

Abyssal 341

Chapter 341 - Underworld Flaw Crow

The King did not start with the questions immediately and stared at Zatiel for a long time, but the Neo-Demon only responded with eyes devoid of any emotion.

After a couple of minutes, John took a deep breath to calm himself and spoke.

"The first question. Do you have any intention or desire of harming the Magi World's origin or its consciousness?"

That question was pretty easy for the Neo-Demon, and he did not even have to think before answering it.

"I do not. I only awoke in this world by chance and did not have anything planned for it."

The moment John heard those words, he released a sigh and continued with his next question.

"Second question. Do you have any intention or desire of harming members of the Scientia Kingdom?"

Just like before, it was pretty easy for Zatiel to respond.

"I do not. The people of your kingdom follow the rule of not attacking unless provoked, so I don't see a scenario in which I would want to harm you."

A smile appeared on John's face, and the Neo-Demon saw pride in his eyes after he praised his people.

"Third and final question. Do you have any intention or desire of harming the Rank 9 Magus and Head of the Magi World, Isaac or his disciples Eve the Holy Mother, and Ivar the Flaless?"

Zatiel showed some interest when he heard that question, and a better image of the leader of Magi World appeared in his mind.

'Other than the Scientia Kingdom's people and his two disciples, Isaac doesn't care about the rest of the inhabitants of the Magi World. Even those who had become Beings of Law are not important in his eyes.'

In the Neo-Demon mind, the Rank 9 Magus was someone who would not care even if the billions of inhabitants of the Magi World died, as long as the people important to him were safe.

Although that sounded cold, for a supreme overlord of the universe, the Head of the Magi World was remarkably gentle. Many Rank 9 life forms only see their people like cattle from where a useful tool, meaning a Rank 7 life form, could be born.

'I guess we are similar in that aspect. We both protect our people and don't really care about the rest.'

"Ahem."

That cough awoke the Neo-Demon from his thoughts, and he saw how the King was starting to get nervous due to him not answering the last question.

"Don't worry. I don't have any intention of harming Isaac or his two disciples."

After hearing those words, John relaxed and felt a great weight leaving his shoulders.

"Excellent!. I can finally give you an official welcome to the Magi World. You and your people can live here as long as you want." The King had a smile on his face, and his eyes shined with excitement.

Zatiel made a weird expression as he saw the behavior of the man in front of him. It appeared as if he was the one who passed the test and not the Neo-Demon.

However, he felt the genuineness in the man's happiness, so emotions returned to his eyes before speaking.

"I guess you have something you want to discuss with me."

"Oh yes, but this is not the place. I don't dare to discuss my problems in the presence of my Forefather." The King gave a deep bow to the statue of Isaac before making a portal appear.

"Could you please accompany me to my laboratory?" John's behavior was courteous but not submissive. Since he would be asking for help, the King showed respect.

Zatiel was curious about what this man wanted, and after a moment, he nodded and went through the portal along with him.

The duo appeared in a large room, with all kinds of precious resources that would arouse desire in most Rank 6 life forms scattered on the ground. Runic diagrams along with magic formulas filled the walls and ceiling. It was clear to anyone that this was the place of a messy individual.

The Neo-Demon began to inspect the room, and the King remained quiet by his side.

After analyzing the runic diagrams and magic formulas, Zatiel's eyes widened, and surprise appeared on his face.

"So you are an Animax Soul Runemaster, and by the complexity of those diagrams, you should be able to create Rank 5 Animax Soul Runes."

"You were able to learn all that just by giving a glance at my work?" The excitement in John's eyes grew immensely, and he could not help but smile. He did not know how profound was Zatiel's knowledge about The Ultimate Rune Path, but the fact he could tell his level by just seeing the runic diagrams on the wall for less than thirty seconds told him a lot.

'It would be weird if I could not tell how high someone's level was in a technique I created after seeing his runes.' Of course, Zatiel did not express those thoughts and only nodded.

The Ultimate Rune Path, which contained the knowledge needed to give runes a soul, was created by the Incarnation of Death and Destruction. He scattered it through the universe to use it freely in his next life, without no one questioning him from where he obtained such a divine technique.

"I will be frank. I obtained my knowledge about The Ultimate Rune Path from the Forefather's library and not directly in my dreams like the first generation of Animax Soul Runemasters. Unfortunately, it is flawed since it comes from someone else's comprehension and not directly from

the source. I have been able to fix some of the problems, but I still found it very difficult to advance past Rank 5 Animax Soul Runemaster. I can see that your theoretical knowledge is profound, so I was hoping you could help me."

Zatiel was not surprised about the problem John had in The Ultimate Rune Path. After all, he purposely made the teaching of this one to future generations hard. He showed the technique in people's dreams to explain why his runes had souls, not so that others could benefit from his work.

The King did not wait for Zatiel to respond before continuing speaking.

"Of course, I don't expect you to help me for nothing." John waved his hand, and the next moment, the five-meter head of a crow appeared.

Although it did not have any particular characteristic at plain sight, Zateil recognized the creature immediately since he formed an incarnation in his Sun Domain based on it.

The head belonged to an Underworld Flaw Crow, a creature with a Law Bloodline!.

"I don't ask you to impart all your knowledge, only for you to answer my question to the best of your capabilities, and you can have it."

Zatiel did not hide his interest in the head. He had not been using the Nether Crow after reaching Rank 4 since the incarnation was too weak to be of help. The Undying Leviathan would have suffered the same destiny if he had not fused a Void Creature's soul and body in the Sun Domain.

"Can I analyze it?"

"Of course, go ahead."

The Neo-Demon used his consciousness and Rebirth Eye to examine the head and opened the eyelids to see its eyes.

He smiled when he saw that the eyes were in perfect conditions and how they still glowed with vitality and power.

'It was a Rank 6 life form. There are still traces of energy and laws fused in the tissues, and the eyes that are essential organs of these creatures are functional. His blood has almost no trace of his bloodline left.'

"What occurred with the rest of the creature's body and bloodline?. I am willing to exchange it for knowledge if you have it." Although the bloodline was not useful for him, he could give it to another Neo-Demon.

"I had to destroy the rest of the body to defeat it since I could not harm the head. As for the bloodline, the creature burned it entirely during the last part of the battle when it realized its body would not survive."

Zateil believed the King of the Scientia Kingdom since that was the behavior most creatures with powerful bloodlines would have. They would rather destroy their bloodline than allowing others to have it.

"Ok. I will help you in exchange for the head."

Chapter 342 - Dream Dimension

Zatiel and the King of the Scientia Kingdom completely immersed themselves in The Ultimate Rune Path's study. They examined every single one of the runic diagrams and magic formulas that John had developed through the years.

The duo's goal was not to obtain tricks or easy paths to develop John's rune mastery but to enhance his foundation.

The King was not the only one who improved his runemaster abilities since those of the Neo-Demon were also increasing.

Zatiel had all the theoretical knowledge about The Ultimate Rune Path, but he still needed a lot of practice to transform it into actual skills.

Although neither of them needed to sleep, their minds still grew tired due to the countless calculations they were performing every minute, so once a week, they rested an hour.

They continue like that for one and a half months before finishing.

"I have solved all your doubts and explained in detail the basics of The Ultimate Rune Path, fixing all the flaws you had before and fully solidifying your foundation. You should have no problem becoming a Rank 6 Animax Soul Runemaster with enough time and hard work. As for going beyond that, it depends on your talent and destiny." Zatiel knew that the King was a determined person, but just hard work is not enough to become a Rank 7 Animax Soul Runemaster.

"Thank you, Grand Animax Soul Runemaster, for your teachings." John performed a small bow after saying those words. He had begun to use that title to refer to Zatiel after the third day of study.

The King was a smart person and understood by the interaction with Zatiel that his previous identity must have been an exceptional one, so he found nothing wrong in his behavior. Besides, the Scientia Kingdom's members learned to show respect to anyone who taught them something regardless of their power.

"There is no need for gratitude. We performed an equivalent exchange."

"No. The help you gave me is much more valuable than the price of that head." John spoke with resolution and sincerity.

When the Neo-Demon saw that, he just shrugged his shoulders. He was not going to argue with the King if this one wanted to thank him.

"I will leave now. Can you create a portal to the Daybreak Magic Tower, or we need to call the boy?" Zatiel knew John was strong but did not know if his laws allowed him to perform long-range teleportation.

