, it would continue to harass him.

During this time, Vaan also sneak-attacked Abaddon several times without exposing himself.

The cumulative frustration eventually made Abaddon erupt in anger.

"Human! Do you know nothing better than these cheap tricks?! Where is your honor? Come out and face me openly!" Abaddon barked.

"And where is the honor in a Peak Rank 6 Divine Being picking on a Peak Demigod? You are truly shameless," Vaan's voice oscillated from several locations created with pocket portals, obscuring the source.

Abaddon didn't feel ashamed, but his face did grow colder.

"Hmph! Do you think I can't find you if you keep hiding?" Abaddon snorted.

Shortly after sealing the Earth Spirit Worm with darkness, Abaddon quickly sent pulses of darkness surging outwards to scan his surroundings.

After a moment, he immediately manipulated his power of darkness to hurl the Earth Spirit Worm in the direction of an inconspicuous-looking space debris.

Boom!

Space debris shattered into smaller fragments upon impact with the Earth Spirit Worm's colossal body.

However, Vaan had already escaped with spatial shift.

Even so, he left some traces of his movements, causing Abaddon to lock onto his spatial coordinates. He immediately shot a beam of darkness in that direction, eyes gleaming with killing intent.

Puchi!

"I found you—Arghh!" Abaddon suddenly cried in pain.

Although he had launched a fatal strike at Vaan, it was immediately redirected with a portal and struck him in the back.

"How many times have you fallen for that same trick? Haven't you learned by now?"

Following Vaan's ridicule, the Earth Spirit Worm launched itself back at Abaddon, which further pissed him off.

As for Vaan's insulting remark, he had no comment.

Only he knew how impeccably timed and precise the redirected attacks were. It took far more than skills and couldn't be replicated by just any spatial user.

Sure, they could also open portals to redirect his attacks. However, it wouldn't be so impossibly difficult to dodge like this. The person also had foresight and swift reflexes.

Abaddon wouldn't give Vaan the benefit of being triggered by his provocations.

The only way to deal with Vaan's spatial tricks was to render them ineffective. Abaddon felt his pride hurt that he had to expend so much effort to deal with such a weak Soul Master.

"Your playtime ends here, Human," Abaddon coldly declared.

Asura Domain!

Chapter 766: Boom Baby

Shortly after Abaddon's Asura Domain spread out and covered a large region of space around himself, it became impossible for Vaan to repeat the same trick on him.

He wouldn't be able to create space portals within the crimson domain.

More importantly, if he found himself caught in it, it would also be difficult for him to escape with his life.

Entering Abaddon's Asura Domain was akin to a prey getting stuck in spiderwebs.

Fortunately, Vaan had the Earth Spirit Worm to distract Abaddon. Between them, Abaddon was definitely the more appetizing target due to the powerful blood energy contained within his body.

Boom!

The Earth Spirit Worm tried to swallow Abaddon in one bite, but the latter shifted to its side and shattered its entire head with a single smack.

Glaring red, seemingly diabolical runes coursed around Abaddon's body like an energy circuit, granting him unparalleled physical might, among other yet-to-be-discovered benefits.

These red runes were formed from the Asura Law.

"I am done with you! Don't get in my way!" Abaddon snorted at the disintegrated Earth Spirit Worm before sweeping the surroundings for Vaan.

After detecting his location, Abaddon immediately shot at him at an incredible speed. Red runes formed at the soles of his feet as he stepped on them and thrust himself forward.

Abaddon crossed several thousand meters of empty space like he was sprinting on solid ground.

At the same time, the Asura Domain followed him, suppressing other laws in the area.

Vaan narrowed his eyes, sensing the imminent danger.

The Asura Domain had been cast out like a big spiderweb, locking down the space. Going around it was possible, but going through it was suicide.

The spatial shift would be canceled midway when it intersected with the Asura Domain.

Nevertheless, Vaan's Spatial Law had huge distance coverage. With a single jump, he appeared 300 kilometers to the left. With another leap, he passed Abaddon and made it behind the reforming Earth Spirit Worm.

However, Abaddon followed him in hot pursuit.

"I've locked onto you now! You can run, but you can't hide!" Abaddon boasted as he charged at Vaan, not putting the Earth Spirit Worm in his eyes.

However, if Vaan truly wanted to lose him, Abaddon would never be able to catch up to him—not unless he was also proficient in the Law of Space.

"Out of my way!" Abaddon barked.

