

The Witch 841

Chapter 841: Harmony Vessel

If the Everlasting Blood Mantra was about drawing out the latent power hidden within the blood and accumulating it to create stronger blood power, then the Divine Blood Refining Art was about extracting existing strong blood power and absorbing it.

Although the blood fusion aspect was also covered in the Everlasting Blood Mantra, its effects were limited.

Thus, even though the Divine Blood Refining Art was far inferior to the Everlasting Blood Mantra, it still had its strength due to the difference in their specialties; it had strong blood fusion effects, albeit with some limitations of its own.

The Everlasting Blood Mantra focused on accumulation, which took time and was limited by the readily available and accessible origin blood.

On the other hand, the Divine Blood Refining Art focused on sheer power growth. As long as there was high-quality blood power to extract and absorb, the blood art would grow rapidly.

Of course, as an inferior blood art, the Divine Blood Refining Art had a clear disadvantage. The user's mind would be eroded by the malice, resentment, and other negativity of the remnant wills within the blood they absorb.

It was also due to this disadvantage that the Divine Blood Refining Art was considered an evil art.

After all, not only did it require the blood of other living beings to strengthen its user, but its user would also eventually turn into a demonic being with prolonged usage.

However, this disadvantage did not exist for Vaan.

With his Nihilism Law, he could erase the remnant wills within the blood and turn it into pure blood power. As such, there wouldn't be any malice and resentment of the dead plaguing him.

Furthermore, pure blood power would even produce better results.

Essentially, this Divine-rank blood art would be upgraded to a blood art of an entirely higher rank in Vaan's hands.

Nevertheless, the Divine Blood Refining Art still had another limitation.

If Vaan used it to absorb Abaddon's vampiric blood, his Divine Blood Refining Art would be limited to the fusion of vampiric blood. The blood of other beings would conflict with the vampiric bloodline.

'The Divine Blood Refining Art is indeed great for rapid growth. However, it is too restrictive in its choice for blood fusion. On the other hand, the Everlasting Blood Mantra is extremely slow, but it can fuse any origin blood ...'

'If I can take the strengths of each technique and combine them, I might be able to create a superior technique without any of the knowing disadvantages...' Vaan thought.

Nevertheless, it was easier said than done.

After all, the Everlasting Blood Mantra was a blood technique that came from the Mysterious Primeval Secret Realm, which was assumed to be from the Primal Chaos Era.

Undoubtedly, it was a blood technique created by some primordial god or devil. To most beings, it would already be considered a perfected technique.

Thus, to make a perfect technique reach a higher level of perfection would be a nonsensical idea to them.

However, Vaan didn't believe in the impossible.

So what if it was a technique created by the primordial gods or devils? He used to be an existence that even surpassed them in his past life.

Even if he had yet to recover all his memories, he still possessed vast amounts of fragmented knowledge that could even humble the gods and devils of that bygone era.

'The Everlasting Blood Mantra and Divine Blood Refining Art will be reborn by my hands,' Vaan decided.

Shortly after, his mind began running simulations to combine the two techniques.

Ding!

<You have combined the Everlasting Blood Mantra and Divine Blood Refining Art and created a flawed nameless blood art>

<Note: This flawed nameless blood art has ninety-eight conflicting points in its blood circulation pathways>

<Note 2: Cultivating this flawed nameless blood art will cause extensive damage to your meridians and blood vessels>

...

Ding!

<You have combined the Everlasting Blood Mantra and Divine Blood Refining Art and created a flawed nameless blood art>

<Note: This flawed nameless blood art has eighty-seven conflicting points in its blood circulation pathways>

Note 2: Cultivating this flawed nameless blood art will cause extensive damage to your meridians and blood vessels>

...

...

Ding!

<You have combined the Everlasting Blood Mantra and Divine Blood Refining Art and created a flawed nameless blood art>

<Note: This flawed nameless blood art has nine conflicting points in its blood circulation pathways>

<Note 2: Cultivating this flawed nameless blood art long term will cause permanent deformations in your meridians and blood vessels>

Vaan ran countless virtual simulations in his mind. However, he was unable to overcome the last nine points of conflict in the new blood circulation path.

This imposed limit of nine points of conflict was based on his body's existing meridians and blood vessels. In other words, he couldn't reduce the conflicting circulation points anymore, no matter how many more simulations he ran in his mind.

However, since he knew the problem, it was easy to find the solution.

Since the limit was imposed on his current body, he only needed to alter his meridians and blood vessels by forging new ones to address the nine points of circulation conflicts.

After running his mental simulations, Vaan concluded that he only needed an extra vessel to erase the nine circulation conflict points completely. Given his present abilities and the system, he was fully capable of carrying out the vessel forging.

The typical human body had twelve main meridians and eight extraordinary vessels. But soon, he will have a ninth extraordinary vessel.

Ding!

<You have mapped out the position and form for the ninth extraordinary vessel>

<Note: The ninth extraordinary vessel will eliminate the remaining nine circulation conflict points in the nameless blood art>

...

Ding!

<You have optimized the ninth extraordinary vessel>

<The optimized ninth extraordinary vessel is expected to provide improved blood circulation, aura control, mana flow, stamina recovery, and purify blood quality, extending your lifespan by 15%>

...

Vaan wasn't satisfied with forging the ninth extraordinary vessel just for the sake of his nameless blood art alone. The ninth extraordinary vessel had to be able to function as if it had always been an essential part of the body.

Humans were born imperfect. That was why they could pursue perfection; there was room for improvement. The ninth extraordinary vessel was just one such improvement.

He was told that the human body possessed the greatest potential in Chaos. However, he had a different opinion – Humanity's greatest potential didn't lie in their body but in their intelligence.

It was because of human intelligence that humans were able to develop knowledge to improve their imperfect bodies.

The reason denizens of Chaos believed the human body contained the greatest potential wasn't because it was true; it had the greatest potential because it had been the most explored.

Humans owed their glory to the human ancestors who preceded them.

It was the human ancestors who had toiled hard with blood, sweat, and tears in order to leave behind their knowledge for the future generations of humanity.

That was why humans could become one of the ruling races of Chaos.

'I'll call this ninth extraordinary vessel the Harmony Vessel.'

Shortly after deciding on the name, Vaan immediately commenced the vessel forging. He guided his regenerating blood outside of its usual routes, turning them into the walls of the new extraordinary vessel.

Ding!

<The Harmony Vessel is being forged>

<Your blood power is being consumed>

<Your soul force is being consumed>

<Your divine energy is being consumed>

<Your pure mana is being consumed>

<Your dragon aura is being consumed>

...

Ding!

<The Harmony Vessel has been successfully forged>

<No issues in the Harmony Vessel have been detected>

<Your blood circulation, aura control, mana flow, and stamina recovery are improving>

<Your Harmony Vessel has begun purifying micro-toxins in your bloodstream>

<The self-created nameless blood art can be cultivated without any detrimental effects>

...

Even without the system informing him, Vaan could feel all the changes in his body. It was just as he expected.

Even the air he breathed in felt more refreshing and empowering.

Nevertheless, Vaan still wasn't ready to cultivate his self-created nameless blood art. His Harmony Vessel had just been forged; it wasn't prepared to endure such an intense burden from cultivation.

Ding!

<You have consumed the Divine-rank Stalactite Milk>

<You have begun immolating your Harmony Vessel>

<Your Harmony Vessel is undergoing a process of destruction and recreation>

...

Ding!

<You have tempered your Harmony Vessel>

<You have tempered your Harmony Vessel>

<You have tempered your Harmony Vessel>

...

...

<Your Harmony Vessel has been tempered to the Transcendent rank>

...

In the blink of an eye, six hours passed before the Harmony Vessel could reach a satisfactory level of tempering.

Finally, with all but one of the necessary steps taken, Vaan was almost ready to cultivate the nameless blood art he had created by perfectly merging the Everlasting Blood Mantra and Divine Blood Refining Art.

Of course, the last preparation was to remove the remnant will hidden with Abaddon's left arm.

Inside the isolated subspace, Vaan effortlessly erased all of Abaddon's remnant will with the Nihility Law in a few dozen breaths. Compared to turning matter into primal energy, snuffing out the last wisps of Abaddon's will was much easier.

'At last, I have finished creating the optimum condition to absorb Abaddon's divine blood. It's time to see how effective this self-created blood art truly is,' Vaan thought.

After all the troubles he had to go through to reach this step, he naturally developed a sense of anticipation.

Who wouldn't look forward to enjoying the fruits of their labor?

Chapter 842: Everlasting Blood Refining Art

Shortly after conditioning his mental state, Vaan began refining the first drop of Abaddon's ownerless divine blood.

Without any lingering will in it, the divine blood became pure and docile blood energy. It did not resist nor try to defy his calling the moment he operated his nameless blood art, which he later called the Everlasting Blood Refining Art.

In order to refine and assimilate the divine blood, Vaan couldn't introduce it into his body directly, at least not at his present stage in the Everlasting Blood Refining Art.

First, he sliced open a wound on his wrist and allowed his blood to flow. Afterward, with the guidance of divine energy, his blood formed a high-spinning vortex. The drop of divine blood was dropped right into it to be cleansed of impurities.

Of course, Vaan could skip this step by purifying the divine blood with his Nihilism Law. However, he would also be missing out on an integral part of the cleansing process.

After all, he wasn't just cleansing the divine blood but marking it with his will, claiming ownership of it.

It was the first of the three main steps to absorbing the bloodline in the divine blood. The divine blood was washed to receive the mark of acknowledgment.

During this step, the divine blood was also broken down into countless blood particles.

Next came the rite of passage – Introducing the divine blood particles into his bloodstream for refinement by circulating them through his twelve meridians and nine extraordinary vessels.

This second step was called the Acceptance Acquisition stage.

After receiving the mark of acknowledgment, the divine blood had to be circulated throughout his bloodstream to familiarize itself with his blood.

If his blood rejected the divine blood and deemed it as a foreign impurity, then his first step was considered incomplete or flawed. If not, then the divine blood would become a resident in his body but not quite a part of him.

As such, the final step was necessary – The blood fusion step of integrating the divine blood with his own. It was like letting the divine blood particles parasitize his own origin blood to acquire their vampiric traits.

However, the parasitization was not aggressive. As such, the vampiric divine blood would not destroy the existing traits of his blood and only add to it.

This was the advantage of the original Everlasting Blood Mantra.

Nevertheless, without the Nihilism Law purifying the remnant wills, this step would have been no different from injecting corruption.

Ding!

