

Abyssal 961

Chapter 961 End of peace

The Sacred Kings felt their minds freeze as the force behind those eyes was something their souls could not endure.

Ezequiel and Venganza were much better due to the power of their soul force, but even Fourth Realm life forms like them feel a sense of terror and awe in their hearts as they look into those monstrous eyes.

However, that was not the most shocking part. What truly made the hearts of everybody grow cold was the wisdom in those eyes, as if it was looking at them, which made no sense since this was a memory.

The next second, things escalated as they heard a voice inside their mind.

"Resistance is futile. Everything will become one with me."

That voice was so ancient and evil that it almost made the Sacred Kings puke. It was so unclean and disgusting that it could break the mind and mutate the soul of anyone with a soul force beneath Rank 10.

However, that was not all since it was also able to influence their thought, and even Extreme Rank 9 life forms would succumb to it if their willpower were too weak.

The Sacred Kings felt an intent trying to force its way into their hearts. It wanted them to submit, and in return, it promised the power to rise into the Fourth Realm, living forever as part of the Beyonder.

The Revenge Thearch and Emptiness Thearch clench their fists as they understood that the monstrous entity used the memory as a channel to speak with them, despite being so far away. The duo immediately turned toward Zatiel so that this one would shatter the memory and break the connection.

However, the Samsara Thearch looked at the Beyonder with cold eyes before waving his hand, freeing the mind of the Sacred Kings.

Zatiel was aware of the power that a life form like the Beyonder could unleash and knew this one could use a remembrance like a channel, but he did not care. His Omnipotence already cloaked the power and thoughts of everybody present, and the monster could only speak to them.

Allowing the Sacred Kings and Thearchs to feel the aura of the Beyonder was the best way Zatiel could think of for them to understand just how monstrous the power of their final enemy was.

The Beyonder's monstrous gaze left the Sacred Kings and turned toward Zatiel. The light in those eyes went from disdain to solemnity.

"You are the one that killed my Knight."

"I am your end."

Zatiel said nothing else before raising his right hand and clenching his fists, shattering the memory.

The Thearchs and Sacred Kings saw the room return, and the faces of everybody were pale. Some even fell to the ground as they were having a hard time breathing.

"That thing. How can something so monstrous exist!?"

Dante's eyes burned with silver flames as his willpower helped him recover, but it was not easy.

The rest of the Sacred Kings did not say anything about the state of the youngest of their group since all of them felt a sense of utter terror in their hearts when they felt that monster's presence.

Cancer was indeed the perfect description for the Beyonder. It was the antithesis of life itself, and it would not stop growing and mutating until nothing was left.

Such a path was clearly a dead end since if nothing was left but the Beyonder, existence would cease to have meaning. The monster should understand that, but it must not care.

It was a universe that refused its fate and would not accept its end under any terms. If existence must end for it to survive, then so be it.

Zatiel could feel the state of everybody's soul, and he raised his hand, making a golden flame emerge in his hand, unleashing a radiance that calmed their hearts.

That golden radiance did not wash away the fear and dread in their hearts, but something much more impressive. It gave their willpower the strength to fight it, allowing the Sacred Kings to defeat it on their own.

Ignoring something and defeating it were two different things, and allowing the Sacred Kings to overcome their fear would immensely help their future clash.

Venganza stared at the golden flame in Zatiel's hand, and a profound light appeared in his eyes. That was an Eternal Flame, but its powers had already surpassed the limit of the Concept of Justice.

The Revenge Thearch could feel the power of hope in it, a force ingrained in his Samsara of Sin and Man, but the way that Zatiel used it was much more profound.

Although Venganza was full of questions about the Concept Path and how to develop it through the Fourth Realm, there were more important things at the moment.

Zatiel waited until everybody regained their strength before speaking again.

"The Beyonder is an extremely powerful entity, but moving across the Emptiness takes a long time due to its nature and size. The coordinates of our universe are already in its possession since it knew every move that Endless Darkness made.

It might take hundreds of thousands or even millions of years, but it will come to us."

The Thearchs and Sacred Kings took a deep breath and were able to relax a little when they heard that. Unlike the Ultimate Multiversal War, they would have time to prepare this time, and in a million years, the power of the Daybreak Universe would rise to a whole new level.

Unfortunately, Zatiel's next words made it clear things would not be so simple.

"The Beyonder is smart enough to understand the potential of the Daybreak Universe and will not allow us to grow unchecked."

Venganza, Ezequiel, and the others frowned as they understood that the peace the Daybreak Universe had enjoyed for dozens of thousands of years would end very soon.

"The Beyonder might need a long time to reach us, but that dozens meant its Knights would require the same. I don't know how many or their exact power, but I know that Endless Darkness was the weakest of all of them."

Things grew increasingly dire the more they understood about the incoming threat. The Beyonder must have lived for dozens of Epochs to have reached such massive size and power, so its forces must be equally powerful.

The Daybreak Universe only had two True Rank 10 life forms, not counting Zatiel, and less than twenty warriors with Rank 10 battle power. It was an immense power, but it might not be enough to equal the enemy army.

Battles against Rank 10 life forms were not new for the Thearchs and Sacred Kings since they had faced many life forms like that in the Emptiness and even led armies of drones into the foreign dimension. Still, all those battles were fought in a position of power and absolute control, which none of them thought they would enjoy against the new enemy.

"Father, how is your power compared to the Beyonder?"

Finally, Dante made the question that was in everybody's mind. The Fourth Realm was still obscure and hard to quantify, even for Thearchs like Ezequiel and Venganza. They could feel that the Beyonder was unlike anything they had faced before, but Zatiel's power was also impossible for them to measure.

Zatiel was not rash with his answer, and it was something he had been wondering since he came to learn about the Beyonder.

"Our paths are too different. The way the Beyonder rose to the Fourth Realm and its cultivation is unique since its existence is unique. According to my knowledge, there had never been something like it before.

From what I can perceive from its aura and the information in Endless Darkness' memories, Beyond must be a Late Stage of the Fourth Realm.

I should be at the limit of the Middle Stage right now. The difference might not seem much, but I assure you, it is immense. If I were to fight against the Beyonder right now, there is 98% of my perishing, with only a 2% chance of leaving it in a draw, with both of us left with severe wounds.

Victory is not something I can achieve right now."

Zatiel's heart was calm as he made that assessment. His willpower had grown too much for him to worry about things that were far into the future.

The Beyonder was an existential threat to the Daybreak Universe, there was no doubt about that, but there was still time, and right now, his focus should be on facing the Knight.

The Samsara Thearch did not have an exact timeline, but he was sure it would not be long before they arrived. He had to be ready to face them without harming the Daybreak Universe.

"I can see that your understanding of the Fourth Realm is still shallow and simple words are not enough, which is why I am prepared to give you a proper demonstration and share my with you my knowledge."

Chapter 962 Understanding the Fourth Realm

Zatiel waved his hand again, teleporting everybody into the Emptiness. Then, he took a deep breath and no longer suppressed the monstrous power inside his body and soul.

"¡BOOM!"

A shock wave emerged from Zatiel's body, and the Sacred Kings saw with awe how that was all this one needed to push away the waves of chaotic energy around them, leaving an empty area of countless light years.

Venganza and Ezequiel adopted solemn expressions as they felt the soul force and physical pressure the Samsara Thearch unleashed. It vastly surpassed theirs, making it clear that calling Zatiel just a True Rank 10 life form would be underestimating this one.

A pillar of dark purple flames and golden energy emerged from Zatiel as his body showed its true form. His right and left eyes became the Thanatos Eye and Eros Eye, but this was an even more potent version than the one shown during the Ultimate Multiversal War.

There were halos of golden runes of Eternal Flame formed inside both eyes. The power in the eyes was the fusion of the Concept Path and Law Path, revealing a force that could twist reality and imagination.

Zatiel's soul force exploded once the Thanatos Eye and Eros Eye manifested, and it was so strong that some of the Sacred Kings with weak spiritual defenses nearly fell unconscious.

Just his soul force and those two eyes would be enough to make him the strongest life form in the entire Daybreak Universe, but the Samsara Thearch's power-up was far from over.

A golden crown containing twelve suns materialized above Zatiel's head, and then eighteen demonic wings of solidified energy emerged from his back.

Zatiel's body began to grow as his muscles bulged. The physical pressure he began to unleash was so high that it acted as a gravitational field, pushing people toward him, not unlike a black hole.

Ezequiel could not help but clench his fist as he felt Zatiel's physical might surpass his. He knew that challenging the Samsara Thearch in terms of soul force would be foolish, which is why he had trained his body day and night so as not to be left behind.

Yet, despite the Emptiness Thearch's hard work, the Samsara Thearch's physical might reach a whole new level.

The power that Zatiel unleashed made him resemble an unsurpassable mountain, and he still needed to reveal one final card.

