

Abyssal 251

Chapter 251 - My Word Is Law

"Zatiel!"

"Master!"

"Father!"

Cries of anguish were heard the moment Zatiel disappeared. The pain and hate in them would make anyone shudder.

However, the expression in the faces of the Soul Forging existences of the Heavenly race, especially in the dukes, was one of pure bliss.

'Yes, we did it, we have captured the Taboo Existence!' Oliver could not be happier and he felt an immense weight drop from his shoulders.

This scheme was not done hastily and many backup plans had been prepared to handle any possible contingency. Those black spheres, asphalt armors, and the other tools they created for this mission were extremely expensive and time-consuming. They were forced to postpone other projects to have them for this task.

After the Sage told them Zatiel's identity, the dukes understood the importance of capturing him, and they even went to the extremes of using the Mirror of Falsehood to make sure they did not make a mistake.

'We have not finished yet, I doubt they would be able to notice Vermeil, but it is better to be safe than sorry. Oliver, make sure to maintain the pressure over the Magi and Tomas prepare yourself to handle the swordsman.' The voice of the Angelic Paragon with crystal wings sounded in the mind of two dukes and they nodded before adopting a serious expression.

Despite the tone of the woman, she was very confident in their victory. The black gas still had their opponents suppressed and even if they managed to free themselves, they would have to face Oliver and the rest of the Soul Forging existences of the Heavenly race.

As for Heinz, even though he had fused with his Law Avatar, the time that he would be able to stay in this world would be too little to make significant damage, not to mention he was not the only one who could enter that state.

She was focused on Heinz and there was a smile on her face as she saw the expression the Cultivator made when he realized that he failed to rescue Zatiel.

'Let's see how you face that failure' The Angelic Paragon had done thorough research on Heinz and naturally found out he was a Cultivator.

Those who stand out on this path could jump levels in battle power without the need of a bloodline. Most of their power comes from their Dao Heart that grants them amazing comprehension abilities.

But this heaven-defying talent was a double edge sword and the number of Cultivators who found their Dao Heart crumbling when they faced an immense setback was not small.

'Brother.' Heinz's eyes widened when he saw Zatiel's smile and heard his farewell. It was clear that the Neo-Demon did not blame him for not saving him, but that only made the pain he felt even more strong.

He remembered the first time he saw Zatiel. He had been a kind person in his youth and the number of friends he had made when he was weak was not small but as he advanced through the Ranks and the others lagged behind, their relationships deteriorated since even if Heinz did not behave differently, the rest did it.

Some attempted to maintain their relationship only to profit from his power, but the Cultivator could see past their facade and did not bother with them.

That is why Heinz was so surprised and happy when he found a Rank 1 life form who did not feel fear or nervous when he was in front of him and even went to the point of classifying those who followed his path as lunatics.

The Cultivator had long ago understood that Zatiel's true identity was a very special one, but none of that mattered to him because he had come to think of him as a true life and death brother, someone he would follow to hell.

As those emotions were filling Heinz's mind, his sight fell in the Angelic Paragon with wings made of mud.

All of the guilt and reproach in the Cultivator's mind transformed in a single thought, one so potent and strong that permeated his True Soul.

'Kill them all!'

Heinz's Dao Heart trembled and a red seed was formed in it. This seed contained all of Heinz's brotherly love, uncontrollable wrath, and desire to slaughter.

The same seed also appeared around his True Soul and started to circle it. This was not made by emotions but of laws, more specifically the Law of Killing.

The changes in Heinz took a long time to say but it happened in less than an instant and the next second, a red aura that made the continent tremble was released from the Cultivator's body.

Not just the warriors of the Heavenly race but even Zitro, Nero, Totto, and the others felt fear due to the monstrous killing intent they felt from Heinz.

The moment that seed appeared around his True Soul, Heinz's face became emotionless but the coldness in his eyes was so great that it altered the environment around him.

Maverick saw those eyes, and even though he had come with the mentality to sacrifice his life to fulfill this mission, right now an uncontrollable terror made his heart tremble and the only thing he wanted to do was run.

Unfortunately for him, the killing god in front of him had other plans.

"DIE" Heinz did not attack the Angelic Paragon and just spoke that word but all the Rank 4 life forms were able to feel how that word stirred the laws in the world.

An unfathomable force assaulted the Maverick and the mysticism in it was so deep that his artifact armor was not able to react to it. His body trembled and in the next second, his eyes lost their bright and although his heart still beat, he had died.

Red threads had invaded the consciousness of the Angelic Paragon and advanced to his True Soul where they shattered it to the point that it was pulverized.

Everyone, from the weakest warrior protecting the magic tower to the Soul Forging existence in the sky, was startled and they could not believe what they just saw.

Heinz used one word to shatter the True Soul of a Rank 4 life form!.

"Impo... impossible! how could he... how could he do something like that." The shock in the Angelic Paragon with wings made of crystal was the strongest of all.

She understood that what the Cultivator did was to communicate with the Law of Killing of the Beta Heavenly World and command it to kill the Angelic Paragon.

That ability was known by many powerhouses at the Soul Law Domain Rank as 'My word is Law' and it means one thing.

Heinz had reached the 'Minor Completion' level over the Law of Killing!.

Her master was a Rank 6 life form and she understood very well how impressive and difficult reaching the 'Minor Completion' level was. In the Heavenly race, there is only one kind that is capable of reaching that level at Rank 4, the Archangels.

Reach the Initial level as a Soul Forging existence was impressive, but not that uncommon in High World with Emperor bloodlines, but the 'Minor Completion' level was entirely different.

The Law Engraving Rank is meant to help a life form reach a deeper connection with their laws by fusing them with their bodies, and advance past the 'Initial' level of law comprehension without this step, should only be possible for those with a Law Bloodline.

The woman did not have time to think about how this could happen as her entire body shivered when the Cultivator looked at her.

Heinz's heart was filled with killing intent and he was set on killing as many warriors of the Heavenly race as he could before the World Consciousness expelled him from this world but just as he was about to rise to the sky he froze.

When he killed the Angelic Paragon with wings made of mud the black fog he created disappeared and thanks to his control over the Law of Space, Heinz could feel a connection just where Zatiel had disappeared with a place thousands of kilometers away.

He closed his eyes and saw an Angelic Paragon with wings made of air flying as if life depended on it. He carried a dark cocoon on his hand and had the same asphalt armor and black fog around him that Maverick had.

'I can still save him!' Heinz's eyes glowed with excitement and a smile appeared on his face.

He looked at the sky once again and focused on the black gas.

"SHATTER" His voice created a red shock wave that destroyed the gas. The power in it was so great that it exploded the body of four Angels of Supremacy and wounded many others.

'Push them out of the force field and then go to this location, my brother is there.' A set of coordinates appeared on the mind of Zitra, Totto, and Nero.

The next moment, Heinz focused his power on the Law of Space and teleported.

Chapter 252 - Taboo Existences

The name of the Heavenly race's Soul Forging existence with crystal wings was Vapula. She was a general and disciple of the Soul Law Domain Angelic Paragon, Gonzo. Despite not having a title like Tomas and Oliver, her status was greater than both dukes since she was born in the Heavenly Creator World and not in a satellite world.

Her battle power was terrifying since not only her bloodline and talent were amazing, she has had all kinds of Path Techniques and miraculous drugs at her disposal since she was born. That, plus the guidance of a Rank 6 life form, made her unmatched in all the Middle and Low Worlds she fought in.

Vapula had commanded armies in many world invasions and had always fought in numerical disadvantage, using her race bloodline, better equipment, and knowledge to defeat the enemy.

When she arrived in this world and understood the events that led to the victory of the Magi invader force and the establishment of the Ten Tower Formation, Vapula immediately rebuked the dukes and did not make the smallest effort to hide her disdain.

The Angelic Paragon could not understand how they lost so badly when they were the defending party and outnumbered the enemy almost five to one. Vapula was certain that the next battle would end up in their absolute victory.

Unfortunately for her, the outcome was the complete opposite. The Everlasting Snake Runic Set was shattered and she had lost more than one-third of the forty thousand warriors under her command as well as over half of those who had the Origin Runic Set engraved in them.

