

The Witch 911

Chapter 911: Starship Construction

Vaan conditioned his mental and physical states as he prepared to cultivate the Heaven Forging Dragon Art.

He was rather curious about heaven's punishment.

How powerful was the Divine Damnation? What form would it take? Where would it come from?

Vaan wondered if heaven's punishment would even reach him.

After all, he was inside of the Profound Pearl of Life, a separate universe. Even if the heavenly laws of Chaos could pinpoint his location, its punishment might not be able to enter the Profound Pearl of Life.

Considering the Profound Pearl of Life was also a True Divinity-rank heavenly treasure, heaven's punishment shouldn't be powerful enough to break it. If heaven's punishment were truly that powerful, then Vaan would have no chance of surviving anyway, no matter where he hid or ran.

After optimizing his condition, Vaan immediately started running the Divine Refining Life Art to gather life energy.

The refined form of life energy was stored within the Heaven-Swallowing Space shortly after. He did not consume the refined energy but stockpiled it.

To ensure the success of cultivating the Heaven Forging Dragon Art, his supply of refined life energy had to be abundant. After all, a tremendous amount was required during his cultivation.

Having a shortage of refined life energy during the crucial moment would only lead to disastrous consequences.

Since cultivating the Heaven Forging Dragon Art was already considered an act against the heavens, how could Vaan take on the challenge half-heartedly?

Unknowingly, an entire week of accumulating refined life energy passed by.

Although Vaan's Heaven-Swallowing Space was constantly expanded by life energy, the Death Eaters were still forced into a corner after refined life energy filled up the space.

Nevertheless, Vaan made sure his accumulated life energy wouldn't wander into the Death Eaters' territory. He understood that life energy was like poison to them and vice versa.

Nevertheless, once Vaan felt like he had accumulated enough refined life energy, he finally cultivated the Heaven Forging Dragon Art.

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During this past week, Valefor had been a busy bee in Gehenna.

After he had learned Astarte's Divine Weapon Refining Art, he poached two hundred Dark Dwarves from the Redsong Territory and brought them to the Evernight Territory.

Of course, Astarte was not happy with the decline in her workforce.

However, two hundred Dark Dwarves were only a small fraction of the Dark Dwarf Clan living in the Redsong Territory. Moreover, they weren't the most skilled craftsmen among their clan members.

With the exception of Team Leader Rudrec, who was an eccentric but talented weapon designer, the rest of the poached dwarves had limited experiences in divine weapon-refining.

Furthermore, they were even considered neglected commoners within the Dark Dwarf Clan.

Even so, Valefor selected them because of their potential and not their talent.

If they had any talent in divine weapon-refining, they would have already proven themselves. They wouldn't necessarily leave the Redsong Territory even if they were given opportunities elsewhere.

However, it was also because Valefor promised them a stage and opportunity to showcase all their skills that the two hundred Dark Dwarves easily followed them.

In the Redsong Territory, the quality and success rate of one's divine weapon-refining were the main determining factors for a Dark Dwarf's talent and status.

If their skills were poor, they would be frowned upon and ostracized.

However, Valefor didn't care about this; he didn't need their divine weapon-refining talents. He had a superior divine weapon-refining art to compensate for their lacking talents.

What he truly wanted was their skills in other fields of craftsmanship, such as construction, city planning, and tool refining.

After gathering some resources from the Evernight Territory, Valefor immediately gave them a huge task – To build a battle-class starship.

Despite possessing the knowledge and skills to achieve it, no one in the Dark Dwarf Clan had ever undertaken such a huge task. This was because it required tremendous resources and funds.

Astarte never needed a battle-class starship, so the Dark Dwarf Clan never had the opportunity to build one.

Nevertheless, it was also for that reason that two hundred poached dwarves were very excited to work on it.

Even Rudrec, who followed Valefor after getting fired, became interested in joining the project. This was despite his original purpose to learn the Divine Weapon Refining Art from Valefor after receiving his enticement.

As a result, he ended up becoming the project's head designer.

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Evernight Territory, Vladigold City

Although Abaddon's floating castle had been ransacked after his death, the treasury was slowly refilled after Mephistopheles, Balmodan, and Astarte returned their share of the loot.

For the past week, Valefor had used the floating castle as his temporary base as he oversaw the project's progress from the sky and mobilized the remaining Vampire Lords to gather the materials required.

Despite the Vampire Lords' shock when they saw "Vaans'" strength, they didn't dare to question a Peak Divine Knight.

Nevertheless, a huge project such as a battle-class starship undoubtedly put a strain on the Evernight Territory's economy, especially since it had been plagued with chaos and disorder.

The territory had neither recovered nor been stable since Abaddon's death.

Valefor's trip to the Shadowcage Territory's Sea of Darkness had been delayed due to recurring problems in the procurement of materials for the battle-class starship construction.

The Evernight Territory might have plenty of resources, but they still needed to be unearthed and processed.

Considering most of the Evernight Territory's labor force consisted of mortal livestock such as humans and other red-blooded life forms, the procurement of rare minerals was already expected to be slow.

However, it became slower when the labor force experienced lethargy as a result of using blood currency to trade for daily necessities.

Originally, the problem should have been solved within the first three days after Valefor supplied diluted life energy drinks to the labor force. Unfortunately, the same problem still persisted.

The diluted life energy drinks might have restored miners' vitality, but they also made their blood so much more attractive to the vampires.

As a result, there have been many incidents of miners getting seriously drained or killed due to uncontrolled bloodsucking.

When Eighth Progenitor, who had become Vaan's loyal dog, reported the persisting problem to Valefor, he felt deep dread.

"I'm sorry, my Lord. The young ones are just too unrestrained. However, I will definitely fix this problem as soon as possible!" the Eighth Progenitor promised on his knees, shivering in fear.

"You said that four days ago, but the problem remains unchanged. It's clear that your methods aren't working," Valefor stated before coldly asking, "Do I need to personally wipe out the entire vampire race before this problem is no more?"

"N-no, my Lord! This time, I will definitely succeed! Please give me one more day!" the Eighth Progenitor requested.

"I'll give you half a day. If you fail again, I will slaughter half of the vampire race, and your direct lineage will be on my priority list. If you don't want that, bring me the head of all parties involved in the delay," Valefor coldly stated.

"I understand, my Lord...!" the Eighth Progenitor acknowledged as he trembled in fear.

Facing Valefor's incomparably thick killing intent, he did not doubt his words in the slightest; he truly believed them.

Chapter 912: Valefor's Outrage

Between the two versions of Vaan, the Eighth Progenitor naturally preferred the former and wished "Vaan" would return to the way he acted when they first met.

After all, the latter version of "Vaan" was just too scary.

The Eighth Progenitor had no idea how he hid his cultivation so well, especially for his slaughter aura. The karmic sin associated with reaping so many lives wasn't something that could be hidden.

It was like stepping on shit; even if one tried to rub it off, the smell would still linger.

As such, being coated in such a heavy slaughter aura, "Vaan" shouldn't be able to hide it all.

But then again, it hadn't been long since the Eighth Progenitor had awakened from an incredibly long slumber. The world may have changed a lot, and new sophisticated methods may have been developed to hide one's cultivation and aura.

