

Mana 261

Chapter 261 - The Door that Leads to Hell

The door that led to the First Realm of Hell showed itself grandiosely to the many crowding beings seeing it for the first time.

The beings in the sh.i.p.s that were getting closer to the gateway were able to see many interstellar sh.i.p.s already stationed a few miles around the flaming door, and these sh.i.p.s carried a special significance.

These were not sh.i.p.s that had just arrived like most of them, but they were already stationed here for the past hundreds of years as they acted as the first line of defense to monitor this gateway which could bring them into the First Realm of Hell, but it could also take terrible beings out of this realm as well.

These were various beings from world powers under the agreement to battle against the Infernals, some being stationed here for years as they carried out their jobs as guards and protectors!

The many sh.i.p.s coming in stopped at sufficient distance as they came to a standstill, waiting for the start of a grandiose event.

Elder Spacewarp's vibrant essence erupted out in the Interstellar Warship as he took the center of attention, the many awed disciples turning their gazes towards his as he began to speak.

"What lies before us is the Gateway to the First Realm of Hell, a terrible world that is the birthplace of many of the Infernals you have to come to learn about."

His voice reverberated throughout the ship as he continued.

"Once you pass through this Gateway, you will be transported to a random location in the First Realm of Hell, this being something that none of us can control."

The Elder waved his hands as he was speaking, bringing to their eyes an assortment of colorful medallions in the thousands that began shooting out from him and towards the many disciples all around.

"What we can control though, is your exit. These Infernal Medallions are creations from the resources we have gained in the Realms of Hell over the years, and they allow for the immediate teleportation of anyone that activates it. For now, attach them to your identity medals and mark them with your name, and the name of our sect. Only use these precious medallions if you find yourselves in dire situations where you might lose your life."

His strong words resounded as the disciples took hold of these medallions as if they were another lifeline, using essence to inscribe their names and 'Profound Astral Sect' before putting them in their bags of holdings as they continued to listen.

"The medallions will react to your unique signature and also act as a scorekeeper for the fun aspect of this hunt, allowing us to distinguish which of you is performing the best in the Infernal Hunt."

Elder Spacewarp waved his hands as a red light shone from the medallions, acting like string as it all came towards him, and he redirected it to the space outside of the Interstellar Warship as the disciples

turned to see similar red lights shooting from the many sh.i.p.s that were now stationed around the humongous flaming gateway.

These red lines from a multitude of sh.i.p.s all came together as they converged on one particularly exquisite interstellar ship that was near the center, causing a blinding light to shimmer as the collection of red lines were all put together, and then projected above the ship as an extremely clear image of hundreds of thousands of names of beings from various powers were displayed.

Elder Spacewarp continued to speak inside the ship.

"These Infernal Medallions make it so that every single power here will know exactly which disciples are excelling the most in this hunt, so make your sect proud as you take down the most powerful and most numerous Infernals that you can come across!"

OOOOH!!!

The disciples shouted with vigor as they heard the motivating words, the Elder floating in the ship as he spoke once more.

"Aside from the abundant rewards from the Profound Astral Sect itself, with the top one being the discernment of the Absolute Space Technique with the help of any Elder proficient in it, you will find that the recognition received by the powerful figures watching this Infernal Hunt to be even more useful for your future cultivation!"

OOOOH!

"Furthermore, the Infernals themselves have unique origins that when defeated, their essence will be absorbed into your bodies as they directly increase your comprehension and cultivation realm, so use this to your advantage and take down as many as possible. But..."

The voice of Elder Spaceward turned serious as he captured the attention of every disciple around him.

"...the dangers are just as rampant. In this First Realm of Hell, no beings above the Void Fimerment realm are allowed to enter, with the Realm rejecting anyone that tries no matter their power. But this means...that you might find Void Fimerment Realm Infernals in this First Realm of Hell, so do not hesitate to use your medallion and save your life if ever you come across them. The rewards can only be enjoyed by you all if you keep your lives, so make that your first and foremost priority!"