Even with her experience, she did not understand how things could have gone so wrong. But that changed when Tomas and Oliver shared with her a shocking piece of news.

The man that gave the order to butcher thousands of her people even after she told him to stop and threatened Oliver with a future worse than death, Zatiel Daybreak, was a Taboo Existence.

Vapula was surprised that the duo even knew that title, after all, the only reason she recognizes it was due to her master and it was normal for even Rank 5 life form from high worlds to not know it.

The duo explained to her that they got the information from a man who wanted to ally with them against Zatiel and that he was an enemy of his past life, the Sage. Even though Vapula disdained the act of interacting with animals, she was able to accept it in this case since if what they say is true, then her opponent was an incredibly difficult foe.

Taboo Existences were beings that could break the balance of any war in a Middle or Low World. It referred to those whose true identity was that of a Soul Law Domain life form that was forced to reincarnate.

A Rank 6 life form could live hundreds of thousands of years, and if they had domain over laws like the Law of Life or the Law of Death, then they could easily live more than one million years.

They are beings who had the power to destroy moons with their bare hands and shatter the sky. They would not allow their souls to dissipate just because their life spans were coming to an end, so they would normally use all kinds of arcane magic to undergo rebirth and start over.

The reason why their title had the word taboo, was because most Rank 6 life forms forbid to talk about anything related to them. This was a tactical agreement between Soul Law Domain existences since none of them knew if they would be the next ones to be forced to reincarnate and start all over again as a weak life form.

Although many Rank 6 life forms would attempt to take this path at the end of their lives, the amount that truly manages to reincarnate is beneath 0.1%. Most end up fused with the Eternal River of the Afterlife and cease to exist.

The Sage had given them a plan as well many diagrams for powerful tools useful for the task and when Tomas and Oliver showed them to her, Vapula felt conflicted.

She despised from the bottom of her soul every life form that was not a member of the Heavenly race but the plan of the Sage was impeccable and she could not think of a way to improve it, so in the end, they went with it.

He also advised them to use the Mirror of Falsehood. That was a powerful artifact of the Heavenly race and to activate not only it needed an immense amount of magic crystals but also sacrifice tens of millions of souls.

Neither Vapula nor the dukes cared too much about the souls since the world was full of "beasts" they could sacrifice but the number of magic crystals it consumed was enough to buy a Rank 6 artifact.

In the end, Vapula accepted the Sage's advice since Taboo Existences were known to be extremely cunning and difficult to kill.

The Mirror of Falsehood allows the user to see the true nature of an individual, so they were sure that the man that appeared with the army was Zatiel.

The plan went without a major problem at the beginning and even though Heinz had managed to avoid being suppressed by the black gas, Vapula knew that it would be useless since Zatiel would be teleported away.

When she saw Zatiel disappear, she could not help but felt ecstatic in her heart. Only the most impressive Rank 6 life forms can successfully reincarnate and their knowledge was something she could not even fantasize. Vapula was sure that without Zatiel, the Magi invader force would eventually crumble apart, especially after she attacked their weak points using the information she would get.

What they should have done according to the plan was to leave the force field, and then she and Tomas would face the enraged Cultivator. She was confident in her power and with the help of the duke, she was sure they wouldn't only be able to hold on against Heinz, maybe they could defeat him.

In case Heinz managed to find out the location of Zatiel and went after him, the plan of the Sage also covered that. Vapula admitted that the man had planned for any possible contingency.

But the impossible happened.

Heinz's wrath and pain acted as a catalyst and helped his Dao Heart to push his comprehension over the Law of Killing to the 'Minor Completion' level.

The Cultivator's battle power reached a whole new level, after all, he could now communicate with the Law of Killing in the entire world and borrow its strength. She knew that is only one of the many benefits that reaching that level would grant him.

He killed a life form with an Emperor bloodline with a single word, and although the man was a new Rank 4 life form and had just started to temper his True Soul, it was still an amazing feat. Heinz then destroyed the black gas and freed his comrades, not without killing four Angels of Supremacy and wounding many others in the process.

When Vapula saw him disappear, she knew perfectly well where he headed and her eyes filled with hesitation. Heinz's power was too shocking and even a true Rank 5 life form would have to be very careful when he faced him.

'If we were in the void or inside a High World, then going against him would be suicide, but here things different. His power is high enough to devastate this continent with a single attack and the World Consciousness will expel him in a matter of seconds. We can still win.' Whether it was due to pride or courage, she had decided to go against Heinz.

'Tomas, let's go after him, we need to make sure Vermeil escapes this continent with the Taboo Existence. Oliver, maintain the Magi at bay for ten minutes, then retreat, remember they cannot leave before that' Vapula finished speaking and then took a black crystal from her personal storage space and shattered it which made her disappear.

Tomas' eyes twitched when he saw the woman leave and black tendrils so thin that they were invisible appeared on the duke's eyes before he also used a black crystal and went after Heinz.

When the Magi saw the disappearance of the two most powerful enemies, smiles appeared on their faces and they attacked with everything they had.

Zitra, Totto, and Nero were the most brutal of all. Their attacks were filled with murdering intent. They had to get rid of the members of the Heavenly race and then go where Zatiel was to help him.

Chapter 253 - The Fall Of A Genius

Vermeil flew as hard as he could and you could see how the asphalt armor around his body improved his speed while it sucked his life force. He grabbed a black cocoon and his eyes were filled with resolution.

He was not told why this person was so important, but the dukes and Vapula had stated that if they wanted to win the war and obtain revenge for the hundreds of thousands of members of the Heavenly race that had died under the Magi invader force, he was the key.

Like the rest of his people, Vermeil felt nothing but revulsion to members of other races, but he cherished every one of his comrades. When he saw their bodies impaled and faces disfigured by the pain they felt before dying, the anger in his heart was high enough that he would not hesitate to give his life to obtain retribution.

The moment he got the package, his mission was to leave the Fornes continent and reach the headquarters of the Heavenly race in the Vixus continent. The defenses of the headquarters are so high that it would be impossible for the Magi to rescue this person.

The dukes and Vapula had told him that there is a great possibility his involvement is not detected by the enemy. However, less than a couple of seconds after he got the cocoon, he felt a presence appear in the distance and fear filled his heart.

Without hesitation, he allowed the asphalt armor to burn even more of his life force which pushed his speed to the next level.

Heinz had appeared more than one hundred kilometers away from the Angelic Paragon with wings made of air. The black fog around the man affected space and made it impossible for him to reach his side by teleportation.

The distance between him and the Angelic Paragon could be covered in an instant by Heinz, who had fused with a Law Avatar that had the Law of Space in it. But he did not need to do it, since when his Law of Killing reached the 'Minor Completion' level, his control over his energy had a qualitative improvement.

As Heinz prepared to launch a sword strike and kill the Angelic Paragon, he felt a disturbance in space, and then he saw hundreds of black and white sword beams fell from the sky as if they were stars that descended from the firmament, and they converged in his direction.

The power in each of those beams was immense and they could severely harm or even kill a Rank 4 life form.

The Cultivator's eyes became cold as he saw Tomas' black and white figure in the sky but his mind was calm. Ever since that seed made of the Law of Killing appeared around his True Soul, he felt great control over his emotions.

Heinz did not attempt to dodge those beams, instead, he flew up to face them, and just as they were about to clash, the red aura around his body became more potent and he shouted.

"SHATTER"

That word released a red shock wave that impacted Tomas' attack and although it did not break them, it destabilized and erased a great amount of its power.

The moment Heinz's sword collided against the black and white stars, it created an immense explosion that made the continent tremble and storms rage for thousands of kilometers. This was the collateral damage made by the clash between Rank 5 life forms.

Tomas was surprised when he saw Heinz's direct approach. He had hoped the Cultivator would attempt to dodge his attacks since that would have taken longer and greatly diminished the amount of time he had in the world.

When the duke saw Heinz's figure being swallowed by that explosion, he could not help but felt hopeful that it would be enough to stop him for a moment.

The result, however, was the complete opposite since Heinz exited the explosion immediately and rose at an immense speed until he was right in front of Tomas. His sword carried violent and heavy energy as it was strengthened by the Law of Killing of the world.

The duke's eyes widened when he saw the sword and dread filled his heart when all of a sudden his eyes filled with boiling asphalt and an invisible force was released from them.

