

# Void 1121

Chapter 1121 Reminiscence [1]

A man appeared on Apeiron in the midst of conflict.

The Nox Worshippers and enemy forces fully revealed their intentions and began their onslaught, and his presence, frankly, went unnoticed.

Because he was already crippled. His Divinity had been shattered as he fled here.

His body landed in the Helia Forest, and noticing its terrain, he traveled deeper and deeper until he found a place where he could hide and recuperate.

He stayed there for many months, alone and living the life of a wild man. It was quite different from what he was used to, but perhaps that was why he enjoyed it.

At some point, he met a woman.

She also lived in the forest, but unlike his gruff appearance, she remained prim and pristine regardless of circumstance.

She was like a fairy, untouched by the world.

The two strangers fell in love and intertwined their lives. They solidified their communion, and the woman ended up pregnant with his child.

He wanted to live the rest of his life in peace with her.

But fate was cruel.

His pursuers noticed his presence and gave chase.

Knowing of their arrival beforehand, one night, the man quietly left his wife and unborn child in their home, fleeing fast as far as possible.

His broken body could only take him so far.

He was caught and forced to fight. He used every remaining ounce of his power, and as he was dying on the cold earth, a shadow appeared before him.

It slaughtered his enemies and took him away, to a hidden realm away from perception.

Here, that shadow nursed him to health, and he became more acquainted with her.

She was also a denizen of this world. She didn't help him, but instead merely attacked those harming their world.

How would she react when she learned he was of the same origins?

It seemed his broken body concealed his lineage, because no matter how much time passed, she didn't notice his oddity.

The duo remained together for a long time, and once again, the man fell in love.

Another child was conceived.

But this time, the man didn't hold unnecessary hopes.

He was prepared for the enemies' arrival from the start, and used his time to find a way to guarantee his woman's survival.

After all, unlike the first one, this woman interacted with the Nox before. Her image was engraved in their collective consciousness, as was her meeting with him.

This was how Zara's mother ended up in the First Dungeon.

The First Dungeon that Kurt Galloway connected to Helia Forest was his lifeline.

That man's fate was unknown. At some point, he left Apeiron's sphere of influence.

But those two women...

Unbeknownst to that man, the woman he first loved was the Beast Empress of the time.

Aha remained in the Helia Forest and birthed her child naturally. That child grew up in the warring era and matured in a baptism of flames.

As for the latter...

Apeiron couldn't see inside the First Dungeon, but Damien could guess what happened.

Zara wasn't born until around the time he was.

And unlike Alea, Zara was birthed from an egg.

Her mother likely died in the First Dungeon after waiting endlessly for her child to awaken, and the family Zara was born into was made up of wolves she subdued for the very purpose of protecting her child.

Her plans didn't go the way she wished for them to, but Damien's presence saved that poor child and allowed her to grow into her lineage.

Zara and Alea were half-sisters. Their father was a Nox being with status that couldn't be low considering how adamant the Nox were about capturing him, and their mothers...

'It's difficult. Without seeing their beast forms, there's no way of knowing what their origins were.'

The connection between Zara and Alea was easy to discover, but only on the surface.

'Their mothers were also related somehow. The way their mana interacts is...'

Like Yin and Yang, perfectly opposing yet complementary forces.

"Is there anything else?" Damien asked.

[Unfortunately not, Master. I can only show you the memories of this world, not the thoughts of those residing within it.]

Damien nodded. This wasn't the regular memory transfer he was used to, where he could feel the thoughts and emotions of those he was shown.

If he wanted to know more, he first had to discover the identity of Zara's father, or the species of both women's mothers.

Damien looked down at the still-ongoing fight and sighed.

'I wish I could do more, but there's really nothing left—'

Damien's eyes instantly widened.

'Wait...her father is a Nox being?'

This was Damien's first introduction to Ultak Murrobun, the Divine Emperor, the only Nox being able to reproduce with other races.

Zara learned of his identity on Calypto, but Damien wasn't privy to this information.

It was one of the very few secrets she kept from him.

But now, there was no more to hide.

Damien descended from the sky and stopped the fight with his power as the Star Master, separating the two women.

He explained to them their connection as sisters from the same father, and upon learning this, Zara also offered up what she knew about the man.

There was no need to hide it anymore.

Alea's reaction was subtle, but her discomfort could be felt.

There was no way she didn't know she had Nox lineage at this point, but she was likely trying to deny it to the best of her ability.

Now that there was a partial reasoning for their connection and a reason for the duo to stay together...

'That's the end of my job.'

This wasn't his story.

He could lend his aid, but it wouldn't help either woman if he did all the work for them.

He could only hope that his aid was truly helpful to them.

"Zara, why don't you stay with Alea for a while? For now, you can't move freely in Grand Heavens Boundary, and her aura equalizes yours so it's harder to sense your bloodline. It would be best for the two of you to spend more time together."

Damien made a suggestion that made both women frown, but Zara especially.

She had rarely left Damien since the start of their journey. Even when she was comatose in the Sanctuary, she was still in a place filled with his presence.

For her to separate entirely...

'No, maybe this is really for the best.'

Zara could read his thoughts and understood his intentions.

She didn't want to rely on him too much either. Damien couldn't give her all his time and she didn't want to hold him back when he was moving with such determination towards his goals.

Maybe it was time for her to establish a goal of her own.

She looked at Alea, who snorted and looked away, but didn't oppose, and nodded.

"Okay. I will travel with her for now. But..."

She looked back at Damien, a slightly desperate look in her eyes.

"...don't forget about me."

Damien smiled.

Her appearance now was like a little girl, filling him with endearing feelings.

He pulled her close and gave her a warm, reassuring hug.

"Since when was that a possibility? Who am I to you?" He asked teasingly.

Zara blushed and turned her head away in embarrassment.

"Big...big brother..."

"Exactly. What kind of big brother would forget about his little sister? Don't worry about such little things and go. You know I'm always on your side."

"Mm..."

Zara wrapped her arms around him and tightly returned his hug, sinking into his body for a moment before separating.

Becoming independent from one's caretaker was hard. It wasn't about becoming self-sufficient. The difficulty came from leaving one's support system.

But every chick had to leave the nest at some point.

This was that time for Zara.

Under Damien's complicated gaze, she left with Alea.

To have adventures and experiences of her own, to see the world on her own.

Damien sighed to himself.

'Everyone always complains when they're here, but it's heart-wrenching to watch them go.'

The next time he saw that girl, she would be a woman in her own right.

It hurt. It definitely hurt, but...

'I can't wait to see how far you can go.'

#### Chapter 1122 Reminiscence [2]

After reminiscing on the past for a bit, Damien paid a visit to Zenith Academy to see Malcolm, his first teacher in this new world, before leaving Apeiron.

It was a good visit, like visiting a grandparent, barring Malcolm's incessant requests for him to temporarily teach some classes at Zenith Academy.

His decision was obvious.

He ran away before anyone could convince him otherwise!

Meanwhile, Rose chose to stay behind with her father for a while, knowing she wouldn't get time to do so once the ceasefire ended.

Therefore, Damien left for the Cloud Plane alone, reaching within a few hours and visiting those he wanted to see.



Tian Yang, Tang Lingzi, Bai Xieren, Shangguan Yu, the Drunken Old Immortal, the ruins of the 3000 Beast Mountain Range...

Compared to Apeiron, Damien had memories in many more areas of the Cloud Plane. It took a few days to see them all.

Naturally, Damien also sought Tian Yang along with Ruyue, learning from his mistakes and asking for his blessing together with her.

