

## The Witch 871

### Chapter 871: True God Sermon

Throughout history, the rise and fall of dynasties have always been predestined. Even powerful countries could fail the test of time and be replaced by new ones.

As such, it was hard to describe how impressive it was for the Dark Fae God Clan to survive to the current era while holding its seemingly insurmountable position.

How did it manage to avoid its decline over such a long passage of time? How many rival clans had risen and sought to replace it but ultimately failed throughout history? Had it ever faced the risk of getting replaced at all?

Or did it have the eternal and inviolable protection of Chaos Royalty?

Vaan didn't know if any other clans had ever come close to becoming the ruling clan of the Eternal Darkheaven Sector.

However, he could be sure that the Dark Fae God Clan was there to stay.

Time was enough proof of its insurmountable position. No other clan could take the Eternal Darkheaven Sector from it.

It could be said that the Dark Fae God Clan was the Eternal Darkheaven Sector.

But how big was the Eternal Darkheaven Sector exactly?

If Vaan had to venture a guess with his limited knowledge, a supercluster of galaxies was called a sector.

He didn't believe the Eternal Darkheaven Sector was an entire chaosverse. Still, it should at least cover a small fraction of it like a supercluster. Even if it was only a supercluster of a hundred thousand galaxies, that was still an immeasurably vast territory.

After all, if each galaxy already held roughly a hundred million star realms, then how many star realms were contained within the entire supercluster?

The number of stars within the entire supercluster was simply mind-boggling to imagine.

Furthermore, it was only a very conservative estimation since True Gods and beyond were capable of creating new celestial bodies to fill the immeasurably vast space of Chaos.

Now, if one were also to imagine the potential life of every star realm within the Eternal Darkheaven Sector, the total number of lifeforms under the Dark Fae God Clan's sovereignty would be even more staggering to imagine.

Vaan highly doubted that status alone would allow the Dark Fae God Clan to retain its solid grasp on the Eternal Darkheaven Sector.

Most likely, True Divinities, which seemed rare and elusive in Gehenna or even the entire Skymagia Star Kingdom, were actually very common in the Dark Fae God Clan.

The name itself was self-evident of that fact.

Moreover, Hecate's ancestors descended from such an incredibly prestigious place.

Vaan could not help but wonder what sort of crime they had committed exactly to be banished from there.

When he raised this question, Hecate shook her head in reply, "I'm not exactly sure, Sir Vaan. My great-grandfather never opened up about it to anyone."

"However, I did overhear unconfirmed rumors from the servants that my great-grandfather was in charge of delivering an important ingredient for a high-ranking elder to refine a True God Pill but lost it on the way, causing someone important to miss the best time to advance to godhood."

"Others guessed that my great-grandfather offended a True Divinity in the main clan. Still, neither of these possibilities seemed severe enough for our whole branch family to be exiled from the clan," Hecate mentioned with a frown.

Nevertheless, she suddenly shook her head and changed the topic, "Enough about my family. We should be talking about Goddess Thyia. This is currently more important."

"Right..." Vaan calmly nodded, putting aside Hecate's background for the time being. Shortly after, he asked, "According to what we have discussed, Goddess Thyia was quite reputable among the upper echelons of the Eternal Darkheaven Sector."

"But... that can't be it, right? I figured such a reputable True God in the Eternal Darkheaven Sector would have at least been heard a few times by ordinary Divine Beings as well... or is that not the case?" Vaan asked.

"No, you are right, Sir Vaan," Hecate acknowledged before continuing, "You are so perceptive and knowledgeable that sometimes I forget that you are not a resident of Chaos."

"It was my mistake for not mentioning common knowledge about Goddess Thyia first. In fact, Goddess Thyia was very well-known, even among Divine Beings."

"You can even say she was more reputable and respected by Divine Beings than some Heavenly Gods and Empyrean Gods in the Eternal Darkheaven Sector," Hecate mentioned.

"Why is that?" Vaan asked.

"That was because of her True God Sermons," Hecate answered.

Noticing the crease of doubt in Vaan's eyebrows, she continued to explain, "Unlike most True Divinities, Goddess Thyia wasn't elusive and indifferent to the common folks across Chaos."

"Goddess Thyia was very down-to-earth and would frequently impart her knowledge to Divine Beings as she traveled around the Eternal Darkheaven Sector, enlightening them on the laws of life and death."

"Thanks to her teachings, many Divine Beings benefited in their cultivation and even overcame the Divine Limit to become True Gods. As such, her lessons were later known as True God Sermons."

"However, her last True God Sermon was over a million years ago. No one had seen or heard of Goddess Thyia since," Hecate stated before giving Vaan a thoughtful look.

"Although it is unknown what happened to Goddess Thyia back then, who would have known that her inheritance would be secretly hidden here all this time?"

"I truly envy your luck, Sir Vaan. Heaven-blessed opportunities seem to fall into your lap wherever you go," Hecate commented.

However, not a shred of jealousy was reflected in her clear eyes.

Meanwhile, Vaan could only respond with a wry smile. What could he do about it when the heavens were actually throwing opportunities his way?

The Lord of Chaos had messed around too much.

That said, if the Lord of Chaos had not intervened, Vaan wondered if he would have failed and eventually fallen back into the endless cycle of reincarnation again.

Perhaps the Lord of Chaos had peered into his future and prepared his opportunities accordingly? Wouldn't that mean every opportunity he came across were things he absolutely needed to overcome his tribulations?

Vaan couldn't help but ponder deeper on this train of thought.

Chapter 872: Simplified Ceremony

Nevertheless, while Vaan was in deep thought, Hecate gave him a strict reminder.

"Although I shouldn't need to tell you this, I feel like I should still make it clear. If Goddess Thyia's inheritance is truly hidden in this secret realm, you must ensure this information never spreads, Sir Vaan," Hecate solemnly stated.

"That is for sure," Vaan calmly acknowledged in understanding.

For Hecate to say such words, he could also ascertain that she wouldn't do such a foolish thing either.

After all, it was from her that he learned Goddess Thyia had raised a number of True Divinities with her True God Sermons during her years of travel around the Eternal Darkheaven Sector.

Even if the number of beings who benefited from her was but a drop of water in the vast ocean, the number of beings who respected her was still frightening to consider.

As such, if word of her inheritance were ever spread outside, the interested parties wouldn't just be the Great Devils of Gehenna or the Divine Beings of the entire Skymagia Star Kingdom.

It would involve all ambitious and capable Divine Beings throughout the entire Eternal Darkheaven Sector, especially those who cultivate her related laws.

Should that happen, Gehenna would be caught in the heart of the storm.

The intense competition over Goddess Thyia's inheritance would turn into a bloodbath, and the destruction from the divine battles would lay waste to Gehenna. Even Pangea wouldn't be able to escape the implications.

"Are you confident in overcoming the inheritance trial, Sir Vaan?" Hecate shortly asked, solemnly adding a word of warning, "If you aren't confident, it's best not to risk it. Those Death Eaters aren't your average foes."

