

## The Witch 891

### Chapter 891: Myriad Fire Spirit Flag

The Purplefire Fiend King immediately narrowed his eyes after hearing Valefor's honey-glazed offer.

He couldn't even remember the last time he held the hope of going off-world to take revenge against the bastards who turned his beautiful green world into a desolate land of death.

It had been far too long for him to cling to such a wishful dream.

After all, the Fire Fiends could only exist in the burning lands of the [Eternal Purpleflame].

Their entire future was tied to the [Eternal Purpleflame].

Unless a True Divinity or someone with a True Divinity-level storage artifact was willing to help them, the [Eternal Purpleflame] wasn't going to go anywhere. It'll just continue to ravage their once beautiful green home.

Although the Purplefire Fiend King had foreseen such a possible outcome before he used the forbidden spell to turn them into Fire Fiends, he had still used it willingly.

He wasn't willing to pass onto the afterlife after experiencing such a tragedy, and neither were his people either.

That was why they were all willing to become Fire Fiends, even if it meant suffering the excruciating pain of soul-burning until the day they ceased to exist.

Even if it was impossible to leave and avenge their home, they were unwilling to pass on.

They wanted their justice and revenge.

As the former ruler of the old Purpleflame Territory, the Purplefire Fiend King possessed the deepest hatred for all parties involved in the destruction of his home.

Whether it was the Divinesun Royal Family who plotted their downfall or the Skymagia Royal Family who dropped the butcher's knife on their heads, the Purplefire Fiend King hated them all equally.

Nevertheless, both the Skymagia Royal Family and the Divinesun Royal Family were behemoth entities in the local starfield.

It was hopeless to achieve revenge, even if he could bring all the Fire Fiends off-world for it.

They simply weren't strong enough.

Of course, the [Eternal Purpleflame] was more than powerful enough to destroy both royal families. However, it had to be controllable in order to achieve that.

If the [Eternal Purpleflame] Fire Fiends could control, they wouldn't be trapped in the first place.

Considering Valefor's body was seemingly immune to the [Eternal Purpleflame], the Purplefire Fiend King figured he must have a method to control it. As such, it was unlikely for him to be bluffing.

However, there was no free lunch in the world.

"What do you want?" the Purplefire Fiend King solemnly queried, "Such a nice offer must have a price."

"Indeed, I want you to become the artifact spirit of my divine flag and for all your people to become its strength," Valefor boldly stated, showing off his incomplete divine artifact.

The Purplefire Fiend King immediately narrowed his eyes again.

Looking at the black flag in Valefor's hand, he could immediately tell how the latter intended to take them out of the Purpleflame Territory to go on their quest for revenge.

The black flag hosted an incredibly large subspace within it, yet also possessed attributes capable of withstanding the destructive power of the [Eternal Purpleflame].

Although it wasn't a True Divinity treasure, all the materials used in its creation seemed to be at such a level.

The Purplefire Fiend King could guess that by becoming the divine flag's artifact spirit, Valefor would use him to control the [Eternal Purpleflame] and his army of Fire Fiends.

If the Purplefire Fiend King accepted, he would be leaving one cage to enter another and putting the fate of all his people into another person's hands.

Anyone else might have refused, but not him. Revenge was his ultimate desire.

"I accept," the Purplefire Fiend King decisively stated.

"You accept?" Valefor briefly paused and blinked his eyes, not expecting such an answer.

Shortly after, he clicked his tongue and said, "How boring. I was expecting some resistance from you. After all, it won't be a painless process."

"Pain is no stranger," the Purplefire Fiend King coldly stated.

The Purplefire Fiend King knew that regardless of his answer, Valefor was going to turn him into his divine flag's artifact spirit. He didn't actually have a choice in the matter at all.

A person with such a thick slaughter aura wouldn't take no for an answer after coming all this way.

"Aren't you afraid that I will go back on my word after turning you into my artifact spirit?" Valefor teased.

The Purplefire Fiend King glanced at him intensely before coolly asking, "Then, let me ask you this—What do you intend to do with this divine flag once it's complete?"

"I'm going to kill people. A lot of people~" Valefor grinned sinisterly.

"That is good enough for me," the Purplefire Fiend King stated.

The Fire Fiends had a lot of pent-up hatred and anger. Even if they couldn't exact their revenge, they had to unleash their wrath somewhere.

As such, giving the wider world a taste of their pain did not sound like a bad idea at all.

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Once Valefor gained the Purplefire Fiend King's cooperation, he immediately planted a slave mark on his soul using asura power and runes.

It would be a big joke if his divine artifact suddenly decided to rebel against him.

Nevertheless, the Purplefire Fiend King accepted the slave mark without any resistance.

Afterward, Valefor took the Purplefire Fiend King's soul core and embedded it into the heart of the complex runic circuit, which had been inscribed by the original creator of the [Cloak of Darkness and Death].

The complex runic circuit was hidden deep within the core region of the subspace.

Since the original runic circuit was somewhat trash, Valefor revised it while he was at it, allowing the Purplefire Fiend King to perfectly fuse with the divine flag and become its artifact spirit.

Once that was done, the divine flag awakened the power to absorb and manipulate the [Eternal Purpleflame].

However, the amount of [Eternal Purpleflame] the divine flag could control was directly proportional to the number of Fire Fiends it possessed.

In other words, it was a growth-type divine artifact that could be continuously strengthened with Fire Fiends and [Eternal Purpleflame] until it became a True Divinity-level artifact, theoretically.

Shortly after, the entire Sea of Eternal Purpleflame and its hundred million Fire Fiend were absorbed into the divine flag, upgrading it to a Rank 8 Divine Artifact.

There were still countless Fire Fiends and [Eternal Purpleflame] scattered across the entire Purpleflame Territory. Thus, the divine flag still had much room to grow. That said, it was, more or less, completed.

After all, the quality of the [Eternal Purpleflame] doesn't change, only its quantity.

Nevertheless, it was already a divine tool of war that could summon death and destruction with a single wave.

'The Myriad Fire Spirit Flag is complete,' Valefor nodded.

Chapter 892: Second Great Devil Conference

Purpleflame Territory, Stonehenge

Shortly after Thanatos summoned the Great Devils to an emergency meeting, only Mephistopheles, Astarte, and Balmodan rocked up.

Hecate and Helcan were both missing. They couldn't attend on such a short notice.

"Where's Helcan and Hecate?" Thanatos asked with visible dissatisfaction. The most important parties weren't present.

"Helcan is still on his way back from the Everfrost Realm. It'll take him a few more hours to return. Hecate, on the other hand, has entered secluded cultivation. It's uncertain when she will emerge," Mephistopheles answered.

"Oh?" Astarte immediately raised her eyebrow with interest.

"At our level, it's difficult for us to achieve any improvement from secluded cultivation. As such, we rarely engage in such activities unless we gain some insights or receive some enlightenment."

"Could it be that Hecate is trying to advance to Rank 7?" Astarte casually guessed.

"How is that possible?" Mephistopheles immediately dismissed the idea, saying, "Even if Hecate is talented, advancing to Rank 7 so suddenly just isn't possible."

"Why do you say that, Mephisto?" Balmodan asked with genuine curiosity.

Compared to the other Great Devils, he could be considered the least knowledgeable one. As such, he was genuinely curious about where Mephistopheles's confidence stemmed from.