Tian Yang was present when they were like fire and water and watched them grow close to each other. He'd been expecting this moment since before even Damien and Ruyue were!

He happily accepted them, uncaring for tradition or taboo, and hosted a celebration that wrapped the entirety of Celestial Star Palace in a jovial atmosphere for three nights.

Damien enjoyed these festivities with a bright smile on his face and accompanied Ruyue for those few nights, drowning himself in pleasure.

But the time to depart eventually came.

Damien had tasks to accomplish.

'I want to visit Elena too, but she's busy. I don't want to interfere right now.'

Just like Zara, Elena was searching for her origin.

Only, Elena's state was more desperate.

Damien's presence in this journey wouldn't only be unhelpful, but detrimental!

'It's annoying how important independence is for stability and growth. If I could have it my way, I'd solve all these problems so we can live happily ever after, but...'

Damien smiled wryly as he traversed the starry sky.

It was his fault for loving ambitious women.

He shook his head and opened a Warp portal to his next destination.

He'd been in a nostalgic mood recently. The peace of the Human Domain he'd been away from for so long was catching up to him.

He had one more place to visit before he started moving seriously.

A place he really held no connection with, yet meant everything to him.

Earth.

His homeworld.

He looked at it from above with a complicated gaze.

This planet was no longer the one he knew.

The terrain was massively different after several calamities and mana pulses caused by the world's rapid growth.

The regular citizens who lived back then were warriors now. 4th class beings were becoming more and more common by the day, and it likely wouldn't be long before an extreme peak master was born among them.

Damien thought back to his conversation with Lynn a few days back.

"What drove you to follow me? Disregarding my mother's influence, what made the individual named Lynn Carter subordinate herself?"

It was a question he'd asked in the process of transferring Avalon to the Sanctuary.

And her answer?

It wasn't something grand nor was it some valiant message that struck his soul.

Her reason was simple.

"Have you not noticed it by now? Do you think your Divine blood is for nothing?" She had said.

"People close to you are influenced by your growth. I believe that Avalon will flourish under that very influence, therefore, following your mother's subtle suggestion is the best possible route."

Was it his bloodline or was it the Void? Maybe it was a cooperation between the two.

It made sense.

There was no way to deny it.

Regardless of their talent, it would've been impossible for Rose, Ruyue, and Elena to match his growth, purely due to the disadvantages of their births.

The people he encountered in Hidden Death Valley, the people he met in Calypto, and the people he met throughout the universe were subtly influenced by him. They couldn't compare to those in his

direct proximity, but they were all able to make rapid improvements after they established positive relationships with him.

And the Sanctuary. It had the restrictions of an independent world that wasn't complete, yet, these restrictions didn't inhibit his people at all.

Theavel grew into something magical in only a decade, Elvira and the rest entered the nine revolutions, and countless masters had been born from the population.

It was an unequivocal fact.

Earth was perhaps the greatest proponent of this fact.

Earth didn't experience any time dilations.

Damien bound it when he was 20. When he entered the Divine Realm, he was still in his early 20s.

And since then, in the regular time flow, only 3 years passed.

In a period of time so short it passed in a flash, Earth went from a place where 2nd class beings reigned supreme to one where 2nd class wasn't even worth mentioning.

He just wanted to see it.

He didn't have any interest in what the earthlings were up to right now. Despite their strength, they were still relatively disconnected from the wider universe.

They only had contact with the worlds closest to them, while those like Apeiron were only theorized about.

He just wanted to see it.

This world that he still didn't understand this connection to.

This world that should have been insignificant, yet refused to be forgotten.

This world...

'Just what are you?'

[Hehehehe...]

Earth's World Core giggled innocently upon feeling his presence.

Its consciousness was infantile, but it was surprising that it could communicate its words at all.

It took a relatively complete consciousness to do so.

Without realizing it, Damien smiled endearingly.

'I guess I have a duty to protect you while you're still growing.'

Whoosh!

He held his arm out and pushed all his mana.

A black hole opened behind him and provided him with an infinite stream of the energy to use as he pleased.

Right.

This was his homeworld.

This was his home sector.

This place was his origin. There were no words to explain why it mattered, but it impacted him nonetheless.

'Stay safe.'

VOOOOOOOOOM!

His mana whirled to life and expanded rapidly, encompassing the entire planet.

Waves and waves of Space Laws fortified the earth's atmosphere, disallowing the presence of hostile beings. Time Laws followed, creating a field around the world that would wither away any invaders.

Samsara ensured those on the planet wouldn't die prematurely and provided them great vitality that could help them in training, and finally, a twinge of the void entered the defense, connecting it to Damien.

'With this, they won't get hit by anything they can't handle. If they are, I'll be able to come right away.'

It wasn't long, but it was a good visit.

Nothing happened, but Damien felt like his mind was clearer than usual.

It was the perfect mental space for what was coming.

A lonely journey that wouldn't end until he ran out of time.

Damien's figure disappeared into the starry sky.

And then...

A year passed in silence.

#### Chapter 1123 Eve Of Battle [1]

Many things happened in the period of one year, but not many of them were in the Human Domain.

The Divine and Infernal Realm Infected Source World raids were completed at the loss of over a hundred million troops, including several million 4th class beings and a not much smaller number of extreme peak masters.

The raids were successful overall. In the grand scheme of things, the loss wasn't much.

However, there was still much confusion surrounding the operation. The strange movements of the Nox were unexplained. The three greatest Infected Source Worlds became refuges for the countless Nox who fled from their original worlds, but what was the point if they were going to die either way?

The control division in Luxurion was still working overtime to figure out their motives, while the main armies took time to rest now that their job was over.

The fate of Grand Heavens Boundary now lay in the hands of a single man.

Not long ago, the Saint Emperor appeared at the border of Eien and declared the time and place of his son's fated duel.

It would take place three days later, in the center of the Divine Realm.

It was a spectacle that would be broadcast across the universe for all eyes to see.

Whether it would be a moment of triumph or shame could only be hypothesized now.

Both Damien and the Saint King hadn't been seen since the Grand Assembly ended. The improvements in their strength couldn't be measured.

However, compared to a genius of the universe who was forcefully isolated from its proceedings for the past two years, wouldn't the son of a Nox Emperor see more fortune?

Such a realization made it hard to sit still these days. Whether it be common soldiers or the leaders of peak influences, they all moved for a single purpose:

To prepare for what came next.

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In the depths of the Abyss, far, far away from Grand Heavens Boundary, a certain meeting was taking place.

"Has it been completed?"

The question was asked by a being wrapped in darkness whose figure could not be properly seen.

As for the one it was directed to, he knelt on the floor before that being in reverence.

"All of the souls and essence have been absorbed into the corrupted products. We are prepared to act on the Lord's command."

The shadowed being smiled. The darkness around him wriggled and curved into the figure of a great demon grinning in madness, reflecting the expression of the man it concealed.



"Very well. Leave now and be prepared. We shall not waste any more time."

The subordinate prostrated himself respectfully before standing up and leaving the area.

Left alone, the being's eyes turned cold.

'The source's death was an unexpected event, however, it is not harmful for us to deal more damage to the enemy.'

Hassan, who controlled the laws of every Infected Source World, died 2 years ago upon the failure of the team sent to retrieve him. That team disappeared without a trace, and the information of their encounter before death vanished with them.

There was a need to investigate this event, but due to the Saint Emperor's interference, the Nox weren't able to approach Grand Heavens Boundary at all without risking the extermination of their species!

However, it was fine.

Hassan's death was an undeniable truth regardless of the cause.

