

The Witch 821

Chapter 821: Shadowcage Territory

Gehenna, Shadowcage Territory

The Shadow Realm, the Dark Side, the Lightless Domain, the Land of the Dead, and the Bone Graveyard...

The ninth and furthest planet from the Gehenna Star has been known by many names since people learned it belonged to Great Devil Thanatos, the Realm Lord of Gehenna.

Although it was considered one of the seven habitable territories, it was no different from the uninhabitable territories. After all, only Thanatos and his army of the dead resided there; it was not a place for the living.

The Shadowcage Territory itself did not have any atmospheric protection to provide living beings with breathable air. It was just a giant space rock in simple terms.

However, it was extremely rich in mana—far more than the other eight territories combined—due to the existence of the Sea of Darkness, which devoured everything like an insatiable black hole, be it gas, light, or anything else.

No one really knew where everything went once they were devoured.

However, it was undeniable that the Sea of Darkness—no, the Shadowcage Territory—possessed an unimaginable amount of magical energy.

Nevertheless, unless one learned how to breathe in the magical elements of the Shadowcage Territory and convert them into sustenance for the body, like spirits, it was not a place for anyone to live.

That said, even if people knew how to breathe in the magical elements, it was not a place anyone would dare choose to live, either.

After all, while it wasn't as dangerous as the Purpleflame Territory or the Darksea Abyss Territory, it was undoubtedly the most dreadful place to be for living beings born of flesh and blood.

It was the innate fear of living beings to instinctively avoid places of death, let alone one with such an unfathomable amount of death energy like the Shadowcage Territory.

However, today, the Shadowcage Territory received a rare visitor – Great Devil Helcan.

After passing through a great teleportation gate and setting foot on the dark, barren land filled with wooden stakes and stone graves, Helcan took a deep breath before heading to Thanatos's dwelling place—the Sea of Darkness.

Swish...

The deathly silent yet serene land was quickly disturbed by Helcan's footsteps, causing ghastly sharp winds to ravage the region like angry howls of the sleeping spirits, undead, and all that was unholy.

Black mists also seeped out of the ground like steam and accumulated in the area.

The howling winds and gathering black mists affected only Helcan's surroundings. They followed him like a plague as if informing him of his unwelcoming presence.

Further down the path, bone soldiers and rotten corpses clawed their way out of the earth. Vengeful spirits and mindless specters also flickered in and out of sight above their graves like ghostly flames snuffing out by the winds and coming back.

However, as Helcan drew closer with his intimidating divine pressure, the bone soldiers and rotten corpses crawled back into their graves, and the vengeful spirits and mindless specters faded from sight.

Helcan scoffed at their cowardly retreat, thinking these unholy beings had at least the minimum intelligence to know their place.

In truth, Thanatos had commanded them to clear the way.

Otherwise, they would have swarmed Helcan to death or get destroyed trying to do so. Unless Helcan were adept in soul attacks, they would be practically immortal due to the endless death energy permeating the land.

As Helcan drew closer to the dwelling place of Thanatos, he recalled the old legends about the Shadowcage Territory.

Supposedly, the land used to thrive with life in the far ancient past. Hundreds of mortal kingdoms spread across its land.

However, war broke out, and countless dynasties experienced their rise and fall throughout the full course of its history. Eventually, the endless ravages of war consumed everything, leaving behind nothing but ruins.

The accumulated death and hatred during that period cultivated the greatest evil known to the world then.

Nevertheless, it was quickly sealed away in the deepest depths of the Sea of Darkness and has remained a mystery since then. Even the truth behind the formation of the Sea of Darkness was not clear.

There were also old rumors that the previous generation of the Seven Great Devils, the Seven Deadly Sins, obtained their divine powers from the evil sealed away in the Sea of Darkness.

However, Helcan couldn't figure out how much of those rumors were actually true.

'Perhaps Thanatos isn't the real reason why everyone naturally dreads and fears the Shadowcage Territory, but the source of evil sealed away in the depths of the Sea of Darkness...' Helcan thought.

He could feel his soul quivering as he drew closer to the Sea of Darkness.

The Sea of Darkness was only like a black hole due to its insatiable appetite to swallow anything and everything. In terms of its devouring ability and appearance, it shared no resemblance to a black hole whatsoever.

In reality, the Sea of Darkness was more like a vacuum of cosmic proportions.

It was just a whirlpool of endless black mist, and everything caught within its extensive net. Although it could pull things from beyond the Gehenna Star Realm, its devouring force was actually very weak.

Even Rank 3 aerial beings flying over the center of its opening could resist its tugging power.

However, that made it all the more terrifying and eerie – Its weak tug was like a soft call to lure beings into its seemingly bottomless dark abyss.

No one knew if their lives would just be silently robbed away in its calming pull, but it was the natural fear and assumption that steered them far away from it.

And yet, Thanatos made his dwelling abode float right above its central opening.

That wasn't something anyone else, in their mind, could do, let alone sleep in it for most of their days. It was no different from sleeping next to death.

If Thanatos weren't just made of bones, people would definitely say he had nerves or balls of steel.

"Lord Thanatos, Helcan requests an audience," Helcan announced after stopping at the cliff's edge before the Sea of Darkness.

"..."

The floating abode was silent for several breaths before the endless black mist in the Sea of Darkness rumbled and surged out, forming a black bridge connecting it to the cliff's edge.

Helcan glanced at the dark abyss of the Sea of Darkness with dread and fear before looking back up at the floating abode. He felt very conflicted about crossing the black bridge.

Unfortunately, it didn't seem like he had much of a choice if he wanted to meet Thanatos.

"Fuck," Helcan gritted his teeth.

Chapter 822: Wasted Trip

The black bridge was completely constructed with Thanatos's death power.

While Helcan could choose to fly across, he would be disrespecting Thanatos if he refused his invitation gesture. On the other hand, if he did use the black bridge to cross, he would be completely putting his life in Thanatos's hands.

Although he wouldn't plunge into the Sea of Darkness if the black bridge suddenly dispersed during his crossing, it would still give him a great scare.

After all, it had taken him great courage to come to the Shadowcage Territory to see Thanatos. Now that he was actually at the Sea of Darkness, he could feel his soul quivering when he gazed into its bottomless whirlpool of black mist.

Whatever was sealed down there was more frightening than he had imagined.

Nevertheless, after some hesitation, Helcan eventually crossed the black bridge. He didn't believe Thanatos would be bored enough to drop him or kill him.

Swoosh!

The entrance of the floating abode was shortly opened, and a gush of deathly energy rushed out. It swept past Helcan, sticking close to the ground like fog, before drifting into the Sea of Darkness.

Inside the floating abode, Helcan found Thanatos seated on a bone throne.

Apart from that, there was nothing else of interest inside the single-room abode if he were to ignore the bottomless presence of the Death Law.

"The Great Devil Conference only just ended. Why have you come and disturbed my rest, Helcan?" Thanatos asked expressionlessly.

"Are you really fine with letting Vaan Raphna live and become one of us, Lord Thanatos?" Helcan asked.