"Don't worry. I can do it." John released his consciousness, and in less than a second, it reached the City of the Sun.

He marked two points in his consciousness, and then with a single punch, he broke space and connected them.

The King and Zatiel shook hands before the latter went through the portal and left the Scientia Kingdom.

Zatiel had many things to do, so he immediately used the World Gate and returned to the Neo-Demon Realm before heading to the Garden of Creation.

The Neo-Demon sat in the Soul Throne before releasing the Sun Domain, Genesis Sun Seed, and Nether Crow.

The Genesis Sun Seed had changed after Zatiel advanced to Rank 4. It no longer had the arcs of golden energy that the Neo-Demon could use to enhance his physical strength, but its mass, size, and ability to increase the fire's might in the Sun Domain grew. You could see an Undying Leviathan and Nether Crow engraved in it, but only the first one was moving.

Zatiel threw the Underworld Flaw Crow into the domain, and this one began to rotate around the Genesis Sun Seed, slowly melting. As that happened, the Nether Crow began to evolve from an incarnation made of energy to a creature made of flesh and blood.

'Despite only being a severed head, the creature was a Rank 6 life form, so it will take a while for it to integrate into the domain. Luckily, the Genesis Sun Seed can handle it independently, and I don't need to waste my time.'

The Genesis Sun Seed was a living spell and was already showing the first sign of consciousness thanks to Zatiel's bloodline laws. Although it did not possess sentience, it could handle a simple task like consuming a corpse.

'With that taken care of, I can focus on the other aspects of my battle style. Both my long-range spells and martial arts can express the full power of my body and energy pool. The only thing that has ample room for improvement is my illusions and soul invasion spells.'

The Incarnation of Death and Destruction battle style focused on using his mighty body combined with destructive spells and laws, so Zatiel did not have many experiences with illusion and the likes.

The Rebirth Eye's soul offensive capability was too impressive not to take advantage of it, so he went through all the Illusion Path Techniques in his mind and the opponents he faced that used that battle style.

'When it comes to skill and technique, not even Beings of Laws could compare with that man. I still wonder from where he came and what his real identity was?' The one Zatiel was thinking, was the entity that almost caused his demise, the Sage.

The Neo-Demon took a deep breath and began to examine the illusion spells the Sage used on him and understand the properties behind them.

'The raw power of the illusion I can perform with my Rebirth Eye does not fall behind the one he used on me. The main difference and where my biggest flaw lies is in our fuel. He used that unique Mind Force that was not only perfect for illusions but also vast, while my spells solely have the energy inside my right eye to function.'

Zatiel had many energies inside him, but the soul invasion spells from his Rebirth Eye do not work with them. That is why he can barely use his Rebirth Nightmare at full power once.

'My right eye has a unique energy pool that originates from the purple dimension inside it. Unfortunately, I don't have a way to develop it, and it is too small for...WAIT!' A flash of inspiration appeared in Zatiel's eyes as enlightenment filled his mind.

The idea was already born, and the more he developed it, the wider the smile on the Neo-Demon's face became.

"A.I. Chip, show me the status of my Animus Path of Power and the information about the Dream Dimension Technique."

"Bip..."

Path of Power: Animus (Peak Rank 3)

Mind Force: 0.3

Dream Dimension Technique: Training method for an Animus to enter Rank 4. Using Soul Origin, an Animus can form a dream dimension in their mind that will serve as the new origin of Mind Force. This technique doesn't grant special abilities besides a higher amount of Mind Force and enhanced spiritual defenses."

Zatiel had not focused much on his Animus Path of Power after entering Rank 4. It could not compare with the other paths of the Neo-Demon, and even if it advanced to Rank 4, it would not be of much help, but now things were different.

'There are many other Path Techniques for Rank 4 Animus better than the Dream Dimension Technique, but what if instead of creating a dimension out of Soul Origin, I expand the one in my Rebirth Eye to my mind!' Zatiel could barely contain his excitement as he imagined the kind of Mind Force that would be born out of the purple dimension that was the embodiment of the Law of Rebirth.

'I need to make modifications to the Dream Dimension Technique, which will take me a lot of time and hard work.'

Before beginning, Zatiel made five Fiend Lord's corpses along with one hundred high-quality origin stones appear. The Neo-Demon opened his mouth and sent everything to the unique dimension inside his stomach, where they will slowly be digested.

'I have a constant stream of Origin Power to train my True Soul and True Will. The Fiend Lords' corpses will nurture my body, and the Elemental Chaos in my stomach will improve my energy pool. I can now focus my mind on a single task.'

Zatiel was now ready to enter secluded training.

Chapter 343 - Evil

Two massive demons with bodies that could be measured in tens of thousands of meters were fighting. The power of their attacks made it seem as if the sky was breaking apart.

Finally, one of the demons, a Fiendish Cyclop, managed to land a devastating blow in his opponent's head, destroying it along with the True Soul that resided inside.

The next second, the Fiendish Cyclop took his defeated enemy's body and broke space before returning to the ground. The demon had an expression full of bloodlust and craziness as he licked the blood of his enemy from his hands.

"Hahaha!. Stupid garbage, you dare to defy me, the great Pilo. I have finally regained my freedom, and all those who get in the way of my glorious path will become my food!." The Fiendish Cyclop's body shrank as he deactivated his Law Avatar, and then he started to consume the defeated demon's corpse.

The bloodlust in his face only grew as he chewed the flesh and drank the blood of the other demon.

"I will become the strongest demon of the Blood Rift and one day will rise even higher. I will..." The Fiendish Cyclop could not finish his grand speech due to a voice that came from behind him.

"Silence."

When Pilo heard that, the first thing that came to his mind was to kill the person that dared to interrupt his feast, doing honor to his demonic nature.

"What garbage dares to give orders to the grand Pilo!" The demon turned around, intending to launch himself on the enemy, but the moment he saw him, his entire body froze.

The one who ordered the Fiendish Cyclop was a man with an extremely evil aura, white skin, and red lightning coming from the corners of his eyes. Every cell of his body released an immense killing intent that drowned the demon in front of him.

Pilo was a Peak Rank 4 Demon, a crazy killing machine, but he could not control the terror that arose in his heart. The reason for his fear was that what he felt in front of him was not a person but a world, one evil and full of slaughter and chaos.

"Do you know the location of a city with a Demon Count in it?" The man's voice was cold and only increased the Fiendish Cyclop's horror.

The fear prevented Pilo from thinking straight, but when he saw how the man was about to raise his hand, his instincts kicked in, and he began to speak.

"There is a place like that not far away from here!. A Demon Count named Ilos ruled it, but another Demon Lord killed him and took control of the city a few days ago. I used to serve Ilos and managed to escape after his demise. That is how I know. I swear I am telling the truth!." Pilo spoke faster than ever before in his life, and cold sweat soaked his body as he looked at the monster in front of him.

The man showed nothing after hearing that. After a moment, he nodded and walked until landing on the Fiendish Cyclop's shoulder.

"Bring me there." The man did not say anything else and adopted a meditative position before closing his eyes.

Pilo did not dare to disobey and began to run with all his strength. Like that, the giant Fiendish Cyclop traveled through the rocky plains filled with endless canyons from the Blood Rift.

The laws in this layer of Abyss made flying extremely hard and taxing. That is why the demon was running and used ancient bridges to cross the canyons. Although Rank 4 Demons could still fly, that would force Pilo to rest before reaching his destination, and he was sure the man would kill him if he stopped even for a second.

As they advanced, Pilo felt the malignant and evil aura of the man growing. It was like he was becoming one with the Abyss layer, and things did not end there.

Waves of energy began to converge in the man as if he was some black hole, and among those energies, there was a golden one that shocked Pilo.

'Origin Power!. He is drawing such a tremendous amount of Origin Power into his body.' Although Origin Power was extremely beneficial for the Rank 4 Demon, Pilo did not dare to touch it and limited himself to keep moving forward.

After three hours of running at full speed, the Fiendish Cyclop was finally able to visualize a city in the distance. The demon was happy since the man's evil aura was becoming so powerful that it began to burn his body.

"Evil Lord, we have arrived."

After hearing that, the man opened his eyes. He did not use his consciousness or another kind of scanning force to see inside the city. The elements told him everything he needed to know.