"Those Death Eaters certainly drain any confidence or courage out of a person," Vaan nodded with acknowledgment before saying, "However, would you believe me if I told you that Goddess Thyia's inheritance trial might be designed for me to succeed, Lady Hecate?"

"Those words are certainly arrogant and hard to believe," Hecate calmly acknowledged before saying, "However, since it is you who said it, I'll have to believe it."

"Even a Great Devil like Abaddon couldn't do anything to you and was even felled by your hands. You overcame what should have been considered a great disaster to most people and achieved the impossible."

"Goddess Thyia's inheritance might be heaven's way of rewarding you for overcoming its tribulation," Hecate guessed.

It was also for this reason that she didn't have the slightest interest in Goddess Thyia's inheritance despite learning about it.

Although Goddess Thyia's laws of life and death were suitable for supplementing her existing laws and raising her strength by a significant degree, Goddess Thyia's inheritance wasn't meant for her.

To forcefully take what didn't belong to her was the surest way to invite calamity upon herself.

"Since you have put it that, I feel a little more assured," Vaan casually said before mentioning, "However, it's still uncertain how long it will take once I challenge Goddess Thyia's inheritance trial."

"In that case, we should perform the contract ceremony beforehand," Hecate suggested before commenting with amusement, "It would be unfortunate if we missed the deadline to comfort the other Great Devils' weak hearts."

"Haha, it would indeed be unfortunate," Vaan softly chuckled.

Neither of them seemed to put the other Great Devils in their eyes. Their aspirations, potentials, and destinies were far beyond them.

The Great Devils were only mediocre beings within the vast and boundless Chaos.

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Shortly after, Vaan and Hecate relocated to Pangea to find an ordinary spot for the contract ceremony. They settled for an open space near the black pillar and crimson zone in the Great Ratholos Empire.

Upon their arrival, Hecate quickly began drawing the magic circle for Vaan's contract with Gehenna. At the same time, Vaan also prepared the recording-type magic tools as proof for Hecate to deliver to the Great Devils afterward.

Of course, it did take much effort and time since the magic tools were readily available from the last war with the Holy Knight Empire.

As such, Vaan took the spare time to study Hecate's increasingly complex magic circle as layers upon layers of runes and minor circles were added. He could tell that each set of runes confined within a minor circle was related to a single clause or condition of the contract.

It was self-evident when the complex series of runes transformed into recognizable characters of the common language upon completion.

Thanks to his learning of the runic language back in the Red Dragon Clan, he was able to understand the information contained within the formation of runes. Even so, its increasing complexity made it more difficult.

It became clear that his present understanding of the runic language was inferior to Hecate's.

As such, Vaan understood the need and importance of increasing his understanding of the runic language.

After all, the runic language was universally applicable to all aspects of the world. It was like the coding to create any program, except it had the power and potential to act on the world and transform it in ways unimaginable to the uncreative mind.

It would be foolish not to master this universally useful knowledge, which could be applied anywhere that wasn't purposely restricted in its usage.

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When Hecate finished drawing the highly complex magic circle for the contract, Vaan finally saw the depth of her runic understanding and came to a realization.

Although the contract magic was designed to bind him under oath, it was also only a link to an already existing contract between the Great Devils of Gehenna. Specified clauses and conditions within the existing contract were already set for him.

Hecate's only responsibility was to add his name to the existing contract and receive his voice of agreement for the additional binding to be effective.

Since the Great Devils had already preset the contract, it was easy for Hecate to include additional parties in its binding but extremely difficult to rewrite its existing clauses and conditions.

This was the biggest reason why the Great Devils could entrust the task to Hecate. They believed their contract was foolproofed.

However, having personally witnessed Hecate rewrite a single clause in favor of him as per their arrangement with minimal effort, Vaan understood that the Great Devils had clearly underestimated Hecate's runic capabilities.

She wasn't the Great Devil of Illusion, Sorcery, Witchcraft, Moon, Night, and Light for nothing.

Her understanding of magic and runes were leagues above others in these aspects.

"It's done. I've made the contract ceremony as simple as possible for you, Sir Vaan. You need to step into the magic circle with me and say, 'I accept.' You don't need to read out the entire contract."

"Thank you, Lady Hecate."

Once Vaan followed Hecate's instructions accordingly under the recording of the white crystal-looking magic tool, the entire magic circle disintegrated into countless light particles before flowing into his mind.

At first, he felt a slight discomfort, as if shackles had been placed on his soul. However, the feeling quickly disappeared.

In its place, a miniature magic circle of the contract could be found orbiting around his soul core. He only needed to focus his consciousness on it to review the content in its entirety.

Vaan figured the Great Devils also had the same contract magic circle within their sea of consciousness. He didn't doubt some of them, if not all, would be outraged once they reviewed the changes.

That said, the complicated contract was supposed to have powerful binding powers on him. However, it looked so pitifully small and feeble before his soul core.

A single thought was all he needed to erase its existence—should he choose to do it.

#### Chapter 873: Everfrost Realm, Scum's Favor

After the contract with the Great Devils was completed, Hecate returned to Gehenna shortly after to deliver the recording crystal to the other Great Devils.

Although the recording crystal wasn't necessary for the Great Devils to find out about Vaan's agreement to join their circle of Great Devils, it still contained the full details of the process.

Just seeing Vaan's name in their shared contract wasn't enough to satisfy them.

After all, Vaan's existence was too special to be taken lightly; he was a big variable capable of changing the trajectory of their lives. Thus, reviewing the recorded proof was absolutely necessary.

Nevertheless, when the Great Devils sensed the changes to the shared contract within their seas of consciousness, they immediately checked it.

Before they could feel assured with the addition of Vaan's name to the list, they quickly noticed the special clause that came with it.

Thanatos: "..."

Mephistopheles: "The... fuck?"

Astarte: "Interesting..."

Balmodan: "Looks like Hecate has some explaining to do..."

Helcan: "..."

The five Great Devils had varying reactions to the discovery. Nevertheless, none of them found the change to contract desirable or pleasant.

This was especially so for Helcan; it reinforced his treacherous intent and plan.

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Although Gehenna was a border star realm of the Skymagia Star Kingdom and was even close to the edge of the Eternal Darkheaven Sector, it still took Helcan a couple of days to reach the outermost region of the Great Divider.

Moreover, this was after passing through several dozen Stargates and crossing over a distance of more than three hundred light years away.

Without the assistance of Stargates, such a trip would have likely taken Helcan thousands of years to travel.

No matter how impressive Helcan was, he was still limited to the realm of Rank 6 Divine Beings, the lowest level required for stellar travel without any external help.

The starry heaven was simply too vast for Rank 6 Divine Beings.

Being capable of stellar travel did not mean Rank 6 Divine Beings could reach other locations in the endless star of stars easily; it only implied they could survive its unaccommodating environment.

When Helcan arrived at the outermost region of Great Divider, his sharp gaze scanned across the endless dark expanse filled with space junk left behind by the ancient wars of the past.

Frozen corpses of various lifeforms aimlessly floated about while damaged tools and broken scraps accompanied them in their eternal rest. Even fragments of planets and stars could be found in this vast region of space.