Who was he to judge a Peak Divine Knight?

All the Eighth Progenitor knew was that "Vaan" was an unpredictable and eccentric being. He already wielded so much strength, yet he pretended to be a mere Demigod-rank human.

If all experts pretended to be the pig to eat the tiger like him, the Eighth Progenitor would be too scared to travel. Even if he had to travel, he would definitely maintain a humble attitude, no matter how unassuming whoever he interacted with seemed.

It would be too late to cry if another mortal turned out to be a mighty Divine Knight.

The Eighth Progenitor immediately departed for the mining sites with a ruthless glint in his eyes. Although he understood the temptation of high-quality blood, he couldn't spare the blood thieves who targeted miners.

After all, if they didn't die, much more of their kind will.

Nevertheless, he wasn't sure how great of a background the blood thieves had.

He had already removed all the vampire supervisors from the mines and placed the areas under protection. Yet, under such conditions, vampires still managed to sneak in and steal blood from the miners.

No, vampires weren't necessarily needed to extract and collect blood.

Any mortal under mind control could have targeted the miners' blood in the vampires' place. Such an indirect method would hide the vampire mastermind's traces.

Nevertheless, something like that happening would also imply higher-ranking vampires were involved in the blood theft.

However, the real question was how high up the ranking was the vampire mastermind involved. Furthermore, there could even be more than one high-ranking vampire involved.

The Eighth Progenitor only hoped a Vampire Lord wasn't involved in the problem. He didn't actually care about other Vampire Lords; he just didn't want them to implicate him.

After all, if the Heavenly Devil found out a Vampire Lord was involved in delaying his great plans, he might just decide to get rid of all the Vampire Lords.

He definitely didn't want that to happen.

'You old bastards, please don't be involved in this business,' the Eighth Progenitor silently prayed as he made his way over to the mines.

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Meanwhile, shortly after the Eighth Progenitor left the floating castle above Vladigold City, the Fifth Progenitor, Demetrius Diablo, arrived to make his report.

While the Eighth Progenitor was in charge of all active mines, the Fifth Progenitor had been put in charge of locating new rare mineral deposits to mine.

"My Lord, I have discovered..."

Just as the Fifth Progenitor made his report, he noticed the rapidly changing weather in the region. Valefor also paid attention to the sky as the clouds and winds gathered unnaturally.

"Uh... What is happening?"

"What's going on with the weather suddenly?"

In Vladigold City, on the surface, many humans and vampires also began to notice the cool night turning chilly from the cold breezes.

Rumble...!

It didn't take long before the roars of thunder resounded from the depths of the huge formation of dark clouds.

The unprecedented weather change and phenomenon was something the people of Evernight Territory had never experienced or heard of before. It left them both in wonder and fear.

Everyone could sense a terrible concentration of destructive power in the center of the spiraling clouds.

"Is that the weather normal, Demetrius?" Valefor inquired.

"There's nothing normal about that abnormality, my Lord! I think we should get out of here immediately!" the Fifth Progenitor cried as he sensed the destructive power in the sky could annihilate him.

Nothing good would come from standing directly under such destructive thunderclouds.

Boom!

Not even a second after the Fifth Progenitor made the suggestion, a black bolt of lightning descended in a flash.

Under the impact, the fortified floating castle easily shattered apart like soft tofu.

Broken reinforced stones and shards of rare metal scattered in all directions, while the whole area that was directly struck by the black lightning was reduced to powdered dust.

At the same time, the Fifth Progenitor's sorry figure shot out of the dust storm with half his life.

On the other hand, Valefor's indestructible body shot straight through the floating castle and smashed into the city grounds, forming a small crater and a rising cloud of dust and soil.

Not long after, Valefor crawled out from the small crater before glaring at the thunderous clouds fiercely.

"Fucker, so I was your target after all!" Valefor cursed.

Rumble...!

Boom!

The heavenly thunderclouds charged themselves and released another bolt of black lightning with ungodly speed as if in retaliation for Valefor's cursing.

Valefor simply had no time to react before he was struck into the ground again before the discharged power reduced his surroundings into a wasteland devoid of life.

A few dozen people had died before they were given the chance to flee.

However, those who witnessed the horrific destruction from further away immediately fled in panic and horror.

"Ahh! Run!"

"Get out of here!"

As the cries of fear and confusion resounded throughout the city, the heavenly thunderclouds continued to drop more bolts of black lightning, regardless of Valefor's seemingly uncertain status.

It seemed to be certain that he was still alive.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The bolts of black lightning struck in waves, one after the other, relentlessly and unforgivingly.

Although Valefor remained unscathed, he was continuously pushed deeper and deeper into the earth under the heavy suppression of the heavens. The oppressive situation outraged him to no end.

"Goddamit!! What did I do?! What the fuck did I do?!?! Who the hell is targeting with me?!"
Valefor cursed furiously, feeling both helpless and confused.

Chapter 913: Valefor's Outrage (2)

Valefor didn't have a single idea why the heavens were smiting the shit out of him. He had never even heard of such a situation.

That said, he did know something else that was related to heavenly punishment.

In fact, any Asura Law user would know about this particular heavenly punishment. It was punishment for the sin of killing.

Chaos was born out of the desire to preserve and continue life.

Thus, the act of killing and exterminating life was a sin that attracted bad karma, and accumulating great karmic sin would summon heavenly punishment periodically.

However, the Lord of Chaos also ruled over the heavens.

As such, everyone who comprehended the Asura Law was granted immunity from the heavenly punishment for accumulating great karmic sin. Only those who took countless lives without understanding the Asura Law would attract heavenly punishment.

Nevertheless, even if Valefor wasn't immune to the heavenly punishment of karmic sins, he still wasn't supposed to receive any.

After all, he may have retained his slaughter aura, but the countless lives he took in the original timeline no longer existed. Everyone killed by him was still alive. In other words, his karmic sins were undone.

He only possessed the slaughter aura without its associating karmic sins.

More importantly, the heavenly punishment for karmic sin wasn't supposed to be in the form of lightning.

The heavenly punishment for slaughtering lives without gain was a phenomenon where one's own karmic sin accumulation would transform into heavenly flames capable of burning the soul.

It was a heavenly punishment that only intended to inflict excruciating pain and torment the mind. In rare cases, karmic sinful beings would even use the heavenly punishment to temper their soul and will.

Such a heavenly punishment didn't have any frightful power of annihilation, unlike the current one bombarding him.

Valefor had no idea that he was being used as Vaan's meatshield.

Although most of Chaos no longer knew about it, the old heaven used to have two forms of lightning tribulations. One was to test and acknowledge, and the other was to destroy and eliminate.

The two forms of lightning tribulations were directly tied to the choice of cultivation.

The way of heaven attracted the Celestial Tribulation, while the way of defying heaven summoned the Divine Damnation. Although they were both lightning tribulations, the differences in their properties showed heaven's bias.

After all, the Celestial Tribulation would bless cultivators with power and recover their wounds if they overcame it.

On the other hand, the Divine Damnation wouldn't grant any additional power or recover wounds if the cultivators overcame it. They would only receive heaven's compromise to allow them to continue their path until they reached the next level that heaven couldn't tolerate.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Black lightning continued to descend from the sky in waves, battering Valefor into the ground repeatedly. Each strike possessed the power to extinguish even Divine Knights.

