

## The Witch 991

### Chapter 991: Vaan's Regret

After Vaan learned more about the Celestial Dragons of Celestial City, he didn't find it surprising why the people there considered themselves different from other Celestials.

They had practically become a different race after monopolizing the Golden Dragon Blood at the heart of the Dragon Vein. The new articles describing the Celestial Dragons' physical features further confirmed this.

The Celestial Dragons were Celestials who had become draconic humans after absorbing the Golden Dragon Blood.

If the Ocean Master represented the peak of energy cultivation in the Celestial Kingdom, then the Celestial Dragon King likely represented its peak of body refining.

Considering Celestial City also used Divine Inheritance, the Celestial Dragon King most likely had a strong energy cultivation base as well. In fact, given his powerful physique, his energy cultivation base could only be stronger and not weaker than the Ocean Master.

Vaan thought he had already handled the biggest threat posed by the Celestial Kingdom, but it seemed he had only scratched the surface.

That said, Celestial City has not interfered with the affairs of the twelve cities for a very long time. Thus, it was unlikely to be aware of the situation outside of its closed-off territory.

Moreover, there was an existing tension between the privileged faction and the military faction.

If he exploited it well, the Celestial Kingdom could easily fall apart.

Nevertheless, Vaan's pressing concern was the Celestial Kingdom's potential arsenal of nuclear weapons. As such, he browsed the limited database for related information.

Fortunately, his worries were unnecessary.

The use of Deep-Sea Steel in nuclear warheads ended as early as the second decade of the Celestial Kingdom's founding; it was banned for its long-lasting damage and pollution to land and sea while providing limited firepower.

The Celestial Kingdom had moved onto the more efficient and clean nuclear fusion technology before settling for cold fusion technology, which didn't require such extreme conditions to achieve nuclear fusion.

After all, the Celestial Kingdom already had access to such advanced technology. It didn't need to rely on inferior technology once it achieved stable access to the planet's resources.

That said, due to its impressive density, much of the depleted Deep-Sea Steel found on the seafloor was still used in everyday infrastructure, starships, and weapons.

It was a key material in most alloy fusions.

Although large cold fusion warheads existed, they were only equipped on starships, which had never taken flight since the Celestials settled on Pangea. Moreover, these cold fusion warheads were only created for the purpose of destroying large space debris.

They weren't particularly useful for anything else, considering penetration power was more important for killing higher-level life forms, such as sea monsters from the Outer Sea, not to mention explosive power wasn't very effective in the deep sea.

As Vaan surfed the Celestial Database, he also discovered why the Celestial Kingdom could conquer the Northern Outer Sea but faced fierce resistance from the Southern Outer Sea.

The sea monsters from the Northern Outer Sea were much weaker; they were all native life forms of Pangea.

On the other hand, the Southern Outer Sea possessed a water rift connecting to another sea realm of Chaos. Furthermore, there was also the Southwestern Outer Sea's dimensional crack connecting to Gehenna's Darksea Abyss Territory.

Naturally, the sea monsters on the southern half of the Boundless Sea would be much more fearsome and powerful.

Information on the Divine Inheritance was also easily accessed with the Garrison Captain's permission level, which didn't surprise Vaan.

After all, if the Celestial Kingdom hadn't made the knowledge about Divine Inheritance common for the Divine Origin Realm cultivators, their numbers would have dwindled over the years.

Vaan soon found out that the Divine Origin Realm cultivators could only transfer their Divine Worlds to their successors or inheritors when they were alive.

If they had died, their Divine Worlds would harden into Divine Cores. At higher realms, the Divine Worlds would turn the area into secret realms.

Such secret realms were usually considered inheritance sites since the fallen expert would have left behind all their possessions, techniques, and knowledge—everything except their cultivation base.

As such, although Vaan had pocketed all the Celestial corpses at the Divine Origin Realm and above, he was unable to produce new Divine Inheritors with them.

That said, their Divine Cores were still useful as energy carriers. The divine energy within them wouldn't be lost due to the Celestial Kingdom's grand spirit-gathering formation.

While Vaan was surfing the Celestial Database, the Garrison Captain and Celestial soldiers inside the room were all dumbfounded by his reading speed. In fact, they didn't believe he was reading at all.

He was switching pages faster than they could recognize.

Still, they couldn't believe how proficient Vaan was with their computer terminal. His fingers danced on the keyboard like he were a computer expert with countless years of experience.

At first, he wasn't like this. But after five minutes, he was already punching keys faster than them. If Vaan told them that he had never used their civilization's computer terminal before, they would definitely doubt him.

Although there was a lot of information in the Celestial Database, Vaan eventually felt the limitation of the Garrison Captain's permission level.

For example, while he could access information on the existence of starships, even the knowledge to construct them, it did not mention where the existing ones were located. He needed higher access permissions for the more sensitive information.

Only the highest level of access would allow him to understand whether the Celestial Kingdom had any secret weapons of mass destruction he was unaware of.

Considering the Garrison Captain's access permission to the Celestial Database was in the form of a steel card, Vaan immediately thought about rummaging through the Ocean Master's corpse for something similar.

However, the Ocean Master had been crushed by the Sea God Temple so badly that his corpse had become two-dimensional. His Divine World had exploded into oblivion with everything inside.

There was nothing left to salvage from it.

"Ah..." Vaan sighed with a tinge of regret and frustration.

Considering the Ocean Master's revered status, his Divine World would have likely been filled with wealth unimaginable to a normal person.

What a tremendous loss!

Chapter 992: Mind Controller?

"Who is currently residing in Moonwater City and has the highest level of access to Celestial Database?" Vaan inquired.

"That would be the Moonwater Lord and General Neyi, my Lord," the Garrison Captain answered, adding, "Both of them possess third-class permission, second only to the last Ocean Master."

"The last Ocean Master only possessed second-class permission?" Vaan looked at the Garrison Captain strangely, asking, "Then, who has first-class permission? The so-called Celestial Dragon King?"

"Of course not, my Lord." The Garrison Captain shook his head and said, "The Celestial Dragon King also has second-class permission. No one actually knows who possesses first-class permission."

"Even if there is someone who does know who it is, it certainly isn't someone of my status, my Lord," the Garrison Captain stated.

Vaan was intrigued by the depth of the Celestial Kingdom's power structure.

The permission level was directly related to one's status and power in the Celestial Kingdom. As such, it was quite unexpected to find out there was still someone or something above even the Ocean Master and Celestial Dragon King.

'Could it be a Rank 8 Divine Lord?' Vaan frowned in thought.

However, he quickly scrapped the idea. If the Celestial Kingdom truly had a Divine Lord-level being, it wouldn't have been stuck in Pangea all these years, being wary of Gehenna and struggling against the sea monsters.

Of course, given the nature of the Divine Inheritance, Vaan did not doubt that the Celestial Kingdom used to have several dozen Divine Transformation Realm experts in the beginning.

Still, those Divine Lord equivalent beings should have already outlived their lifespans and passed on their Divine Worlds to future generations long ago.

Nearly a million years have passed since then.