"CRACK!"

The sound of glass shattering echoed across the Emptiness as a cut appeared on Zatiel's forehead.

Ezequiel, Venganza, and the Sacred Kings saw how the Emptiness began to tremble as a immense power like emerged from that cut in the Samsara Thearch's forehead.

The cut began to expand slowly, making the Emptiness tremble with more and more strength, and all sorts of majestic phenomena materialized in the surroundings.

Golden swords, giant mythical beasts, bridges that connected worlds, supernovas of all colors, and all many more phantoms appeared in the Emptiness.

The Sacred Kings were amazed by the aura those phenomena unleashed, and the shock in the faces of the Revenge Thearch and Emptiness Thearch was even more remarkable.

The cultivation of the duo allowed them to understand that while those were just phantoms generated by the Samsara Thearch's power and experiences, they had the potential to come to life. It would only take a stream of Zatiel's life force to transform those phenomena into mighty Eldars or divine treasures.

Finally, the Samsara Eye revealed itself, and its power was mind-blowing. It had three pupils, the right was golden, the left had a dark purple light, and the one in the center was empty of any color, but there was a white sun inside.

None of the Thearchs or Sacred Kings had seen or felt anything like the Samsara Eye in all their trips across the Emptiness. It was more than just the flawless fusion between Truth and Eternal Flame. That white sun was the next step in the evolutive stage.

Zatiel inhaled, and the Thearchs and Sacred Kings could swear they saw the Emptiness compress around him, only to expand as he exhaled.

What kind of power do you need to have for your mere breathing to affect the Emptiness, the birthplace of universes!?

However, feeling the power of the Samsara Thearch spread a shadow over their hearts and minds since the Beyonder was even stronger!

Luckily, the Samsara Thearch's voice soon reached them, making the dread of the Beyonder vanish, replaced by intrigue and curiosity.

"Although my body and soul took dozens of thousands of years to heal, my mind woke up after less than five thousand years. I spend all that time learning more about the Fourth Realm and how to advance in it."

Zatiel's voice made the Thearchs and Sacred King feel their blood burn with excitement, and they were not the only ones since his voice reached the Daybreak Universe, echoing across the sky for all to hear.

"The Fourth Realm is more than a realm or cultivation stage. It is a state of being, and to rise forward, you need more than just increasing the energy inside your Inner Universe, the strength of your body, or the force of your soul."

The Samsara Thearch's voice carried a powerful intent that made most life forms in the Daybreak Universe fall unconscious. Their souls did not have the power to endure the pressure of those words, but the knowledge would be engraved in their minds for them to access once they grew strong enough.

Those like Roku, who had already taken a step into the Fourth Realm, could resist the pressure of that knowledge and adopted a meditative stance as they emptied their minds of everything other than the Samsara Thearch's soul.

"The first step to enter the realm is to surpass one of the powers that form a universe and give birth to live: Laws and Concepts.

The generation of a Truth will temper your Primordial Essence and allow your eyes to see beyond the matrix that forms objective reality. You rise beyond gravity, light, darkness, and every other cosmic force.

Your soul no longer abides by the universe's rules, and you can rewrite them."

The Samsara Thearch raised his right hand, making a dark purple flame that began to birth a Law Matrix into the Emptiness, showing the power to give birth to reality where there was nothing!

Unlike the forces birthed in the other universe, where fire provoked heat and ice generated cold, the matrix formed by the Samsara Thearch would act as he desired.

If he used this power inside a universe with a Law Matrix in place, his new laws would change the old ones as long as he had enough energy. Essentially, he could change objective reality according to his wishes.

The power of the Samsara Truth reached all Thearchs and Sacred Kings, traveling all the way into the Daybreak Universe before vanishing.

"The other path you can take is that of Eternal Flames. These are harder to master for most life forms since Concepts are not something we can touch but an idea born out of the collective mind and belief of all life forms in the universe.

An Eternal Flame will temper your mind and willpower, allowing your way of thinking to rise beyond the concepts accepted by all. Your ego can suppress that of the universe itself.

There are no barriers to your mind, and your imagination becomes a weapon capable of giving birth to weapons that cut laws and break reality."

Zatiel raised his left hand, from which a golden flame emerged. It began to affect the Emptiness just like the Samsara Truth, but this one did not form a matrix, instead forming an oniric realm where your ego could spend an eternity exploring.

The Thearchs and Sacred Kings closed their eyes as they focused on that golden flame and its oniric realm. They could let off their bodies and enter that realm, growing their minds and helping their egos evolve beyond a universe's limitation.

It was an intoxicating feeling, especially for those that followed the Concept Path, and if given a chance, many would choose to live in the oniric realm birthed by the Samsara Thearch's Eternal Flame.

"Any of the Paths is equally powerful, but on their own, they are limited. One explores objective reality, while the other focuses on imagination and ideas.

If you only dominate one of them, you will reach your limit in the Initial Stage. Only by mastering both can you rise to a level where reality and thought are under your grasp."

The Samsara Thearch fused the golden and dark purple flames, allowing their powers to merge flawlessly.

A new force emerged in the Emptiness as the Samsara Truth and Eternal Flames fused their power, allowing the boundary between imagination and reality to fade.

Anything that the Samsara Thearch thought could become an objective reality.

"If you are able to merge both of these powers, then you will rise to a level where nothing is impossible, even reversing time. You reach the Middle Stage and earn Omnipotence."

Chapter 963 Path to Omnipotence

All of Zatiel's words had a profound meaning, helping many of those who heard them solve the doubts that had plagued their minds for thousands of years.

The Thearchs, Sacred Kings, Nightmare Kings, and all the other powerhouses that were able to withstand the intent of the Samsara Thearch's soul felt that the Fourth Realm became clearer for them. The way to reach it and advance became much simpler in their minds.

Trying to force their way through the Fourth Realm relying on only one path, either the Law Path or Concept Path, was a mistake since it missed the entire goal of the realm itself. Your Primordial Essence had to rise above the limitations of the Law Matrix and objective reality, while your mind and imagination needed to overcome the collective belief system formed by the trillions of life forms that populated the entire universe.

Once your soul and mind rise above that limitation, you must fuse the power of your Truth with the essence of your Eternal Flame, allowing your thoughts to become a reality. That is the key behind Omnipotence.

When the Samsara Thearch sought to revive his wife, he imagined a portal that could ignore the continuity of space-time and used an incredible amount of energy to make it a reality.

The Thearchs, Sacred Kings, and the rest of the powerhouses stood in silence as they allowed the new knowledge to clear their minds and show them the way forward. Many of them went through several stages of enlightenment as their cultivation moved forward into the Fourth Realm.

The Emptiness Thearch and Revenge Thearch benefited greatly from the teaching of the Samsara Thearch, but they also came to a deadlock. They had already risen to the Fourth Realm, and now they understood that they needed to evolve in the other path to move forward.

However, while it is true they had focused on consolidating their cultivation on their respective path, with Ezequiel pushing the Law Path to the limit and Venganza doing the same with the Concept Path, it is not like they had neglected the other.

The Revenge Thearch had great dominion over the Concept of Freedom, while the Revenge Thearch developed the mighty Sinful Samsara Omega Law. However, nothing worked, no matter how much effort they put in or the treasures they used to supplement their cultivation.

Zatiel saw the doubts in the hearts of the Emptiness Thearch and Revenge Thearch, and after everybody had time to analyze his words, he carried on.

"You might find it hard to advance to the Fourth Realm in the Concept Path after reaching it in the Law Path because your Primordial Essence had risen to stand above objective reality, and your mind and imagination adapted to that state, closing down the gate for independent growth.

Something similar happens when you rise to the Fourth Realm in the Concept Path and try to push your Law Path beyond Rank 9. In this case, your Primordial Essence changes to become more susceptible to the power of your mind and imagination.

I was able to overcome that obstacle for a multitude of reasons. First, It was my Universe Will Incarnation, which rose to the Fourth Realm in the Concept Path, not me. Of course, the power of the Eternal Flame of Justice soon spread into my soul, making it my power. Yet, before the changes could reach my core and affect my Primordial Essence, I managed to awaken my Samsara Truth, rising in the Law Path with my true self.

I came to believe that my True Name gave me the unique ability of Three Samsara Incarnations to give me a path beyond the Initial Stage of the Fourth Realm."

The Sacred Kings felt a sense of pure awe when they heard that. Each of them had a True Name that embodied their ego, but the power in them matched that of their bloodlines. None of them had something that would devise a path through the Fourth Realm.

The Revenge Thearch and Emptiness Thearch adopted solemn expressions when they heard Zatiel's words. The power of the Eternal Flames and Truth had already spread through every particle of their existences, tempering them to a point it could not be reversed.

If the Samsara Thearch's analysis were correct, then they would be stuck at the Initial Stage of the Fourth Realm forever. Learning they could never advance beyond their current limit was something that could shake the willpower of even paragons like the duo.