Heaven's punishment was so relentless that the people of Vladigold City thought doomsday had arrived. Even hiding away in their homes wouldn't protect them from such destructive power.

The entire sky above the city was blotted out by an oppressive feeling of annihilation.

As such, the more decisive and wiser people all fled far away from the city. Anywhere was safer than beneath the raging thunderclouds.

In times of disaster, the high-ranking vampires in the city showcased their leadership and responsibility. They protected the livestock—Ahem, the people, and guided them to safety outside the city.

Even those who got caught and trapped underneath rubble were rescued and brought out by them.

"Everyone, follow my lead! We, Noble Vampires, have secured a safe route out of the city. You will be safe if you follow our instructions!" a Noble Vampire directed, adding sternly, "Those who push and disrupt order will be severely punished!"

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Under the threat of the heavenly punishment, there were a few dissidents who didn't follow orders in a bid to flee the city.

Who would dare stay back longer to die?

Unfortunately for them, the vampires ruthlessly broke their limbs and threw them to the back of the line, leaving them for dead.

After the other people witnessed such cruelty, their courage to cut the line was diminished. They behaved themselves and didn't dare utter a single word of complaint, not even a squeak or fart.

"Sir Razmir, what do you think is going on? Could this be the fabled end of the world?" a Pureblood Vampire stood on a small hill outside Vladigold City as he watched the destructive descent of black lightning.

"Ah, Duvlad, you also made it out alive," Razmir rejoiced before shaking his head, "I don't have the slightest clue what is going on. However, whatever it is, it can't be something good."

"Right..." Duvlad nodded.

On that opinion, everyone could agree.

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Meanwhile, Valefor continued to be suppressed under the barrage of black lightning. Although it couldn't harm his seemingly indestructible body, it still restricted his movements.

It was like a Divine Lord or Divine King was bullying him.

No matter how furious Valefor was, there was little he could do about the lightning tribulation.

The only thing he found fortunate in all this was that the starship construction was situated on the southern outskirts of the city. As such, it wouldn't be affected by the lightning tribulation.

Nevertheless, Valefor had a rebellious innate nature; he wasn't willing to be oppressed or bend to the will of others, not even the heavens.

"Goddammit—! Fuck you and all 127 of your generations, Heaven! Don't think that you can keep this Daddy bowed down forever!" Valefor cursed furiously.

Valefor quickly gathered the full might of his Asura Law in a bid to resist the overbearing power of the lightning tribulation.

"The Asura Law can kill all things! There is nothing this Daddy can't kill! Not even a mere lightning tribulation is an exception! How dare you try to ride over my head! Such insolence must be punished!"

Boom!

The lightning tribulation immediately responded to Valefor's angry clamor with a stronger force, slamming his raised head back into the ground.

Vaan was only trying to advance to Rank 6 in body cultivation, but the Divine Damnation he attracted was something that even Rank 7 Divine Beings couldn't survive.

Neither Vaan nor Valefor knew it was possibly one of the strongest Divine Damnations in history to be attracted for a mere breakthrough into the divine way. Chapter 914: Eating the Lightning Tribulation

Although Valefor used his strongest Asura Law to fend against the lightning tribulation, he was still smashed into the ground by its sheer force.

He was gloomy that he could go on a slaughtering spree; only the thrill of killing could vent his frustration. Heaven was simply a big bully who targeted him for no reason.

No matter how Valefor thought about it, the heavens have always been governed by a set of rules. As such, it would never deliver heavenly punishment for no reason unless it was controlled by the Lord of Chaos, who ruled above the heavens.

However, he did not remember pissing off the Lord of Chaos either. Thus, there was no reason for the Lord of Chaos to bully him with the heavenly punishment.

After pondering for a while under the oppression of the lightning tribulation, a faint suspicion sprouted in Valefor's heart. He immediately took a peek inside the Profound Pear of Life.

In that instant, his face flushed red with rage.

Although Valefor didn't know what kind of cultivation method Vaan was using, he could at least tell he was making an extraordinary breakthrough. It was hard not to figure it out when the invisible shackles of the heavenly laws were snapping off like breaking ice.

'Mother fucker! So, I was being your meatshield!' Valefor wanted to cough up blood.

What was truly depressing was the fact that he couldn't do anything even after finding out the true target of the lightning tribulation. He didn't want to be Vaan's meatshield, but he had no choice but to do it.

Valefor wished he hadn't found out; he was happier when he didn't know what was going on.

Ignorance was bliss – This phrase couldn't have been truer.

'Dammit! Other Me, you owe big time!' Valefor gritted his teeth as he forcefully endured the relentless lightning strikes just to turn his body over.

Since he couldn't resist the lightning tribulation, he might as well embrace it!

"So what if you want to smite me?! The only thing you can do is pin me down! However, don't bully people too much! Even a dog knows how to bite back!" Valefor spat defiantly.

As if the lightning tribulation had a will of its own, it gathered even more power after hearing Valefor's challenging words.

In truth, even if Valefor didn't act as Vaan's meatshield, he would have still been targeted by the lightning tribulation all the same anyway.

After all, they were still of one being and soul, even if they had contrasting personalities and acted differently. They were two bodies tied by the same metal wire. As such, if one side touched the lightning rod, the other would also be shocked.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The black lightning descended in consecutive waves.

However, Valefor no longer tried to resist its destructive power with his bare body. Instead, he opened his mouth wide open and forcefully swallowed all of the black lightning.

Gulp!

Valefor defiantly forced the black lightning down his throat and trapped it inside his stomach.

His thinking was quite simple.

Since the lightning tribulation couldn't hurt him, he might as well contain its power! After all, if its power was contained, it might not be able to regather its strength!

"Since you gifted me such generous lightning power, don't think about taking it back!" Valefor glared at the thunderous dark clouds with gritted teeth.

At the same time, the black lightning trapped inside his body rampaged uncontrollably. It was like a trapped beast desperately trying to break out as it coursed through his channels chaotically, ramming itself everywhere while looking for a weak point.

Unfortunately, Valefor's body was a Primordial Avatar with True Divinity-level defense.

As such, whether it was external or internal, his body had no flaws for the black lightning to exploit.

No matter how destructive the black lightning was, it was still made of pure energy. Thus, once Valefor killed its momentum and calmed it down, it became free energy for him to absorb.

Moreover, it also tempered his indestructible body by a minuscule degree during its rampaging, granting him some affinity with tribulation lightning.

Crackle!

The lightning tribulation noticed his decline in power and roared furiously. Valefor's action didn't make it back down but retaliated even more relentlessly.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

More bolts of black lightning descended from the sky to greet Valefor in the face.

However, he no longer viewed them as an annoying pain in his ass; they had become a fine delicacy for him to enjoy.

Even if he had not found a way to absorb the tribulation lightning effectively, he believed there would be a way. He just needed to spend some time researching it before picking the method that worked best.

Little did Valefor know, his action was something the Lord of Chaos himself had done before. It was also in line with the path of defying the heavens.

Since Divine Damnations did not bless cultivators like Celestial Tribulations do, they had to take their power for themselves forcefully.

Boom! Boom!