The Earth Spirit Worm had only just finished reforming when it was smacked into pieces again.

Meanwhile, Abaddon's vicious smile grew increasingly confident as he closed in on Vaan despite knowing he would escape with another spatial shift.

Abaddon knew Vaan was buying time, but it was also more advantageous for him the longer the battle dragged out due to the vast difference in their cultivation.

"Run! Keeping running! I want to see how long you can keep running! You don't attack but only run to conserve your soul force! However, after running for so long, I wonder how much soul force you have left?!" Abaddon howled.

Nevertheless, Vaan remained calm despite the overwhelming odds against him. He continued to flee from Abaddon while the Earth Spirit Worm lagged behind.

Suddenly, Vaan took out a piece of space debris from his Heaven-Swallowing Space and hurled it at Abaddon.

Its speed was incredibly swift. Coupled with Abaddon charging straight at it, the potential impact force of their collision instantly reached a terrifying level.

Unfortunately, the space debris was not sturdy enough to threaten Abaddon's life, let alone harm him in any way.

It was immediately weakened under the Asura Domain's effects and smashed into powder with a single slap. Nevertheless, some debris powder still got into Abaddon's eyes and irritated him.

"Is that the best you got?!" Abaddon thundered.

In response, Vaan hurled several dozen more space debris at Abaddon, each perfectly calculated to collide with him. At the same time, he studied how the Asura Domain affected the space debris.

After collecting sufficient data, Vaan willed, 'Time to work, Tia.'

'Kyu!' Topaz answered excitedly.

After a long period of idleness, it was finally time for her to shine. She immediately supplied Vaan with mana, allowing him to use her exclusive abilities through their Spirit Contract.

Earth Manipulation!

Earth Transmutation!

When Vaan absorbed Varuna's memories and acquired Peak Demigod-level comprehension of the Wind Law and Water Law, he also gained everything he needed to craft weapons of mass destruction by himself.

With the power of space, fire, earth, wind, water, and raw materials readily found in his Heaven-Swallowing Space, if he still couldn't create a hydrogen bomb, then he was truly incompetent.

Each part of the two-stage thermonuclear warhead was created simultaneously under Vaan's powerful multi-tasking mind.

Tamper formed!

Boosting formed!

Hollow core formed!

Fusion fuel formed!

Sparkplug formed!

Reflective casting formed!

After every component was created, they were fitted like pieces of a puzzle coming together to form a complete picture.

Within minutes, the second-generation nuclear warhead was created!

If not for the time limit of Earth Transmutation, Vaan would have stocked up on hydrogen bombs beforehand instead of creating them amid battle.

After all, they would become useless when the transmuted earthly materials returned to their original states. There was even a risk of it exploding, ruining everything within his Heaven-Swallowing Space.

Although Abaddon witnessed Vaan creating the hydrogen bomb, he had no idea what it was or what he intended to do with it.

More importantly, Abaddon did not sense a hint of threat from it since no active reaction was currently happening inside it.

However, it didn't take long before he found out as Vaan sent the fifty-kilogram hydrogen bomb his way.

Kinetic Energy Manipulation!

Wind Authority!

Water Authority!

Earth Manipulation!

Vaan used his abilities and power of law to detonate his boom baby remotely—just as it was about to contact the Asura Domain.

"Hahaha, what the hell is this? Do you think this block of metal will do any better—" Abaddon's smug look abruptly froze.

In that instant, he suddenly sensed terrifying amounts of energy being generated within the 'block of metal' he had just viewed with contempt and finally felt the danger it posed.

However, it happened so quickly that it left him little time to react.

Ka-boom!!!

Chapter 767: High Alchemy

The hydrogen bomb was a second-generation nuclear weapon that comprised two stages, using fission power to trigger nuclear fusion. As such, its explosive power was hundreds to thousands of times stronger than an atomic bomb, which solely used nuclear fission power.

At its core, its peak energy output would reach 100 million degrees Celsius, four to five times hotter than the sun.

Even the power of Rank 7 Divine Beings would be inferior to such explosive power.

But despite such great explosive power, the nuclear weapons weren't practical in killing Rank 6 Divine Beings, let alone ones that were Rank 7. Its destructive power was too widespread and instantaneous.

Nevertheless, it was still more than enough to give Abaddon the scare of his life.

When Vaan's hydrogen bomb detonated right before the Asura Domain, it lit up like a newborn star, radiating blindingly throughout the space region.