His opinion didn't seem like a mindless statement.

"Just think about it. Gehenna has produced countless Rank 7 Divine Beings in the past," Mephistopheles mentioned.

"Why is it that when it comes to our generation, not a single one of us is able to overcome the bottleneck? Is it because we are untalented and have already exhausted our potential?"

"I don't believe it," Mephistopheles stated defiantly, adding, "Lord Thanatos is the master of death. His understanding of the Death Law has long transcended the power of a Rank 7."

"Hecate is even more talented, having mastery of several laws. Her law comprehension could be said to be the best out of us. Someone like her shouldn't be stuck at Peak Rank 6 like the rest of us."

"Then, there is also Abaddon. Although he is dead now, we have come to learn that he had comprehended the Asura Law. Even if his talent was absolute trash, the Asura Law should have helped him overcome his limits."

"That is why countless beings desire to comprehend the Asura Law. Does it make sense that even he failed to ascend to the realm of Divine Knights?" Mephistopheles questioned.

"You've made a valid point, Mephisto," Astarte acknowledged before smiling curiously, adding, "However, that's not all you have to say on the matter, right?"

"How about you tell us the real reason why you think we can't achieve Rank 7," Astarte demanded.

Mephistopheles glanced at the attending Great Devils before mentioning, "I'm sure everyone knows the history of this Purpleflame Territory."

"Although we all know the truth behind it, it also doesn't change the fact that Gehenna has long fallen out of favor with the Skymagia Royal Family. Moreover, this happened after we lost the Seven Sins in the Realm War with the Divinesun Star Kingdom."

"This can't be a coincidence, right?" Mephistopheles mentioned.

"Are you saying the Skymagia Royal Family had been secretly suppressing our realm over that matter all this time, Mephisto?" Astarte inferred with a deep frown.

If it was true, the Skymagia Royal Family was far too ruthless.

In fact, the Skymagia Royal Family must have also figured out that the incident in the original Evergreen Territory had been part of the Divinesun Star Kingdom's scheme.

However, it also didn't change the fact that a Royal Princess had been humiliated there.

Just because of that, the beautiful green world was reduced to a sea of flames, reaping countless innocent lives and precious magical plants.

With the destruction of the Evergreen Territory, Gehenna's prosperity was already cut.

Yet, now Mephistopheles was telling them that might not have been enough to appease the Skymagia Royal Family's wrath...

The Skymagia Royal Family was secretly suppressing their realm, making them unable to achieve Rank 7?

How could they endure so much bullying?

While Balmodan and Astarte were feeling gloomy over such thoughts, Thanatos had a completely different train of thought.

He didn't care too much about the Skymagia Royal Family's secret suppression of their realm.

He had such doubts a long time ago.

As such, he was more concerned about Hecate's reason for secluded cultivation. Mephistopheles might have dismissed Astarte's guess, but he completely believed it was possible.

Hecate might really be trying to advance to Rank 7.

She was the only Great Devil to have stood on Vaan Raphna's side and assisted him. As a result, she might have received some benefits that could aid her advancement from the latter.

Thanatos believed it was completely possible.

After all, Vaan Raphna, who they thought was just a mere Demigod, turned out to be a mighty Peak Divine Knight.

His insights on Rank 7 advancement would be very valuable knowledge.

"Anyway, we didn't come here to talk about the Purpleflame Territoriality's history with the Skymagia Royal Family," Mephistopheles suddenly stated before turning to Thanatos to ask, "Why did you urgently summon us today, Lord Thanatos?"

Once the question was raised, Astarte and Balmodan had no choice but to shift their attention to Thanatos despite their desire to continue on the topic they discussed.

Meanwhile, Thanatos gave everyone a look before solemnly informing them, "There are a few things all of you should know. Vaan Raphna has ascended the seat of Heavenly Devil and has been given the territories of Purpleflame, Darksea Abyss, Evernight, and Pangea."

"I suggest that all of you pull out your forces from those territories and return any benefit you have exploited from them, especially the Evernight Territory," Thanatos solemnly recommended.



However, despite his seriousness, he failed to produce an immediate response.

Whether it was Mephistopheles, Astarte, or Balmodan, they were completely dumbfounded by Thanatos's announcement.

Such an explosive piece of news had completely caught them off guard.

"What! How can you do that, Lord Thanatos?! Didn't we agree to test Vaan Raphna's qualification to become one of us? Why is he suddenly a Heavenly Devil with so many territories?!"

Mephistopheles was evidently outraged by Thanatos's decision.

Even so, he still acted with great restraint.

Otherwise, he would have cursed, 'Did you find out Vaan Raphna was your long-lost grandson or something? You wouldn't even give such preferential treatment to your own ancestors!'

Chapter 893: Second Great Devil Conference (2)

Astarte and Balmodan impatiently waited for Thanatos's explanation despite their strong urges to bombard him with questions.

If Mephistopheles had not beaten them to the chase, one of them would have certainly spoken their mind.

Nevertheless, Thanatos did not get a chance to explain before the Great Devils all felt a powerful aura surge in the far eastern direction of the Purpleflame Territory.

"What kind of aura was that? How can it be so murderous and bloody? Did the resentment of the vengeful spirits evolve?" Mephistopheles uttered with surprise.

"The powerful slaughter aura is coming from the direction of the core region... Perhaps an extraordinary treasure is being born in the Sea of Eternal Purpleflame...!" Astarte guessed with a gleam of greed in her eyes.

As a master of weapon refinement, Astarte was interested in all kinds of precious materials. After all, excellent materials were crucial to the creation of a good weapon.

If she could get her hands on the emerging object in the Sea of Eternal Purpleflame, what kind of divine weapon could she create?

Before Astarte realized it, her body was already moving to investigate the Sea of Eternal Purpleflame.

"Where do you think you are going, Astarte? This meeting is not over," Thanatos reminded in a deep tone, prompting Astarte to pause.

"Are you going to stop me from checking out the source of the aura surge and acquiring a potential treasure, Lord Thanatos?" Astarte frowned before mentioning, "The resources of the Purpleflame Territory are free for all."

"Potential treasure?" Thanatos snickered with contempt and said, "Perhaps there is a treasure there. However, you are sorely mistaken if you believe that slaughter aura belongs to it. No, that slaughter aura belongs to the Heavenly Devil."

"And as I have said, the Purpleflame Territory belongs to the Heavenly Devil now. So, if you want to court death, you are free to continue on your way after heeding my advice. I won't stop you."

"Still want to leave?" Thanatos asked shortly after.

Astarte quickly gave up her desire to leave and returned to the stone table.

Since no one else moved, she figured it wasn't too late to investigate the core region after listening to what Thanatos had to say.

"So, what is the reason behind your decision to make Vaan Raphna a Heavenly Devil and give him so many territories, Lord Thanatos?" Astarte queried with a somber look.

"If not for his absolute strength, do you think I would be so generous, Astarte?" Thanatos coolly glanced back at Astarte, adding, "What other reason can there be when the person is a Peak Divine Knight?"

"P-Peak Divine Knight? That must be a mistake, right? How could a Peak Demigod suddenly become a Peak Divine Knight?" Mephistopheles exclaimed in disbelief.