However, nothing of particular value could be seen or attracted as hundreds of scavengers filtered the trash mountains.

To Rank 6 Divine Beings, only very few things within the vast region of floating trash could attract them after the space had been repeatedly looted and scavenged over the years.

However, to those below Rank 6 Divine Being, the place could still be considered a massive treasure trove.

Helcan's arrival initially garnered little attention as the regular scavengers minded their own business. After all, everyone who came to the Great Divider was generally considered penniless vagrants or outlaws.

As such, there was no reason for the scavengers to look for trouble when there was nothing to be gained.

Of course, it was a different story once something of value appeared. Then, it would become everyone's business and a chaotic period of violence and slaughter over treasure would be ensured.

Nevertheless, it was not Helcan's first visit. Thus, a few scavengers were still able to recognize him. Still, they only monitored his location in silence; their veiled intentions were hidden behind a façade of indifference.

A bag of wealth had entered the arena, but no one made a move.

Even if most of the scavengers wanted to, they couldn't. Helcan was still a Peak Rank 6 Divine Being, a considered champion among the bottom feeders of Chaos.

The scavengers were smart enough to have this bit of self-awareness. The stupid ones had already joined the ranks of the deceased.

That said, should Helcan's status change for whatever reason, the scavengers would not hesitate to rip him apart for all his worth.

Nevertheless, Helcan ignored the trash of Chaos and continued his search. He had a very specific target and destination in mind – Everfrost Realm.

The Everfrost Realm was the core location of lawlessness in the outermost region of the Great Divider. It was the place where all scavengers gathered to exchange, plunder, slaughter, or simply relax.

Since it wasn't governed by law but freely operated on interest, it boasted the greatest freedom of choice yet also the violation of all.

The weak and timid would not survive here.

It took Helcan six hours of searching before he finally located his destination within the vast region of trash—an enormous mass of ice as large as a small planet but shaped like an airship.

However, the Everfrost Realm was no planet or star; it was a broken Realmship with disabled functions.

Several hundred thousand large chains of varying lengths could be seen tied to the broken Realmship. At the other end of the chains were the dwelling abodes of the scavengers, except they looked no different from cheap shipping containers.

Evidently, they were poorly built from the metal scraps in the vast region of trash.

That said, only the lowest of the low among scavengers, outlaws, and pirates would live in such slum-like housings. Those with statuses and power all had a place within the Everfrost Realm.

After boarding the icy Realmship, Helcan headed straight for the most popular bar, where information and opportunities were aplenty besides the dangers.

Scum's Favor was its name.

The hubbub within the bar died down a notch when Helcan entered the glacial store. However, a smile appeared on the rock golem bartender, who was also the bar owner.

"A rare guest has visited. What brings you here today, Lord Helcan?" the rock golem bartender pleasantly greeted.

'I have an easy job with good pay for you, Scummy. I need your people to spread a few rumors to a few neighboring stars for me. If you can make them reach the ears of the Skymagia Royals, I will also add a bonus,' Helcan privately promised via sound transmission.

At the same time, he pushed forward a low-rank interspatial ring containing the deposit reward.

The bartender's black crystalline eyes glimmered before his rigid smile widened as he accepted the interspatial ring, knowing a great opportunity had arrived at his doorstep.

Rumor-spreading was a low-risk, high-return job, depending on the client.

For a Territory Lord like Helcan, who governed an entire planet, the reward would certainly be more than just 'good.'

"Let's hear the details."

"Alright."

Chapter 874: Into Darkness

Secret Realm, Garden of Thyia

"Everything sorted, Junior?" the Elder Spirit, Senior Willowthorn, casually inquired after seeing Vaan climb out of the hole.

Vaan nodded before mentioning, "About our previous discussion, I can agree with the revival of the Divine Tree of Life, Senior."

"In fact, Mera has already created the Seed of the Divine Tree. As long as it is planted and cultivated, it will likely recall all of its essence and return to its former state as the Divine Tree of Life."

"However, as we had also discussed previously, danger is present all around us in the outside world. As such, it's not the opportune time to revive the Divine Tree of Life."

"You're right," Elder Willowthorn calmly nodded after some reflection.

"So, if you trust me, let us postpone the revival of the Divine Tree of Life to a later date. I promise that within a hundred years, I will possess the strength to be the protector of the Divine Tree and the Wood Spirit Race," Vaan stated.

Originally, he intended to plant the Seed of the Divine Tree in the Darksea Abyss Territory.

However, he realized that without the dormant essence of the Divine Tree of Life lying in the soil of the subterranean region and the Garden of Thyia, the Seed of the Divine Tree would only germinate into a newborn Divine Tree of Life.

A newborn Divine Tree of Life was incomparable to a mature Divine Tree of Life.

As such, he needed to plant the Seed of the Divine Tree in the Garden of Thyia to revive the original Divine Tree of Life, which had long matured and possessed unfathomable capabilities.

However, such a mature Divine Tree was far too big. It made it difficult to move to the Darksea Abyss Territory.

If it were also left to grow in the Garden of Thyia, it would provoke inevitable changes to the surface of the Purpleflame Territory and attract unwanted attention, as he had previously mentioned to the Elder Spirit.

As such, the only reasonable option was to postpone the planting of the Divine Tree and raise his strength in the meantime.

It wouldn't be too late to revive the Divine Tree of Life after he possessed sufficient strength to move it to the Darksea Abyss Territory.

Furthermore, he still needed to investigate the ocean floor to determine whether it was actually possible for the Divine Tree to survive in such dark depths of toxic water.

Otherwise, it would be pointless to move the Divine Tree of Life to the Darksea Abyss Territory. After all, planting it on the surface would completely expose its existence to endless greed across Chaos.

As such, it could only be planted at the bottom of the ocean, where it was unseen and unexplored due to the threat posed by marine life.

If the planting succeeded, the Divine Tree of Life would also serve as the foundation for building an enclosed city on the ocean floor, offering refuge not only to the Wood Spirit Race but also to his people—should his protection and ability prove to be inadequate.

For that reason, it was also essential to improve his relationship with the Elder Spirit.

Who wouldn't want a Rank 8 Divine Lord as a protector, even if it was only to receive shelter as a last resort?

After Vaan and the Elder Spirit returned to the main wood spirit village near the foot of the dead Divine Tree, the latter noticed the target of Vaan's gaze and felt startled.

"You're still thinking about the inheritance? Don't think about it anymore. It's too dangerous," Senior Willowthorn advised.

However, Vaan calmly shook his head and replied, "Danger is relative, Senior. You have already seen how the Death Eaters avoided my wood spirit, so the so-called danger isn't as great as we originally thought."

"More importantly, I have a strong feeling that Goddess Thyia's inheritance was left for me. I don't think the dangers surrounding the inheritance will apply to me."

"That said, I can't give you a reason for thinking this way; I can only ask that you trust me on this," Vaan said.

Senior Willowthorn looked Vaan in the eyes sternly and saw no hint of doubt in them, only a sort of decisiveness that bordered on confidence and certainty.

After several breaths of silence, Senior Willowthorn softly sighed.