At the same time, the Asura Domain instantly shattered, and the colossal surge of energy blew Abaddon far away—into the gaping maw of the Earth Spirit Worm behind him.

Moments later, Abaddon shattered the Earth Spirit Worm and broke free once more. However, lingering shock and fright colored his face.

Despite being thousands of meters away from the epicenter of the explosion, Abaddon still suffered scorching burns all over his body. His graceful appearance was changed to that of a tormented soul from Purgatory. He looked like a rock golem with lava veins.

The power of the hydrogen bomb was simply too frightening.

Fortunately, its power wasn't focused.

Otherwise, if such explosive power had erupted from within Abaddon's body instead, he would have undoubtedly died even if he had nine lives to spare.

Abaddon couldn't help but re-evaluate Vaan – His mastery of several laws wasn't his greatest strength, but his alchemy knowledge!

"Y-You know High Alchemy!" Abaddon uttered with solemnness and shock.

The recovery of his left arm was already slow due to Hecate's lingering fusion law power. With the addition of nuclear burns, his recovery became even slower.

"High Alchemy? Is that what you call it?" Vaan paused, turning around with a smile. He glanced at Abaddon, who hesitated to pursue him further.

Evidently, after eating one of his boom babies, Abaddon had become apprehensive, not that he found it surprising.

The hydrogen bomb was as powerful as he had imagined.

Nevertheless, in a world of magic, he still considered it to be crudely made. If he could combine science and magic, he would be able to develop a true divine-killing weapon of mass destruction.

Just as Abaddon recovered the courage to hunt, Vaan took out another piece of Deepsea Steel.

Abaddon immediately paused his advance with a wary look.

He also summoned a new Asura Domain to protect himself. The last explosion had struck him from thousands of meters away, and that was enough to inflict lingering surface injuries on him.

Wouldn't he be severely injured or even killed if the next explosion occurred right next to him?

"What's wrong, Abaddon? You look a little pale," Vaan ridiculed with some amusement.

Abaddon gloomily stared at the chunk of radioactive metal and sensed its extraordinariness potential. No doubt, it was the main material for creating that big explosion.

However, extraordinary materials like that had to be quite rare and precious.

"I admit that I have underestimated you and eaten quite the loss," Abaddon acknowledged.

"However, how many more times do you think you can recreate such a powerful explosion? I reckon that piece of metal you have there is quite precious, and there shouldn't be much of it left—"

Before Abaddon finished speaking, he saw Vaan briefly pull out ten tons of Deepsea Steel and stow them back inside his Heaven-Swallowing Space.

"That last explosion only consumed fifty kilograms of Deepsea Steel. I still have over ten tons. Why don't you tell me how many times I can recreate it?" Vaan mentioned slyly.

In truth, even if he had enough Deepsea Steel for two hundred of the same hydrogen bomb, he couldn't create so many at once.

Topaz's mana capacity wasn't high enough to keep up with all of the Earth Transmutation and Earth Manipulation. Almost half of it was already consumed in that last hydrogen bomb.

Thus, he could only create one more until Topaz recovered her mana.

Nevertheless, showing off his collection of Deepsea Steel was more than enough to bluff Abaddon.

Just as Vaan expected, Abaddon was struck speechless by his display of wealth.

However, Abaddon wasn't stupid either. He knew Vaan couldn't recreate the hydrogen bomb two hundred more times even if he had the resources. That said, even if Vaan could recreate it several more times, that would still be enough to deter him.

After all, the explosion had stripped away his Asura Domain, which wasn't easy to maintain, to begin with. Its destruction also consumed a lot of soul force.

If the Asura Domain was destroyed several more times, he might even run out of soul force first!

Suddenly, Abaddon found himself at an impasse.

Since he had offended the Soul Master, he had no choice but to kill before he could grow strong enough to threaten him. However, the problem was that the Soul Master knew High Alchemy and could already threaten.

Once his soul force was exhausted, he wouldn't be able to use the power of law to protect himself.

The next explosion after that would kill him.

It took a moment before Abaddon realized Vaan's Earth Manipulation and Earth Transmutation didn't seem to make use of the Earth Law. But at the same time, it couldn't have been his own magic either.

After all, men couldn't use magic unless they made a certain sacrifice. Even if they did, their cultivation shouldn't be that high...

Just when Vaan thought he had bought himself a substantial amount of time, Abaddon's killing intent suddenly surged.