"I didn't believe it either. But since the person claimed to be Vaan Raphna, I have no choice but to believe it," Thanatos replied before asking, "Do you think someone like me would misjudge his strength?"

"You don't understand just how terrifying the Heavenly Devil is in person. His slaughter aura is far more horrifying up close than what you are sensing now. Even wiping out the original ten-billion population of the Purpleflame Territory wouldn't produce such a terrible slaughter aura."

"No, the latter must have slaughtered at least a hundred life planets to acquire such a terrible slaughter aura. Moreover, that person's body can even withstand the destructive power of the [Eternal Purpleflame]."

"Do you think my concessions were too much in front of this kind of powerful killing star? Thanatos asked.

However, his words created more confusion and doubts than clarity.

"That person's strength is Peak Divine Knight, but he has a body that can withstand the destructive power of the [Eternal Purpleflame]?" Mephistopheles doubted.

"Right. Does that even make sense, Lord Thanatos?" Balmodan chimed, saying, "The [Eternal Purpleflame] is a True Divinity-level fire. How can the body of Peak Divine Knight possibly withstand such destructive power?"

"I think you have been cheated by a powerful illusion, Lord Thanatos. It might even be an illusion created by Hecate. The things you have said just don't add up," Mephistopheles said reasonably.

"That's right, Lord Thanatos," Astarte agreed, adding, "Vaan Raphna is a Pangean. Even if he cultivated the Asura Law, where in the hell would he find so many lives to slaughter in order to produce the kind of aura you described?"

"Furthermore, if Pangea had a Peak Divine Knight-level Asura User all this time, Gehenna would have been wiped out ages ago," Astarte stated.

After Thanatos listened to Mephistopheles and Astarte's points, he couldn't help but doubt himself. What they said was very reasonable, according to common knowledge.

Did he really get cheated by an illusion?

How was that possible?

Mephistopheles and Astarte spoke so well that Thanatos almost believed them instead of trusting his own instincts.

Even now, he could feel the Heavenly Devil's terrible aura clearly due to his connection to Gehenna.

It was as if he was there in person.

Suddenly, Thanatos sensed the entire Sea of Eternal Purpleflame had disappeared. It wasn't instant, but the Sea of Eternal Purpleflame had already become an empty crater by the time he realized it.

Thanatos couldn't help but feel even more afraid of the Heavenly Devil's power and means.

But at the same time, he also admired such capabilities!

"I understand all of your doubts and confusion," Thanatos calmly acknowledged before saying, "However, you all should know better than to try reasoning with logic. Not everything can be reasoned with logic and common sense in Chaos."

"The only thing you should trust is information, and I can assure you, the information I provided is very true. If you still can't believe that, then go find out for yourself. Just be prepared to pay the price for your curiosity."

"I have already paid for mine," Thanatos coolly stated.

"Since Lord Thanatos says so, then how can I not believe it?" Mephistopheles replied with a sly smile.

Although he still found the truth hard to believe, he wasn't willing to investigate the person himself after listening to Thanatos.

Such a risky job can be left to other Great Devils.

As long as another Great Devil sang the same tune, he would have no choice but to believe it.

Fortunately, Astarte had such plans.

What Thanatos told her was just too unbelievable. She couldn't be convinced unless she saw the Heavenly Devil with her own eyes.

Chapter 894: Second Great Devil Conference (3)

Although Astarte still decided to investigate in her own time, she no longer intended to leave the meeting after careful consideration.

After all, the Great Devil Conference was rarely held unless there were important matters to discuss. Astarte didn't want to miss out on any important information that may be further discussed.

The Heavenly Devil's enthronement, territory allocation, and Peak Divine Knight being were all significant matters that had only been mentioned so far. There was still much to discuss about them, even if Astarte had yet to confirm Vaan Raphna's strength for herself.

Her opinion was not important at the present meeting, only Thanatos's.

Thanatos calmly observed the expressions of Mephistopheles, Astarte, and Balmodan. After he confirmed their intention to listen further, he nodded before continuing the meeting.

"Since everyone present is up to date on the news, we will now discuss what we, the Great Devils of Gehenna, should do with Vaan Raphna as our Heavenly Devil, moving forward," Thanatos addressed.

"A Peak Divine Knight is, by no means, trivial, especially one who is also an Asura Law-user. After all, that is a future Divine Lord. For Gehenna to have such a powerful backer would put its position at the very top of the Skymagia Star Kingdom."

"That also means Gehenna would have to choose between becoming the Skymagia Star Kingdom's Guardian Realm or competing to overthrow the current sovereignty," Thanatos spoke hypothetically.

Astarte immediately frowned before saying, "This seems like both an opportunity and a trial. Succeed and enjoy unprecedented glory, or fail and suffer eternal damnation."

"If the Skymagia Royal Family had truly been suppressing Gehenna, they would definitely not watch our realm rise," Mephistopheles mentioned with a grave look.

"The Skymagia Royal Family will never give our realm a chance to produce a Divine Lord capable of threatening their sovereignty. So, if they learn about the Heavenly Devil's power, we should expect endless troubles."

"We better prepare for such scenarios," Mephistopheles resolutely suggested.

The thought of betraying the Heavenly Devil for self-preservation did not cross his mind.

Asura Law users were more frightening than Soul Masters.

Powerful Soul Masters might choose to kill if offended, but powerful Asura Law users will definitely kill if offended.

As such, betraying the Heavenly Devil was simply asking for death. That said, standing against the Skymagia Royal Family would also lead to death.

However, since both roads lead to death, Mephistopheles found the Heavenly Devil's side more appealing to stand on.

After all, the Heavenly Devil's side would lead to unprecedented glory for Gehenna if they succeeded in overthrowing the Skymagia Royal Family.

On the other hand, siding with the Skymagia Royal Family would only continue their life of mediocrity and oppression.

It wasn't difficult to pick the better option of the two.

Astarte glanced at Mephistopheles with surprise before saying, "In that case, we should keep the Heavenly Devil's power a secret for as long as possible to give our realm a chance to grow and prepare."

"That won't be possible, Astarte," Thanatos suddenly stated.

"Based on my first impression of the Heaven Devil, he doesn't seem to be someone who would hide to build up his power. No, he might even be seeking opportunities to start a war."

"Only wars will allow an Asura Law user to grow the fastest," Thanatos said seriously.

"In that case, we need to draw a clear line between enemies and allies among the vassal star realms under the Skymagia Star Kingdom and recruit more allies, right?" Balmodan suggested.

"If we can surround ourselves with allies, it will be easier to defend once the Skymagia Royal Family starts making moves against our realm."

"On the other hand, being surrounded by enemies will make it difficult for us," Balmodan added.

"Mephistopheles, you have the strongest network and information-gathering skills among us. You'll be in charge of determining who we can and can't befriend among the vassal star realms," Thanatos instructed.

Mephistopheles almost wanted to cry after hearing the Realm Lord mention his full name.

"Alright, leave that to me, Lord Thanatos," Mephistopheles smiled.

"I think we are misplacing our priorities here," Astarte furrowed her brows before saying, "We don't know for sure if the Skymagia Royal Family has been suppressing our realm or not."

"Thus, if our suspicions turn out to be false, we'll be labeled as traitors who are plotting a rebellion once discovered. It'll be hard to gather allies and those dissatisfied with the Skymagia Royal Family's sovereignty when that happens."