<You have assimilated a drop of Vampire Lord Origin Blood>

<You have acquired the Divine-rank Vampire Bloodline>

<You have gained some insights into the Blood Law>

<Your body has been slightly strengthened by rich blood energy>

<You have entered an energized state due to excess blood energy. Until the excess blood energy is depleted, you will not experience physical and regeneration fatigue>

...

The first divine blood was refined and assimilated without an issue. However, due to the limited amount of Vampire Lord Origin Blood, Vaan only acquired a very weak vampire bloodline.

The vampire bloodline could only improve his body slightly and not bring out some of the distinctive traits of a Vampire Lord.

Nevertheless, Vaan still had 9999 drops of divine blood. Thus, he wasn't concerned about being unable to awaken the latent abilities of a Vampire Lord.

Moreover, he was unlikely to use all of the divine blood to cultivate the Everlasting Blood Refining Art.

Ultimately, Abaddon's divine blood was of inferior quality. Although it was at the divine rank, that was also the limit of its potential. Refining it would only help cultivate his blood arts to Peak Rank 6.

If Vaan wanted to surpass it, he still had to assimilate many more types of origin blood and of higher quality to evolve his blood power and raise his understanding of the Blood Law continuously.

Abaddon's divine blood was only a means to an end, not the goal.

Nevertheless, after refining the first divine blood, next came a second one, then a third, a fourth...

Vaan continued to refine and absorb the divine blood within Abaddon's left arm. At the same time, his blood cultivation improved very rapidly.

Ding!

<You have assimilated a drop of Vampire Lord Origin Blood>

<Your Divine-rank Vampire Bloodline has been strengthened>

<You have gained further insights into the Blood Law>

...

As Vaan continued to assimilate the divine blood, his body became incredibly overloaded with excess blood energy. Thus, he intermittently put a pause to the cultivation of the Everlasting Blood Refining Art and expended his excess blood energy through blood practices.

As a result, his blood control and understanding of the Blood Law improved quickly alongside his blood cultivation.

After assimilating a hundred drops of divine blood, his blood power had reached the Transcendent rank. At a thousand drops, it would most likely achieve the Divine rank.

It was clear that the divine blood contained an incredible amount of concentrated blood energy.

Ding!

<You have assimilated a drop of Vampire Lord Origin Blood>

<Your Divine-rank Vampire Bloodline has been strengthened>

<You have gained further insights into the Blood Law>

...

Ding!

<Your Everlasting Blood (Incomplete) has mixed with your Dragon Aura>

<Your Dragon Aura has acquired some traits of your Everlasting Blood (Incomplete)>

<Your Dragon Aura has turned into Blood Dragon Aura>

...

Although most of Vaan's Dragon Aura was stored in his heart, it also flowed through his twelve main meridians and nine extraordinary vessels. Thus, he had already anticipated it would mix with his Blood Power.

Now, his Blood Dragon Aura didn't just possess the overbearing trait of a dragon but also the tenacious aspect of his incomplete Everlasting Blood.

Once he had cultivated the Everlasting Blood Refining Art to completion, his Blood Dragon Aura would most likely acquire undying tenacity.

In other words, if his Blood Dragon Aura faced an aura-destroying power, it would stubbornly resist its destruction through regeneration.

However, Vaan discovered an impossible problem while he was assimilating the divine blood. He was feeling rage and malice growing inside of him, which shouldn't have been possible.

After all, he had already erased every last trace of Abaddon's remnant wills, turning the entire ten thousand drops of divine blood into pure, ownerless divine blood.

Furthermore, with his Fourth Dimensional Sense active, it was also impossible for him to have missed any insignificant trace of Abaddon's remnant wills.

Despite all that, it was also undeniable that he could feel rage and malice growing inside his heart.

'This shouldn't be possible...' Vaan frowned as he temporarily halted blood cultivation.

Upon further investigation, he soon realized the rage and malice growing in his heart wasn't due to the influence of Abaddon's remnant wills he may have unnoticeably absorbed.

Furthermore, it wasn't born from assimilating the divine blood; it was from his increased comprehension of the Blood Law.

The Blood Law was the problem.

However, Vaan had never heard of the heavenly laws possessing any corrupting influence. If such a problem existed, Hecate would have at least given him a warning regarding it.

As such, it didn't seem to be the case.

That said, Hecate didn't comprehend the Blood Law. Thus, it could be a problem that she didn't know about, even if it seemed improbable.

'I've already comprehended several laws, yet such a problem never came up. This problem only appears for the Blood Law... Why is that so?' Vaan frowned.

He suddenly wondered if the Blood Law possessing corrupting influence had anything to do with it being a part of the Asura Law, governed by the Lord of Chaos.

Given the amount of bloodshed spilled by the Lord of Chaos, it might be possible for the sheer amount of vengeful spirits to integrate with the Blood Law and awaken such a corrupting ability.

'The Lord of Chaos is twisting the Blood Law? Does that mean everyone who comprehends the Asura Law or Blood Law will be twisted into a devilish person?' Vaan followed on his guess.

However, he quickly scratched the thought.

If such a problem existed, it would have been widely spread across all of Chaos already. Thus, in that situation, it was also impossible for Hecate not to know about it.

'But if there's no problem with the Blood Law, where does my rage and malice come from when my comprehension increases?' Vaan's frown deepened.

After encountering such a situation, he realized he wouldn't be able to rest until he looked into the bottom of it.

He didn't need sleep; he needed answers.

'The sense of rage and malice is still very insignificant. It won't pose a problem in my decision-making... Should I take a risk?' Vaan wondered.

He was very close to acquiring the Blood Authority.

After briefly contemplating the matter, Vaan eventually decided to increase his comprehension a little more to achieve the milestone.

Ding!

<Your understanding of the Blood Law has reached 1%>

<You have re-acquired Blood Authority>

<You can now control the Blood Law with soul force>

...

'Re-acquired...?'

Vaan's pupils shrank, and his heart instantly turned heavy. A stronger feeling of rage and malice was born within him.

Moreover, it seemed particularly biased toward witches.

Ding!

<An illogical error has been detected>

<The system has no records of the Host acquiring Blood Authority in the past>

Chapter 843: Unveiled Truth

After seeing the last notification from the system, Vaan was suddenly enlightened.

He had always felt something wasn't right when he received the horrible visions of himself slaughtering witches, including his close and loved ones.

In those visions, his other self was completely foreign to him and held great hatred towards the witches. In fact, that other him couldn't tolerate anyone or anything that slighted him.

It was clear that he had a terrible history for him to turn out that way.

Originally, he thought his Fourth Dimensional Sense had touched upon his alternate self from a parallel timeline.

However, Vaan couldn't have been more wrong.

In reality, the other version of himself was still him all along. However, his memories and all of the events leading up to the present and future were all deleted from history.

Someone or something had reversed time to his eighteenth year and erased or sealed away all of his prior memories in this life. As a result, his memories of his previous life on Earth became the dominant thought, making him believe his soul had reincarnated into another body.

However, the truth of the matter was that his soul had reincarnated through the normal cycle of rebirth all along, not through body possession.

It all made sense to him.

After all, Vanitas's life and all of his million reincarnations had always entered the cycle of rebirth as a newborn.

Why would his current life be anything different?

The answer was that it wasn't.

His first eighteen years of life and the original future timeline had all been erased by some powerful Temporal Law. Moreover, there were clues suggesting he had lived much longer in the lost timeline.

After all, his current chaosverse was already on the brink of collapse. Yet, it had barely started its integration with Chaos.

Even if Outer Beings sped up the destruction of his chaosverse, how could the chaosverse be so advanced in its destruction cycle, but the merging process with Chaos had only just begun?

Just thinking about that, Vaan estimated time must have been reversed by several thousands or even tens of thousands of years at the very least.

Moreover, the change brought about by the powerful Temporal Law only seemed to have been limited to Pangea and Gehenna.

Nevertheless, the power to cover such a large space and reverse its time by countless years wasn't the kind of power anyone could possess.

Even an Empyrean God like Empyrean Scarletsea might not have been capable of such a feat, even if she did specialize in the Temporal Law, not to mention there were more than the Temporal Laws involved.

After all, Vaan was at the center of this cosmic yet forgotten change.

'Every trial I have overcome was not easy, but they weren't despairingly impossible either. My fortuitous encounters were also far too good and coincidental. Now, there's this piece of information...'

'I knew someone or something had been secretly guiding my fate, but to actually find out it was true...' Vaan mused wryly.

There was only one person who could be so capable and would give him such attentive care – The Lord of Chaos.

It seemed that after nearly two chaos cycles, the Lord of Chaos had tracked down his big brother's soul.

However, the current reincarnation of Varuna at that time was not the kind of big brother he had hoped to see. Instead, what the Lord of Chaos found was a Second Asura in the making.

'Valefor Raphna...' Vaan thought as the name suddenly came to mind.

It seemed to be the name of the original him who had been erased or sealed away by the Lord of Chaos. Given the clues, he was more likely sealed than erased.

'After the Lord of Chaos found me, he must have been disappointed and saddened to see his big brother's reincarnation become an Asura and share no resemblance to the original Lord of the Boundless Seas and Skies...'

'However, he could neither bear to send me through reincarnation again nor risk losing track of my soul, even if he most likely wouldn't have. As such, he reversed time and sealed my memories...'

'That should be the case...' Vaan speculated.

The selective awakening of his past memories only further proved his speculation.

After all, why couldn't he awaken all of his past life memories at once? Why did he only remember his deaths and not his growth, experiences, and knowledge?

The Lord of the Boundless Seas and Skies would have vast knowledge of everything under the heavens, including Beyond True Divinity-rank cultivation methods and godly arts.

Alas, he remembered none of them in their complete form!

Vaan could only assume it was another one of the Lord of Chaos's arrangements. The Lord of Chaos was honoring one of his big brother's wishes to surpass him.

The Lord of Boundless Seas and Skies wouldn't be able to surpass the Outerverse Originator Realm if he only re-cultivated what he already knew.

That had to be why his past memories were filtered—to open up a new possibility. One that didn't rely upon past life knowledge to reach the current known apex of cultivation.

At the same time, the Lord of Chaos carefully selected such memories to prepare his mind.

'Valefor's memories must be unimaginably traumatic and awful if you had to go through all the troubles of arranging my past life memories like this, my little brother...' Vaan smiled ruefully.

'However, since I have reached this step, it must mean that I am ready to remember Valefor's past, right?'

Although there was no one to answer his question, he was clear on what to do. As such, there was no longer a reason to fear his mind getting consumed by Valefor's rage and malice.