Once Vaan saw that look, he immediately knew Abaddon had become desperate and more dangerous.

'It should have already been thirty minutes. So, Hecate should have arrived by now, right?' Vaan wondered.

Unfortunately, it was too far away to check on the imperial capital and get an update on the overall situation.

Chapter 768: Persuading the Vampire Lords

Back in the imperial capital, the Fifth Progenitor and Eighth Progenitor watched the dimensional opening after Vaan drew Abaddon away. They were tasked with keeping the rest of the vampires from invading.

Naturally, since there were only two of them, stopping more than two other Vampire Lords was impossible for them, let alone seven.

As such, they had to rely on soft tactics to buy time.

Several minutes passed without a single vampire sighted from the opening atop the slanted black pillar. The Fifth Progenitor and Eighth Progenitor started feeling relieved; they didn't need to confront the other Vampire Lords and could take it easy.

However, they rejoiced a tad too early.

At that moment, the shadow of a Vampire Lord finally emerged from the opening, followed by several more a few breaths later.

Like Abaddon, they took a moment to observe the foreign world from their high vantage point despite their struggles to resist the gravitational pressure. However, struggling under the pressure for a bit longer was better than recklessly charging into unknown danger.

Nevertheless, they were immediately surprised by the absence of battle.

Even Abaddon's presence could not be found in the area. That fact alone made them extremely wary and alarmed regarding the situation of the foreign world.

"Where is the Blood Ancestor? Didn't he enter before us?" the Second Progenitor frowned with doubt.

"The Blood Ancestor undoubtedly entered before us. But as for his location, I do not know... The first and second vampire armies have been wiped out, and the Blood Ancestor is missing... This situation does not look good. We best be careful," the Third Progenitor replied.

Meanwhile, the Fifth Progenitor and Eighth Progenitor recognized that the Second Progenitor was leading the group. They immediately took flight and went to receive them.

"I see the rest of you have decided to descend on this world," the Fifth Progenitor commented, keeping a safe distance from the black pillar's range of suppression while staying in sight of the Vampire Lords.

"Old Fifth, I see you are doing fine. What happened here? Where is the Blood Ancestor? I do not see him anywhere," Celeste Kyran the Seventh inquired, glancing around.

"The Blood Ancestor?" the Fifth Progenitor smiled before saying, "Probably still on a wild goose chase with the Soul Master."

"Did you just say... Soul Master?" Donovan Cromwell the Fourth frowned, feeling startled along with the other Vampire Lords, except for one.

"Oh? You didn't know? It looks like Klaus Albatroz didn't tell you why he woke you up, either. He withheld important information from us in hopes of using us to deal with the Soul Master! I don't think I need to remind you just what kind of existence a Soul Master is," the Fifth Progenitor stated, his expression turning increasingly cold.

"Is that true, Old Second?" Rosalie Orpheus the Ninth sought confirmation from the Second Progenitor.

However, the Second Progenitor remained silent on the matter.

Even so, under the increasing pressure of his peers' gazes, he eventually admitted, "That's right! But, so what? Did you die? No? I didn't think so. You have not faced the Soul Master, and the Blood Ancestor even acted first, saving you that trouble!"

"Instead of judging me, you should be thanking me! If I didn't wake you all up, do you all think you would have the chance to walk under the sun again? Don't forget that we are not that close."

"We wouldn't be working together if we didn't have a common enemy!" the Second Progenitor criticized, seemingly assuming a righteous stance.

However, his words only received the Vampire Lords' scoffs of contempt.

"Say whatever you want, Klaus Albatroz, but I will remember your unkind intentions," the Fifth Progenitor laughed coldly, adding, "Even though I don't agree with most of the things you said, you did get one thing right – I should thank you."

"Although you almost screwed me over, you did give me the opportunity to join the Soul Master's side."

Shortly after the Fifth Progenitor said that, the Vampire Lords' minds blanked momentarily.

"What did you just say, Old Fifth? You joined the Soul Master's side...?" Aleister Sanguine the Tenth repeated doubtfully.

"You heard me," the Fifth Progenitor acknowledged and said, "I have joined the Soul Master's side, and now I am here to give you the same opportunity."

"The Blood Ancestor initiated this war; it has nothing to do with you—at least not yet. You have not participated and killed anyone yet. As such, the Soul Master is not your enemy yet."

