

CURSED IMMORTALITY

Chapter 931: Dark Network!



In the gloomy sky of the Sagittarius Continent, Jacob was inside his space travesty shuttle as he looked at the black runic ring on his index finger, which was pulsing in red light.

'They reacted just as I thought they would. After all, the Ghost Race, Vampire Race, and Fiend Race are the three pillars of the Dead Factions and leaders. If anyone else in the Ghost Race had suddenly started a massacre in their territory, no one would've reacted. Still, since one of the faction leaders himself started this attack, this matter became a faction matter.

'The Dead Faction' didn't have many rules as the Dark Beings hierarchy in the legendary plains is not different from the lesser plains. Instead of having one ruler, the Dark Beings are divided among legendary kings of different races. However, it won't change that the strongest among the dark beings still rule over the others.

'Like the Soulless Ghost King has deterrence over the entire Ghost Race despite there being Legendary Kings like Soul Ghost King, Giant Ghost King, and Shadow Ghost King because he was chosen by the Ghost King Specter, left behind by their progenitor.

'While the Vampires followed the Blood Doom King, who is the oldest among them and has the greatest control over blood, it's like a bloodline suppression.

Lastly, the Fiends are ruled by the Underwood Fiend King because the Demon God's altar selected him.

'Although the Dead Faction appeared united from the outside, the races are divided because of their beliefs and customs. Nonetheless, the Dead Faction is the faction of Dark Beings, not Ghost Race, Skeleton Race, or any single race that can represent it.

'As for the entity that oversees all of this and ensures the unity of the Dead Faction, it is the Dark Network! Anyone who wants to stay among the dark beings or have any chance to rise will have to join the Dark Network.

'For years, I've been overlooking Dark Network since it really didn't have any allure like the Star Network in the lesser plains. But here, Dark Network is very important for the Dead Faction.

'Moreover, I've always thought the Star Network invented the Dark Network, but it's not that simple. Because Dark Network has different rules and regulations than the Star Network, these two entities seem to be enemies.

'One represents the Light and living while the other represents Darkness and dead, but both follow the same paths which strengthen the living and dead. Then what role does SAAI play in all this?

'If SAAI also managed Dark Network as well, then it made matters even more complex, or SAAI could be a completely different entity that is neutral and chosen by both networks to ensure fairness.

'But if this is true, then didn't it mean this is all some kind of game? The more I learn about this, the more complex and twisted everything became...'

Jacob's eyes flickered with a hint of confusion, but he knew he couldn't mull over this matter for long because he didn't have all the information and facts to judge anything. Not to mention, this matter was too deep and secretive and probably touched the deepest secrets of the Zodiac Plains.

Anyhow, his main focus was the blinking ring; this ring wasn't ordinary because it was the Dark Soul Ring, a medium to access the Virtual Dark World. The Dark Soul Ring was like the Soul Star Watch, and the Virtual Dark World was the same as the Virtual Star World. One was for living, while the other was for the dead!

Jacob's Dark Soul Ring was naturally registered with the Soulless Ghost King's soul force, and his Dark ID was also different. If Jacob wanted, he could also access the Dark Network by using his soul force because of his uniqueness, but he didn't since it was meaningless.

Still, the Dark Soul Ring was blinking right now because a few hours ago, he received a notification about an absolute meeting that he couldn't ignore, like an absolute call or the star network.

However, unlike the calls, this meeting was a faction meeting among the Dead Faction, and if he continues to ignore it for 24 hours, the consequence will be dangerous.

'Now that the Soulless Ghost King has destroyed two of the strongholds without any justification, as long as Blood Doom King and Underwood Fiend King agree, they can initial the Dead Faction absolute meeting, and they did just that.

'Now, if I don't answer the summing call and don't appear, they can kick me out from the faction leader positions, putting me against the entire Dead Faction, which means every Dark Being will become my enemy and the Legendary Kings of Dark Beings can attack me without any worry to be punished by the Dark Network.

'On the other hand, I'll be abandoned by the Dark Network and will have a bounty on my head since I went against many rules of Dead Faction by starting a fight without any reason and killed legendary dark beings...'

Jacob suddenly smiled sinisterly, 'Well, this is what I want...but I won't be alone since the Soul Ghost King is also on my side, and once she manages to tame those remaining legendary ghost kings, the entire Ghost Race will leave the Dead Faction.

'If everything goes according to my plan, the Ghost Race will rage a war against the Dead Faction. Giving me all the time and resources to upgrade my Jinx Core and knowing the life faction, they won't miss this chance to muddle the waters even further.

'Who knows, I might be able to wipe out all the Dark Beings in the entire Legendary Plains, achieving the impossible...'

Jacob knew his plan was ridiculous, but he had no choice but to take this route since he knew that the entire dead faction would come after him in full force if he started killing dark beings.

But if he could somehow pull the entire ghost race and its subordinate races on his bandwagon, he could manage it. Although he might not be able to upgrade his jinx core to legendary king rank since there weren't even 1,000 legendary kings in the entire legendary plains combined, much less within the dark being ranks.

However, achieving the legendary lord rank was still possible, or at least making at least halfway progress, and only then would he move towards the next step of his plan and leave the middle galaxies for good!

Chapter 932: Virtual Dark World!



Jacob silently returned to the Soulless Palace, but Soul Ghost King wasn't present, and he knew where she was going. Furthermore, the Ghost Ministers were also tasked with arranging the ghost army, so Jacob was alone.

'It seems now is my chance to empty that vault...' Jacob thought as his eyes flickered coldly.

The treasury of the Soulless Palace was one of his goals, and now that he was finally alone, he knew this was his chance to empty it.

However, at this moment, the Dark Soul Ring, which was blinking continuously, suddenly turned crimson, and an eerie voice rang in his mind, "Absolute Faction Meeting has been started, forcibly pulling the 'Soulless Ghost King' in the Dead Nexus Citadel!"

Jacob was startled and instantly sensed something amiss when a chilling pull spread from the Dark Soul Ring and spread in his entire body. This sensation was very familiar because it was the same method the Soul Star Watch used, but this was quite overbearing.

Jacob could've stored the Dark Soul Ring in his infinity pendant but didn't because he didn't want to arouse the Soul Ghost King's suspicion. He also needs to keep in contact with the Ghost Race. He was even planning to explore the Dark Network after taking care of this treasury.

Yet, he had underestimated the meaning behind this meeting because of the missing memories. Now, it was too late, but he still could stow away the Dark Soul Ring, and this forceable summon would stop.

But then Jacob didn't do it since it wasn't a big deal, and he wanted to see what would happen and maybe he would find more information.

The next moment, his consciousness was yanked into an abyssal void. When he opened his eyes, he found himself standing in the Dark Nexus Citadel, the highest-ranking domain in the Virtual Dark World.

Unlike the shining radiance of the Legendary Spectrum Sky City, the Virtual Dark World was a shadowed reflection—a boundless realm of eternal dusk, where the sky churned with dark nebulae and violet lightning slashed across the like whips of destruction.

At the center of this world lay the Dark Nexus Citadel, a titanic obsidian fortress floating above a fathomless abyss held in place by twisting chains.