After all, these negative feelings didn't belong to someone else; they were originally his. Thus, it shouldn't corrupt or break him.

'I have already experienced the glorious highest height and the despairing lowest low of all my past lives, and that did not twist or break my mind. So, how can the memories of a single life will?' Vaan thought.

Shortly after, he resumed his blood cultivation with the Everlasting Blood Refining Art.

The divine blood from Abaddon's left arm was extracted and refined at an even quicker pace than before.

He had to make up for the lost time, but he was also fully capable of increasing his cultivation speed risk-free. Due to his unfamiliarity and various unknown factors, he had only been cultivating conservatively until now.

Ding!

<You have assimilated a drop of Vampire Lord Origin Blood>

<Your Divine-rank vampire Bloodline has been strengthened>

<You have gained further insights into the Blood Law>

...

As Vaan continued to raise his comprehension of the Blood Law, Valefor's rage and malice grew stronger within his heart. Evidently, increasing his understanding of the Blood Law weakened the seal of Valefor's memories.

If the Lord of Chaos never intended for him to remember his life as Valefor, Vaan didn't believe he would have left behind such obvious flaws.

After all, how could the system know he had acquired Blood Authority before but not have any records of it?

If the time was properly reversed for the system as well, such an event should have been treated as if it had never happened. As such, it was more likely to be an obvious flaw left behind by the Lord of Chaos to help him figure out his past.

Ding!

<You have assimilated a drop of Vampire Lord Origin Blood>

<Your Divine-rank Vampire Bloodline has been strengthened>

<You have gained further insights into the Blood Law>

...

Ding!

<An unknown powerful seal has been discovered in your sea of consciousness>

<Beginning to analyze the unknown powerful seal...>

...

Ding!

<The unknown powerful seal is deemed to be unbreakable by any known power below Beyond True Divinity rank. However, it has a fixed condition for its automatic unsealing>

<The unknown powerful seal is estimated to be fully unsealed once your comprehension of the Blood Law reaches the first stage of the Divine rank>

<Current comprehension of the Blood Law: Middle-stage Demigod rank>

...

As Vaan continued to loosen the seal with his increasing understanding of the Blood Law, even the seal's existence could no longer remain hidden in his sea of consciousness.

Out of curiosity, Vaan peaked into his sea of consciousness with Fourth Dimensional Sense.

His sea of consciousness was like a universe filled with countless stars and boundless space. Each star contained vast amounts of information and knowledge, including his memories.

At the same time, the stars were interconnected with each other by the light they shone and illuminated through the darkness of his sea of consciousness.

In fact, the starlight might just be information transferring at lightspeed.

Nevertheless, his soul core, the essence of his being, was situated right at the very center of it all.

Moreover, not far away from his soul core, a blood-red star had appeared, flickering with ominous and gloomy crimson light. He didn't doubt that the blood-red star had always been in that particular spot.

It was just that up until now, all traces of his existence had been hidden and sealed away.

Just by observing the blood-red star, Vaan could almost sense an incomparably thick scent of blood exuding from it. However, this sense of smell was only an illusion created by its bloody aura.

He was silently surprised as it gave him a slight glimpse into how much blood had been spilled in Valefor's life.

'Even if I killed everyone in Pangea and Gehenna, I wouldn't carry such a bloody aura, right?' Vaan wondered.

It seemed like there were a lot of secrets locked away in Valefor's memories.

Chapter 844: The Past

Ding!

<You have accumulated a thousand drops of Vampire Lord Origin Blood>

<You have reached the Everlasting Blood Refining Art's Third Stage of Reparation>

<Your Divine-rank Regeneration has been strengthened>

<Your Divine-rank Regeneration has synergized with your Everlasting Blood Refining Art and upgraded its recovery effects to the Fourth Stage of Regrowth>

<Your Everlasting Blood Refining Art's blood power has also reached Early-stage Demigod rank>

<Note: Assimilating 899 other types of origin blood will bring out the full potential of the Third Stage of Reparation>

...

With Divine-rank Regeneration, Vaan could already recover from any fleshly wound nearly instantly.

On the other hand, the Everlasting Blood Refining Art's Third Stage of Reparation allowed his inner organs to recover from any damage, but at the speed of Divine-rank Regeneration.

However, since it had been further boosted to the Fourth Stage of Regrowth, Vaan could recover from the destruction of his organs or missing limbs completely.

In other words, he could no longer be fatally wounded or physically crippled so long as his blood energy persisted in restoring all damages and destruction to his body.

As long as there was a constant feed of blood energy, he could be considered an inexhaustible killing machine on the battlefield.

Ding!

<Your Divine-rank Vampire Bloodline has awakened>

<All physical attributes have been improved by 20%>

<You have acquired the vampiric abilities, [Bat Authority], [Blood Manipulation], [Vampiric Transformation]>

<Your Blood Dragon Aura has been upgraded to Early-stage Demigod Rank>

<Blood Dragon Aura Power: 2500>

...

=====

«Physical Attributes»

[1500 → 1800 Defense (↑300)] [Early-stage Transcendent Rank → Mid-stage Transcendent Rank]
[2500 Blood Dragon Aura Power] [Total Defense: 4000 → 4300 (↑300) (Late-stage Demigod Rank)]

[1600 → 1920 Strength (↑320)] [Early-stage Transcendent Rank → Mid-stage Transcendent Rank]
[2500 Blood Dragon Aura Power] [Total Strength: 4100 → 4420 (↑320) (Late-stage Demigod Rank)]

[1200 → 1440 Speed (↑240)] [Early-stage Transcendent Rank] [2500 Blood Dragon Aura Power]
[Total Speed: 3700 → 3940 (↑240) (Mid-stage Demigod Rank)]

...

«Celestial Dragonwolf Transformation»

Effect: 50% base physical attributes increase.

[1800 → 2700 Defense (↑900)] [Mid-stage Transcendent Rank → Early-stage Demigod Rank]
[2500 Blood Dragon Aura Power] [Total Defense: 4300 → 5200 (↑900) (Late-stage Demigod Rank
→ Half-step Divine Rank)]

[1920 → 2880 Strength (↑960)] [Mid-stage Transcendent Rank → Early-stage Demigod Rank]
[2500 Blood Dragon Aura Power] [Total Strength: 4420 → 5380 (↑960) (Late-stage Demigod Rank
→ Half-step Divine Rank)]

[1440 → 2160 Speed (↑720)] [Early-stage Transcendent Rank → Mid-stage Transcendent Rank]
[2500 Blood Dragon Aura Power] [Total Speed: 3940 → 4660 (↑720) (Mid-stage Demigod Rank →
Late-stage Demigod Rank)]

Dragonwolf Scale Armament: High-level Rank 5 defensive power (Durability: 100%)

Enhanced Dragonwolf Claws: High-level Rank 5 offensive power (Durability: 100%)

=====

After awakening the Divine-rank Vampire Bloodline, Vaan experienced an explosive improvement in his overall physical capabilities. In his Celestial Dragonwolf Transformation state, his power actually reached the level of a Half-step Divine Being.

However, it was also clear that his Celestial Dragonwolf Bloodline could not keep up with his physical growth.

The offensive and defensive power of his claws and scales were left far behind.

Nevertheless, this was to be expected since his Celestial Dragonwolf Bloodline no longer monopolized his body but co-existed with his Vampire Bloodline.

In return, he gained another form to turn into.

Unfortunately, [Vampiric Transformation] was nothing special compared to [Celestial Dragonwolf Transformation]. As such, it wasn't worth mentioning. After all, all its bonuses were inferior.

That said, although Vaan wouldn't use [Vampiric Transformation] in battle, he could at least use it when he needed to prove he possessed a high-ranking vampire bloodline.

Nevertheless, if Vaan wanted to make the best use of both his bloodlines, he would have to fuse them and create a stronger bloodline.

However, the Celestial Dragonwolf Bloodline was already considered a miracle bloodline.

Vaan wasn't sure if he could create a stronger bloodline by fusing the Celestial Dragonwolf Bloodline and his Divine-rank Vampire Bloodline. There was even a high risk of failure.

After all, while they were both Divine-rank bloodlines, the Celestial Dragonwolf Bloodline was unique and far from reaching its full potential. On the other hand, the Divine-rank Vampire Bloodline was already at its limit.

As such, fusing the two was unlikely to promote a stronger bloodline. In fact, the Celestial Dragonwolf Bloodline might degrade as a result of it.

'It seems I need to find a suitable bloodline to fuse with the Divine-rank Vampire Bloodline and create another unique bloodline first. Only then should I consider fusing it with the Celestial Dragonwolf Bloodline,' Vaan contemplated.

Nevertheless, that was an objective for another time.

After absorbing so many drops of divine blood, Vaan could feel his comprehension of the Blood Law nearing the Divine rank.

It was only a matter of time before the lock on Valefor's memories was unsealed.

As such, Vaan continued to press forward.

Ding!

<You have gained insights into the Blood Law>

<Your understanding of the Blood Law has reached 10%>

...

The moment Vaan's comprehension of the Blood Law reached the Divine rank, the blood-red star in his sea of consciousness immediately engulfed half of his sea of consciousness in its gloomy crimson light.

Countless information was poured into Vaan's mind as his lost memories were returned to him.

...

...

...

Blackmoon City, Slum District

Inside a dilapidated house, a maidservant paced back and forth anxiously while holding a crying newborn in her arms. Despite her efforts to calm the three-month-old baby, it continued to cry.

Suddenly, the broken door was pushed before a beautiful woman clad in black rushed in.

Her abrupt appearance prompted the maidservant to turn to look with alarm. However, upon recognizing the beautiful black-robed woman, her expression quickly turned to pleasant surprise.

"My Lady! Thank goodness you're finally back!" the maidservant rejoiced before quickly asking, "Why did we move out of our principal home? Why do we have to hide in this shabby place? What exactly is going on?"

"I don't have a lot of time to explain, so listen carefully, Summer," Vivienne Caelestis stated as she took her baby son from the maidservant's arms.

She rocked her crying baby with one arm in an attempt to calm him while placing a stone necklace around his neck with the other.

At the same time, she explained to her maidservant, "I don't know who or what, but some people or forces have been hunting down all the surviving participants from the expedition."

"As such, it's no longer safe to stay in our principal home. However, it isn't safe to flee back to the main family. The roads are all being watched. Even if we manage to flee the city, we will be bringing disaster back to the main family."

"This current crisis is definitely bigger than what the Caelestis Household can handle. That's why hiding in the slums is the safest option for you two," Vivienne explained.