"However, he will be if you continue to serve the Blood Ancestor. Do you understand? The Blood Ancestor will undoubtedly die, but you don't have to go down with him. You can join the Soul Master's side like me and Old Eighth," the Fifth Progenitor persuaded.

"Don't be fooled by his honeyed words of deception!" the Second Progenitor laughed coldly before saying, "The Soul Master is only a Peak Demigod! No matter how much of a heaven-defying existence he is, he can't defeat the Blood Ancestor!"

"Furthermore, you have all absorbed the Blood Ancestor's divine blood! It's impossible to defy the Blood Ancestor!" the Second Progenitor solemnly reminded.

"That's right!" the Ninth Progenitor widened her eyes before raising her doubts, "Old Fifth, you were among the first to clean up your family. In that case, you should have also absorbed the Blood Ancestor's divine blood..."

"What kind of spell did the Soul Master cast on you to speak up for him? Joining the Soul Master's side is meaningless if we can't defy the Blood Ancestor. Instead, we will only earn his wrath."

"Also... A Peak Demigod-level Soul Master? Really? I can't believe you are putting so much faith in such a weak Soul Master," the Ninth Progenitor frowned.

"Hahaha, your doubts are reasonable," the Fifth Progenitor lightly laughed before shaking his head, "However, I am under no spell. Old Eighth and I have been liberated from the Blood Ancestor's control thanks to the Soul Master."

"Not only that, but we have also refined the Blood Ancestor's divine blood, completely making it our own! The Blood Ancestor's divine blood contains the secrets of his cultivation."

"You could say that right now, Old Eighth and I don't have any bottlenecks in our blood cultivation until the tenth stage of the Divine Blood Realm!" the Fifth Progenitor grinned.

What!

Everyone's eyes widened at the shocking claim.

Chapter 769: Persuading the Vampire Lords (2)

Most of the Vampire Lords were immediately tempted by the Fifth Progenitor's claim.

After all, they were 700,000 years behind in their cultivation.

If they could also completely refine the Blood Ancestor's divine blood in their bodies, their path to the tenth stage of the Divine Blood Realm would become smooth and clear.

Who wouldn't want that?

Nevertheless, the Blood Ancestor's power and authority were too great, easily deterring the Vampire Lords from rebelling.

Even if the Soul Master could liberate them and remove their bottlenecks to the tenth stage of the Divine Blood Realm, it was pointless if they couldn't defeat the Blood Ancestor.

Furthermore, if the Blood Ancestor died, they would still enjoy the same benefits.

Thus, there was no need to risk earning the Blood Ancestor's wrath should the Soul Master's side fail.

Nevertheless, the Ninth Progenitor couldn't help but feel curious about the Fifth Progenitor's source of confidence.

"How can you be so sure the Soul Master will prevail over the Blood Ancestor? No matter how you look at it, the Soul Master has no chance of defeating him," the Ninth Progenitor mentioned.

"By himself? Naturally, it wouldn't be possible. But if he had the help of Great Devil Hecate, who the Blood Ancestor has pissed off recently? Definitely possible," the Fifth Progenitor smiled confidently.

"The Soul Master only needs to buy time until Great Devil Hecate arrives, and he is more than capable of this. The Soul Master has comprehended the Spatial Law to a high level; evading the Blood Ancestor until then wouldn't be difficult."

"If you doubt my words, we can just wait and see," the Fifth Progenitor suggested, adding, "After all, the Blood Ancestor isn't here, so none of you are currently under his influence."

The Ninth Progenitor found this agreeable, followed by the Seventh Progenitor and Tenth Progenitor after they thought about it.

Meanwhile, the Fourth Progenitor turned to the Eighth Progenitor, who had not spoken a word.

"Old Eighth, do you also think like Old Fifth?" the Fourth Progenitor inquired with a sharp look.

"Completely, and more. I am different from Old Fifth; I have sworn my loyalty to the Soul Master," the Eighth Progenitor finally spoke.

However, the moment he did, he shocked everyone with his words.

They couldn't believe that the Eighth Progenitor would willingly serve someone with a weaker cultivation than him. Furthermore, they couldn't find any hint of regret from his choice.

In fact, it seemed like the Eighth Progenitor felt honored to be serving the Soul Master. This was something they did not understand.

If it was an experienced and powerful Soul Master they were talking about, then it would be completely understandable. However, it wasn't; it was an inexperienced and weak Soul Master.

Furthermore, this Soul Master was a human, according to the Second Progenitor's understanding.