"I believe our priority should be to find evidence or traces of the Skymagia Royal Family suppressing our realm," Astarte stated.

Thanatos couldn't help but agree.

"You have a point, Astarte," Thanato nodded and said, "However, there's no need to postpone Mephistopheles's task. We can work on both objectives simultaneously."

"Since I have the greatest influence over Gehenna, I will search for proof of the Skymagia Royal Family's suppression. I'm also the only one who can do so discreetly without alerting the Skymagia Royal Family's eyes."

"Still, considering I have never noticed any hidden external force acting on Gehenna in all these years, Skymagia Royal Family's suppression must be something hard to detect, such as tampering with our realm's laws."

"As such, Hecate, who is most proficient in several laws, will aid me in this task once she exits her secluded cultivation," Thanatos arranged.

Mephistopheles had a deep look of contemplation before saying, "If it's just finding traces of tampering with the realm's laws, do we even need to look elsewhere?"

"What do you mean, Mephistopheles?" Astarte frowned, thinking he was trying to dismiss her opinion on their priorities.

However, Mephistopheles had no such intention.

"I mean, don't you think the proof is right here, in the Purpleflame Territory? Does nothing come to mind when you think about its current state?" Mephistopheles mentioned.



"The [Eternal Purpleflame] is like a vicious cancer eating away at our realm. It's a foreign power that doesn't belong here, and so long as it remains here, this part of Gehenna will never recover."

"It might seem like the [Eternal Purpleflame] had only devastated the surface of the Purpleflame Territory, but its damage could be far more extensive than we can imagine," Mephistopheles speculated.

Thanatos and Astarte couldn't help but look at him in shock like they had been struck by a bolt of lightning.

Balmodan's eyes also flashed with astonishment.

Chapter 895: Second Great Devil Conference (4)

After everyone heard Mephistopheles's speculation, they couldn't help but strongly feel that he was right.

The [Eternal Purpleflame] was a True Divinity-rank fire since only flames of such quality could burn for eternity. Unless it were counteracted by another True Divinity-rank or stronger power, it would never extinguish.

Considering a True Divinity-rank fire had completely transformed the landscape of the Purpleflame Territory, it would make sense for Gehenna's laws to be altered or affected in some way.

After all, the Evergreen Territory used to possess the greatest life force in the realm.

If the Gehenna Star were the core of the realm, the planets in its orbit would be its limbs. A vibrant green planet like the Evergreen Territory would be considered an especially important limb among all its existing limbs.

Since such an important limb was disabled, it was reasonable to think that the realm wouldn't function the same way it used to.

The Great Devils couldn't believe that after piecing the information together, they were able to draw conclusions with their own logic and understanding.

In Thanatos's case, he figured the [Eternal Purpleflame] conflicted with the Gehenna Star due to their differing fiery properties, causing changes and imbalance in the realm's governing laws.

After all, the Gehenna Star was like a giant transmitter and receiver of fiery energy. Thus, having such a powerful foreign fire in its domain was like having a large boulder blocking the flow of the river's water.

Although such an issue didn't affect the survival of life in Gehenna, it certainly affected the evolution of life in the Divine Way.

Most likely, only True Divinity-rank Gehennans wouldn't be affected by the change.

Alas, if Gehenna had True Divinities, it wouldn't be the vassal star realm of a mere Tier-1 Star Kingdom.

It would have become a Holy Land instead.

Nevertheless, if the Great Devils had never thought of the existing [Eternal Purpleflame] being a problem, they would have never gained such insights.

Such an oversight had eluded them for countless years.

Suddenly, Thanatos' dark eye sockets flickered with gloomy green flames as he received new insights regarding the history surrounding the Purpleflame Territory.

"Have you all realized something strange?" Thanatos abruptly mentioned.

Mephistopheles, Astarte, and Balmodan all glanced at Thanatos with furrowed brows.

They had all learned about the problem with the [Eternal Purpleflame], but they didn't see what was strange about it.

"The Evergreen Territory's history is a taboo subject we tend to avoid talking about. But now that we've been talking about it, I've come to realize that the Skymagia Royal Family's actions against the Evergreen Territory were quite illogical," Thanatos said.

"What are you talking about, Lord Thanatos?" Astarte frowned with confusion.

"Think about it. Even if the Royal Princess who got humiliated in the Evergreen Territory was the apple of the Skymagia King's eyes, would such a great person not realize the schemes of the Divinesun Star Kingdom?" Thanatos first mentioned.

"However, even if the Skymagia King chose to make an example of the Evergreen Territory to prevent a recurring incident elsewhere, he did not need to use the Skymagia Royal Family's precious treasure, the Heavenly Chalice, to burn it to cinders."

"The Skymagia Royal Family is far too powerful and has countless means to slaughter an entire planet of a vassal star realm. Using the Heavenly Chalice to drown the Evergreen Territory in a sea of the [Eternal Purpleflame] is simply overkill and too wasteful."

"It's not like the Heavenly Chalice possesses an inexhaustible amount of [Eternal Purpleflame]. So, why in the hell would the Skymagia King waste its usage on the Evergreen Territory when it is the Skymagia Star Kingdom's trump card against the Divinesun Star Kingdom?"

"It doesn't make sense, right?" Thanatos sought the Great Devils' opinion on the matter.

"Since Lord Thanatos has put it that way, it indeed makes absolutely zero sense," Astarte nodded with a frown before guessing, "Could there have been bigger reasons that weren't made public?"

"You mean like the possibility of the Divinesun King hiding in the Evergreen Territory or something?" Balmodan casually speculated.

However, Mephistopheles shook his head, saying, "That's impossible. If the Divinesun King died in the Evergreen Territory, news of his death would have been spread long ago."

"Even if the Divinesun Star Kingdom tried to hide such news, it wouldn't have been able to keep the secret for so long, not to mention the Divinesun King had made countless public appearances in the past million years."

"It wouldn't make much sense for the Divinesun King to risk penetrating so deeply into the Skymagia Star Kingdom's territory just to implicate Gehenna for a scheme either," Mephistopheles doubted.

"Then, are you saying it's impossible for the Skymagia King to have used the Heavenly Chalice to smite some important person hidden in the Evergreen Territory like the Divinesun King, Mephistopheles?" Balmodan frowned.

"No, I'm not saying that at all," Mephistopheles shook his head and said, "Maybe the Divinesun King did sneak into the Evergreen Territory and was the reason for the Skymagia King's use of the Heavenly Chalice."

"If that really was the case, the attack definitely failed, and the Divinesun King survived, perhaps due to the use of his own star kingdom's trump card. However, none of that is important."

"What we should be wondering is why the Divinesun King even came to the Evergreen Territory and why the Skymagia King used the Heavenly Chalice to slaughter the entire planet."

"This is what I think – The Skymagia King's wrath against the Evergreen Territory was only a smokescreen to bury any proof of the Divinesun King's visit along with whatever secret he was trying to find here," Mephistopheles deeply speculated.

Once Mephistopheles shared his thoughts, Astarte, Balmodan, and even Thanatos felt startled.

"If that is true, the reason for our realm's suppression all these years might also be related to this hidden secret..." Thanatos figured.