After Valefor swallowed and tamed the new rounds of black lightning, the lightning tribulation stupidly dropped more to smite him.

Ultimately, the lightning tribulation did not have a conscious will of its own; it was only carrying out a designated task like a machine and would continue to do so until either the task was completed or its powers were exhausted.

As a result, Valefor continued to receive freebies from the lightning tribulation and temper his body repeatedly.

With each new round of lightning strikes, the lightning tribulation grew weaker.

Eventually, the lightning tribulation became weak to the point where it could only suppress Valefor into the ground with its lightning bolts.

Nevertheless, Valefor did not take that chance to escape the lightning tribulation. Instead, he glanced up at it greedily, licking his lips.

Bam!

Valefor suddenly launched himself into the dark skies and dived straight into the depths of the weakening lightning tribulation to swallow its remaining power.

If the food was good, the plate had to be licked clean to show his appreciation!

Surprisingly, the lightning tribulation suddenly gained self-awareness shortly after Valefor dived inside the thunderclouds. It had no choice but to acknowledge its defeat and retreat.

It felt threatened.

"Where do you think you are going?!" Valefor bellowed as he chased after the receding thunderclouds.

Chapter 915: Eating the Tribulation Lightning (2)

Shortly after Valefor swallowed the last trace of tribulation lightning, he immediately isolated himself inside a secluded mountain cave in the Purpleflame Territory.

The Purpleflame Territory had few visitors and fewer who could travel to many places in the burning land. Thus, he figured it was the best place to bury himself in researching the power of lightning tribulation.

The sooner he figured out how to effectively use it, the faster he would grow.

Meanwhile, the Fifth Progenitor and the other high-ranking vampires of Vladigold City were left behind to handle the aftermath of the heavenly devastation.

Although many buildings were leveled to the ground and the underground sewage system became a wreck, the high-ranking vampires in city managerial positions didn't mind the extensive city damage as much.

Instead, they only felt fortunate that the casualties among the livestock were minimal.

After all, they had already lost a significant amount of livestock in the previous battle between Abaddon and Hecate. The city couldn't keep taking such big hits on their livestock count.

It would seriously affect the flow of their blood currency and force a heavier blood restriction on their daily drinking limit. Even if the lower-ranking vampires didn't want to follow it, they would have no choice but to do so.

In times of droughts, humans had to conserve water, while vampires conserved blood. It was the natural solution to sustain themselves.

Nevertheless, while the various demon races and humans worked together to clean up the city and restore their normal lives under the vampires' direction, the scene of Valefor challenging the lightning tribulation was relived in their minds.

The unforgettable experience was etched into their memories permanently.

They didn't expect their new ruler to be so powerful. Even something as powerful as the heavenly punishment couldn't do anything to him.

However, everyone also realized they didn't know anything about the heavenly punishment. As such, the curious ones all visited libraries to look up whatever they could find on it.

The Fifth Progenitor, in particular, was the most curious about the heavenly punishment.

After all, he knew a bit about the heavenly laws and understood the heavens wouldn't deliver heavenly punishment for no reason.

As such, there had to be something extraordinary about the lightning tribulation.

Valefor decided to research the lightning tribulation because he also felt it was something particularly extraordinary.

After all, Gehenna was considered a low-rank realm; its mana quality was too poor to birth a Divine Lord ever in its long history. Yet, the lightning-attribute mana contained within the lightning tribulation was of the highest purity.

Mana of the highest purity simply didn't exist in Gehenna. Yet, the lightning tribulation was formed in it.

One couldn't help but wonder where such pure lightning-attribute mana came from.

Considering how quickly the lightning tribulation formed, it could have been far when it was gathered. In fact, there was only one answer – it naturally came from the heavens.

Mana was the manifested form of existential power, which was ever-present in all parts of Chaos.

There was no absolute void in Chaos despite the seemingly vast spaces that could be found everywhere. The formless power of the Law of Existence was always around, whether beings were aware of it or not.

'It seems I can only give up on this idea,' Valefor thought after deeming it was impossible to generate such pure lightning-attribute mana from the void of Chaos.

Only the heavens could do something like that.

No, maybe even the fabled Soul Masters, who were like the favored sons and daughters of heaven, could do it. After all, they were said to be capable of bending reality to their will.

Something like drawing out the purest form of mana from the void didn't seem like much compared to that.

Shortly after Valefor fiddled around with the tribulation lightning in his body, he quickly gave up thinking too much. He decided he would just absorb it the same way he absorbed slaughter energy, according to the first volume of the Asura Codex.

Even though he had never absorbed such tyrannical lightning power for his cultivation before, it was still mana of the highest purity.

Something like that was very rare to see in the entire Skymagia Star Kingdom.

Moreover, Valefor's body had already been tempered to accommodate the power of the black lightning after eating so much of it. His body was currently overflowing with it.

Just the slightest bit of movement would cause electrical currents to discharge from his pores and escape.

As such, the longer he delayed, the more lightning power he would lose.

Unexpectedly, the moment Valefor refined black lightning power and added it to his accumulated cultivation of blood and slaughter energy, the new element mixed well. It did not conflict with the existing properties within his energy core.

On the contrary, it easily worked with his existing properties to push his cultivation beyond the Peak Divine Knight level.

However, Valefor did not reach the Divine Lord level; it was something in between, known as the Half-step Divine Lord level. Reaching this level implied becoming a true Divine Lord was just around the corner.

Only further time and consolidation of power were needed to reach it.

Although Valefor had never reached the Divine Lord level in the original timeline, he was quite certain he was only at the Half-step Divine Lord level.

This was because a Divine Lord had absolute control over their laws within a fixed domain. Unless they faced another Divine Lord or stronger being who comprehended the same law, no other being would be able to wield the same law against them.

That was the authority of a Divine Lord—something Valefor felt he had yet to acquire despite sensing his Asura Law and Blood Law strengthening after the breakthrough.

He also felt some control over the Lightning Law but it was still far from one worthy of a Divine Lord.

Nevertheless, the results were still far better than what he had hoped for.

"I did expect to gain something, but I didn't expect it to be this great," Valefor muttered with delight.

Although the advancement to the Half-step Divine Lord level was smooth and simple, it wasn't the biggest benefit of absorbing the lightning tribulation's power; it was increasing his law comprehension.

Just by absorbing the lightning tribulation, he could automatically improve the understanding of his laws.

How heaven-defying was that?

Valefor figured such an envious benefit had to do with the fact that the lightning tribulation was formed by the heavenly laws and contained some of its secrets.

Suddenly, Valefor didn't mind getting struck by the lightning tribulation a few more times.

Chapter 916: Astral Essence

Meanwhile, in the Profound Pearl of Life, Vaan completed his aura avatar and began to superimpose it over his physical body from the front side. At the same time, life avatar merged from behind.

In order to achieve the theorized divine body in the Heaven Forging Dragon Art, his physical body had to be perfectly fused with the aura avatar on a 1-to-1 cellular scale.

The life avatar was only there to help with the fusion process.

However, while aura existed and was formed inside the body, this seemingly intangible power only flowed in free spaces outside of blood, which was its natural carrier.

If humans didn't have the seven orifices and countless pores, aura users would have never been able to release aura power outside their bodies. It would have simply been trapped inside.