"A Demon Lord at the 2nd Engraving Stage. Five Rank 4 Demons. Four thousand and three hundred and four lesser demons. They are fixing the city defenses, but they are still inoperative."

The man jumped from the Fiendish Cyclop's shoulder and landed on the ground. A black and sinister aura overflowed from his body and mixed with arcs of red lightning.

That evil aura was Abyss' World Strength the man had managed to channel into himself.

He mobilized his Soul Origin and laws, and the next instant, a white spectral avatar manifested behind him. His physical strength and energy output multiplied after he released his Law Avatar.

The man rose his hand and began to channel the energy from his surroundings into an arc of dark red lightning.

The strength of the dark red lightning grew very fast as it devoured massive amounts of energy. The man also poured the Origin Power around him into his attack and gave it unique properties.

Pilo felt like if countless needles were piercing his skin due to the energies emanated by the arc of dark red lightning.

After a minute, the dark red lightning transformed into a metal spear, with an extraordinary magic matrix on its surface.

The man closed his eyes, and in his mind, he saw the five Rank 4 Demons moving around the broken city. The next second, he fired the dark red spear.

The weapon made no sound at all, and the energies around it hid its presence. In the consciousness of everybody, the spear was no different than another stream of Abyss Aura.

The spear covered thousands of meters in a second. Once it passed through the city's walls, the magic weapon divided into five smaller copies of itself, and each one of them headed for a different Rank 4 Demon.

As Soul Forging existences, the demons were able to detect the attacks once they were near them. However, the spears were too fast, and before they could do anything, they pierced their stomachs and dissolved into dark red lightning that paralyzed their bodies.

The instant the man defeated the Rank 4 Demons, a ferocious consciousness that produced gales and storms in the sky covered the entire city along with everything in a radius of five thousand kilometers.

The consciousness focused on the man and Pilo after it detected them.

The Rank 4 Demon began to tremble, and the only thing he wanted was to run, but he did not dare to move. He focused on the monster that forced him to come here and saw how this one showed nothing but killing intent.

From the center of the city, the Demon Lord emerged. He resembled a demonic humanoid turtle, with large claws and a giant maw.

When the Demon Lord detected his subordinates' defeat, wrath filled his heart as he considered it an insult against him. He intended to kill the perpetrator immediately, but the danger he felt from the man's dark aura allowed him to calm down.

'Even for a Demon Lord, this man's aura is too sinister and monstrous.' The Demon Lord's eyes narrowed as he intended to measure the man's strength, and he felt a True Soul with an equal force than his.

"I am the mighty Demon Count, Yuro. Who are you, and what do you want here."

The man was surprised when he heard those words. He did not expect the Demon Lord to try to speak with him and was sure they would start fighting immediately.

As he wondered what would be his identity inside the Blood Rift, he remembered the title the Fiendish Cyclop used for him and focused on the dark aura that permeated his existence.

A cold smile appeared on his face as he stared at the Demon Lord.

"I am Evil and am here to kill you and take everything from you."

Chapter 344 - Evil Vs Yuro

A devil would not have let his emotions get the best of him. He would have gained time to do a more in-depth analysis of his enemy's power and abilities, but Yuro was not a devil.

The moment the Demon Lord heard that flagrant insult, all logic flew out of his mind. He made his energy explode, filling his body with strength, and then like a cannonball, he shot toward the Neo-Demon.

Ezequiel did not remain put and flashed forward as he activated his abilities.

The dark red lightning exploded with power, and it evolved into a plasma-like armor that covered Ezequiel. The plasma also blended into his inner organs, muscles, and bones, increasing the Neo-Demon's physical strength, speed, and durability.

The dark red plasma consumed an unbelievable amount of energy each second, and Ezequiel's energy pool would not have been able to maintain it for more than a minute.

However, to a Neo-Demon with the Primordial Bloodline, the world was his energy pool!.

He drew massive amounts of energy into his body and fed the dark red plasma with them.

Just with the dark red plasma and his Law Avatar, Ezequiel's battle power had reached Rank 5, but he had one more weapon at his disposal.

Dense and pure energy began to circulate through the Neo-Demon's body, and he pronounced two words.

"Doomsday Incarnation."

Ezequiel's body split into the Nether Spirit Avatar, Astral Body Avatar, and Energy Essence Avatar before fusing them into a new body.

A Neo-Demon with six arms and three faces appeared. A bone armor covered his arms, and his consciousness became three times larger.

His evil aura now carried a will that needed to bring the universe to absolute entropy and destroy life.

The Doomsday Incarnation of someone with an Immortal Avatar True Doomsday Body allows the three avatars to morph into a single body. The new arms can express the same power as the originals, and the larger consciousness grants a higher perception and more robust spirit defenses.

Those characteristics increase survival abilities, but the increase in battle power is low since the new body is as powerful as the original.

Of course, that is in normal Neo-Demons.

The eyes in the faces glowed, and the next instant, the World Strength Ezequiel was able to draw into himself was three times greater than before.

That was possible since each Avatar could channel the same amount of World Strength as the original body.

In the hands of Ezequiel, the Immortal Avatar True Doomsday Body that granted the highest survival skills also provided top tier enhancement in battle power.

The Demon Lord's body changed after fusing with his Law Avatar. His figure became more slender and taller, reaching forty-five meters. The immobile turtle shell transformed into hundreds of small plaques covering every inch of his body, which granted great defenses and dexterity.

The plaques had runes made of light that formed a golden mantle around Yuro, exponentially increasing his speed.

The duo's transformation took a lot of time to explain, but they happened in less than a second.

The moment they were right in front of each other, Ezequiel's six arms covered in dark red plasma, bone armor, and filled with World Strength clashed against Yuro's strong and agile claws.

A shock wave that extended for thousands of meters occurred the moment they collided. Space broke next to the duo, and the next second they were hundreds of thousands of kilometers from the ground.

They appeared a few meters apart and immediately launched at each other to continue their fast speed melee battle.

Every time they collide, cataclysmic explosions occur in the sky, making it seem as if the world was about to end.

Pilo was staring at their battle from the ground, and they were so fast that his eye could barely follow them. One used dark red lightning plasma to reach extreme speed, while the other filled his body with the Law of Light.

Although they were both smaller than his leg, the Fiendish Cyclop knew that each one of them could kill him with a single strike. He remained looking at the battle and did not dare to leave.

If he runs, Pilo was sure that the monster would hunt him down. As for Yuro winning, the demon he recognized as Evil had frightened him so much that he did not believe he could lose.

Ezequiel had just been pushed back with blood coming out from his mouth after a kick landed in his chest and fractured most of his ribs.

The Demon Lord flashed forward and was about to continue his attack when he felt how some of the plaques in his leg broke. The next second, the bones shattered.

'He managed to land his attack on my leg as I struck him. How is he able to produce so much damage with his strength?' Yuro was confident in his defenses, but his enemy's attacks always found a way to pierce them and generate more damage than they should.

There was no way the Demon Lord could know that Ezequiel's eyes could pierce into the Flawed Universe and that every strike aimed at a soft spot in his body.

Yuro did not have the luxury of analyzing the uniqueness of the monster known as Evil since this one flashed to him full of killing intent.

The Demon Lord acted fast and attacked with his right claw. Raging winds formed around it due to the strength and speed it carried.

Ezequiel could have dodged the claw if he changed his path, but he drove forward and used three of his arms to counterattack.

The claw cracked the bone armor and briefly paralyzed his left arms, but Ezequiel got right in front of Yuro's chest.

The Demon Lord felt his instincts warning him about incoming danger, so he charged all of his energy and strength in his left claw, attempting to stop Ezequiel.

The Neo-Demon's eyes narrowed as he felt the immense power of the attack coming his way. He used only two of his right arms to stop the claw and fired the last one with all his strength to the sternum, right between the Demon Lord's fourth and fifth rib.

The left claw shattered the armor in the right arms and made cuts so deep that they reached the bone before sending the Neo-Demon flying away.

Although this was a perfect opportunity to injure his enemy severely, Yuro did not chase after him. Disbelief could be seen in his face as he stared at the place where the attack landed and saw how large cracks rose from it.

The sternum was not a vital organ, and even if destroyed, it would not affect much the battle power of a Rank 5 life form.

However, Yuro's case was different. Ezequiel's punch landed in a severe injury he received a few days ago when he fought against Ilos, Pilo's former master.