Whatever the Divinesun King was trying to find must have been extraordinary if he was willing to risk his life, even if it meant entering deep into the enemy star kingdom's territory.

Moreover, the secret had to be so extraordinary that the Skymagia King had to use extreme means to bury it because he feared its existence getting exposed and spread.

Just what could it be?

Chapter 896: Second Great Devil Conference (5)

"Say... if the Divinesun King was looking for something in the Evergreen Territory, do you all think it's still hidden somewhere here?" Astarte queried with a look of wonder.

She couldn't help but feel tempted to uncover the secret.

After all, whatever the Divinesun King was looking for, it was something valuable enough for him to risk coming alone in secret—secret to the point that no one knew about it.

They could only speculate about it, at best.

More importantly, it was also something that the Skymagia King was willing to bury the entire Evergreen Territory in a sea of fire to hide.

The secret was something of utmost value, but at the same time, it was also something the Skymagia King didn't dare to uncover.

Did the Skymagia King even know what was hidden? Or did he only act on mere suspicions?

Either way, both possibilities were terrifying to imagine.

Yet, it also strongly aroused Astarte's curiosity.

"That's hard to say," Mephistopheles answered Astarte's question while he was pondering before shortly adding, "However, even until the end, the Lord of the Evergreen Territory defended his innocence against all allegations of his collaborations with the Divinesun Star Kingdom."

"As such, I think it's safe to say that whatever secret is hidden, it was something that even the Lord of the Evergreen Territory didn't know."

"If we take that into account, there's a possibility that whatever hidden secret here doesn't exist at all. Perhaps the Divinesun King and Skymagia King both acted on a mere rumor or suspicion."

"However, that also makes whatever the hidden secret is equally more terrifying—to the point that even I don't want to find out what it is," Mephistopheles stated.

He also had his fair share of greed for valuable treasures, but he treasured his life more.

Nevertheless, Astarte hoped Mephistopheles could elaborate further on the subject.

"Why not, Mephistopheles?" Astarte asked before saying, "It's quite clear that the secret has to be something extraordinarily valuable or powerful. If we can obtain it for ourselves, we might be able to raise our position immensely."

"Who would want to give up such a chance?" Astarte added thoughtlessly, blinded by greed.

While Mephistopheles understood Astarte's point, he couldn't share the same sentiments.

"When treasures become far too valuable, it also becomes a disaster to have rather than a blessing, Astarte," Mephistopheles coolly stated.

"Just think about it. We were able to speculate so much after coming together and focusing on this subject. If we had not lived so long and accumulated so much knowledge, we might not have thought about this."

"However, it's also because we are denizens of Gehenna that we were able to think this far. The Skymagia King might have suppressed our realm for so long because he feared we would find out about this."

But then, that raises the question – If the Skymagia King feared us finding out something about the secret hidden in the Evergreen Territory, why didn't he just wipe out the entire Gehenna Realm? Why stop with just the Evergreen Territory?" Mephistopheles mentioned.

"Why?" Astarte asked.

"Because of insufficient justifications. Drowning the Evergreen Territory in a sea of the [Eternal Purpleflame], while excessive, was already the limit of what the Skymagia King could do without drawing suspicions," Mephistopheles stated.

"If the Skymagia King had also wiped out the rest of Gehenna, no one would still think he was unleashing his wrath to avenge his beloved daughter. Instead, people will start to suspect he is trying to hide something."

"Whatever the Skymagia King knew about Evergreen Territory, he went to extreme lengths with this much consideration to keep it hidden. Do you understand what that means?"

"It means whatever potential secret buried in the Evergreen Territory is too much for even the Skymagia Royal Family to handle," Mephistopheles stated.

Only a secret that could trigger a bloodbath across countless star kingdoms once news of it spread would make the Skymagia King fear uncovering it so much.

"I see..." Thanatos suddenly broke his silence with a look of enlightenment. "So it was about Goddess Thyia's inheritance. I've only heard a bit about the rumors, but that is, indeed, something we should never try to find out, even if there is only a slight possibility of it existing here."

The Evergreen Territory's magical plant production wasn't just important to Gehenna; it was also very valuable to the Skymagia Star Kingdom.

After all, such a rich life planet was quite rare.

No ruler in their right mind would destroy such a valuable planet unless it were absolutely necessary.

It was only after Thanatos connected the matter to Goddess Thyia's inheritance that he understood why the Skymagia King would go to such extreme lengths to hide it.

"What rumors are you talking about, Lord Thanatos?" Balmodan asked with creased brows.

"There's only one kind of rumor regarding Goddess Thyia's inheritance, Balmodan. It's the kind that says Goddess Thyia's inheritance is hidden somewhere in the Eternal Darkheaven Sector," Thanatos stated.

Mephistopheles, Astarte, and Balmodan all felt speechless at the answer.

The Eternal Darkheaven Sector had countless thousands of galaxies, each containing up to several hundred billion or even a hundred trillion star realms.

Within such a vast space, where would people even know to look?

"The Eternal Darkheaven Sector is so vast. How could anyone possibly find Goddess Thyia's inheritance based on such a vague rumor?" Astarte frowned.

"It's definitely not easy," Thanatos nodded before saying, "However, with so many beings scouring through every high-value life planet in search of it, Goddess Thyia's inheritance will surely be found one day."

"We can only hope it's not here but somewhere far, far away; the further, the better," Thanatos sighed.

Goddess Thyia's inheritance was something that would even catch the interest of Tier-9 Star Kingdoms and Holy Lands.

A Tier-1 Star Kingdom like the Skymagia Star Kingdom wouldn't stand a chance of survival if it were caught in the middle of a conflict between Tier-9 Star Kingdoms and Holy Lands.

The battle intensity of such conflicts would completely obliterate the Skymagia Star Kingdom into ruins.

After all, Tier-1 Star Kingdoms took Divine Lords as rulers and would have more than three in each.

On the other hand, Tier-9 Star Kingdoms took Peak Divine Emperors or Half-step True Divinities as rulers. They could have as many as a hundred million Divine Lords due to their extremely vast domains.

There was simply no comparison between them. The difference was like heaven and earth.

Chapter 897: Second Great Devil Conference (6)

Although Tier-9 Star Kingdoms and Holy Lands would fight over Goddess Thyia's inheritance if they caught wind of its news, the Skymagia Star Kingdom didn't need to worry about them.

After all, Tier-9 Star Kingdoms and Holy Lands possessed extremely vast territories and were far away.

The problem was that if Goddess Thyia's inheritance could tempt Tier-9 Star Kingdoms and Holy Lands, it went without saying that even those lower-tiered star kingdoms would also be tempted.



Within the local starfield, the Tier-1 Skymagia Star Kingdom wasn't the star kingdom around.

There were hundreds of other Tier-1 Star Kingdoms and higher-tiered Star Kingdoms bordering each other.

The nearby Tier-2 Sacred Trisolar Star Kingdom possessed more than ten Divine Lords. That alone was enough to put enormous pressure on the Skymagia King.

On the other hand, the more distant Tier-3 Star Kingdoms had over a hundred Divine Lords.

It would only take the clash of two Tier-3 Star Kingdoms to reduce the Tier-1 Skymagia Star Kingdom to ruins if Goddess Thyia's inheritance lured their Divine Lords over. Even so, at least visible debris would remain from their conflict.