"You must know that you still hold absolute power. As long as you make a move, Vaan Raphna will undoubtedly die. However, if you leave him be, he will absolutely surpass you and rob your position as the Realm Lord of Gehenna."

"So, let me ask you again. Are you really fine with that, Lord Thanatos?" Helcan pressed.

After a moment of silence, Thanatos indifferently asked, "Do you know what you are saying right now, Hel?"

"The Great Devil Conference has already concluded, and you have also agreed with the collective decision to give Vaan Raphna a chance to become one of us. Yet, here you are, trying to borrow my hands to kill him, which goes against that very decision."

"If you can't provide a satisfactory explanation for this, then you better be prepared to accept the punishment for violating our unanimous decision," Thanatos strictly stated.

As the room's temperature dropped, Helcan immediately felt a chill. He suddenly felt that visiting the Shadowcage Territory and trying to sway Thanatos's mind had been a mistake.

If he really couldn't provide a satisfactory explanation, Thanatos might just execute him on the spot.

Helcan sweated before saying, "I only agreed so we could end the Great Devil Conference early. It was clear that everyone favored making Vaan Raphna one of us. So, if I hadn't done so, it would have dragged on for months or even years."

"How can I give that Great Devil Killer that much time to grow? Gehenna and Pangea perceive time differently. What might seem like a short time for us could actually be a lot of time for Vaan Raphna."

"So, if we really dragged the Great Devil Conference on for months or years, Vaan Raphna might have grown to a level where he didn't need to be wary of us and make concessions for everyone's benefits."

"Soul Masters are unpredictable, so he might really grow that quickly. Thus, in that regard, everyone should thank me for ending the Great Devil Conference early. However, I still believe Vaan Raphna has to be killed. After all, humans are insatiably greedy."

"Even if he becomes one of us, his talent dictates he will greatly surpass us in the future. If we let that day come, we will not remain our peer; we will be his servants or even slaves!"

"All the resources we currently enjoy might even be monopolized by him and those he favors!" Helcan firmly stated.

"Tell me, Lord Thanatos, is that what you want? Hecate painted a pretty picture with her words, but in truth, our authorities will be slowly chipped away if we follow through with her idea!"

"Think about it. Right now, Vaan Raphna is still a nobody we can easily crush. Yet, we have to be mindful of him and suck up to him? Even when he becomes worthy of being our peer, we will still have to be mindful of him and suck up to him."

"Then, once he surpasses us, we still have to do just that! How is that any way for a Great Devil to live? That is slave mentality!" Helcan barked.

Silence shortly filled the room.

After several breaths, Helcan continued, "No matter how great of a potential Hecate said the Soul Master has, that is still the word of an outsider. We are getting swayed by an outsider to let another outsider take away our authority and resources. Do you think that is acceptable, Lord Thanatos?"

"Maybe in the future, all our authority over Gehenna will be in the hands of these outsiders. None of them will belong to us, original residents of Gehenna. Do you see it, Lord Thanatos?"

"Even if Vaan Raphna doesn't kill us when he spreads his wings, he will still rob us of our home and resources for his people."

"How long must we endure before we see the promising future Hecate described?" Helcan asked his final question, feeling slightly breathless.

He spoke whatever truth and bullshit came to mind and eventually ran out of things to say. He could only hope that all of that was considered a satisfactory explanation.

"You've made a valid point. Thus, I will spare you from the death penalty, at least. However, we have already made a decision, so I will not change my mind. Leave now, Helcan. I pursue your violation of the agreement today," Thanatos coolly stated.

Helcan's eyes quickly clouded with gloom, disappointment, and helplessness.

"I understand, Lord Thanatos," Helcan replied faintly.

Even after he said so much, Thanatos wasn't moved in the least. He had truly made a wasted trip.

Shortly after Helcan left, silence and darkness returned to Thanatos's abode, followed by a soft sigh within.

Chapter 823: Helcan's Scheme

Within the solitude of darkness, Thanatos did not resume his slumber after Helcan left. Instead, he sank into deep thoughts.

The things Helcan told him weren't things he had never thought about.

After all, he was the Realm Lord of Gehenna. He wielded the greatest authority in Gehenna and enjoyed the best resources it had to offer. Naturally, even he would feel reluctant to surrender them to someone else.

However, his Death Law wasn't an omnipotent power.

While it seemed like an invincible power, the instant death spell had several weaknesses: It did not work on those who cultivated its opposing law, those with stronger soul force, or those with imperishable souls.

'It is rumored that Soul Masters are born with special Soul Constitutions because they have very impressive past lives, and the speed of their growths are directly related to the height of their past life selves...' Thanatos recalled.

If there were any chance that the Soul Master was at least a True God-level being in any of his past lives, his soul would undoubtedly carry the everlasting trait, making it imperishable.

The Death Law did not work on an Imperishable Soul.

Thanatos could not grant death to something that was immune to death. Of course, he could still kill the mortal body of the Soul Master. However, there was no point if he couldn't slay the soul.

After all, if he failed, he would only be making enemies with a True God-level being, and his days would be numbered.

There was also a chance that his instant death spell would backfire by triggering the Soul Master's Imperishable Soul to awaken his past life memories completely.

The law comprehension of a True God-level being or above was far beyond his reach.

After all, what kind of an existence was a True God-level being?

It was a Rank 11 Divinity.

As such, Thanatos would never take the risk of offending a Soul Master, or even worse, an extremely talented Soul Master.

Nevertheless, the potential risk wasn't the main reason why he chose to stand against the Soul Master.

'Offending a Soul Master is never a good thing, but it doesn't seem to be the source of my dread... No, my dread stems from the name Vaan Raphna...? No, that is not exactly correct, either...'
Thanatos thought, feeling puzzled.

For an undead being who cultivated the Death Law over the Sea of Darkness, there shouldn't be anything that could instill such fear into him.

And yet, there was something.

However, Thanatos couldn't quite understand it himself. He could feel great fear from the depths of his soul when he thought of the name Vaan Raphna, but at the same time, it didn't seem to be the case, either.

That was most puzzling.

After pondering for a while, Thanatos realized it wasn't the exact name that induced such fear in him but just the surname.

'Raphna... That is it; that is the source of my unease. My very soul trembles at its name... But as to why, I do not know... Was there someone in the past that also carried such a surname?'

Thanatos frowned.

No matter how hard he pondered, he couldn't recall anyone with the surname Raphna from the past.

How could he not possess memories of someone with such a fear-inducing surname?

'Perhaps it is my instincts telling me that offending people with the surname Raphna will be my doom... Yes, this seems to be the most logical reasoning...'
Thanatos thought.

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...

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Meanwhile, Helcan left the Shadowcage Territory and returned to his Titanfall Territory, the land of Titans.

The Titanfall Territory was the largest and highest earth-based planet in Gehenna. It was a giant rock planet, rich in earth minerals but poor plant life. Geo-storms constantly plague its surface, creating spikes in its already high gravity level.