"I hope you are right," Senior Willowthorn said, knowing that nothing he said could change his mind. "Since you are so determined, I won't stop you. I only ask that you come back safely."

"Don't force yourself," Senior Willowthorn added.

"Thank you, Senior."

Shortly after bidding farewell, Vaan immediately climbed the lifeless divine tree under the concerned gazes of the wood spirits in the village.

The arrival of the Holy Wood Spirit was a joyous and momentous occasion that deserved all their care and attention.

As such, the wood spirits couldn't understand what the Elder Spirit was thinking for letting the Holy Wood Spirit follow Vaan into such a dangerous place. Even so, no one stepped forward to question the Elder Spirit's decision.

"I hope I made the right choice," Senior Willowthorn muttered to himself.

Although he had been referring to Vaan as a junior, he still recognized him as a reincarnated god.

As such, he had no choice but to respect Vaan's decision.

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Meanwhile, Vaan ascended the divine tree and shortly disappeared into the veil of darkness covering its upper half.

Almost immediately, countless Death Eaters noticed his intrusion and made their way over. However, the closer they approached, the more uncertain they became of their target.

Eventually, they just flew around Vaan with blank looks and forgot why they moved to this specific spot in the first place.

Evidently, Emerald's warding presence was still very effective.

However, Vaan no longer wore the same casual expression he had prior to entering the region of darkness covering the upper half of the dead Divine Tree.

Surprise had quickly painted his face due to a discovery.

Although he had expected the region of darkness to be filled with deathly energy, it wasn't as concentrated and plentiful as he had imagined. Deathly energy was only scattered to the outer rims of Crown's Nest.

A different type of energy appeared to have taken root in the central region of Crown's Nest. This energy didn't share any traits with life energy, either.

Instead, it possessed a murderous aura that felt suffocating beyond imagination, like being locked on by the killing intent of some slaughter god.

However, Vaan was aware that this murderous aura wasn't targeting him in particular. It was suppressing everything around it indiscriminately.

#### Chapter 875: Close Encounter With Death

When Vaan sensed the incredible murderous aura emanating from the central region of Crown's Nest, he realized it was the source of all ominous and sinister feelings exuded from the upper half tree region.

They did not come from the Death Eaters at all.

While Death Eaters were indeed dangerous beings tied to the death attribute, they were not innately evil—or rather, they had no concept of good and evil.

It was just their deathly nature that made other lifeforms instinctively fear them and label them as evil.

'I wonder how far I can reach...' Vaan silently mused as he gradually drew closer to Crown's Nest with Emerald.

He didn't expect to reach the inheritance location in a single attempt; he just wanted to grasp the difficulty and dangers. He needed to measure his limit and plan ahead.

However, Vaan soon realized that the Death Eaters were far more docile than he had imagined. None of the Rank 6 and Rank 7 Death Eaters made any trouble for him; they kindly moved out of his way as he approached Crown's Nest.

At the very least, Emerald's radiant presence made sure he didn't look like a tasty snack to the Death Eaters.

Nevertheless, according to the Elder Spirit, there was also a potential Rank 8 Divine Lord among the Death Eaters dwelling in the upper half tree region. Such a powerful being couldn't be measured with normal standards.

As such, he couldn't blindly trust Emerald's influence to affect it as well.

More importantly, not knowing where the Rank 8 Divine Lord Death Eater currently was made Vaan more wary and cautious.

After all, if a Rank 8 Divine Lord wanted to attack him, he wasn't confident he would be able to react in time. Fortunately, the spatial laws within the upper half tree region didn't appear to be sealed.

Thus, it was still possible to escape with spatial shift if things went south.

Nevertheless, in a region of complete darkness, the Death Eaters were hardly detectable. Their true appearances couldn't be seen, and only the outline of their figures could be sensed when they moved about.

However, the senses of ordinary beings would not be able to determine this.

As such, detecting Death Eaters according to their deathly auras was the only option for regular beings without special sensory abilities.

Even so, when so many Death Eaters were clustered and mixed with the deathly energy in the darkness, it would still be difficult to tell them apart without a sharp mind.

Thanks to Vaan's fourth-dimensional perception, day and night made no difference to him. The more he was proficient with his Fourth-Dimensional Sense, the more he was able to perceive all things in the forms of information and data.

Perhaps to fourth-dimensional beings, third-dimensional objects were just basic building blocks like atoms.

Although Vaan was initially apprehensive of Death Eaters, he gradually adapted to their presence as he spent more time with them in the upper half tree region.

Strangely enough, he even found them cute despite their plain appearances. They were like floating black cloths with two holes for eyes. If not for their terrible auras, no one would believe they were Divine-rank spiritual beings.

When Vaan reached the divine tree's crown, known as Crown's Nest, he was surprised by the smooth trip. He didn't encounter any problems along the way.

However, it was also because the trip was too smooth that he had an eerie feeling regarding Crown's Nest. Being closer to the source of the murderous and sinister aura only amplified the wrong feeling further.

Suddenly, Vaan recalled Murphy's law – Anything that can go wrong will go wrong.

The moment he had that thought, his heart was immediately gripped by an alarming sense of danger. The feeling came very abruptly and unexpectedly. He immediately suspected the Divine Lord Death Eater had targeted him.

However, Vaan's first thought wasn't to escape with spatial shift. Instead, he instinctively released his Boundless Sea and Sky Aura on full blast.

Cold sweat shortly trickled down Vaan's temples.

Right in front of him, a Death Eater materialized into being—or rather, it shed away its stealth and revealed a pointed dark needle just inches away from his forehead.

The Death Eater had approached him soundlessly and without warning. Even his Fourth-Dimensional Sense had not been able to detect it.

Sure enough, a Rank 8 Divine Lord was not to be underestimated, especially for someone at his level. His Fourth-Dimensional Sense was not absolute against beings at a much higher level of existence.

Fortunately, his sharp instincts saved him.

Had he chosen to flee, the dark needle would have pierced his forehead before he could fully slip through space.

Although he had a vague feeling that his Boundless Sea of Sky Aura would have some influence on the Death Eaters, he was still surprised to see it in effect. After all, while the Death Eaters were aerial beings, they weren't organic lifeforms; they were spiritual beings.

Thus, the Boundless Sea and Sky Aura shouldn't apply to them.

However, Vaan's surprise only lasted a moment before his pupils suddenly flashed with understanding.

He realized he had overlooked a detail regarding the Boundless Sea and Sky Aura.

During Varuna's long voyage through the endless sea of nothingness, he had stayed in a remnant chaosverse, where he was even able to tame aerial and marine fourth-dimensional beings.

Varuna's cultivation didn't increase at all during his long voyage through the endless sea of nothingness.

However, his authority over the sea and sky must have improved during that time.

Since the Boundless Sea and Sky Aura could even affect beings of a higher dimension, why couldn't it surpass the boundary of flesh and blood and influence spiritual beings?

After Vaan's outburst of Boundless Sea and Sky Aura paralyzed the Divine Lord Death Eater, it soon retracted its dark needle-like limb before retreating a respectable distance.