No Divine Transformation Realm cultivators could live so long. Even the Rank 8 Golden Dragon Pangea had long perished; her body became the continent on which everyone lived and thrived.

That said, Golden Dragon Pangea was the most mysterious being Vaan had learned about, even by Chaos's standards. Her body was far bigger than any other life form at her level.

Was she truly a Rank 8 life form at her peak?

Nevertheless, Vaan suspected that the being or beings with first-class permission in the Celestial Kingdom only possessed status and held no real power.

Perhaps the Celestial Kingdom really did find a way to keep the Divine Transformation Realm Ancestors alive after the passing of their Divine Worlds. Even so, it was hard to say if their current state of living was actually considered living.

At the very least, they must have paid a great price to continue their existence.

...

"Where is the Moonwater Lord and General Neyi right now?"

"The Moonwater Lord is most likely in his manor in the Residential District. As for General Neyi, he left for the Cultivation District to supervise the reconstruction and flood control."

"Then, who has the highest permission in this district currently?"

"That would be Commander Hotri. He should be over at the command center, supervising this district's reconstruction."

"I see."

After obtaining all the useful information he could get at the border surveillance room, Vaan prepared to leave for the next area. The Garrison Captain and Celestial soldiers expressed their desire to follow him.

However, Vaan denied their request.

He didn't blindly believe in their loyalty, and their desire to prove it in his presence didn't mean anything. Only the choices they made in his absence would uncover their trustworthiness.

"By the way, I wouldn't try to leave the city during this time," Vaan gave them a fair warning before he left.

Although they wondered why, Vaan didn't answer them. After he was gone, they quickly checked the exterior surveillances that were still working.

The sight of the gigantic sea monsters patrolling the area nearly made them piss themselves.

"T-The... sea monsters have entered the Inner Sea!"

...

After leaving the border surveillance room, Vaan made a beeline for the command center.

Hundreds of Celestial soldiers had initially obstructed his path.

However, they quickly gave way with complicated gazes after receiving new orders from their superiors, who had also just received information from the Garrison Captain via their spirit communication devices.

Not only that, they even assisted Vaan, guiding him to the military district's command center.

"A Land-Dweller? Halt! Where do you think you are—!"

Countless Celestial soldiers from the next military area were alarmed by Vaan's appearance, instantly assuming hostile stances.

However, they were even more shocked when the Celestials soldiers behind Vaan aimed their hydro-tech firearms at them instead of him.

"You—! Have you all gone mad?! Where do you think you're aiming your firearms!? The intruder is right in front of you!"

The Celestial soldiers' surprise quickly turned into fury. The unified action from the Celestial soldiers on Vaan's side was no different from a blatant act of betrayal.

"Mad? No, you're wrong! Our minds have never been clearer! If you're smart, lower your weapons and make way obediently! To point your weapons at the new Ocean Master with such hostility is high treason! We will not hesitate to put you down if you continue to disrespect the Ocean Master! You have been warned!"

"What... did you just say?! New Ocean Master?!?"

The ignorant Celestial soldiers were immediately shocked and dumbfounded by their rebellious comrade's "warning." They simply couldn't believe what they were hearing.

It was the most ridiculous thing they had ever heard.

Vaan's appearance already drew enough attention, but the situation surrounding him alarmed even more military personnel several kilometers away.

"Captain Akha, what do you make of this situation? Could that Land-Dweller really be our new Ocean Master?"

"Do you even understand how stupid your question sounds? Our Ocean Master is still in the prime of life. Since when did he suddenly become this... pale thing?"

"But... Those soldiers are saying he is, Captain Akha. Moreover, they look very convinced, as if they don't have a shred of doubt at all. How could they act like this? There's something strange about this..."

"There's nothing strange about it at all! That insidious Land-Dweller must be a Mind Controller. Those poor soldiers are all being mind-controlled to confuse us!"

Captain Akha confidently believed he had solved the riddle, so he immediately gave the snipers on standby his new order.

"If you have a clear shot, take him down at once. We must free our comrades from that Land-Dweller's mind control!"

Chapter 993: Unavoidable Conflict



Although the ignorant Celestial soldiers in the area were furious with their comrades' betrayal, they weren't complete idiots. They were most familiar with the Ocean Master's Conqueror's Aura compared to Celestials from other cities.

After all, the Ocean Master had stayed in the Southern Sea for many years.

Many Celestial soldiers had seen and even interacted with the protector and god of the sea. However, that was also precisely why they greatly respected the Ocean Master and found it difficult to accept Vaan right away.

The Ocean Master had been with them for many years and defended the Southern Border from the fierce sea monsters of the Southern Outer Sea.

How many of them have had the honor of fighting alongside the Ocean Master? How many of them have been saved by the Ocean Master? How many times has the Ocean Master protected their families?

The word "grateful" wasn't enough to describe the immeasurable debt of gratitude they owed the Ocean Master.

Although the sin of the first-generation Ocean Master turning the Outer Sea against the Celestial Kingdom was something everyone knew, no one blamed the subsequent generations of Ocean Masters for their predicament.

The later generations of Ocean Masters took on the burden and sins of their ancestors to protect everyone from the fearsome power of the sea monsters.

Vaan may be in possession of the Conqueror's Aura, but he had not done anything for the Celestial Kingdom, not to mention he was a Land-Dweller. Of course, it wouldn't be easy for them to accept him.

How could they possibly accept him? How could they forget about their previous Ocean Master?

"What have you done to the Ocean Master—?!!" a Celestial soldier roared furiously.

Surprisingly, the Celestial soldiers did not take the news of Vaan becoming the new Ocean Master well. In fact, they were emotionally unstable because of the potential loss of the previous Ocean Master.

If not for the Celestial soldiers behind Vaan, who were informed by their superiors and given time to digest the situation, they, too, would have acted emotionally and irrationally.

However, since they had time to think, they knew Vaan had the fate of the Celestial Kingdom in his hands.

Bang!

Just as the rioting Celestial soldiers were about to attack Vaan, a gunshot suddenly resounded, loud and clear.

However, it was not fired by the Celestial soldiers behind Vaan, who were prepared to kill their own comrades to ensure their future; it came from the other side.

A piercing orb of radiant water struck Vaan in the head but failed to break his defense. In fact, it did not even damage the skin on his forehead, which could have, otherwise, been a fatal blow to any other First-stage Divine Warrior.

Unfortunately, Vaan wasn't an ordinary First-stage Divine Warrior.

His astral essence was so dense that his fleshly body possessed a thin layer of energy barrier, protecting his already powerful skin from energy attacks.

Unless the energy attacks could pierce through the density of his astral essence-filled flesh, no harm would come to him. Even if it did, he still had his powerful regeneration abilities to restore his fleshly body to its peak state.

If the opposing Celestials actually knew the full intricacy of Vaan's heaven-defying divine body, it would only bring them despair.

"Audacious!"

After the gunshot and lack of damage shocked everyone, the Celestial soldiers on Vaan's side fumed with rage.

"How dare you attack the Ocean Master!"