"You two...? What about you, my Lady?" Summer asked with astonishment.

"I can't stay with you two. My face has already been seen by many. Staying with you two will only endanger your lives as well," Vivienne stated before instructing Summer, "I'm entrusting my son in your care. Please look after him."

Shortly after, Vivienne handed a storage bag containing countless mana stones and necessities to her maidservant.

Summer was quickly stunned by the abrupt news.

She realized her Lady would leave and become bait to guarantee their safety. Although she wanted to advise her Lady against such a decision, she was also fearful of losing her life.

As such, she could only stand frozen on the spot.

Meanwhile, Vivienne looked at her baby son with motherly love and endless reluctance. She didn't want to leave him behind, but she also knew it was the best way to guarantee his safety.

"I'm sorry I brought you into this world and failed to uphold my motherly responsibilities, Little One. However, know that I will always love you and wish you the best life has to offer, no matter where I am in this world or the next. May this stone necklace carry my wish and protect you well in my stead," Vivienne softly said to her son.

"My Lady, that sounds too ominous. It almost sounds like you believe you won't be able to survive through this crisis..." Summer mentioned anxiously.

"We can only assume the worst and prepare for it, Summer," Vivienne shook her head, reluctantly handing her son back to her maidservant. Then, she said, "I will secretly send you news every seven days."

"If you haven't heard from me for more than two weeks, assume that I am dead and look after yourself, Summer. Take care now. I've already overstayed my visit," Vivienne stated.

Shortly after, she put on her hood and disappeared into the night. It was unknown where she was headed.

...

Nevertheless, Summer dutifully looked after Vivienne's baby son while anxiously looking forward to her news every seven days.

However, on the seventh day, Vivienne's news never came.

From then on, Summer knew they were on their own. Her Lady left her son in her care and disappeared from the world.

Considering how famous her Lady had been, there must have been quite a few people who had seen her serving her Lady as well.

As such, what will happen to her?

Although her Lady told her the unknown people or forces were hunting people who had participated in the expedition, would they also look for people associated with them?

After all, why were they hunting everyone who participated in the expedition? They had to be looking for something, right?

Suddenly, Summer glanced down at the stone necklace hanging around the baby's neck. She immediately took it off the baby to study it.

However, she failed to find anything special about it.

"Isn't this just an ordinary dried-up mana stone? This is practically garbage..." Summer frowned with doubt.

At the same time, her heart felt cold.

If her Lady truly loved her son, shouldn't she have left something valuable to protect him? Why would she turn a useless stone into a necklace and leave it to her son?

'Did my Lady abandon us...?' Summer couldn't help but think.

The days of living in uncertainty and fear were slowly wearing down on her mind. She couldn't help but think negatively.

The baby's constant crying didn't make it any better for her situation here.

Nevertheless, Summer managed to tolerate everything for six months before the dwindling necessities and wealth in the storage bag twisted her mind.

"Wehh..."

A baby's loud, irritating cry suddenly broke the temporary silence within the dilapidated house.

Summer's expression quickly darkened.

"Look at you, always crying and not having a single clue about the situation around you. It must be nice to live in ignorance. Can't you stop crying for once? Your mother has already abandoned us. Do I still have a reason to take care of you, you little shit?" Summer spouted gloomily.

Chapter 845: The Past (2)

Right after Summer snapped at the baby, the baby immediately went quiet, which surprised her.

"Oh? Could it be that you understand me?" Summer uttered before frowning, "You're not even one year old yet, but you understand me? It must be a coincidence..."

"However, on the off chance that you do understand me... What the hell took you so long to shut up? Are you purposely trying to make my life more miserable than it already is?"

"No... I shouldn't be talking like this... How could I vent my anger and frustration on a baby? I'm sorry, Young Master Varuna. I shouldn't have said such nasty things to you. None of this is your fault," Summer reflected on her mistake.

Alas, it was only a moment of clarity before her mind sunk into deeper darkness. The constant fear of anything brought out the worst in people.

"Wehhh..." the infant Varuna cried again as he felt hungry.

However, Summer did not accommodate his needs. The moment she heard his cry again, the nice side of her disappeared and was replaced by hostility again.

"And here I thought we could get along. Are you hungry? Well, guess what? I'm not going to feed you! Maybe if you shut up and give me peace of mind for some time, I might consider it."

"Otherwise, you can forget it. You might be a baby, but you are going to have to start learning the house rules today, you Little Demon," Summer spat.

However, baby Varuna did not become silent this time. Instead, he cried even louder.

In turn, Summer's despairing mood plummeted further. She responded to his cry by covering his mouth with a blanket.

Although she could still hear his cry, the volume had certainly died down a little.

"In times like this, I wish I had learned the sleeping spell," Summer thought but felt temporary relief and peace, nonetheless.

However, moments later, she suddenly regained her reason again and removed the blanket, fearing she had suffocated the baby to death.

She felt immediate relief upon seeing her Young Master Varuna's breathing, albeit very weak.

Although she believed her Lady was dead since she never received a single piece of news since her departure, she also feared if she was wrong.

What would her Lady do to her if she suddenly returned and saw how she treated her baby son?

Nevertheless, the supplies left behind by her Lady were dwindling. On the other hand, the mana stones remained untouched.

Although its value could support them for two dozen years, the condition was that she had to go out and buy more food supplies.

Unfortunately, the slums weren't a very peaceful place. The residents would do anything for money as long as there were rewards for their efforts.

What would happen to her if there was a price for news related to her Lady and her? Would she be taken away and tortured for information?

She was still a relatively young witch and still in the prime of her life. Yet, she was wasting it away by hiding in such a dilapidated and abandoned house.

Why did she have to live like this? What wrong has she done? Was it also wrong to wish for a better life? Why must she accept such a situation?

Who could she blame for her present situation? Her Lady? Or the people or forces hunting her? Or maybe even the world itself?

Summer suddenly started feeding her Young Master Varuna baby formula milk, hoping to nurse back his health and energy.

Although it would be easier if he died, she also realized she couldn't let him die so easily. Otherwise, she wouldn't have anyone to vent her anger and frustration on.

Moreover, how could she make up for the past six months of torment the baby had given her?

Day by day, Summer's thoughts became increasingly twisted and sinister.

In normal circumstances, she would have done a good job taking care of Young Master Varuna and raising him. However, her chaotic environment did not allow it.

The constant violence and gossip on the streets did not grant her any good sleep. More often than not, she would wake up a few dozen times a night due to various noises. As such, she was in a constant state of mental exhaustion.

Having to take care of a newborn baby who required care and attention every couple of hours only made it worse.

...

"Hey, have you heard? The genius young lady of the Great House of Caelestis went missing. I heard there are many influential and powerful people looking for her. They are even offering a reward for any piece of information that could help with pinpointing her whereabouts..."

"Oh? Is it the Great House of Caelestis looking for her or other people?"

"This... I'm not sure, but why does it matter? We don't need to care as long as we get paid for the information we provide, no?"

"That's true..."

Summer overheard the gossip outside the house, and her determination never to leave the house was strengthened.

However, if she never left to procure more food, they would eventually run out of food supplies. Even if she rationed everything and hibernated most of the day to conserve energy, she would only last two years at most.

"People know my face, but they don't know the Little Demon's face, do they?" Summer suddenly thought.

From then on, she decided to raise her Young Master Varuna, with the hope that he would grow up faster. At the same time, she also practiced her sleeping spells on him when he cried.

"No one should know your name. If they know, they will find out about your relationship with Lady Vivienne. So, there will be no more Young Master Varuna. From today on, you will be Valefor, Little Demon," Summer decided.

...

Vaan couldn't help but sigh as he recovered Valefor's memories.

From birth, he was blessed with superior learning capabilities. As such, by the age of two, Valefor was already able to speak and walk like a four-year-old.

It was also at that age that he was sent out to buy food for the twisted maidservant with a bag of mana stones she gave. Unfortunately, the slum was an unforgiving place for a two-year-old child with a bag of mana stones.

Valefor had his bag of mana stones robbed and also suffered light injuries from falling. When he came home to the maidservant with nothing, he was further beaten and tortured for it.

"Where's the food? You lost the storage bag as well?! You had one job! Why couldn't you do it right?! Are you trying to infuriate me to death?! Don't beg me!

Don't call me mother! I am not your mother! Your real mother is already dead!" – Vaan recalled the curses as if they were said yesterday.

Valefor suffered constant physical and verbal abuse throughout his childhood. By the time he reached thirteen years of age, his body had already carried hundreds of scars from sharp cuts, lacerating whips, burns, and even stabbing.

That wasn't even including the countless thousands of other trauma-induced beatings he had suffered.

Compared to other children, what Valefor experienced in his childhood could be considered hell.

Whenever he made a mistake, he would be beaten or tortured for it. Even when he didn't do anything wrong, he could still be beaten and tortured for it. Just looking or thinking a certain way would earn him a beating or torture session.

It was a miracle that he even survived as long as he did.

Nevertheless, the maidservant disappeared one day after sending him out on an errand. Thus, by the age of thirteen, he had no one else to rely on and nothing to support his living moving forward.

At the very least, when the maidservant was still around, he was given mana stones to buy food supplies for them.

Now, he could only scavenge like the rest of the slum people.

In Valefor's memories, Vaan encountered countless instances of Valefor getting robbed by other scavengers.

However, Valefor's hatred toward them was nothing compared to his hatred toward the young witches who would occasionally visit the slums and make a sport out of practicing their magic on homeless scavengers.

At the very least, the other scavengers only hurt others to survive. On the other hand, the spoiled young witches tormented them for fun.

The hatred towards witches was nurtured since infancy.

Although Vaan knew they were his own memories of the past, he only felt like he was observing someone else's memories.

Nevertheless, it was quite shocking to see what Valefor experienced. It was no wonder that he held endless hatred and malice toward everything and everyone, with witches being at the top of the list.

That was how a demon was made.

Vaan couldn't help but realize how foolish his thoughts were regarding countless scars on his body from the neck downward.

Originally, he thought they were all caused by the lifestyle of the slums when, in reality, it was mostly caused by a single person.

In Valefor's timeline, he never had any relationship with Lord Manfred and the brothel. Valefor had awakened the system two years earlier than Vaan.

Moreover, it was due to a fatal wound he suffered when the spoiled young witches played one of their favorite slum sports – Hobo Hunting.

Funnily enough, the leader of the spoiled young witches was the same daughter of the City Lord who he had killed in the present timeline, Isabelle.