The moment those eyes appeared, Heinz felt malignant power assault his True Soul. It was undodgeable and it attempted to force the Cultivator into a nightmarish plane.

Heinz's strength had reached Rank 5 but his True Soul was still that of a Rank 4 life form, so this type of attack should have been very effective against someone like him.

However, just as that dangerous energy appeared, the seed made of killing intent released an immense power that fought back against it.

That was not all, since the figure of a Blood Ruby Centipede enveloped the True Soul of the Cultivator and protected him from the damage.

He felt as if his head was being split apart, but was able to resist the pain and hacked at the Angelic Paragon in front of him.

Tomas did not understand why Heinz's attack was delayed but he used the time to form a shield with his wings.

The wings of a Rank 4 Angelic Paragon were extremely resilient and could compare to an artifact, but the offensive power in the sword was incredible after it was enhanced by the Law of Killing.

Under the shocked sight of Tomas, the sword cut his wing before sending him like a cannonball to the ground.

The duke screams of pain filled the sky and jets of blood were fired everywhere from his severed wings.

Heinz did not waste time with Tomas and focused on the Angelic Paragon with wings of air.

From his surroundings, threads of red aura appeared and they gathered in his sword. The energy in the weapon increased tremendously and yet it had an obscure nature that made it almost impossible to perceive.

Heinz fired a beam of sword light at Vermeil. The Angelic Paragon felt death approaching him but could not detect the attack so it was impossible for him to dodge or block it.

Luckily for Vermeil, a colossal crystal snake appeared between him and the sword beam. In the snake's body, there were runic lines inscribed and they glowed making a white shield appear in front of her.

The crystal snake was Vapula after having fused with her Law Avatar and the rune was her most valuable possession. Even though it was not a runic set, it was still a Rank 4 rune with great defensive might.

The sword beam clashed against the white shield and the sound the impact produced made it seem as if the sky was falling apart.

The white shield was very sturdy, but the offensive power in the Law of Killing was one of the highest that exists, so in less than a second it crumbled, but not without reducing a considerable amount of strength in Heinz's attack.

The crystal snake roared as it clashed against the sword beam. Deep injuries appeared around her body and she was pushed backward until almost clashing against Vermeil.

'How can his offensive power be so high!' Vapula was startled and she knew that if it was not for the white shield, her condition would have been much worse.

Heinz's eyes filled with killing intent as he saw the crystal snake stop him from saving Zatiel. He already felt the power of the World Consciousness acting around him and he was about to be expelled from this world any second now.

The Cultivator knew that as long he killed that Angelic Paragon with wings of air, he along with Tomas and Vapula would be expelled from this world, leaving the black cocoon that contained Zatiel alone.

Zitra, Totto, and Nero would arrive in this place at any moment and they could save Zatiel before the Heavenly race got hold of him.

He raised his sword and gathered the power of the Law of Killing in it before making his blood energy explode in his arms and back, increasing his physical might.

The moment the sword fell, a thin but immensely powerful sword light was fired at Vermeil. The crystal snake was still in the path, but Heinz was confident that Vapula would not sacrifice her life just to capture Zatiel.

Heinz was right and when the woman saw that sword strike, she was going to exit the world to evade that attack.

'I guess we have failed.' Vapula felt an immense sense of failure but she was not willing to lose his life here.

However just as she was about to stop resisting the expulsion force of the World Consciousness, she felt a malignant power converging on her and attacking her True Soul.

She focused on the direction where that power came and saw Tomas looking at her. The eyes of the dukes were filled with boiling asphalt that fell from his eyes like tears

The power in those eyes was too high for the woman and she lost control of her body and soul for a moment. Vapula should have been able to free herself after a couple of seconds but Heinz's sword light clashed on her in the next instant.

Tomas' attack had weaned her defenses so when the sword light landed on the crystal snake, her entire body and True Soul were shattered.

"NO!" Heinz was shocked when he saw how the woman had apparently chosen to die rather than allow him to save Zatiel. He saw how the Angelic Paragon with wings of air disappeared in the distance but there was nothing he could do to stop him as he could no longer resist and was expelled from the world.

Chapter 254 - Problem With The Soul

Oliver and the rest of the Soul Forging existences of the Heavenly race flew through the Fornes continent and all of them, even the duke, had a dispirited expression. Their speed was slow, mostly because they were very tired and injured.

The reason for the gloom aura around them, despite having completed their core mission, was the number of casualties.

After Tomas and Vapula went after Heinz, to stop him from saving Zatiel, only forty-one Rank 4 warriors remained to face the Magi invader force.

They had just lost four comrades to Heinz's shout, most of them were filled with injuries, and killing energy had invaded their bodies so when they faced a group of warriors who were fired up after their leader reached a level where he could kill Rank 4 life forms with a word, the outcome was obvious.

Vapula had ordered them to resist the enemy for ten minutes and that was inside the Second Layer where their powers were weakened. Oliver knew that as long as they remained in the force field, the Magi would not risk reducing their numbers and put the thousands of warriors and the magic tower beneath them in danger.

But the moment they were pushed out of the force field, it would be very easy for Nero with his immense power or Zittra with her Law of Shadows to go after Zatiel and let the rest to stop them from getting anywhere near the tower.

Not to mention that just running away without a strategy would leave them exposed to a barrage of attacks, so under the guidance of the duke, they slowly made a tactical retreat while making sure to maintain the pressure on the Magi invader force.

In the end, three Angels of Supremacy and one Angelic Paragon died, while eight others had lost their bodies and only their True Souls managed to escape.

Oliver knew that their casualties did not end up there. Tomas had informed him, just before he was expelled from the world, that Vapula had died. According to Tomas, the Angelic Paragon with wings of crystal fell because she underestimated Heinz's power, and by the time she wanted to escape it was too late.

Tomas' message sounded sincere and the truth was that in his mind that was exactly what happened.

The group continued flying for a long time until they reached a castle on the north of the continent. In this place, there was a teleportation formation that would bring them into the Vixus continent.

Vermeil's mission would have been much easier if a teleportation formation was in place just beside him the moment he got Zatiel, but unless you are an Origin Runemaster with a certain domain over the Law of Space, building a formation like that out of nowhere was not realistic.

As for creating a castle with the capacity to do something like that in secrecy, that was impossible. Heinz could have detected it very easily, thanks to the disturbance in space that those facilities created.

'Our losses were great and we will have to respond to Lord Gonzo for the demise of Vapula, but still, we obtained the Taboo Existence and once we open up his head and obtain his knowledge, everything will improve.' That thought was the only thing that recomforted Oliver.

The moment Oliver reached the castle, he immediately used the teleportation formation and traveled to Saint City in the Vixus continent, where the headquarters of the Heavenly race was.

In an instant, the Angelic Paragon reached a city full of life where thousands of members of the Heavenly race resided.

There were huge buildings all over the place where people talked and discussed important topics. Many of the members of the Heavenly race in this place gave an erudite aura.

The entire city was spotless and its walls were completely white.

There was an immense castle in the center of the city from which giant wings came out, and each of them released an immense sense of power.

Of course, this was only the visible face of Sain City. The sewers were filled with natives who were forced to perform all types of menial tasks. Their lives were pitiful and death occurred almost every single day, many times for starvation.

Oliver appeared at the entrance of the city. Teleportation was blocked in every part of the city other than that place, for safety measures.

From the winged castle, a force was released that examined the duke. If something wrong was detected with him, the wings would kill the Angelic Paragon.

After the scan was over, the duke flew to the winged castle and it only took him a moment to reach it. Oliver frowned when he saw a plump man with four wings made of leaves waiting for him at the entrance of the castle.

The Angel of Supremacy had a troubled expression and there was an unconscious man on his hand.

The unconscious man was Zatiel, who no longer was covered by a cocoon made of boiling asphalt, and on his face, there was still that glorious smile he gave to Heinz and the rest before disappearing.

The duke knew very well the Angel of Supremacy that was holding Zatiel. His name was Pipit and was posted in Sain City to take care of any unforeseen problem. Although he was not very powerful, his bloodline gave him extraordinary healing abilities and with the great formations of the city, he could face dozens of Rank 4 life forms on his own.