Shortly after, the Divine Lord Death Eater and the rest of the Death Eaters in the area lowered themselves to Vaan like they were bowing and paying respect to him.

"We have waited a long time for your arrival, Lord," the Divine Lord Death Eater surprisingly spoke.

#### Chapter 876: Fearless Army?

Although Vaan knew spirits were sentient beings, he had dismissed the Death Eaters as being under the same category. As such, he was quite surprised to hear the Divine Lord Death Eater speak, even more so in the human tongue fluently.

However, his surprise was understandable. Anyone else in his shoes would have reacted the same way.

After all, the other Death Eaters were all Rank 6 or Rank 7 spirit beings. These existences were much higher than his presently contracted spirits, and yet they seemed even to be even less sentient.

No, it was more accurate to say that they were non-sentient.

Unlike the Divine Lord Death Eater, who had proven to be highly intelligent, the rest of the Death Eaters did not seem to possess any spiritual wisdom or wills of their own. Their mindless movements showed their lack of thought.

As such, it was easy for any observant person to determine the Death Eaters were different from other spirit beings.

"Because the nature of the death attribute conflicts with life, it's much more difficult for Death Spirits to develop their spiritual wisdom. As such, Death Eaters without any opportunities generally don't become self-aware before reaching Rank 9 Divine King."

The Divine Lord Death Eater explained, having guessed Vaan's thought and surprise.

At the same time, Vaan quickly understood that the Divine Lord Death Eater was precisely one of those rare and fortunate Death Eaters to receive opportunities and awaken its spiritual wisdom before reaching Rank 9 Divine King.

Nevertheless, if the army of Death Eaters was another one of the Lord of Chaos's arrangements, Vaan couldn't help but feel speechless.

How could he gain experience and temper himself if he could use such a powerful army to take care of his problem?

Did the Lord of Chaos feel that the Divine Lord Wood Spirit would bring him more danger than protection, so he added a Divine Lord Death Eater as compensation?

Of course, these were just Vaan's casual complaints to distract himself from the bigger issue.

After all, assuming the Lord of Chaos only provided him with minimal survival needs and did not spoil him, wouldn't that mean there would be a situation where he would absolutely have to rely on the Divine Lord Death Eater and army of Death Eaters to survive?

Furthermore, he still had yet to receive the inheritance in the heart of Crown's Nest.

Although he had yet to understand what the inheritance was, he knew it wasn't something simple either. As such, he felt even more concerned about the future.

The more he received, the bigger the future problem.

Vaan sighed.

"Since most Death Eaters below Rank 9 Divine King have no spiritual wisdom, that also makes them easier to control with my aura, yes?" Vaan asked.

"That's right, Lord," the Divine Lord Death Eater acknowledged.

"However, since you understand this aura and who I am, you should also know that using such an aura will only expose me to greater danger," Vaan mentioned.

"That is not a problem, Lord," the Divine Lord Death Eater replied before continuing, "As long as you command me, you command all Death Eaters here. You do not need to rely on your aura to control us. As long as it's your order, I make them follow it without fail."

"Even if I send to die?" Vaan casually asked.

"Lord, we are born of death and thrive in death. Death is no stranger to us. To die serving you is both a blessing and an honor," the Divine Lord Death Eater stated indifferently.

Death Eaters perceived death differently compared to other beings.

"I understand," Vaan replied with understanding.

He did not try to console or persuade the Divine Lord Death Eater to change its view and fate.

There was no reason or need to.

The Death Eaters in the Garden of Thyia were born for him; they had no purpose and only existed for him.

It was up to him to give them a purpose.

Otherwise, they would just continue their idle life without meaning, which was not much different from death.

"To live is death, but to die is living...?" Vaan thought.

Some beings were dead even if they were living, while others felt alive only when they were dying.

The Lord of Chaos had left him a fearless army, and he did not need to feel any concern or guilt in using it.

Although Vaan felt like he was overthinking, the Death Eaters seemed to be a message from the Lord of Chaos, telling him that sacrifices were inevitable as there wouldn't always be a perfect solution.

Thus, when such a situation came, he could use the Death Eaters instead of his people?

Did the Lord of Chaos already know what kind of person his current incarnation would be like? Did the Lord of Chaos see the future and make arrangements plan accordingly?

Or did the Lord of Chaos leave behind so many crumbs of opportunities to avoid despairing situations that could break him?

Maybe the Lord of Chaos just wanted his current incarnation to become like the original Varuna or as close to him as possible?

Whatever the case was, Vaan knew he wouldn't find the answer from pondering alone.

Although there were also a few things he wanted to ask the Divine Lord Death Eater regarding the Lord of Chaos, he figured he should finish up his original objective first.

"You said you make the Death Eaters follow my orders without fail, yes? If I ask you to clear the way to the inheritance, will you do it?" Vaan asked.

"Of course, Lord," the Divine Lord Death Eater answered without hesitation, adding, "Your aura has already marked every Death Eater in this surrounding region. Even if without my personal command, no Death Eater will dare to obstruct your path."

"You also don't have to worry about there being any traps or trials near the inheritance site. The only line of defense guarding it was us, Death Eaters," the Divine Lord Death Eater stated.

Vaan calmly nodded.

Since the inheritance was only for one person—him, it didn't need any other trials or traps.

The swarm of Death Eaters was more than enough to stop the inheritance from falling into the hands of anyone else.

After all, an ordinary Rank 8 Divine Lord was already considered the highest power in the Skymagia Star Kingdom. As such, even if such a being came for the inheritance, only death awaits.

Just as the Divine Lord Death Eater said, no Death Eater obstructed Vaan's path to the inheritance site. All the Death Eaters imprinted by the Boundless Sea and Sky Aura moved out of the way unconditionally, even without Emerald's influence.

As such, even without Emerald's presence, the Death Eaters would never think about harming him. The Boundless Sea and Sky Aura had tamed them.

At the center of Crown's Nest, Goddess Thyia's inheritance eventually came into sight...

#### Chapter 877: Profound Pearl of Life

The source of all malice and murderous intentions within the upper half tree region came from a single fist-sized, blood-glowing pearl.

Goddess Thyia's inheritance appeared to be just this single item.

However, this single item also didn't seem to be related to Goddess Thyia at a glance, either. After all, the suffocating pressure of malice and murderous intentions emanating from the blood-glowing pearl had nothing to do with life or death.

Rather, it was closer to blood and slaughter, which were parts of Asura.

Nevertheless, despite the overwhelming pressure, which could suffocate a regular person to death, Vaan steadily approached the blood-glowing pearl, unfazed and unrestrained.

For some reason, Vaan felt a sense of familiarity with the endless malice and murderous intentions oozing out of the blood-glowing pearl.

Once he pondered over it, he quickly realized why he would have such a feeling. It was related to his original incarnation, Valefor Raphna.

However, Vaan also found this strange.

How could Goddess Thyia's inheritance be solely related to Valefor Raphna? Was there nothing about the blood-glowing pearl that was related to Goddess Thyia?

Nevertheless, all of Vaan's doubts were answered the moment he picked up the blood-glowing pearl.

What he picked up wasn't some ordinary fist-sized pearl but an entire galaxy.