It was surprising for the Second Progenitor to see the Fifth Progenitor and Eighth Progenitor act this way, especially the Fifth Progenitor.

After all, the Fifth Progenitor had been the most eager to feast in the human world.

However, his attitude has completely changed since then. It seemed the both of them had been humbled after meeting the Soul Master.

But for the Eighth Progenitor to take one step further and serve the Soul Master... It seemed he knew something they didn't.

"Why did you swear your loyalty to the Soul Master, who is only a Peak Demigod? What did you see in him, Old Eighth?" the Fourth Progenitor inquired further.

Of course, the Eighth Progenitor didn't want to share the matter of his damaged divine soul with the Vampire Lords.

Why would he share his weakness with others?

"You really want to know?" the Eighth Progenitor asked seriously, instantly grabbing the other's attention, let alone the Fourth Progenitor's.

"Of course I do."

"Then, I will tell you – It's for my survival and future."

The Eighth Progenitor's vague answer immediately made the Fourth Progenitor and the others frown. This wasn't the answer they were hoping for.

Nevertheless, the Eighth Progenitor wasn't finished after seeing their unsatisfactory looks.

"Serving the Blood Ancestor is something I despise but would still do in order to survive. However, I naturally wouldn't serve the Blood Ancestor if there's a better choice."

"And the Soul Master is the better choice?" the Fourth Progenitor asked.

"Far more than that; he is the future," the Eighth Progenitor replied, continuing, "On the other hand, there is no future with the Blood Ancestor. He has lived for almost 800,000 years but is only a Peak Rank 6 Divine Being."

"This kind of talent can be considered absolute trash in Chaos. He isn't strong because he is talented; he is only strong because he is old. We will be forever suppressed and unable to advance if we serve under him."

"On the other hand, the Soul Master may be young, but his potential is limitless. He will surpass the Blood Ancestor and reach a height we can only look up to. Furthermore, it will be done in a far shorter time."

"If I take the initiative to serve the Soul Master while he is weak, I'll be more valued at his peak. Perhaps my own achievements will quickly surpass the Blood Ancestor too," the Eighth Progenitor stated.

"This seems to explain more about the future aspect but not much about the survival aspect of your choice..." the Fourth Progenitor doubted.

"When do you think the last Realm War was, Old Fourth?" the Eighth Progenitor calmly asked. Without waiting for a reply, he continued, "We have been in forced sleep for 700,000 years. How much time do you think we still have until the next summoning?"

"In that last Realm War, all our Divine Beings either died or went missing. This instantly turned Gehenna into one of the weakest vassal realms under the Skymagia Star Kingdom."

"Without the Seven Sins of the past to lead us, what do you think will be our outcome if we are suddenly thrown into the Realm War now?" the Eighth Progenitor asked.

The Fourth Progenitor and the others couldn't help but shiver at the thought.

Death would be the only outcome.

Chapter 770: Nine Dreamcatchers

While the Vampire Lords had their discussion near the black pillar, the dragon, knight, witch, and warrior forces observed the situation from ten kilometers away.

Although they had retreated ten kilometers from the crimson light domain, they still felt unsafe, especially for Emperor Varan, Henrietta, and the other Transcendent-level seniors.

They could all sense the unfathomable, divine aura emanating from the group of Vampire Lords, and the discovery made their scalps go numb.

It was beyond their imagination that the vampire race had so many Rank 6 Divine Beings. They quickly realized they had only seen the surface of Gehenna; there was still a lot they did not know.

For example, Gehenna's true count of Divine Beings was something they did not know.

If a single Evernight Territory already had so many Rank 6 Divine Beings, then what about the rest of the Great Devils' territories?

Nevertheless, even though the discovery was shocking, it didn't shake their resolve to resist. They already knew defending their independence and freedom from Gehenna wouldn't be easy.

The power of the Seven Great Devils alone made people despair.

Although Emperor Varan didn't know how Vaan won over two of the Vampire Lords, he could only hope they would stop the other Vampire Lords from ravaging the land and people.

"Don't worry, Emperor Varan. If they fail, I will stop them," Henrietta reassured him, knowing what he was concerned about.

However, her words didn't make him feel any better, only more doubtful.

"Can you?" Emperor Varan doubted.

"I can, for a certain price," Henrietta asserted before softly sighing, "However, let us hope it doesn't have to reach that point."