It wasn't an easy place to live unless one was part of the powerful Titan Clan.

As such, the Titanfall Territory's population was predominantly Titans, while the other earthly races existed in small fractions.

"Welcome back, my King—"

Helcan ignored the welcome of his Titan subjects as he headed for Titanfall Castle and buried himself inside the council room, where a large star map could be found.

'Since I can't rely on Thanatos to deal with Vaan Raphna, what can I do? Who can I rely on? Do I really have to watch that human grow strong and powerful?' Helcan pondered hard.

'When will you stop seeing him as the problem and start seeing him as the solution?' Hecate's words suddenly replayed in Helcan's mind before he scoffed with contempt.

The Great Devils' promises to help him reconcile with the Soul Master didn't mean shit to him. After all, they did not have a feud with the Soul Master like him.

Even if Vaan Raphna didn't pursue the past, Helcan couldn't forgive him for burning his divine consciousness and damaging his divine soul. He originally had hopes of reaching Rank 7, but now, they were dashed due to the soul damage.

Even if the Soul Master could repair the soul damage, how could he lower himself before his hated foe, let alone butter him up like a slave to earn such an opportunity?

He would rather pay a great price to commission a different Soul Master for the job.

"The Redsong Territory..." Helcan's stubborn gaze paused on the red planet under Astarte's control before wondering, "Can Astarte help me? No... She cannot. The Great Devils are all in favor of Vaan Raphna's ascension."

"Even if I have a good relationship with Astarte due to the long trading history between our territories, she won't be able to help much even if she agreed to..." Helcan thought.

After all, even the powerful Abaddon, who comprehended the Asura Law, suffered a pathetic end at Vaan Raphna's hands.

How could Astarte do any better?

"Astarte won't do. I need a stronger helper... But there is none in Gehenna..." Helcan shifted his focus to the neighboring star realms, Nightmare and Hades.

"Hm..." Helcan suddenly had a thoughtful look.

The Hades Realm was full of spiritual beings, and their Soul Kings held great interests in the study of souls. A Soul Master's soul would be a great temptation to them if they could ignore the risks.

On the other hand, the Nightmare Realm was ruled by dark witches who looked down on men.

They might become furious if they learned about a man ruling over witches...

"I could reach out to either side, but would that be enough? Maybe I need a bigger guarantee to ensure success..."

Helcan frowned as he searched beyond the neighboring star realms.

Chapter 824: Mishap & Fourth Dream's Tragedy

Moon's Core, Gehenna's Unknown Subterranean Region

Inside a fourth rock chamber, Vaan and Solana snuggled together after finishing an intense session of dual practice.

The pinkish scent of their lovemaking still permeated the air, mixing with the thick concentration of pure mana gathered inside the rock chamber. Evidently, the intimate session had ended only moments ago.

Despite Solana's sweat-soaked body and heavy breathing, she did not seem exhausted from the rough play with Vaan. On the contrary, she was brimming with energy and vigor, as shown in her glossy skin and radiant eyes.

"Congratulations on achieving Half-step Transcendent, Solana. Since you managed to reach this step, Transcendence is just around the corner," Vaan said with a smile.

Just as he anticipated, Solana became a Half-step Transcendent Witch after they dual-practiced.

The Half-step Transcendent rank was only a transitional phase before entering the Transcendent rank. Achieving it implied that one was guaranteed to become Transcendent.

It was only a matter of time before they did.

Unlike the High Witch and Transcendent Witch ranks, the Half-step Transcendent Witch rank involved creating a false seventh mana ring to trick the existing six mana rings into behaving as if they existed.

However, it wasn't wrong to say that the false seventh mana ring did exist, either.

After all, the false seventh mana ring was just an empty mana ring that required filling up with mana before it became a true mana ring.

Nevertheless, reaching this step was only possible in the pure mana environment of Chaos. The false mana ring would only collapse if conducted on Pangea, which would also endanger the person.

Since Solana reached this step, she couldn't return to Pangea until she completed her Transcendence.

"If you had not assisted me, I wouldn't have been able to reach this step, Sir Vaan," Solana spoke gracefully with sincerity before she suddenly chuckled mischievously, "Allow me to express my appreciation."

Shortly after saying that, Solana reached down for Vaan's half-sleeping dragon as she planned to clean it up with her tongue and mouth.

"There's no need for... Oh!" Vaan suddenly exclaimed as an unfamiliar yet pleasant sensation struck him.

It was as if his soul had just traversed myriads of dimensions and realms before returning when Solana swallowed his half-sleeping dragon whole. It was an indescribable feeling of pleasure, one he had never experienced before.

Vaan noticed that his little brother was shrouded in golden-white light when Solana sucked him off.

Gulp!

Solana swallowed Vaan's yang essence before her lips curved into a sly, cheeky smile. Then, she commented, "It looks like it is still messy even though I promised to clean it... Allow me to clean it again, Sir Vaan."

"Ooh!"

Shortly after, Vaan's little brother was encased in golden-white light again, giving him that indescribable, otherworldly experience.

It was like he had been fed with erection-boosting drugs and virile-inducing stimulants as his dragon balls swelled to a size he had never seen before. It hardly had a healthy color as his dragon head turned purple from containing the raging essence.

The longer Vaan suppressed it, the greater the pleasure and relief upon release.

However, Vaan also realized his awakened dragon had been suppressed to a dangerous level. It was no longer a water gun in his groins but a mother-fucking charged cannon.

Its firepower wasn't something Solana should take.

As such, Vaan pulled his swelled dragon out of Solana's mouth and aimed it elsewhere. The overloaded essence built up in his dragon balls was fully released in that instant.

Bang!

An arrow of white essence flew out from his swollen dragon head, tearing through the chamber's rock wall before shooting off into the foreseeable distance.

Vaan was stunned, and Solana was dumbfounded when she stared at the penetrated rock wall.

"That was some dangerous magic you played with, Lady Solana. It would be best if you used it in moderation in the future," Vaan lectured seriously.

"R-Right... I didn't expect something like that was possible..." Solana nodded obediently before muttering in a daze, "Who knew it could also be that kind of projectile weapon?"

Vaan's lips twitched.

Shortly after, his attention shifted to the direction of the concentrated white essence he had fired off.

It seemed to have struck Fourth Dream's dream field and tore away her cover as Fourth Dream could be seen staring back at him with a stupefied look through the pocket-size hole in the rock wall.

Fourth Dream was unable to process what had just happened.

She remained frozen like a statue, with her legs spread and her dominant hand touching the entrance of her flower cave.

At the same time, the whole situation was witnessed by both Seventh Dream and Ninth Dream, who were spying in a nearby location after secretly following Fourth Dream with curiosity.

"Oh dear... That is most unfortunate," Ninth Dream commented with a pitying look.

Even if Fourth Dream did not know Sir Vaan could see through the rock walls and her invisibility spell, it no longer mattered at that point since she was exposed to the latter's direct scrutiny through the pocket-size window.

"What are you looking at, Sir Vaan? Let me see...oh? Oh!" Solana exclaimed, eyes widening with astonishment as she stared back at Fourth Dream through the hole.