OOOH!

The disciples roared their assertions as a burst of energy erupted from a few central sh.i.p.s surrounding the gateway, the energy coalescing in the form of a resplendently colored road that went to directly come in contact with the flaming door in space.

A thin transparent dome formed around this roadway as other smaller roads began to shoot from the surrounding Interstellar Warsh.i.p.s and come in contact with it, forming numerous amount of paths where the disciples of the Profound Astral Sect could already see beings move across.

"Go forth, and make the Sect proud."

Elder Spacewarp released his own power in conjunction with the other Elders at the Void Fimerment Realm as another roadway formed from the ship they were on and connected to the main one that came into contact with the gateway that led towards the First Realm of Hell.

The disciples began going through the mystical roadway across space as they did not feel the suffocating pressure of the void around them, the power of Void Rank beings being so colossally powerful that something like forming an isolated path in space not being an issue when many of them worked together.

The disciples from the numerous connection roads soon found themselves on the main rainbow-colored roadway that led toward the flaming door as their eyes looked forth in excitement.

Many of them turned to stare at the huge projection above them with showed tens of thousands of names, all currently showing 0 points next to them as they wondered, just who would come out on top on this exciting Infernal Hunt?

Would it be the powerful disciples of their sect, or would it be someone else entirely?

Around them, beings of various races congregated towards the same path as many of them could see extremely different phenotypes all around. Beings made of flesh and bones, others made of stones and steel, others made of shining light with even more covered in darkness.

All of these beings from a wide variety of races came together as their gaze was only towards one thing.

Fear, trepidation, and excitement all mixed in a wide assortment of feelings as the disciples and trainees of powerful forces amassed and went towards the flaming door that led towards the First Realm of Hell.

Chapter 262 - The Harbingers Rain Down Destruction

In a world covered with the vicissitudes of ice, a world-shaking battle was taking place, and it was a battle that would decide the fate of the Large World that was known as the Icebound World!

The three forces occupying the lands of Icebound World had all converged to meet in this single battle, with the cowering humans in the East finally making their stand and choosing to join with the Frost Race that had recently gained powerful helpers in order to bring the tyrannous Ice Giants' war path to an end.

Freezing cold winds and snowy weather covered the terrain of this final battle, where two powerful auras were looking towards each other with extreme battle spirit on the wide terrains where hundreds of thousands of beings gathered. Billowing snow that obscured one's vision continued to come down heavily, but it did not deter any of the two opposing forces.

On one side, the King of the Ice Giants, Larruk, held a tremendously large mace made of extremely hard crystals that shone in the light, giving the menacing weapon a beautiful sheen before it could be seen dripping with blood as it crushed countless beings.

The King of Giants was more than twenty meters tall, being five meters taller than the average Ice Gaint as he stood out prominently in the crowd. Expertly made blue battle armor covered the entirety of his body as he looked like a moving fortress that was ready to crush everything on sight.

Surrounding him were a variety of other powerful Ice Giants that could be called his generals, each one holding their own humungously sized weapons as they waited for the command to move against their

enemies. They held varying levels of power, with many of them being in the Mythical Rank, and a few standing stably in the Phantasmal Rank.

On the other side, The forces of the Frost Race and Human Race had gathered together as they looked forth with trepidation, the large sizes of the giants continuing to etch fear into their hearts. The arctic penguins had changed from their casual tuxedos as they wore tight-fitting battle armor, their flipping giving off a dangerous sharp light as they looked ready to cut apart all they came near. The beings of the Frost and Human Race turned their gaze to the beings who could face off against the cold hard gaze of the powerful giants at the front lines as their fears eased just a little.

The sleek Emperor Penguin was in the front as his body floated serenely in the rough winds, rising in the air until his eyes were on the same level as the King of Giants. The runic marking in the middle of its forehead that showed off its title as the holder of the Sin of Pride seemed to become slightly more golden as the penguin's eyes looked at its enemies with extreme arrogance. Its beak then proceeded to point towards the sky as it began the battle by showing disdain to its enemies!