"No, wait... It wasn't us—!"

Ratatata!

The Celestial soldiers on Vaan's side opened fire on their comrades in hopes of quelling his potential wrath on their city. In response, the Celestial soldiers on the opposing side helplessly fired back to defend themselves.

Boom!

Some Celestial soldiers brought heavier and bigger hydro-tech firearms to suppress the overwhelming firepower from the other side. However, this increased the casualty rate and intensified the already tense conflict.

As a result, the Celestial soldiers from both sides lost the last shred of hesitation in their minds and engaged in an all-out war. With each fallen comrade at their side, their anger and hatred toward the opposite side grew. The desire for survival and revenge fueled their determination to destroy each other.

Despite being in the middle of the hydro-tech crossfire, no further shot was directed at Vaan. It was as if everyone knew such acts were futile and would only incur his wrath. As such, they subconsciously avoided him.

Anyone who could take a hydro-pulse rifle shot to the head and not suffer any damage was beyond frightening.

Nevertheless, Vaan had no intention of letting the sniper go.

He locked his gaze on the shooter over five kilometers away and made a grasping gesture before clenching into a fist. The sniper was instantly crushed to death by strong spatial power.

However, his body did not explode, scattering his flesh and blood everywhere. Instead, his entire body was reduced to a fist-size ball of highly dense blood and flesh.

The sight chilled the hearts of everyone who saw it.

"What have I done..."

Captain Akha's face paled after witnessing the bloody carnage initiated by his reckless order. He didn't regret giving the kill order; he only regretted that Vaan didn't die from it.

Meanwhile, the Celestial soldiers at his side remained frozen in shock, their minds incomprehensible.

They received intel that the Land-Dweller only possessed the aura of a First-stage Divine Origin Realm equivalent being. On the other hand, their sniper used a D7-series hydro-pulse rifle capable of killing anyone below the Divine Star Realm.

"How could he possibly survive that...? No, there isn't even a scratch on him..."

The moment Vaan disappeared from his spot and appeared in front of Captain Akha, the latter knew what fate awaited him.

Ka-cha!

Captain Akha got sucked into Vaan's grasp before his head got twisted and bent to a weird angle. His lifeless corpse was casually tossed aside shortly after.

"Captain Akha!" the Celestial soldiers grieved his death.

Still, no one dared to come forward to confront Vaan and avenge their fallen captain. All they could do was initiate an eyeing contest and shake in their pants.

After all, their First-stage Divine Star Realm captain was killed so effortlessly.

What could they possibly do with their Void Realm cultivation bases?

Even now, they still sensed a First-stage Divine Origin Realm equivalent divine aura from Vaan's body. They couldn't understand how he could have such a weak aura but be so absurdly strong.

#### Chapter 994: Chaotic Situation

Generally, lower-level cultivators could not gauge the cultivation base of higher-level cultivators unless they had powerful senses or the latter exerted their power.

On the other hand, higher-level cultivators found it very easy to detect the cultivation bases of lower-level cultivators. Their superior divine senses could see through the strength of their essence, energy, or soul.

As such, unless Vaan had a special technique to hide his cultivation, Second-stage Divine Warriors could easily tell that he was a Low-level Rank 6 in Body Refining, Half-step Rank 6 in Soul Forging, Peak-level Rank 4 in Energy Gathering, and High-level Rank 4 in Mana Forming.

Naturally, they would also only concern themselves with his highest level of cultivation, as this was the most "accurate" representation of his strength.

After all, one plus one did not always equal two in cultivation.

If the different cultivation bases within the body had to share the same pathways to exert their power, they would limit each other's potential or even clash, resulting in backlash or restrictions.

As such, ambitious multi-path cultivators not only had to choose compatible cultivations but also be talented enough to pull them through. Even so, they were mostly dual-path cultivators.

Three-path cultivators, on the other hand, were extremely rare.

After all, not only did they have to make three different cultivation systems work together, but it would also take them an extraordinary amount of time, resources, and effort to do so.

In fact, a single path would already require all of a cultivator's time, resources, and devotion, let alone multiple paths. The ambitious yet untalented multi-path cultivators would only cripple themselves or achieve nothing worth mentioning due to stretching themselves thin.

The phrase "Jack of all trades, master of none" was very applicable here.

A four-path cultivator like Vaan was practically unheard of.

Any expert would not look at him favorably with admiration for his ambitious feat. They would only think he was an idiot who was biting more than he could chew instead.

As such, when the Divine Origin Realm Celestial soldiers saw through his cultivation, they only thought of him as a First-stage Divine Warrior in Body Refining.

However, that was a misconception brought about by their inability to discern the full strength of his essence.

The outermost layer of Vaan's fleshly body only gave off the aura of a First-stage Divine Warrior because the strength of his astral essence was all stored deep inside his cells. Due to the great density of their composition, only a portion was able to escape.

The escaped portion was what the Celestial soldiers discerned and sensed. They only sensed Vaan's astral essence's outward form and not its entirety.

It was like looking at a balloon full of air without knowing that a smaller balloon full of water was inside.

Although the Celestial soldiers could not see through Vaan's true strength, they had already witnessed his horrifying might. It was something no one would believe even if they told it to others.

Most people would dismiss it as Vaan hiding his cultivation with a special method.

"What? You also want to fight?"

Vaan casually glanced at the nervous Celestial soldiers, causing their legs to feel weak from fear. Still, their proximity allowed them to feel the Conqueror's Aura on him.

"N-No, Your Excellency! This Lowly One see and recognize the new Ocean Master!"

After the first Celestial soldier lowered himself in submission, more followed. Whether it was due to their survival instincts or true recognition, Captain Akha's subordinates all submitted.

"Do you all really feel that way?" Vaan doubted with a sly look.

"Please give us a chance to prove our loyalty, Ocean Master!" a Celestial soldier requested, steeling his heart and mind.

"Sure," Vaan nonchalantly agreed before saying, "There's a big mess over there, started by your ex-captain, of course. Go and clean it up."

"Whether you kill your comrades or convince them, I don't care how you do it. I only need my side to survive. Is that clear?"

"Yes, Ocean Master!"

Shortly after the small group of Celestial soldiers departed for the battlefield in the distance, Vaan turned his sight to the command center.

At that moment, the command center was in turmoil over a situation they had never encountered before. Given the military's solidarity, no one could have imagined something like this happening until they saw it with their eyes.

"Have we contacted General Neyi yet?"

"Yes, Commander! General Neyi has already been informed. He is on his way back and has instructed us to contain the situation as best we can until he arrives."

Plop!

Commander Hotri sank to the ground weakly and clutched his head after listening to his subordinate's reply.

"How does General Neyi want me to contain this situation? What can I even do? How could something like this even happen?" Commander Hotri muttered to himself, feeling helpless and despair.

The Southern Sea's military had always been more united than any other front due to their shared experiences at the Southern Border. The soldiers treated their comrades like blood brothers.

As such, the moment someone died in the hydro-tech crossfire, the two opposing groups of Celestial soldiers retaliated furiously. Each death only fueled their anger and hatred.