Vermeil had given him the cocoon to Pipit. The Angel of Supremacy was tasked to probe the state of Zatiel and make sure there was nothing wrong with him.

The moment the plump man saw Oliver, he immediately went to him and performed a bow.

"Speak, what is the problem?" Oliver could see that the Angel of Supremacy had something he wanted to share.

"Duke Oliver, as you commanded I performed a thorough check on the target the moment Vermeil handed him over to me. He is unconscious now and the black energy froze his consciousness and body, making it impossible for him to commit suicide, but there is a serious problem with his soul."

"What, that is impossible!. The Mirror of Falsehood clearly stated that he was Zatiel Daybreak, not even a Rank 6 life form could hide from its powers." Oliver became incredibly anxious. If all the hard work and sacrifice they endured was for nothing, the duke did not know what he would do.

Black tendrils, so thin that they were invisible for a Rank 4 life form, appeared in the eyes of the duke when he got that news. Those were the same tendrils that appeared before on Tomas when this one went to battle against Heinz.

"No my lord, that is not what I meant. His soul is the same that appeared in the person who broke the Origin Runic Set. The problem is that his soul is extremely weak, so if we manipulate it in any way, it will crumble. There is also a problem with the runes he has inscribed all over his head."

Pipit's expression clearly showed how problematic the situation was.

Oliver relaxed once he knew that this person was indeed Zatiel Daybreak, and although he found it very odd for his soul to be so weak, many explanations appeared on the mind of the duke. One could be that the technique that increased his power to the boundary of Rank 4, had damaged his soul.

The duke focused on the runes and signaled for Pipit to explain what happened with them.

"The runes are not just in his head, they are also inscribed directly in his brain. The moment we make any type of forceful intrusion on his brain or consciousness, the runes will activate and they will explode, killing him." The Angel of Supremacy could not understand why someone would do something like that to themselves. Even for a Rank 4 life form, the brain is an essential and very fragile organ and without it, although they would still live, their bodies would be useless.

Oliver frowned and felt a headache assaulting him as he attempted to figure out the best path forward.

Search his soul would be impossible since it would crumble before they could obtain any information. As for taking advantage of the fact that he was still a biological life form and messing with his brain to make him answer their questions, the runes blocked that method.

When the duke saw Zatiel smile, he could not help but to think he was mocking him.

Chapter 255 - The Silent House

Those measures made clear that Zatiel was prepared in case of being captured. Oliver was not that surprised since the Sage informed him that Taboo Existences are very cunning and had means he could not even imagine, after all, they were able to cheat death and reincarnate.

'No matter how powerful or resourceful you were in your previous life, now you are under our control' There was a cold light in Oliver's eyes as he saw Zatiel's smile.

"Is there a way to deactivate the runes without killing him?"

"I am sorry my Lord but although I have knowledge about rune crafting, these runes are not only extremely complex, they are also made with a wild and chaotic type of blood that has very volatile

properties. We need the help of an Origin Runemaster and even then I am not sure if it would be enough. We should ask Lady Vapula for assistance."

Oliver frowned when he heard that. Obtaining Vapula's help was impossible unless they could retrieve the pieces of her soul from the Eternal River of the Afterlife and then use the power of a Being of Laws to revive her.

The Heavenly race was very powerful and their civilization extremely old, but even to them, Origin Runemasters were rare and there was not a single one in the Beta Heavenly World.

"Lady Vapula's injuries during the battle against the swordsman were too severe so she was forced to return to the Heavenly Creator World to heal."

Tomas and Oliver had decided to maintain Vapula demise as a secret after all she was the discipline of a Rank 6 life form and an Origin Runemaster. The problems they would have once Gonzo finds out about her death would be grave, to say the least.

The duke had contacted Vermeil to make sure he remained silent since he was the only one besides Oliver and Tomas who knew about her death.

Pipit found Oliver's explanation very odd since if Vapula had returned to the Heavenly Creator World, she should have used the World Gate that was in Sain City and he would have found out. He did not dare to question the duke, after all, he was only an Angel of Supremacy, and defying the words of an Angelic Paragon would be enough to mark him as a Fallen.

"Since we cannot search his soul or meddle with his consciousness or brain, then we will have to adopt a more crude approach. Take him to Finibus, I don't care what methods he uses, just make sure he doesn't kill him and that he can still answer questions."

When Pipit heard Oliver command, he started to curse his luck.

'I will have to spend my days in that hell hole with that oddball.'

Of course, the Angel of Supremacy did not show his feelings and as soon he got the order he bowed at Oliver. "I will follow your command, my Lord."

"I need to recover from my wounds so unless it is an emergency do not disturb me. I will go after a few days to see how much you have advanced, do not disappoint me!." Oliver gave one last look at Zatiel and the anger on his heart grew as he saw that smile.

Pipit bowed as Oliver left and after releasing a sigh, he flew away carrying Zatiel on his hand. The plump man headed for a warehouse that was in a desolate area of the city.

The moment Pipit was less than ten meters away from the warehouse, the Angel of Supremacy felt as if he had passed through an invisible shield and immediately cries of unbearable agony reached his ears.

The expression of the plump man did not change when he heard those noises. He reached the doors of the warehouse and then he opened them.

The view in front of him displayed a level of depravity that you could only expect to see in the darkest circle of Baator or the deepest layer of the Abyss.

Hundreds of people, many of them little children, hanged from the ceiling thanks to chains that had pierced their bodies. Some of them cried due to the agony they felt while others were already too weak to even scream and you barely heard them beg for death.

There was a giant pot with boiling oil and you could see body parts in it that were too tiny for them to be of young children. Bubbles of air could be seen coming out from the oil meaning that recently someone had been thrown in there.

In a corner of the warehouse, there were piles of detached extremities. Some of them seem to have been sawed while others were ripped by force. There were monstrous and deformed rats the size of dogs that devoured them.

Cages full of living people were all over the warehouse. Many of them had already gone crazy due to the psychological torture they have endured. They all had magic collars that stopped them from killing themselves.

This place was known as the Silent House and is where some members of the Heavenly race come to satiate some of their darkest desires. Many of them spend little time in it but there is one who stays almost every day here.

That man was now in the center of the warehouse and was working. He was an Angelic Paragon and his wings were made of tiny blades.

Pipit felt nothing for the people he saw enduring such torture, after all, in his mind, they were nothing more than animals. The reason why he did not like to be here was the filth.

When he saw the man working, he chose to wait until he finished since he knew that Finibus would be very angry if he was interrupted while he created one of his "artworks".

Although Oliver had given them just a couple of days before he would come to check their progress, a few minutes of delay would not make a difference.

The Angelic Paragon had a living man lying on his belly in the ground. Finibus used his wings to tear through the flesh in the man's back. He did it with such power that he severed the ribs.

The man cried miserably while this happened. When Finibus heard that, zeal appeared on his eyes, and then he pulled and stretched the ribs outwards, like wings. After that, he removed the man's lungs through his back and wrapped them over the rib wings.

Finibus waved his hand and chains bound around the wrist of the screaming man rose him in the air.

The Angelic Paragon observed the scene in front of him with piety as if he was seeing something holy but there was also a wicked smile on his face that gave a unique contrast.

When Pipit saw that Finibus had finished, he came closer to the man.

"I still cannot understand why you do this type of thing. It is just a waste of type if you ask me. If you want to make them suffer you can just chop them into pieces, there is no need to hang them like some sort of trophy"

"Hahaha, Pipit, my friend, torture them is truly pleasant, but the reason I do this type of rituals is to purge their sins so when they die, they are cleaned of their filth. Anyway, it has been a long time

since you came to the Silent House and it seems that you brought me a gift." Finibus gave an amicable smile to Pipit before he concentrated on Zatiel.

"Hmph, he is not one of your disposable toys. He is part of the Magi invader force and we need to break his will and make sure he responds to all of our questions. I will remain here with you to heal him and make sure he doesn't die due to the stress, so there is no need to contain yourself. I warn you, Lord Oliver gave us this mission and we can't fail, or else the consequences will be dire for both of us." There was a stern look in Pipit's face as he looked at Finibus.