This was the highest gathering place for the ruling dark factions, a place where only the most powerful Dark Beings could convene. Beneath it stretched layers upon layers of cities, fortresses, and slaughter zones, segregated based on power and influence.

Jacob knew all this as he mused, 'The Virtual Dark World is governed by a brutal hierarchy where only strength dictated authority. The world is also divided by different ranking systems compared to Virtual Star World.

'The first is the Dark Slaughter Zones. The lowest level is filled with mindless virtual dark creatures, whereas newcomers are proving their worth. Here, battles never ceased, and only those who survived could advance.

'The second is the Dark Noble Domains, controlled by Legendary Dark Being and faction enforcers, these lands ruled by Dark Lords.

'The third is the Dark Lord Realms, home to recognized races under the top three races of Dark Being and their elite members.

'Finally, the Dark Council Chambers, this domain is exclusive to Faction Leaders and Ruler Races of Dead Faction, where knowledge and authority resided.

'The Dark Nexus Citadel is the ultimate seat of power in the Dead Faction and the Virtual Dark World. Only Faction Leaders and those acknowledged by the Dark Network could enter...'

Jacob has this basic knowledge of the Virtual Dark World. As the Soulless Ghost King, he materialized directly outside the Citadel's Judgment Hall, signifying his rank among the highest echelons.

With a peculiar look in his eyes, he entered the Judgment Hall through open gates. The vast chamber was dimly lit by floating torches of black flame, casting elongated shadows across the onyx floor.

The Judgment Hall had no walls—only a swirling expanse of endless darkness stretching beyond sight. At its center stood a massive obsidian throne with three distinct perches, each carved from the bones of an unknown entity.

The other two rulers materialized in a swirl of dark energy when Jacob arrived.

A towering figure cloaked in a crimson mist, his body a manifestation of writhing blood tendrils pulsing with an eerie life of their own. His blood-red eyes burned with endless hunger, and his presence alone carried the scent of decay and carnage. This was the Blood Doom King in his virtual form!

The second was a spectral entity draped in an ever-shifting form of root-like tendrils and abyssal mist, his hollow face revealing countless shifting masks of agony. His mere existence warped the surrounding space, corrupting the void with the aura of an ancient fiendish lineage. This was Underwood Fiend King in his virtual form.

Even Soulless Ghost King's virtual form was like the Soul Ghost King's Ghost Form. Like the Virtual Star Network, they have the freedom to select and alter their virtual clones to be compatible with their races.

Jacob looked at the two faction leaders, who were glaring at him with killing intent, but no one said anything as all three kings took their respective seats. The next moment, a black vortex appeared above them. From within the void, a deep, emotionless voice resonated.

"Summoning the Dark Network's Arbitrator: The Undying Will."

Jacob was astounded because he had no memories of this 'Undying Will.' But from what he could tell, it was clear this Undying Will should be like SAAI!

The next moment, a monolithic figure emerged from the darkness—a colossal, floating monolith, its surface inscribed with cryptic runes that pulsed with neon light.

This was Undying Will, the exclusive AI of the Dark Network, serving as an impartial mediator and judge for all high-level dealings in the Virtual Dark World.

The monolith's eye-like core flickered to life, scanning the three rulers before speaking in a mechanical yet ancient tone:

"The Dead Faction's ruling body has gathered. Declare your purpose."

The Dead Faction meeting had begun!

Chapter 933: Accord of Dead!



The Virtual Dark World was a nightmarish mirror of the living's Virtual Star World, accessible only to Dark Beings through their Dark Soul Rings.

It was a sprawling, ever-shifting realm of shadow and malice, governed by the Undying Will—a sentient AI like the SAAI!

Furthermore, only the faction leaders can summon the Undying Will when the Dead Faction faces trouble, and the Soulless Ghost King attacking his own faction is a huge matter.

If Jacob had only killed some lesser Dark Beings within the boundary of Three Steps of Legend or below, it wouldn't been a huge deal, but killing Legendary Nobles was a huge matter!

This gave the Blood Doom King, Wilbur, and Underwood Fiend King, Underwood, enough reason to initiate this meeting and summon the Undying Will to punish the Soulless Ghost King!

It doesn't matter to them if he had his reason or if someone had offended him first; they wanted to see him suffer!

In front of the Undying Will, Wilbur smirks at Jacob, "How... quaint of you to show your face here, Soulless Ghost King. I trust you've prepared a eulogy for yourself?"

Underwood also jeered. "You have some nerve to kill my trusted subordinates. I hope you're ready for me to carve your lies and feast on his marrow."

Jacob glanced at the two leaders of the Dead Factions, and he had to admit, they were no pushovers, but he wasn't afraid at all.

He looked at the Undying Will, a hint of intrigue flickered in his hollow eyes, "Let the Undying Will be the judge of it because my actions were no provocation... but justice."

At this moment, a beam of black light erupts from the monolith, scanning each leader, and Undying Will's voice boomed, "CEASE... HOSTILITY. THIS SUMMIT IS SANCTIONED. STATE YOUR GRIEVANCES!"

Jacob was slightly surprised by the Undying Will's curt reaction, but the other two didn't react much.

Wilbur finally spoke, "Respected Arbitrator, the Soulless Ghost King attacked my territories unprovoked. He violates the Accord of Dead. I demand his Leader seat dissolution and his Dark Network status revoked!"

Underwood followed suit, "It's not just the Blood Domain, but my Evil Domain's strongholds lie in ashes. The Fiend Clans cry for war. Only the Soulless Ghost King's head will sate them. So, including the Blood Doom King's demand, I demand Soulless Ghost King's status to turn into Faction Traitor and an Absolute Dead Order on his head!"

Undying Will turns to Jacob, who hasn't retorted to any of their claims yet, and questions, "SOULLESS GHOST KING. WHAT DEFENSE DO YOU OFFER?"

Jacob looked at the Undying Will and coldly stated, "The Vampires and Fiends conspired to steal the Throne of Death, murdering my kin, a pillar of the Dead Faction, the Drunkard Ghost King, Blackwell. I merely... reciprocated."

Wilbur was startled and couldn't help but snarled, "Lies! I have nothing to do with that idiot! If anything, I think you killed him yourself since we all know that he was probably screwing with your precious trophy, the Soul Ghost King!"

"Heh, Blood Doom King has a point. I even heard rumors that Drunkard Ghost King had gotten the Throne of Death. Now that you're claiming that he was killed, and you are the biggest suspect in this. You're probably doing this because you are afraid that the Soul Ghost King will kill you once she finds out or no longer cooperate with you.

"Hehehe... Undying Will, this guy has clear intent and reason to kill the Drunkard Ghost King, and now he'll put up this façade to escape from responsibility. He's even trying to fool you so you can judge whether he's qualified to be the leader!"

Underwood didn't miss this chance to entrap Jacob even more, and he couldn't help but wonder if Soulless Ghost King had turned into an idiot

because he was just digging up his own grave by bringing up this irrelevant matter.

It was as if he wanted to get punished by the Undying Will and bring calamity to himself. But it was not possible since Soulless Ghost King would have no place among the Dark Beings if the Undying Will really declared him a traitor.

Moreover, his enemies were numerous and powerful; they were spread all over the legendary plains, and they would come after him once they realized he had lost the protection of the Dead Faction!