And without Hassan to maintain the Infected Source Worlds in such a way that they were useful to the Nox, they lost meaning altogether.

As did the forces left on them.

The subordinate's report made the situation clear. The Corrupted World Cores in the universe collected the souls and essence of all who died in their dominion, all for the sake of a single move.

An opening move that would show Grand Heavens Boundary how hopeless their situation was.

The man stood up from his throne and stepped out of the darkness.

He had long midnight black hair and eyes that were hollow without a soul. His figure was lean yet muscular in a strange way that made him look inhuman.

There were four Nox Emperors, each with their own uniqueness.

The Saint Emperor was an existence of his own whose authority could not be questioned or compared with the rest.

The Inhuman Emperor was a cruel and shadowy being who reveled in the

pleasures of evil.

The Karmic Emperor could deal with the mind better than anyone, twisting truth and illusion into a picture of his own creation.

And the Soul Emperor was a hidden figure only known to have power over the ethereal that surpassed anyone in existence.

The Soul Emperor didn't interfere directly with any conflict, but his hand was said to be the cause of many tragedies within the universe.

In this moment, he was in the midst of doing so once again.

He looked up into the void.

There was no such thing as a sky in the Abyss.

His dull, lifeless eyes didn't carry a hint of emotion, yet the rest of his body was filled with it, making it disconcerting to even be in his presence.

"By the will of the Lord..."

A sentence one would never expect from a being at the peak of the universe rang out.

A slight glimpse into his true intentions.

A man who had never faced defeat due to his thorough planning had now set his eyes on Grand Heavens Boundary once again.

Yet...

This time, there was a glaring variable in his plan that he wasn't aware of.

A glaring variable who called himself Damien Void.

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The Nox Emperors all had their own plans.

The Saint Emperor was moving in the light, directly attacking the universe, and the Soul Emperor was currently planning his own advent from the shadows.

The Inhuman Emperor never moved with such deep thoughts. As a manifestation of evil, he was a being of free thought who only acted when he felt like it, with an air of chaos and disorder surrounding his actions.

And finally, the Karmic Emperor was in cahoots with Immortal Blood Asura, his goals unknown yet his actions clear.

Blood Asura Holy Land had entered an era of rapid recruitment recently.

It wasn't that strange considering that many influences were taking the same routes to increase the number of grunt forces they could use in the coming war, but unbeknownst to the rest of the universe, the atmosphere in the Holy Land was strange.

The Blood Asura Holy Land star cluster had over a hundred worlds in its influence. Of these, only around twenty had defined purpose, while the rest were mainly used for residence by the common people.

However, this changed recently.

On a few hidden worlds within the cluster, devious operations were taking place.

Hidden below the surface were the tortured screams of millions.

The Nox had never succeeded in artificially manufacturing members of their race. Nox Worshipers who held their power would eventually get corrupted by their power, and the results of forceful experimentation usually ended in abominations that were only useful a single time.

The concept of Nox Worshipers only reached maturity, where said worshippers could, for the most part, blend in with the regular populace around a hundred thousand years ago.

But the Universal Law antagonized the Nox to the fullest. A hundred thousand years of research barely got them anywhere.

Immortal Blood Asura was the key.

With his proficiency in Blood Laws, his understanding of the physical body surpassed even Nox Emperors.

When he and the Karmic Emperor solidified their cooperation, a method was formulated.

A method to create an army of mass-produced soldiers with the stability of true existences and the loyalty of puppets.

And...

This was only the first step of their cooperation.

The uncountable hundreds of millions who suffered through brutal torture and had their egos erased to become a part of this army were only the first sacrifice.

The other actions these two beings were taking together...

If anyone were ever to find out, even the worst of punishments wouldn't be enough to assuage the souls of their victims.

Chapter 1124 Eve Of Battle [2]

The negative situations in the universe were plentiful. There were a great deal of events that further confirmed the inevitable destruction many had prophesized.

However, there were also many forces moving in the light.

Inevitability was only inevitable if one fought and still lost. Before that, could it be anything but self-fulfilling prophecy?

In the depths of Luxurion, hidden from the Angels themselves, Luciel met with a certain being.

It was not their first meeting in the past 2 years, but in the current climate, this could be their last for a while.

"The time for their battle has already come. Do you still have no interest in meeting that child?" he asked, facing that being.

Its skin was a shimmering blue color, while its clothes were equally virtual, just slightly darker. The being's body trembled strangely, its immaterial nature clear from the start.

It was shaped like a woman, but it certainly was not one.

Perhaps in the past, but not anymore.

"My influence has no meaning to him. What is the significance of a meaningless encounter?"

"Meaningless? Would it still be so if he is related to that man?"

The shimmering woman's pupil-less eyes narrowed.

"Master..."

The master she spoke of was not Luciel, but a man from the distant past.

A man known as the Void Emperor.

He was active in the universe roughly 15,000 years ago and ascended to the rank of Supreme within a mere 200. He was not someone involved in the grand wars of the universe, but his significance was not small.

Yet, he was not remembered as a great expert.

He was hardly remembered at all!

That man erased his visage from the memories of all beings. Luciel only recovered those memories after constant interaction with this shimmering woman.

She was the spirit of the Holy Light Realm, a spirit who'd subjected herself to that man during his era.

She'd long lost power over the realm she managed and was essentially powerless until recently, but she was, after all, the spirit of a great realm.

The knowledge in her possession was as expansive as the starry sky.

"Regardless of his origins, my presence has no part in his Legend," the spirit finally said.

"If he truly holds such relation, guide him to Death Emperor Star. That is where he will find the legacies left for him."

"Death Emperor Star? Are the rumors true?" Luciel asked in surprise.

"Rumors...if he did not permit it, rumors would not exist at all."

Luciel's brows furrowed. There was an old myth about Death Emperor Star, a myth that said every legacy and Death Zone present on that star was related to a single person.

The various beings who left behind everything they'd achieved in life on that world were all the same person.

It was nonsensical, but if the spirit was subtly confirming this truth, the power of the being who created that place could only be imagined.

Luciel's thoughts whirled to life.

If a being like that existed in the current era, threats like the Nox Emperors could be matched directly.

'Was that his purpose? Leaving everything behind to ascend, did he wish for us to create that being on our own?'

He was a man who remained mysterious until the day he left the universe.

There were only a few things known as fact in relation to him.

He had the power to wield all of the universe's laws as if they were his own.

He was young but held wisdom far above his age.

And...he was also a hero who came from the Human Domain.

From a small world that no longer existed.

A small world called Earth.

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The current Human Domain certainly wasn't what it was before.

Not in the long term, but in the short.

In the past year, it had gone through massive changes.

The worlds that had an established power structure and the ability to contribute to the current situation were now clustered in one place almost unnaturally.



They completely followed the laws of the universe and were arranged in a way where they wouldn't interfere with each others' rotations and paths, but countless light years of distance were bridged now. It was now possible for the Human Domain to form its forces with minimal delay.

The number of active worlds in a sector could usually be imagined by the human mind. However, there were at least 100,000 inhabitable worlds per sector and many more hundreds of thousands that had no life at all.

These inhabitable worlds had populations that either had no familiarity with mana, or had it but not long enough to hold importance.

All of these worlds filled with billions of people each that would have died needlessly if the Human Domain was ever invaded...

...disappeared from the universe entirely.

Avalon was a forewarning. It was the start of this incredible phenomenon.

Instead of fear of the unknown, the residents remaining in the domain were filled with vigor.

Because once again, this phenomenon was caused by a single man!

Ever since he left Earth, Damien had been moving ceaselessly. It wasn't an exaggeration to say he hadn't been still for the past year.