Venganza and Ezequiel stared at the Samsara Thearch, hoping this one would have a way to fix their problems using his Omnipotence, but things were not so simple.

Zatiel could see the desire in the duo and softly shook his head.

"The energy that Omnipotence would need to revert the changes The Thearchs could not help but sight when they heard that. Still, they nodded toward the Samsara Thearch since it was clear this done by your respective Truth and Eternal Flame would be three times higher than the one needed to bring someone back to life."

The Thearchs could not help but sight when they heard that. Still, they nodded toward the Samsara Thearch since it was clear this one had sought a solution for them.

"Although I can not reverse your mind or Primordial Essence to a state in which they can give birth to a Fourth Realm's Truth or Eternal Flame, there is a path for you two."

Ezequiel and Venganza stared at Zatiel with large smiles on their faces. It was hard to find something that could force the duo to show their true emotions, but the future of their cultivation was that important.

The Thearchs were not the only ones interested since the Sacred Kings and all the other powerhouses were also intrigued. Trying to rise in both paths simultaneously was nearly impossible.

Orgullo sought to achieve that, but he was by far the most talented of the Sacred Kings. He was once the King in Yellow, and his reincarnation as a Depravita only strengthened him. Still, the chances he could achieve that goal were small.

"I can send you in the Samsara Cycle, sealing away all your memories, ego, and most of your soul, and this would only emerge after your rise into the Fourth Realm.

Once you rise into a path, the other would be unlocked, allowing you to rise immediately to the peak of the Initial Stage. You would only need to find the balance between the two and fuse them to rise into the Middle Stage."

Smiles appeared in the Thearchs and Sacred Kings when they heard that. It was a path that would require nothing but time, and no matter how long it took, it would be worth it.

Zatiel could see their thoughts, and they believed everything would be fine since there were no dangers in the Daybreak Universe unless they chose to travel into the Nightmare Inferno Realm. However, they were wrong.

"It involves reincarnation but can not be done in the Daybreak Universe. Your souls and minds will not be able to experience the type of reincarnation needed so that the powers of your Eternal Flame and Truths no longer hinder your paths into the Fourth Realm here.

It must be done in a new universe without contact with our laws and forces. That means it would be over if you were to die in that place. You will cease to exist, and I will have to revert time and destroy the entire universe if I were to bring you back to life."

The smiles in the Thearchs and Sacred Kings vanished once they heard that.

The dangers were immense. No matter how powerful they were right now, it would not be hard for them to perish if they started again in a foreign universe without any of their memories and a completely new personality.

Of course, Zatiel had the power to bring them back, but that meant sacrificing an entire universe. Although the desire for growth was immense in the hearts of all the powerhouses, not even the Nightmare Kings could take that decision lightly.

"There is a second path, but while it is safer at the beginning, it can carry severe problems in the future.

I can take a piece of your soul and send it into the Samsara Cycle of a new universe, generating an incarnation of you.

That incarnation would rise on his own, and once he reached the Fourth Realm, you could fuse back into a single entity."

Ezequiel and Venganza looked at each other as they heard that. Both of them were able to see the problem with the second path right away.

What if the incarnation does not want to become one with them, or worse yet, what if he wanted to devour them and override their willpower?

In the first path, they risked death, while in the second, there was the possibility of giving birth to an enemy that would stop at nothing in order to kill them. Either way, it was not an easy decision.

Zatiel allowed Venganza and Ezequiel to think deeply about the implication of using either path and once he saw the focus of the duo return, he carried on.

"The Late Stage of the Fourth Realm is something that defies reason."

Chapter 964 Reality Override

"The Late Stage of the Fourth Realm is something that defies reason."

Zatiel closed his Thanatos and Eros Eyes, allowing only his Samsara Eye to remain open. The dark red and golden pupils slowly lost their light, leaving only the middle pupil holding the small white sun.

The Thearchs and Sacred Kings focused on the energy of the white sun, and their minds froze for a second. They were not the only ones since the power of the white sun reached into the Daybreak Universe, paralyzing their thought of every powerhouse that was still awake.

It was something that their minds and souls could not understand. In that white sun, there was a power that defied logic, in which objective reality and imagination no longer had opposite meanings.

If you mastered that power, there was no need to transform imagination into reality through Omnipotence since reality itself would bend to your every action and thought. At that point, you rise above all that was and will ever be.

The radiance of the white sun lasted a mere second but left an impression that would never fade from the hearts and souls of all that felt it.

Ezequiel and Venganza regained their focus faster than the rest, and when they did it, they saw the fatigue in Zatiel.

It was clear to the duo that using the power of the Late Stage put tremendous pressure on the Samsara Thearch's life force and soul.

Expecting Zatiel to use that power during a prolonged battle would be foolish. Yet, the Emptiness Thearch and Revenge Thearch that during that second, the Samsara Thearch had enough power to erase all of them!

Unfortunately, knowing that the mighty ruler of their universe had that power did not make them feel better since it was the same destructive might that the Beyonder could unleash.

And unlike the Samara Thearch, the Beyonder could freely use that power since its existence had already evolved to the Late Stage.

Zatiel recovered in a few seconds, and once focus returned to the eyes of everybody, he carried on.

"I don't actually have a name for this power since I did not gain it through my own effort but as a gift granted by my True Name.

However, due to its nature, a fitting name would be Reality Override. The power to change what once was to what you wanted it to be."

Ezequiel, Venganza, Sacred Kings, Nightmare Kings, and all the other powerhouses that heard the Samsara Thearch's words could not help but shiver.

The only way to fight against someone at the Late Stage of the Fourth Realm capable of using Reality Override was not to be near them. Someone with that power just needed to look at you and could make it so that you were never born!

A cold sweat ran down the backs of the Thearchs and Sacred Kings as they understood that the Beyonder only needed to reach the Daybreak Universe to win.

The only way they could truly battle a monster like that would be if one of them would rise to the Late Stage, and the only one that could do it was the Samsara Thearch.

Zatiel already took a step into the Late Stage thanks to the help of his True Name, but whether he would fully evolve his existence to that level before the Beyonder arrived was impossible to say for sure.

Yet, even if the Samsara Thearch were to reach the Late Stage and gain the power of Reality Override, that did not mean he could defeat the Beyonder. After all, that cancerous monster had lived for countless Epochs and devoured numerous universes, gaining more and more power.

Zatiel could feel the fear and hesitation growing again in the hearts of the Thearchs and Sacred Kings. He did not blame them since his reaction after seeing the Beyonder for the first time in the memories of Endless Darkness was not much better.

He did not show the Beyonder to everybody else because he did not know whether they could endure the psychological pressure of knowing that something like that would come for them.

Luckily, just as the Samsara Thearch expected from the ones that fought by his side during the Ultimate Multiversal War, silver flames emerged in their eyes, washing away the fear and leaving nothing but resolution.

Even if the fight were pointless, they would not go down without one.

The Samsara Thearch smiled and softly nodded as his power returned to his body, stopping his aura from spreading into the Emptiness and affecting the life forms inside the Daybreak Universe.

Those that fell unconscious inside the Daybreak Universe woke up soon after, while somber and solemn expressions appeared in the powerhouses that managed to hear the Samsara Thearch's words.

Roku and the rest of the powerhouses managed to reach their level thanks not only to their brute power but also their keen minds, so they were wise enough to understand that there was a reason the Samsara Thearch would share that knowledge with everybody.

An enemy would soon arrive, and the Daybreak Universe needed to become more powerful if it wanted to survive.

Roku stared at the powerhouses that came with him, and they all nodded before returning to the Nightmare Inferno Realm. There was no time to lose, and they needed to use every second to improve their power so they could be of help to the Samsara Thearch.

That was the same train of thought for every powerhouse. When it came to protecting their home, it did not matter if they were vicious killers or saints. They needed to fight as one under the guidance of the greatest of all.

The actions of those inside the Daybreak Universe could not hide from the Samsara Thearch, and his smile only grew wider as he felt their determination and killing intent.

For the incoming war, Zatiel would need the good, the bad, and the worse by his side. Although numbers would not make much of a difference when fighting against the Beyonder, they could fight against that monster's Knights already on their way to the Daybreak Universe.

The Samsara Thearch was confident in his ability to defeat and maybe kill the Beyonder's Knights alone, but he could not allow himself to get severely injured since that would mean that any chance to reach the Late Stage would be over.

There were many things on Zatiel's mind right now, and he felt the pressure of the universe on his shoulder because it was. The Emptiness Thearcha and Revenge Thearch had the potential to reach the Middle Stage and maybe even higher, but that would take too much time, so the fight with the Beyonder was his burden alone.

"Ahhh!"

Zatiel released a small sigh, but soon his eyes grew sharp since he did not have the luxury of relaxing or allowing the impossibility of the task ahead to affect his mind.