At this moment, Undying Will spoke again, "SILENCE. SOULLESS GHOST KING, THIS EVIDENCE... IS INCONCLUSIVE. BUT THE ACCORD OF DEAD DEMANDS RETRIBUTION. SOULLESS GHOST KING, YOU HAVE ONE MORE CHANCE; YOU MUST SUBMIT TO A VERITAS INQUISITION."

Suddenly, a dark chain erupts from the monolith, aiming at none other than Jacob; it is clear the Undying Will wants to bind Jacob.

Jacob was startled as he had no idea what this was about and what would happen if that chain touched him. Furthermore, he was just a virtual clone, but from the gloating and malicious smiles of Wilbur and Blackwood, Jacob knew something was wrong.

So, before the chain could touch him, with a thought, the Dark Soul Ring vanished from his finger into the Infinity Pendant, and the next moment, his avatar vanished, and the chain smacked into his seat!

Wilbur and Blackwood were shocked by this sudden development; even the Undying Will seemed astounded as the eye flickered brightly. As long as the Undying Will was present, leaving the Virtual Dark World without its permission was impossible, but somehow, Soulless Ghost King did!

Wilbur and Underwood looked at the monolith and wondered if the Undying Will was playing tricks on them. They wanted to protest when the Undying Will's solemn voice rang.

"SOULLESS GHOST KING HAS BROKEN THE ABSOLUTE LAW OF THE VIRTUAL DARK WORLD AND ACCORD OF DEAD!

"I HEREBY VOID HIS STATUS AS THE FACTION LEADER AND DECLARE HIM TRAITOR!

"BUT THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE SOULLESS GHOST KING, SO I WANT THE DEAD FACTION TO CAPTURE HIM ALIVE AND BRING HIM TO THE DARK NETWORK SERVER!

"I'LL GRANT THE TWO OF YOU A ONE-TIME USE RELIC TO CAPTURE HIM. COMPLETE THIS TASK, AND YOU'LL BE REWARDED!"

Chapter 934: A Ghost's Dilemma!



Jacob appeared back in the Soulless Palace, and the scene of Undying Will's chain was still vivid in his mind.

'Before releasing that strange chain, the Undying Will said something about submitting to Veritas Inquisition...could it be something like the Pillar of Truth?

'If this is true, then the Virtual Star World should also have something similar to this thing, and here I thought these things couldn't be any more ridiculous. These networks and AIs are becoming more and more advanced, not to mention dangerous.

'And this made me think about that legendary king treasure in the Taurus Tower's reward list. The Spirit Natural Intelligence Phantasma (SNIP) was

created by a race called the Spirit Natural Intelligence Mechanic's Ultimate Algorithm as a core!

'Even then, this got me thinking about SAAI, Dark Rose, and the other AIs of the factions. Maybe these AIs aren't just programs but evolved mechanical sentient beings.

'However, even in the two ghost kings' memories, there was no trace of such a race, nor had I heard anything about them. What if I hadn't chosen the Space Travesty Shuttle and instead SNIP?

'If I want to go against these Networks and discover their secrets, I should probably start with this Spirit Natural Intelligence Mechanic race...'

Jacob's eyes flickered with coldness as he thought about his first encounter with the Undying Will, and he had to admit this thing was quite overbearing, unlike SAAI, and far more decisive, or he hadn't gotten on the SAAI's bad side to see its true nature.

Nonetheless, whatever the case may be, Jacob knew he had already achieved his goal, and now he was probably going to be kicked out of the Dark Network, and those legendary kings would come after him.

Furthermore, he no longer needed to wear that Dark Soul Ring anymore since he had a justification for it, and he had already discussed it with the Soul Ghost King to show his 'sincerity' and willingness to help her get revenge.

Now, all there was left was to tame those ghost kings, and then he could rally up the entire Ghost Race against the Dead Faction and start a faction-wide war, and then he could kill and retreat to his heart's content.

But first, he needed to get to that vault, which was his initial target to begin with, and without stopping, he headed towards the Throne Hall, where the Throne of the Soulless was; it was the key to entering the location of this vault.

Once Jacob was in the throne hall, he saw the empty throne of the Soul Ghost King before he sat over his Throne of the Soulless and muttered a special chant while challenging his soul force on the throne.

The next moment, the Throne of the Soulless released a hum, and the chain around it lit up in myriad runes. Thereafter, Jacob felt a strong pull and distortion in space before his figure vanished from the Throne Hall!

However, the moment he vanished on the empty throne of the Soul Ghost King, a corporeal phantom materialized, taking the shape of a shadowy figure with icy cold eyes; it was none other than Soul Ghost King who was supposed to be outside the Soulless Palace!

Jacob failed to notice her because he was in Soulless Ghost King form, and Soulless Ghost King couldn't see through her Ghost Form, neither did he know its mysteries. So, if Soul Ghost King didn't want to be seen or found, no one could find her in the realm of Legendary King!

The moment Soul Ghost King appeared, she looked at the empty Throne of the Soulless, and her icy eyes flickered with a hint of confusion.

'Since he knew the sequence to activate the secret teleportation, he has to be real... but then why did he tell me to go and subdue those ghost kings? Did he forget I can't leave this palace because the Soul Abyss is active for another decade?

'First, I thought he was an imposter, but his soul totem signature and the normal reaction of the Throne of the Soulless were normal. But then his unusual behavior and taking my side isn't something he would do even if the sky fell.

'Then he personally started a war with the Vampires and Fiends, and just now, he should be back from the faction meeting, yet he didn't show any fear of the Undying Will...

'Even I received the notification of Soulless Ghost King's status as a traitor, and the Undying Will even offered me his position as the Faction Leader as long as I cooperate with the Vampires and Fiends in capturing him alive.

'Which means he really went with his plan for...me?' Her shadowy figure flickered chaotically as if she was in a dilemma.

'If he had killed Blackwell, he would've never gone so far to cover it up. But then, why did he not let me use the royal ghost seal, which would show his last moments before he died?

'It was like he didn't even know how the Royal Ghost Seals works. He wasn't even sure if those four had killed him, but he was pretty confident when he said Blackwell was dead and even started this war...

'I know compassion is the last thing he's capable of, so there is an ulterior motive behind his actions. Then, his strange actions, if he's not an imposter and the real thing, something should've happened to him while he was away.

'However, if he is an imposter, who could be strong enough to overpower the real Soulless Ghost King and even be capable of soul-searching him? That's why the chances of him being an imposter are extremely low... which means something had happened to his soul, but even I can't sense anything.

'But the main thing is whether he's telling the truth about Blackwell. I want to enslave and torture whoever killed my brother. However, even I won't dare to bet the entire Ghost Race's future and survival on it, and Soulless Ghost King's even more so.

'Yet, he's doing completely the opposite...and now he had gone to the vault while thinking that I was away. What is he planning, and even more so, why is he going above and beyond to convince me?'

Soul Ghost King may be quite emotional when it comes to Blackwell, but when it comes to other things, even her husband, she is extremely cautious and calculative.

That's why she instantly started suspecting Jacob when he tried to hoodwink her into his plan. She's been playing along by sending the Ghost Ministers away while hiding in plain sight and observing his actions.