If the Divine Kings and Divine Emperors of higher-tiered Star Kingdoms joined the fray, everything would be reduced to fine powder.

On the other hand, if the True Divinities from the Holy Lands fought, the entire star region could transform into a deadly zone full of black holes, spatial fractures, and space turbulence.

That was the worst possible scenario if Goddess Thyia's inheritance was discovered.

Goddess Thyia's inheritance was just that alluring.

After Thanatos shared his information with Mephistopheles, Astarte, and Balmodan, they finally understood the gravity of the situation.

Even if Goddess Thyia's inheritance was not hidden in the Purpleflame Territory, its suspicion had to be killed in the bud before it attracted a bloody disaster.

Countless lively green planets in the Eternal Darkheaven Sector had been turned upside down in search of Goddess Thyia's inheritance.

The tragedy of the Evergreen Territory was bound to happen sooner or later.

"Are you still interested in uncovering the secret of the Purpleflame Territory, Astarte?"  
Mephistopheles asked slyly.

"Why ask what you already know?" Astarte coldly snorted and said, "I may be brash, but I'm not stupid. I can still understand what I should and shouldn't do."

Just as Mephistopheles had previously said, things related to Goddess Thyia's inheritance were too much for the Skymagia Star Kingdom to handle.

Peak Rank 6 Divine Beings like them were just ants in the grand scheme of things. They had to be careful and avoid getting accidentally stepped on by the bigger beings.

On the big chessboard fight over Goddess Thyia's inheritance, the Great Devils of Gehenna weren't even pawns, let alone players.

They simply didn't exist in the grand game.

"This is rather problematic," Astarte frowned before mentioning, "Putting Goddess Thyia's inheritance aside, if we can't remove the [Eternal Purpleflame], we will never be able to remove its interference and fix the flaws in our law comprehension."

"Do we have no choice but to be stuck at Peak Rank 6, unable to advance to Rank 7 forever?"  
Astarte uttered with unwillingness.

"Not necessarily," Thanatos calmly assured.

There were alternative means to advance if one found themselves stuck at a bottleneck due to flaws in their law comprehension.

They just had to correct their flaws.

Since it couldn't be done in Gehenna due to the [Eternal Purpleflame]'s interference, they just had to find another star realm similar to Gehenna, one that had flawless laws free of foreign interference.

However, correcting one's flawed laws in another star realm was like trying to reconstruct one's spiritual being. Without high comprehension and great control, it could be more difficult than recultivating from scratch.

Other methods involved receiving help from a stronger being in the related laws or using heavenly resources that contained strong natural power of the laws.

Unfortunately, one required wealth and connection, while the other needed luck and opportunity to come across.

Only cultivating in another star realm required talent and time.

When Thanatos was about to explain these options to Astarte, he suddenly sensed the power of law contained within the [Eternal Purpleflame] weakening.

Such a situation was only possible if an equal or strong power was counteracting the [Eternal Purpleflame] or a significant amount of the [Eternal Purpleflame] had been moved into a different space or simply disappeared.

The change shook his mind.

Thanatos quickly relied on his connection with Gehenna to search for the source of the significant change to the [Eternal Purpleflame], which had been burning without changes for countless years.

"This is...!"

Thanatos found himself looking at an unfamiliar crater in the Purpleflame Territory. But seeing the burning [Eternal Purpleflame] in the periphery, he immediately understood what he was looking at.

The Sea of Eternal Purpleflame had disappeared!

Although Mephistopheles, Astarte, and Balmodan couldn't see what Thanatos saw, they had noticed the changes in his expression and body language.

"What's the matter, Lord Thanatos?" Mephistopheles wondered with curiosity.

However, Thanatos was too shocked by what happened next to answer. Valefor had actually glanced at his invisible consciousness and asked him a question.

"Have you finished your task?" Valefor had casually asked.

Thanatos never thought anyone could detect his remote observation.

After all, it was a powerful observation ability exclusive to the Realm Lord of each star realm.

Realm Lords could merge their consciousness with their realm's consciousness to perform invisible spying on any part of their realm without causing any fluctuation of energy or aura.

It should have been nigh undetectable. Yet, the Heavenly Devil knew the precise location and angle of his spying.

Thanatos hurriedly withdrew his consciousness before spying on the Heavenly Devil from a different location and angle.

He thought it was a coincidence when he didn't see the Heavenly Devil look at his new spying spot.

However, it was at that moment that the Heavenly Devil suddenly glared at him directly, catching him off guard.

"Surprise, Mother fucker," Valefor spat before stating impatiently with a threatening tone, "Are you not going to answer my question? I'm going to get angry, you know?"

Ah!

Thanatos almost screamed out loud as he pulled back his consciousness and fell on his rear.

The gazes of Mephistopheles, Astarte, and Balmodan became strange as they looked at him with doubts and confusion.

What the hell was going on with Lord Thanatos? – They all wondered.

"Ahem!" Thanatos coughed awkwardly, picking himself up and dusting off his bones before saying, "I need to make an urgent trip to the Sea of Eternal Purpleflame to answer the Heavenly Devil's question. Feel free to tag along."

Without explaining further, Thanatos immediately took off, leaving behind a group of dumbfounded Great Devils.

Chapter 898: Temporal Enigma

On Valefor's side, the Purplefire Fiend King's spirit emerged from the Myriad Fire Spirit Flag with a dubious yet nervous look.

"Were you asking me, Master?" the Purplefire Fiend King wondered apprehensively.

However, Valefor shook his head.

Sometime later, Thanatos arrived with the other three Great Devils in tow.

Mephistopheles, Astarte, and Balmodan had all taken the chance to see the 'Heavenly Devil' in person and confirm his strength with their own eyes without disrespecting the latter.

It was also a good opportunity to become familiar with the Heavenly Devil, lest they fail to recognize him and offend him by mistake later.

What they didn't expect was that they would be convinced before they had even arrived.

On the way to the core region, they had seen the enormous crater where the Sea of Eternal Purpleflame should have been. Not even the swarm of Fire Fiends could be found.

However, it didn't take them long to notice where they all went.

The entire power of the Sea of Eternal Purpleflame had been concentrated inside the purplish-black flag held by the Heavenly Devil.

"Your Excellency, I have finished the task and came to ask if you have further instructions for me?"  
Thanatos hurriedly stated upon arrival.

From time to time, his gaze wandered to the Myriad Fire Spirit Flag, which emanated incredible power and aura.

The Heavenly Devil actually had a divine artifact capable of containing the power of the [Eternal Purpleflame].

No, wait!

Upon further inspection, Thanatos found the Myriad Fire Spirit Flag familiar. It was actually made from his [Cloak of Darkness and Death] and the Purpleflame Territory's [Decamillennium-Year Blazewood]!

The [Cloak of Darkness and Death] never had the power to store the [Eternal Purpleflame]. Yet, it was somehow able to after inheriting properties from the [Decamillennium-Year Blaze]!

After Thanatos realized the Myriad Fire Spirit Flag was a brand new divine artifact refined by Valefor, he couldn't help but look at him with more respect.

This level of artificing was just too ferocious.

A divine artifact that could contain and use the power of the [Eternal Purpleflame] was practically a True Divinity-level heavenly artifact.

Even if most of its properties weren't up to standards, its destructive power was at the True Divinity level at the very least.