At that moment, the two sides fighting each other was like fire and water.

How could anyone hope to stop such an intense crossfire?

If he was not careful, Commander Hotri figured he would even get dragged into it. He had already seen neutral good soldiers intervening to end the conflict, only to end up picking a side and joining the battle after witnessing their brothers, whom they share good relationships with, fall in battle.

The intense crossfire was like an unstoppable devilish whirlpool, dragging innocent lives into its central cesspool of death once they entered its net.

There was no precedent or instruction for Commander Hotri to refer to should he encounter such a situation.

"Commander, your orders?" the Celestial soldiers awaited, uncertainty and concern written all over their faces.

The longer they hesitated, the more comrades they would lose in a fight that should have never happened. Even if they don't know what they do would help the situation, they still have to do something.

"Pass down my orders; all uninvolved troops are to stay clear from that shit storm! Also, find me the one responsible for starting this mess!"



"Captain Akha is responsible, but he is already dead, S-Sir!"

Chapter 995: Commander Hotri Also Submits

Died?

How could Captain Akha already be dead? How could he die after creating such a big mess? Did he kill himself due to guilt?

How dare he die just like that!

Commander Hotri's expression darkened the moment he heard of Captain Akha's death.

"... Captain Akha was killed by the intruder, Sir," the Celestial soldier added.

Commander Hotri rubbed his temples with a frown before sighing, "Where is that intruder now?"

"The intruder is... One second, Sir,"

The Celestial soldier searching for Vaan on the screens after he suddenly disappeared. When he was found again, the Celestial soldier's expression froze.

"T-This... He is...!"

"Where is he?"

"Outside..."

Surprise, shock, and horror instantly colored everyone's faces at the command center the moment the words left the Celestial soldier's mouth.

Bam!

The heavy metal door to the command center was kicked open. Everyone quickly stared at Vaan, who stood at the entrance, before shifting their gaze to the heavy silver door, which had sunk to the floor.

Some of their lips twitched, faces paled, and blood leaked from their mouths.

Most of the buildings in the military district were made to withstand the full-powered attack of a First-stage Divine Star Realm cultivator.

However, such a sturdy metal door had been ripped out of its designated position by force. Moreover, it was done underwater, which was far more difficult than on land.

The shockwave from the blow had struck everyone inside the command center, causing them serious internal injuries and crippling their combat effectiveness. They were weakened, but no one died.

It almost seemed calculated.

"Submit or die."

Everyone's heart thumped loudly at Vaan's words. Despite their serious injuries, everyone stared at Vaan with astonishment, confusion, and doubt.

At their proximity, they could sense the Ocean Master's unique symbol of authority, the Conqueror's Aura. As such, some of their doubts were cleared regarding the big conflict between their comrades in the open square.

Indeed, the Land-Dweller was a bearer of the Conqueror's Aura. He was qualified to be called an Ocean Master.

However, there could only be one Ocean Master, which raised their two biggest questions—Where did Vaan get his Conqueror's Aura? And what happened to the Ocean Master?

"Be careful! He took a shot from a D-series hydro-pulse rifle head-on without a scratch and snapped Captain Akha's neck with his bare hands! Don't be fooled by his weak cultivation!" a Celestial soldier warned, having read the compiled report.

Commander Hotri's gaze shuddered at the news.

He was a Third-stage Divine Star Realm expert, but he wouldn't dare to take such a shot head-on, even if he knew he would be unscathed due to his energy barrier.

However, Vaan took the shot head-on with his bare body and didn't suffer a scratch. He could no longer be considered a land-dwelling human with such a divine body; he was practically a sea monster in human skin.

"What happened to the Ocean Master?" Commander Hotri forced out these words with his gaze fixed on Vaan.

In fact, he didn't dare to look away lest the latter suddenly made a move.

"Why? Would it help you decide?" Vaan nonchalantly replied with a sly smile.

Commander Hotri couldn't help but tremble again.

Although he didn't want to believe it, he suspected the Ocean Master was most likely dead, possibly even killed by Vaan. Still, he just wanted to hear Vaan's verbal confirmation.

"C-Commander! Y-You should look at this report!" an alarmed soldier alerted, forcing Commander Hotri to look away from Vaan with a frown. He asked, "What is it?"

"This..."

Commander Hotri stared at the screen show to his face.

The screen displayed various information from every city in the southern hemisphere. Detailed sightings of sea monsters roaming the Inner Sea caused great panic and turmoil.

It had only been minutes, but there were already hundreds of news articles on the Celestial Network.

What happened at the Southern Border? Why was the Ocean Master silent? Why did the sea monsters enter the Inner Sea? Who could stop them? Who could answer them?

Various headlines became the most heated topics and searches on the Celestial Network. The Celestial Kingdom was in chaos, and unrest grew with increasing awareness in every city.

The sightings of the gigantic sea monsters have never been clearer in the Inner Sea. All the Celestial citizens were shocked at their full appearances.

Was the world coming to an end? – Everyone had this thought.

"Your Excellency, please leave the Celestial Kingdom a way out. There are one billion innocent lives within our cities," Commander Hotri pleaded, forcing himself to sink onto his knees.

"Innocent?" Vaan slightly smiled before replying, "Did the Celestial Kingdom give the people of the land a way out when it robbed us of our spirit energy and left us to fend for ourselves against Gehenna?"

When Commander Hotri heard this question, he wanted to retort, "Do farmers care about the feelings of their chickens when they butcher them for their meat? Why would they care what happens to them?"

Alas, Commander Hotri didn't dare to say it.

Although the Celestials viewed Land-Dwellers the same way as farmers viewed their reared chickens, he knew that he couldn't continue to have this kind of view.

After all, if one of the chickens suddenly wielded the farmer's ultimate butchering knife and chased after them, even the farmers would suddenly feel afraid and start running away from it or accept the chicken shackles around their necks if they couldn't.

Even a chicken could rule the world if it took control of the world's only nuclear silo.

Plop!

"This subordinate submits to the new Ocean Master, the god of the sea," Commander Hotri surrendered, planting his head into the ground as he sincerely requested, "Please spare the innocent civilians in exchange for my loyalty, Your Excellency!"

"I don't think you are in a position to make demands," Vaan said, making Commander Hotri's expression ugly. However, he soon added, "But if you behave well, I might consider it."

"I can be your dog or sword, Your Excellency. Just give me the order, and I shall answer!" Commander Hotri vowed, abandoning all his pride for the future of the civilians.

He might be a soldier, but even he had families. Moreover, they all resided in Moonwater City, which had been threatened with collapse and flooding.

Chapter 996: Sea Monsters Are Here!

Although the UN and the Celestial Kingdom were at odds due to their conflicting views, beliefs, and general cultural practices, Vaan never considered wiping out the Celestial Kingdom's population.

After all, the Celestial Kingdom was ultimately a human civilization; he would not discriminate against it for being different.

Although the Nauticans may have evolved differently to adapt to the sea, the majority of the civilian population residing in the Residential Zone was no different from Lunarans, who made up a fraction of Pangea's human population.