However, despite doing all of this, she still couldn't make up her mind if Soulless Ghost King was real or a fake or if something had happened to him that changed his personality.

Nonetheless, Soul Ghost King was in a dilemma because if Soulless Ghost King had changed and were doing everything for her, she would have liked it. After all, she had never received such treatment from anyone in her life.

However, she also wasn't entirely convinced that he was not doing it for himself and that he might be the one behind Blackwell's sudden death.

Whatever the case was, Soul Ghost King was at a crossroads where her next choice would define the entire Ghost Race's survival or its probable doom!

Chapter 935: Hall of Ghosts!



With a flash of dark light, Jacob appeared in the middle of darkness, but the next moment, as if sensing his arrival, ghostly blue flames started to light up around him, revealing the mysterious place.

Jacob found himself standing in the middle of a large runic array that seemed like a skeletal ghost face, and the surrounding space was a gloomy hall; skulls

and bones were etched on the walls, creating cryptic yet eerie texts and images.

In the middle of this space was a fifty-meter-tall arc black door engraved with ghostly murals and starry dark gemstones.

Jacob instantly recognized this place from the Soulless Ghost King's memories, 'This is the Hall of Ghosts, and behind that door is the Treasury Vault of the Ghost Race...'

His eyes flickered with anticipation as he walked towards the door, and when he was only a meter away from it, his eyes locked on a large grove in the middle of the door surrounded by claw patterns.

Jacob knew this door could only be opened with a specific key. Without it, even if something managed to get into this hidden space located on an Elemental Planet, they would be destroyed by a very powerful formation here if they weren't recognized by the Throne of the Soulless.

Even if a Quasi-myth came and somehow managed to break this door, another mechanism would be triggered, and the entire Elemental World with this treasury would be destroyed!

After all, this elemental planet was discovered by the Ancestor of the Ghost Race, the first Soulless Ghost King, and he set up everything here.

However, when Jacob was about to take out the 'key,' unexpectedly, an ancient ghostly voice reverberated in the Hall of Ghosts, "You came again, for what?"

Jacob was alarmed, as he didn't know anything about someone else's presence in this place, but he didn't overreact and remained calm. He didn't sense any malicious intent, and he couldn't pinpoint the location of this voice.

Nonetheless, he knew he didn't know everything about the Soulless Ghost King, so all he could do was play along and hope to achieve his objective without any accident.

"I need something..." Jacob subtly replied as he looked back, and his eyes scanned the entire hall and even released his soul force.

But he didn't find anything, and at that moment, he missed his Eyes of Judge since whoever this was, they couldn't hide from his eyes. However, if he turns back to his real self, he knows the formation here will be activated, and he will find himself in the world of trouble!

He can't reveal himself now, even more so because he had no idea who this voice belonged to or what kind of purpose it served here. However, he was sure that since this voice was hidden here and with its familiar tone with 'him,' the voice had to be something important, and Soulless Ghost King should be very familiar with it.

"Keke~ you always need something whenever you come here." The voice replied sarcastically, "But it seemed you have forgotten that you had already used your three chances to retrieve treasures from the vault. If you want to enter again, you can only go by becoming the master of the Soulless Ghost Pagoda!"

Jacob's eyes contorted as he wasn't expecting this response, and a hint of grimace flashed past his eyes, 'What is going on? From what it said, the Soulless Ghost King can only enter the Treasury Vault three times. This means every owner of the Ghost King Scepter has the same restriction...

'And to remove this restriction, I need to become the master of this 'Soulless Ghost Pagoda'? I have no memories of this thing or about this restriction. Furthermore, it seemed even the Soul Ghost King didn't know about this, and only the owner of the Ghost King Scepter probably knew this secret.

'But what if she knew, and she was testing me?' Jacob became vigilant as he wasn't expecting this kind of turn of events. 'Here, I thought just the entrance method and knowledge about how to open the vault's door were more than enough to empty this place. However, I wasn't expecting something like this to be placed here.

'Furthermore, if even the Soulless Ghost King can only take three treasures from the vault, then what kind of secret is this vault hiding to have such restrictions?'

Jacob became intrigued when he thought about this mysterious treasury of the Ghost Race and what it was hiding inside. However, that voice should be the guardian of this place, and under its watch, he can't do anything irrational.

"There is a war upon us, and I need to enter the vault. What the point of having this treasury if our race were to annihilate?" Jacob coldly stated.

"War? Annihilation of Race? Kekekeke..." The voice suddenly burst into wanton laughter, making the flames in the hall flicker violently.

Jacob was startled by this reaction but remained silent before the voice stopped laughing and spoke with a hint of mockery, "You know, I've always liked you. Out of all the successors of the Soulless Ghost Ancestor, you resemble his personality the most.

"But if you think you can talk your way into bypassing the restrictions, you are not qualified to be the Herald of Soulless! So, what if the Ghost Race is annihilated? It simply means the current ghost race is incompetent and under the rule of inept fellows like you.

"Before his departure, the Soulless Ghost Ancestor said that if in the future the Ghost Race faced the threat of annihilation and at the time, if the generational Herald of Soulless didn't have the guts to enter the Soulless Ghost Pagoda,

then such a ghost race deserve annihilation!" The voice was filled with cold fury and a hint of disappointment.

However, Jacob wasn't frustrated at all because he wanted more information without appearing suspicious, and now he had enough to make a conjecture.

'So, this Soulless Ghost Pagoda has some trial which even the Soulless Ghost King didn't dare to enter? Furthermore, this Soulless Ghost Pagoda has to be something extremely important to hold such high regard in Soulless Ghost Ancestor's mind, and whoever claimed it would get everything in this place...'

Jacob's eyes flickered in contemplation before he said, "Well, now that you put it this way, I can't ignore my kingdom falling apart like this. Alright, I'll enter the Soulless Ghost Pagoda!"

This time, the voice didn't reply for a while before finally saying, "Kekekeke, you at least have some gusts, I give you that. But you know what this means, right? If you fail, you'll become a part of Soulless Ghost Pagoda for eternity!"

"I'll be the judge of that..." Jacob coldly stated, an eerie smile breaking on his face. "Let's hurry up; I don't have much time to spare!"

Chapter 936: Soulless Ghost Pagoda! (1)



"Let's hurry up; I don't have much time to spare!"

Just as Jacob's voice trailed off, the Hall of Ghosts turned silent for a little while before, all of a sudden, he felt powerful fluctuations behind him.

Jacob turned around and looked at the door of the treasury vault. Under his astounded eyes, the door suddenly shifted into another, different door.

It was a translucent blue door with countless ghostly souls within, as if leading straight to the underworld, and Jacob instantly sensed a threatening power emitting from this door.

At this moment, the ghostly door suddenly started to open, and heart-wrenching wails of ghosts rage in the entire hall before the ancient voice rang again, "I like your confidence, but be careful what you wish for. Now, this is the entrance to the Soulless Ghost Pagoda!

"If you still want to back down, now is your chance, but if you're really confident you can conquer the Soulless Ghost Pagoda and don't fear death, you may enter. But be warned, there is no turning back once you step inside!"