That was the most important aspect of the divine artifact.

"Congratulations on refining a peerless divine artifact, Your Excellency," Thanatos quickly praised in awe upon realization.

At the same time, his words shocked Mephistopheles and Astarte. They quickly put on their best attitudes and mimicked Thanatos's actions in congratulating Valefor.

"Congratulations on refining a peerless divine artifact, Your Excellency."

"Congratulations on refining a peerless divine artifact, Your Excellency."

Hmm?

While Mephistopheles and Astarte had both congratulated Valefor with a bow and cupped fist, they noticed Balmodan had not done the same.

Instead, Balmodan continued to stare at Valefor with a frozen expression.

Thinking back carefully, Mephistopheles and Astarte both noticed Balmodan's presence seemed to have shrunk infinitely small when they had arrived.

Balmodan's presence was so small that even though he was standing next to them, they couldn't really tell without looking.

It was like he was trying to fade away his existence in order not to be noticed.

Why did Balmodan have such a reaction upon seeing the Heavenly Devil? Has he seen him before? Or has he offended him before?

"Interesting..." Valefor smiled slightly after noticing Balmodan's reaction.

He could tell from Balmodan's reaction that he was recognized—not as Vaan Raphna, but as Valefor Raphna. Considering the original timeline had been erased, he didn't expect anyone else to still know about Valefor Raphna.

Nevertheless, he should have foreseen it when he learned there was a Balmodan among the Great Devils.

After all, Balmodan was not a Great Devil in the original timeline. He was only a hired Aura Grandmaster who got left behind during the third great expedition.

On the other hand, Great Devil Kezan, the Evil Wolf God, was still alive at that time.

"How very interesting," Valefor uttered again with increasing interest as he stared at Balmodan.

In the original timeline, Great Devil Kezan was felled by him in the later years. Yet, in the new timeline, Great Devil Kezan did not come back to life.

Instead, a Pangean Aura User had taken his position and divinity, and his death was pushed ten thousand years into the past.

More importantly, none of the other Great Devils seemed to be aware of this.

No matter how Valefor looked at it, Balmodan did not seem like someone the Lord of Chaos had specifically planted in the new timeline to help.

Even if he was, the Lord of Chaos had no reason to keep his memories from the original timeline. That would only leave a trace of his interference and endanger Vaan Raphna.

As such, the present Balmodan was someone who existed outside of the Lord of Chaos's plans.

He was a temporal enigma.

Someone ordinary in the original timeline had become someone special in the present timeline.

Moreover, that person most likely kept all of his original memories.

While the rest of the world was affected by the rewinding of the timeline, Balmodan was unaffected. In fact, history was even rewritten because of his special existence.

"Oh?"



Valefor suddenly noticed a crucial clue that could provide the answer to his doubt – Balmodan's age.

Balmodan should only be around fifty years of age in the original timeline.

However, information from the Fourth-Dimensional Sense told him that Balmodan was someone who had already lived more than 600,000 years.

Balmodan should not have such a large disparity in age unless he had spent the majority of his time in an independent temporal space.

Moreover, it had to be a very powerful temporal space in order to produce such extreme time dilation.

If Balmodan possessed such a powerful temporal space artifact, escaping the effects of the world's temporal rewinding became understandable.

While Thanatos and the other Great Devils were wondering why Valefor was looking at Balmodan with so much interest, Valefor suddenly beamed after finishing his thoughts.

"Since I am being congratulated, there ought to be gifts, right?"

Chapter 899: Generous Compensation

Once Valefor raised his question, Thanatos immediately shuddered and felt regretful about returning to Valefor.

Why did he come when he had already decided to avoid interacting with Valefor as much as possible?

Was there no way to avoid him?

Thanatos decided that the next time he had an opportunity to leave, he would hide in his territory and not come out again.

"Do I still have to give you a gift, Your Excellency?" Thanatos asked carefully, hoping he wouldn't be included since Valefor had already taken his best treasure.

However, Valefor glanced at him with a sly smile, replying, "What do you think?"

"Please forgive me for coming unprepared, Your Excellency," Thanatos sighed and said, "As an apology, I hope you can visit my territory to pick out something you like. I believe it is better than me offering you something you may not like."

"A sound suggestion. I will do just that," Valefor calmly nodded as he mentioned, "The Sea of Darkness should have something interesting."

Thanatos was immediately appalled.

The Heavenly Devil's appetite was simply too big.

The Sea of Darkness was one of Gehenna's biggest oddities, with hidden secrets in it.

Although it was not a black hole, it endlessly sucked in the dark energies of the void like a bottomless vacuum. No one knew how long it had existed or how much dark energy it had accumulated.

Even what Thanatos absorbed for his cultivation was only an infinitely small fraction of its energy bank.

Since the Heavenly Devil was interested in the Sea of Darkness, Thanatos feared it might disappear like the Sea of Eternal Purpleflame.

Yet, at the same time, he also couldn't help but feel a sense of anticipation.

After all, he was curious about its secrets.

"What about you three? Do you have something to offer?" Valefor turned to the other three Great Devils.

"I'm not exactly sure what the Heavenly Devil likes. Is there something you would like from me, Your Excellency?" Mephistopheles asked wittily.

He didn't reveal what he had or offer Valefor a chance to browse through his collection of valuables.

As such, Valefor could only choose his gift based on what he knew Mephistopheles had.

Of course, Mephistopheles would have no choice but to show everything he owned if Valefor demanded it. But at the very least, he wasn't stupid enough to openly reveal it.

Nevertheless, Mephistopheles had no idea that Valefor was quite familiar with him—or rather, what he had.

Valefor had once looted everything from his corpse in the original timeline.

Alas, despite being one of the most witty Great Devils in Gehenna, Mephistopheles was also the most unfortunate. His territory's planetary value was poor, and he had no luck with heavenly treasures and resources.

Rank 6 was the highest quality of resources in his possession.

As such, Valefor was not interested in Mephistopheles's tangible values; he was only interested in his intangible values.

"There is something I would like from you," Valefor acknowledged before mentioning, "I heard you have the best information-gathering network in Gehenna?"

"I don't know about the best, but I do have an information-gathering network," Mephistopheles admitted humbly, but he felt proud in his heart. Shortly after, he asked seriously, "What do you want to find out, Your Excellency?"

"I want you to help me track down a missing witch," Valefor stated with narrowed eyes.

In the original timeline, he killed Mephistopheles too soon.

As such, he never got the chance to make use of his ability and information-gathering network to find the witch who abused and tortured him in his childhood.

The person was never found, no matter where he looked.

It was as if the person had vanished from the face of Pangea after leaving the slum district of Blackmoon City.

Although Valefor had zero intention of forgiving the person, he did notice the person's behavior under the influence of isolation and despair was rather too abnormal and extreme.

Unfortunately, he couldn't find more clues due to his vague memories.

Shortly after Valefor provided all the information he could on the missing witch, Mephistopheles promised, "I will mobilize all my resources to produce a result you can be satisfied with, Your Excellency."

"I'm counting on you. Since this matter is quite important to me, I will compensate you for your efforts," Valefor declared.

Shortly after, he offered Mephistopheles another small branch from one of his three [Decamillennium-Year Blazewood Trees].

"This..."