She didn't expect to see someone masturbating outside their love chamber, let alone one of the seemingly innocent and untouchable divine fairies of all people.

Looks were certainly deceiving – Solana thought.

Meanwhile, Fourth Dream truly wished she had disappeared from existence in that instant.

Although she had experienced the benefits of masturbation, she shouldn't have been tempted into trying it by her fellow sisters. She felt like the losses far outweighed the benefits.

After all, she learned the benefits of masturbation, but at what cost?

Her innocence and image went down the gutter.

'Ah... Lady Hecate, please forgive me, for I have sinned...' Fourth Dream lamented as her eyes teared up.

She felt helpless and lost in an undesirable situation.

Although she knew she should cover herself, she was too shocked to do anything.

Chapter 825: Fourth Dream in Wonderland

The Dreamcatchers were an extension of Hecate and were her representatives in public. Thus, for Fourth Dream to be seen in such an embarrassing state, she felt like she had stained Hecate's image.

Of course, Fourth Dream also felt terrible about her own situation.

After all, she was a chaste and unwed maiden, and yet, she had been caught in such an embarrassing and depraved act. Even her most private places were seen by others.

Fourth Dream felt like her life had been ruined, and death was her only escape.

Swish~!

Just when Fourth Dream thought about killing herself, Vaan appeared by her side, undressed and in the nude. She was immediately surprised by his sudden approach and exposing appearance.

However, Vaan knew almost no shame.

Thus, he wasn't embarrassed to be in front of Fourth Dream in his birthday suit, especially when she and the other two Dreamcatchers had already spied on his intimate acts for days.

"Sir Vaan, what are you..."

"If you dislike it, you can resist."

Vaan suddenly grabbed Fourth Dream's wrist and pulled her into a spatial leap, taking her elsewhere and away from everyone else. They went to a far and secluded location before he erected another rock chamber to hide them from the open environment.

When Fourth Dream saw his action, her chest quickly thumped with a quickened heartbeat, and her cheeks reddened intuitively.

She seemed to have guessed Vaan's intention, yet she didn't seem to have any resistance against it.

Why that was the case, she had yet to figure out in her confused state.

"As I said, Lady Fourth Dream – If you don't like it, you can resist."

"Sir Vaan, you... Ah~!"

Fourth Dream wasn't given much time to respond.

After Vaan cleaned his body with the Fire Law, Water Law, and Wind Law, he immediately went on the attack, softly nibbling Fourth Dream's ear and undressing her with his hands.

An electrifying sensation ran through her body, causing her pores to open up.

Vaan followed up by targeting her erogenous zones and stimulating her acupoints, increasing her sensitivity to pleasure.

At the same time, his head moved down her pristine and fairy-like body before sucking on her white rabbits, causing another shocking yet pleasant sensation to race through her body.

"Ah~!"

A joyful cry escaped Fourth Dream's lips before she covered her mouth with both hands in embarrassment.

She wanted to ask why Vaan was doing such things to her. However, she couldn't think straight under his dexterous fingers, assaulting her with relentless waves of pleasure.

Pure mana was naturally drawn to the rock chamber as Vaan stimulated her body.

After he finished conditioning her delicate and fair body, a pleasant, flower-like feminine scent was exuded from it. He ran his fingers down her belly before playing with her leaking flower cave.

In that instant, Fourth Dream's body instinctively tightened in shock.

However, she did not refuse Vaan's advances. Instead, her hands unconsciously gripped his chiseled, manly body, pulling him closer as she sank her head into his left shoulder.

His manly scent and body heat were easily transmitted to her, causing her to become increasingly intoxicated and in a hazy state of mind.

In that instant, Vaan could feel Fourth Dream's body quaking with uneasiness and uncertainty. However, there was also a bit of anticipation mixed in her apprehensive feelings.

Nevertheless, Vaan had no intention of stopping.

The only way to stop Fourth Dream's thoughts from traveling further down the line of suicide was to confuse her with even greater shock.

Honestly speaking, Vaan had other ways of going about it. Yet, his first thought was that he had to make love to her.

It had to be an occupational habit... Yes, that had to be it. There definitely weren't any ulterior motives in mind. It was all honest work to save a life. Ahem, don't overthink it.

...

"Nngn~!"

As Vaan played with Fourth Dream's flower cave, her body glued to him more tightly, quivering with pleasure from time to time uncontrollably.

He would see a gush of love nectar pour out of her flower cave each time.

At that point, Fourth Dream's face was permanently buried in Vaan's left shoulder, not daring to look elsewhere. Her face was red-hot with myriads of questions and emotions, and her heart was pounding hard, causing her to pant.

Despite her confusion regarding the situation, she didn't want it to stop.

She had experienced the pleasure derived from masturbation. However, it was nothing compared to the joy of being touched by Vaan. Her body was practically screaming with happiness.

Each wave of pleasure pounded on her mind, pushing open a gate to a wonderful new world.

Pure mana continued to gather around and pour into her body, painting that wonderful new world with more vivid colors.

Myriad emotions welled up inside her heart as she realized how dull her life had been. In fact, she could hardly call it living now that she had been exposed to this side of life.

Suddenly, Vaan retracted his hand from Fourth Dream's soaking flower cave, ending her dreamy reverie abruptly.

However, he shortly lifted one of her legs before she felt his dragon head touching her flower cave.

In that instant, Fourth Dream's body froze.

Even so, she still didn't dare to lift her head from his left shoulder to look, nor did she try to resist its gradual entry. She just welcomed it nervously with anticipation and fear.

It felt foreign yet so natural.

"Hnng~!"

Fourth Dream weakly cried as Vaan plunged his stiff dragon deep into her lonely and ancient dragon cave, tearing apart the old cobwebs impeding its path.

Pain and pleasure intertwined as Fourth Dream felt an indescribable sense of fulfillment. It was unlike anything she had felt up until now. She felt the joy of the woman.

At the same time, her dull eyes sparkled with enlightenment.

She suddenly realized she didn't want to die at all. She only thought of death's escape because she was afraid of facing the future consequences of her actions.

She didn't want to see her mistress's disappointment, nor did she want to see people's disgust and Sir Vaan's rejection. However, the truth was not as bad as she imagined. At the very least, she felt desired and wanted.

Sir Vaan desired her and didn't reject her despite what she did behind his back. He understood what she did but still accepted her.

As such, Fourth Dream gained some courage to brave the future.

"Ahn~~!" Fourth Dream moaned.

Her sweet voice became increasingly tender and erotic as she immersed herself in the wonderland of pleasure. She hugged Vaan tightly as he pressed her against the wall and thrust in and out of her with rhythmic frequency.

No longer did Fourth Dream think about ending her life. Vaan had quite literally fucked the suicidal thoughts out of her.

Chapter 826: Divine Mission

Although Vaan no longer saw the dark clouds of death reflected in Fourth Dream's eyes, he figured it would be a pity if he ended their moment of passion just like that. As such, he continued to thrust his hips and savored her flawless fairy body.