Kazuhiko and the other forces were showing vibrant releases of power, as the Kraken had revealed its full size and showed that it was no less than even the King of Giants itself as its voracious tentacles and arms wiggled in the cold skies, while the Imperial Phoenix was the only one surrounded by warm air as her body had already begun burning with resplendent blue flames. The tongues flames danced around her body excitedly as if they could not wait to jump out and incinerate all that the Imperial Phoenix deemed to be her targets.

It was truly an assortment of powerful beings as a battle call resounded throughout the frozen landscape, signifying the start of the fight!

RAA! RAA! RAAAAA!

A prideful cry reverberated throughout the skies as the body of the Emperor Penguin shone in a gorgeous silver light, its flippers raised high in the air as its face adopted a condescending look towards its enemies. The atmosphere trembled as a blazing golden sun appeared in the skies above the Ice Giants, its extreme heat and weight descending down towards the giants as the flipper of the Emperor Penguin came down.

{Sin of Pride}, [Sun Throw] was used as a terrifying sun barrelled down at high speeds in the Icebound World. [White Dwarf Throw] was the enhanced version of this skill that Noah enjoyed as the <<Absolute Sin>> holder, and his harbinger of pride could strike down suns towards those that stood against him!

OOOOH!

The descending sun put immense pressure on the King of Ice Giants as he roared, a variety of abilities coalescing on his body as his crystalline weapon shone with immense blue light, getting ready to meet this attack at any moment.

Kazuhiko did not want to be left behind as he moved rapidly around the battlefield, his sword letting out palpitations of darkness as he struck down hundreds of enemies all around him, and then activated [Loot the Body], a subset of the {Sin of Greed} skill, as a voracious devouring red darkness erupted around him and engulfed the entirety of the dead beings around. Their bodies and origins instantly turned in nothingness as they were all absorbed into Kazuhiko as [Focus], [Strength], or [Vitality]. In a

few small instances, he even gained some new skills in his stat panel as he looted more and more bodies!

"Haha!"

Raucous laughter released from him as he focused on moving around the battlefield, his party of beast girls not too far behind him as they let out colorful lights of their own. Kazuhiko would occasionally look at the visibly rising number in his stat panel as he continued to slash any giants he came across while stealing their attribute points and abilities for himself.

The Imperial Phoenix was not too far back, her body revealing its curvaceous figure as she changed from an astounding phoenix wielding blue flames and into a demonic form of a succubus!

[S.e.x Demon Transformation] was activated as her body was granted even more power, a gaze of dangerous proportions coming off her face as she put her hands on her lips and...blew.

OOONG!

A terrifying blue miasma spread out from her as it went on to cover thousands of Giants around the battlefield. The Ice Giants found strength leaving their bodies as they looked towards the Imperial Phoenix with loving gazes they had never given even to their mothers as they heard a sweet command from her, their minds imagining the amazing ways they would spend their nights together the moment they completed the command from this being they loved the most.

They brought whichever weapon they were holding in their hands as they turned them towards themselves! Those with huge blades serrated their own necks, those with cudgels and hammers smashed their own heads until they became unresponsive, but their gaze was still that of profound love as they looked towards a sweetly smiling Imperial Phoenix with the enhanced form of a succubus!

It was an eerie and dangerous sight to see as even someone who was not affected, Kazuhiko, briefly looked at this sight as his eyes shone towards this curvaceous form. He was reminded of his unsuccessful attempts at flirting with the Imperial Phoenix these past few days, wondering whether he should go to Noah to ask him exactly how he was able to charm the Frozen Queen and Barbatos so he could apply the same principles to this cold Imperial Phoenix. His thoughts were quickly interrupted as he felt a hammer twice the size of his body descending down from a giant, cutting his thoughts short as he put more mana to his next attacks to make his enemy feel even more pain for the interruption.