The only difference was that once Vaan united the land and sea, the Lunaran ethnicity would change from a minor fraction to a major fraction of the human population.

After Vaan took control of the command center, he gained Commander Hotri's level of access to all utilities and facilities in Moonwater City's top layer, the Military Zone.

Furthermore, with Commander Hotri's permission level, Vaan gained access to more confidential information related to the starships, including their locations. Still, it was only limited to Moonwater City's starships.

Moonwater City's starships were stored in the Military Zone's restricted hangar district.

Information on other cities' starships was inaccessible, which also showed the relationship between the Celestial Kingdom's cities. Each city functioned like an independent city-state.

The military faction was the only binding force that kept twelve cities together. Each city's military formed its own groups, which wasn't surprising.

After all, even if people work for the same big company, they only have a few colleagues they work with and feel closer to than others.

With the exception of periodically sending tributes to Celestial City, the remaining twelve cities rarely contacted each other unless they had issues or businesses to discuss.

As such, the twelve cities were quite detached from one another.

When Vaan examined the information on the Moonwater Lord and General Neyi, he found that they were last recorded as Eighth-stage Divine Star Realm cultivators.

Given the nature of the Divine Inheritances, their increasing impurity caused by the successive transfers, and lack of law comprehensions, these Eighth-stage Divine Star Realm cultivators were most likely only as strong as regular Fifth-stage Divine Star Realm cultivators.

It was also the reason Vaan could slap Third-stage Divine Star Realm cultivators to death despite possessing First-stage Divine Star Realm equivalent physical strength.

However, Fifth-stage Divine Star Realm cultivators were beyond his abilities.

That said, Vaan had the divine protection of the Sea God Temple. Thus, while his own cultivation was lacking, he still didn't put General Neyi and the Moonwater Lord in his eyes. They couldn't do anything to him.

How could they, when even the Ocean Master, a Ninth-stage Divine Star Realm cultivator, couldn't?

While Vaan was surfing the Celestial Network, Commander Hotri was also sent to break up the conflict in the military square. Alas, his competency was lacking in this department; he came back with a defeated look.

"Your Excellency, forgive this subordinate for being incompetent. I can't stop them," Commander Hotri sighed.

The grudge between the two warring groups in the military square had become unimaginably deep. The death of one's brother, comrade, and friend was unforgettable; the soldiers couldn't easily forgive their killers despite them, too, being their brothers, comrades, and friends.

To kill one's friend to avenge another friend... their relationship was rather complex.

"It seems I have to intervene myself," Vaan thought.

Commander Hotri was immediately startled by his words, uncertain of what he was planning to do.

"Your Excellency... How do you intend to stop their conflict?"

"Since their conflict is ultimately related to me, the outsider, which one side does not acknowledge, I just need to give them a reason to be convinced or feared."

Commander Hotri was immediately alarmed.

He watched Vaan take out the Sea Warden's silver trident and strike the floor. At the same time, the Boundless Sea and Sky Aura contained within him surged out like a sonic pulse.

Rumble...!

Over at the border surveillance room, the Garrison Captain and his subordinates were alarmed when their screens turned red with alerts.

"T-This... This is...! Oh shit!"

"Good... heavens!"

"Mommy...!"

The border surveillance group exclaimed in horror, seeing the sea monsters of the Outer Sea rushing toward their city en masse.

Although the larger sea monsters like Ancient Krakens and Overlord Skywhales couldn't fit in the narrow trench, they were not as frightening as the ones that could-For example, the Giant Mantis Shrimps.

The Giant Mantis Shrimps were notorious in the Southern Border for their lightning-swift and deadly claw strikes, which were so fast that they could hardly be seen with the naked eye.

Their offensive capabilities were so ungodly high that they stood at the very top of the Sea Monster rankings in terms of danger level, and it was well deserved. After all, this was a monstrous species that could deliver a force of up to 2500 times its weight.

There were no walls built by Celestials that the Giant Mantis Shrimps couldn't tear apart.

"It's the fucking Mantis Shrimps! They are coming...!" a Celestial soldier shrieked, almost wanting to flee to the Residential Zone on the spot.

However, he knew that if the Giant Mantis Shrimps were truly coming to attack them,

nowhere was safe within the city. The Giant Mantis Shrimps would tear straight through the thick walls of metal like they were soft tofu.

"D-Did the Ocean Master summon them? Why?" the Garrison Captain wondered nervously.

Boom!

The city entrance was hacked into countless pieces, creating a much larger opening after the Giant Mantis Shrimps found the previous one to be too small for them to enter.



Dozens of Giant Mantis Shrimps quickly poured into Moonwater City's top layer, followed by other types of sea monsters behind, mostly crustacean-type sea monsters like Devil Crabs, Killer Krills, and Spear Prawns.

Only a few hundred sea monsters squeezed into Moonwater City's top layer, but they already occupied a vast space.

The battle-frenzied Celestial soldiers in the square suddenly ended their war and became deathly silent, suppressed by the sea monsters' oppressive gaze.

In any other scenario, the sea monsters would have already rushed to sink their claws and fangs into their bodies upon seeing them. Yet, right now, they were strangely obedient, simply staring at them from a distance.

"This... The Ocean Master has summoned the sea monsters to aid us!"

The Celestial soldiers on Vaan's side exclaimed, pleasantly surprised, after realizing the situation. Their respect and fear toward Vaan were instantly elevated by several levels.

Meanwhile, the faces of the opposing Celestial soldiers morphed into pure shock, disbelief, and horror.

The new Ocean Master could command the sea monsters of the Outer Sea! That was something not even the previous generations of Ocean Masters could do!

Chapter 997: Conquering the Top Layer

Moonwater City, Cultivation Zone

As General Neyi gathered an elite group of soldiers and led them to the transit pillar, which would take them up to the Military Zone, he constantly checked his spirit tablet for updates.

Normally, due to the seemingly urgent situation on the top layer, he would receive a new message every twenty to thirty seconds. However, the regular updates suddenly stopped several minutes ago without a word of warning.

A frown quickly appeared on General Neyi's forehead.

"Oh? Are you heading to the top layer because of the intruder, General Neyi?" an unfamiliar yet familiar voice suddenly reached out, drawing the person's gaze away from his spirit tablet.

General Neyi raised an eyebrow upon seeing Sir Jyanas, a member of the privileged faction, arriving with his group of knights.

Considering Sir Jyanas was a Fifth-stage Divine Star Realm expert, and his knights were all First-stage Divine Star Realm experts, General Neyi was surprised by their presence.

Such a powerful entourage rarely visited the top layer, and even then, there had to be a reason for it.

"You too, Sir Jyanas?" General Neyi uttered with surprise but frowned in his heart.

He should have been the one to receive the reinforcement request if the Military Zone faced a problem. However, the fact that Sir Jyanas was present proved that the request was sent directly to the Moonwater Lord.

Furthermore, the reinforcement request was made much earlier than the one he just got. Otherwise, Sir Jyanas wouldn't have caught up to him.