It wasn't every day that he got a chance to enjoy a Divine-rank Dark Fairy, let alone one that was a chaste maiden.

Vaan soon pulled Fourth Dream away from the wall and laid down, saddling her on top of him.

The sudden change of position immediately brought forth great confusion and embarrassment to Fourth Dream as she felt openly exposed. At least when she was pressed against the wall, she had Vaan's body covering her.

But now, she had nowhere to hide. Vaan was granted a full view of her vulnerable body. Furthermore, he grasped both her wrists, firmly placing her hands on his bare chest.

As such, she couldn't escape, either.

"S-Sir Vaan, t-this is too embarrassing~! Can we—Ahn~!" Fourth Dream attempted to make a desperate plea for a change of position when Vaan suddenly thrust upwards, forcing her to cry in bliss.

The change of position sent an entirely new sensation coursing through her lewd and sensitive body, adding more colors to the wonderland of pleasure.

It was like enjoying her favorite food with a different set of seasoning; it was still the same food, but the change of flavor ensured she wouldn't get sick of it. In fact, she loved it even more.

"Hnngg...! Ahn~~! Why does this feel so different yet so good~?" Fourth Dream wondered as her body suddenly quivered, hazy eyes clouding over with sheer bliss.

As Vaan continued to thrust his hips, Fourth Dream gave up all thoughts of escape and accepted her predicament. With her mind sinking further and further into the abyss of carnal pleasure, her helpless body was completely at his mercy.

Nevertheless, Vaan eventually released his hold of Fourth Dream's wrists and shifted his hands to her hips, guiding them to shake on top of him.

"This..."

Fourth Dream's face reddened with embarrassment, but she quickly accepted her new role. She proactively shook her hips like she was taught by Vaan.

At first, she was still shy and hesitant. However, she quickly acclimated with confidence and boldness in the motion. She realized the tempo and sense of pleasure were hers to control and change.

It wasn't long before Fourth Dream developed a strong interest in Vaan's body and began exploring different ways of riding his dragon.

In that instant, she was like a curious cat trying new things.

One hour... Two hours...

Three hours later, Fourth Dream grew increasingly exhausted from her countless orgasms. Even she herself did not understand where all the fluids were gushing out from.

How could she have so much fluids in her body?

Nevertheless, her bright eyes never lost their spark of curiosity and interest. She continued to ride Vaan's dragon as she tried to get it to unload its accumulated white essence into her refurbished dragon cave, which Vaan had shaped.

She realized the peak of pleasure and the sense of fulfillment and satisfaction could only be reached when Vaan's accumulated white essence filled her up.

In mere several hours, her hypersensitive body climaxed hundreds of times.

Eventually, she exhausted her bodily energy as she sensed it begging her to rest by giving out signals to induce sleep.

As such, Fourth Dream did not fight against the increasingly drowsy feeling. She curled up and rested on top of Vaan's chest, and within seconds, she snoozed soundly and comfortably like a purring cat.

She might be a Divine Being, but she was one of the soul and not the body.

Thus, she was putting herself in her most vulnerable state in front of Vaan, which was tantamount to the amount of trust she had for him—something she normally only showed to her sisters and her mistress.

Ding!

<You have completed an unassigned Subjugation-type Witch Hunt>

<You have obtained the target's primal essence and dream-attribute divine mana>

...

Ding!

<A new mission has been issued>

<Mission: Collect 10 Divine-rank primal essences>

<Upon completion of the mission, you will be able to acquire a random Divine-rank Divine Power>

<Note: The type of Divine-rank Divine Power acquired is affected by the Divine-rank primal essences collected>

<Current Progress: 1/10 Divine-rank primal essence>

...

Ding!

<The dream-attribute divine mana has been analyzed, and a list of suitable options is available>

<Please select one of the following options>

<Option 1: Reinforce your soul with dream-attribute divine mana and improve your soul force by 100 points>

<Note: There's a slight chance of developing a dream-attribute soul talent>

<Option 2: Reinforce your mana core with dream-attribute divine mana and advance your mana cultivation to the Mid-stage High Warlock rank>

<Note: There's a slight chance of developing a dream-attribute mana core and strengthening all dream-attribute spells by 10%. However, spells of other nature will be weakened by 20%>

<Option 3: Feed the dream-attribute divine mana to the Heaven-Swallowing Space and expand its current subspace by 30%>

<Note: There may be unexpected gains or nothing at all>

<Option 4: Consume some soul force to create a dream space in the Heaven-Swallowing Space to store the dream-attribute divine mana for later use>

<Note: Nothing of value to be mentioned>

...

After checking the system log, Vaan could see that Fourth Dream's dream-attribute divine mana was far more powerful than any other type of refined mana he had obtained in the past.

As expected, the refined divine mana of a Divine Being was truly stronger than regular refined mana.

Although each option was great, Vaan wasn't in a hurry to use the dream-attribute divine mana. Thus, he chose the fourth option – To create a dream space in his Heaven-Swallowing Space and store it.

After all, it only consumed some of his soul force, which could be recovered over time.

More importantly, even since he acquired the Fourth Dimensional Sense, he has been able to see more things, including things that were previously hidden from him.

After calculating the amount of dream-attribute divine mana and its potential effect, he realized it was slightly stronger than the effects listed by the system. In other words, the system had been taxing a portion of the mana for itself.

Of course, he was already aware of that long ago since the system also needed power to operate the changes.

However, this time, the system was taxing more than necessary.

What changed?

There were also some other things on Vaan's mind regarding the system. He believed it was time to find more answers from it.

Chapter 827: Risks & Limitations

The primal essences of virgin witches could be said to be sources of incredibly concentrated energy in their own right. Furthermore, they would only accumulate with time until they were reaped or lost.

As such, Vaan believed there had to be more potent uses for the primal essences than to develop Specialized Magic and Divine Power.

After all, compared to Fourth Dream's primal essence, which had accumulated energy for thousands of years, the dream-attribute divine mana he collected from their dual cultivation would only be considered chump change.

More importantly, Specialized Magic and Divine Power weren't useful to him at present. As he reached higher levels, they would become even less useful.

Furthermore, they were also tedious to acquire.

He could just comprehend the relevant laws to develop the desired abilities and divine power.

As such, consuming primal essences to acquire Specialized Magic or Divine Power didn't seem to be the ideal way of using primal essences—at least for him, that was. His limitless potential allowed him to be this picky.

'System, primal essence is also a source of energy. It is illogical that it cannot be utilized for self-improvement like mana and only has a singular use,' Vaan willed to the system.

Ding!

<Host has made a valid point>

<The system has detected a flaw in its configuration>

<Beginning to analyze the problem...>

...

Ding!

<The system analysis is complete>

<Conclusion: The system's overall design appears to be incomplete>

<Attempting to bypass the problem by accepting new data from the Host...>

...

Ding!