"My friend, you offend me. Even those stern Fallen that fall in my hands do not withstand more than a couple of hours before they start to beg for death. With you helping me, breaking the will of this little doll will be a child's play, no matter how strong he is."

Chapter 256 - Kill You Here And Now

In the next couple of days, hell was unleashed in the Fornes continent for the Heavenly race and the numbers of deaths could be counted in the thousands.

Evacuations had been done a long time ago in some parts of the continent. Most of the population had moved to the north since currently, the middle of the continent was no man's land due to the threat of the Magi invader force.

There were a lot of small cities in the north that contained most of the evacuated people. Those who lived there were Rank 1 life forms so their military power was almost null and there was no real gain in destroying them.

If a group of Rank 3 Magi along with the rest of the Magi army were to attack them, the Soul Forging existences of the Heavenly race could easily intervene and kill the intruders. The only ones who could devastate those cities without the Heavenly race being able to stop them would be Rank 4 life forms, and they must either be very powerful or have laws that allow them to reach and leave those cities without being detected.

Most Rank 4 life forms would disdain such actions. They can kill hundreds or maybe thousands of Rank 1 life forms with one attack of their Law Avatars if they face them on the battlefield so hunting them was useless.

But it was clear that some members of the Magi invader force were furious by the acts of the Heavenly race and they had thrown civility away.

There was a small town with hundreds of Rank 1 Angels moving around. They were all preparing to move closer to Zenith City. In that city, there was a teleportation formation, so the Soul Forging existences of the Heavenly race could respond much faster to any type of incursion from the Magi.

Unfortunately for them, from the sky, a giant hand made of shadows filled with howling faces fell, and in an instant, the entire town was destroyed and all those who lived there were killed.

Totto and Zitra looked with coldness as the souls of hundreds of members of the Heavenly race shattered under the combined might of their attacks.

Zitra stared at the distance and felt the presence of several Rank 4 life form coming their way. She sneered before covering herself and the Lich in shadows.

Several hundred kilometers away from the dead town, from the shadow of a tree, the duo rose.

"There is another town not too far away, we should be able to reach it undetected in a couple of hours." The coldness in Zitra's heart was immense and no matter how many souls of members of the Heavenly race she broke, the thirst for revenge she felt did not diminish.

Totto just nodded and did not say a word but the killing intent in his eyes showed his feelings.

Just as they were about to leave they felt their communication crystals activate and when they took them out from their personal storage space, the voice of Ezequiel reached their minds.

"Lady Zitra and Mr. Totto, my Master, told me to ask you to come to the 11th tower, there is a message you need to receive. Do not share that information with anyone else. Other than you two and Heinz, only a few members of our clan received that information. Come as soon as you can."

Zitra's eyes shined and a beautiful smile appeared on her face while Totto started to laugh. In their minds, if Zatiel had left a message, it meant he had a way out of his predicament.

"Hahahaha, I knew that winged trash could not outsmart him."

Although he spoke those words, previously the Lich truly thought Zatiel was lost. With his mastery over necromancy and knowledge about the soul, he was sure that the one who was taken away was indeed the Neo-Demon and he could not think of a way to help him.

"We can't waste time, let's go." Zitra smiled and there was a peculiar light in her eyes.

'I still have time.' The Magus thought that, before waving her hand and disappearing along with the Lich in the shadows

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Oliver flew through the Saint City to the Silent House. Although that place was very far from the winged castle, it only took a couple of minutes for the duke to arrive since he used his maximum speed.

He was very angry since not only did he find out that thousands of his people had died in the Fornes continent, his wounds were more severe than he thought. Under his clothes, on his chest, there was a deep cut.

That injury was made by Zitra with a damaged dagger. She had channeled all of her energy and even burned a little of her life force to drive out the full power of her weapon.

The flesh and blood around that wound had been infected so the Angelic Paragon was forced to cut it off, and even then the injury did not heal, despite his great regeneration abilities and the purging effect his bloodline had over foreign energy.

The moment he passed through the invisible dome around the Silent House, cries of agony reached Oliver's ears, but that was not everything, he also was able to catch the conversation between two people.

"Come on! we have just started, why the long face. Don't tell you have reached your limit."

"Shut up"

"There is no need to behave like that. Where are all the spirit and stamina you showed the first day?."

"Shut up!"

"Hahahaha, you were so chatty at the start and now you can't handle a few words. I am honestly disappointed. When I first saw you I thought we could have a little fun but you give up so fast."

Although he could not recognize the voices due to the noise, it was clear to him that Zatiel had already reached his limit. A great smile appeared on Oliver's face, but the moment his consciousness entered the warehouse, it froze.

There was a young man nailed to a wooden board. The nails were the size of a baby arm and they pierced his body in multiple locations. His head was intact, but the rest of his body was a bloody mess.

His arms were twisted beyond recognition and pieces of his bones and muscles fell to the ground from time to time. His ribs were pulled outward and his guts were outside his body. His legs were shattered and flayed, huge worms ate pieces of them and left eggs inside.

In front of that young man, there was an Angelic Paragon and his wings were filled with blood.

What was truly absurd about this situation was that the young man whose body was destroyed was the one mocking the other party.

As Finibus heard Zatiel's laugh his body trembled due to the immense rage and impotence he felt. He had not even noticed Oliver's consciousness.

"I told you to shut up!" His wings headed to the place between Zatiel's legs and cut the thing that was resting there.

Zatiel saw his manhood fall to the ground, where it was devoured by rats. The only thing that scene produced on him was to make him laugh even harder.

"Hahahahaha! you know what they say, eunuchs have the most generous hearts and the purest of souls. Maybe I can now train in the Path of Buddhism and become a True Buddha." Zatiel's laughter filled the entire warehouse and it was so loud that it drowned the cries of pain.

In the next second, the doors of the warehouse were pushed with so much strength that they almost flew away and Oliver's figure appeared.

"Pipit, what is the meaning of this!" The face of the Angelic Paragon was twisted due to the immense wrath he felt and he yelled at the Angel of Supremacy that had just sent a healing spell to stop Zatiel's bleeding.

Pipit trembled when he heard Oliver shout his name and immediately went to him and bowed. Fear appeared on his eyes since he knew he had failed the mission the duke gave him. He thought for a long time and chose his words carefully before speaking.

Although members of the Heavenly race would never kill each other, for some reason he could not explain, Pipit felt the threat of death looming over him.

"My Lord, I have analyzed his brain waves and I can say with complete certainty, that he is experiencing everything we have done to his body. I have used a spell to hyperactivate his pain receptors but even then no matter what we do to him, nothing works. I and Finibus have destroyed and rebuilt his body hundreds of times. The same procedure had been done in a Rank 4 Fallen once?in the past and that person broke before the third day ended."

Oliver was able to calm down for a moment when he heard those words, but his peace broke in the next second when he heard Zatiel's voice.

"Winged rat, don't be too tough on them, after all, they are just amateurs. Don't worry, I am a professional and you and your loved ones will one day have the chance to experience my care."

The Angelic Paragon felt a level of wrath he did not believe possible. He flashed until he was in front of Zatiel and put his hand over his head.

"DO YOU THINK I WILL NOT KILL YOU HERE AND NOW!" Oliver only needed to release his energy and a jet of lava would destroy Zatiel's head and shatter his soul.

Even with death right in front of him, Zatiel continued to laugh. He pushed his head forward and stared right at Oliver's eyes.

"Do it, I dare you."

Chapter 257 - Half-Law Engraving

Oliver's rage was so great that at that moment the war between the Heavenly race and the Magi invader force had disappeared from his mind. The only thing he wanted was to kill the person who was responsible for all the pain and humiliation he had endured in the last couple of decades.

When he was about to disregard everything to obtain his vengeance, his eyelids shivered, and once again black tendrils appeared on his eyes. The arm of the Angelic Paragon that aimed at Zatiel and was about to release a jet of lava trembled but in the end, no attack came out.

Those tendrils were so thin that even for a Rank 4 life form, it was impossible to see them with their naked eye. If Pipit and Finibus used their consciousness to explore the body of the Angelic Paragon, they may detect something, but that would be equal to attacking the duke, so neither of them dared to do such a thing. The duo was kneeling in the ground, waiting for Oliver to speak.