There was such a vast expanse of space within the blood-glowing pearl that even he could not tell how big it actually was at first glance.

At the same time, Vaan understood the blood-glowing pearl was originally pure white. It only had a crimson glow due to the rich blood and slaughter energy stored within it.

When Vaan's consciousness searched beyond the sea of blood and slaughter energy, he found an even deeper and more unfathomable sea of life energy.

The sea of blood and slaughter energy had completely hidden such a seemingly bottomless sea of life energy.

"Do you know what this is?" Vaan asked the Divine Lord Death Eater, assuming it knew the answer.

"Lord, that is the Profound Pearl of Life, a True Divinity-rank treasure. It was said to have been refined from the essence of an unborn chaosverse, containing an endless supply of life energy," the Divine Lord Death Eater explained indifferently.

"Oh?" Vaan uttered with interest before further asking, "What can it do? Do you know?"

"The Profound Pearl of Life is said to be capable of granting its wielder eternal life, even if the wielder is only a low-level mortal. It can also purify impure or toxic substances, enhance and evolve the qualities of magical plants, refine medicine, replenish life force, and accelerate healing," the Divine Lord Death Eater answered.

Vaan's lips couldn't help but twitch slightly after hearing so many abilities.

Considering the Profound Pearl of Life was graded as a True Divinity-rank treasure, its various abilities had to be very powerful as well.

"As long as the wielder isn't killed instantly, the Profound Pearl of Life can help the wielder recover from any wound, illness, and disabilities," the Divine Lord Death Eater added.

Indeed, the Divine Lord Death Eater answered Vaan's suspicion.

However, Vaan already had the Everlasting Blood Refining Art and extremely powerful regenerative abilities. Thus, even without the Profound Pearl of Life, he wouldn't have to worry about any wounds or disabilities.

As such, the Profound Pearl of Life was only supplementary in this aspect and not essential.

It was the other abilities that drew his curiosity.

That said, such a powerful treasure shouldn't be unknown, and considering Goddess Thyia's fame, wouldn't many beings have known about her Profound Pearl of Life?

If word of it being in his possession ever got out, the sea of greed attracted by it would definitely drown him to death.

Although he could use the Divine Lord Death Eater and the army of Death Eaters to protect it, such an option wasn't a foolproofed solution.

After all, a True Divinity-rank treasure wouldn't just attract Divine Lords. There could be Divine Kings and Divine Emperors. Even True Divinities would be interested in such a heavenly treasure.

As such, the strength of the Death Eaters wasn't enough to protect him.

The Lord of Chaos wouldn't let him pick up such a hot potato without adding some insurance to offset the risks, would he?

There had to be more to Goddess Thyia's inheritance.

Vaan believed he must have missed something. As such, he sent his consciousness into the Profound Pearl of Life to look for the answer.

However, he didn't search the bottomless sea of life energy but the rich sea of blood and slaughter energy. There must be a bigger reason for the Lord of Chaos storing it inside the Profound Pearl of Life.

That said, it was much more difficult to navigate through the sea of blood and slaughter energy than the bottomless sea of life energy. In fact, the two seas of energy were almost polar opposites like fire and ice.

The sea of life energy was calm, peaceful, and passive, like swimming through clear water.

On the other hand, the sea of blood and slaughter energy was violent, thick, and sticky, like walking through mud. It was like there were billions of souls trapped within, and they were trying to drag his consciousness deeper within for eternity.

Nevertheless, Vaan's consciousness didn't fight back the dragging force. Vaan allowed himself to be pulled into the depths of the blood and slaughter energy.

The deeper he sunk inside, the more familiarity he felt with the sea of blood and slaughter energy.

Eventually, Vaan came to a realization. He finally understood why he found the sea of blood and slaughter energy familiar and how it was related to Valefor.

If Valefor's memories had been sealed inside his soul, then Valefor's cultivation was sealed within the Profound Pearl of Life. The sea of blood and slaughter energy was Valefor's original cultivation.

The Lord of Chaos may have reversed time and removed the original timeline, but he did not erase Valefor's existence or accomplishments.

Even if Valefor wasn't who the Lord of Chaos wanted his older brother to be, he was still Varuna's incarnation, his older brother. As such, the Lord of Chaos would never erase all traces of Valefor's existence.

As Vaan learned more about the Lord of Chaos's thoughts and feelings, he gradually had an idea of the Lord of Chaos's intention.

#### Chapter 878: Primordial Avatar

Vaan couldn't help but marvel at the vastness of the Profound Pearl of Life's space the more time he spent within. It wasn't a joke when it was said that the True Divinity-rank treasure was refined from the essence of an unborn chaosverse.

But what was an unborn chaosverse?

A super dense ball of hot energy that failed to erupt and go through the big bang process? If it didn't erupt, then what became of it? Did it just cool down and solidify? What kind of energy was it made of?

More importantly, was it a natural unborn chaosverse? Or was it artificially created?

Although Vaan heard True Divinities could create new celestial bodies at their level of power, he still found it hard to believe that they could do so on the scale of an entire chaosverse.

It was more likely done by someone who had stepped beyond True Divinity if it was an artificial unborn chaosverse.

But if that were also true, the value of the Profound Pearl of Life would be countless times greater due to its rarity and creation difficulty.

After Vaan finally reached the heart of the sea of blood and slaughter energy, he finally found what he was looking for—the hidden piece left by his younger brother, the Lord of Chaos.

In the heart of the sea of blood and slaughter energy, a spherical energy barrier was found, protecting a single white humanoid body inside. This white humanoid body didn't have any notable features; it was a blank slate, no different from a mannequin.

However, Vaan also knew it was anything but a mere mannequin.

Even from a distance, he could tell that the blank humanoid body was made from an extraordinary material. He couldn't exactly tell what the material was, but it screamed of indestructibility.

Of course, that was only in terms of defense. It was questionable how much power the humanoid body could exert when controlled.

Nevertheless, Vaan had already confirmed the Lord of Chaos's intention the moment he saw the humanoid body.

'Hm? This energy barrier...' Vaan paused.

In order to obtain the seemingly indestructible humanoid body, he had to remove the energy barrier protecting it, which shouldn't be a problem with the power of the Nihility Law.

However, upon closer inspection, the energy barrier was found to be far too complex to be an ordinary barrier. There were countless layers of microscopic runes encasing the energy barrier.

In fact, it wasn't far-fetched to say that the energy barrier itself was completely made up of these tiny runes.

While the defensive power of these runes enhanced the energy barrier greatly, it wasn't to the point of being unbreakable. As such, it could still be torn apart with the power of the Nihility Law, which could erase everything from existence.

However, doing so would be a waste of an opportunity given by the Lord of Chaos.

Evidently, such a complex series of runes on the energy barrier possessed more functions than just providing enhanced protection.

Just by considering the positioning of the humanoid body and the sea of blood and slaughter energy, it wasn't difficult to guess what the energy barrier might do if Vaan unlocked it through the designated method.

Obviously, if the humanoid body stored all of the blood and slaughter energy, it would possess Valefor's former cultivation level.