The only difference was that he had killed her two years later than Valefor did.

However, it was also another important turning point in their lives.

After all, the death of Isabelle in Valefor's timeline pushed him into a life of constant running and fighting against the authorities of the Black Rose Kingdom.

Chapter 846: Card Culprit

Sigh...

Vaan couldn't help but sigh after learning about the first eighteen years of his present life.

If he had not overcome multiple challenges and glimpsed into his myriads of reincarnations, even he wasn't so sure he could keep his sanity regarding Valefor's childhood experiences.

Such a hellish childhood would certainly shape the future course of Valefor's entire life.

As such, it was also easy to imagine how Valefor lived his life after awakening the system. His witch hunts would no doubt attract people to kill him, but also people who would aid in his witch hunts.

From joining a witch-hunting dark organization to becoming a general under one of the Seven Great Devils of Gehenna, Valefor's life was filled with blood and slaughter.

However, his merciless slaughter and rapid improvement made even the Great Devils feel threatened.

'Despite joining Gehenna, Valefor still ended up fighting the Great Devils of Gehenna, huh? Not exactly surprising...' Vaan mused as he went over Valefor's memories.

After all, not all Great Devils desired blood and killing; there were also those who pursued human resources and development, such as Hecate.

However, the first Great Devil to bear their fangs at Valefor had unexpectedly been Abaddon. Moreover, it was over a very simple reason – Valefor's rapid growth and path of power threatened his position.

In other words, Abaddon sought to eliminate Valefor before the latter usurped his authority.

Unfortunately for Abaddon, he ended up seeking his own demise. Furthermore, his divine blood became further fuel for Valefor's rapid growth, alarming the other Great Devils.

'To think Valefor also killed Helcan and Astarte and seriously injured Hecate and Mephistopheles before Thanatos intervened...' Vaan thought with surprise.

In his opinion, Thanatos had acted quite late.

Furthermore, in Valefor's memories, Thanatos had actually failed to put a stop to Valefor's rampage. The Death Law was unable to kill Valefor's body and soul due to the power of the Blood Law and Eternal Soul.

With Thanatos's greatest power being ineffective against Valefor, Thanatos was beaten terribly, over and over again, for his transgression. Valefor had repeatedly destroyed his body and soul.

However, Thanatos was able to come back to life like an undying fourth-dimensional being.

Even so, being reduced to a punching bag dealt a serious blow to Thanatos's mental state. He was actually beaten so badly that he developed trauma over it and never came out of his dwelling place again.

As a result, Valefor became the new Realm Lord of Gehenna.

However, not long after, Valefor started a Realm War with Nightmare. Or rather, Nightmare started a Realm War with him due to the countless witches who died at his hands.

Nevertheless, it surprisingly took a hundred years to reach that point.

Although Valefor had grown rapidly in the beginning with the system, he had also become overly reliant on the system to improve. As a result, his advancements became much slower in the later stages.

Moreover, there was also a lack of opportunities in Valefor's timeline. It almost seemed like the Red Dragon Clan didn't exist in his timeline.

Valefor never encountered the Ten-Thousand-Year Stalactite Milk in the underground cave of the Blackmoon Region nor the Divine-rank Stalactite Milk in the subterranean region beyond the moon's dimensional crack.

Even the Great Ratholos Empire's Black Mountain didn't exist in that timeline.

...

Vaan couldn't help but sigh again.

It became clear that all these opportunities were quite possibly a result of the Lord of Chaos's excessive meddling.

He was practically spoon-fed these opportunities.

'You seal away my knowledge to higher-end cultivation techniques and arts, but you bless me with various opportunities? What exactly are you thinking, Lord of Chaos?' Vaan wondered.

He couldn't help but shake his head.

If the Lord of Chaos truly wished to let him develop on his own and open up a new possibility, he shouldn't have meddled with so many changes.

Otherwise, it was no different from being guided.

'I thought I could find some answers in these memories... But while I did find some answers, I've also gained many more questions...' Vaan wryly lamented.

Shortly after dispersing his subspace and returning to the solitary void of space near the moon, Vaan pushed his Fourth Dimensional Sense to the limits.

However, he couldn't discover anything out of the ordinary.

"Lord of Chaos, are you there?" Vaan decided to ask.

"..."

Vaan's question was greeted with silence. At first, it seemed like his call didn't produce any results.

However, his Fourth Dimension Sense did, in fact, pick up something – The world itself seemed to have shuddered ever so subtly as if some outside force had nudged it.

Whatever it was, Vaan figured it might have been related to the Lord of Chaos.

Perhaps the Lord of Chaos heard his call but decided not to respond to him or meet him. Whichever was the case, Vaan also believed he wasn't ready to meet such an apex being.

After all, if the Lord of Chaos actually emerged to meet him, his action could attract the unwanted attention of other powerful beings who might wish for his death. In this case, the Lord of Chaos would have no choice but to rewind time again or bring him away.

Those were undoubtedly undesirable outcomes.

Of course, Vaan could be overthinking the matter and overestimating his importance to the Lord of Chaos. However, he couldn't help but have the nudging feeling that was the situation.

"I'm not your elder brother yet. However, I won't keep you waiting much longer," Vaan uttered.

The worldly dimension seemed to have shuddered subtly again.

Vaan was aware that he was far too weak, and his memories of Varuna were also too incomplete for him to be considered the Lord of Chaos's older brother.

However, that wasn't why the Lord of Chaos didn't come out to meet him when he called.

At the end of Valefor's ten thousand years of life, some clues suggested Chaos was divided between the Lord of Chaos and a powerful foe, who even the Lord of Chaos couldn't easily deal with.

Thinking back on it, Vaan recalled it had been two chaos cycles since Varuna's death.

He wondered if any of the Outer Beings Varuna encountered on his journey outside of Chaos ever found their way to it.

In fact, Vaan couldn't help but wonder if the one who killed Varuna also found its way to Chaos. If there was such a situation, he couldn't even begin to imagine what kind of terrible plight Chaos had found itself in.

Perhaps the Lord of Chaos was also preparing to face such a seemingly undefeatable being.

After all, considering the Lord of Chaos had meddled so much with his memories, he would have also read through all the memories of Varuna and his past reincarnations.

Such a thing didn't seem to be impossible for the Lord of Chaos.

Nevertheless, Chaos's problem was too distant for the current Vaan to be worrying about when he had not even entered the divine rank yet.

More importantly, there were a few places in Pangea he wished to visit.

In Valefor's timeline, Golden Dragon Pangea was completely dead by the time Valefor had learned of its existence. However, the absence of spirit energy was still an ongoing problem that everyone still had to face.

That was to say that something else was plundering all the spirit energy produced by life on the planet.

Moreover, the source was hidden somewhere in the depths of the vast ocean.

...

When Vaan returned to the moon's core and passed through the dimensional crack to enter the subterranean region, he did not find Hecate doing anything productive with the pure mana-enriched environment she had seemed to envy.

Instead, he found her playing cards with her three Dreamcatchers.

At the same time, Hecate also spotted Vaan staring back at her with mild surprise. Her mind briefly blanked, but it was unclear for which reason.

"Ah..." Hecate uttered.

"So, you are the reason behind the Lady Dreamcatchers' habit of playing cards, Lady Hecate?" Vaan casually mentioned with curiosity.

"What?" Hecate blinked before quickly turning to Fourth Dream, chiding her, "See this? I told you that you shouldn't have suggested playing cards. Now, Sir Vaan thinks little of me."

"What?" Fourth Dream's mind also briefly blanked before she cried with outrage, "But, Mistress, it was—Mmf!"

Alas, before Fourth Dream could finish defending herself against Hecate's blatant accusation, her mouth was sealed with magic.

"What a disobedient child. How could you talk back to your Mistress?" Hecate chided half-heartedly before coughing awkwardly, "Ahem, I'm sorry you had to see something like that, Sir Vaan."

"Oh, don't be, Lady Hecate. I'm glad I did, though," Vaan softly chuckled.

"Ahem..." Hecate coughed again before changing the subject, "You succeeded, Sir Vaan?"

Vaan calmly nodded, knowing what Hecate was asking. As such, he also demonstrated his ability to control his Everlasting Blood.

Hecate sensed his blood power and was immediately stunned by his progress.

However, having studied both the Everlasting Blood Mantra and the Divine Blood Refining Art, Hecate also noticed something was different about his blood aura that didn't quite fit either of the two.

"This... Something doesn't seem right about the aura your blood power is giving off, Sir Vaan..." Hecate mentioned with doubt.

"Oh?" Vaan raised an eyebrow before casually explaining, "That is probably because I merged the Everlasting Blood Mantra and the Divine Blood Refining Art and cultivated it as a single blood art, Lady Hecate."

"You... did what now?"

Hecate started hyperventilating as her chest heaved up and down due to the shocking news she had just received.

Vaan had done something seemingly impossible and outrageous, but he had also reacted as if it was nothing special.

How could any knowledgeable person react calmly to something that shocking?

"Do you know how incredulous of a feat that is, Sir Vaan?" Hecate asked after calming herself down.

"What about it, Lady Hecate?" Vaan replied calmly.

Hecate's chest started heaving up and down as she felt unnerved by Vaan's nonchalance despite achieving something world-breaking.

At the same time, Vaan's gaze followed her chest movements.

Chapter 847: Doubts & Misunderstanding

Nevertheless, Hecate did not pay attention to the focus of Vaan's gaze. She was too shocked by his achievement.

She could still attribute it to his peerless intellectual talent if he had combined the Divine Blood Refining Art with another technique to create superior art.

However, it was a different story for the Everlasting Blood Mantra, which had potential origins dating back to the Primal Chaos Era. Creating a superior technique or art out of its combination would take more than just talent.

Even True Divinities might not boast they could perform such a casually.

Nevertheless, after everything was said and done, the Divine Blood Refining Art was still inferior compared to the Everlasting Blood Mantra. As such, while it was shocking and ground-breaking, it could still be accepted after some time.

However, if Vaan had actually combined the Everlasting Blood Mantra with another technique or art of the same quality, that would truly flip Chaos on its head.

Sometime after calming down, Hecate suddenly smiled, and her thoughts became unreadable.

"It seems anything seemingly outrageous and unbelievable to other people would be treated as normal and to be expected by you, Sir Vaan. I should try to get used to that," Hecate stated wryly.

Vaan smiled back. But at the same time, his gaze also flickered with an imperceptible glint of deep thoughts.

Anyone else in Hecate's shoes would have wondered how he could achieve such a feat without an unbelievable understanding and knowledge of cultivation.