Zatiel was different from them. The Neo-Demon still had a smile on his face and his eyes were filled with madness, but deep inside, his mind was extremely calm so he was able to feel it.

It lasted less than an instant but he detected another presence, one that made him feel true danger, looking at him through the eyes of the Angelic Paragon.

'Was he replaced? No, that is not it. The hate he displays against me is genuine so his soul is still there. It should be some type of high-level possession but if he controls a duke, why doesn't he show himself.'

Zatiel was sure that even though the state of his soul made it impossible for him to be soul searched and his runes stopped any attempt to infiltrate his brain or consciousness, unlike the Rank 4 members of the Heavenly race, the Sage would not be powerless against those countermeasures.

'No matter how paranoid or careful he is since he put so much effort into capturing me, he would definitely choose to do the interrogation himself, besides he must know that these people could

never make me talk. I don't know his power, but I am 99% percent sure he is not a Being of Laws so the most reasonable scenario is that controlling this duke did not come cheap. He must be recovering and left a piece of his consciousness in Oliver, that works based on preprogrammed commands not unlike my A.I. Chip.'

Although all those thoughts were just assumptions, Zatiel was sure that he was at least ninety percent right.

While Zatiel deduced the action of the puppeteer, the puppet strived to control his emotions.

Just when Oliver was about to kill Zatiel, a voice appeared on his mind that stopped him from disregarding the consequences of his actions. The marvelous of Sage's technique was that even though the Angelic Paragon felt as something affected his judgment, in his mind, that voice was his maturity guiding and stopping him from making a mistake.

His heart still was filled with wrath. The cries of the people around him only increased his rage and after a second, his wings unfolded, and the warehouse was filled with a river of magma.

The only space that the lava did not touch, was the area around Zatiel. Pipit and Finibus felt their skin burn and the heat was unbearable but they did not dare to complain.

If the Rank 4 life forms were affected, then there was no need to say that those people in the cages and hanging from the ceiling were reduced to ashes. To them, however, this was a release since it would be the last time they had to suffer.

Oliver gave one last look at Zatiel, before walking to the door. He moved through the lava and it was only when he was about to leave the warehouse that he spoke.

"Continue working. Either he breaks, or you two break" The duke did not even turn to look at the duo and flew away.

It was only when Oliver's figure disappeared in the distance did the lava vanish and showed the trembling duo, still kneeling in the ground.

Finibus and Pipit were afraid. Members of the Heavenly race would never harm each other. Some could be colder or distant but deep inside they treated every member of their race like a brother so the behavior of the duke terrified them.

Zatiel noticed this and understood what happened. No matter how perfect a possession technique is, they all had side effects. It was clear that Oliver's coldness and savagery were no longer restricted to beings of another race.

'I can use the fear and doubts of this duo, but I need to push their minds to the limit' Zatiel's smile grew wider and he started to devise a plan for his torturers.

"My friends do not waste time and get back to work. You two don't want the boss to get angry. Unless, of course, you plan to end up like me."

When Finibus and Pipit heard Zatiel's words, their eyes widened and their bodies trembled. They saw the condition of his body and their fear grew as they imagined something like that happening to them.

When Zatiel saw their expressions, he started to laugh due to the hilarious situation.

'I wonder how many victims of torture are capable of breaking the wills of their jailers?'

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Zitra and Totto rose from a shadow less than one thousand meters away from the 11th tower created by the Magi invader force.

They flew at full speed, so in less than five seconds they reached the first magic tower that was built after the Ten Tower Formation was completed.

This place had a couple of hundred Rank 2 life forms and two Rank 3 Magi. Their main job right now was to harvest the resources in the region around the tower.

There was no need for a Rank 4 life form to be present to protect the magic tower since its defenses were high enough to withstand the barrage of a Law Avatar for enough time for the Magi to use the teleportation formation and arrive at this place.

Not to mention that the force field of the Ten Tower Formation covered thousands of kilometers around it and it diminished the power of a Rank 4 life form by ninety percent.

In the sky above the tower, there was a man with short white hair wearing a black martial robe. His eyes displayed a will that would not bend or break even if the world shattered in front of him, and they released small arcs of red lightning.

His back was broad and his arms and legs were filled with muscles that contained an explosive force. This man's body could be described as the embodiment of strength and it released a sense of harmony as if the core powers of a life form inside him strived to become a single essence.

His temperament was born of hardship, constant struggle, and an unwavering thirst for power. Most Soul Forging existences would shame themselves if they compared with this person.

Ezequiel had been waiting here for Heinz, Totto, and Zitra. Behind the Supreme Neo-Demon, there were Dante, Kilo, and Rax.

The moment the Magus and Lich reached Ezequiel, space fluctuated and Heinz's figure appeared. The duo was surprised when they saw the Cultivator since they could not feel his power. It was clear to them that Heinz's strength had obtained a qualitative improvement and the difference with theirs was so high, that they could not even detect it.

"You say my brother has left a message for us, what is it?" Heinz's face was a little pale due to the backlash of fusing with his Law Avatar but the damage was small this time. His body was very strong due to the Blood Demodand Technique and his True Soul had the assistance of Juntu's soul and his seed made of the Law of Killing.

He went to Saint City but after countless plans, he concluded that he couldn't face that winged castle before reaching Rank 5. Unfortunately, by then he would no longer be able to stay in the Beta Heavenly World.

Heinz hoped that Zatiel had left a plan they could use to help him and it needs to be soon. Thanks to the fact that his compression over the Law of Killing reached the 'Minor Completion' level, his time in this Middle World was running out.

The Cultivator's True Soul was growing stronger with each moment and he was already half a step into the Law Engraving Rank.

Chapter 258 - Pain That Tears The Soul

Zitra and Totto focused on Ezequiel after Heinz made that question. They did not find it weird that the message was left with him since Ezequiel was the person Zatiel trusted the most.

Dante and the other two Neo-Demon also were looking at him and they were full of doubts. After they found out that Heinz's attempt to save Zatiel was a failure and he was brought to Saint City, every Neo-Demon in the Beta Heavenly World was enraged.

The trio knew it would be impossible for them to rescue Zatiel, so they planned to cast their rage on the members of the Heavenly race that still resided in the Fornes continent. Everyone knew the risk of going to the north of the continent, but they did not care about the danger and were ready to kill.

However, before they could leave, Ezequiel gave the order that no Neo-Demon could leave the force field. This surprised everybody since they were sure the Neo-Demon with the Primordial bloodline would be joining them in their crusade and leading the attack against the Heavenly race.

Dante was not willing to just sit by but even though he was the son of the Neo-Demons' Ancestor and was recognized as one of the great experts of the race, even he could not question "The Will of the Neo-Demons' Ancestor".

Whether it was due to status, prestige, or power, the only one who could define the commands of Ezequiel, was Zatiel.

The Supreme Neo-Demon locked himself in the 11th magic tower after Zatiel was captured and no one could speak with him. Today was the first time they saw him after the battle of the 14th magic tower.

Even though he was stared at by three Soul Forging existences and one of them had a killing aura that appeared capable of shattering stars, Ezequiel's expression did not change.

"Follow me, all of your questions along with Master's message will be answered inside the tower."

Ezequiel's secrecy could be described as paranoid since they were under the force field made by the Ten Tower Formation and thanks to Heinz's power and domain over the Law of Space, it should be impossible for someone to spy them, but then again, it should have also been impossible for someone to sneak inside the Second Layer and capture Zatiel, so everyone followed him.

The Neo-Demon brought them to one of the floors of the tower that he and Zatiel had used to train. Thanks to Zatiel's authority, no one could access that floor without the approval of one of them. Not even the other Rank 4 Magi could enter unless they forcefully broke the tower's defenses.

The moment they entered the floor, they saw an old man who slept on the ground while he maintained a meditative position. His hair was black and his face full of wrinkles.

Even though he appeared to be an eighty years old man, his back was straight as a spear and his body was filled with power. His skin was covered with red runes.

Although he had changed a lot, everybody here was powerful enough to identify the life aura on the old man.

"Father!" Dante's eyes widened. He was the youngest of all of them and his experiences were less, so when he saw Zatiel he found it very hard to control his emotions. He was about to flash to him when a hand grabbed his shoulder.