Jacob's eyes flickered as he looked at the pitch-black entrance in front of him before he shook his head, took a step forward without replying, and vanished into the entrance of the Soulless Ghost Pagoda, leaving the hall of Ghost empty.

The moment he entered, the entrance vanished instantly, replacing the entrance of the treasury vault again while the Hall of Ghost regained its eerie serenity.

Jacob walked in the endless darkness as ghostly voices whispered in his ears, and he felt countless eyes watching him from the darkness, but he remained indifferent as he continued forward.

Although Jacob's actions seemed overconfident and hurried, in truth, he had a trump card that would ensure his safety, Which is why he wasn't afraid of this trial at all and took this risk without hesitation.

After all, if he succeeded, not only would he get the treasury, but also this Soulless Ghost Pagoda left behind by the Soulless Ghost Ancestor, the most powerful ghost race expert and someone who had ascended to the upper plains!

Furthermore, he was very interested in this trial and wanted to see what it was, and he even had a few guesses about what it would be.

At this moment, in the endless darkness, Jacob saw a source of light, and he continued to move forward towards it.

Thereupon, Jacob reached this source of light. It was a runic platform shaped like a pentagram, and in the center of this platform was a translucent blue stele engraved with pitch-black words in the runic language of legendary rank; this stele was also the source of light!

Jacob's eyes narrowed ever so slightly as he stepped on the platform, and the moment he stepped on the platform, the runes on the pentagram platform lit up, and he instantly sensed the space around the platform was sealed!

At this moment, an indistinct, emotionless sound from the stele, "To my future successor who has the talent to inherit my legacy, I stumbled upon the Soulless Ghost Pagoda in the depth of Star Ocean's boundaries while chased down by a powerful enemy!

"Even I don't know from which era this treasure belonged or who built it, but when I stumbled upon it, many creatures of the Void were guarding it, and I had to take advantage of my enemy to enter it.

"At that time, I didn't know this Soulless Ghost Pagoda would change my life forever and the future of our Ghost Race!

"However, Soulless Ghost Pagoda isn't as simple as Soul Artifacts because, unlike a Soul Artifact, which only has an infant sentient, the Soulless Ghost Pagoda has a fully mature sentient.

"Only after countless years did I learn that these sentient of Soul Artifacts were called 'Artifact Spirits', and the more powerful the treasure, the more intelligent and powerful an artifact spirit will be.

"The Artifact Spirit of the Soulless Ghost Pagoda is capable of reasoning like us, and it can control the Soulless Ghost Pagoda on its own by using the stored power in the artifact.

"Furthermore, because of this mature Artifact Spirit, claiming ownership of the Soulless Ghost Pagoda without getting its acknowledgment or destroying it is impossible.

"But the latter option isn't a choice because by destroying the Artifact Spirit, the treasure will lose its soul and become an empty husk, incapable of functioning to its full potential.

"However, I also know no one in the entire legendary plains is capable of destroying this Artifact Spirit, especially when someone is inside its body just like you would be right now. Even Quasi-Myth won't stand a chance.

"Now, you should be curious: why would I leave such a treasure behind for future generations? Why not take it with me? Don't worry; you'll get the answers as long as you can pass the first three trials of the Soulless Ghost Pagoda and become its Nominal Owner!

"However, if you fail even one of them, you'll turn into nutrition for the Soulless Ghost Pagoda and become a wandering soul like countless others trapped in here, taking this secret to the grave with you!

"Don't hate me because the existence of the Soulless Ghost Pagoda can't be leaked to anyone, especially about its true nature. But I don't think I need to warn you about it since I left a warning in Soulless Legacy, and without enough confidence, you wouldn't enter here unless you are desperate.

"My time here is over, and I hope you succeed in these trials and solve my greatest regret.

"Thank you, old friend, for giving me this chance to talk with my future successor...I'll leave everything to you now!" The voice fades away at this moment.

However, Jacob was shocked by this unexpected information and didn't expect this kind of secret hidden behind this Soulless Ghost Pagoda!

Furthermore, his expression changed subtly, 'Wait...what did he mean by his final words...'

Just when Jacob was wondering about the 'old friend' mentioned by the Soulless Ghost Ancestor, a familiar voice sounded.

"Kekekeke... now that the ranting is over, shall we start?"

It was the voice of the guardian of the vault, but only now did Jacob genuinely understand that this voice belonged to the Artifact Spirit of the Soulless Ghost Pagoda mentioned by the Soulless Ghost Ancestor!

Chapter 937: Ancient Profession!



"Kekekeke... now that the ranting is over, shall we start?"

Jacob remained silent after discovering this secret of the Ghost Race before he spoke, "So, you are the Artifact Spirit."

"Kekeke~ yes I am! No harm in admitting it anymore since you can only get out of here by completing the first three trials." The Artifact Spirit admitted right away.

Jacob's eyes flickered with a profound light as he said, "Then the treasury vault and the Hall of Ghost?"

"Oh, very sharp. The Hall of Ghost is just the base level of the Soulless Ghost Pagoda, while the treasury vault is also another part of it." Artifact Spirit revealed dismissively.

"Just what kind of soul artifact are you? And why are you hiding behind the Ghost Race? If I'm not wrong, you aren't forged by the Soulless Ghost Ancestor, which means your origin is profound. Furthermore, what will happen if others learn about your existence?

"Aren't you afraid the Soulless Ghost Ancestor or Ghost Race might betray and expose you?" Jacob probed impassively.

The Artifact Spirit remained silent momentarily before ambiguously replying, "What does this all have anything to do with you? Furthermore, I'm also curious why you are questioning your own predecessor.

"However, you're neither qualified nor powerful enough to learn about these things. So, how about you prove yourself first before asking me again? After all, if you turn out to be all bark and no bite, wouldn't I be wasting my breath on you?"

Jacob had urged to summon Cursed Immortality right now, but he held back because he was suspicious.

In the end, Jacob nodded, "Alright, let's start."

"Keke, that's what I want..." The Artifact Spirit replied, "So let me tell you about what these trials are about and general introduction to the Soulless Ghost Pagoda purpose.

"Among other uses of the Soulless Ghost Pagoda, the most important one is it being a legacy inheritance ground. Because without inheriting the entire legacy, no one can use the Soulless Ghost Pagoda or become its true owner. You can think of this as a mandatory requirement to become my owner.

"The legacy store in the Soulless Ghost Pagoda is the Legacy of Soulmanancers called the Soulmanancy! I know this might sound like the profession of Necromancy, but it's not. In fact, Necromancers and Soulmanancers are natural enemies because both professions dabble in the soul.

"However, the way they use and handle the souls are entirely different. A Soulmanancer is a practitioner who uses souls as raw materials to create flames known as Soulless Flames.

"This ancient art is about combining souls to harness their residual life force, memories, and emotions, transforming them into spectral fire. They draw power from the essence of souls, making them masters of flame control.

"The Soulless Flames are perfect for dark alchemy, enhancing potency and success rates. They make complex concoctions easier to refine, especially for curses, poisons, and dark medicine.

"Not only that, Soulless Flames can also be used in traditional alchemy of the living to improve pill quality and reduce impurities, making them highly sought after, and any dark medicine refined by Soulless Flames is completely harmless!