However, Hecate remained silent on that topic.

It could be that she was just being considerate and not wanting to pry. However, Vaan would rather believe she knew something about him or had some suspicions regarding his identity.

After all, he had not been prudent and left multiple clues in return for more information from Hecate. Given her intellect, he wouldn't find it surprising if she had already figured him out from the first clue.

Moreover, even if he didn't do anything, she should have also noticed something due to the preferential treatment she gave him as a result of the Boundless Sea and Sky Aura's effects.

As far as Vaan was aware, the Boundless Sea and Sky Aura promoted goodwill but didn't rob intelligence from sea and sky beings. As such, its power could be easily recognized by anyone knowledgeable about the Lord of the Boundless Sea and Sky.

Furthermore, the Lord of the Boundless Sea and Sky was on par with the Lord of Chaos. Thus, his influence had to be quite far-reaching throughout Chaos.

Without all those points taken into account, Hecate wouldn't try to expose or pry into his past life identity as a safety precaution, even if she realized he was the reincarnation of the Lord of the Boundless Sea and Sky Aura.

Hecate had already stressed to Vaan about how taboo the mention of the Lord of the Boundless Sea and Sky was before.

Vaan understood why Hecate refrained from openly prying into his past-life identity.

After all, if she were caught and had her memories searched by a powerful being one day, they would not find anything about him being the Lord of the Boundless Seas and Skies since they would only see her memories and not her thoughts.

"When will we carry out the contract ceremony, Lady Hecate?" Vaan suddenly asked.

"Are you in a hurry to get rid of me again, Sir Vaan?" Hecate replied rhetorically, putting Vaan on the spot. However, shortly after, she smiled and said, "Consolidate your foundations and mental state, Sir Vaan."

"We can begin in the next twenty-four hours," Hecate stated.

"Alright," Vaan nodded.

He didn't intend to rush it. After recovering Valefor's memories, he still had a lot of things on his mind. He was plagued with a number of questions and doubts.

For example, what was the origin of Earth?

Did the Lord of Chaos plant the memories of his life on Earth? Or was his life on Earth specifically selected from one of his previous lives? If it was the latter, what was special about his life on Earth?

In his opinion, his life on Earth was very ordinary and lackluster.

However, if he were to compare Earth to Pangea, Gehenna, or even the rest of Chaos, it would be very special in its own way. After all, Earth was a world without spirit energy and mana.

Human evolution was progressively much slower and only achievable through the power of science.

As such, it was fundamentally different from any other world he was aware of. Different laws governed it.

Humans weren't granted any special powers or longevity. They could only make the best out of their short lives while hoping for society to make technological breakthroughs and increase their limited time on Earth.

It almost seemed as if Earth was specifically designed to make humans enjoy mortal life.

What was the original intention behind the existence of such a world? To redefine or re-evaluate the purpose of life? Or something else?

More importantly, where was Earth located?

Although these were questions Vaan would like to know, he also knew he wouldn't find the answer by pondering over the matter.

...

Shortly after exchanging a few words of pleasantries, Vaan excused himself and decided to return to the Black Rose Empire.

Seventh Dream and Ninth Dream glanced at Vaan's departing back in a daze. They couldn't help but think back to Fourth Dream's passionate moment with him and wonder how she had felt during that time.

It was a subject that had strongly aroused their curiosity. However, they did not know how to approach Fourth Dream regarding the matter.

They didn't want to make her uncomfortable with their curious questions.

However, Hecate didn't have any of these reservations when it came to her Dreamcatchers.

She locked onto Fourth Dream and said, "I think it's time for some gossip, children. So, Fourth Dream, how did your first time with Sir Vaan?"

"Yeah, Fourth Sister! Tell us about it!" Seventh Dream and Ninth Dream happily chirped after hearing Hecate's question.

At the same time, with all their sudden attention on her, Fourth Dream was immediately dumbfounded. After her mind processed the information, her eyes widened in horror as she realized they all knew.

"Eh? Ehh? Ehhh???"

...

...

...

Black Rose Empire, Delarosa Marquisate

In recent days, Marquise Belline had been feeling increasingly lively and energetic—something she had not felt in a long while.

As such, she had been taking advantage of her healthy body to go on tours around her territory, observing its development and liveliness. Seeing the general happiness of her people also filled her with satisfaction.

"I see you have been well, Marchioness Belline. It seems I have made a wasted trip," Vaan's sudden comment prompted Belline Delarosa to look up at a roof on her left side.

"Lord Vaan," Belline uttered with pleasant surprise before smiling, "How rare it is for you to visit this old lady. I suppose the recent improvement of my health had something to do with you?"

"Think what you like, but most of the credit goes to the dragons. If you wish to learn the details, you can ask them about it," Vaan casually replied.

He may have played a major role in resolving the Great Ratholos Empire's crisis, but the task of undoing the Life-Bound Hex had been left to the dragons. As such, he wouldn't steal all their credit.

"I see," Belline nodded understandingly before arguing, "Nevertheless, I owe you my life. You have my deepest gratitude, Lord Vaan."

"Although you have been freed from the Life-Bound Hex, the life force siphoned out of you will not return. As such, miracle elixirs and cultivation advancements are your only options to increase your lifespan," Vaan calmly mentioned.

"If you are free, I can help you advance to the High Witch rank by taking you to a secluded place."

"Oh?"

Vaan's words left Belline both stunned and astonished as she recalled the rumors about how Vaan assisted countless battle witches in advancing to the High Witch rank with his golden rod.

"Lord Vaan, you are so bold. You already have my daughters, but you also have your eyes set on me? I didn't think an old woman like me still had her charms. You truly desire me; I shan't reject you," Belline stated, resolving heart.

"Hm?"

"Hm?"

Seeing how Vaan reacted with a blank look, Belline also realized something wasn't right with his response.

"You've misunderstood me, Marchioness. I meant to say I could take you to a blessed land of cultivation, where witches can advance through the ranks much easier," Vaan humbly explained.

"..."

In that instant, Belline's cheeks turned scorching hot with shame and embarrassment. She wanted nothing more than to disappear at that moment.

At the same time, she realized the bold one wasn't Vaan but her.

"Ahem, I see..."

Belline tried to fix her composure, but the red shade of shame and embarrassment fled to her ears.

"If the blessed land of cultivation is as you say, I truly wish to experience it, Lord Vaan. However, I do need to notify my retainers of my departure first, if you don't mind," Belline mentioned politely.

"That's fine," Vaan acknowledged before asking in passing, "Lady Linetta and Lillias are not here, Marchioness Belline?"

"No, those two ran off to Sunpeak City to look for you the moment they saw me getting better. Truly, birds will leave their mother's nest one day," Belline sighed before adding, "You must have missed them if you didn't know, Lord Vaan."

Vaan calmly nodded.

Indeed, since he had been in deep cultivation until recently, he was quite behind on some news.

Nevertheless, it was also true that he missed the two flowers of the Delarosa Household in the sense that he longed to see them again. His feelings for them were stronger than he had realized.

It must have been Valefor's memories that made him want to cherish them more.

After all, had he not encountered them during his escape from Blackmoon City, his life might have turned out quite differently. It was also with their help that he could enjoy a period of stability in Redpine City.

As such, he owed them for making life easier for him during one of the most important periods of his life.

"We can pick them up along the way. I will also take them to blessed land to cultivate," Vaan decided before adding, "Hopefully, by the time they return to the empire, they will be Transcendent Witches."

"T-Transcendent Witches?!" Belline's mature body shook with astonishment before she asked, "Do you really think they have the potential to become Transcendent Witches, Lord Vaan?"

"In the blessed land, anyone can become a Transcendent Witch with time and hard work, even if they don't have the talent originally, Marchioness Belline," Vaan assured.

"That's great!" Belline exclaimed.

She couldn't help but look forward to seeing the blessed land with her daughters.

Although she had been rejected in a way, she didn't feel the least bit disappointed. She would happily offer up her body to repay her debt of gratitude to Vaan if he had desired it. Otherwise, she didn't have any feelings or attachments.

Rather, she was happier to see that her daughters held a place in Vaan's heart.

After all, anyone favored by Vaan would have a blessed and smooth life. He was like the son of heaven; his rise to prominence had been unstoppable and swift like it was a foregone conclusion.

No one could change that, but the world was changing because of him.

...

Chapter 848: The Day Before Launch

Ever since Great Devil Abaddon died, the Red Dragon Clan's members became more proactive in the open. The young dragon elites no longer moved in stealth but flew freely in the open sky.

At the same time, Kuvat and the others also interacted more frequently with human leaders as they discussed their plans for the future.

Much of their discussion involved opening new roads and trade routes between the united northern countries.

There were also talks of clearing a path through the Thousand Fog Mountains and opening the Red Dragon Clan to the public, allowing diplomatic and business visitations.

Nevertheless, the main purpose behind opening the Red Dragon Clan to the public was to borrow human power to transport rare minerals and resources from outside their circle of influence.

Meanwhile, with Sunpeak City being the core focus of development plans and red dragons flying about in the sky as they worked on the final phases of the Heavenreacher Project, the region also became a hot sightseeing attraction.

The top floors of every hotel in the city would be booked out so that people could observe the red dragons with a better view.

Some people were even willing to pay higher prices for already booked accommodation rooms.

People would go to surprising lengths just to see a true dragon.

Nevertheless, this was only limited to first-timers who had never seen a true dragon before. The locals were, more or less, used to the sight of them. At the very least, they wouldn't freeze in awe like they used to.

When Vaan and Belline arrived in Sunpeak City's airspace via spatial shift, he immediately scanned the city for Linetta's and Lillias's whereabouts.

In a short instant, he pinpointed their location.

It seemed they were attending the new Sunpeak Academy of Magic since they were still in their student years.

However, they seemed to have received the assistance of a red dragon to settle their registration and accommodations. Moreover, the red dragon was still watching over them in secret, like a bodyguard.

Nevertheless, this red dragon didn't seem to be one of the dragon elites from the first batch. It only had the strength of a Peak Rank 3 Being, but it was also very young—just past a hundred years of age.

Logically, it shouldn't be outside of the Red Dragon Clan with this level of strength.

However, he didn't see an issue either as long as it stayed in a place like the Sunpeak Region or had the supervision of a stronger dragon.

When Vaan suddenly kidnapped Linetta and Lillias from their magic theory class with spatial power, their sudden disappearance also caused the young dragon to panic.

'They're with me.'

'Ah, Supreme Leader.'