'How did he know!? I made sure to hide the fact that the wound had not healed yet.'

The plaques covering Yuro's chest shattered along with all the bones beneath it. The Demon Lord puked an immense amount of blood, and his entire body froze due to the damage.

Taking advantage of his enemy's weakened state, Ezequiel managed to reach his back and then released a barrage of punches. The fists broke the plaques and buried beneath the flesh.

Dark red lightning infected the Demon Lord's wound, and they were devouring his blood and flesh to become stronger.

The threat of death and rage made Yuro's eyes fill with determination, and the next second he roared with all his strength before detonating the plaques left on his body.

"BOOM!"

The explosion struck the Neo-Demon point-blank and threw him away from the Demon Lord. This time it was Ezequiel's turn to puke blood, and if it weren't for the dark red plasma covering his organs, the damage would have been much worse.

Ezequiel had just regained control of his body when Yuro emerged from the explosion, with a crazy expression on his face.

The last attack completely ruined the Demon Lord's body. His skin was gone, showing his bloody muscles and broken bones.

Yuro's condition was critical, but he did not care.

"Die, you piece of shit!" He aimed his bloody palms forward and burned every ounce of energy he had left before firing his last and most potent attack.

"World End. Meteorite of Earth and Light."

Chapter 345 - Nine Primordial Steps

"World End. Meteorite of Earth and Light!"

All the light in a radius of hundreds of thousands of kilometers gathered in a sphere above Yuro.

This sphere absorbed threads of blood from the Demon Lord along with his life force.

Less than a second after Yuro voiced his spell, a bloody meteorite, packed with golden light that behaved like flames, was formed.

Words could not describe the meteorite's size or the crushing pressure and might that released in every direction.

Even those lesser demons in the city could see it from the ground, despite the immense distance to the battlefield.

Fear appeared in the paralyzed Rank 4 Demons' eyes when they noticed their lord's most devastating attack. They had seen it before and knew that Yuro would lose control over it once launched.

The meteorite will eventually touch the ground, and the destructive power in it could level a considerable part of a continent, and the Rank 4 Demons were in the blast range.

Yuro no longer cared about the consequences of his action, and with eyes full of madness, he released a pulse from his palms and fired the meteorite.

Ezequiel saw a projectile the size of a small moon heading his way and felt how the spell had transformed the light around him into a viscous matter, making it impossible to escape.

The only thing that appeared in the Neo-Demon eyes as he saw an attack that could destroy his body and soul right about to collide with him was killing intent.

"ROOOAAAARRR!" Ezequiel roared as he made his bloodline burst with all its power. His voice filled the Blood Rift's sky with lightning and thunder.

Cracks formed in the space around the Neo-Demon, and the light hindering his movement was obliterated.

That was the roar of a Primordial and even the laws had to back down in front of it.

The Neo-Demon activated his unique bloodline ability that combined the Law of Inner Force and Law of Strength.

"Nine Primordial Steps."

Ezequiel took a step forward and appeared less than a meter away from the moon size meteorite. Instantly, his body, soul, energy, and the amount of World Strength he was channeling, doubled in power.

His white eyes were bleeding as he pushed them to the limit to perceive the flaws in the spell. Then with every ounce of strength he had, he struck the meteorite with his six arms.

The meteorite that was moving hundreds of times faster than the speed of sound froze the moment those fists collided with it.

Silence reigned for a second, and then an explosion that made the ears of lesser demons bleed was heard. It indeed sounded like the end of the world.

Complete and utter disbelief filled the soul of Yuro as he saw the colossal indentation that Ezequiel's fists created in his attack.

The Supreme Neo-Demon was not over yet, and he took another step forward that once again pushed every part of his existence to a higher level. His veins bulged, and many of them broke due to the immense pressure his body was withstanding.

Ezequiel fired six more punches to the flaws in the meteorite and managed to pierce half of it.

If he just had the Primordial Bloodline, the second step would have been the limit his body could resist, but he was a Neo-Demon with an Apocalypse Star made from a Tier 2 star and had Astral Origin that strengthened his flesh and bones.

He took another step and felt his muscles tearing apart and bones breaking. The pain was excruciating, but that did not matter to Ezequiel, and he just fired all of his power forward.

Yuro felt absolute terror as he saw his meteorite break in half and the Neo-Demon rise from it.

The two pieces began to crack, and soon, the world-end meteorite shattered into thousands of small fragments.

Now that he was in the open, Yuro could see the majestic figure of the Neo-Demon. Ezequiel had so much energy and Abyss' World Strength inside him that he appeared a dark red evil sun in the sky, illuminating the Blood Rift.

'I need to run.' Yuro was terrified. The only thought in his mind right now was to run as fast as possible and never again get near the monster known as Evil.

Unfortunately for the Demon Lord, he was too hurt and had used all of his energy in that last attack. Yuro could not react to Ezequiel, who arrived in front of him like lightning and destroyed his chest and extremities with a single strike.

The only thing that remained from the Demon Lord's body was his head, and before the True Soul could escape the soul dimension, Ezequiel put a Sealing Rune in it.

The Neo-Demon could hear screams of rage and despair from inside the Demon Lord's head, but he did not care and stored it into his spatial ring.

Only now, after defeating the Demon Count, did Ezequiel deactivated his Law Avatar and Doomsday Incarnation and analyzed the condition of his body.

'Other than my hearts, brain, and spinal cord, in whom I gathered most of my plasma to protect them, the rest of my vital organs, bones, and muscles are severely injured. I have almost no Astral Origin or Soul Origin left. The only good thing is that I can still draw World Strength and the energies from the surrounding into my body, which will help me recover faster. Remaining in the Blood Rift will be very dangerous, but another Demon Lord will take this city if I leave.'

Ezequiel thought for some time how to proceed, and in the end, he made the Nether Spirit Avatar leave his body and disappear into the sky.

The Neo-Demon lost a third of his strength, but the Nether Spirit Avatar's camouflage abilities were impressive due to his spiritual nature. Even the consciousness of a Rank 5 life form would find it hard to detect it.

'With this, I can remain in the city and take control of it until an emissary of a Demon Duke arrives without worrying about my life.'

Ezequiel broke the space near him and returned to the ground. The moment he landed, his body trembled, and he began to cough blood without control for almost twenty seconds.

Once he regained control over his body, he stared at the Fiendish Cyclop, who was looking at him from a distance, and spoke.

"Come here."

Pilo was surprised by that order. Usually, when a demon was injured so severely, they would not allow anyone to get near them, but the monster told him to get closer.

The Rank 4 Demon did not dare to disobey and ran until he was in front of Ezequiel.

'He is so severely wounded that he can barely control his body. Why do I still feel like I will die any second when I am in his presence?.' Pilo did not dare to look directly into the Neo-Demon eyes and lowered his head.

Ezequiel did not care about the thoughts in the demon's mind and just jumped to his shoulder.

"Go to the city."

The Fiendish Cyclop obeyed and immediately began to run forward. It only took a couple of minutes until they were both in the city's gates.

Ezequiel used the energy from his surroundings and World Strength to support his body, and he flew to the center of the city before opening his mouth.

The Law of Swallowing that was part of the Tier 2 star he sealed in his stomach formed a black hole in front of the Neo-Demon's mouth.

Swallowing force filled every corner of the city, and the lesser demons were pulled into the sky. They screamed, roared, and some even attempted to fight back, but it was hopeless, and in the end, they all ended up inside Ezequiel's stomach.

After swallowing more than four thousand and three hundred lesser demons, Ezequiel felt his condition improved significantly, but it was not enough.

He also devoured two of the paralyzed Rank 4 Demons, the ones with the better bloodline.

'With this, I can stabilize my condition in less than a week and be able to display eighty percent of my strength. I should have recovered in half a month.'

With his initial treatment over, Ezequiel turned to Pilo.

"You are now the second in command in this city. Tell the other Rank 4 Demons who their new lord is, and search for lesser demons to replenish the ones lost." Ezequiel did not bother with the demon response and headed to a grand castle in the center of the city.

The Fiendish Cyclop understood very well that he was insignificant for the monster known as Evil. The only reason for his title was that the new Demon Lord did not want to waste time speaking with the other Rank 4 Demons.

Pilo could only sigh now that he was once again under the ruling of a Demon Lord. The next second he shook his head and started the task given to him.