He started with smaller planets near Earth and expanded his range out of the past Milky Way Galaxy into the rest of the Human Domain, transferring countless worlds into the Sanctuary in one go.

It was difficult.

As someone who could travel millions of kilometers in a single instant, it only took him around a minute to go between worlds within each other's range.

To bind these worlds and transfer them to the Sanctuary was another few minutes of work.

In the span of a single day, he could take 120 worlds, give or take. Logically speaking, this speed wasn't enough to conquer half of the sector's worlds.

Therefore, Damien was forced to constantly bend Spacetime to his needs, warping the fundamental rules of the universe at a subtle level to give himself the time to do what he needed to.

The total amount of time he spent was over five years, though, this time didn't reflect on him the same way other time dilations did.

After all, the neverending blackness of the starry sky never changed. The monotonous task became second nature after a while, and time became unnoticeable.

Even for Damien who experienced it directly, it still felt like only a year had passed.

Still, the time did not discredit his grand achievement.

The Sanctuary that he only filled with two worlds after over a decade was now filled with almost 300,000 celestial bodies.

It was starting to look like a true universe.

The amount of World Force Damien could control was like an unlimited ocean. The actions he could take were far more varied than before.

Other than that, he didn't feel many direct effects of his actions. This was something he'd discover with time.

The ones who truly suffered were those who ruled the Sanctuary from the inside!

Elvira and the other Emperors, as well as the new addition, Lynn Carter, were suddenly swamped with work incorporating the worlds into their society and turning the isolated universe into its own entity rather than a collection of scattered worlds.

But none of them complained about the mountainous task.

Because while they could complete their administrative duties in peace within the space of his creation, their Lord and Master was taking the weight of the universe on his shoulders from the frontlines.

Not long ago, the Saint Emperor appeared at the border of Eien and declared the time and place of his son's fated duel.

It would take place three days later, in the center of the Divine Realm.

It was a spectacle that would be broadcast across the universe for all eyes to see.

Whether it would be a moment of triumph or shame...Damien knew better than anyone.

A confident grin decorated his face.

He finished what he needed to do in the Human Domain.

Now, it was time to make his way to the Divine Realm...

...so he could beat the living shit out of the Saint King!

### Chapter 1125 Eve Of Battle [3]

There wouldn't be many direct witnesses of the coming battle. In order to allow Damien and Bai Yumo to use their full strength without restraints, The space of the Divine Realm would be clear until a victor was determined.

And in the same vein, there weren't many rules. As long as the fighters didn't damage any inhabited planets, they could do anything they wished.

In preparation for this battle, the Angels of the Heavenly Clan spent the past three days securing the location so nothing could affect this important event.

Damien arrived first. With him were Tian Yang, Alucard, Commander Huo, and Iris, the Demigods who'd come to support him.

They were certain there would only be one Divinity on the other side, but that didn't make their presence less necessary.

In fact, that was the very reason all four of them came!

Hidden between the folds of reality, away from the perception of anyone currently in attendance or attending soon, two beings watched Damien with interest.

"Did I not tell you? The Young Lord cannot be an average person," one of them said, looking at his companion.

"Hmph. Whether or not he can be recognized as the Young Lord is still to be seen. If he can't even win this battle, he has no right to take the throne." she replied with a snort.

"Really? Is that true? However, his strength has almost reached yours."

"In over a decade? Can this speed be commended?"

"Could you do it in this shattered universe?"

"..."

The girl looked away with a frown, unable to say she could.

This particularly strange duo was not strangers to Damien's movements. They didn't follow him at all times, but for the most part, they had witnessed his ascent.

They were the duo of old man and little girl that was first seen in Niflheim, a pair connected to Void Palace, and because it was their Young Lord at the center of current events, their presence here was natural.

"That man will be disadvantaged this time. The time he had to grow was much shorter than his opponent, and he had no proper teacher," the girl said negatively.

However, the old man's outlook was far more positive.

"The so-called Abyss does have many advantages, but the negative impacts of such an environment are just as prominent. We have not seen it personally, no? It is useless to make guesses this early."

"Gramps, can you see through him?" the girl suddenly asked.

"The Young Lord?" he returned in slight surprise.

The little girl nodded, and the old man's smile widened.

"Instead of being able to read him, I am even further from his truth. His growth is astounding in ways you have yet to understand."

"Hmm..."

The little girl's frown deepened.

This was the Lord's progeny. He was a man who would inevitably reach great heights due to ancestry alone.

This was partially the reason she despised him. With such ancestry, why was he still wasting his talents on useless things? Why was his strength still so low?

Despite her appearance, which was only around 11 years old, she had reached her 30th birthday not too long ago. Her appearance was a consequence of a method she was practicing, and would only return to normal when she reached Divinity.

In those 30 years, She only used 18 to become a Supreme.

Most of the rest of her life was spent here, observing Damien and exploring the fates of this lesser plane.

If she stayed in the Heavenly World, she would have absolutely reached Divinity by 25. She was certain of this.

Because she was a peak talent even in that world.

She couldn't accept it.

She couldn't accept that someone more talented than her was growing at such a disappointing pace!

Yet, at the same time, she couldn't deny how restrictive this universe was. It was already not even a tenth of its original size, and the nature of its existence made it far harder to become strong.

If it was her...

"Haa..."

She let out a sigh and turned her attention back to the Real Plane.

In the distance, two figures could be seen approaching.

While she remained stuck in complicated thought, the old man looked over her warmly before focusing on the main scene.

'Yiren views the Lord as her father and is viewed by others as his most cherished daughter despite her lack of blood relation. Rather than the Young Lord's power, what bothers her is the envy of his position as a biological descendant. If the Young Lord can gain her approval...it is not wrong to say he will gain the approval of most of the palace.'

His eyes sparkled with a light of expectation.

'Do not disappoint us, Young Lord.'

Not just the two of them, but the entirety of Void Palace.

Because...

...Void Palace truly needed his presence.

\*\*\*

As expected, only the Saint Emperor and Bai Yumo appeared at the site of the battle.

The Emperor stood back and allowed his son to go forth by himself, meeting Damien in the middle.

All Demigods present merged into the folds of reality and made themselves untouchable by the battle, while many flashes filled the starry sky.

In the sky of every world in Grand Heavens Boundary, from the smallest worlds like Earth to the fields of Eien, countless massive projections appeared, each showing the same scene.

The scene of two men facing off in the starry sky.

Damien looked at the Saint King, Bai Yumo.

He hadn't changed much since their last encounter physically, but the light in his eyes had gone through an intense transformation.

His past arrogance was gone.

That slight glimmer of unknown emotion holding him back was gone.

Damien didn't know what Bai Yumo went through in the past 2 years, but it must've been grueling.

2 years.

It meant something different to both men.

Damien had one month of training and another 5 years of collecting worlds. He didn't actually take two years to train.

Meanwhile, Bai Yumo resided in the Abyss. 2 years in the Abyss had the ability to be 2 seconds or 200 years as it pleased.

Neither of them spoke.

There was no need for words between them.



They weren't fighting for personal reasons, they were fighting as representatives of their people.

Flash!

With a flash of brightness, Luciel appeared between the duo.

"If any innocent third party is harmed by your collision, I will immediately step in and declare the offender's disqualification. There are no time limits or distance limits for this battle, and there will be no interference from outside forces. This is a fight for life and death."

Luciel gave a small spiel to make sure both of them, mainly Damien, understood the severity of this situation.

"Once I depart, the battle will start. May the best man win."