Vaan's timely message helped the young dragon calm down before he could go on a desperate search.

Meanwhile, Linetta and Lillias were surprised to find themselves in Vaan's arms when they were only listening to their lecture moments ago.

Although they were taken away abruptly, they were beyond ecstatic to see him.

"Vaan!" the two chirped pleasantly.

"Come, I will take you all to a nice place to train and accumulate your magic power," Vaan informed them.

However, before he could leave, he received a sudden request to stay from the Third Dragon Lord Sondrei.

'Please wait a moment, Supreme Leader!' Sondrei transmitted her request as she flew over to meet Vaan after sensing his presence in the vicinity.

"Lady Sondrei, what is the matter?" Vaan inquired.

"My Lord, the Heavenreacher Project was completed a few hours ago. We were waiting for your approval before we could begin its first official launch," Sondrei informed.

"Oh?" Vaan uttered with surprise before praising, "Well done. You have completed the project earlier than I anticipated. Everyone must have worked hard and overtime."

"That's right, my Lord. Everyone was getting excited as we neared the project's completion. Thus, we all put in the extra effort to finish it sooner and surprise you," Sondrei admitted.

"I see," Vaan smiled thoughtfully before mentioning, "I also have a surprise for everyone, but I'll leave that for later."

"For now, let's set the official launch date to tomorrow midday. Give Aeliana time to announce the news to the whole city so people will know when to look in the direction of the Red Goblin Mountain."

"As long as the other countries have their informants here, they will quickly learn about it as well," Vaan stated.

"Isn't that too soon, my Lord?" Sondrei asked before mentioning, "If we set too early, the news won't reach very far, and the impact of the launch will be affected."

"It doesn't matter. The official launch is only the first and not the last. We are only informing the world of our achievement, not hoping for them to watch a spectacle," Vaan calmly stated.

"As long as they come to this city, they will see the Heavenreacher launching people into the sea of stars every day. Its consistent launch will generate a far greater impact than a single-day launch."

"That's why we don't need to delay our plans to send people to the sea of stars," Vaan said.

Although he could take many people to the sea of stars with his spatial power, the impact wouldn't be the same as people reaching it through a technological construct.

After all, entering the sea of stars with the Heavenreacher would give them the sense of breaking out of Pangea's shackles on their own.

It was an indescribable and hard-to-replicate feeling.

"They say the Freedom Federation is the most technologically advanced country in the world, but we will be the first to reach for the stars with technology..." Vaan smiled thoughtfully.

No doubt, the Heavenreacher Project would draw many people to the north.

The Freedom Federation had already been the center of attention for countless years. It was time to turn Pangea's attention their way.

"Go now," Vaan urged.

"Understood, my Lord. I will have it done immediately," Sondrei assured before departing to carry out the task.

Shortly after, Vaan took Marchioness Belline and her two daughters to the moon colony with a single spatial leap.

...

Meanwhile, rumors of the Heavenreacher's official launch date spread quickly through Sunpeak City. Even before the official announcement was made, hundreds of people had already caught wind of it.

Bars and taverns have always been the hotspots for gossip.

"Hey, have you heard about the Heavenreacher's launch date?" a man casually started a conversation with random men after getting his drink.

"You mean that tall magic tower on top of the Red Goblin Mountain? I don't think I have. What does it even do?" a plumber asked.

"Huh? Are you new around here? No, do you live under a rock or something? Even if you were new around here, you would have at least heard about it from someone else already. After all, everyone has been talking about it!"

"Heard what?" the ignorant plumber asked.

"The Heavenreacher is sending people into the heavens! And its official launch will be tomorrow at midday!" the man said exasperatedly, incredulous that people still didn't know when information about it was practically flying around all day.

"I see... Sending people into the heavens, huh?" the plumber uttered with amazement before asking, "Are they accepting applications to join the launch? Or do they already have a list?"

"That... I'm not too sure. I've only heard there's a strict requirement for people who want to enter the sea of stars. They might loosen the requirement as they improve the cabin over time."

"However, if you are not even a loyal citizen of this country with notable contributions, they will not even consider you," the man stated.

"Huh?" the plumber blinked before saying, "Entering the sea of stars sounds like such a breathtaking experience. I'm sure many wealthy and influential people from other countries would be willing to pay for it. If they don't accept outsiders, how will they make money out of it?"

"I don't think money was the reason for building the Heavenreacher..."

"I suppose not..."

It didn't take long before the gossiping men in the bar quickly realized the main purpose behind the Heavenreacher's construction.

Given the city's daily influx of visitors, there wasn't a need to start a business using the Heavenreacher as the selling point. After all, the dragon attraction alone was already raking in crazy profits for all the local businesses.

'What an ambitious plan – Using the Heavenreacher to increase the country's population...' a hooded witch silently thought as she sat by herself at a corner table.

Although she could be easily seen, no one seemed to bother her.

Perhaps due to the way she was dressed or the vibe she emanated, everyone subconsciously wished to avoid the trouble they could get themselves into—just by striking up a normal conversation with her.

Nevertheless, one moment, the hooded witch was there; another moment, she disappeared. Only her empty mug was left on the table.

A few moments later, the seemingly uncaring men in the bar glanced at the emptied corner.

"That was probably a spy from another country, right? Should we inform the authorities about that suspicious person?" a burly construction worker suggested in a whisper.

However, the other guy cracked a smile and said, "Lord Vaan and Lady Aeliana know how important this city is better than anyone else."

"If they really wanted to root out all the foreign spies in this city, they only needed to offer out a reward for any information on them, and the masses would flush them all out immediately."

"Lord Vaan and Lady Aeliana have the wealth to make that happen," the burly construction worker confidently stated.

"That's true..." another construction worker nodded and said, "It must be frightening to be a spy for another country. If it were me, I would just give up and become a good citizen here."

The other men in the bar couldn't help but agree. Anyone who had seen Lady Aeliana's violence would also agree with them.

Chapter 849: The Divine League's Meeting

When Aeliana made her last-minute announcement regarding Heavenreacher's launch time, the night became restless.

While many people were excited to witness how humans could enter the heavens, many more people were skeptical regarding the theory. Even so, regardless of their opinions, they all looked forward to watching the launch.

If the Heavenreacher Project succeeded, it would be an important mark in human history, even though dragons did most of the work.

Nevertheless, the spies from various countries quickly sent the news back to their countries via their special methods. Some used long-distance communication tools, while others used familiar spirits to deliver their messages.

The slowest messengers were undoubtedly the contracted or tamed birds, and they had the highest risk of being intercepted.

In the eyes of dragons, these aerial messengers were as slow as buzzing flies.

However, they were already informed not to intercept them and just all their messages to reach their intended destinations.

The northern countries under Vaan had undoubtedly received a lot of attention due to his lightning-quick rise and the changes he brought with him. While some silently looked on with interest and curiosity, others felt threatened.

Among the threatened countries, the Divine League was at the top of the list.

The twelve city lords of the Divine League held an urgent meeting precisely to discuss the agenda regarding the Heavenreacher's official launch date.

"The North has been sending witches to investigate our territory on a number of occasions. It is clear that its appetite is insatiable and has set its eyes on us as its next target," the Sword Lord, City Lord of Divine Sword City, solemnly mentioned.

"Depending on how successful the Heavenreacher Project is, it could draw a lot of people to its side. If we don't keep a tight leash on our people, our population will also suffer, considering how close we are to the North."

"That's why we can't let the North's Heavenreacher Project succeed. We must sabotage it," the Sword Lord firmly stated.

"You speak too seriously, Sword Lord," the Saber Lord, City Lord of Divine Saber City, casually dismissed. "The Heavenreacher Project is no more than a gimmick to garner interest and attention. It won't succeed the way you fear."

"My sources tell me only a selected few individuals would be permitted to use the Heavenreacher to enter the heavens. Moreover, they must have full citizenship and outstanding contribution to the country."

"As such, outsiders have no chance of buying a ticket to the heavens, even if it was for sale. Why would anyone flock to the North, knowing they wouldn't be given a chance to soar into the heavens?" the Saber Lord mentioned.

"The Saber Lord is right," the Bow Lord of Divine Bow City acknowledged before saying, "More importantly, it might sound impressive to enter the heavens, but the heavens aren't a kind place for humans to be."

"That is the domain of gods; to humans, or any mortal for that matter, it is no different from a world of death. There is no air for us to breathe up there. As such, there is also no guarantee that people sent up there will come back alive."

"To me, that is no different from sending people to die. Behind that blazing trail of glory is only death. Once people realize that, the Heavenreacher will not seem as impressive as they thought," the Bow Lord calmly stated.

"That is a fool's thinking, Bow Lord," the Sword Lord coolly insulted before arguing, "If we can think of such a problem, do you think the people who designed the Heavenreacher wouldn't think of it too?"

"The North must have already prepared a way for people to survive up there! They just haven't made the information public!" the Sword Lord strongly believed.

"So what if it is true, Sword Lord?" the Moon Lord of Divine Moon City uttered.

The Sword Lord immediately frowned before asking, "What do you mean 'So what,' Moon Lord? Do you not understand the gravity of the issue? If we do not remove this threat, our Divine League will only exist in name in the future."

"No, I do understand the gravity of the issue, Sword Lord. However, what you want to do will make the problem a hundred times worse for our Divine League," the Moon Lord coldly refuted.

"I concur with the Moon Lord's opinion," the Star Lord of Divine Star City voiced, adding, "Before you think about sabotaging the Heavenreacher, you should first measure your own ability."

"Do you think our Divine League is capable of bearing the wrath of the North if we become openly hostile with it? Don't forget that even someone as powerful as Great Devil Abaddon could still be killed."

"Do you think we are more capable than Great Devil Abaddon?" the Star Lord solemnly asked.

"Well..."

"Furthermore, if the Heavenreacher could really send people into the heavens, its practical use and symbolic importance to humanity is something you cannot even begin to imagine," the Star Lord continued before the Sword Lord could reply.

"As such, if it was ever found out that our Divine League had sabotaged or even attempted to sabotage the Heavenreacher, we may very well not only incur the wrath of the North but all of humanity."

"Do you think our Divine League will still exist if we were barraged by other countries on all sides, Sword Lord?" the Star Lord asked.

The Sword Lord glanced at the rest of the City Lords and asked, "Do you all have the same opinions as the Star Lord and the others?"

"..."

The Sword Lord's question was met with silence as the other city lords in the Divine League contemplated.

However, it was also clear that none of them wished to antagonize the North.