"The usefulness of the Soulless Flames just didn't end there; another use is their ethereal nature, which allows them to bypass physical defenses, directly burning the soul or causing spiritual damage. They're extremely effective against dark beings and also deadly to living creatures!"

Jacob was astounded when he heard about this unfamiliar profession of 'Soulmanancers'. He had already learned about everything he could about the Necromancers up to legendary rank, but he wasn't expecting there to be another profession of Dark Beings like Soulmanancers.

Furthermore, Jacob also knew another profession of the Dark Beings, the Shadowmancer, it was mentioned in the inheritance of the Cursed Necromancer King but Shadowmancers are weaker than Necromancers.

The Shadowless King he encountered in the Myriad Galaxy Palace was also a Shadowmancer. However, there was no mention of the Soulmanancers in Cursed Necromancer King's inheritance. Jacob felt that even the most powerful Necromancer of the past probably didn't know about such a profession.

Furthermore, with how deeply this place was hidden and all the surrounding secrecy, Jacob conjectured that Soulmanancer might be some kind of taboo profession, or something about this profession made this Artifact Spirit hide so desperately in this place.

The point about Dark Medicine becoming harmless to the living beings after being refined by these Soulless Flames was enough to entice countless old monsters to seek them out.

Moreover, this legacy was far from simple, and a soul artifact like the Soulless Ghost Pagoda wouldn't be used to protect it.

Jacob's eyes shifted towards the translucent blue stele and flickered with a hint of realization.

He said, "I guess this trial is about becoming Soulmanancer, so in that case, that stele there is the key?"

The Artifact Spirit replied with a hint of approval, "Keke~ right again. That stele contained the First Chapter of an ancient manual of Soulmanancer, the Soulmanancer Codex, detailing the creation and mastery of Soulless Flames and the ultimate method to form the Divine Soulless Codex—an impenetrable spiritual fortress that ensures the soul's protection unless destroyed!"

Jacob was astounded as he couldn't help but think about a few legendary king-state legacies that he gave up in the Path of Legend because this thing had a similar function.

But this legacy was clearly far higher rank than those since this was just the first chapter, not to mention this wasn't just simply a defensive legacy; it was far from it!

"You mean, unless this Divine Soulless Codex is destroyed, no matter what kind of attack my soul suffers, they will be all deflected to the Divine Soulless Codex, and unless it's destroyed, my soul will remain completely harmless?" He asked sternly.

"It's the gist of it, and this is just one of the abilities of the Soulless Divine Codex. The Soulmancer Codex is divided into 12 Chapters, each corresponding to a Class of Soulless Flame ranking from Class-1 to Class-12, the same as the ranks of Soulmancers (From Class-1 Soulmancer to Class-12 Soulmancer). These flames grow in potency, spiritual power, and complexity with each class, and so does the mastery of Soulmancy.

"This is also your first trial. You see, this first chapter is divided into three sections. This is the first section containing the technique for refining the Class-1 Soulless Flame.

"Only by refining Class-1 Soulless Flame can one be called a Class-1 Soulmancer. You will be given 100 souls, which is also your deadline. You need to refine Class-1 Soulless Flame before 100 souls run out.

"I don't need to remind you what will happen if you use up all the souls, right? Kekeke, good luck~!"

Chapter 938 938: Soulmancer! (1)





After the explanation, the Artifact Spirit fell into silence, leaving Jacob standing there in contemplative silence.

'Soulmancer, Soulless Flames, and Soulless Divine Codex are the main focus of this Soulless Ghost Pagoda. Furthermore, while the former two are probably overviews of the Soulmancy profession, the latter is clearly some kind of high-rank legacy.

'That's because the other sections are kept hidden, and by just making the Class-1 Soulless Flame, I can consider a Class-1 Soulmancer, and since there are twelve classes, I can safely presume that this profession goes way beyond the Legendary Rank, and probably even the Mythical Rank.

'I must have it!' Jacob's eyes flickered coldly as he focused on the stele and carefully read its contents.

Just as the Artifact Spirit explained, there was only the formula of the Class-1 Soulless Flames on it and a deeper understanding of the Soulmancer profession.

'The first step to becoming a Soulmancer is to have at least Soul Sense and a physique that can control Negative Life Force...' Jacob's eyes shimmered with a hint of realization, 'No wonder the Soulless Ghost Pagoda chose the Ghost Race over the others. Only the Ghost Race has a physique compatible with the Negative Life Force. They're probably made for Soulmancy.

'As for the other races, it should be a sporadic case, like Elia's Zodiac Constitution. But then why did no one from the Ghost Race, even the Soulless Ghost King, become a Soulmancer?

'Furthermore, the Soulless Ghost Ancestor left the Soulless Ghost Pagoda behind, and I don't believe it was just because of fear. There is something

more to Soulmancy that the Artifact Spirit is hiding for now. After all, just to become a class-1 Soulman, at least one needed to be a Ghost King!

The more Jacob thought about this, the more curious he became, but he remained vigilant. Although he wanted to see if he could become a Soulman with his own physique, he still didn't know if the Artifact Spirit would allow someone else other than the Ghost Race to inherit this legacy.

Furthermore, the Soulless Ghost Ancestor's relationship with the Artifact Spirit still existed. So, Jacob didn't dare to reveal himself before getting the Artifact Spirit acknowledgment.

Although he was confident in escaping this place, he also wanted the Soulless Ghost Pagoda. He felt the Soulman profession, especially the Soulless Divine Codex, might be helpful.

Since Jacob met the first requirement, he then looked at the second one, and he was slightly surprised, 'The second requirement is to purify the Soul from its resentment and any containment before it turned into an untainted soul, turning it into a pure material, in essential, a Soulless Soul!

'But even Ghost Race can't do it because when they absorb the Negative Life Force, they devour the entire soul without leaving anything, and there is no method written here to achieve this.

'Don't tell me this is the true test?' Jacob's eyes flickered with a hint of grimace, 'It's just like how the Necromancers use a dead body's lingering soul and use the law of death to turn them into undead warriors. However, there is also a requirement that the dead person have to die with some sort of grievance, and a Necromancer can't turn someone who died without any regret into someone who is undead.

'However, Soulman should also have a method to capture souls like the Ghost Race's innate talent, Ghost Slavery, within a few moments after

someone dies, and if someone is weaker, they can simply remove a soul from the body without even needing to kill the other party.

'But there is still nothing about removing the negativity from the soul and turning it into pure material because after devouring the negative life form, there would be nothing left in the soul, much less energy to become material. The same goes for absorbing the Blood Vitality and Soul Vitality.

'These three things are essentially made the Life Force, and by removing just one, the other two will also be used up. It's just the Races like Vampires, Demons, and Ghosts have innate talent to turn everything else into one, whether it's blood vitality, soul vitality, or negative life force.

'So, the trick here is not to absorb the negativity but to purify it without damaging the Soul Vitality since a soul only had Soul Vitality and Negative Life Force once they died and removed from the body. While the soul shall contain the Bloody Vitality, this also means the Soul would always have less life force when it was alive. Unless it's a being of pure soul...'