He looked at Bai Yumo, who nodded without taking his eyes off Damien, and Damien, who did the same.

Under the watch of several quintillion beings in the universe and another uncountable number of existences beyond the boundary, a flash of light burst through the starry sky.

Luciel vanished as fast as he appeared.

With that, the battle officially began!

Chapter 1126 Fated Duel [1]

Bai Yumo moved first.

This wasn't their first battle. There was no need to move as if he didn't know his opponent. The second Luciel disappeared, he spread his mana and established a restrictive field that spanned several tens of thousands of kilometers.

Damien's regeneration was blocked and the fluctuations of Spacetime seemed stuck within the area of the restriction.

It was a direct move of suppression.

Bai Yumo charged forward without hesitation, surrounding his fists in mana and attacking.

Damien swerved through the air, not teleporting yet moving fast enough for it to be considered so. He dodged Bai Yumo's flurry of punches and returned them in kind, never using more power than his opponent.

Bai Yumo was trying to feel out his improvements, but he wanted to do the same! There was no way he'd easily entertain his opponent's wishes.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The starry sky became their stage. They moved several kilometers in all directions as they went back and forth exchanging physical attacks.

Thousands of blows were exchanged with every second.

Damien used mainly his fists but wasn't opposed to using his legs too. Whenever he saw a flaw in Bai Yumo's defense, a fierce kick would land in that area and knock him off balance.

Meanwhile, Bai Yumo was less of a frontal combatant. He was skilled with his fists, but he didn't know how to use his body to its full potential.

This was not where he focused his training!

Voom!

Bai Yumo's mana swirled to life. Twisted black mana fluctuations tainted the starry sky, filling it with an air of coldness and emptiness.

The audience has their first great reaction.

Those watching, even the most experienced of them, had mostly only heard of the Saint King. They'd never seen him fight.

Bai Yumo used Abyssal Mana, something that was like impure Void Mana, and something absolutely terrifying.

For those weaker, just seeing its fluctuations made them shiver. As for the strong, they immediately became wary of what Bai Yumo could become if he was allowed to keep growing!

This battle was for the universe since the beginning and had all parties on the edge of their seats, but Damien couldn't just win this, he had to thoroughly win and crush this future threat!

In the starry sky, Damien's eyes narrowed as he teleported away.

'That mana is a lot more potent than it was last time. It looks like he's getting close to the Breath of Nothingness.'

The Abyss and Void were inextricably linked. It wasn't a surprise that the Saint King's mana was starting to resemble a part of his.

But a part could never compare to the whole!

Damien frowned and summoned his mana forth, mixing Spacetime and Samsara to make a murky final product that, frankly, looked much less intimidating than Bai Yumo's mana.

'I can't directly use Void abilities with so many people watching. I'll have to hide it thoroughly.'

Space, Time, Life, and Death were all high-level laws that most people could never touch. When they were mixed, the aura they gave off was too complex to decipher, especially through a projection.

Therefore, when Damien used the Void to stabilize this combination and power it, those observing from the shadows had no chance to find out his secret!

Bai Yumo didn't charge into battle again. He maintained his distance and started using Abyssal Mana to corrode the surrounding atmosphere.

The ambient fluctuation of law in space began to disperse and disappear. Like the Abyss itself, this place was becoming a zone rid of concepts like time and space.

As someone who primarily used these elements, Damien couldn't allow it to continue!

The Twin Moons appeared in his hands and began spraying.

Freya was fast. Bullets of four-element mana clouded the air in waves of tens of thousands every second.

Within those disordered waves, the powerful and heavy-hitting bullets from Hel's barrel disguised themselves, their sights locked onto the target!

**BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!**

Damien wasn't holding back on mana consumption. The starry sky was immediately torn to oblivion upon his advent.

Space and time didn't disperse, but chaotically spread their essence and mingled, creating a distorted space.

Bai Yumo was forced to dodge the densely packed mana bullets flooding his surroundings. He swerved as Damien did before, his body melding through space and finding even the smallest gaps to evade the barrage while expending the least energy possible.

This gave the space itself time to heal from his interference, and—

'Void Sword Art Variation Sixth Form: Worldbreaker, Horizontal Slash'

SHIIING!

Damien appeared behind the Saint King without any prior warning.

Mirage was at his hip in a sword draw position, a sheath made of mana containing its energy.

Damien's eyes were sharp like blades as he pulled the sword from the sheath.

His movement was like a flashbang, so impactful yet too fast to react to!

The sword slashed towards Bai Yumo's neck, reaching just an inch away from it in a spark of an instant.

Bai Yumo's eyes widened. He rapidly retreated and flourished his Abyssal Mana.

'Emptiness!'

He pushed the mana through his systems. He formed his defense technique and pushed it into reality!

That was when Damien's sword reached him.

All the mana stored in the blade powerful enough to earn a title like Worldbreaker was let loose.

Worldbreaker at its full power for the first time; it was just a shame there were no celestial bodies nearby to feel its impact.

RUMBLE!

Tremors spread through space with absolute ferocity.

And in the next second—!

BOOOOOOOOOOOM!

Space itself cracked like the earth. It separated into blocks of even volume and exploded geometrically, painting a beautiful picture for the onlooking audience.

"Ack!"

Bai Yumo groaned in pain, wiping the blood from his mouth.

The powerful tremors were attacking him specifically despite their wide area effect.

He pushed the mana he was controlling, using the concept of Emptiness to consume the surrounding mana and secure the environment.

Emptiness was something similar to Devour, only, it did not reflect the effects of the things it devoured onto its user like the Void ability.

Nevertheless, it was the best defense.

Besides the original injury he suffered due to the unexpected onslaught of pressure, Bai Yumo was able to avoid being hit by the rest of the powerful attack.

'As expected, he is not the same as before. I cannot afford to act slowly.'

This battle couldn't be as drawn out as the last one.

Damien was the only one who'd benefit from a long battle; that monster with seemingly unlimited mana.

Bai Yumo could not lose this time.

No matter what, he needed to show the Saint Emperor victory.

Because if he didn't—!

His expression hardened. The aftereffects of Damien's attack were still spreading, but the man himself was nowhere to be seen.

He was definitely plotting something else!

Bai Yumo summoned his Abyssal Mana and even his Demonic Providence to prepare his own attack.

Right now, the momentum did not belong to him.

Despite the fearsome expression on his face and of his mana, those watching did not feel fear in their hearts.

Because, despite his appearance, it was undeniably fact that Damien took first blood!

He already had the upper hand!

Chapter 1127 Fated Duel [2]

Bai Yumo understood his disadvantage.

Yet, he had no plan of falling to it.

Damien was able to take first blood because he attacked bigger and faster than he could, but he wouldn't allow that man to continue controlling the momentum of battle.

Bai Yumo's awareness spread through the starry sky for several tens of thousands of kilometers, allowing nothing to exist outside his perception.

His hands came together as he formed a sphere from his mana, growing and condensing it in waves.

Damien was surely somewhere in the surrounding space, hidden.

It was certainly an option to wait for Damien to attack and move from there, but why would he do that?

Voom!

Bai Yumo's mana let out a pulse that tremored through the healing space.

His eyes narrowed and turned to a specific location.

'Explosion.'

BOOOOOOM!



The mana sphere in his hands burst, sending shockwaves in every direction.

Space shattered into pieces, the chaotic void bore its fangs, and utter destruction spread.

"Keuk...!"

Damien choked on a breath from the layers of space.

The former sequence took place in a mere second. While he was preparing to ambush the enemy, he didn't expect to be hit instead!