Everybody relied on him as the beacon that would lead them out of the darkness; no matter the fatigue or strain, he could not show it. They needed a paragon that would stand still in front of the incoming storm, and he needed to be it because no one else could.

"There is existences danger coming out way, but that doesn't mean we can just neglect the ones that have already reached our doorsteps."

Zatiel looked into the distance, and the Thearchs and Sacred Kings did the same. The power of their cultivation allowed them to see the universe-size hive advancing in their direction.

Its core was a massive structure greater than any of the Sacred Mountains, resembling a horrific honeycomb made of organic matter and strange metals. Billions of life forms resembling a mixture of insects and dinosaurs, coming in and out of it at all times, devouring the energy of the Emptiness.

Surrounding the monstrous honeycomb were eleven powerful life forms with humanoid forms but the same insect and dino characteristics as the drones bringing energy into the hive.

The strongest of all was a monster without a face, four arms, and a dark red metallic exoskeleton covering its body. Unlike the others, it was able to detect the eyes of the Thearchs and Sacred Kings.

"AHHHHH!"

It unleashed a feral scream, and the trillions of life forms that formed the hive adopted a battle formation, with the drones marching to the center of the honeycomb so they could self-destruct and gran energy to this one if needed.

Ezequiel's eyes narrowed as he saw the hive since it was the same one that forced him to run during their last clash.

"I fought against them. Their brute power and energy pool are immense but they lack control over universal forces. We can defeat them by slowly tearing them down."

Venganza and the Sacred Kings reached the same conclusion as Ezequiel regarding a battle plan against that hive, but the Samsara Thearch shook his head.

"I will defeat the entire hive in five seconds."

Chapter 965 A universe in the palm of my hand

"I will defeat the entire hive in five seconds."

Ezequiel, Venganza, and the Sacred Kings were shocked when they heard those words. They knew Zatiel was immensely powerful, but the enemy force had a True Rank 10 life form, ten Fake Rank 10, and trillions of drones that would not hesitate before killing themselves to grant the hive enough energy.

The Samsara Thearch only smiled as he flashed forward. Ezequiel, Venganza, and the others did not hesitate before following him.

Although the Rank 10 Hive was relatively close to the Daybreak Universe, it would have still taken a few hours for Ezequiel, Venganza, and the Sacred Kings to arrive at it.

However, they were advancing at such a shocking speed that it would only be a matter of minutes for the Thearchs and Sacred Kings to be in front of the Rank 10 Hive.

Ezequiel, Venganza, and the Sacred Kings' acceleration did not increase, so there was no reason for them to advance at such a shocking speed. Yet, they only needed to focus on the Zatiel and were able to find the answer.

The Samsara Thearch was folding the Emptiness around them, diminishing the space between them and the Rank 10 Hive. Their speed was the same, but the amount of space they needed to cross diminished.

It was hard to describe just how extraordinary the powers of the Samsara Thearch were. Folding space inside a universe was not complicated as long as your comprehension was high enough.

However, there were no such laws in the Emptiness, so the Samsara Thearch could only fold space by grabbing two points of the chaotic realm in which they found themselves and forcefully squeezing it.

If Zatiel could do something like that, then there was little that could stop him if he wanted to grab the Cosmic Wall of a weak universe and crush it, killing everything inside.

It became clearer by the second to the Emptiness Thearch and Revenge Thearch that the difference between the power of someone at the Initial Stage and the Middle Stage of the Fourth Realm was immense. Just their brute power was in a completely different league.

As the Rank 10 Hive became visible to their eyes without the need to use their supernatural abilities, the Samsara Thearch raised his hand, making it so that Ezequiel, Venganza, and the Sacred King would stay back.

Although the Thearchs and Sacred Kings could face the Rank 10 Hive, they obeyed Zatiel's words and would look at their battle from a distance.

The Samsara Thearch carried on, and his eyes focused on the True Rank 10 life form at the head of the hive. Its power kept rising higher and higher as the energy of the Fake Rank 10 focused on its body.

Ezequiel and Venganza narrowed their eyes as they felt the energy inside the True Rank 10 humanoid. There was a Truth forming the core of that entity, but it was fragile and unstable, lacking any special abilities.

However, it was still a Truth, so it allowed the True Rank 10 humanoid to act as a core for the battle formation that involved the entire Rank 10 Hive!

"¡Boom!" "¡Boom!" "¡Boom!" "¡Boom!" "¡Boom!"

"¡Boom!" "¡Boom!" "¡Boom!" "¡Boom!" "¡Boom!"

"¡Boom!" "¡Boom!" "¡Boom!" "¡Boom!" "¡Boom!"

The sound of millions of explosions emerged from inside the Rank 10 Hive, and the Thearch and Sacred Kings understood that the drones were undergoing self-destruction.

All the energy unleashed by those self-destructions returned to the hive so that this one could channel all of it into the True Rank 10 humanoid.

A massive tentacle of dark gray energy emerged from the center of the Rank 10 Hive, pierced into the chest of the True Rank 10 humanoid, allowing this one access to the energy pool of the hive-like universe!

"BOOOOMMMM!"

An energy shock wave emerged from the True Rank 10 humanoid as the energy inside it reached an overwhelming level.

The Thearchs and Sacred Kings frowned as they saw that since the energy inside that True Rank 10 humanoid grew so much, only Ezequiel and Venganza would be able to fight against this one now and would push them to their limit.

The worries in the hearts of the Thearchs and Sacred Kings grew to a whole new level when they saw the True Rank 10 humanoid use its four hands to channel all that energy into a sphere the size of a head.

Evidently, the Rank 10 Hive was strong enough to perceive the Samsara Thearch's cultivation as wise enough to understand that a number would mean nothing against someone so powerful.

Venganza, Ezequiel, and the Sacred Kings felt the energy inside that sphere grow stronger by the second, but Zatiel did nothing, allowing the True Rank 10 humanoid to charge the attack to its limit.

That behavior confused not only the Thearchs and Sacred Kings but also the Rank 10 Hive. Still, since the Samsara Thearch would give it time, the True Rank 10 humanoid would make sure to use it.

After nearly thirty seconds, the energy inside the sphere held by the True Rank 10 humanoid reached its zenith, only to be unleashed the next second in the form of a massive energy cannon.

"BOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMM!"

A thunderous sound echoed across the Emptiness as the True Rank 10 humanoid released that energy cannon, and it had so much power that it obliterated everything on its path toward the Samsara Thearch.

The eyes of Ezequiel, Venganza, and the Sacred Kings widened as they felt the might of that energy cannon. It had the power to make a hole in the Daybreak Universe's Cosmic Wall and could pierce through a normal super universe, leaving cataclysmic damage on its path.

And to the shock of everybody watching it, Zatiel only smiled and opened his arms as if he was welcoming the energy cannon!

It landed directly on the Samsara Thearch's body, and Ezequiel, Venganza, and the Sacred Kings saw how it disintegrated this one.

The energy cannon did not stop after shattering Zatiel's body at a molecular level, advancing millions of light years before finally fading.

Stupefaction was the only way to describe the look on the faces of the Thearchs and Sacred Kings. Zatiel did nothing to defend against that universe-killer energy cannon, taking it head-on and having his body decomposed into countless particles in the process.

None believed that the Samsara Thearch had just perished like that, but their minds could not understand what had just happened.

"You can start the count now."

Suddenly, the Samsara Thearch's voice appeared, and it seemed to come from every corner of the Emptiness.

Ezequiel, Venganza, and the Sacred Kings were shocked as they could not feel Zatiel's presence.

As for the Rank 10 Hive, it was terrified, as its instincts warned it of incapable doom, and there was nothing it could do to survive.

The True Rank 10 humanoid looked around, trying to locate the enemy that was supposed to have disintegrated under the might of the energy cannon a second ago.

Then, a figure of white flames even greater than the Rank 10 Hive began to materialize in the Emptiness. It was so immense that it was able to hold the entire hive in the palm of his hand.

Ezequiel, Venganza, and the Sacred Kings felt it hard to believe that someone so immense could exist. The only other life form larger they had seen would be the Beyonder, but that was a cancerous universe!

The cultivation of the Emptiness Thearch and Revenge Thearch allowed them to feel that the power the Revenge Thearch was using right now stood above Omnipotence!

It was not yet at the level of Reality Override, but it was more than powerful enough to overwhelm the Rank 10 Hive.

The Samsara Thearch's massive incarnation stared at the Rank 10 Hive as if looking at an insect. The difference between their cultivation was too immense for sheer brute power to balance things out.

He did not waste time, and the hand in which he held the Rank 10 Hive began to close down.

Trillions of seeds emerged from the Rank 10 Hive, flashing at superluminal speed in all directions while the True Rank 10 and several Fake Rank 10 did all in their power to generate passage through that universe-size hand.