<The Divine-rank primal essence has been re-evaluated>

<A new list of options for the Divine-rank primal essence has been discovered>

<Option 1: Reinforce your soul with the Divine-rank primal essence and advance your soul force by 2500 points>

<Option 2: Reinforce your mana core with the Divine-rank primal essence and advance your mana cultivation to the Mid-stage Transcendent Warlock rank>

<Option 3: Feed the Divine-rank primal essence to Heaven-Swallowing Space and expand its current subspace by 300%>

<Option 4: Use the Divine-rank primal essence to open the Lower Dantian and initiate your energy cultivation...>

...

Ding!

<An error has been detected>

<The system does not possess enough divine force to perform some of these options with guaranteed success>

<Re-evaluating available choices>

...

Ding!

<Re-evaluation completed>

<Option 3 is available>

...

After listening to the list of system prompts, Vaan's lips twitched.

It went without saying that the third option would be available since it didn't require any effort from the system.

Nevertheless, the Divine-rank primal essence possessed powerful effects, just as he had anticipated. However, he could feel a shred of its energy anywhere, not even inside his Heaven-Swallowing Space.

Clearly, the system had its own personal storage space for primal essences.

'Option 3 is unacceptable. Find alternative methods to increase the success rate of the other options,' Vaan willed.

Ding!

<Host command has been acknowledged>

<Searching for feasible solutions to compensate for the system's insufficient divine force>

...

Ding!

<The system has determined two viable solutions>

<Solution 1: The system can be upgraded to the second stage and increase its divine force capacity by acquiring 1000 Transcendent-rank witch souls or 10 Divine-rank witch souls>

<Note: Witch souls are automatically harvested and acquired through the completion of Elimination-type Witch Hunts>

<Solution 2: Achieve greater soul fusion with the system to reach a synchronization rate of 50% and enable the system to borrow soul force from the Host>

<Note: The current synchronization rate is at 1%>

...

Vaan narrowed his eyes.

As expected of the Witch Hunter System, it was originally designed to kill witches and also ensured the quickest improvement.

After all, killing a witch would rob their entire cultivation's worth of mana for self-improvement. On the other hand, subjugating a witch would only farm the mana they should have absorbed from the atmosphere.

The difference was quite clear.

Suddenly, Vaan frowned as he recalled the strange visions of killing Astoria and countless other witches.

In those visions, they all died at his hands. However, the 'him' in those visions also seemed like a completely different person. Despite inhabiting the same body, they walked completely different paths.

To date, he still couldn't quite figure out why he received such visions.

Given the uniqueness of his soul and its past exposure to Fourth Dimensional Energy, it might be possible for him to have an unawakened ability capable of perceiving his alternative selves in parallel timelines.

However, he also felt that possibility was quite unlikely. He knew something was wrong, but he couldn't quite put a finger on it.

It was like some force was purposely confusing him to prevent him from uncovering the truth.

Nevertheless, even if Vaan had discovered the method to upgrade the system sooner, it wouldn't have been possible for him to accomplish it anyway.

He had neither the strength, reason, or numbers to kill so many high-level witches.

'Although I found out the method to upgrade the system, I lack the conditions to carry it out. On the other hand...' Vaan thought about the second solution and frowned.

It was impossible for him to follow through on the second solution.

He might consider the first solution if circumstances called for it in the future. However, he would never agree to the second solution.

The Witch Hunter System was something he had yet to fully understand, not to mention it was incomplete. Far too many risk factors and limitations were involved in fusing his soul with it.

Even now, Vaan already felt the limitations of having the system bound to his soul.

After all, he was no longer dependent on the system like he was in the past. He could refine the Divine-rank primal essence himself if he had it.

However, the Divine-rank primal essence automatically fell into the system's private storage. Moreover, the system was refusing to cough it up.

That point alone was enough reason for Vaan to reject the second solution.

'Dual cultivation with Fourth Dream netted great gains, but my choices are far more limited than I had hoped... Am I getting greedy for results?' Vaan wondered.

Shortly after, he returned his attention to the dream-attribute divine mana.

Although it was a potent resource for reinforcing his soul and mana core, he didn't want either of them to be contaminated with the dream aspect.

Thus, he eventually settled for the third option—feeding it to the Heaven-Swallowing Space to expand his storage space by 30%.

Chapter 828: The Panicky Fourth Dream

Ding!

<You have fed the Divine-rank divine mana to Heaven-Swallowing Space>

<Your Heaven-Swallowing Space has expanded its size by 30%>

Vaan didn't think it was a waste to dump all his dream-attribute divine mana into the Heaven-Swallowing Space. After all, his mental faculties improved alongside the increasing size of his Heaven-Swallowing Space.

Furthermore...

Vaan glanced down at Fourth Dream's serene sleeping face before thinking he could always acquire more dream-attribute divine mana through dual cultivation.

It wasn't easy for Fourth Dream to extricate herself from him after experiencing the magic of copulating with him. Moreover, their dual cultivation benefited her more than it did for him.

Fourth Dream herself had yet to realize that she had already advanced to the eighth stage of the Divine Dream Realm and caught up to Seventh Dream and Ninth Dream.

However, she was bound to find out once she woke up and cleared her mind.

Nevertheless, Heavenly Massage was designed to benefit others.

If Vaan wanted to reap more benefits from dual cultivation, he had to get his hands on a true dual cultivation technique or develop one himself. Given his knowledge, creating a dual cultivation technique wouldn't be difficult.

However, whether or not its effectiveness could meet his expectations remained to be seen.

...

Sometime later, Vaan shifted his attention to Fourth Dream's pair of baby black-feathered wings. At the start of their dual cultivation, they weren't as small as they appeared now.

They had shrunk to improve the comfort of Fourth Dream's sleeping posture. It also seemed to be something she did subconsciously.

Vaan wasn't very familiar with the Black Fairy Race. He wondered if they could retract their black-feathered wings into their back completely. If they could, they would be hardly distinguishable from a Darkan Human.

He also had strong reasons to believe it was completely possible since their black wings could shrink in the first place.

That wasn't something ordinary wings could do – Only spirit wings could do so.

Vaan reached out for Fourth Dream's baby black wings with his hand as he studied them in greater detail.

However, when he contacted them, Fourth Dream's body quickly trembled.

She woke up not long after.

At first, Fourth Dream was still drowsy. She rubbed her droopy eyes as she looked around. She briefly paused when she made eye contact with Vaan before looking elsewhere, thinking she was imagining things.

However, she subconsciously looked back at his close-up handsome face again before she paused for a long time.

She was frozen and didn't know what to think.

"Did I wake you up? I apologize for that Lady Fourth Dream," Vaan smiled apologetically.

In that instant, Fourth Dream's mind rapidly gained clarity as the previous intimate scenes between them came pouring back.

She was immediately shocked by her own boldness during those moments.

What has she done? How did she gain such courage? More importantly, where did it all go?

"S-Sir Vaan, I-I... W-We... Um..." Fourth Dream stuttered incoherently, at a loss for words. Her face quickly turned red as a tomato.

She was both shocked and speechless.