His body didn't fly far, but the burst made him visible to Bai Yumo, who didn't let this chance go to waste.

'Ten Thousand Fangs.'

Abyssal Mana filled the air and formed into countless tendrils that shot toward Damien from every direction.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Space exploded just from their presence, and when they came near, Damien could clearly feel the terrifying power contained in them.

He narrowly dodged the first tendril, allowing it to raze against his face.

Hissss!

His skin burned like it was splashed with acid.

Damien's brows furrowed as he continued dodging, but he didn't attack back or use any unnecessary movements.

His body went barely to the left, evading a group of tendrils, before impossibly twisting to avoid another group.

He flipped and weaved through space like a fish in water, not even teleporting to escape the encirclement.

Bai Yumo watched him carefully.

'Why act this way and leave yourself open?' He wondered.

But now wasn't the time for that.

He gathered mana again, this time infusing countless law fluctuations into it.

'Death of Spacetime.'

Wap!

A strange sound rang out.

The death of Spacetime, a reflection of the Abyss and something Bai Yumo experienced countless times with his own body.

A single second could take years off one's lifespan. Time and space had long died, and the only thing remaining was a cheap imitation of their qualities.

He manifested this atmosphere in Grand Heavens Boundary, turning this area of the starry sky into a manifestation of the Abyss!

Damien's eyes widened.

'This...!'

He long understood how strange the Abyss could be, but feeling it was different.

Time and space weren't truly gone, merely present in a different form.

In a more vague form, as if they were still trying to become the concepts they were today.

This atmosphere enveloped Damien and clouded his senses with darkness. The surrounding abyssal tendrils became invisible in this air, their attacks completely unrecognizable.

Damien did his best to continue dodging.

His perception was cut to a point he didn't think possible, and he could no longer see Bai Yumo anymore.

From all sides, countless barrages of attacks swam towards his body.

Constructs of Abyssal Mana filled with concepts that made it up created a terrifying atmosphere that not many could survive!

The base of the Saint King's strength wasn't much different from Damien's.

Time and space were at its center, even samsara had a piece, but Bai Yumo had a specialization in death and destruction that Damien didn't possess.

When the human genius was sat in this execution ground, there was little he could do to evade!

Flash!

Damien teleported out of the center, unable to bear the pressure anymore.

However—

BOOM!

Damien's body reappeared directly in the path of an abyssal sword.

The sword crashed into his chest and exploded, filling his body with its energy.

"Khhh...!"

Damien gritted his teeth and endured. He used the Void Physique to clash against the mana, but against his expectations...

'What?! It's friendly?!'

The Void Physique did not try to remove the Abyssal Mana from his systems, but instead interacted with it like a close friend!

'No wonder it didn't react last time I fought the Saint King. The connection between the Abyss and the Void is a lot deeper than expected!'

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Damien was struck by several constructs one after the other.

Their mana coalesced and created a corrupted flow in his blood vessels that fought Transcendent Regeneration and even his bloodline abilities, forcing them to retract their fangs.

Damien's eyes narrowed.

'He's trying to get rid of my support systems before ending me.'

Bai Yumo's goal was simple. Last time, Damien won because he had more stamina. If that stamina was taken from him, the battlefield would be less than even, it would be in the Saint King's favor!

However, contrary to logical thought, Damien didn't try to get out of the attack range.

It wasn't because teleportation was failing him in this vague definition of space, but because he had an even better idea.

"Since you're coming, then do it properly!"

He shot through the air like a comet, straight towards the source of the constructs!

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

BOOOOOOOOOM!

Damien used his own mana to clash against the incoming wave. He got hit over and over again, his body was filled with Abyssal Mana, blood pooled in his mouth, but he didn't stop his ascent.

Outside the Dead Zone, Bai Yumo watched with widened eyes.

Was his enemy trying to kill himself already?!

Their battle had just begun!

'No, that man would not make such a stupid move. He must be—!'

Before his thought could finish, his eyes widened in horror.

From within that Dead Zone, a place he never should've been able to perceive, Damien was staring directly into his eyes,

His lips moved treacherously.

Bai Yumo read those lips.

"Found you."

Damien's expression twisted into a grin, and he disappeared.

CRASH!

Damien exploded with mana, filling the Dead Zone with his presence.

A bright starlight blue river glimmering with iridescent light appeared in the air, bringing a sense of stability into the chaotic area.

And with that correction, with the introduction of order, the Dead Zone shattered.

Damien appeared behind Bai Yumo once again.

His sword was already at the enemy's neck before anyone understood what was happening.

"I get it now," Damien said, his voice flowing into the Saint King's ears like the whispers of a Demon King.

"Your mana, I understand it."

'Void Sword Art Seventh Form: Supernova'

A nonsensically dense fluctuation of mana appeared far too close for Bai Yumo to be comfortable.

Along with those words, it was like his doom was guaranteed.

The entire starry sky was filled with bright white light. It shined so brightly that even the projections in the skies across Grand Heavens Boundary were blinded for a moment.

Damien felt his enemy's strength.

Now it was time for the enemy to feel his!

Chapter 1128 Fated Duel [3]

Bai Yumo definitely wasn't expecting what came next.

Damien completely let loose.

He put away Mirage and didn't draw the Twin Moons, using only his body to fight.

And...

The heights of his mana.

'Explode!'

With a single thought, he made the starry sky explode.

The Saint King's body shot through space with such speed that it became nothing more than a blur.

And Damien was practically an illusion.

BOOOOM!

His fist hit Bai Yumo's chest with the force of a thousand suns, shooting him deeper into the starry sky.

Spatial explosions hit him from every side and disallowed him from regaining his balance before Damien arrived before him again, hitting him with even more space.

BOOOOOOM!

Bai Yumo gritted his teeth after spitting out a mouthful of blood. He wasn't being injured very much by these attacks, but it was frustrating not being able to do anything in response!

He contemplated how to get himself back into the forefront and tried to gather his mana, but it was like Damien could read his every movement.

The second he tried anything, space and time would constrict him and negate his actions.

Crack!

The Saint King's body came to an abrupt stop. His bones shattered due to the displaced force, and his danger sense was ringing piercing alarm bells in his head.



Those amethyst-purple eyes appeared before him like the devil, answering their call.

"Have fun with this one."

Damien grinned and pulled his fist back, filling it with every law he knew.

'Chaotic punch...!? Forget the naming, I suck at it anyway.'

Damien was having a jolly old time, but it wasn't the same for his opponent.

The concept of distance was what trapped the Saint King.

His momentum didn't slow at any time, merely, space stretched to the point where his momentum could only carry him a few inches away at a time.

When that distortion was suddenly reversed, and Damien's attack added even more force into his motion...

BOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

It was like a slingshot.

Bai Yumo crashed through space with such force that he shattered it, but his trajectory was no longer so safe.

No, Damien was extremely particular about where he led his enemy before hitting him with such a move.

VOOM!

Bai Yumo's body caught fire as he entered the atmosphere of a dead star.

From the starry sky, Damien pushed his mana and controlled his own vectors, multiplying his weight a thousandfold.

He fell like an anchor, slamming his feet directly into Bai Yumo's chest.

That was the final piece of the puzzle.

With nothing he could possibly do, Bai Yumo crashed into the earth...

RUMBLE!

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

...no, he crashed through it.

"AAAARRRRRGH!"

Bai Yumo roared in pain.

Jagged rock cut into his body from all sides. Falling pieces of crumbling debris smashed into his chest with terrible force.

He went through every layer of the earth, crushing through molten lava and burning for a moment before almost colliding with the World Core itself.

However, how could Damien allow that?