But since that was how it should be, why wasn't the sea of blood and slaughter energy stored inside the humanoid body in the first place?

Vaan guessed that leaving Valefor's cultivation inside the ownerless humanoid body would corrupt it and risk the humanoid body developing its own ego.

As such, the Lord of Chaos was arranged in such a way as to ensure he could bind it and claim ownership without a problem.

The sea of blood and slaughter energy was most likely to be drawn into the humanoid body after binding it the correct way.

But what was the method to activate the functions in the energy barrier and bind the humanoid body?

Well, the most common binding method in Chaos was through blood.

Vaan only hoped it would be as simple as a drop of blood instead of a bucket's load of it, considering his bad history of blood-binding.

That said, he couldn't even attempt the blood-binding right away as he was only present with his consciousness.

After Vaan withdrew his consciousness from the Profound Pearl of Life, his attention paused on the object for a moment.

The humanoid body was deep inside the Profound Pearl of Life. He couldn't take it out unless he had control of it.

That said, the Profound Pearl of Life was also a type of heavenly artifact.

Thus, it should be bindable as well, right?

With that thought in mind, Vaan cut his thumb and dripped a drop of his potent blood on the Profound Pearl of Life.

In that instant, his blood triggered some hidden runic functions in the Profound Pearl of Life. At the same time, Vaan also felt a slight yet permanent decrease in his soul force to maintain a connection with it.

With the newfound connection he shared with the Profound Pearl of Life, he was able to see how truly incredible the Profound Pearl of Life was.

It was worthy of being a True Divinity-rank treasure that had been refined from the essence of an unborn chaosverse. It was truly vast, with an endless supply of life energy.

He didn't have to worry about exhausting the Profound Pearl of Life's life energy as it was capable of replenishing life energy on its own.

Nevertheless, Vaan forcefully suppressed his interest and urge to explore the Profound Pearl of Life's supplementary functions.

He set it aside to focus on the humanoid body.

Vaan reopened his thumb wound and sent another drop of blood into the Profound Pearl of Life, directing it toward the energy barrier.

Upon contact, the energy barrier lit up like fireworks. Layers of runic lines were disconnected and released like a ball of strings unwinding as the energy barrier expanded.

Vaan's drop of blood proceeded beyond and sunk into the humanoid body's head, forming a connection with it.

A much larger portion of his soul force was permanently consumed in the process of establishing and maintaining the connection.

Meanwhile, the unwinding expansion of the energy barrier transformed into a powerful vacuum, sucking in the sea of blood and slaughter energy. Everything was channeled into the humanoid body.

Minutes later, the original blank humanoid body shared Vaan's spitting image.

Vaan quickly took it out for a more in-depth inspection and couldn't help but feel amazed by its form.

How was this still an indestructible puppet?

It had become a perfect clone with its indestructibility hidden behind a layer of flesh and blood. It was as if a block of metal had turned into organic material.

If not for the connection they shared, Vaan might have even forgotten which of them was the main body.

However, that also showed how intricately connected their spiritual connection was. Moving the clone's body was no different from moving his own body.

"Congratulations on obtaining the Profound Pearl of Life and Primordial Avatar, Lord," the Divine Lord Death Eater acknowledged.

Chapter 879: The Return of Valefor

"Do you also know about this Primordial Avatar?" Vaan casually inquired after seeing the Divine Lord Death Eater was aware of it.

"Yes, Lord," the Divine Lord Death Eater acknowledged, saying, "Such knowledge has been imparted to me for the purpose of passing it on to you."

"Go on, then," Vaan urged.

"Yes, Lord," the Divine Lord Death Eater obediently answered before proceeding to explain, "The Primordial Avatar is also a True Divinity-rank treasure like the Profound Pearl of Life."

"However, in terms of value, it is said to be arguably greater than the Profound Pearl of Life despite possessing fewer abilities. This is because having a Primordial Avatar is no different from having a second life."

"Even if the main body and soul were to be annihilated, the soul and body can still be reconstructed on the Primordial Avatar based on the backup memories stored within, becoming the new main body."

"The only downside to this second life is that the original main body's cultivation and talent aren't carried over as well. Still, this is also not much of an issue since the Primordial Avatar possesses one of the most powerful innate talents in Chaos."

"Not only is it indestructible to those below True Divinity, but it can also cultivate very quickly. Bottlenecks are almost non-existent due to its already perfect body," the Divine Lord Death Eater stated.

Vaan couldn't help but feel startled after listening.

After the Primordial Avatar assimilated the sea of blood and slaughter energy, it already possessed the power of a peak-level Divine Knight.

Yet, the Divine Lord Death Eater was basically telling him this wasn't the Primordial Avatar's limit; it was only its starting point. It could still grow beyond this level and at a much quicker rate than most beings in Chaos.

This welcome-back gift from the Lord of Chaos was a little too grand, no?

But then again, to someone at the Lord of Chaos's level, the quality of the gifts was probably insignificant to him.

Nevertheless, it was time to fulfill the wish of the Lord of Chaos.

Although the Divine Lord Death Eater had explained the Primordial Avatar's advantages, it didn't say anything about its abilities in detail.

However, this was not an issue for Vaan.

When he completed the binding and shared a connection to the Primordial Avatar, he also instinctively learned how to use it.

Besides being able to move the Primordial Avatar like his own body, he could freely share knowledge, memories, and information between the two bodies.

It was like having a new device linked to his network, but the service supporting the network had become vague. Either the original body or the Primordial Avatar could become the main body at any time.

The Primordial Avatar was truly a miraculous treasure.

After clearing out his miscellaneous thoughts, Vaan stored a full copy of Valefor's memories inside the Primordial Avatar and, with that, recreated Valefor's persona.

In a sense, Valefor was revived.

Swish!

Once Valefor's persona was finalized, the contrasting aura between Vaan and the Primordial Avatar became clear.

'Hm?'

The Divine Lord Death Eater almost narrowed its eyes with scrutiny and surprise.

Despite Vaan and the Primordial Avatar being two bodies with the same appearance, they were essentially one person. Yet, it suddenly felt like they were two completely different beings.

But how was that possible?

"Hello, Me," Vaan greeted warmly, offering a handshake.

However, Valefor coldly snorted and ignored him. As such, Vaan simply retracted his hand and laughed it off.

"Hahaha, what a shy bastard."

"Want to die?"

"..."

The Divine Lord Death Eater was completely dumbfounded as it witnessed the short exchange between Vaan and his Primordial Avatar.

Any other person seeing such a scene would have assumed they were twin brothers with a bad relationship.

However, since the Divine Lord Death Eater knew one of them was a Primordial Avatar, it also knew Vaan was simply talking to himself.

Did the Lord have a loose screw?

Is this an alter ego?

Although the Divine Lord Death Eater had its doubts, it could only forget about them. It only needed to follow its designated lord obediently.

Valefor suddenly reached out his hand shortly after Vaan retracted his. However, it didn't look like it had second thoughts and offered a handshake.

"What do you want, Old Me?"

"Resources. Give me cultivation resources. How am I supposed to cultivate without any? It's best if you give me everything. I will put them to better use. You are simply too weak."