However, Jacob quickly shook his head, 'No, it's not right because of the Immortal Chapter of Cursed Blood Progenitor. I can turn Soul Vitality into Blood Vitality or both into pure life force without wasting any. I might even be able to turn Negative Life Force into pure life force if I try. I have authority over the life force like no one else. Even Dark Beings can't escape from me.

'So, would it work if I use the Life Bane Wheel's Life Devour to purify the Soul of its containments? This is the strongest ability I created after comprehending the Immortal Chapter, and I wanted to imbue the entire Immortal Chapter with this ability. Still, I don't have the capability yet.

'But purifying the soul should be easy if I try, even if the soul shows signs of losing the life force, can't I just use the Life Injection simultaneously to keep the soul intact?'

At this moment, Jacob's eyes suddenly flared as a sudden realization struck him, 'Turning soul into a pure material... the Life Devour can turn anything into pure life force, and Life Injection can inject that Life Force into me or others.

'But what if I can imitate the Dark Beings and turn life force into something similar to Life Crystals? Since I have authority over Life Force, it shouldn't be as difficult as I knew in and out of Life Crystals. If I can do this, then can't I turn the life force into Soulless Souls as well, since they are essential to purifying the life force?

'I need to create a Soulless Soul force to confirm this, and if this is true, then I don't need to go through so much trouble at all...'

Jacob's eyes flickered with a hint of excitement as he wasn't expecting this trip to give him so many new ideas about the unique ways to use the Immortal Chapter, or this might be the right way, and he just didn't realize it yet.

After all, the Immortal Chapter only revealed the truth about the Life Force and Cursed Blood and how to maximize its potential. It didn't have anything about how to use it differently, but everything was there, and Jacob just needed to figure it out himself.

Just like in the past, Jacob was only thinking about using the immortal chapter to refine their life force to fuel his cursed blood and increase his strength, but now, he has started to think differently.

This was just the start of his discovery of the true terror of the Cursed Blood Progenitor!

Chapter 939: Soulmancer! (2)



After comprehending the method of creating a Class-1 Soulless Flame and the basics of Soulmancy, Jacob decided to give it a try with the Soulless Ghost King physique. After all, if he wanted to use the Life Bane Wheel, he needed to show his real self, which was the real problem. That's why Jacob must show the Artifact Spirit some hope before taking any risk.

"Where are the hundred souls I'm supposed to use?" Jacob impassively inquired as he looked at his dark surroundings and waited for the Artifact Spirit to reply.

The Artifact Spirit told him he'd get 100 souls in this trial, but there was nothing else on the platform except for the stele.

The Artifact Spirit's jeering voice reverberated at this moment, "I've already released sufficient souls..."

Jacob's eyes flickered with coldness as he interpreted the hidden meaning behind its words, 'So, I need to capture those souls myself. It seems this thing wants to test my ghost-controlling abilities, and as a ghost king, if I can't even find some souls, what qualification do I have to be a Soulmancer?'

Jacob didn't speak and instantly spread the Soulless Ghost King's soul sense, but to his surprise, the soul sense suddenly encountered an invisible wall when it was about to spread outside the platform's range. It was like he was trapped in a container, and Jacob's expression changed slightly!

'Just what could've blocked a soul sense like this?' Jacob was astounded as he tried to analyze this invisible barrier. But even with the soul sense, Jacob can't sense anything.

Now, Jacob started to get suspicious of this entire trial; after all, except for giving him some rudimentary knowledge and formula, the Artifact Spirit was continuing to make this entire task complex and challenging.

Nonetheless, Jacob knew what he was getting into, and he never trusted or underestimated this treasure for a second, and he never expected righteousness from this evil treasure.

Jacob then retracted the soul sense, moved towards the platform's edge, and moved his hand forward. As he had expected, he was completely confined there, both physically and spiritually.

"Nice trick..." Jacob stated before his eyes flickered profoundly, "Ghost Form!"

The next moment, the dense black mist suddenly gushed out of Soulless Ghost King's body, completely enveloping Jacob, and then his 'form' began to change his height, growing up to 10 meters before the mist vanished.

A towering 'Ghost Form' was revealed as Jacob appeared in his original skeletal body and infernal eyes. The Ghost Race's ghost forms were scarce, and every owner of this manifestation had a different form than the other.

So, under the pretext of 'Ghost Form,' Jacob decided to reveal his real body, so even if the Artifact Spirit knew about the Ghost Form, it would only be suspicious, and unless it can see through the Cursed Immortal Totem Skeleton, and Jacob knew it can't, the Artifact Spirit would be able to found any fault.

Furthermore, after witnessing this Artifact Spirit's eccentric personality, he had this nagging feeling that he was also into this for fun. So, it would probably observe him without pointing out anything as it wanted to watch him suffer.

After all, Jacob now had a terrific experience dealing with an eccentric book, and in comparison, this Artifact Spirit seems cute.

Just as Jacob expected, despite revealing his original form, the Artifact Spirit called out and remained silent, and this was all Jacob could ask for.

He then quickly focused on the barrier, and this time, with his Eyes of Judge, he instantly saw its structure and was astounded.

In his vision, he saw the barrier was actually made like an octahedron, and each point of this octahedron consisted of a crystalline white triangular quartz, and within this quartz was a pitch-black shifting mercury.

Jacob's eyes flickered as he used soul force to reinforce his vision further, and then he could see the mystery of this mercury, and realization dawned on him when he saw a familiar structure of particles!

'It's a soul!' Jacob was astounded. He had never seen a soul compression in a crystal like this.

Furthermore, the soul trapped in that quartz was filled with negative life force while also brimming with other vitalities, almost like a living person's soul. But he knew it was a dead soul, and upon further analysis, he reached the conclusion that this was most likely the work of a Soulmaner or some rare innate ability!

After further observation, he was surprised when he noticed that the octahedron structure has precisely a hundred of these soul quartzes, and realization struck him.

'So, that's how it is...that Artifact Spirit didn't lie about giving me the souls. It's just that the Soulless Ghost King's soul sense were so weak, or he probably lacked some crucial aspect to see them in this state.

'This was another test to evaluate Soulmaner's talent further. Then, didn't this mean the Soulless Ghost King lacked the talent of Soulmaner? Could it be related to Ghost Form? After all, the Artifact Spirit didn't say anything when I used this form, and I even felt a peculiar fluctuation when I revealed this 'Ghost Form'...'

Although Soulless Ghost King had tons of spells and other abilities, Jacob couldn't be bothered to test them since his own abilities matter in the end. Now that he sees through the Artifact Spirit's trick and finds the 'materials', he quickly moves to the next step.

Jacob released his own soul sense, which was far more powerful than any Legendary King or even a Quasi-Myth, and this time, his soul sense easily seeped into the barrier like water into cracks, and Jacob tried to cover a soul quartz before pulling it out of the structure.

He instantly met with a strong attraction force. Jacob instantly pulled it with more force, and the next moment, he successfully plucked the soul quartz from the octahedron structure!

The moment the soul quartz was pulled out of the structure, it instantly became visible. In contrast, another web line shot from another soul quartz filled the gap between the barrier, instantly mending it without any damage. However, Jacob could sense the barrier had lost some of its power.

At this moment, all of a sudden, Jacob sensed intense fluctuations in his surroundings before the Artifact Spirit's ecstatic laughter reverberated like thunder.