After all, this was a type of power that could become harder than rare metals and heavier than mountains if sufficiently accumulated. It was a type of energy that wasn't really energy. In fact, it was closer to matter.

As such, the aura would naturally resist merging the flesh, muscles, organs, and bones since it was no different from forcing two matter to become a single mass.

Nevertheless, Vaan's aura was originally created from his body, so it had a certain level of affinity with him. It was also the reason why the possibility of fusion even existed.

However, it wasn't an easy task, even with the help of life energy.

Moreover, it was going to be an excruciatingly painful process. After all, the two colliding forces would grind against Vaan's physical body as he forced them to merge and become one with it.

This type of forceful grinding process wouldn't be as simple as the physical body assimilating the properties of aura power and life energy. No, it was the process of breaking down the body and reforming it to create a more powerful fleshly body.

As such, his theorized divine body was expected to be incomparably heavy and dense, akin to a celestial body like the sun and moon.

Once the preparations were done, Vaan didn't hesitate to begin the fusion process.

It was a race against time.

After all, the longer the aura avatar existed outside the body, the less potency it would have and the more uncertain the success of the fusion process became.

"Ugh..." Vaan gritted his teeth after feeling the pain of the initial grinding process.

However, he also saw how strongly the aura avatar refused to merge with his fleshly body. Even with the help of the life avatar, he couldn't just forcefully jam the two together with his body in the middle like a sandwich.

Brute force wouldn't work and would only increase the risk of failure.

Nevertheless, Vaan had expected this.

He had no choice but to move on to the more painful option – to grind the two powers against his body in a high-speed rotational motion.

Concept of Cosmic Flow!

Swoosh!

The surrounding space around Vaan's body suddenly became curved as all matter and energy gravitated towards him in a spiral motion. The closer they were, the faster they were pulled.

Vaan's body was like a black hole but not a black hole.

When the matter and energy of aura and life contacted his fleshly body, they rubbed against it with increasing rotational speeds. An intense heat was immediately generated from the friction, and his flesh threatened to peel off.

Even the aura avatar and life avatar failed to maintain their forms.

They simply broke down into clusters of matter and energy particles that assaulted every part of his body. Even more life energy from further away was reeled in under the powerful concept of his Spatial Law.

Nevertheless, Vaan chose not to stop it.

He had already commenced the fusion process and could only keep going, seeing it through to the end.

Rip!

A piece of flesh was suddenly torn off his body before getting ripped to shreds in the storm of revolving matter and energy particles. Blood leaked from his open wound, but it was quickly healed under his powerful regeneration.

Meanwhile, the loss of blood and flesh blended with the aura and life, transforming into astral essence – the product of a complete fusion.

It was only considered a success if his fleshly body was reformed into a body made entirely of astral essence, which formed the dense core of stars.

Unfortunately, the astral essence was created from a part that had been separated from his body.

The heat of friction continued to grow as Vaan's fleshly body was flayed alive. As more skin was ripped from his body, he also felt the increasing danger.

The potency of his aura power was dropping faster than he anticipated!

When the potency of his aura power dropped, it became less energy-like and more matter-like. As such, the rapidly revolving cluster of aura power was like turning into sandpaper as it rubbed against his body.

Vaan could sense the increasing rate of damage inflicted on his body. With its current trend, his fleshly body would be reduced to a bloody mess if nothing was done.

Suddenly, Vaan's eyes flickered a decisive glint.

In the next moment, he increased the range of his Concept of Cosmic Flow, drawing in even more life energy.

However, at the same time, it also hastened the destruction rate of his fleshly body.

Even so, Vaan didn't stop.

In order to forge a complete body of astral essence, his entire fleshly body had to be broken down into a mass of blood and bone powder. It was an insane procedure that no sane person would go through.

However, Vaan dared to because his soul was already at the half-step divine rank.

Even if his mortal body was destroyed, he still had the power to continue running the Concept of Cosmic Flow to complete the fusion process and create his astral essence divine body!

His body may be destroyed, but his soul was eternal!

When Elder Willowthorn saw Vaan transform himself into a blood cocoon, he was greatly shocked by his madness.

What kind of cultivation method required such cruelty towards themselves? Or did Vaan just decide to unalive himself?!

Someone, please tell him what was going on!

Chapter 917: Astral God Divine Body

After Vaan's fleshly body was completely broken down, the bloody mass mixed with the cluster of aura and life and gradually fused in the center of the cosmic flow.

In the process of breaking down his body, the invisible shackles of Chaos's heavenly laws were also snapped off, allowing it to become something that they couldn't control and restrict.

It was unknown when such shackles of the heavenly laws had attached themselves to his body.

It might have happened when he had entered Chaos for the first time.

No, it might have already existed since the day he was born. After all, Pangea and Gehenna were already connected at that time and the invisible tendrils of Chaos's heavenly laws were reeling in Pangea's chaosverse.

After the invisible shackles of the heavenly laws broke, they tried to reform and reattach themselves to the remains of Vaan's body.

However, his Nihilicity Law warded them off.

The shackles of the heavenly laws were there when the Nihilicity Law wasn't around. But now that the Nihilicity Law was around, how could the shackles of the heavenly laws still wriggle their way back into Vaan's body?

The heavenly laws of Chaos could no longer bind him, and he was free to develop his body according to the heavenly laws of the natural universe that existed before Chaos.

Nevertheless, Vaan's body was currently no more. Everything had been broken down to the atomic level and compressed to a single point.

It was like the singularity point of a black hole where matter had infinite density.

All three elements of body, aura, and life were forcefully fused and became a single point of highly concentrated astral essence.

At this point, it wouldn't be wrong to say Vaan had turned himself into a tiny red egg.

Nevertheless, after Vaan collapsed his Concept of Cosmic Flow, the gravitational force binding him disappeared, and the astral essence that made up his being immediately erupted.

Swoosh!

The red glittering dust of astral essence rapidly expanded outward, quickly covering a large region of space.

Inside the unborn universe of the Profound Pearl of Life, where the boundless life energy looked like an extreme supercluster of galaxies, Vaan's cloud of astral essence was like the only red nebula in existence.

His consciousness had almost scattered along with its expansion and become lost forever.

Fortunately, that did not happen.

More importantly, although his astral essence body had not formed yet, Vaan could already sense the space that once accommodated his soul had become incomparably larger.

It was like getting out of a small one-person bedroom and moving into a great hall that could fit thousands of people.

The new vessel to host his soul was extremely spacious!

There was a lot of room for growth!

Nevertheless, after the astral essence scattered into the form of a red nebula, Vaan thought it would take a long time for it to gather and form his astral essence divine body.

However, under his will, the scattered astral essence gathered very quickly.

The huge cluster of astral essences that could form a miniature star was greatly compressed to recreate his former shape and size perfectly.

But although Vaan regained his appearance, his divine body was anything but the same.

Considering the density of his new body, Vaan estimated he would weigh at least a hundred tons on Pangea. It seemed he could only utilize laws to manipulate his weight in the future.

Otherwise, he would simply crush his women if he rolled over in bed—assuming there was even any bed that could withstand his new weight.

Ding!