Her mistress had instructed her to serve Sir Vaan as she would do for her. It was clear that her mistress held Sir Vaan in the highest regard.

Yet, she actually slept with him...

If her mistress found out about this, what would she think of her? Would her mistress accuse her of stealing the man she liked?

Fourth Dream couldn't help but shiver at the thought. She was afraid of her mistress's wrath.

Meanwhile, Vaan observed the chaotic thoughts that raced through Fourth Dream's mind before he confirmed she was back to normal.

Pak!

Vaan suddenly slapped Fourth Dream's bottom, causing her to squeal in surprise and alarm.

"Ahh! S-Sir Vaan...?!" Fourth Dream cried, staring at him with confusion.

"Don't overthink things, Lady Fourth Dream. You're only scaring yourself by assuming the worst. We will deal with things as they come," Vaan calmly stated.

Although Fourth Dream's mind was still confused, her heart found solace in his calm voice. It was strange, but listening to him helped her calm down and not panic.

She suddenly noticed she had this natural tendency to follow anything he said. She shouldn't be this obedient about it.

How odd.

Nevertheless, Fourth Dream didn't hate this feeling even though she didn't understand it. It just filled her with happiness to be near him or do what he asked.

Alas, when she thought about her mistress again, she couldn't help but shiver.

"We should get dressed quickly, Lady Fourth Dream. Lady Hecate appears to be arriving shortly," Vaan informed.

Fourth Dream had only just slightly recovered when she froze in shock again. She slowly craned her neck towards Vaan before asking, "W-What did you say, Sir Vaan? C-Can you repeat that?"

"Lady Hecate is coming," Vaan stated.

He could sense Hecate's presence arriving at the moon colony. It was only a matter of time before she found her way to their location in the unknown subterranean region.

'Nooo!' Fourth Dream screamed in her mind.

She quickly panicked, pacing back and forth restlessly, not knowing what to do. She wasn't mentally prepared to face her mistress.

'Fourth Dream, you with Sir Vaan, right? Where are you two right now?' Hecate's cool voice suddenly sounded in Fourth Dream's mind.

"Ahhh!" Fourth Dream jumped in fright.

Vaan's gaze followed the up-and-down motion of her twin peaks before asking with surprise, "What's the matter, Lady Fourth Dream?"

"Ahhh!" Fourth Dream cried in alarm again.

She quickly covered herself with her arms, feeling greatly distressed and uncertain of her priorities. There were so many things happening at once.

...

Ultimately, Vaan and Fourth Dream cleaned themselves and dressed before Hecate's arrival. She became especially determined to hide everything as she was pressed for time.

Even so, Fourth Dream was nearly driven to her wit's end when she sensed Hecate's approaching presence.

'Oh, no! There's still the rock chamber!' Fourth Dream suddenly recalled. Her heart tightened again just when it was about to relax.

Boom!

Fourth Dream demolished the rock chamber with her divine power and watched it crumble to the ground. She couldn't rest until she removed every last trace of evidence.

Only after the rock chamber was leveled to its surroundings did Fourth Dream dust her hand in satisfaction, softly muttering, "That should do it..."

"Should do what, exactly? Fourth Dream?" Hecate's curious question shortly sounded behind her.

Fourth Dream's satisfied smile stiffened instantly.

Chapter 829: Be a Deterring Force

Hecate watched Fourth Dream remain unresponsive for several breaths before asking sternly, "What's wrong, Fourth Dream? You only left my side for a week, but you already won't listen to me anymore?"

"M-Mistress...! I wouldn't dare!" Fourth Dream promptly responded after shivering.

"That's better," Hecate smiled and no longer pursued the matter. She turned her attention to Vaan and casually commented, "You certainly know how to enjoy yourself, Sir Vaan."

Fourth Dream's heart immediately tightened, thinking her mistress was aware of the matter between her and Sir Vaan.

Nevertheless, Hecate continued, "You knew about such an amazing place and didn't think to share with me? How envious. To think I would miss such a pure land during my last visit."

Hecate proceeded to gather the pure mana on the tip of her finger and breathe in its breath-taking freshness.

She could immediately feel the pure mana invigorating every part of her body.

Shortly after, she sighed, "However, it's all the more reason to keep this pure land a secret. You are playing a very dangerous game, Sir Vaan."

"If the other Great Devils learn about this place, I'm afraid they will go crazy to seize it for themselves," Hecate reminded.

Vaan calmly smiled before replying, "Since the Great Devils have agreed to give me a chance to join the circle of Great Devils, it shows they are willing to risk pinning their hopes on my future potential."

"I have yet to say anything to them dividing up the Evernight Territory for themselves since it is ultimately still part of Gehenna. However, this place can only be reached from Pangea's side, and I have already colonized this ownerless region and made it mine."

"If they dare extend their greed to this place, they have to be prepared to face my wrath," Vaan confidently stated.

Hecate couldn't help but smile wryly.

If Vaan had already reached Rank 6 or even Rank 7 Divine Being, she wouldn't have an opinion on his statement.

However, the truth was that he wasn't even a Rank 6 Divine Being yet, but he dared threaten a bunch of Peak Rank 6 Divine Beings. Calling him arrogant and foolish would be an understatement.

Nevertheless, if there was one thing she figured she understood about Vaan, it was that he didn't make empty promises.

Even so, she had no idea what was the source of confidence.

"As you are now, do you truly believe you are capable of dealing with the other Great Devils all at once, Sir Vaan?" Hecate asked.

"If I don't care about the consequences, absolutely," Vaan nodded and said, "In my previous battle with Abaddon, I learned two crucial points: One, if I really put my all into fleeing, I can't be caught, and two, my trump card lacks firepower."

Hecate frowned before mentioning, "I don't see how you can deal with the Great Devils with that. If anything, you just admitted that you can't deal with them, Sir Vaan."

"Not at all, Lady Hecate," Vaan shook his head before saying, "I do not necessarily need to overpower the Great Devils in order to deal with them; I just need to be recognized as a deterring force."

"As I mentioned, if I really give it my all, even Divine Beings at Abaddon cannot catch me. Since the Great Devils cannot catch me, they cannot deal with me. Of course, they can deal with the people around me. However, the opposite holds true for them as well."

"I just need to make them recognize that point clearly if they push me down that path," Vaan stated.

Hecate couldn't help but acknowledge his point.

She recalled the state Abaddon was driven to, even before she arrived to help. The power that reduced Abaddon to such a sorry state was definitely more than enough to make the Great Devils wary.

For Great Devils who put great effort into developing their territory and people like herself, they definitely wouldn't want such a destructive power to drop on their prosperous cities and reduce everything to ruins.

"You can't win against everyone, but everyone can mutually lose, huh?" Hecate softly muttered before nodding, "If you can really show them you are capable of that, they will not mess with you, Sir Vaan."

"Of course, it would be best if I don't suffer any losses at all. That includes not revealing my trump card to them," Vaan suddenly said.

Hecate frowned before asking with doubt, "Then, how will you prove that you can be a deterring force not to be trifled with, Sir Vaan?"