The Rank 10 Hive understood that victory was impossible, so it shot trillions of seeds in every direction. If one of them manages to escape, it could bring the hive back to life.

It was clear that for the Rank 10 Hive, there was nothing more important than survival.

The True Rank 10 and ten Fake Rank 10 only needed to make a small hole in the flaming hand, and the seeds would find their way out, but despite using suicidal attacks, they were unable to generate an opening before the hand closed down.

Zatiel clenched the hand with all his strength, and when he opened it, there was only a broken hive with some Rank 10 life forms sealed in space-time.

From the moment the energy cannon destroyed the Samsara Thearch's body to this point, only five seconds had passed!

Chapter 966 A new Late Stage

The universe-size incarnation of the Samsara Thearch began to converge into a humanoid figure approximately two meters tall.

Ezequiel, Venganza, and the Sacred Kings saw how Zatiel returned to his normal body, but that did not erase the awe in their heart. It was as if they were seeing a giant.

That energy cannon was incredibly powerful and could have killed any of them, yet the Samsara Thearch took it head-on, and there did not seem to be any damage left.

"At my level, it is not only your ability to warp reality that evolves but also your understanding of your body and soul. Right now, I have molecular control over my existence, able to split my atoms and rearrange them in whatever order I want in a second.

That energy cannon was powerful, but it was just brute power and could not erase the energy that was my existence. I just rearranged my atoms while using the power of my Samsara Eye to attain my ultimate state."

Zatiel spoke of those supernatural abilities as if they were nothing, but the look in the Thearchs and Sacred Kings made it clear how amazing it was.

Many of them, like Ezequiel and Dante, had granular control over their bodies and could split themselves into cells, but beyond that point, they would lose control.

The number of atoms in a body was billions of times larger than the number of cells, and being able to control them once they were split across the cosmos should not be possible.

However, maybe that was what it meant to be a real Fourth Realm life form, do the impossible. You controlled the power that was a fantasy in the mind of every other life form in the multiverse.

Zatiel stared at the Thearchs and Sacred Kings and nodded once they saw they got a closer look at the true power of Fourth Realm life forms.

The Beyonders' Knights might be weaker than him, but that did not mean they could be underestimated, so he needed all of them to be ready. He wanted them to feel a sense of urgency in their bodies and souls that would only go away once they evolved beyond their current limitation since, right now, they were too weak.

Zatiel then turned toward the broken Rank 10 Hive and the life forms still alive inside, trapped into an enchantment of space-time capable of sealing their minds and souls.

Although he made it look easy, the truth was the hive was very powerful, and it required him to use all his power to defeat them so fast. Using the power of the white sun, even for a moment, put immense stress on his soul and could not be used again for some time unless he wanted to suffer a backlash.

Just killing them would be foolish since Rank 10 Hive was a mighty entity, and it would be an even better weapon if he managed to attain control over it.

The Samsara Thearch analyzed the Rank 10 Hive in detail; as he expected, there was not something that worked as the core of the hive mind. Every hive member, whether a drone or the True Rank 10 humanoid, acted as a neuron, and thanks to a telepathic link, they formed a single mind.

Each had a specific function, and some were vastly more important than others, but in the entire, all trillions of life forms were just a single entity.

Even for the Samsara Thearch that had exploded the Emptiness and read the mind of many other travelers, this Rank 10 Hive was unique and beyond amazing.

Zatiel took a deep breath, and his Samsara, Thanatos, and Eros Eyes began to glow as his soul force rose higher and higher. He would force the mind of the entire Rank 10 Hive, including the True Rank 10 and several Fake Rank 10, into an illusion, making them see him as the core of their existence.

Even for Zatiel, sending the collective mind of a trillion life forms, which included several Rank 10, would require massive effort, but he was confident in his abilities in the soul realm.

Ezequiel, Venganza, and the Sacred Kings saw how tentacles of soul force emerged from Zatiel's head before splitting into trillions of sky-blue threads and driving into the head of every hive member.

The Samsara Thearch connected with the trillions of life forms in minutes then forced their collective mind into a massive illusion realm. His body trembled due to the immense effort, but he smiled since now he had the entire collective mind in his grasp.

It would only be a matter of twisting their sense of reality and changing their nature, making them see Zatiel as the hive's core, someone they had to protect at all costs.

However, just as Zatiel was about to start, his eyes widened. He believed it to have connected to the entirety of the hive, but there was something else in the distance, far away from this location.

The distance was incredible even for someone like him, but despite that, it managed to make a connection.

Zatiel saw the illusion he made grow dark and endless dots of light appeared in that darkness. Each of them represented a life, and there were so many that it even dwarfed the population of the entire Daybreak Universe that measured in quadrillions!

Those dots of light did not remain static for long and soon began to fuse into two gargantuan eyes that focused on Zatiel. There was no real intellect or wisdom in those eyes, at least not in how most life forms interpreted them.

However, there were emotions, and the one that the Samsara Thearch felt right now was utter and absolute rage that someone attempted to take control of a piece of it.

"¡AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!"

A bestial roar emerged from that darkness, shattering the illusion realm that the Samsara Thearch built to seal the mind of the Rank 10 Hive.

Ezequiel, Venganza, and the others saw how the Samsara Thearch pushed the entirety of the Rank 10 Hive's consciousness into an illusion realm. There was amazement in their eyes when they understood he wanted to take control over the entire hive, and some could not help but smile at the idea of adding such a weapon to their arsenal.

However, without any warning, Zatiel's eyes widened, and the next second, he puked a mouthful of blood.

The Emptiness Thearch, Revenge Thearch, and Sacred Kings immediately made their energy explode and adopted a defensive formation around Zatiel. None of them felt or sensed anything, but it was clear that someone had attacked the Samsara Thearch.

Although anyone capable of harming Zatiel would be too strong for them, they could, at least, buy time so this one could heal.

"There is no enemy near us. I was careless, but I am fine now. You can relax."

The Thearchs and Sacred Kings relaxed after hearing that, but they were still surprised by the sudden turn of events. The collective mind of the Rank 10 Hive was powerful, but Zatiel had already sealed them, so even if he could not overpower it, he should not have been injured.

Zatiel noticed their inquisitive gazes, and after a moment, he gave them an answer.

"This Rank 10 Hive is just a tiny part of an entity much larger. It is but a cluster of cells from the full organism that, for some reason, manage to reach our area of the Emptiness."

The Thearchs and Sacred Kings showed complicated expressions as they heard that. The Beyonder was an existential threat to their universe, but now they met part of an organism so massive that even Zatiel had a hard time describing it.

"Are we in danger?"

Ezequiel asked the question in everybody's mind, and they could relax once they saw Zatiel shake his head.

"The entity is indeed powerful, but the distance between us and it is so massive that even for me, it would take dozens of Epochs to remember those eyes, he could not help but think of something.

"Is survival that important?"

cover."

An Epoch was several billion years, and none of them had lived for more than one hundred million years, so it was hard to worry about a threat that was so far into the future, especially when there was an enemy that would arrive very soon.

The Samsara Thearch stared at the Rank 10 Hive, and as he remembered those eyes, he could not help but think of something.

"Is survival that important?"

Zatiel expressed his thoughts out loud, confusing the Thearchs and Sacred Kings. When he saw those eyes, he was able to understand part of the nature of that entity and even generate a hypothesis about its origin.

The aura of that entity was similar to that of the Beyonder, making the Samsara Thearch both at the Late Stage, but that only made the light on his eyes more profound.

The idea of surviving at any cost seemed to be a common factor among the life forms that reached the Late Stage, something that did not adjust to his way of seeing the world.

Chapter 967 Preparations for war

Zatiel's eyes grew sharp as silver flames emerged in them. For the first time in a very long time, he had to rely on his willpower to get his emotions under control.

The drive to reach the Late Stage was a very powerful force in the Samsara Thearch's mind and soul, not just because he wanted the power to protect the Daybreak Universe from the incoming threat but also to satiate his thirst.

There was not a thirst for power since the raw strength he could unleash was already so high there was little he could not do. What he wanted to satiate was his curiosity, the desire in his soul to learn more about the Emptiness and the mysteries in it, to reach the true origin of all things.

Zatiel's eyes grew sharp after a few moments as he focused again on the sealed Rank 10 Hive. Twisting its mind and making it a weapon for the Daybreak Universe was not possible, but he would not just allow it to go to waste.

The cultivation of Ezequiel, Venganza, and the Sacred Kings reached a point where they needed more than just energy to advance, so giving them the Rank 10 Hive for consumption would be useless.

Luckily for the Samsara Thearch, there was someone among the ranks of the Daybreak Universe that could benefit immensely from this Rank 10 Hive.

The problem with that individual was that it was not very reliable. It was not a problem of trust since the Samsara Thearch knew this one had an extremely loyal nature.