<You have successfully advanced to the divine rank in your Heaven Forging Dragon Art>

<You have successfully recreated the divine body of the ancient gods from the primordial era>

<You have acquired the Astral God Divine Body>

<Acquiring the Astral God Divine Body has upgraded the potential of your existing bloodlines and sub-physique to True Divinity>

<Your Heaven-Swallowing Physique has become a sub-physique of the Astral God Divine Body>

<Your Celestial Dragonwolf Physique has become a sub-physique of the Astral God Divine Body>

...

After seeing the changes, Vaan felt a little surprised.

Since he had broken down and reconstructed his entire body, he had expected the baptism of astral essence to affect his bloodlines and physique.

He was even prepared to lose the Celestial Dragonwolf Physique's special abilities due to its strict demand on the body.

However, not only did he not lose anything, he even had their potential upgraded.

If there was one thing to point out in all this, it was that [Celestial Dragonwolf Transformation] ability had indeed been weakened by the change.

Even so, the change was insignificant when compared to the benefit of the Astral God Divine Body.

=====

[Astral God Divine Body (Heaven-rank)]

Overview: The divine body belonging to the astral gods who were born from the stellar nebulas found in the primordial era. It possesses the natural ability to absorb the astral energy in the cosmos to strengthen and evolve itself.

=====

Although it wasn't explicitly stated, Vaan knew the Astral God Divine Body was perfect for body cultivation. He didn't need to be told to understand what his own body could do.

He could feel it.

The endless strength coursing through his divine body made him very aware of just how powerful it was.

How could the divine body of an ancient god possibly be weak?

However, just calling it powerful would be greatly underestimating it; it was so powerful that it felt unreal.

"Is this the strength of a Rank 6 Divine Being from the primordial era?" Vaan muttered as he clenched his fist to gauge his physical capabilities.

He felt like a casual punch from the current him would have the force of a 100-million jin. That was definitely not something a First-stage Divine Warrior from Chaos would have.

Heck, they probably didn't even have a tenth of it.

When Vaan used Valefor's cultivation as a reference, he estimated his raw physical strength was comparable to an Early-stage Divine Knight.

Vaan didn't find that too surprising, considering the amount of life energy consumed to forge the divine body was around that level.

On another note, his divine body had a very impressive ability.

If he wanted to, his divine body could grow up to the size of the Red Goblin Mountain, and that was only because the current level of his divine body was no different from an infant astral god's.

As long as his divine body continues absorbing astral energy and evolving, it might be possible for him to become as big as the stars in the future.

Chapter 918: Peak-rank Spirit Physiques

Ding!

<Your status has been updated>

=====

[Status]

«Name»

[Vaan Raphna (Vahn Cadieux)]

«Title»

[Supreme Leader of the Red Dragon Clan]

[Sun God of the Holy Knight Empire]

[Leader of the United Nations]

[Self-made Astral God]

[Venerable Sage of Magic Theory]

[Venerable Sage of Aura Cultivation]

«Race»

[Astral Human (50%)]

[Dragonwolf (20%)]

[Vampire (20%)]

[Spirit (10%)]

«Bloodline»

[Spatial Bloodline (Heaven-rank)]

[Celestial Dragonwolf Bloodline (Divine-rank)]

[Vampire Bloodline (Divine-rank)]

«Age»

[20 (Body), 31 (Soul)]

[Estimated Lifespan: 1,000,000+ years – Unestimatable]

«Unique Physique»

[Astral God Divine Body (Heaven-rank) (Upgradeable)]

«Sub-physique»

[Heaven-Swallowing Physique (Heaven-rank) (Upgradeable)]

[Celestial Dragonwolf Physique (Divine-rank) (Upgradeable)]

[Earth Spirit Body (Peak-rank) (Upgradeable)]

[Fire Spirit Body (Peak-rank) (Upgradeable)]

[Wood Spirit Body (Peak-rank) (Upgradeable)]

«Cultivation»

Body Cultivation Method: Heaven Forging Dragon Art (Divine-rank)

Cultivation Level: First-stage Divine Warrior

Physical Power: 100,000 (First-stage Divine Knight equivalent)

Special Trait: Dragonic Might, Everlasting Blood

...

«Soul»

Soul Trait: Dragon

Soul Cultivation Method: N/A

Soul Cultivation Level: Half-step Divine Rank

...

«Magic»

Mana Cultivation Method: Unnamed

Mana Cultivation Level: Peak-stage High Warlock Rank

...

«Law»

Fire Law: 8%

Space Law: 13%

Nihilism Law: 6%

Wind Law: 6%

Water Law: 6%

Earth Law: 3%

Death Law: 3%

Life Law: 5%

Temporal Law: 1%

Inverse Law: 0.024%

=====

...

«Authority»

Fire Authority: Semi Divine-rank

Space Authority: Third-stage Divine-rank

Nihilism Authority: Peak Demigod-rank

Wind Authority: Peak Demigod-rank

Water Authority: Peak Demigod-rank

Earth Authority: Middle Demigod-rank

Death Authority: Middle Demigod-rank

Life Authority: Late Demigod-rank

Temporal Authority: Early Demigod-rank

...

«Skills»

[Expand]

«Abilities»

[Expand]

...

«Physical Attributes»

[Strength: First-stage Divine Knight level]

[Defense: First-stage Divine Knight level]

[Speed: First-stage Divine Knight level]

...

«Celestial Dragonwolf Transformation»

Effect: Advance all physical attributes by one stage (New)

[Strength: First-stage Divine Knight level → Second-stage Divine Knight level]

[Defense: First-stage Divine Knight level → Second-stage Divine Knight level]

[Speed: First-stage Divine Knight level → Second-stage Divine Knight level]

[Astral Dragonwolf Scales (New): 100% Durability]

[Astral Dragonwolf Claws (New): 100% Durability]

[Astral Dragonwolf Wings (New): 100% Durability]

...

«Elemental Affinity»

[Earth: 90%]

[Fire: 90%]

[Wood: 90%]

[Wind: 15%]

[Lightning: 15%]

[Light: 40%]

...

=====

Although Vaan had expected it, he was still surprised when he saw how greatly his status had changed.

After all, he was solely focused on breaking through his body cultivation.

However, after acquiring the Astral God Divine Body, not only did his strength greatly increase, but even all his laws and sub-physiques improved significantly.

In particular, the improvement of his spirit physiques was especially startling.

They had all upgraded to peak-rank spirit physiques, and their associating elemental affinities had reached a terrifyingly high degree.

Although Vaan wanted to say this was also achieved without an ounce of high-quality magical plant, the boundless life energy from the Profound Pearl of Life was the best heavenly elixir he could have.

Moreover, he had consumed enough life energy to raise a Divine Knight from scratch just to forge his divine body.

The word extravagant wasn't enough to describe what he had done.

However, the life energy was boundless in the Profound Pearl of Life. As such, he did not care how others would view him. It was not like they could find out what happened inside the Profound Pearl of Life.

More importantly, the benefits of the life energy were still too outrageous, no matter how he looked at it.

The life energy of the Profound Pearl of Life was more than just a miraculous medicine; it was practically an evolution agent.

"Congratulations on your breakthrough, Lord Vaan," Elder Willowthorn approached Vaan with a look of awe.