"Right..." Emperor Varan nodded, thinking silently.

If Henrietta had any method of slaying Rank 6 Divine Beings with only Transcendent-level cultivation, the so-called price would be quite steep.

Perhaps her life would be the price to pay.

"Please excuse me now. I shall return to my people."

"Alright."

Shortly after Henrietta returned to the temporary camp designated to the Black Rose Army, Victoria eagerly welcomed her back.

In fact, she was so eager that it made Henrietta feel suspicious and alarmed.

"Hennie, you are back," Victoria beamed with a wide grin.

"Mm, I'm back," Henrietta nodded for a moment before taking a step back in surprise. "W-Why are you looking at me like that? Stop it. You're creeping me out."

"Kukuku, why can't I look at you like this? What's so creepy about this? Why don't I find anything wrong with it?" Victoria retorted playfully, intimately rubbing herself against Henrietta as she doted on her granddaughter-in-law.

However, her intimate actions gave Henrietta the wrong idea. She thought there was something wrong with Victoria's sexual orientation.

"Why don't you take a good look in the mirror and find out then?" Henrietta shrugged, wanting to free herself from Victoria's grasp.

Meanwhile, Astoria walked over from her camp. But after she saw the exchange between Henrietta and Victoria, she immediately paused her step.

It took her a moment to realize something before she turned around and returned to her camp in a hurry, hoping not to get involved.

Nevertheless, Victoria's questionable antics successfully distracted them from worrying about Vaan.

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Gehenna

Somewhere between the Evernight Territory and the Dreamdust Territory, Hecate rushed back to Vladigold City at her quickest speed, taking multiple transference arrays along the way.

However, she did not return alone.

For this trip, she had brought along the three Vampiress Lords and nine Dreamcatchers, whom she had never taken out of her territory.

The nine Dreamcatchers were all Divine-rank Dark Fairies.

Furthermore, they were all in the seventh stage of the Divine Dream Realm, making them Late-stage Rank 6 Divine Beings.

Due to the secrecy of the Dreamdust Territory, their existence had never been known to the outside world. But Hecate willingly brought them out on this expedition to Vladigold City.

Evidently, she placed greater importance on Vaan and her deal with him.

Nevertheless, once the world learned of her Dreamcatchers, everyone would undoubtedly be shocked by their existence. More shockingly, they were all under 10,000 years old, with the youngest among them being just over 5,000 years of age.

It was as if the Dreamdust Territory was screaming with talent; its background couldn't be underestimated.

Of course, Hecate herself was one of the youngest and latest beings to assume the title of Great Devil in Gehenna. She was only over 20,000 years old, just second to Balmodan the Undying, who assumed the position after replacing the Evil Wolf God Kezan.

Before Hecate's ascension to Great Devil, someone else from the Dreamdust Territory had held onto the title.

Although that person neared one million years of age and had mediocre talent, it was undeniable that the Dreamdust Territory had a superior heritage compared to most territories in Gehenna.

At least, that seemed to be the case after Hecate managed the Dreamdust Territory.

"Sigh..."

Hestia Tepes the Eleventh softly sighed as she followed the Dreamcatchers' lead since Hecate rushed ahead and left them far behind.

She didn't expect to be returning to the Evernight Territory so soon after leaving it recently with the Sixth Progenitor and Thirteenth Progenitor.

The changes in the Evernight Territory were happening too quickly.

"Do you have any idea what could tempt the Mistress to return to the Evernight Territory, Lady Hestia?" one of the Dreamcatchers called Seventh Dream suddenly inquired after slowing down to match her pace.

"I'm afraid not, Your Ladyship," Hestia shook her head before saying, "I only know that the Blood Ancestor had initiated a war on one of the big countries of Pangea... It probably has something to do with that."

They were all gathered and left on such short notice that no one really knew why they were rushing to the Evernight Territory.

They were only told to prepare for a big battle.

"I see... Thank you anyway, Lady Hestia," Seventh Dream gratefully expressed with a sweet and lovely voice despite not getting the desired answer.

Hestia was surprised by Seventh Dream's conduct.

Despite possessing a superior cultivation base, Seventh Dream wasn't haughty in front of her.

She was respectful, elegant, and graceful, like the rest of her beautiful peers.

Each of the Nine Dreamcatchers had a beauty that didn't seem inferior to the Seven Calmity Witches of the Nightmare Realm.

The Dark Fairy Tribe was unexpectedly such a pretty race.