Either the loyalty of his soldiers was not with the military faction, or the situation above was serious enough that the military needed to borrow the noble faction's power. But if it was also that serious, the Moonwater Lord wouldn't have just sent Sir Jyanas and his knights.

As such, General Neyi suspected he had rats of the noble faction among his troops-That was the main cause of his displeasure.

"That's right. Lord Moonwater sent me to deal with the intruder," Sir Jyanas replied haughtily before asking, "You're not going up for the same reason, are you? If so, there's no need for that since I am already here. Or... do you have some other reason?"

"It's an internal matter of the military," General Neyi answered vaguely, the frown in his heart deepened.

How could he tell a member of the noble faction that his soldiers were killing each other? That would be a huge loss of face for the military faction.

General Neyi was also a proud person.

If he mentioned such a matter to Sir Jyanas, he would only be earning the latter's mockery and sniding remarks. He was wise enough to avoid such nonsense.

"Hoh? I see," Sir Jyanas calmly nodded before saying, "I hope General Neyi will not interfere in my business. Since the Moonwater Lord had been bothered by this intruder, he is part of the noble faction's problem."

"Sure," General Neyi calmly agreed.

Whether it was General Neyi or Sir Jyanas, neither of them wanted the other party to interfere in their business. It was also for that reason that Sir Jyanas withheld crucial information regarding the intruder's identity.

Otherwise, General Neyi would have known about Vaan and made it his business. In fact, he didn't even know the intruder was a Land-Dweller.

If he knew, General Neyi would have realized many problems with it.

...

General Neyi and Sir Jyanas entered the transit pillar with their own groups after it opened. Neither side spoke another word to the other party and went their separate ways after reaching the surface.

The military faction and noble faction had always been at odds.

Nevertheless, General Neyi and Sir Jyanas didn't leave each other's side for long when they sensed the strange, oppressive atmosphere of the top layer. Subconsciously, both of them made their way to the source of their uneasiness; it was also where everyone was gathered.

However, what they soon witnessed wasn't a sight they had been expecting at all. Never in their wildest imagination would they see countless Celestial soldiers prostrated on the ground before a Land-Dweller.

Moreover, it was a Land-Dweller that was only a First-stage Divine Origin Realm equivalent. Still, the most important discovery was the rows of sea monsters lined behind him. They had never seen such docile and obedient sea monsters when there was so much food in front of their eyes.

They didn't seem to be governed by their primal instincts at all.

"What in the world is going on here...?" a knight at Sir Jyanas's side softly muttered with shock and disbelief.

Despite keeping his voice low and to himself, as he did not wish to draw attention, he was still heard by the nearby, seemingly brainwashed Celestial soldiers. Several dozen gazes shortly directed their way.

At the same time, a similar situation happened on General Neyi's side.

"General Neyi? You came just in time! Please come forward and offer your respect and fealty to the new Ocean Master!"

"What... did you just say? Have you lost your mind, soldier?"

General Neyi couldn't believe what he was hearing after the Celestial soldier urged him. It was easily the most ridiculous thing he had ever heard. Still, he noticed a hint of pleading in the soldier's eyes.

As such, he carefully pondered over the reason instead of acting rashful.

On the other hand, the Celestial soldiers on Sir Jyanas's side did not give him the same sort of respect and warning.

"A member of the noble faction? Good timing. Come over here and offer your respect and fealty to the new Ocean Master!"

"Ridiculous!"

Sir Jyanas sneered, outraged by the Celestial soldier's arrogant and commanding tone.

Who did he think he was talking to?

With an angry flick of his wrist, Sir Jyanas sent a wave of divine force into the Celestial soldier, smashing his bones and shooting his body off into the distant body of seawater.

Shortly after, he glared at Vaan, transferring his remaining rage to him.

He didn't know what kind of witchcraft or brainwashing ability Vaan used to garner the soldiers' obedience. However, he was definitely the reason for their blatant disregard despite

his status and power.

"Hmph! A mere First-stage Divine Origin Realm being made all of you lose your minds like this. You buffoons in the military are truly useless!" Sir Jyanas condescendingly spat.

In the next moment, he immediately rushed toward...

Chapter 998: Taking Over Moonwater City

When General Neyi saw Sir Jyanas rush toward Vaan, he subconsciously wanted to warn him not to act rashly. However, a darker side of him also wanted to use Sir Jyanas to test Vaan.

There had to be something special about Vaan. Unless he figured that out, he wouldn't understand why his soldiers were practically begging him to submit.

The distance between Vaan and Sir Jyanas was not short-five kilometers of space and seawater existed between them.

However, such a distance was very short for a Divine Star Realm cultivator. Moreover, Nauticans were extremely fast swimmers, making such a short distance even shorter.

Sir Jyanas only took a few seconds to reach Vaan.

However, in Vaan's eyes, Sir Jyanas still took a few seconds too long. It was enough time for him to reveal an amused yet sly smile, giving off his sense of disdain and mockery.

As a result, Sir Jyanas was even more furious. He was a respectable Divine Star Realm noble. How could he tolerate the disdain of an insect in the Divine Origin Realm? How dare he!

"Fool-!"

Sir Jyanas strongly believed he had Vaan in his grasp when his divine energy-infused palm suddenly slammed against an impenetrable barrier.

Peng!

In that instant, Sir Jyanas's confidence shattered, replaced with surprise and shock. However, it soon turned into horror when the rebound force pushed him aside toward the ranks of Giant Mantis Shrimps.

"No-!!"

Sir Jyanas gave a short cry before a lightning-fast claw strike instantly killed him by severing his head, followed by several more rapid claw strikes slicing apart his remains. His chopped- up corpse ultimately became a snack for the Giant Mantis Shrimps.

Vaan couldn't help but shake his head.

He had purposely put distance between himself and the sea monsters. Yet, another Celestial fell for the same trick. They said the same trick wouldn't work twice, but there was no cure for stupidity.

General Neyi felt a chill run down his spine after witnessing Sir Jyanas's pathetic death.

Indeed, the Giant Mantis Shrimps were true terrors among sea monsters of the deep sea. However, the one who could control them was even more terrifying. No one has ever controlled the sea monsters before.

As such, when Vaan ruled the sea monsters, he also ruled the entire Boundless Sea. Before him, there was no longer a distinction between the Inner Sea and the Outer Sea; there was only the original Boundless Sea. He was the true god of the sea.

It had to be mentioned that all Nauticans acquired gills and scales to adapt to the sea. However, Vaan required no such thing. The sea didn't belong to humans, but before him, it was the most docile element in the world.

Anyone perceptive enough to see the sea protecting him would understand that he was an extraordinary being unlike any other in history.

"General, please offer your worship and allegiance to the new Ocean Master," a Celestial soldier urged again, albeit quieter.

However, his words rang louder in General Neyi's mind; his eyes became clearer, and his heart became lighter.

General Neyi quickly understood that this situation-this change, for better or worse, was something he could not stop. Those who resisted its current will face death, while those who joined its flow would be carried into its future.

"General Neyi sees and acknowledges the true god of the sea," General Neyi declared loudly and decisively as he lowered himself like everyone else.