Chapter 346 - Changes In Abyss

Slaughter and changes in the power hierarchy were something that happened every minute in Abyss. Some were insignificant in the grand scale of things like the death of millions of lesser demons, while others had more profound repercussions like the rise of a new Demon Lord.

The fight in the Blood Rift and the demise of Yuro was important enough to involve the Demon Dukes.

A battle was occurring in The Forgotten Lands, but this one drew much less attention than the one that saw the birth of the Demon Lord known as Evil.

A fifty thousand meters white dragon with wings made of lightning and fire was fighting in the sky against a Three-Headed Demon Hound, Infernal Hawk, and Flesh Golem.

The three creatures were Rank 4 Demons, and their size did not fall short of the white dragon. Their demonic heritage granted them an enhancement in battle power equal to a King Bloodline, but the fight had started less than a minute ago, and they were all already full of injuries.

The white dragon was incredibly fast and agile, and even when the demons' attacks landed, they could barely harm the dragon scales.

A cold smile appeared in the white dragon as he focused on the Three-Headed Demon Hound, making terror appear in the heart of this one. The dragon flapped his wings, and he became a lightning bolt, arriving in front of the Rank 4 Demon instantly.

The Three-Headed Demon Hound attempted to dodge, but he was too slow. The white dragon tore one of his heads with his mouth before sending him flying away with a claw strike.

The Infernal Hawk and Flesh Golem took the opportunity while the white dragon beat their comrade to launch their attacks.

The claws of the Infernal Hawk were covered in black flames as he flashed to the dragon's back while the Flesh Golem fired his massive fist to his ribs.

The Rank 4 Demons had charged all their energy in those attacks, and the destructive power in them was immense. Unfortunately for the demons, they were too slow.

Before the Infernal Hawk could reach his target, the white dragon's tail transformed into a lightning whip that hit him in the chest, breaking his ribs and making the demon puke blood.

The Flesh Golem managed to land his fist, but although it made the white dragon's body tremble a little, it barely left a mark.

'How can his body be so sturdy? It is like if I am hitting a solid piece of Rank 4 demon metal.' The Rank 4 Demon did not have time to wonder about the white dragon's body's resilience since his instincts began to scream the next instant.

The white dragon body adopted a serpentine form with wings shaped like tentacles, and he twisted around the Rank 4 Demon, trapping him.

The dragon was too fast, and the Flesh Golem could not free himself no matter how hard he tried.

The last thing the demon saw was how the white dragon opened his mouth and released dragon breath made of fire and lightning that pulverized his head and True Soul.

After destroying the head, the white dragon swallowed the rest of the Flesh Golem before looking at the other two Rank 4 Demon who did not dare to get close to him.

The duo was burning with rage as they saw the mockery in the eyes of the white dragon.

The Three-Headed Demon Hound was the most furious of all. The white dragon attacked his city. The other two Rank 4 Demon were underlings he paid an immense price to obtain. He was sure they would prevail at first, but it was clear to him by now that the white dragon was too strong.

"Who are you, and why did you attack my city?. I serve under Count Hiro, and if something happens to me, there will be dire consequences."

When the white dragon heard that, instead of fear, what appeared in his eyes was disdain.

"Trying to threaten me with your leader is beyond stupid. After I kill you, I will offer my services to that Count. What do you think his response will be?"

A nasty expression appeared in the Three-Headed Demon Hound since he knew any Demon Lord would be more than happy to have someone as strong as this white dragon under them. As for avenging a fallen soldier. They were demons, and none of them genuinely care for the others.

"I must say, I am very disappointed. I thought Rank 4 Demons would have more guts and honor their title of chaotic killing machines. However, I only see two cowards in front of me."

When the white dragon saw how his words awoke the chaotic nature of the Infernal Hawk and Three-Headed Demon Hound, a smile appeared on his face. He was having fun testing his new powers and wanted the opponents to fight back, and not just run.

Unfortunately for the white dragon, he heard a robotic voice that spoiled his fun.

"White Flame, enough games. Bring me the city's leader and kill the other."

The origin of that voice was an individual in the center of the Three-Headed Demon Hound's city. A cold blue flame hid that person's body, so it was impossible to distinguish the gender.

The Rank 4 Demons did not have time to inspect that person since the white dragon appeared next to them the instant the person finished speaking, and his energy was almost three times greater.

The fights lasted less than ten seconds after that. The white dragon devoured the Infernal Hawk and destroyed the Three-Headed Demon Hound's heart before surrounding his body with lightning so the True Soul could not escape.

Kylo returned to his humanoid form after deactivating his Law Avatar. He broke space and returned to the ground, carrying the Rank 4 Demon's broken body before approaching the flaming figure and bowing.

"Sorry for the delay, my Lady. I wanted to have a better sense of the demons' power, but this group was too weak."

The person covered in that cold fire was Sophia. The Neo-Demon had chosen to hide her body since she knew demons were lustful creatures, and if a Demon Lord took fancy of her, it would carry a lot of problems.

"The trio was weak. None of them had reached the Third Origin Cycle, and they were incapable of working together. Your bloodline and True Doomsday Body put your battle power at the absolute peak of Rank 4, but you should not relax. Like my husband always says, we can never underestimate our enemies, or one day we will pay a great price."

"I understand, my Lady. I will forever remember those words." Kylo had a solemn expression as he spoke those words. Zatiel's words were sacred for him, just like they were for the rest of the Neo-Demon race.

Sophia nodded and focused on the Rank 4 Demon. She sent her consciousness into the Three-Headed Demon Hound's soul dimension and consumed his True Soul with the Law of Devouring.

All the Rank 4 Demon's memories appeared in her mind after she finished with him, and she shared that information with Kylo.

"We will make this city our headquarters. You will be the leader, and I will remain in the darkness, hidden from the rest of the world. I will only act when there is a threat you cannot handle. We will have around a week before an emissary from a Demon Lord comes and demands we join them. During that time, we will gather as much knowledge as we can. Do you want to suggest something?" Sophia treated the kobold like a comrade and not a servant. The only reason she took the lead was that she was stronger and had proven her cunning mind.

Kylo shook his head and did not say anything since he felt that Sophia's plan covered everything.

They were ready to start working when a message reached them through their Chaotic-Cores.

"I have sealed a Demon Count and taken control over a city. My Nether Spirit Avatar is heading to The Forgotten Lands and will remain with you two while I recover. The avatar can express Pseudo-Rank 5 battle power, but it would be best if he doesn't have to fight."

Ezequiel's message ended there, but there was amazement in the eyes of the duo.

They had entered Abyss together, but while they had just taken control of a small city and defeated a few weak demons, the Supreme Neo-Demon had captured a Rank 5 Demon Lord alive.

"Lord Invictus is as impressive as ever. He is truly worthy of being the Will of the Ancestor." Kylo's eyes shone with respect and admiration.

"Yes, he is. I still remember when he was just a little boy that followed Zatiel everywhere, and now he is a mighty monster. We cannot remain behind. Let's begin to work."

Chapter 347 - New Brain

Although the amount of slaughter happening in Baator was not inferior to Abyss, the way the devils implemented it was more systematized and always following specific codes and unspoken rules.

When Zitu, the first Devil Lord that Zatiel defeated, marched to Xenia's city to butcher it, he had obtained permission from his Duke and bribed his opponent's backing.

That was the way in Baator, a place with organized massacres and where those above always had their part.

However, this day an indiscriminate massacre was happening in a small city in Avernus.

A young man with three eyes and black scales fought against six Peak Rank 4 Devils in the sky.

If it weren't for the evil aura in the young man, he would certainly appear like a legendary hero fighting against the giant devils.

He had a golden sun made purely of light behind him. A golden aura filled every cell of his body, and he had a bow on his hand.

The man was so fast that the Rank 4 Devils had a hard time following his movements, and his arrows were even quicker.

The devils were burning with rage as the battle progressed, and their wounds became worse. However, they were not demons and would undoubtedly have escaped if it wasn't for the five giants in black armor who released a force field made of Mind Force around them.

A Spiked Lizard attempted to take the young man by surprise and attacked his back as he fought another devil. Unfortunately, when his claw was a meter away from striking the young man, this one transformed into a beam of light and disappeared from his sight.

Before the devil could even begin to seek the young man, four arrows pierced his extremities.