He simply couldn't believe what he was seeing.

Although the process was complete madness, the results were even more so. Elder Willowthorn had never seen or heard of Divine Beings possessing such great strength upon stepping into the divine way.

Moreover, it was a divine body advancement, which was much more difficult than divine soul and divine energy.

"I got lucky," Vaan simply smiled.

At the same time, his three spirits returned to him with concerned looks. Their expressions didn't relax until they gave him a thorough inspection.

If he had not forbidden them from getting close while he was forging his divine body, the three spirits would have long rushed to his side when they saw his physical destruction.

In fact, forcing them to watch on the side as he destroyed himself was quite cruel. It would have traumatized them if they were normal children.

Nevertheless, the three spirits were very pure and simple-minded; they were able to get over it after seeing that he was fine.

That was the most important part to them.

Nevertheless, they quickly moved on because they noticed something else that attracted all their attention. They couldn't help but become fixated on Vaan's body.

They even blinked several times to make sure they were seeing correctly.

Naturally, the three spirits saw Vaan's body differently compared to other beings. The spiritual spaces of his three spirit physiques were not hidden from their sight.

As such, they were able to see how different their spiritual homes had become.

Before, their spiritual homes were just like small gardens of fire, earth, and wood elements. But now, they were like huge fields spanning across acres of space.

How did their spiritual homes become so big and spacious?

Although the three spirits knew little about spirit physiques, they at least knew that the sizes of their spiritual homes were abnormally large.

Their dumbfounded looks amused Vaan, prompting him to tease their tiny cheeks with a pinch each. He could guess what they were thinking.

That said, the increased space should be something they would like.

If they weren't so shocked by how big the changes were, he figured they would have normally been dancing in happiness by now.

On another note, Vaan had long noticed the changes in Topaz and Emerald. It seemed he hadn't been the only one working hard during this time.

Topaz and Emerald had been, too. Ruby, on the other hand, did not show any great changes.

As such, Ruby became quite dispirited when Vaan praised Topaz and Emerald on their impressive improvements. She knew she had not done anything worth praising and, thus, wouldn't receive any.

"Don't worry, Ru. I'll find a way to help you catch up to your sisters," Vaan promised her.

In fact, Ruby's rate of improvement was quite normal. It was Topaz and Emerald's changes that surprised him.

Sacred Life Spirit? Mountain Goddess?

What the hell did they do to achieve such evolution when he wasn't paying attention to them?

Did they have secret cultivation methods that he didn't know about?

Chapter 919: Serious Problem?

If Vaan had not seen Ruby besides Topaz and Emerald, he would have suspected ten years had passed instead of ten days. After all, their evolution was just too great.

One upgraded their element, and the other could turn into a giant.

Vaan wondered if Topaz and Emerald always had such evolution paths available to them or if it was only made possible with the life energy from the Profound Pearl of Life.

Of the two possibilities, he leaned towards the latter.

After all, it wasn't just simply life energy; it was life-attribute mana, and mana was easily subjected to changes when influenced by a strong will.

Did Topaz and Emerald have such a strong desire that caused them to evolve the way they did?

Vaan didn't give it too much thought; he could slowly find out after talking to his spirits.

After he took the three spirits back into his body, he could immediately sense their joy. It was like entering a new estate that was made just for them.

As such, the three spirits excitedly started exploring their new spiritual homes.

Meanwhile, shortly after checking on the three spirits' emotional states, Vaan shifted his attention to another matter.

It took him ten days to forge the divine body, but that also meant Valefor had free reign for ten days. It was hard to imagine what kind of mess he would make if he left him be for too long.

Although Vaan didn't actually care if Valefor made a mess, he only cared if it was something he had to clean up.

It was hard to imagine what Valefor had done when he hadn't been paying attention.

Nevertheless, Vaan didn't decide to recreate Valefor's personality because he only wanted to satisfy the Lord of Chaos's wish; he did it because he also wanted to observe the different possibilities and opportunities created by his contrasting choices.

It was an experiment to see whether logical choices were always the best ones or bold, decisive choices that take on risks.

Shortly after Vaan exited the Profound Pearl of Life, he found himself in an unfamiliar cave. At the same time, Valefor also glanced back at him.

Valefor thought he had already forgiven Vaan since he managed to obtain blessings out of a disaster.

However, the moment he saw Vaan's face, all his anger resurged, and sparks of lightning emanated from his body.

"Bastard, you still have the gall to see me? If you were going to attract heavenly punishment, you should have at least told me! How dare you make me your meatshield without a word of warning!" Valefor spat while gnashing his teeth.

Ding!

=====

[Target's information]

Name: Primordial Avatar (Valefor Raphna)

Treasure level: True Divinity Rank

Cultivation level: Half-step Divine Lord

Abilities: [Asura Law] [Blood Law] [Sword Mastery] [Combat Mastery] [Inscription Master] [Rune Reading] [Tribulation Lightning Law]

Status: [Angry (Vaan)] [Indignant (Vaan)] [Annoyed (Vaan)] [Hate (Witches)] [Upset (Vaan)] [Grateful (Vaan)]

Note: Recently advanced to the Half-step Divine Lord level by refining the lightning power of Divine Damnation.

=====

"Oh?" Vaan uttered with surprise before waving his hand at Valefor in an amusing yet girly manner, "Oh, stop it. You're making me blush."

"What kind of shit is even that," Valefor stared back at Vaan with disgust, making him laugh in turn.

Vaan found it amusing that Valefor would be such a complicated person. He certainly stirred a lot of feelings.

Who knew Valefor would feel grateful under his cold façade?

Was he a masochist?

After shaking his head, Vaan casually replied, "Don't act like you didn't gain anything out of the Divine Damnation. It couldn't hurt you, and it even helped you advance to the Half-step Divine Lord level and acquire lightning power."

"What more do you want? Other Me, could it be that you just want my attention?" Vaan asked slyly.

"Are you trying to disgust me to death?!" Valefor bellowed loudly.

However, he could do nothing else but coldly snort after Vaan pointed out exactly how he had benefited from the Divine Damnation.

"You know what, Other Me? I think you have a serious problem that we need to address," Vaan suddenly changed the topic.

"I have a serious problem?" Valefor sneered with contempt, not believing Vaan's words. However, seeing the latter wore such a solemn look, he slowly added, "I don't know what shit you are trying to pull now, but I'll listen to it at least."

"So, tell me. What serious problem do I have?" Valefor urged.

"You have lived far longer than I have in this current life," Vaan seriously mentioned before saying, "Have you never fancied a single woman? You can tell me. I don't want to snatch the woman of a brother accidentally."

"What need have I for a woman? And who the hell is your brother?" Valefor glanced at Vaan with disdain.

"See! This is a serious problem!" Vaan pretended not to notice Valefor's disdain as he hammered his palm and said, "You don't fancy any woman, and you don't want to be my brother. Perhaps you wanted something more?"

"Alas, don't worry. While this is a serious problem, it is also a very easy fix. Look, when I snap my fingers, you will forget you were ever gay," Vaan stated with a reassuring look.

Snap!

Valefor's mind went blank for a moment as if it had just short-circuited. Shortly after, he stared at Vaan with a dumb look.

"But I was never gay?"

"Mm..."