"Is that what you should say when you are asking others for something, Old Me?"

"Should I just rob you, then?"

"Do you think that's possible?"

"..."

With Valefor's silence, Vaan won the verbal war.

Nevertheless, Vaan still passed the Profound Pearl of Life to Valefor along with Divine-rank Stalactite Milk and various magical plants.

He was curious about the cultivation speed of his Primordial Avatar.

"Old Me, since you have a lot of knowledge, you can also be my potion slave. Since I have given you the Profound Pearl of Life, I expect the quality of potions to be no less than divine rank."

"You want me to refine Divine-rank potions after giving me such low-rank magical plants and seeds? Why don't you just ask if gold can come out of my ass instead?"

"Can it?" Vaan looked on with interest.

The innate malice and killing intent in Valefor's gaze immediately intensified. It almost seemed like Valefor wanted to pounce on Vaan and rip him apart.

"Courting death—!"

Valefor's roar abruptly ended as Vaan waved his hand, which made Valefor disappear into his Heaven-Swallowing Space.

Meanwhile, the Divine Lord Death Eater felt even more conflicted after watching the entire exchange.

The Lord's mental illness was far more serious than it had expected!

For a moment, it really thought the Lord was really going to duke it out with his Primordial Avatar.

Meanwhile, after Vaan settled his matters with the Profound Pearl of Life and Primordial Avatar, he shifted his attention to the Death Eaters.

Since such a powerful army of death spirits was left for him, he naturally had to take it with him.

Chapter 880: Director Gardner

While Vaan was spending time in the Garden of Thyia, news of Heavenreacher's launch continued to make waves across the Pangea continent like an unstoppable tsunami.

Within a short span of three days, the news had spread to every corner of the continent's middle regions.

In particular, the Heavenreacher had become the most common topic of discussion on the streets of the Freedom Federation's nine kingdoms and thirty-six city-states, which led the world in magic engineering.

However, this wasn't surprising, considering the Freedom Federation was the gathering spot for the continent's brightest minds.

Anyone with a passion or interest in the research and advancement of magitech would consider moving to the Freedom Federation to broaden their knowledge. After all, the best academies and research facilities were there.

However, even within the Freedom Federation, its various top academic institutions and research facilities still had their differences in quality and direction.

That said, it was undisputed that the Steelcore Kingdom, the heart of the Freedom Federation, possessed the best of the best academic institutions and research facilities.

Funnily enough, it was also the Steelcore Kingdom that possessed one of the Freedom Federation's worst research facilities, the Starry Steel Research Tower.

Furthermore, Starry Steel Research Tower was located in Steelcore Royal Capital.

Despite its prime location with access to the Freedom Federation's best talents and resources, the Starry Steel Research Tower had become the most undesirable placement for graduate researchers.

However, this wasn't surprising considering its research direction.

Ever since the Starry Steel Research Tower changed its research direction to the sea of stars thirty years ago, it operated at a loss without any notable achievement or progress.

There were even recent talks of it being shut down if its research direction wasn't changed.

Nevertheless, its director, Christopher Gardner, stubbornly insisted that expanding into the sea of stars was the Freedom Federation's future due to its vast uncharted territory and free resources.

The sea of stars held endless possibilities to explore.

As such, Director Gardner was very shocked yet excited when he heard about the Black Rose Kingdom's Heavenreacher.

That said, although he was impressed by the Black Rose Kingdom's achievement, he was also resentful that it didn't belong to him or his country but another one.

Inside the presidential office on the top floor of a high-rise steel building that stood out from the rest, Director Gardner placed a folder of compiled information about the Heavenreacher on the president's desk.

"President Hugo, please take a look at my findings in the past couple of days. The Heavenreacher's launch wasn't a one-time gig. Many people have seen its repeated success," Director Gardner immediately spoke.

"Although we have yet to see any of the people who went up come back down, as it hasn't been long, many witnesses have all watched the live footage of the people's activities in the sea of stars."

"Even the colonization of the moon had been an overwhelming success! This is the future of humanity I've told you about! While we've been taking baby steps toward that goal, the Black Rose Kingdom has already arrived at the final step!"

"The vast territory and resources out there will be monopolized by the north if nothing is done and changed. We must reach out to the Black Rose Kingdom and negotiate the acquisition of this world-breaking technology!" Director Gardner hurriedly stated with passion.

However, President Hugo, who had been sitting in the comfort of his seat while listening to Director Gardner's ramble, did not show any signs of urgency or concern.

"Director Gardner, you were placed in charge of the Starry Steel Research Tower because I respected your academic knowledge and admired your unique vision despite your lack of achievement," President Hugo calmly stated.

Suddenly, his unfocused gaze turned stern and sharp as he added, "However, you need to recognize the difference between dreams and reality."

"What do you mean by those words, President?" Director Gardner frowned with displeasure, feeling slightly offended by President Hugo's indirect insult of calling him foolish or delusional.

"Do you really think the newly established United Nations will share Heavenreacher's technology even if we are willing to reach out and negotiate?" President Hugo coolly questioned.

"Even if the chance is low, we must try!" Director Gardner argued, saying, "Otherwise, our Freedom Federation will lose its economic hegemony within three years, and our ideals of spreading freedom to other countries will become impossible!"

"History has taught us how self-destructive our race can be, and tyranny never ends well. If we allow such a dictatorial group to lead the world, the oppression and violation of human rights will suffocate us!"

"Even if humanity doesn't eventually fall to ruin under their leadership, life will become hell, President!" Director Gardner solemnly stated.

"Pfft!"

The seemingly tense atmosphere created by Director Gardner was quickly dispersed by a Solaran female's sudden stifled laughter on the side.

Although Aya Foster wanted to maintain her etiquette and professionalism, she couldn't help but laugh at Director Gardner's hypocritical words.

Of course, Director Gardner couldn't be more displeased by such a reaction as he turned to her with a gloomy look that demanded a satisfactory explanation.

"Did I say something funny, Secretary Foster?" Director Gardner asked.

Secretary Foster originally didn't want to escalate the situation further. But when she saw Director Gardner's attitude, she ultimately decided to give him a piece of her mind.

"If you allow me to speak frankly, then yes, you did, Director Gardner," Secretary Foster boldly replied before adjusting her spectacles, then adding, "How can I not laugh when I see such a big hypocrite?"

"To speak so righteously when your heart is so full of greed and jealousy is truly unsightly. It's even more ridiculous when you are so ambitious but lack the capabilities to back it."

"Just as the President previously said, you are simply dreaming, Director Gardner. You need to wake up," Secretary Foster criticized with blatant contempt.

Even if the Freedom Federation managed to acquire Heavenreacher's technology from the Black Rose Empire, it still lacked the technology to build space stations and reach the moon.

Supposedly, they were able to acquire all the necessary technology. Even then, it would still take too much time and resources to build everything. By the time they complete construction, the entire moon would already be under the Black Rose Empire's sovereignty.

Trying to take the moon's resources and land then was nothing short of asking for serious trouble.

"It's time to face reality. The North's growth is unstoppable."