Zatiel could not rely on this one for war since, despite being an extremely powerful life form, he had zero battle awareness. Ultimately, it was the best card, so he waved his hand and brought this one to the Emptiness.

The Thearchs and Sacred Kings saw a fluffy dog appear in the Emptiness next to them, and awkward expressions appeared on their faces when they saw this one licking himself.

Although they felt like they were making a fool of themselves, there was nothing that Heinz, Dante, and the other Sacred Kings had to clasp their hands and bow.

"The Sacred Kings welcome the Heavenly Guardian Beasts of the Neo-Demon Race."

Ezequiel and Venganza smiled as they were happier than ever that they did not have to bow to a licking himself, thanks to their rank as Thearchs.

Tao's ears wiggled as he heard the Sacred Kings, but he just continued with what he was doing. His behavior was what one would expect from a mortal dog.

Zatiel's eyes twitched as he saw his Daybreak Universe's mighty Heavenly Guardian Beast ignoring the Sacred Kings. It seemed the dog had not even realized that he had been teleported into the Emptiness.

"Tao!"

When the dog heard that word, his entire body trembled, and he Zatiel grabbed Tao before this one could reach his face since he could not simply allow the dog to lick him after he had just done began to move his tail from one side to the other before looking at the origin with eyes full of excitement.

Tao did not hesitate for even a second before launching himself toward Zatiel with a large smile, ready to lick the face of this one.

Zatiel grabbed Tao before this one could reach his face since he could not simply allow the dog to lick him after he had just done that. He was the mighty Samsara Thearch, ruler of the Daybreak Universe, and holder of Omnipotence, so he had to keep his dignity.

However, when Tao saw that Zatiel would not let him lick his face, a sad expression appeared, and his tail went down. The look on the dog's face was like a child asking his father if he had done something wrong.

The Samsara Thearch could not help but sigh as he saw the way in which Tao was looking at him. In the end, he just resigned and allowed the dog to lick him.

It was a truly embarrassing situation, but luckily there was no one present other than the Thearchs and Sacred Kings.

After resolving that comical situation, Zatiel put Tao down and pointed toward the sphere containing the sealed Rank 10 Hive.

Tao had a divine ability in which he could consume matter, energy, and spirit and generate drones from it. That ability had grown immensely over the millennia, with this one already able to give birth to Extreme Rank 9 life forms.

Since Zatiel could not control the Rank 10 Hive, he would allow Tao to devour it and use it to give birth to a force with a similar power that would work for them.

Although the drones that Tao would give birth to will lack the hive mind and unity, they would have immense brute power. That was enough for Zatiel since he could implant a small piece of his soul in each of them and make them work as a single entity.

Tao showed no hesitation before opening his mouth, generating what seemed to be a black hole in its mouth and slowly devouring the universe-size Rank 10 Hive. If it had put up some resistance, he would not have been able to devour the entirety of the hive, but all those life forms still had their minds and souls sealed by the spell of the Samsara Thearch.

After consuming the entire Rank 10 Hive, Tao's stomach enlarged until it seemed it was about to explode, but it soon returned to normal. The dog showed a sleepy expression, and the next second, it jumped toward Zatiel's arms and fell asleep.

The Samsara Thearch's eyes narrowed as he focused on Tao's stomach. When he saw how a storm of chaos disintegrated the entirety of the Rank 10 Hive with the True Rank 10 and Fake Rank 10, he smiled and nodded.

Everything was in order, and it would not be long before Tao generated drones with that energy.

Now that the army of soulless killing machines which could act as foot soldiers in their fight against the army that the Beyonder's Knights would bring was in process, it was time to arm the generals.

The Samsara Thearch's eyes focused on Ezequiel, Venganza, and the Sacred Kings, figuring out their battle style and technique. He did not end there since his perception spread across the Daybreak Universe, analyzing warriors like Roku and the other top powerhouses.

It did not take him too long to figure out what kind of weapons would perfectly fuse with their battle style, allowing them to express an even greater battle power.

your battle power to the next level."

"There are treasures spread across the Emptiness that I can use as the core component for Fourth Real Artifacts capable of pushing your battle power to the next level."

The Thearchs and Sacred Kings immediately adopted solemn attitudes since any weapon that could improve their energy output and allow them to use their abilities better would be amazing. They were ready to accept the coordinates from Zatiel and go after the treasures, but that was not how things would go on.

"I will be the one that will go for the treasures. They are located in extremely dangerous areas of the Emptiness, and many had Fourth Realm's guardians. Although you might be able to retrieve them, it would be faster if I did it on my own. I have another mission for the eleven of you."

Zatiel waved his hand, sending information streams into the Thearchs and Sacred Kings. They saw a map of the Emptiness with six golden dots.

He then generated six miniature lamps containing each a golden sun.

"Those are super universes in states of conflict. You will go there, stop the wars, and bring order to the chaos.

The lamps will allow you to express the power of my Eternal Flame of Justice to the Universe Wills and also has the ability to paralyze these if needed.

Make the natives understand we are the future. If the strongest accept our presence, you might be able to convince those Universe Wills to accept us in its domain.

The goal is simple: establish a stronghold in each of those universes that can be used to keep our people in case the battle against the Beyonder's Knight threatens the safety of the Daybreak Universe."

Zatiel remembered the danger that the Prima Universe faced during the events that led to the Ultimate Multiversal War and how, more than once, the enemy managed to infiltrate and put everybody in imminent danger.

That was why he was going to establish safe havens in different universes across the Emptiness that could be used to hold the entire population of the Daybreak Universe.

"What if they refused to accept our presence?"

Venganza asked that question, and a cold light appeared in his eyes. He knew the answer but needed Zatiel to say it.

The Samsara Thearch stared at Venganza before looking at the others. There was no emotion in his eyes as he explained what they needed to do.

"If they refuse, then it is simple. Kill the strong and brainwash the weak. Regarding the safety of the Daybreak Universe's life forms, there is no price I am not willing to pay. Even my morality and sense of justice is meaningless when weighed against my family's life."

Chapter 968 A world of ice and fire

The Thearchs and Sacred Kings looked at each other when they heard Zatiel's words. They were not surprised by the brutality of his actions since while the Daybreak Universe was a utopia, he built it over the bones of countless evil races that would not follow his lead.

What affected the mind of the Thearchs and Sacred Kings was that Zatiel was asking them to follow the path of Endless Darkness.

Although, unlike the Beyonder's Knight, they would not fall into mindless deprivation, enslaving the entire universe so his master could consume it along with all its life forms, they were still taking control over and willing to use force.

Nevertheless, while that behavior was not something that they felt comfortable with, there was no price high enough they were unwilling to pay when it came to the safety of the life forms of the Daybreak Universe.

Ezequiel and Venganza took one of the Sun Lamps, while the Sacred Kings made four teams and took the rest. The Thearchs would be able to handle anything on their own, but the Sacred King had to be more careful since if they faced a Fake Rank 10 inside their home universe, they could find themselves on the losing end.

After taking the Sun Lamps, the Thearchs and Sacred Kings nodded toward Zatiel before flashing into the distance.

The Samsara Thearch saw them leaving. He knew that they would not feel comfortable with this mission, and it would have been easier to use the Nightmare Kings to do it.

None of the Nightmare Kings would have reservations about obliterating a small portion of a super universe's population if it was for the safety of the Daybreak Universe. Nevertheless, it was exactly that reason why the Samsara Thearch chose the Ezequiel, Venganza, and the Sacred Kings.

Unlike the Nightmare Kings, the Thearchs and Sacred Kings would do all in their power to avoid a battle, and if the only path forward was fighting, they would make sure to keep the number of casualties to a minimum.

Zatiel was not a monster that would feel nothing at the idea of taking over foreign universes by force, but he did not have the luxury of morality when facing the Beyonder.

A sharp light appeared in Zatiel's eyes as he no longer allowed the domination of those universes to distract him and focused on the distance. He needed to obtain the treasures that could act as the core for the weapons of the Thearchs and Sacred Kings.

There was a treasure that would work perfectly for one of the Sacred Kings not far away. He learned its existence from the memories of one of the slayed Rank 10's life forms he killed in the past and knew it would not be easy.

Just like there were hurricanes in the world's oceans and electric storms in the Void of a universe, there were also dangerous disaster zones in the Emptiness, and even for a life form like him, it was not easy to go through them.

Zatiel petted Tao's head for a moment and smiled as he saw the comic reaction of the sleepy dog before sending this one back to the Daybreak Universe. There were dangers in the journey, and he could not get distracted.

The Samsara Thearch took a deep breath as he adopted his battle form before flashing forward. Obsidian bark began to extend inside his body as he moved, covering his inner organs, blood vessels, and bones.

That bark was not other than Myriad. The beast remained with Zatiel all the time this one recovered, and the radiation of the universe's core and his master made him evolve into a Rank 10 life form.