Even though as a Neo-Demon, his body was very powerful, the moment this palm positioned itself over his shoulder, he felt like a mountain was crushing his body and he couldn't move.

"Calm down, your father is resting and we should not bother him." After he spoke those words, Ezequiel removed his hand from Dante's shoulder and the young man was able to move his body again.

"What happened to him." Heinz was the first to regain his calm and discovered that Zatiel's life force was weak.

"Master will explain everything when he wakes up. I was tasked to bring you all here this day." Ezequiel sit down after saying that and indicated the others to do the same.

"When I saw you on the battlefield, I was sure you were ready to give your life to try and save that copy of Zatiel." The one who spoke was Zitra and her eyes narrowed as she focused on Ezequiel.

The rest were also confused and they stared at Ezequiel. The reaction and emotions he displayed on that occasion were too real.

Ezequiel stared back at Zitra and after a moment he spoke.

"Master and I altered my memories, so at that moment I truly believed that who was being captured was him. It was only after everything was over that my memory was unlocked. The enemy this time is a formidable one and his information gathering skills are too mysterious. To trick him, everyone had to believe that Master was the one captured and act like that for the next couple of days. I entered the tower and did not show myself to make sure I did not act strangely."

When everybody heard that they felt a little relieved and a small smile appeared on Zitra's face. The deception was not a matter of trust but that they needed to believe that Zatiel was truly captured so their response would be genuine.

However, in the next moment, a solemn expression appeared on everyone's face. Zatiel's abilities had always appeared to be endless and he could easily handle any problem, but it was clear that this opponent forced him to pay a great price to trick him.

They all sit down and waited for almost three hours until Zatiel's eyes finally opened.

The instant he woke up, his face twisted by what could only be described as a pain that could tear the soul. The blood vessels in his eyes became visible and his body shivered uncontrollably.

He clenched his fist so hard that his nails buried in his skin and the next second he grabbed his head with his bloody palms.

Heinz and the rest were shocked by the violent reaction of Zatiel but just as they were about to move they heard his voice.

"It's okay... I just need... a minute." Zatiel's voice was hoarse and you could clearly see that the pain he felt was so high he could barely speak.

When they heard his words, the expression of everyone became ugly as they felt impotent. Zatiel wasn't a vain person so he would have asked for their help if they could do something.

They could only see as he was assaulted by pain so immense he could not stop shaking.

Little by little, Zatiel gained control over his body until he finally was able to maintain his posture and stop shaking. It was clear, however, that the pain was still there, he was just containing it.

Despite that, his eyes still burned with the will of an overlord and it appeared he did not care at all about his condition.

He could see that the eyes of the people in front of him were filled with curiosity and concern. A smile appeared on Zatiel's face and calmness filled his eyes. He knew the questions that filled their minds so he proceeded to answer them.

"The enemy was someone who could not be deceived with something so simple as a clone, no matter how good it was. That body was a copy made from my flesh and blood and I transferred part of my life force so it was indistinguishable from my original body."

When they heard his words, they all understood why his body looked like that of an old man. Rank 1 life forms and above would usually maintain their youthful appearance for most of their lives but Zatiel had damaged his life force so his body aged quickly.

"But even with that, in his core, he was still just a replica so I took things to the next level. I ripped a piece of my soul and inserted it in him. In essence, the one who was captured was really Zatiel Daybreak." Zatiel spoke those words as if they were not a big deal but it shocked everyone who heard them.

A piece of your consciousness being destroyed would cause so much pain that some people would go crazy, and the soul was hundreds if not thousands of times more sensitive. Before they could process what they just heard, Zatiel dropped another bomb.

"That type of procedure is dangerous since if the connection between the two of us is broken, the will and ego in that fragment of my soul could change. To stop that, I maintained our bond and he and I are still just one, but it meant that the wound on my soul could not close. Long story short, I have to endure the pain of ripping a piece of my soul over and over again until the Zatiel that is currently captured by the Heavenly race die."

Chapter 259 - Ruthless Plan

The connection between the main soul that resided in Zatiel's original body and the fragment of soul that was in the replica allowed the transmission of knowledge without a flaw with the two minds synchronized as one.

Luckily the pain that the main soul suffered due to its open wound was weakened greatly by the time it reached the replica who was captured by the Heavenly race, so thanks to Zatiel's fortitude, it was not able to affect him. As for the physical torture, it was useless against the one who was receiving it, so after it was transmitted, it became nothing.

Zitra, Totto, and Heinz could not believe what they had just heard. They were Soul Forging existences and each had awoken their True Soul, so they can use its power and manipulate it. The trio knew very well how dangerous tearing a part of your soul was.

The arcane knowledge needed for a Rank 3 life form to do it without their souls dissipating was something even Rank 6 life forms would not know. At least according to what they know, there is no such technique in the Aeternum Empire.

But that was not the thing that shocked them the most. During their lives, in life and death battles they had suffered wounds to their souls. Most of them had been minor but the pain they felt was like someone opening their skulls. They could not understand how Zatiel was able to maintain such composure when he knew he would have to experience torture that could not be described with words.

Zatiel's reaction when he suffered that pain could be described as harsh. They were prideful people but if they had to experience such agony, it would be a miracle if they were not rolling on the ground and screaming at the top of their lungs.

"The mastermind behind my capture is a paranoid and extremely careful individual so it will be decades or maybe centuries before we can find him. Heinz, Ezequiel, and I are aware of one of his identities. I will share with them the information that I obtain about him and matters regarding that person will be handled by the three of us. As for the rest of you, when you show me that you have the potential where you can be of assistance in the future encounters against him, then I will loop you in, however by what I have seen so far, you will only be a burden."

Zatiel needed for all of them to know they could not be complacent with their current achievements. They may be categorized as geniuses even by the standards of a High World but in his mind, geniuses were nothing and only those who could either break every obstacle with absolute power or scheme their way to the peak of the universe deserved recognition.

His mood was also part of the reason for their harsh words. No matter how great the pain was, it could not affect his spirit. The reason he was angry was that he lost. Even if he managed to deceive the Sage and forced the Heavenly race to pay an immense price for a replica with a fragment of his soul, in his mind, since he was forced by the plans of his enemy, he had lost.

That mentality was extremely hard on oneself but it was what allowed him to rise above billions of beings that had the same aptitudes as him.

Rax and Kilo had never seen themselves as prodigies since they always used Ezequiel as a reference so they bowed signaling they understood Zatiel's message. Totto's response was also one of recognition, he knew he was not a genius so he needed to put even more hard work.

However, the reaction of Zitra and Dante was not so simple. Their accomplishments were amazing, but now they understood that if they do not push their abilities to the next level they would not be of help.

Even though Ezequiel was weaker than Zitra, Totto, and Heinz. They all knew that when it comes to talent, he had the highest of all, even above Zatiel.

The moment the Universe Shatterer awakens his True Soul and can interact with the laws, his power will skyrocket.

"We have a lot of things to do and little time so we will have to hasten our expansion over this continent. The Heavenly race believes they have me and they would not take any chances so they

will maintain part of their force in Saint City at all times to stop any attempt of rescue. Their strength is currently at its weakest since they had lost their strongest warrior, one of their dukes was severely injured and they suffered grave casualties in the last battle." Zatiel made a pause and looked at Heinz for a moment with the Eye of Life and Creation.

"Brother, how long until your True Soul reaches Rank 5?"

Heinz closed his eyes and focused on his True Soul for a couple of minutes before speaking, "As long I do not actively train it, between two and two and a half years."

"That is enough time. Before you can no longer enter the Beta Heavenly World, the continent must be under our control. Focus on the Blood Demodand Technique. If you can reach the third level the moment you become a Law Engraving existence, then you will be able to inflict severe damage on the Heavenly race before you are expelled by the World Consciousness."

The third level of the Blood Demodand Technique was very hard to achieve and even if he had unlimited amounts of blood energy, Heinz first had to comprehend it before he could start practicing it. Zatiel knew that Heinz's aptitudes obtained a qualitative upgrade and he was confident in the abilities of the Cultivator.