Vaan nodded with a satisfied smile, acting as if his finger-snapping spell had worked. Valefor almost coughed up blood in anger on the spot.

"I said I was never fucking gay!!"

"Of course, if you say so."

Valefor furiously defended his innocence, and Vaan calmly agreed with him. However, that only enraged him further. He had fallen for a goddamn trap. He shouldn't have expected Vaan to say anything serious to him.

How can his other self be so infuriating?

"I am going to fuck your mother!"

"My mother is also your mother!"

Valefor almost fainted from anger on the spot. He was only using figurative speech, but his other self took it quite literally. He realized it was meaningless to engage his other self in a battle of words.

He would only lose.

The only way he could win was to overwhelm the other party with his superior strength. His other self needed to be taught a painful lesson before he could behave himself.

Nevertheless, Vaan sensed that Valefor would really try to strike him.

Out of reflex, he struck first with a right-hand uppercut fist, swift like the wind and hard like a mountain.

Peng!

The brute strength of a hundred million jins immediately sent the unprepared Valefor smashing through the cave ceiling and countless layers of mountain rocks before his body soared into the sky.

However, it was also at that moment that Valefor realized Vaan's true intention – He wanted a sparring partner to test his strength!

"You fucking bastard! If you want to spar, just ask me! Why do you have to use such a roundabout and infuriating method?!"

Valefor's furious voice in the sky resounded through the new mountain tunnel.

Chapter 920: Bicker Over Fair Spar

After hearing Valefor's furious shout outside the mountain cave, Vaan smiled before flying out through the newly formed hole.

In this world, he didn't have any male friends. If they weren't acquaintances or subordinates, then they had to be enemies or strangers.

Valefor was the only one who he could consider to be the closest to a true friend, someone he could trust unconditionally. He might be ruthless, cold, and vindictive, but he was also straightforward and true to himself.

He wasn't someone who would try to measure another person's worth when trying to befriend them.

Nevertheless, in reality, it was difficult not to consider another person's worth when befriending them in this world.

After all, if the status between two people were too far apart, they would never be able to treat each other as equals.

The weaker side would always consider their choice of words and actions carefully when interacting with the stronger side, even if the latter didn't look down on them and wanted to treat them as a true friend.

Any form of friendship between them would be superficial at best, not a true friendship.

Nevertheless, it was because of Vaan's heavy destiny and rapid growth that he couldn't find people of similar status to befriend. Even if he wanted a male friend, it wasn't possible—at least not on Pangea or Gehenna.

As such, Valefor was the only one closest to being his true friend.

The only thing stopping them from actually becoming true friends was that they were ultimately one and the same person.

That said, if Valefor knew how Vaan treated him was because he wanted to view him as a friend, he definitely wouldn't want to become his friend.

Vaan's type of friendship would only shorten his life.

After all, friends were supposed to be nice and helpful to each other, not annoy, anger, and beat each other.

...

After Vaan chased after Valefor and met up with him in the sky, they both stared each other down for a moment.

Although Valefor was caught off guard by Vaan's fist, he was still shocked by his brute strength, which wasn't powered by any energy, law, or aura; it was simply raw physical strength.

How was that the strength of someone who had just stepped into the divine way?

Nevertheless, Valefor was able to come to terms with Vaan's heaven-defying battle power. His cultivation method had to be able to do that much to attract heaven's punishment.

"Since your strength has increased significantly, you must be itching to test it out and adapt to your new power. That must be why you picked me. I am the best choice for a sparring partner around here," Valefor commented coldly.

He was still feeling peeved by Vaan's previous joke to rile him up. As such, he added, "Very well, I will be your sparring partner. However, don't expect me to go easy on you, Other Me."

"It just so happens that I have also achieved a recent breakthrough and wish to test out its power. Try not to die, okay?" Valefor warned as he worked up his fighting spirit.

However, he suddenly felt Vaan's main consciousness set a restriction on his Primordial Avatar and limited his use of power to First-stage Divine Knight.

"What the hell are you doing!" Valefor questioned angrily.

"What the hell am I doing? You mean, what the hell am I not doing, right?! Of course, I have to restrict your power to an acceptable level to make it a fair spar!" Vaan snapped back.

"Bullshit!" Valefor cursed in disagreement, arguing, "How can it be a fair spar if one side has their power restricted?! It's only fair when both sides can fight freely! You want a fair spar? This is what we have to do!"

He had already experienced how heaven-defying Vaan's physical strength was.

If he had his power restricted to First-stage Divine Knight, how would he be able to bully him and repay him for all the frustration inflicted?

Won't he be bullied instead?

"Nonsense!" Vaan immediately denied Valefor's point before mentioning, "I'm only a First-stage Divine Warrior, and you want me to fight a Half-step Divine Lord at full strength?"

"Did your head get kicked by a donkey, so you are temporarily having some loo-loo logic? How does that even make sense? A spar with such huge power differences can't be called fair!"

"So, stop talking shit and fight me, Other Me!" Vaan urged after giving Valefor a piece of his mind.

"No way, you unfair bastard!" Valefor stubbornly refused, barking, "Do you think I don't know how strong you are?! With your various abilities, your battle potential is definitely above First-stage Divine Knight!"

"Hmph! Unless you unseal my cultivation, I'm not sparring with you!" Valefor coldly snorted.

However, he suddenly felt Vaan's coercive will commanding his body to fight him. As such, his body acted against his own will.

After all, he was Vaan's Primordial Avatar!

"Hehe, even if you don't want to fight, you have no choice but to fight," Vaan chuckled slyly.

"Stop it! What the hell are you doing, you shameless bastard!?! Release your control immediately!!!" Valefor helplessly roared as his body forcefully engaged Vaan in close combat quarters.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Each time they trade blows, Vaan's fist would send Valefor flying some distance. It was clear who was stronger.

At the same time, although Vaan's blows couldn't hurt Valefor, the impacts still made him feel uncomfortable and depressed.

Who could be happy being a punching bag?!

In a last-ditch effort, Valefor quickly barked, "If you are capable, stop hiding behind such cheap tricks and fight me openly and justly! Don't use your authority!"

"Hehehe, you're talking nonsense again, Other Me. Using my authority is part of my capability. If you are capable, you can try using your own authority to cancel mine!" Vaan grinned.

After Valefor heard Vaan's shameless response, he almost fainted on the spot from sheer rage.

Alas, even if he were unconscious, his body wouldn't stop acting on its own due to Vaan's absolute command.

"Stop bullshitting me, you shameless bastard!! If that was possible, do you think I would be in this situation?!"

"That's because you are not as capable as me!"

Puchi!

Valefor coughed up blood in anger after hearing Vaan's response. The words "Not as capable" dug into his heart like sharp knives.

"Stop arguing with me, Other Me. Your mind is saying you don't want to fight, but your body is... Hehehe," Vaan chuckled cunningly.

Puchi!

Valefor coughed up blood in anger again.

He couldn't believe his other self would be so shameless. He was obviously at a disadvantage because he had no control over his own body and cultivation!

Valefor's eyes became bloodshot as he glared daggers at Vaan. If looks could kill, he would have died a thousand times!

"Arghhh!!! I'm going to kill you!!!"

"That's the spirit!"