The projectiles were so fast and carried such immense kinetic force that they pulverized everything around them. In an instant, the Rank 4 Spiked Lizard lost his extremities, and things only grew worse from there.

The young man appeared right in front of the Spiked Lizard's face. He was smaller than the devil's eye and fired one final arrow made of Mind Force.

The arrow did not cause physical damage but invaded the devil's soul dimension and paralyzed the True Soul.

After the first Rank 4 Devil fell, the rest followed him. The young man managed to capture all of them alive.

The young man and the Brain Golems took the defeated Rank 4 Devils and returned to the city.

There were thousands of lesser devils around them, but none of them moved, and their eyes were empty. The reason was that tadpoles had parasitized their brain, and although they were technically alive, they had lost the ability to think for themselves.

Dante's face was pale as he assessed the city and the prisoners. The fight may have seemed easy, but the truth was it exhausted the Neo-Demon.

Usually, for a Neo-Demon with a Tier 2 Law Bloodline, it should not have been so hard to defeat a group of Rank 4 Devils, but due to the way he was born, Dante's bloodline purity was affected. He still had the Daybreak Bloodline, but the battle power enhancement was only equal to a Tier 4 Law Bloodline. The good news is that he can increase the purity, and the bad is that the resources needed are very hard to obtain.

The Neo-Demon did not let that affect him. Even if his bloodline was worse, a well developed True Doomsday Body is not inferior to a Law Bloodline.

Dante had chosen the Superluminal True Doomsday Body, the fastest True Doomsday Body. Theoretically, this body could challenge the Shooting Star Bloodline once it reaches its peak.

The Superluminal True Doomsday Body only allows the body and not the spells or other attacks to reach a supreme speed.

However, Dante broke that rule. Using the Law of Creation and Law of Life, he made his arrows contain his flesh, blood, and traces of his life force.

Dante looked to the distance when he felt a powerful presence and saw a mighty dragon.

The creature had dark red scales, large spikes on his spine and tail, enormous wings made of fire, earth, and darkness. He was the perfect representation of a devil dragon.

The moment the devil dragon reached the city, he transformed into his humanoid form, showing Rax in his devil disguise.

Rax looked at the defeated Rank 4 Devils and nodded to Dante before waving his hand and bringing out another four Rank 4 Devils from his space ring.

"These are the devils that were the nearest to our current location. I made sure to spread your parasite in the lesser devils, and no one saw me."

"Good, with this, we can begin." Dante made ten tadpoles appear and sent them to the Rank 4 Devils.

These parasites were a unique strain named Soul Parasites. They not only controlled the brain but also the True Soul of a victim.

The price to create any of them was equal to a Peak Rank 5 Artifact, and the victims must be in the same world or plane that Dante is, or else the True Soul may free themselves from the parasite power.

The Neo-Demon knew he could not just kill Rank 4 Devils and take control of their domains, but what he could do was to control them and be a puppeteer in the shadows.

He had obtained knowledge about a meeting between Rank 4 Devils and had chosen to attack it. And with the devils Rax captured, he could use all the Soul Parasites he had available.

"I will send one of these Rank 4 Devils to visit a Devil Lord and see if they can go unnoticed. We should hide in this city in the meantime and move again when I get another batch of Soul Parasites."

Their mission was to gather information and establish a foothold, so Rax agreed with Dante's plan.

The duo and the Brain Golems disappeared inside the city.

The next second, all the lesser devils and Rank 4 Devils moved again. They showed anger, happiness and schemed against each other, but the truth was they were all puppets.

....

Two years had passed since Zatiel started his secluded training. He modified the Dream Dimension Technique in less than six months and spent the next year and a half making tests and experiments.

Expanding the dimension inside his Rebirth Eye to his brain was an incredibly complex process and involved two essential organs for the Neo-Demon, so there was no room for mistakes.

The first step was to change his brain's composition to be better suited to contain that purple dimension.

Slowly, he extracted threads of purple energy from his Rebirth Eye and sent them to his brain.

The process was delicate and painful, but the Neo-Demon's concentration did not falter.

After a few days, Zatiel's brain began to vibrate, and a high fever assaulted the Neo-Demon.

Zatiel was bleeding from his eyes, nose, and mouth as pieces of his brain were melting and replaced with new ones charged with purple energy.

Cracks formed in the walls in the soul dimension as the process continued. The True Soul and True Will had to use their power to keep it stable.

It took Zatiel a month of constant destruction and creation until every cell in his brain evolved.

The Neo-Demon rested for two weeks since the change in his brain left him with great pain, and he needed to get used to the new organ.

Zatiel only continued once he was in peak condition.

"This is the last part. I cannot fail, or else there will be severe repercussions for my Rebirth Eye."

The Neo-Demon's eyes were filled with resolution as he began to inject Origin Power into the purple dimension inside his right eye.

The dimension was not meant to be trained that way, and it started to tremble the moment the Origin Power entered it.

Zatiel felt immense pain in his right eye, but he did not stop and kept feeding it Origin Power until this one finally exploded and left chaotic purple energy.

The Neo-Demon's entire body shook when that happened, and the pain was so great that he almost lost consciousness. Using all of his willpower, he remained awake and immediately expanded the chaotic purple energy to his brain.

Chapter 348 - Beyond Reality

The only way Zatiel could bring the purple plane out of his Rebirth Eye and into his brain was by transforming it into the chaos purple energy that made it. If the dimension were physical, it would have been the end for it, but since it was an illusion, reconstructing it was possible.

Zatiel took half of the chaos purple energy and extended it to his brain. The Neo-Demon could not divide it since that would harm the dimension.

The process was beyond painful, and if it weren't for his True Will helping him, Zatiel would have fallen unconscious.

It took him five days of immense agony until he transferred half of the chaos purple energy.

One half was now inside the Rebirth Eye and the other in the center of his brain, both connected by a trail of chaos purple energy.

Once that part was over, Zatiel began the reconstruction of the purple plane.

Previously, the right eye held the plane in its entirety, but now it had two cores. The chaos purple energy began to condense, and Zatiel felt how the purple plane was starting to reappear.

The process was slow, but after five days, Zatiel could access once again the illusion dimension with that raging purple energy.

There were no changes in the Rebirth Eye. However, the moment the dimension stabilized, an evolutionary change happened in Zatiel's brain. An explosion of a unique form of Mind Force originated from the Neo-Demon and covered the entire Garden of Creation.

Heinz, Zitra, Totto, Tyrus, and others who had regressed to Rank 3 were training in the garden. Without any warning, they saw the world around them change and entered a purple plane.

The group was shocked and immediately put on high alert. The first thought that came to their mind was that a powerful entity had teleported them to a different world.

"There is no need to worry. I have seen this place before. It is an illusion plane of my brother." Luckily, Heinz was able to recognize this plane after a moment and calm down the others.

The group looked at Heinz with confusion, and they began to explore the plane. Broken buildings were around them, and there was the purple energy in the air that clouded their sight.

"Is this truly an illusion?." Zitra was the one that asked that question, but it was in the mind of everybody else.

They could feel the air entering their lungs, the earth beneath their feet, and they could even attract energy to their bodies and increase their energy pool.

Everything felt so real that they were more inclined to believe that someone teleported them to a different place.

Ten minutes after the group appeared on the plane, Zatiel manifested himself in the sky.

"Sorry about that. I succeeded in an experiment and accidentally released a soul invasion spell to the entire garden." The group looked with amazement at the Neo-Demon, as this one waved his hand and sent everybody, but Zitra, back to reality.

The woman was confused, but when she saw Zatiel approaching her with lust in his eyes, her heart began to beat faster.

The Neo-Demon was in an excellent mood, and he wanted to be with his new lover.

"Time in this place runs much faster than in reality. We can have a lot of fun."

....

Zitra opened her eyes ten minutes after the rest of the group, and they were glowing with bliss.

She spent several days experimenting with the pleasure of the flesh for the first time.

The next moment, coldness returned to her eyes, and she stared at Heinz and Totto. She heard the duo giggling when she just woke up.

Zitra sneered when she saw them looking away and returned to her training. Her expression was calm, but from time to time, a smile appeared on her face.

.....

Zatiel opened his eyes in the Soul Throne, and excitement could be seen in his face as he felt his new Mind Force and how it could feed his Rebirth Eye.