"I already am, Lady Hecate. You told me yourself," Vaan calmly stated.

Hecate was immediately surprised before furrowing her brows in thought. However, she quickly shook her head and asked, "When did I tell you such a thing, Sir Vaan?"

"When you explained the nature of the Great Devils to me, Lady Hecate. It had me wondering since," Vaan mentioned.

"After all, the Great Devils would just kill me if they feared me. However, since they chose to give me a chance, it shows they are fearful yet hopeful of my future. Despite that, they are still bold enough to try and exploit me."

"What do you think gave them such courage?" Vaan asked.

Hecate's eyes flickered before saying, "They trust that you will be bound by the oath and not do anything to harm the interests of Gehenna—should you decide to become a Great Devil and accept its binding contract."

"However, you want me to change one of the clauses, don't you? Maybe something like you will be freed from the binding contract if any of the other Great Devils were the ones to act against the interests of Gehenna. For example, antagonizing you by scheming for your resources, right?"

"Kukuku, if I add such a clause in the contract and show them the recording of you accepting the oath, I believe they might really start behaving more honestly," Hecate chuckled.

"You certainly caught on quickly, Lady Hecate," Vaan smiled.

Indeed, his idea was just as Hecate guessed. It would not only make the Great Devils mindful of him but also wary of each other's actions against him.

Of course, they most definitely wouldn't be happy once they noticed the clause from watching Hecate's recording.

Chapter 830: Hecate's Gifts

Nevertheless, there was also a slight chance that the clause could make the Great Devils drop the entire matter of allowing him to become a Great Devil.

Although it was only a slight chance, it was still a possibility.

As such, Vaan was prepared to increase his trump cards. He had something in mind that could truly threaten the Great Devils should they make an enemy out of him.

However, he had yet to test whether it could be realized.

"In any case, the ideal situation would be for the Great Devils to quietly accept the added clause and let me carry on with the trials. I do not wish to be forced to reveal my trump cards or lose anyone—if it can be helped," Vaan commented.

He understood the risk of adding the clause to the contract, but it had to be done.

After all, even if the Nihilism Law could help him break free from the contract, he would be forced into a very passive position if he accepted the oath as it was. The Great Devils would only keep reaching for a mile after being given an inch if he gave them such an advantage.

"That would indeed be the ideal situation if it can be helped. I also agree that taking this step is necessary," Hecate acknowledged before adding, "A Soul Master shouldn't be subjected to such unfairness."

"Unfortunately, fairness does not exist in a world governed by power. My peers don't seem to possess the brightest of minds, either—at least, not anymore. The comfort of time must have rotted their brains."

"I suppose that is why they are all stuck at Peak Rank 6 Divine Being," Hecate commented.

Vaan glanced at Hecate, who was also stuck at Peak Rank 6 Divine Being. However, he was wise enough to avoid making a snide comment on it.

Nevertheless, Hecate also realized it, though she had a good reason for it.

Moreover, she didn't consider herself to be the same as the other Great Devils, especially not when Rank 7 was just around the corner now.

"Anyhow, I should give you everything I came to give, Sir Vaan. Then, I will perform the contract creation and recording since you have decided to become a Great Devil of Gehenna," Hecate stated before withdrawing several items from her silver interspatial ring.

At the same time, Vaan's interest was piqued. His eyes quickly locked onto the several items Hecate took out.

There were two scrolls, a bottle of mixed blood, a few pill recipes, a thick manual, and several dozen vials of special pills and potions.

"You're giving me all of this, Lady Hecate?" Vaan asked with a little surprise.

Although the pile of items wasn't a lot, his instincts told him they possessed extraordinary value.

"That's right," Hecate nodded before introducing the items, "You should be familiar with the Soul Rejuvenating Water, so you should understand what these few dozen vials of Soul Rejuvenating Essence and Soul Rejuvenating Pills will do."

"This manual contains my experience in ancient alchemy and potioneering. These are the three recipes for soul force recovery medicine. If you have an interest, you can try learning."

"These two scrolls are bloodline-related divine techniques I have chanced upon in my travels. The Divine Blood Refining Art should help you assimilate Abaddon's vampiric bloodline without conflicting with your existing bloodlines."

"Moreover, the Divine Blood Refining Art will also help you cultivate blood and comprehend the Blood Law," Hecate explained.

After speaking up to this point, Hecate hesitated to give Vaan the last scroll and bottle of mixed blood.

"What about these last two items, Lady Hecate?" Vaan inquired with growing curiosity.

Since Hecate brought them yet felt hesitant to give them, there had to be some extraordinary yet uncertain factors regarding them.

"This other scroll is something I once took out of my family treasury to study," Hecate mentioned.

"However, I quickly gave up after realizing it was a broken technique. Supposedly, one of my ancestors obtained from the Mysterious Primeval Secret Realm. So, I felt like it would be a waste if I continued to let it gather dust in my storage."

"I didn't have any luck learning it, but you might be able to unlock its secrets, Sir Vaan. If you succeed in cultivating it, this bottle containing a hundred different beast blood essences should aid you a bit," Hecate informed.

"What is the Mysterious Primeval Secret Realm?" Vaan asked with interest.

"That's a good question, Sir Vaan. Even I don't quite know the answer to it," Hecate answered before saying, "The Mysterious Primeval Secret Realm is probably one of Chaos's greatest mysteries."

"It's a secret realm that opens randomly in all kinds of places in Chaos. It doesn't seem to have any pattern to its opening time and location. However, it would create a great buzz throughout Chaos each time it opens."

"This is because it is filled with divine arts and cultivation techniques from a very distant era—so distant that people believed it to be the very first era of Chaos, the Primal Chaos Era," Hecate said.

"Is that so?" Vaan uttered thoughtfully.

After listening to Hecate's words, his interest only grew. The moment he accepted the scroll, he opened it up for a quick read.

Surprisingly, he understood every character record on it. No doubt, the scroll wasn't an original copy but the translation Hecate transcribed for him.

"The Everlasting Blood Mantra?" Vaan furrowed his brows after reading the name of the ancient technique.

Despite being a transcribed copy of the original version, he could sense the unfathomable primordial aura emanating from it.

How could it possess such ancientness when he could still smell the fresh ink?

"How peculiar..." Vaan uttered in wonder before asking considerately, "Do you mind if I give this a read, Lady Hecate?"

"It seems the Everlasting Blood Mantra has attracted your interest. Please take your time to read it. I'm also interested in hearing your thoughts on it later, Sir Vaan," Hecate replied.

Vaan nodded.

Shortly after he read the scroll, he couldn't help but feel shocked at the Everlasting Blood Mantra.

Was this really a cultivation technique from primordial times? Maybe it was a broken technique like Hecate said?

The core concept of the Everlasting Blood Mantra was to create an immortal and indestructible blood by refining the blood essence of countless different species.

Upon mastering the Everlasting Blood Mantra, the cultivator was said to be able to fully revive even if they only had single drop of blood of their being remaining in existence.

The potential supplementary uses of the technique were also outrageous.