While Myriad could not provide a better outer defensive layer than the Samsara Thearch's skin, he could cover the inner organs, protecting them from any outside force and using his energy to heal any damage.

The Samsara Thearch nodded as he felt Myriad's actions, which would make his trip safer. He was not afraid that the dangers of the Emptiness could take his life, but getting injured was not a luxury he could allow.

The whole point of this mission to obtain the treasures and generate the weapons was to improve the war power of the Daybreak Universe. It would be pointless if he ended up injured in the process and had to enter secluded cultivation to recover while the others were fighting.

That was why the Samsara Thearch sealed the power of his white sun. Although not using it would greatly diminish his battle power, it would also make it so that no matter the danger, he would have a trump card that could save him.

After ten days of travel, Zatiel finally saw what he was looking for. Not far away from him was a massive world nearly ten times the size of one of the Daybreak Universe's Sacred Mountains.

Normally a world, no matter its size, could not exist in the Emptiness since the waves of chaotic energy would crush it to pieces, but this one was special.

Half the world was covered in ice so cold that it froze the air, while magma spread over the other half. Each side had forces that morphed the laws, making it easier for the elemental life forms in it.

The combination of the ice and heat energy in the center of the world generated a force field that spread across the sky, acting like a Cosmic Wall, stopping the waves of chaos from flooding in and killing everything.

Zatiel had reached a level of power that allowed him to understand the nature of life and knew that things did not happen just out of anything and without reason.

The existence of universes in the Emptiness was due to the actions of the Lord of Emptiness, which gave their lives to create homes where new life forms could exist.

There must be a reason why a world like this could exist, and the perfect balance between the duality of ice and fire that gave birth to an even stronger force was what he needed to make one of the Sacred King's weapons.

Using the entire world as the raw material for the weapon would be pointless and add wild energy and forces that would only make it weaker.

Zatile needed to find the origin, what made this world possible. His eyes grew sharp, and his vision crossed the layer and layers of the world, reaching the core, but he only saw a mass of energy.

It seemed that whatever force made this world happen did not reside in its core, making it much harder for the Samsara Thearch to find it.

The Samsara Thearch would have liked not to enter the world since he was sure someone would notice his presence, making everything more complicated. There might be a chance that whatever created this place had sentience, and if he detected him, it could hide.

Zatiei began to think of ways in which he could handle this, and he looked into the distance before a smile appeared on his face. There was a horde of Outlandish Beasts of the Emptiness, with some of them being at Rank 10.

Although they were weak and even the Sacred Kings could take care of them with ease, Zatiei did not need them to be powerful. He wanted to act according to their nature, like wild beasts that would attack anything and everything in their sight.

The Samsara Thearch's Eros Eye glowed, drawing the attention of the Outlandish Beast of the Emptiness toward him. Those beasts' wild state of mind grew even more chaotic when the Eros Eye made the hunger in them reach a level that turned them practically crazy.

"¡AHHHH!"

Some of the Outlandish Beasts in the horde were so ferocious and hungry that they devoured the weak while they made their way toward the bigger prey.

Zatiei saw that massive horde of killer machines coming at him but showed nothing in his face since they were too insignificant to care about them. Just as the beasts were about to reach him, with some already lunging forward with their mouths open, he vanished.

The horde of Outlandish Beasts of the Emptiness grew crazy with rage as they could not find their prey, and then they saw the world of ice and fire.

Normally, even with their chaotic and wild nature, the Outlandish Beasts of the Emptiness would not march into the world due to their instincts warning them of the danger, but the Eros Eye had driven their basic desires to their limits.

"¡AHHHHHHHHH!"

The entire horde marched into the world of ice and fire, with many of them burning and freezing to death as soon as they entered into contact with the force field.

However, some beasts were powerful enough to resist the destructive powers of the force field. Sadly for them, before they could cross it, a giant fist of fire and a claw of ice emerged from the world's surface and crushed them to pieces, killing every one of them.

While the Outlandish Beasts of the Emptiness were slaughtered, someone managed to silently infiltrate the world.

Chapter 969 Locating the treasure

Zatiel managed to silently infiltrate the Ice-Fire World using the Outlandish Beasts of the Emptiness as a cover, but he was surprised when he saw that fist of fire and ice claw.

He could feel that the power in the hand and claw had yet to reach the level of Omnipotence. Still, the attackers were able to use the force of the world to a level that surpassed the abilities of Lords of Emptiness, granting them a battle power that could threaten Middle Stage life forms.

'The Emptiness is truly full of danger. Only those at the Late Stage can move through it with total freedom.'

The Samsara Thearch was deeply aware of the difference between a true Late Stage and someone like him that could only use the power of Reality Override for a few seconds.

Not wanting to take unnecessary risk, Zatiel made sure to cloak his presence to the point that no one beneath the peak of the Initial Stage could see him, even if he was standing right in front of them.

Using his consciousness to analyze and inspect the Ice-Fire World would have been great and helped him in his task, but he was sure that would have blown up his cover right away.

The Samsara Thearch first went to the frozen side of the world, and when he reached there, a sense of shock appeared in his eyes since he felt cold.

Not even Omega Laws that use the Law of Ice as their core could affect his internal temperature by a single degree, but Zatiel felt a sense of cold as soon as he reached the frozen side of the world.

If the cold could affect the Samsara Thearch, it should be powerful enough to freeze Laws and Concepts, making life impossible. Yet, he saw all sorts of beasts living in it.

Of course, the beast had bodies made of ice, but that did not mean they were invulnerable to coldness. It would make sense if they were simple constructs, but Zatiel could see their souls, and they were built in such a unique way that they could endure a cold capable of freezing spiritual particles.

The Samsara Thearch analyzed the beasts and were truly marvelous life forms. It was hard to determine their cultivation since none of them followed the Law Path or Concept Path, instead just increasing the amount of energy inside their bodies, similar to Myriad's path.

'Even the weakest of the beasts are at the level of Rank 4, with a soul force that matched that physical strength, yet their behavior is similar to that of wild animals. Herbivores consume the ice on the ground, and carnivores devour them.

They acted according to their nature, without malice or hate, living life as part of a perfect ecosystem.'

Zatiel was truly surprised by the behavior of all the life forms in the ice part of the world. Even those at Rank 7, 8, and 9 act no different than the rest of the animals, living their life as part of the world and fulfilling their role in the ecosystem.

Usually, as life grows stronger, they would seek to evolve beyond their nature, breaking free of any predisposed path left for them. The idea that a Rank 9 life form would live in a system where it would sooner or later be devoured by someone higher in the food chain was preposterous, but it was happening right here.

The Samara Thearch flew across the frozen part of the world for several weeks and found that the ecosystem path extended through every corner except for one place.

There was a large mountain range with peaks so high that some nearly emerged from the world's sky, and none of the beasts dared to get anywhere near it. The world's energy was incredibly dense in that area, and even the Samara Thearch would have to use his power to shield his body and soul from the cold.

What truly drew Zatiel's attention was that, unlike the state of the energy in other parts of the world, he felt there was a powerful cosmic force guiding it in that zone, meaning one thing.

'Whatever resides inside that place has a Fourth Realm force under its control and a very powerful one. I can not say whether it is a Truth of Eternal Flame without a closer look.'

Although the Samara Thearch was curious, he did not go into the mountain range. His journey into this place was to find the treasure that could work as the core for a Fourth Realm's weapon, not to fight against an unknown enemy.

After searching across the cold part of the world and not finding what he was looking for, Zatiel turned his eyes to the fiery inferno that was the other part of the Ice-Fire World.

The Samara Thearch reached the fire zone in a few hours, and his body began to sweat due to the overwhelming heat. It was a temperature so high that even the core of most suns could not match it, yet it did nothing to the life forms that lived in it.

Unlike the perfect ecosystem of the freezing part of the world he had seen, what he experienced now was the complete opposite.

Those that populated the blazing side of the world were not animals but humanoids, yet they followed the same path, using the world's energy to strengthen their flesh and souls.

The similarities did not end there since, despite their humanoid appearance, they acted without much wisdom and in a very predictable pattern. The population was divided into countless small kingdoms, with the strong devouring the weak.

It was easy to measure the strength of the fire humanoids since the stronger they were, the more arms they would have, with those at Rank 9 having nine arms.

Zatiel began to explore the blazing side of the world in search of the treasure, and while he did it, he analyzed the behavior of the fire humanoids.

Despite their warmongering nature and the fact they killed everything in their sight during a battle, Zatiel felt no rage, anger, or cruelty in their hearts.

It became clear to the fire humanoids the concept of murder had no meaning. In that sense, they were similar to the animals in the freezing part of the world, who felt no pleasure or remorse after killing someone since that was just the order of things.

The Samsara Thearch did not intervene in the wars that spread across the entirety of the blazing part of the world. Although he had a powerful sense of justice, taking the treasure that formed the world could lead to catastrophic damage.