"My new Mind Force did not improve my striking power, but now the illusions and soul invasion spells are harder to detect and can last longer." The power of the spells fired by the Rebirth Eye was already very high, so Zatiel did not feel disappointed it did not increase.

"A.I. Chip, show me my current stats." Zatiel wanted to see how much he improved after two years of secluded training and advancing to Rank 4 Animus.

"Bip... Analyzing host.

Paths of Power: Animus (Rank 4)/ True Soul (Rank 4- Second Origin Cycle)/ True Will (Low Star Breaker)/ True Doomsday Body (First Heaven)

Strength: 5.0-->5.7

Physique: 7.4-->7.6

Speed: 5.9-->6.2

Elemental Chaos: 2.7-->3.8

Rebirth Force: 2.6-->3.7

Soul Origin: 1.5-->3.2

Astral Origin: 1.4-->3.0

Mind Force: 0.3-->1.7

Note: Host's Mind Force is of a higher level than those of high ranking Mind Rulers. It can compare in quality with the one generated by the entity known as Sage."

Zatiel was delighted with the information given by the chip. Although his advance may not seem that high for two years of secluded training, even geniuses spent decades in Rank 4 since the increase of Soul Origin and the True Soul training takes time.

Reaching the Second Origin Cycle in less than three years after reaching Rank 4 was impressive.

"My True Doomsday Body has finished consuming the Star Consciousness of my first star, and I can seal another star in my body, but it is better if I wait. My second heaven still has room for improvement, and I am in no hurry. I should add some spells to my repertory before I leave."

Zatiel's most potent ability was his Rebirth Nightmare. Nevertheless, this soul invasion spell generates tremendous pressure over his Rebirth Eye. He needs to trap the target's consciousness in the purple dimension, and Zatiel cannot use it repeatedly in the same battle.

Before, there was no need for the Neo-Demon to know more spells that could take advantage of his Rebirth Eye's abilities because he did not have more energy left after using Rebirth Nightmare, but things were different now, thanks to his Mind Force.

The list of illusion and soul invasion spells in Zatiel's mind was endless. He discarded all the techniques that needed laws he did not train and those whose use was limited to a Rank.

After an hour, he decided on three spells named Soul Eradicator, Heart Seal, and Beyond Reality.

Soul Eradicator attacked the enemy's soul, destroying it if he was weak and stunning it if he could resist. The attack was instantaneous, regardless of the distance. Zatiel only needed to have the target in his line of sight.

Heart Seal planted a mark in the target's soul, allowing Zatiel to control his action and thoughts. Unfortunately, it was challenging to implant it in a target with similar strength to yours.

Beyond Reality was a technique Zatiel stole from a powerful enemy. That person reached the peak of the universe and relied on this spell at the beginning of his path. It controls the five senses to the point where it can make the target misinterpret another person's form, shape, mass, feel, and smell to be an enemy's.

Zatiel could make an adversary believe they were targeting him when they were really sending their attacks to an ally.

Beyond Reality was an incredibly complex spell, and if it weren't for his Rebirth Eye, Zatiel would not even think of training it. This technique also needed the Neo-Demon to form a connection with the target for it to work.

The creator designed it to work with a kiss, but the Neo-Demon had another plan in mind.

Zatiel spent six months more training until he reached the first level in the three spells.

With everything ready, he went to the World Gate and left the Neo-Demon Realm.

Chapter 349 - Dis

The second of the Nine Hells was named Dis. Green clouds covered this circle's sky, and powerful lightning cursed through them. The earth had endless rivers of lava that covered the entire layer.

The most impressive thing about the second circle of Baator was the fact that, despite having a size comparable to a High World, it was once covered in its entirety by one single city.

The legendary Iron City of Dis was one of the two cores of Baator, along with Nessus, the home of Asmodeus.

The Iron Duke, A powerful Rank 9 Archdevil, controlled the city. It was thanks to his might and cunningness that the Iron City of Dis rose to prominence.

In the entire universe, the Iron City was believed to be an eternal bastion of the devils that no one could ever destroy due to its impregnable defense.

However, even the most fantastic city of Baator could not resist the Nightmare of Dis. The Incarnation of Death and Destruction butchering the Archdevils and then swallowing the origin of Dis destroyed the Iron City.

After millions of years and countless sacrifices, the Archdevils have managed to restore Dis' origin and reconstructed the Iron City. Nonetheless, the size of the city was half of the one in its prime.

The outer layers were abandoned and considered a lawless zone. Devils killed each other regularly in those places. They did it to rob people or to consume their flesh to strengthen their bloodline.

Two devil armies were fighting in one of those lawless zones. The tactics on each of the troops were impressive, and it was clear they had done this many times.

A Rank 4 Devil led each army. They would only begin their fight once a victor emerged between the lesser devils' troops.

Both leaders frowned as they felt a fluctuation in space. They looked at the sky, trying to find the newcomer.

That was the last thing the Rank 4 Devils did before an invisible force hit them and their armies. The duo fell unconscious, and every single lesser devil died instantly.

Zatiel saw with a smile how his Soul Eradicator had killed everyone in a single swoop and even more when he realized how little Mind Force the spell needed.

The Neo-Demon could have also killed the Rank 4 Devils, but they were more useful alive. Zatiel's Mind Force invaded their brain, and in less than ten seconds, he learned everything about them.

He shook his head when he realized that neither had a direct connection with a Devil Lord.

'Well, it is reasonable. These two Rank 4 Devils are both at the First Origin Cycle, after all.' The Neo-Demon gathered their belongings before opening his mouth and devouring all the dead lesser devils along with one of the Rank 4 Devils.

After that, he used the True Soul of the last devil to create a Doppelganger Fiend Rune.

Zatiel did it very fast and did not care if there were instabilities in the rune since it would only be temporary. His soul force will be equal to the one of the True Soul with which he made the rune, and it would bring him many problems if he displayed his full battle power with a weak Rank 4 Devil's soul force.

The moment he engraved the Animax Soul Rune in his True Soul, bones covered his wings, and an evil aura emanated from his entire being.

Zatiel began to fly after he finished his transformation. After two days of traveling, he saw a city surrounded by an unbelievable high wall covered with endless runic formations.

Although he could fly above the wall, it was forbidden to enter the Iron City that way.

The Neo-Demon headed to one of the many entrances and waited in line. Luckily, the devils were moving fast. They just had to pay the entrance tax.

Zatiel was behind a fifty meter tall Rank 4 Stone Golem. The moment the devil reached the entrance, two Peak Rank 4 Ice Devils received him.

The Stone Golem showed the guards a medallion revealing the Devil Lord he served.

One of the Ice Devil examined the medallion, and once he made sure it was real, he spoke.

"Twenty soul coins."

Soul coins were the currency used by high ranking devils. They were made with the souls of the mortals that arrived in Baator and Origin Power.

The Stone Golem nodded and handed twenty blue coins to an Ice Devil before entering the city.

It was the Neo-Demon's turn next. He walked to the guard before taking twenty soul coins from his space ring.

The Ice Devils looked at each other once they saw Zatiel did not show any medallion and felt that his soul force was at the First Origin Cycle.

"For new residents, the price is ten thousand soul coins." There was a wicked smile in the Ice Devil when he spoke those words.

Zatiel's eyes narrowed when he heard that. Ten thousand soul coins were enough to buy a Rank 6 Artifact, and there was no way a Rank 4 Devil could have so much.

The Neo-Demon did have that amount with him. After all, he had killed many Devil and Demon Lords, but the problems would only grow if he showed his wealth.

It was clear to him they were trying to trick him. If they were in Abyss, Zatiel would have killed them, but this was Baator, a lawful plane, so he needed to play by its rules. Not to mention he felt several consciousnesses belonging to Devil Lords surveying the wall.

"Ten thousand soul coins are the price needed to buy a property in the Iron City. I only want to enter it."

Coldness appeared in the eyes of the Ice Devils when they heard the words of the Neo-Demon. They wanted to scare Zatiel away with that immense sum, but it was clear they were facing a smart opponent.

The devils could not go against the rules of their position. That wordplay they did before was a way to trick the newcomers who did not know the Iron City's rules, but the Ice Devils were not defeated yet.

"Hmph, we were given the authority by a Devil Lord to inspect all the belongings of any newcomer who behaves suspiciously. You enter that category since you have never been to the Iron City before, and yet you know the price of a residence." There were many ways the person in front of him could have obtained that information, and the Ice Devil knew it, but he just needed to find an excuse to pressure his opponent into giving in.