Bai Yumo's trajectory begot him barely scratching by the World Core and crashing through the other side of its cave, cutting back into the starry sky!

He went through an entire planet.

He couldn't be fine after an impact like that.

His body was covered in bloody gashes, his internal systems were in complete disorder, and fatigue overcame him.

Damien was too much.

How could he do something so insane?!

However, Bai Yumo did not understand just how insane Damien could be.

Because by the time he came out the other side of the Dead Star...

"You...how...what?!"

Bai Yumo could not form words.

In front of his eyes was Damien with his arms above his head.

In his hands was an object, an object so big it was impossible for someone Damien's size to carry it.

An object gaseous in nature and seemingly impossible to grasp in this way.

Damien winked at the Saint King and threw that object.

Another bright light filled the starry sky.

Burning heat filled Bai Yumo's surroundings.

He rapidly moved his mana and set up as many defenses as he could.

This time, he truly needed to protect himself with everything he had!

Because just now, what Damien Void threw at him...

...was an entire living star!

\*\*\*

The sight of a man plucking a star from the depths of space and chucking it at his enemy was too much for many to process.

Across the universe, many wondered if this level of power was something a human could possess.

Extreme peak 4th class beings were powerful, so powerful that none under them could even hope to compete, however, that power usually never showed itself in this way.

After all, there were hardly ever situations where one could witness a star being manhandled in such a way.

Even for people at greater heights than Damien, such a feat was impossible.

Sometimes it was due to a weakness of the physical body, sometimes it was due to the nature of stars, but the main reason was one.

Stars were bound by the Universal Law.

As they had a purpose in the universe's expansion, it was difficult to pry them out of the universe's clutches to use as one pleased.

At most, one could conquer a star and utilize it that way.

However, Damien wasn't bound by the same laws as others.

In this instance, it was not the Void's contribution, but his own!

The Universal Law he worked so hard to comprehend even though everything was against him, the effects of his efforts were being witnessed here.

By countless quintillions of existences.

The great experts of the universe already saw Damien as a great hope for the future, but this move cemented his position as the greatest genius the universe had seen in a very long time.

His importance skyrocketed greatly, and he was essentially untouchable to most.

He was even being worshipped like a god in some places!

At the same time, a few Demigods were spurred on by his actions.

The plans they'd been slowly executing after a great amount of preparation needed to be moved forward expeditiously, both for the sides of good and evil.

In the ruins of Eden, a woman stood above the corrupted world Calypto.

She looked upon its surface, which looked uninhabitable by even the smallest of lifeforms.

Yet, from its surface, she felt a hidden vitality that couldn't be contained for much longer.

"This was done by him...?" She muttered into the void.

She was the last resident of this ruined domain.

She stayed because she felt hopeless in the face of the enemy.

She felt like her status as a Demigod was meaningless in the current world.

"However..."

She turned her attention to a projection hovering near her head.

In it, the so-called Saint King was being burned by the heat of a star.

"...perhaps it is time to rejoin the fray."

Her fighting spirit was lit flame by that child.

She was one of many, many who gave up on the universe before.

Perhaps they were wrong.

With a genius like that leading the charge...

...perhaps Grand Heavens Boundary had a chance of survival!

## Chapter 1129 Fated Duel [4]

It hurt.

Bai Yumo could hardly formulate thoughts in the blazing inferno that was the core of a living star.

His skin burned into black ink, which was incinerated instantly. His flesh and bones were slowly melting regardless of the protection he established through his mana.

"GRRRRAAAAAH!"

He let out a guttural roar as he tried to regain his senses.

Abyssal Mana filled the star, but it held no weight against the natural force within.

At least, not in its passive state.

"DAMMIT—!"

His words were muffled by the flames around him and sucked away with the air. His mind was still blurry, but the constant pain forced him to stay awake and allowed him to regain a portion of his faculties.

He was being watched by countless existences right now.

He was representing the entirety of his race!

He couldn't not...!

He could not fall so easily!

His voice came out in bursts through his gritted teeth. With all his power, he forced his jaw open and roared one more time.

"VOID...MANIFESTATION!"

VOOOOOOOOOOOM!

A sound like bass dropping echoed into the starry sky.

Pure blackness exploded out of Bai Yumo's body and instantly enveloped the core of the star.

The size of the mana cloud decreased over the span of a second, and in the next, it rushed back into the Saint King's body.

Whoosh!

Bai Yumo was graced with fresh air.

The core of the star had been...devoured.

Flames rushed to fill the hole he created in the same instant, but that single moment was all he needed.

'Begone!'

He pushed his arm out and the same black came out under his command, rushing through the flames and devouring everything in its path.



Bai Yumo flew through the gap and made his way out of the burning cloud that was once a star, but before he regained his sense of normalcy—

Thud!

Damien's fist flew into his face.

However, it was blocked by his own ragged arms.

This time, Bai Yumo was prepared!

His arms slashed out and grabbed Damien's neck so fast he couldn't react.

"Die, human!"

The Saint King angrily yelled and sent waves of mana into Damien's skin, mana which joined with the Abyssal Mana already clouding his system and ravaged his internal body.

Damien's eyes widened as sudden pain assailed him.

He rapidly isolated himself from the enemy with a thin layer of spatial mana and teleported himself out of his grip.

'Damn! He's still in fighting condition after that?!'

He cursed inwardly.

Bai Yumo didn't seem to have any outstanding regenerative abilities aside from his natural advantages, but he was sturdy enough to withstand that heat with his body until he could get rid of it.

He was injured, but only superficially.

By the last block alone, Damien understood these injuries meant nothing to him.

'How do I break him?'

This was Damien's thought as he charged back into battle and forced Bai Yumo into another melee.

Abyssal and Void Mana sparked through the starry sky. They flew hundreds of thousands of kilometers every second, moving in every direction as their fists hit each other's bodies.

It looked brutish, but the level of combat was far more sophisticated than one would expect.

After all, the two infused their every attack with law concepts!

Damien used everything he knew about Spacetime and Samsara against Bai Yumo, whose elements weren't named yet possessed equal and opposite qualities to his own.

Injuries started to accumulate.

Damien felt a great deal of stress on his bones that wasn't present usually, a consequence of all the foreign mana trapped in his body. His blood flow was slowed and his stamina took a huge hit, which essentially ruined his most prominent advantage.

Meanwhile, Bai Yumo's old injuries were aggravated to the fullest. His bones and flesh were already cracked and sundered, but every time Damien struck him, these injuries would burst open and fill him with waves of pain.

Yet, neither was willing to back down.

In fact, they only became fiercer with the passing of time!

'I can't beat him with universal power.'

This was what Damien learned throughout their exchange.

Whatever training Bai Yumo underwent in the time they hadn't seen each other turned him into someone who could perfectly counter Damien's Laws.

Their force might've been disproportionate, Damien was definitely stronger on paper, but in battle, he couldn't gain a proper advantage.

'Then...I have no choice.'

His eyes sharpened. His fists slowly filled with wisps of pitch-black mana.

If forces from within the universe didn't work, he had to use one that surpassed it!

Both the Breath of Nothingness and Breath of All Things combined into a single force. This force represented the height of Damien's Void comprehension, and it was at a level where he could hope it went undetected by the onlooking experts!

Bai Yumo felt the change.

Every time their bodies collided, he felt something elusive entering his body.

He couldn't sense it, nor could he locate it, but he could feel it intuitively.

'This is dangerous.'

He pushed back and tried to separate from their melee and return to ranged combat, but Damien wasn't about to let him.