He was not so hypocritical as to tell them to change their way of seeing the world just to break it apart the next moment. His actions could lead to the death of an innocent, and he was ready to accept the hatred and responsibility for that.

After searching through every part of the blazing side of the world, he once again found an area where the energy acted under the influence of a Fourth Realm's force.

It was not a mountain range this time, but a massive castle that could compare in size to one of the Daybreak Universe's Sacred Mountains.

Zatiel stared at it for a long time, and his eyes narrowed when he realized only one life form was inside it. He did not approach it, nor did he send his consciousness into it since that would alert whoever was inside.

After finishing the blazing part of the Ice-Fire World, Zatiel could not help but frown since he found no clue about the treasure either.

'Could it be that this place really emerged due to random chance?'

The Samsara Thearch knew that should not be a possibility, but he could not find the origin of this world on either side of it. He was ready to use Omnipotence to figure out the answer when a flash of enlightenment appeared in his eyes.

'I made a mistake. I was looking at each side of it when I should have examined why the fire and ice could reach such a flawless harmony, with none overwhelming the other despite billions of years of what should have been endless clashes.'

Zatiel flew to the center of the world, where the fire and ice clashed. The opposing forces were in a state of permanent contact, but there were no clashes between them despite their nature.

The Samsara Eye began to glow as its power reached an extreme, allowing Zatiel to go beyond the physical realm, and then a sense of amazement assaulted his heart.

Trillion upon trillions of runes appeared in his sight, diving the flames and ice flawlessly. That runic formation did not use brute power to stop the forces, instead taking the energy of both to strengthen itself and allow harmony to exist.

The treasure that gave birth to the Ice-Fire World was not in the blazing or cold side of it but in its middle line.

Chapter 970 Fire King and Ice Roc

Zatiel's eyes widened as he felt the power in the runic formation. It was able to generate equilibrium between Fourth Realm forces with completely opposite natures.

The runic formation's power differed from the balance between the Law Path and Concept Path. Truths and Eternal Flames explored two different aspects of existence that could reach a balance and birth to something even more powerful.

As for the runic formation, it could take two Truths or Concepts that acted as the antithesis of each other, using the friction between those Four Realm forces as fuel to grow stronger.

The frozen side of the world represents a perfectly balanced ecosystem where all flora and fauna, regardless of rank, accept their role. There was a sense of serenity in such scenery as all things followed a determined order, surrendering to the destiny engraved in their souls from birth.

As for the blazing side, it was the complete opposite. The blazing humanoids were warmongering life forms that rejected the status quo, always striving to take more, even if they did not need it. For them, the idea of living in inertia where they would follow a predisposed path was unthinkable, and their civilization was in a state of constant change.

The Samsara Thearch's eyes began to glow as he searched in the river of time for the origin of this runic formation. Its genesis could be something as simple as an Emptiness phenomenon coming to life, but Zatiel felt a sense of order in it, making it hard to think of it as a random event.

After a minute, a trail of blood leaked from the corner of Zatiel's mouth, and his face grew pale due to the effort, but he was able to deduce the origin of the runic formation.

Zatiel's Samsara Eye showed him the corpse of a golden giant floating in the Emptiness. There was no life in it, but his aura had yet to vanish, and it was clear he was able to surpass the Initial Stage.

The giant floated in the Emptiness for eons until the waves of chaotic energy that clashed against his body finally began to take effect. His golden skin was burned away, his muscles shattered, and his bones pulverized, but there was one part that the chaotic energy could not harm.

It was a golden line, not thicker than a thread of hair, but its power was phenomenal. Suddenly it began to glow and generated pulses of golden energy that gave order to the chaotic energy around it, slowly generating a massive world.

The vision ended there, but it was enough for Zatiel to understand what had happened next.

'The runic formation must be the crystalized essence of that golden giant. The core of his power ended like this, and maybe it could revive him after a few Epochs.'

Although reincarnation through a runic formation might sound crazy, those that reached the Middle Stage were able to do all sorts of incredible things. The Samsara Thearch had fused his consciousness into each particle of his body and soul, so they could theoretically be used to revive him.

Zatiel did not waste his time trying to figure out the mission of the runic formation, if there was one, since his plans for it meant it would never happen.

Finding the treasure was just the beginning since the next part would be even more challenging, getting hold of it.

Since it was a runic formation, the Samsara Thearch could try to replicate it. That way, he would not have to endanger the Ice-Fire World.

Unfortunately, Zatiel shook his head after a few moments since that was not feasible.

'I could replicate it, but it would take me millions of years if I am lucky, and I don't have that much time. The only path left is to take it.'

A soft approach would not work, and the Samsara Thearch began to think of ways to extract the runic formation from the world without shattering this one.

It would be challenging since the runic formation was the axis of the Ice-Fire World and what kept the two opposite forces in a state of equilibrium.

Using brute force to extract the runic formation could lead to cataclysmic damage to the Ice-Fire World. Even if Zatiel did not care about the world and its inhabitants, that method would damage the runic formation, affecting the future weapon's strength.

After almost a day of mediation and discarding one plan after the other, Zatiel came up with a solution. He raised his hand, and a sphere of dark purple plasma began to form on his palm.

That sphere had the power of the Samsara Truth. Zatiel planned to fuse it into the runic formation, generating a rebirth of this one, briefly severing its connection with the Ice-Fire World.

The Samsara Thearch planned to act at that point, taking the runic formation before it reattached itself to the Ice-Fire World. That was the best path since it would not damage the treasure, and the effect on the world would be minimal, at least initially.

The only downside of the path was that it would take time, and the moment Zatiel acted over the runic formation, the two Fourth Realm life forms in the Ice-Fire World would notice it.

A sharp light appeared in the Samsara Thearch's eyes as he let the sphere of dark purple plasma fall into the runic formation.

"RUMBLE!"

Immediately, the Ice-Fire World began to tremble with so much strength that the ground began to split apart, and storms covered the sky.

The ice animals and blazing humanoids noticed the chaotic state of their world, and there was instinctive fear in their hearts, as if the world was telling them that something horrible was happening.

Sadly for them, there was nothing they could do since even the strongest of them could not locate the event's origin.

"CRAWWWW!"

"ROAR!"

It was then that a bird's scream and a bestial roar echoed across the Ice-Fire World, and two incredibly powerful pillars of energy emerged from the highest mountain range and largest castle.

Zatiel saw that blue and red pillars of energy rising into the sky with so much power that they broke the limit of the Ice-Fire World and reached into the Emptiness.

He adopted a solemn attitude when he felt that a Truth backed the power in each of them and how the Ice-Fire World began to channel its energy into the duo.

Although there was not a World Will in the Ice-Fire World, the heavenly body seemed not entirely devoid of wisdom.

The world could perceive the intent in Zatiel's actions, and how the extraction of the runic formation would affect it, so it powered both of its strongest life forms so they could go after the intruder.

Zatiel's eyes widened as he raised his arms, forming a shield with them, just as a flaming fist landed on him, sending his body flying into the sky and making a metallic taste appear in his mouth.

"¡BOOOOMMMM!"

The attacker was incredibly fast, and his punch had an overwhelming force. Just the shock wave generated cracks in space-time that extended for millions of kilometers.

Zatiel had yet to regain control when an ice claw grabbed him, covered his body with ice, and threw him even higher into the sky.

Although the ice immobilized his body for a moment, the Samsara Thearch's mind still worked, and he could see the enemies that attacked him.

One of them was a ten-meter-tall humanoid with long blazing hair and a body covered in flames. The Fourth Realm ruler of the fire side of the Ice-Fire World had eleven arms spread across his chest and back, each capable of immense strength.

The other was a thirty-meter-tall beast resembling a Roc with a body of ice. Each feather on its massive wings held an ice sun, and the cold energy they unleashed could freeze even a Middle Fourth Realm life form like the Samsara Thearch!

"CRACK!"

each shooting a beam of energy.

The beams of fire and ice energy intercrossed their paths, fusing Cracks appeared across the ice that trapped Zatiel, but before he could free himself, the Fire King and Ice Roc opened their mouths, each shooting a beam of energy.

The beams of fire and ice energy intercrossed their paths, fusing into an even more potent attack that landed point-blank on the Samsara Thearch, striking him with so much force that he was pulled out of the Ice-Fire World and into the Emptiness.

Zatiel regained control of his body once he was out of the Ice-Fire World, and a sharp light appeared in his eyes when he saw the Ice Roc and Fire King following him into the Emptiness.

The duo did not immediately flash toward the Samsara Thearch and first attempted to measure the power of this one. Sombre expressions appeared on their faces as they felt the cultivation of someone at the Peak Middle Stage.

Zatiel was also surprised by the duo's power, and he could see that they were capable of intelligence and wisdom by the light in their eyes. The fight would not be easy, but he will not leave without the runic formation.