Zatiel may have lived his life as a demon, but his cunningness was so great that he once made the Nine Hells tremble. He could defeat this Ice Devil in a game of wits and obtain his entrance to the city, but a new plan appeared in his mind.

He immediately backed up and adopted a defensive stance once the Ice Devil mentioned examining his belongings.

Zatiel showed a trace of killing intent in his eyes before flying away and vanishing into the mountains in the distance.

When the Ice Devils saw the Neo-Demon's behavior, they smiled, and less than ten minutes after Zatiel left, one of them chased after him.

Everybody who saw the Ice Devil understood his goal, but no one bothered with him.

It was typical for the city guards to chase away and then rob the newcomers. Of course, most of the profits went for the Devil Lords.

The Peak Rank 4 Ice Devil returned in less than an hour, and there were some minor injuries on his body.

He first went to the top of the city's walls and bowed to a Devil Lord lying there before offering a space ring.

"I suppose you only took ten percent of what was inside, right?" The Devil Lord had the form of a giant poison worm, and his voice carried an ominous feeling.

"Of course, my Lord." The Ice Devil responded with fear and did not dare to look at the worm directly.

The Devil Lord inspected the space ring and allowed the devil to leave.

The moment the Ice Devil returned to his post, his comrade spoke to him.

"It seems that the weak devil gave you a fight."

"Hmph. I was able to kill that garbage in two moves."

Chapter 350 - Count Kenner

The next few days were normal for the Ice Devil duo. They guarded one of the entrances to the Iron City, collected taxes, and more than once made sure weak devils could not pass through the gates, chasing them away to kill them and steal their belongings.

Once their shift was over and two other Rank 4 Devils replaced them, they flew to their dwellings. However, when they were about to split apart, one of the Ice Devils sent a message to his comrade in a very discreet way.

'Turo, we need to discuss something. I found a powerful artifact in that weak devil's belongings.'

When the Ice Devil named Turo heard that voice in his mind, a flash of surprise appeared on his face, but he immediately hid it. He thought about those words for a moment before sending a message to his comrade's mind.

'Lopi, why are you telling me this and not just keeping that object for yourself?' Turo knew that despite knowing each other for more than one hundred years and fighting countless battles together, neither of them would hesitate even for a second in killing the other if they could gain something.

Devils were paranoiac beings by nature, so Turo immediately thought something fishy was going on.

'It is too valuable for me to use it in the open, and the moment someone realizes I have it, they will kill me and steal it. You and I know that Count Niko is a petty individual, and if I hand it over to him, not only I will gain nothing, he may search my soul to know for sure I don't have something else of value.'

Lopi words made perfect sense for Turo. Having wealth without power was a sin. That was even more true in Baator and Abyss, where its inhabitants killed each other for pleasure.

'Count Niko is currently part of an invasion force in a High World, and he will not return in at least one hundred years. You know very well that we are doomed if we remain as his subordinates since he will not allow us to enter Rank 5 and equal him in strength.'

Turo did not show anything on his face when he heard that, but he made a small gesture indicating his understanding.

'I know you have been developing a relationship with Count Kenner.'

The moment Turo heard that, his eyes widened, and killing intent was born in his heart, but he managed to hide it. He knew very well the horrible fate that would fall on him if his current master knew he was trying to leave him. The Devil Lord would torture him until his lifespan is over for his audacity.

His eyes were cold as he stared at Lopi and signaled him to continue.

'If we present this item to Count Kenner, he may accept us together under his wings and free us from Count Niko.'

Turo remained quiet for an entire minute before speaking.

'I will arrange the meeting with Count Kenner, but I need to examine the object before. If I displease the Devil Lord, the consequences will be dire for me. I have the tools in my castle.'

Lopi immediately refused but saw that Turo was unwilling to compromise. In the end, he did not have another option but to comply. If they separate now and rumors about him having a valuable item spread, it would mean his end.

The duo headed for Turo's castle, and once inside, immediately went to the laboratory.

The entire room looked exactly how you would expect from a devil's laboratory. There were living creatures kept in cages and mutilated corpses hanging from hooks.

"Follow me." Turo guided Lopi into the room, and the moment they were both inside, the eyes of the first one glowed.

The entire laboratory began to shine with red light, killing all the prisoners inside and releasing a power that made it impossible to mobilize Soul Origin.

Rage appeared in Lopi eyes as he attempted to escape, but chains emerged from the walls and immobilized his body.

A wicked smile appeared on Turo's face as he saw Lopi's fury.

"I am sorry old friend, but you know too much. Besides, if you knew Count Kenner's personality, you would have understood that you were bound to die. Now I will take the item and..." Turo could not finish his sentence since a special force had frozen his True Soul. It happened too fast, and he did not even notice it when it entered his soul dimension.

The rage in Lopi's face vanished when he saw the state of the Ice Devil. His right eye shinned, and the next second, it fired a wave of Mind Force that destroyed his bindings.

Lopi got closer to the Ice Devil and put his hand over his head. The next second, Mind Force began to brand Turo's True Soul.

It took two hours, but after it was over, the Ice Devil lost the ability to control his body and thoughts.

Lopi and Toru sit down the next moment, as the first one restored his strength.

Neither spoke a word and remained in complete silence inside the laboratory for two days before flying away.

They traveled at full speed for an entire week before reaching an impressive fortress. There was a giant ball of blue fire floating in the sky above this construction.

When the Ice Devil reached the entrance, Fiend Trent rose from the ground.

"Why have you come here, Turo, and with an outsider?"

"His name is Lopi, and he's also a servant of Count Niko. We bring an offering for Count Kenner. Show us the way, unless you want the Lord to know you are responsible for him not getting his gift."

A mocking smile appeared in the Fiend Trent when he heard that.

"There is no need for threats. I will take you two to the Lord."

The fortress was so great that it could be considered a city, and millions of devils lived in it. The trio flew through the sky until they reached an impressive castle.

The castle was more than ten times larger than Turo's, and countless runic formations covered its walls. The two Ice Devil entered it under the Fiend Trent's guide, who led them to the throne room.

After ten minutes of walking, a massive gate appeared in front of them.

"My Lord, Turo requests a meeting. He brings a comrade who also serves under Count Niko. They bring a gift." A few seconds after the Fiend Trent spoke, the gate opened.

The room was immense, but it was empty other than a throne where the Devil Lord was sitting.

Count Kenner had a four-meter-tall humanoid body, with a dark blue exoskeleton covering his skin. There were two horns in his head, and his eyes were closed.

The physical might this Devil Lord released was so great that it made the trio feel they were at the bottom of a deep ocean, and countless waves were crushing their bodies.

The Fiend Trent bowed to the Devil Lord and left, but not before giving a sinister smile to the Ice Devils.

Turo and Lopi ignored the Fiend Trent and walked forward until they were less than five meters away from the Devil Lord before kneeling.

"Great Lord Kenner, this is my comrade Lopi. During our job as a guard, we came in possession of a powerful item. We want to give it to you, Great Lord, and hope you could take us as your loyal subordinates." Turo's voice was full of respect and fear.

Once his comrade finished speaking, Lopi made a white sword appear.

It was only when the artifact appeared that Kenner opened his eyes. He opened his palm, making the white sword fly to him.

"What an impressive magic matrix. With enough resources, this sword could become a Rank 6 Artifact. Very good!." Although Kenner's voice was cold and full of viciousness, it made a smile appear in the Ice Devils.

"Unfortunately, I would have problems if I take two Rank 4 Devils from Niko. Fight among yourself, the winner becomes my subordinates, and the loser dies. By the way, if someone releases their Law Avatar and harms my castle, I will flay him alive."

When the Ice Devils heard that, they were surprised, but they attacked each other the next second.

Kenner began to smile once he saw that. This Devil Lord enjoyed putting people against each other and seeing them kill their friends and comrades.

Turo knew that and was one of the reasons he did not want to come here with anyone.

The fight advanced fast since both Ice Devils were attacking with everything they had. Turo lost an arm, but he kicked Lopi in the chest and managed to send him flying away in the direction of the Devil Lord.

When Kenner saw the Ice Devil about to clash with him, he slapped his body. However, when he touched Lopi, this one exploded, and a man with eight wings and three eyes came out of him.