Mephistopheles studied the charcoal-black branch with a startled look. After a moment, he became ecstatic.

"Thank you, Your Excellency!" Mephistopheles sincerely expressed.

A branch that could withstand the power of the [Eternal Purpleflame] was undoubtedly a True Divinity-level material.

Although he couldn't use it himself, it was still a heavenly material of extreme value. He could sell it off for an unimaginable amount of wealth. That would give him the capacity to buy divine treasures and resources he needed in the Skymagia Royal Capital.

Furthermore, he wouldn't have to worry about attracting the greed of others for possessing such wealth.

After all, he would have the Heavenly Devil as his backer. Gehenna's status was about to undergo an unprecedented transformation.

Who would dare to rob him in the future?

Thanatos didn't understand Mephistopheles's excitement at first. But after he realized his train of thought, his attitude also underwent a great change.

He originally thought he couldn't sell his [Decamillennium-Year Blazewood Branch].

However, that was not the case at all.

'Maybe it's not bad to go out from time to time?' Thanatos thought to himself while considering where he should sell his [Decamillennium-Year Blazewood].

Shortly after, Valefor turned to Astarte next.

However, before Astarte could say something, Valefor commented, "Your Redsong Territory's divine weapon refinement technique is not bad."

"If Your Excellency is interested in it, this Lowly One will gift it to you," Astarte humbly promised with a wry smile.

In exchange, Valefor also gave her a [Decamillennium-Year Blazewood Branch].

As such, Astarte was moved and had no complaints.

Whether it was Thanatos, Mephistopheles, or Astarte, they were all satisfied with their compensation despite losing something.

Valefor understood the theory of the carrot and the stick.

At the same time, he couldn't help but feel impressed by his thoughtful and calculating actions. They weren't things he would have done in the original timeline; all he had known was killing and robbing.

Had he always been this smart?

Chapter 900: Ancient Chamber

Utilizing available resources and manpower from his surroundings to achieve his purposes was not a bad feeling.

Valefor was surprised he had not done such a thing in the original timeline.

It didn't seem like he had a single subordinate in the original timeline at all. He was just a solitary figure with too much hatred and anger.

However, that no longer seemed to be the case.

His hatred and anger might have lessened due to his heightened intelligence—No, more precisely, they have been under control.

Although Valefor did not have access to the memories of the main consciousness, some crucial information was still shared.

As such, Valefor knew the biggest difference between Valefor of the original timeline and Vaan of the new timeline was the Heaven-Swallowing Physique.

This heaven-defying physique was something Valefor did not possess in the original. It also didn't make sense for Vaan to inherit it from birth.

After all, Vaan's Spatial Bloodline only came from a somewhat influential family of spatial users. Even if the Great House of Caelestis was the most powerful family in Pangea, it was still a mortal family.

As such, it was impossible for it to produce a descendant with a heaven-rank physique. Even a divine family with Divine Emperors in Chaos couldn't have done so.

In other words, heaven-rank physiques weren't below divine-rank physiques but actually above them.

They belonged to the realm of True Divinities.

Since Varuna was destroyed in everything but his soul, only the new souls of his reincarnations could inherit Soul Constitutions with Beyond True Divinity-rank potentials.

The same did not apply to their physiques; their physiques were dependent on the bloodline and strength of their new parents.

As such, Vaan couldn't have been born with a divine-rank physique, let alone a heaven-rank one.

Yet, not only did Vaan possess a heaven-rank physique, but it was also the most suitable physique for drawing out the sealed power of Varuna's soul.

There couldn't have been such a coincidence.

It could only be another one of the Lord of Chaos's doing. He must have remolded Vaan's body after rewinding the time of the world.

The weight of a younger brother's love was unexpectedly quite heavy.

...

When Balmodan witnessed the compensation Mephistopheles and Astarte received, he was greatly surprised by Valefor's generous act.

At the same time, he started to doubt himself.

When he saw Valefor's appearance and aura, he thought the person was like him, someone who had not been affected by the change in the world's time.

However, the killing star that he knew would have never been so generous to the Great Devils he had once killed.

'Maybe it's not the same person? Am I really the only one in the world who has not been affected by the change in time? But if this isn't the same person, how did he achieve such aura and cultivation at this point in time? Balmodan doubted.

While a lot of questions were swimming in his mind, Balmodan received Valefor's attention and sensed a sliver of killing intent from him.

He immediately felt a cold chill in that instant.

Indeed, Valefor was considering whether he should kill Balmodan.

After all, Balmodan was an existence outside of the Lord of Chaos's calculations. He could be a pawn inserted by the fourth-dimensional being who forcefully occupied half of Chaos.

Valefor didn't know if such an unknown variable could be a threat to him and Vaan.

Nevertheless, Balmodan's mind churned very quickly after sensing the danger of death. He could only figure out how to survive and didn't dare to think about other things.

"I think I already know what you want, Your Excellency," Balmodan said with a forced smile before suggesting, "Shall we head back to my territory to fetch it?"

Valefor nodded, feeling a little more curious.

"I'll be following Balmodan to the Wolf God Domain first. I'll visit your territories at a later time," Valefor informed Thanatos and Astarte.

Shortly after, he departed with Balmodan.

During their short trip together, Balmodan felt like he was walking on thin ice. His entire back was drenched in cold sweat due to fear. He felt immense pressure from Valefor tailing behind him.



After all, he didn't know if Valefor would suddenly kill him or not.

Nevertheless, Balmodan safely returned to the Wolf God Domain in the end.

However, he did not lead Valefor to the Undying Devil Palace. Instead, they headed to the old den of the deceased Evil Wolf God Kezan.

It was located in a huge cave hidden inside a snowy mountain to the east of Illusory Demon Forest, and the entrance was long sealed in ice.

Balmodan easily broke the ice and led Valefor inside.

Although the cave was much bigger than Valefor had anticipated, he was not surprised until Balmodan led him past Kezan's lair, stopping at a dead end. A big boulder was just blocking the hidden passageway.

Valefor noticed the hidden passageway was only big enough for humans to enter.

More importantly, it possessed sophisticated designs that seemed to come from an advanced civilization.

A big creature like Kezan couldn't have made it.

"When I stumbled into this place and absorbed the divinity from Kezan's corpse, I chanced upon this hidden passageway. Therein also lies my greatest secret," Balmodan introduced the place.

When Valefor followed Balmodan to the end of the passageway, he suddenly felt a slight change in the atmosphere when they entered the main hall.

The sensation somewhat resembled the time he entered the Garden of Thyia. It should be a type of restriction to hide the pocket space.

However, the level of the restriction seemed to be even more advanced than the Garden of Thyia's despite covering a smaller region.

It also felt far more ancient.

Nevertheless, Valefor didn't focus on the restriction for long. The main hall's interior design had immediately grabbed his attention.

It didn't look like the ruins of some advanced civilization.

Instead, it resembled the typical cultivation chambers from Vanitas's era of cultivation—ones that lone cultivators generally build for isolated cultivation when they take breaks during their travels.

The only difference was that the current cultivation chamber was heavily invested and developed.

It wasn't something a low-level cultivator could have built.

More importantly, the cultivation chamber possessed the most ancient aura Valefor had ever encountered despite maintaining good conditions.

Such ancientness might only exist from the primordial era or even the beginning of time.