"Totto, you will lead the Magi and Fallen in the construction of more towers immediately. I doubt the Heavenly race will try to stop you since most of their Rank 4 warriors have not healed their wounds yet. Tell Nero that our deal still stands and when the continent is ours he would be allowed to use the World Gate. As a sign of good faith, allow the Rank 3 Fallen to go to the Magi World, they are no longer useful anyway. Heinz and Zitra, you two will remain here for the next few days, Sophia will come back soon and I need the two of you here when that happens. After that, I will need one of you to accompany me on a journey through the continent."

Zatiel needed to travel through several points in the Fornes continent and since the distance between each of them is short, Zitra with her Law of Shadows would be as effective as Heinz with his Law of Space.

"I will do it" Less than a second after Zatiel finished speaking, Zitra's voice was heard.

Heinz and Totto stared at Zitra and a smile appeared on their faces but the moment the woman focused on them, the duo looked away.

Zatiel merely gave the woman a small smile before he focused on Ezequiel and then his face became cold.

Everybody adopted a serious expression when they saw that because they felt the ruthlessness in Zatiel's eyes

"Ezequiel, you will take the two siblings, Aren and Sigrid, and put them into hellish training. Dante, you will acquire all types of resources that can improve someone's speed of training and talent, no matter the price, even if they are meant for Rank 4 life forms, I want them available for the duo. Tell them they have two and a half years to reach Rank 3 and finish the first level of their techniques. If they can do it then, Heinz, you will bring them to the Eye Dynasty to take the Holy Trial."

"And what do I tell them will happen if they fail?" Ezequiel could already imagine the answer of Zatiel, and in the eyes of the Supreme Neo-Demon, there was only indifference. They are not part of his race or clan, so why would he care about them?.

"If after all the help I provide them they still fail, then I will not waste more of my time in them. Tell them they will obtain revenge for their clan, but they will have to give their life for it."

Zatiel's eyes were incredibly cold. Since he was willing to rip a piece of his own soul to face the Sage, why would he act kindly with those he only saw as a tool against his enemy?.

As for the duo seeking revenge against him in the future for his harsh treatment. If he detects the smallest hint of grievance in their hearts, then once they had fulfilled their purpose, he would make them disappear.

Chapter 260 - New Bloodline

From the beginning, the relationship between Zatiel and the Eye Holder siblings was one of mutual use. He used Sigrid and Aren with the hope that they could harm the Sage by disrupting his plan and they used Zatiel to obtain protection and resources.

As for having empathy for their sad fortune. All over the universe, countless life forms endure inhumane destinies. It was not rare for all the people in a world to be forced to butcher each other just for the entertainment of a powerful being, even having to kill their loved ones on many occasions.

Zatiel had seen fates worse than the ones of the siblings countless times, so why the hell would he go out of his way to help them if they are unable to fulfill their part of the deal?.

He may kill those that behave in a way he found disgusting but that doesn't mean he would waste his time trying to eradicate what those too weak to see the truth of the universe consider evil.

Zatiel coldness did not surprise the people in front of him and the truth was that almost all of them shared that mentality. They cared for and protected those whom they considered family and friends but with everyone else, their attitudes were purely pragmatic.

Even Tutto who usually displayed a gentle personality with his subordinates was not different. He would not hesitate to destroy an entire city full of "innocent people" if that meant obtaining his goal.

That mentality was very normal in powerful life forms. As they obtain a life span that can challenge the stars in the sky many start to see those Rank 0 life forms that can barely live a couple of hundred of years, as being no different than ants. Entire generations could pass away in the time they use to perform one single experiment.

There was one, however, that reacted differently than the rest. Dante could be described as a resolute man with a righteous spirit. He did not feel comfortable with getting rid of people who had sided with you because they no longer were of use.

That compassion and consideration for those weaker than one were not wrong and they were fomented in the Neo-Demon race, but they were meant to target the members of the race. Giving it to others could be dangerous and leave a soft point that your enemy could take advantage of.

The young Neo-Demon felt the eyes of Zatiel focus on him and immediately look down. Even though he did not show anything, Dante knew he could not hide his emotions from his father.

Zatiel just shook his head and did not say anything when he detected the state of the boy 'In the end, he is still too young and has experienced too little.'

The Neo-Demon closed his eyes for a moment and then in the mind of Dante, Rax, and Kilo a technique appeared.

"I have just transmitted The Prayer of Horus to your minds. Build a statue of me inside one of our underground factories, in the Magi World, and lead people of our clan to perform the technique in front of it. They need to have my image in their minds as they perform that technique. You must also make sure everything is done in secrecy and away from prying eyes."

Dante's mind was able to analyze the entire technique in a moment and confusion filled his face. The Prayer of Horus was a Path Technique that allowed one person to gather Faith Power. That was the energy that those who follow the Path of Gods use.

"Father, are you going to train the Path of Gods?" Dante knew the personality of Zatiel and found it very weird for him to use a technique of the Slave Path.

Everybody here understood Zatiel's view of the gods. He considered all of them essentially trash.

"Only cowards and talentless fools take the Slave Path. For me, power's true purpose is freedom. What would be the point of being the highest in the universe if I am shackled to its desires?" The disdain in Zatiel's eyes was immense and it was clear he considered gods nothing more than garbage.

"The Faith Power that The Prayer of Horus generates has a quintessential connection with the Law of Life and the Law of Healing. I can use my bloodline to channel that power and mend the damage to my life force. It can not heal my soul but it will extend the periods of time between each wave of pain. It is very useful but I need to be extremely careful when I use Faith Power otherwise it could contaminate my soul, that is why I had never used it before."

What Zatiel planned to do was basically inject poison into his body and use his bloodline to burn it all except for the fragment of useful energy that can heal him. This process is very delicate and he would need the help of the A.I. Chip, his Animus abilities, and all of his knowledge about the Path of Gods to fulfill that mission safely.

"If any of you have questions about your missions ask them..." Zatiel did not finish his sentence since an unimaginable pain assaulted him. His eyes widened and he clenched his teeth as he endured that agony.

Ezequiel and the rest focused on Zatiel. They were unable to help him, but they would not look away as he faced a pain they could not even imagine. It was a little less than a minute before the body of the Neo-Demon ceased shaking from the pain.

Zatiel's breathing was rough and it took him a moment to adjust his posture.

"Leave and start your missions, time is of the essence. I will sleep until Sophia arrives, after that my journey through the continent will start." Zatiel waved his hand and signaled everyone to retire.

They all stood up and were leaving the floor but Zitra remained standing. The rest looked at her with curiosity. She and Heinz would have to remain in the tower for the time being, but she should stay in her room.

Zatiel saw the behavior of the woman and he closed his eyes before speaking.

"You can remain here if you want, but you have to stay quiet." As soon as Zatiel finished speaking, he fell asleep.

Zitra walked to Zatiel's side, where she sat and remained in complete silence. A beautiful and radiant smile appeared on her face for an instant but immediately she mimicked the Neo-Demon and closed her eyes.

The group showed several expressions as that happened. Right now Zatiel was very weak and being alone with someone could put him in danger, but since he allowed Zitra to stay with him, the rest had no reason to meddle.

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Sophia was thousands of meters beneath the surface of the Fornes continent. She was swimming through a river of lava inside the magmatic chamber of an active volcano. There was a layer of Styx water around her body that protected her from the lava and heat that could incinerate a Rank 2 life form in a matter of seconds.

The body of the Neo-Demon was full of wounds and scars, a testament to the countless battles she had endured to reach this place. As long as they did not diminish her battle power, Sophia would not waste her energy in them and would allow her body natural regeneration abilities to take care of them.

From the moment she reached the terrain around the volcano she had fought horde after horde of demonic warriors. Sometimes the power of the horde was too great and the Neo-Demon had to use schemes to handle them.

Luckily for Sophia, her opponents were demons. While they may be killing machines that would launch suicide attacks the moment they realize they would lose, they were also very stupid and easy to trick. She sowed discord among them and divided the big groups before taking care of them one by one.

The temperature around her reached levels so high that even with the protection of the Styx water, she started to feel her skin burn but in her eyes, there was determination along with a multicolored flame that it appeared ready to explode at any moment as she continued forward.

Finally, after hours of swimming, she reached the core of the magmatic chamber and the Neo-Demon released an immense killing intent as she focused on the giant black egg in here.