"Sending people into the heavens sounds like an impressive feat, but what benefits does the Heavenreacher actually offer? At the very least, they pale to the benefits of our Divine Weapons, Sword Lord," the Sky Lord of Divine Sky City spoke.

The Sword Lord immediately glared at the Sky Lord before admonishing him, "You want to use the Divine Weapons to counteract the impact of the Heavenreacher? Are you out of your mind, Sky Lord?!"

"The Divine Weapons are gifts from our Divine Goddess! Even if we can use them to promote our country, it doesn't mean we should! We might even lose the favor of our Divine Goddess!" the Sword Lord barked.

"Indeed, I have to agree with the Sword Lord on this one, Sky Lord," the Saber Lord couldn't help but admit truthfully.

"The Divine Weapons grants great power and long lifespans to their chosen wielders, even if they are only mere mortals. This kind of temptation can easily ignite a bloody war due to greed."

"Even if we possess transcendental powers and lifespans now, we must never forget that they all come from our Divine Weapons. If we lose them, we will have to go back to being ordinary mortals again."

"I would like to sleep with peace of mind at night. So, I must disagree with your idea of promoting the Divine Weapons, Sky Lord," the Saber Lord stated.

Although he still hugged his Divine Saber to sleep every night, he at least did it with a relaxed state of mind. If the secret of the Divine Weapons became widespread, he would never sleep well again.

"Then, what does everyone suggest? Without the Divine Weapons, we have nothing else to attract our populace to stay," the Sky Lord frowned before asking, "Are we going to do nothing and just watch?"

"Do nothing and watch for now, indeed," the Saber Lord nodded.

"I concur."

"As do I."

"I am of the same opinion."

"Mine too."

"I also agree."

"Mm."

The City Lords voiced their agreement one after the other. With each reply, the Sky Lord's expression would darken by a shade.

"You bunch of conservative old farts. We'll be too late to act with that kind of mentality, but whatever. So be it. Just don't start crying to me when our Divine League declines in the future!" the Sky Lord snorted.

The meeting room quickly went dead silent.

Although everyone knew they should do something, their options were limited.

Furthermore, if they forced the matter, they also feared the gravity of the consequences would be more than they could bear.

"In times like this, why don't we just seek out our Divine Goddess for answers? The Divine Goddess will surely illuminate the correct path for us," the Sword Lord suggested after a soft sigh.

"Moreover, if we failed to inform the Divine Goddess of such a momentous event happening in the North on time, we may lose the blessings and favor of our Divine Goddess."

"That is also something I can agree to," the Saber Lord quickly acknowledged before saying, "To think I would agree with something you say, not once but twice, Sword Lord. The sun must be rising from the west."

Evidently, the Saber Lord and Sword Lord had a long history of conflicting opinions and views.

However, they had always been over trivial matters, nothing as significant as this time. As such, the Sword Lord was too lazy to bicker with the Saber Lord.

"Enough of your jabs, Saber Lord. Let us just summon our Divine Goddess," the Sword Lord urged after sighing again.

The rest of the City Lords nodded.

Chapter 850: Mystery Law

After Vaan introduced Marchioness Belline and her two daughters to the pure mana-enriched land of the subterranean region, they were immediately spellbound by its unimaginable purity.

It only took them a brief moment of contact to realize how easily they could control pure mana.

They were greatly shocked to discover such simplicity of control was even possible.

Nevertheless, after they settled down and started absorbing pure mana from the surroundings for their cultivation, they were quickly immersed in it and forgot about everything else.

As such, Vaan quietly left so he wouldn't disturb them. How much they could achieve would depend on their effort and talent.

Meanwhile, many High Witches from the first batch of battle witches had already reached the Peak-stage High Witch rank after their full week of cultivation. Some even managed to reach Half-step Transcendent Witch rank.

Evidently, they were more talented than Vaan had given them credit for.

However, if he were to re-evaluate Pangean humans, he would know that they were, in general, more talented than other humans in his past lives.

If he also had to guess, he figured it most likely had something to do with Pangean Humans living without the blessings of life's spirit energy.

For them to be deprived of it since birth was like living with weighted shackles. Their bodies became stronger to adapt.

As such, even though Vaan's women had strong leads due to dual cultivation with him, they could still be overtaken by other witches the moment they slacked in cultivation.

In the past, the High Witch rank used to be the bottleneck that divided the talented from the untalented. But now, with the blessed land of pure mana, even the Transcendent Witch rank might be a bottleneck for the witches.

Vaan wondered if the pure mana in the subterranean region was also another one of the Lord of Chaos's arrangements.

That said, if the Lord of Chaos knew what he was thinking, he would happily take credit for it, even if it had nothing to do with it, probably. Vaan couldn't help but feel like that was something the Lord of Chaos would do.

When Vaan checked on Hecate and the three Dreamcatchers, he noticed they were no longer playing cards.

Instead, they were actually doing something productive – Hecate was teaching her Dreamcatchers about the eighth stage of the Divine Dream Realm and sharing her insights with them.

This should be the real reason for her choosing to stick around for a while longer.

Nevertheless, since they were busy, he chose not to disturb them as well. Although Vaan had a lot to do, he also felt like he was quite free for the time being.

However, this so-called free time was just an illusory feeling brought about by having so many things to do and not knowing where to focus. Cultivation was important, but other things also required his attention.

For someone in his current position, free time was a luxury he couldn't afford to have.

Nevertheless, cultivation was also a slow and gradual process.

Maybe it was because Vaan was used to quick power-ups and rapid improvements, but he felt like it was a waste of time to keep cultivating once his progress slowed down.

After all, small improvements wouldn't make significant changes in the short term.

At the very least, it wouldn't grant him the power to challenge the other Great Devils right away.

From his battle with Abaddon, he also found out that thermonuclear power had its limitations in terms of use and destructiveness. Powerful as it was, it wasn't a guaranteed ace-in-the-hole type of trump card.

He needed something even more powerful than that.

Now that he had cultivated aura, magic, energy, and laws and also raised his regeneration power to the divine rank with the help of the blood arts, it should be safer to conduct his experiment on a new type of trump card—antimatter.

The power of antimatter superseded thermonuclear power.

Shortly after Vaan departed the moon and ventured back into the depths of space, he made sure it was a region of absolute void, where there wasn't even a speck of air floating around in space randomly.

After all, antimatter was notoriously volatile.

A single moment of contact with matter was all it would take to generate frightening amounts of energy.

Nevertheless, Vaan greatly underestimated the difficulty of creating antimatter. Even if he used magic, it still consumed an extraordinary amount of magical energy to produce the result.

However, Vaan didn't find this problem too surprising.

In order to invert the charges of matter, he would have to wrestle their most fundamental building blocks apart, which was like trying to pull two pieces of extremely powerful magnets away from each other.

Something like that would require tremendous strength and energy.

It was just like how absolute zero was theoretically impossible to achieve, as it would take an infinite amount of more energy the closer one got to it.

Nevertheless, if Vaan intended to create antimatter with brute force, it would defeat the purpose of magic.

He just had to eliminate the power of attraction, which kept these fundamental building blocks from being bound together tightly. As long as that was achieved, it would take significantly less magical energy to invert their charges.

However, Vaan encountered another problem as he conducted antimatter creation experiments.

Even if he successfully removed the attractive power with extremely precise control of nihilistic power and inverted the charges of matter, he still wouldn't have a complete antimatter particle.

After all, the attractive power that bound its pieces together was lost in the process.

As such, he would have to figure out a way to invert the charges of matter directly without consuming too much energy. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to generate much antimatter for it to be useful.

Vaan soon realized that even if he succeeded in creating antimatter, he wouldn't be able to generate enough for it to produce more destructive power than thermonuclear power.

Furthermore, it had even greater limitations for use, such as only being viable in a battlefield like the Sea of Stars.

Otherwise, the antimatter explosion would be triggered before it would even reach his enemies. Of course, this problem could be easily remedied by isolating and delivering it with spatial power.

In essence, Vaan figured that if he could produce even one gram of antimatter, it would be considered a huge success, even if the destructive power of its explosion was far inferior to a fifty-megaton thermonuclear bomb.

After all, the biggest advantage of antimatter wasn't its power of destruction but its power of annihilation. It literally possessed the power to annihilate matter, unlike a thermonuclear bomb.

As such, if Vaan could wield the power of antimatter, it would be like using higher-end Nihility Law without actually using higher-end Nihility Law.

As Vaan conducted his antimatter experiments in space, he discovered that there was one type of law that would make antimatter creation much simpler and less energy-consuming.

In fact, he already had some vague comprehension of its existence when he absorbed some of Varuna's memories.

=====

«Law»

«High Comprehension»

Fire Law: 7.6%

Space Law: 12.5%

Nihilility Law: 5.3%

Wind Law: 5.7%

Water Law: 5.6%

Blood Law: 5.01%

«Low Comprehension»

Asura Law: 1.21%

Earth Law: 0.99%

Death Law: 0.99%

Life Law: 0.99%

Temporal Law: 0.5%

In?er?? La?: ?.0?4%

=====

The Inverse Law, the Law of Inversion, was undoubtedly the last law on Vaan's list of registered law comprehensions.

However, Vaan wasn't sure why it would look like there was some glitch in the system.

Was the power of Inverse Law far beyond the system's ability to process and understand? Or was the information on the Inverse Law damaged in the system's records?

Although the latter made more sense, Vaan couldn't help but lean towards the former.

However, how could the Inverse Law be unrecognized when the system could even identify the Nihilty Law and Asura Law, which were both laws that have reached the origin level?

Wouldn't that imply the Inverse Law was even greater than the Nihilty Law and Asura Law?

Furthermore, if the Inverse Law was indeed greater than the Nihilty Law and Asura Law, had it always been greater than them? Or had it been raised like the Asura Law?

There seemed to be a lot of mystery surrounding the Inverse Law.

Nevertheless, whatever the case was, Vaan only knew that he needed to comprehend the Inverse Law if he wanted to simplify antimatter creation.

Unexpectedly, his experiments on antimatter creation took up a lot more time than he had anticipated. But if he had never tried, he wouldn't have obtained such valuable information.

Even so, an entire night had already passed on Pangea, and there were only a few hours before Heavenreacher's scheduled time for launch.

When Vaan traveled back to Sunpeak City, he was warmly greeted in the sky by the dragon lords almost immediately.

"Supreme Leader, it's great that you are back!" Lord Astarot rejoiced before mentioning, "We have been trying to contact you regarding today's event."

"Hm? Is there a problem with the Heavenreacher?" Vaan asked.