Freya appeared in his right hand and fired several shots behind Bai Yumo, destroying the surrounding space and forcing him to stay within Damien's range.

A complex web of Dimensional Cages appeared next, and the Space-Time River finished off, sealing a large portion of space within Damien's dominion.

At a time like this, Void and Abyssal Mana had to be compared.

They looked almost like reflections of each other, but the Abyss was clearly a level lower.

One had to wonder if the Abyss was included in the forces that separated the universe from the Void, but this was far from the truth.

The Abyss, in Damien's observation of this mana, was literally a diluted manifestation of the Void.

The area outside Grand Heavens Boundary, which used to be an extension of the universe, was destroyed and became the Abyss.

The constant destruction and creation of universes.

This was what created such a twisted atmosphere like the Abyss.

And the Void that existed above universes as a concept naturally flowed its energy into these chaotic remains, slowly polluting them.

Damien didn't know how long it took, but one thing was for certain.

The Abyss was an area corrupted by the Void in the same way the Nox were trying to corrupt Grand Heavens Boundary.

Was it mere coincidence, or...?

BOOOOOOM!

Another massive explosion eclipsed the starry sky.

At this point, the battle had already gone on for an hour, full of back and forths and terrifying momentum that made it difficult to gauge who would come out as the final victor.

Considering how Damien and Bai Yumo were colliding tens of times per instant, the fact that they were still unable to gain an advantage over each other after this long was a surprise in itself.

Damien showed his worth many times to the point where even those who disliked him were forced to admit he was a genius.

Right now, the crowd's attention was on Bai Yumo.

The man who was able to stand up to a monster like Damien.

That man wasn't someone simple at all!

Chapter 1130 Fated Duel [5]

Dark clouds filled the sky. The earth was deathly and corroded, barely discolored from the blackness in the surroundings.

From every direction, sounds of madness could be heard. Just existing in this environment could drive an experienced practitioner mad.

This was the environment of Al'Katra, homeworld of the Nox.

In the sky below the dark clouds stood a man whose visage was hidden by their shadow, but his identity was not a mystery.

'The Saint Emperor.'

He didn't care about the man on the ground. He didn't care about what happened here. He stood there for one purpose.

He used his Demonic Providence to create an isolated space where "Law" became present in the Abyss.

This was the location of Bai Yumo's main training ground.

He barely had time to breathe, he barely had time to rest. He could barely heal from the injuries he accumulated before he was forced into another wave of training.

It was simple yet brutal.

It was training designed to kill a man's soul in exchange for power.

All he did was kill.

His power was restricted, but he still killed until he couldn't kill anymore, and then kept killing.

Lesser and Higher Nox alike charged him in droves of millions, intent on slaughtering and devouring him.

His only choice was to comprehend the Laws contained in this space.

If he did that, he could fight back.

This was what the Saint Emperor made him do.

For 350 years.

'I will kill you...I will kill you...I WILL KILL YOU!'

That was the only thought running through Bai Yumo's mind.

It was the very thought that allowed him to endure this hellish training for power.

The burning desire to slaughter the one who ruined his life.

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BOOM!

Two fists connected.

Space shattered to oblivion. The battle continued in the chaotic void.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Abyssal Mana created its own Spacetime that was shattered by a Spacetime created by Void Mana.

Damien's Samsara was cut off by Bai Yumo's.

Damien laced his attacks with Universal Law, abusing his territorial advantage.

With Universal Law behind them, his individual Laws became far greater than they usually could be.

It wasn't just Spacetime and Samsara.

Damien activated Elemental Wargod and brought the five elements into their collision, a force Bai Yumo didn't possess.

It definitely helped, but not enough.

The five elements weren't enough.

BOOOOOOOOOM!

This time, it was Damien's turn to be shot through a planet.

Broken debris of dead stars filled the space and were actively being controlled by the two combatants, who both barraged each other with their blunt force or used them for cover.

It wasn't just one or two stars that were destroyed in this collision.

Tens of uninhabitable worlds and three living stars were crushed to pieces, creating a scene of destruction that allowed the audience to understand how fearsome these powerful beings could be.

And outside their perception, Void and Abyssal Mana flowed through these two enemies' bodies.

Another half an hour passed.

In the end, it became a battle of attrition.

Only, Damien was no longer infinite, and Bai Yumo had the capacity to match his base mana capacity.



Black and red blood coalesced as they floated through the starry sky, creating an unnerving river.

If it was anyone but the two of them, they would have been crippled after so much damage.

But whether it was Damien or Bai Yumo, whether their bodies were shattered or torn, they kept going.

With only the goal of victory in mind!

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"There will be a being born in the near future, one with enough power to completely rid existence of balance."

The scene was once again the Abyss.

The speaker was once again the Saint Emperor.

This interaction happened several decades before Damien was born, when Bai Yumo himself was still a young boy.

He listened to the Saint Emperor's words with sharp eyes.

"That being will not be one of our own, but a product of our enemies. When the time comes, you will be the one to take his head."

The young Bai Yumo had a flame in his heart, a flame that was born when he was still young.

The target of that flame became clear before he even understood his sense of self, and over time, his hostility toward that man became the center of his identity.

He was raised as a tool for the purpose of killing one man.

Yet, when he finally met that man, he lost.

But...

The time he spent battling that man...

...why did it feel like a refreshing breath of fresh air away from the torture of his regular life?

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The fight continued.

Damien now held Mirage in his hand and had Absolute Mastery boosting his sword skill.

He stabbed, slashed, and parried with such precision that peak swordsmasters were learning from his movements.

Bai Yumo had no space at all. The most he could do was dodge and block, preserving his life to the best of his ability.

If the problem was merely Damien's power, he could compensate somehow, but there was Void Mana in his body making him unable to use most of his abilities.

For Damien, the mingling of Void and Abyssal Mana was perceived but not felt, because Void Mana was still the greater force.

When Void Mana met Abyssal Mana in Bai Yumo's body, their intermingling had a suppressive effect, as if his mana no longer wished to follow his command.

It was a situation Damien experienced constantly through the Void Physique, but for most, the feeling of mana acting as if it was sentient was completely unheard of!

'Think. Think. Think.'

He'd been preparing for centuries for this battle. He prepared for centuries for the first. He couldn't lose both.

'Think. Think. Think.'

Void Manifestation, his Demonic Providence, was powerful enough to save him from this situation, but he was certain it would completely consume his mind if he let it out.

'Think. Think. Thi—'

Shiiiiing!

Damien's sword approached dangerously close to his neck before he could move out of the way. A line of blood surfaced on his skin.

'Think, goddamnit, think!'

There were no other options.

He had no choice but to use his final trump card.

Even if it meant crippling himself in the process!

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The Nox were belligerent and uncultured in the perception of all, but they were not all as such.

Some emulated the facets of human society, such as family and community.

The Nox were able to reproduce with each other, but the result of those unions wasn't much better than the products created by Al'Katra. The only difference was they had more talent and supportive backing, which allowed them to gain sentience at a faster rate and in a more controlled environment.

One of such societies existed in a secluded corner of Al'Katra, hidden from the chaos of the world's surface.

And at this moment, it was left in ruins.

All beings living in that community decorated its streets as stains of black ink. Their bodies were merging through the Nox's natural rebirth process that would turn them into a super soldier puppet for their superiors to command.

In the midst of this broken society, only a group of six children survived.

Under the guidance of their elders, they'd gained sentience at a young age, something that was detrimental to them in this moment.

Because their horrified eyes had the intelligence to look at the man who caused this traumatic scene.

The man standing in the sky with his face hidden in the shadows cast by the dark clouds above.