Vaan gave General Neyi a deep look.

General Neyi was the highest-ranking military officer in Moonwater City. It wasn't wrong to say that he effectively controlled all of Moonwater City's military.

"General Neyi, was it? How far are you willing to go to prove your loyalty?" Vaan casually asked.

General Neyi suddenly felt the weight of his question. Still, he took a deep breath before replying solemnly, "As long as you give me the order, I will obey to the best of my ability." He did not assure Vaan of complete success because he did not know what kind of orders he would be given. If Vaan gave him an impossible task, his promise would become a lie.

As such, General Neyi did not set unrealistic expectations for himself. He could only promise to serve within his abilities.

Vaan nodded after hearing his answer.

"Very well. I will give you a chance to prove yourself," Vaan stated before saying, "I was the Moonwater Lord's head and his access card. If you can bring them to me, I'll allow you to keep your rank and lead the troops on my conquest of the other cities. Can you do it?"

"I can!" General Neyi asserted with determination.

Although the Moonwater Lord and him were at the same stage of cultivation, he possessed far more battle experience. As such, he was certain he was the stronger one of the two.

"How many troops do you need to get it done?"

"Just the group I brought with me should be sufficient, Ocean Master."

"Alright."

Shortly after General Neyi left with his elite soldiers, Commander Hotri suddenly mentioned, "What should we do about them, my Lord?"

Vaan glanced at the knights brought by the deceased Sir Jyanas.

The knights had gloated when Sir Jyanas charged at Vaan. However, they became stiff like headless chickens real quick when their master died.



"Apprehend them and seal their cultivation bases for now. If they resist, kill them."

"Understood, my Lord."

Vaan didn't plan to kill too many Divine-level cultivators since their Divine Inheritances were worth studying. He could also transfer their Divine Worlds to his most loyal people and

strengthen the UN's side.

Still, he didn't mind killing them all if they weren't obedient. After all, the Divine Inheritance was ultimately a flawed method that gave the Divine Inheritors limited potential in

cultivation.

As such, it wasn't something Vaan could bestow on a talented subordinate; it would only waste away their potential.

-

Six hours later, General Neyi returned, bloodied and injured, with the Moonwater Lord's head and access card as promised.

Although General Neyi lost some good soldiers in the process, he faithfully and successfully carried out his task. The Moonwater Lord's side resisted fiercely, but they were not as strong

as they could have been due to his surprise attack.

Nevertheless, once the Moonwater Lord's access card entered Vaan's hands, Moonwater City effectively fell under his control.

Chapter 999: The Sea Monsters Invades

Inside a dark conference room, high-ranking military personnel from the three joint cities attended the meeting of High Command. Only the members of Tidalson City attended in the flesh; the rest appeared as holograms.

"Ten minutes ago, we lost contact with the Blackshell Army. Five minutes ago, we lost contact with the Razorfang Army. Now, the Tidalson Army isn't responding to our calls or messages. Who can tell me what happened?"

A Tidalson officer questioned the group while containing his rage.

Considering the loyalty and discipline of the Tidalson Army, there was no reason for Tidalson soldiers to ghost them. As such, something bad must have happened to the Tidalson Army.

After a brief moment of silence, the hologram image of a Blackshell officer replied, "That's what I want to ask Razorfang. "Didn't you weasels assure us that this joint military operation was guaranteed success?"

"How come we have encountered nothing but problems since we initiated this war?" the Blackshell officer asked.

"Problems?" the Tidalson officer furrowed his brows before asking with confusion, "What problems have you possibly encountered on your side? Why haven't you mentioned any of it until now?"

"Hah..." the Blackshell officer exhaled before replying, "If you were me, would you have the face to mention that your own general tried to abandon his army?"

"What did you just say? Your general abandoned his army?"

The High Command members who attended the meeting were immediately shocked and dumbfounded by Blackshell City's revelation.

Indeed, they would be deeply ashamed if they learned about such a humiliating matter. How could their pride allow them to put themselves out for embarrassment?

Since it was such a humiliating matter, why did Blackshell City's side decide to mention it? Why not, of all times?

"What happened?" the Tidsong officer frowned with a bad feeling.

"Just moments ago, we finally received an update on the Blackshell Army from our Cloud Fortress surveillance team..." the Blackshell officer spoke slowly before stating with

difficulty, "Except, there is no more Blackshell Army."

"It was a complete massacre. Everyone was killed, slaughtered by the enemy," the Blackshell officer uttered with gritted teeth and bloodshot eyes.

"Impossible!"

Tidsong officers and Razorfang officers immediately denied the possibility. They couldn't believe such unbelievable news. However, Blackshell City had no reason to lie to them either.

"How can your Blackshell Army be so weak and useless?" a Razorfang officer accused with naked contempt.

"Our Blackshell Army is weak and useless? Ridiculous!" the Blackshell officer sneered before unleashing his boiling fury, "Have you not thought that maybe the enemy was too strong instead?!"

"What the fuck has your sides been doing since the start of this operation?! How could none of you even find out the enemy's true strength?! Our Blackshell City has paid a disastrous price for your incompetency!"

"Was it so difficult for you fucks to collect accurate intel on our enemy's strength?!" the Blackshell officer harshly criticized Razorfang and Tidsong, forgetting all etiquette and decorum.

Why would he still care about that stuff when his side had lost its entire army?

"Mother fucker, why are you lambasting us for? Does your side not have eyes and ears, too? Is the Blackshell Army full of disables? Your side has an equal share of the blame for what happened to it!"

The conference room suddenly erupted into a heated war of words. Curses and insults were tossed around recklessly. Even their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents' names were dragged into it, including their weight and intelligence.

Five minutes later, the Razorfang officers received new information from the battlefield before all the colors left their faces.

"What happened?"

"The Razorfang Army got wiped out... It was also a complete annihilation."

Sss....!

Silence instantly filled the conference room.

No one had the heart to continue pinning the blame on others. At this point, they have all realized the gravity of the situation. The complete annihilation of the two armies was not a coincidence.

Tidalsong officers immediately dreaded the fate of the Tidalsong Army, which had started giving them radio silence five minutes ago.

"We have greatly underestimated the enemy..." a Tidalsong officer stated, skimming everyone's faces with a grim look. Then, he said, "To annihilate two armies, maybe even three, we could very well be facing a monster in the Divine Transformation Realm."

"It is also very likely that we can't win, at least not with the tactics and strategies we have prepared. It is even more likely that the enemy won't spare us if we back out now."

"We started this war, after all," the Tidalsong officer reminded.

Everyone quietly nodded.

"That's why I propose opening the restricted hangars. If we unleash the might of our starship fleet, we might still have a chance to turn this war around," the Tidsong officer stated

ruthlessly.

Several hearts shook at the brutal suggestion.

If the starship fleets were dragged into the war, the supreme firepower of its asteroid buster cannons would definitely lay waste to the surface and reduce Pangea into an unrecognizable

state.