"Kekekeke... after countless years, someone with Nether Vision Ghost Form has finally appeared!"

Chapter 940: Soulmanacer! (3)



Jacob was startled, and his eyes flickered intensely, 'Nether Vision Ghost Form? So, I was right about Ghost Form being the key to completing this trial,

and this Nether Vision Ghost Form should be quite rare even among the Ghost Forms...'

Jacob had many questions, but he held them to himself this time and focused on the trial. He knew he would get the answers as soon as he cleared these trials, and he had a feeling that this Artifact Spirit wouldn't be so kind to reveal everything at this stage.

No longer paying attention to the Artifact Spirit's wanton laughter, he sent his soul sense into the octahedron again and directly enveloped nine more soul quartzes with it.

Thereafter, Jacob pulled them out using half of his power and gained nine more soul quartzes, making ten total. In the Class-1 Soulless Flame formula, Jacob is required to combine ten souls to create Class-1 Soulless Flames.

However, before combining them, he needs to purify them, or even with a sliver of negative life force or contamination, he would lose his 'materials.'

Jacob grabbed a soul quartz and felt the life force within, and a hint of surprise flashed past his eyes as his eyes of the judge shimmered, 'This soul should have been in at least a legendary noble state when it was alive. Moreover, this quartz greatly resembled the Life Crystals that Dark Beings and I formed.

'But unlike Life Crystal, this quartz is purely made to trap souls, not just life force, and there is something different about this soul within. It neither seems to belong to the living nor dark being, yet it holds such a terrifying resentment and negative life force...'

'Life Bane Wheel...' Jacob instantly activated the Life Bane Wheel, and the next moment, a blurry scarlet ring divided into two sections, pitch-black and pure white, formed above Jacob's palm!

This was the initial structure of the Life Bane Wheel, the manifestation of his comprehension of the Immortal Chapter, while the two sections consisted of

the Life Bane Wheel's aspects, the Life Devour (Black) and the Life Injection (White).

But the Life Bane Wheel was nowhere near finished; Jacob created it with the intention of assimilating the entire Immortal Chapter of Cursed Blood Progenitor into it. That's why he chose the shape of a wheel, where he can easily add more sections as he creates and understands more of the use of Immortal Chapter.

Now, after discovering the Soulmancer profession, comprehending the formula of the Class-1 Soulless Flame, and analyzing this soul quartz, he felt inspired. He didn't even need to mull over it further because after seeing the soul quartz and the octahedron and adding the memories of Soulless Ghost King and Drunkard Ghost King, he knew what he needed to do.

Jacob didn't even bother to use Life Devour or Life Injection and directly activated the Blood Shaper and started to add another aspect to the Life Bane Wheel.

The blurry Life Bane Wheel started to revolve, invisible glyphs began to emerge on its scarlet ring, and a thread suddenly shot towards the soul quartz in his hand and connected to the Life Bane Wheel.

Jacob's eyes flickered violently as he controlled the Blood Shaper and shaped the ability according to this inspiration, and thereupon, another section formed in the Life Bane Wheel.

However, this section was of a different color; it was ghostly dark purple and filled with negative energy, and as this new section on the Life Bane Wheel formed, the soul quartz began to crumble while the mercury-like pitch-black soul in it was turning blurry.

"T-this is!?" Artifact Spirit had stopped laughing at some time, and its trembling voice rang at this moment.

Jacob ignored it and continued to forge the new section according to his inspiration, but at this moment, the soul quartz was completely exhausted and turned into fine sand particles.

'Not enough...' Jacob's eyes flickered before he pulled the remaining nine soul quartzes and connected them to his Life Bane Wheel without hesitation.

The Life Bane Wheel revolved even more powerfully as it absorbed the soul quartzes, and a new section in the Life Bane Wheel began to stabilize. By the time Jacob was satisfied, all the soul quartzes were gone.

The Life Bane Wheel stopped revolving, and now it had three sections equally divided within: black, white, and purple.

Jacob's eyes flickered with elation as he looked at the purple section, 'I finally managed to create an aspect after combing the Ghost Race's innate aspects, and all thanks to Soulmanancy...let's call it Spectral Despair!'

Spectral Despair, the third aspect of the Life Bane Wheel, was created after Jacob understood the Ghost Race's innate talent related to the Negative Life Force and their control over souls. It was a unique aspect that would not only allow Jacob to use the Negative Life Force freely, but he could also devour or remove it even the Ghost Race couldn't typically.

Now, even if Jacob's physique can't handle negative energy, he can easily achieve it with the Spectral Despair. In retrospect, Jacob just created an ability that could imitate the entirety of Ghost Race's unique talents. With the Life Bane Wheel's infinite growth potential, he can continue to evolve it.

This was just like how Immortika had told me about the ability to create aspects with the Cursed Blood Progenitor's complete mastery. Jacob didn't fully grasp it before, but now he knew how to achieve it.

As long as he understood the bloodline and their abilities to a certain level, he could replicate them, and the Life Bane Wheel was the key! Lastly, the reason the Spectral Despair came alive was for Soulmanancy!

"What kind of aspect is this?" Artifact Spirit's inquisitive voice rang at this moment with a hint of fear.

Jacob completely ignored the Artifact Spirit since he didn't want to give it time to suspect anything, and he wanted to complete this trial so the Artifact Spirit wouldn't go against him even if it wanted to.

Without any hesitation, Jacob pulled ten more soul quartzes and activated the Spectral Despair, creating a strong suction force, and those soul quartzes were absorbed into the Life Bane Wheel.

'Purify!' Jacob's eyes flare as the Life Bane Wheel revolves, and black miasma filled with negativity begins to release from the Life Bane Wheel.

'This miasma has poisonous properties, and it's quite potent...' Jacob looked at the miasma, and he could feel it had an effect on one's mind, which made it quite useful.

He wasn't expecting even this miasma without any life force to be helpful, but he didn't gather it since it wasn't the time to research poisons. Now that he has the Spectral Despair, he can research this whenever he wants.

Thereupon, the black miasma became thinner and thinner before it completely vanished, and Jacob controlled the Life Bane Wheel, 'Life Injection, Spectral Condensing!'

The next moment, the Spectral Despair and Life Injection sections of the Life Bane Wheel started to overlap. This is how the Life Injection works: when Life Devour devours life force, the Life Injection injects it into Jacob, or it can condense the life force into the Life Devour directly into Life Crystals with 100% purity.

Jacob wanted to apply the same rules with the Spectral Despair; the purified soul within the Spectral Despair should be able to condense into pure soul forms like the soul quartz and life crystals. Jacob was confident in achieving it.

The next moment, the entire Life Bane Wheel's interior turns white, like a portal, and spits out ten ethereal white beads filled with pure life force.

Even Jacob was slightly astounded by the pure life force within these white beads, and they hadn't lost their spirituality; they were still souls, but in the purest form, and anyone should be able to absorb them without any backlash, even the Living Beings.

Grabbing the ten white beads, Jacob looked towards the dark surroundings and impassively questioned, "What do you think, Lord Artifact Spirit? They should be sufficient to create Class-1 Soulless Flame, right?"