Still, the ruthless suggestion received a tacit agreement from every member attending the meeting. Everyone knew that if they didn't wipe out the Land-Dwellers, the Land-Dwellers would destroy them instead.

"Once the starships achieve high altitude, immediately deploy the satellites," a Tidsong officer passed down his order.

Only satellites could provide superior real-time surveillance and help them determine who destroyed their armies. Orders were quickly passed to the military districts of Blackshell City, Razorfang City, and Tidsong City.

Half an hour later, the restricted hangars accommodating starships from the ancient era opened for the first time since the founding of the Celestial Kingdom.

The seafloor shook with constant tremors as large seamounts near their cities moved, creating vast openings for the hidden starships to emerge. The hangars' great age and lack of maintenance caused problems, delaying their openings.

Still, they were eventually fixed in the end.

Sometime later, the first black starship emerged from the abyssal darkness on the seafloor.

With its gradual ascent, the Celestials' confidence also rose.

Unfortunately, disaster struck when they least expected it.

Boom!

An enormous blurred shadow suddenly slapped against the large starship from over the nearby seamount. The impact easily tore apart the starship's sturdy hull and split it into two

pieces.

The two halves then sunk back into the abyssal darkness before a rumbled explosion shook the seawater.

Over at Blackshell City, where the first starship was struck and destroyed, the Celestial soldiers were alarmed.

"W-What just happened? Border Surveillance, answer me! What just attack us!?"

"Th-Th-Th...! Th-Th...!!"

Inside the border surveillance room, the Celestial soldier stared at his computer screen with eyes widened in sheer horror, shock, and disbelief.

"Th-Th, Th, your sister! Stop fucking stuttering and tell me what it is, soldier!"

"T-The sea monsters are here! They have invaded the Inner Sea!"

The furious border captain smacked his subordinate on the head to reset his brain before the

shocking news was spat out.

Chapter 1000: Fanghorn Opens Its Gates

Sea monsters!

Once the words got out, Blackshell City's military was shocked to the core. The balance between the Inner Sea and the Outer Sea had been broken!

The Celestial Kingdom believed in two types of Doomsday: The one from the sky would end all life, while the one from the Outer Sea would end the Celestial Kingdom.

The invasion of the Outer Sea's sea monsters was the obvious sign of Doomsday's arrival and nigh ending of the Celestial Kingdom. Explore more at [empire](#)

After sea monsters sank Blackshell City's starships, Razorfang City and Tidalsong City soon encountered the same disastrous situation. The sudden interference of the sea monsters crippled the three cities' last card.

"How... How could this have happened?"

A Celestial soldier despaired, seeing the swarms of sea monsters entering the Inner Sea. The sonar movements and energy concentration in the Inner Sea soared to unprecedented levels, breaking the scale.

It was a calamitous event the Celestial Kingdom had hoped never to see; the Celestials did not even see it coming. They had only feared the sky because they had the Ocean Master to protect their sea.

But now...

"What happened to the Ocean Master? What exactly happened at the Southern Border? Why isn't the Moonwater City answering us?"

Moonwater City experienced a large spike in communication calls from every city after the sea monsters entered the territorial seawaters of the Inner Seas.

Blackshell City, Razorfang City, and Tidalson City received the greatest shock from the sea monsters, but they weren't the first cities to face the situation. Fanghorn City from the Southwestern Sea and Darkfall City from the Southeastern Sea discovered the sea monsters several minutes earlier.

Nevertheless, after half an hour of nervous observation, Fanghorn City and Darkfall City discovered the sea monsters lacked aggression.

The sea monsters did not follow their most primal instincts when they saw the vulnerable sea life of the Inner Seas. The local ecosystem did not seem worthy of their attention.

They still patrolled the Inner Seas... until they located the Celestial Kingdom's cities.

"These sea monsters found us... but they aren't attacking our city... What are they waiting for?" a Celestial commander wondered as he watched the camera feed displayed on the screen.

However, it didn't take long for Fanghorn City to find the answer first.

The sea monsters circling outside of Fanghorn City suddenly made way for a fleet of starships controlled by the Moonwater Army to pass through. Not only did the sea monsters not attack the Moonwater Army, but they even appeared to be protecting it.

"This... How is this possible?"

The people of Fanghorn City were astonished by the scene. They didn't expect to witness such a situation in their lifetime.

The people of Fanghorn City couldn't help but wonder what the Moonwater Army wanted.

"People of Fanghorn City, listen up! You have thirty minutes to deactivate your city defense systems and surrender! If you pledge yourself to the new Ocean Master, you will be spared! If you fail to comply, we will use force to seize your city!"

General Neyi's voice reached all three layers of Fanghorn City, surprising the military, shocking the civilians, and startling the nobles.



"Was that General Neyi's voice? Was he the one leading the starship fleet? But who is this new Ocean Master he speaks of?"

General Neyi's ultimatum not only confused but also sowed chaos among Fanghorn City's people. The city's military quickly split into two groups: those who supported the surrender and those who didn't.

Surprisingly, the minority resisted the surrender. Even so, their opposition prevented Fanghorn City from making an immediate choice.

Ten minutes quickly passed since General Neyi's last announcement, but Fanghorn City didn't give a reply. It went completely silent as if it was a dead city. Even so, General Neyi did not doubt that a chaotic and furious debate was raging within its thick walls.

Although he trusted Fanghorn City's military to make the right choice, he didn't want to risk them making a mistake. He did not want to have the blood of his comrades on his hands, even if they came from another city.

As such, he decided to give them a nudge.

"Soldiers of Fanghorn, remember where your faith lies and who you should serve! The new Ocean Master may come from the land, but his authority surpasses all Ocean Masters of the past! He is the true god of the sea! The truth is right before your eyes!"

After General Neyi spoke, many soldiers of Fanghorn City resonated with his words. They weren't blind; they could see the obedience and discipline of the sea monsters—something they had never dared to imagine.

It was for that reason that the majority of Fanghorn City supported the surrender.

If the Moonwater Army had come alone, everyone in Fanghorn City would have scoffed at General Neyi for being overly ambitious and a foolish dreamer. However, he had the sea monsters on his side.

The difference between the two was like heaven and earth.

After all, if the Fanghorn Army and Moonwater Army fought, they would suffer mutual losses. But if the sea monster joined their battle, it would only have one result—Fanghorn Army's one-sided defeat.

The fleshly prowess of sea monsters was simply too great.

Before the designated thirty minutes were up, Fanghorn City deactivated its city shields, opened its gates, and welcomed General Neyi's army inside.

However, such choices were only made solely by Fanghorn City's military.

Not only did the Fanghorn Lord resist the decision until the end, but he also sealed off transit pillars' access to the city's Residential Zone. He knew that his life wouldn't be good even if he surrendered.

After all, the relationship between the military faction and the noble faction had never been good. The new Ocean Master would definitely show favoritism to the military faction.

There was even a chance that his dirty history would be dug up after a review. If that happened, he would truly be finished. As such, he had no choice but to resist fiercely, even if he had to risk everyone's lives.

If he couldn't continue to enjoy a good life, no one else could either!