The humongous Kraken focused on the battle and was fully utilizing the {Sin of Wrath} as its reddened eyes gained a bloody color, its mind dredging up the worst memories that induced immense anger as an encompassing red light erupted from it. His power reached insane levels with [Rage Empowerment] and [Fury Channeling] as something even more spectacular was activated.

The immense levels of anger it held deep inside its heart, the helplessness it felt when it saw the world it was born in shatter into pieces...this anger grew more and more as it manifested itself gloriously with [Anger Avatar]!

The humongous body of the Kraken found a reddened battle-armor forming around its many arms and tentacles, the ends of each of them gaining shining red spikes that seeped with blood as his aura momentarily overtook the whole battlefield. A variety of emotions clouded its mind as it recalled its

destroyed homeworld, the billions of beings that lost their lives, as well as the origin of something very close to him!

AAAAA!

A deadly scream erupted from the Kraken as a bloody light was released, its huge body spreading out like a fan over the battlefield and spinning rapidly as powerful Ice Giants in the thousands were turned into a mass of flesh and bones. Those that were watching could feel a tremble deep in their hearts as they unconsciously felt an unknown anger dredge up from the depths of their hearts.

HMPH!

The sleek penguin in the skies observed these stupendous scenes around it as it did not like the fact that it wasn't the center of attention, a snort ringing out as [Pride Embodiment] activated and caused a shining golden light to gloriously erupt from it. His facial expression seemed to become nobler as the sleek feathers covering it became golden, the body becoming an embodiment of pride as a power that was not at the Phantasmal level was released.

"Burn, little ice giants, burn!"

An arrogant voice that seemed more like a command rang out from its beak as the Ice Giants felt themselves being brought to their feet in a kneeling position, their gazes turning towards the skies as they observed two more blazing suns appearing explosively in the skies as they barreled down towards them. This made it three suns that were now descending down at their position, and at the centermost of all this was a gloriously glowing golden penguin that seemed to be looking at them with eyes that only saw them as something less than bugs.

The King of the Ice Giants, Larruk, looked at this sight in dumbfoundedness as he felt the powerful strength he had always known leave his body as he thought a few last words.

'What the f.u.c.k was this?!'

BOOOOM!

...

Silence reigned in the battlefield after the explosion of three suns, the Frost Race looking towards where the King of Ice Giants stood only to find a scarred landscape with burning flames, the only thing left behind being burnt masses of bones. The large crystalline weapon that the King of Ice Giants carried was the only thing intact as all around the area, only death reigned.

Immense shock and slight fear entered their hearts as they turned to look towards their powerful helpers in the sky.

The others were looking at the penguin and shaking their heads because they felt a change in its aura at the last moment, realizing this penguin had released the limiter they decided to place on themselves and revealed its power at the Transcendent Rank!

Nearly all of them were in the Phantasmal level, with a few being in the Transcendent level after Noah gifted them with an abundant amount of Transcendent and Saint ranked [Cores] that they began absorbing instantly, causing their strength to skyrocket in this short period of time.

Since the world they were in only had at maximum beings of the Phantasmal levels, they had agreed to use the opportunity to train their skills through battle and not overpower everything through force!

Alas, the Emperor Penguin could not help itself as released not just a single sun, but three and directly killed the leader of the enemy forces in the first few minutes of the battle. It only scratched its head in embarrassment briefly before its arrogant eyes turned golden and it moved towards the enemies once more.

RAA! RAA! RAA!

The remaining Ice Giants trembled as they heard the terrifying battle cry again, feeling their knees grow weak as fear occupied their hearts.

The beings of the Frost Race and the Human Race looked at this as immense thrill came to their faces as they moved forward with vigor and power to claim their victory.

OOOOOOH!

The battle for the Icebound World that had started not too long ago, had actually found an untimely ending.

Chapter 263 - The First Realm of Hell

As battles concluded in some worlds, new ones began in others.

Noah watched the numerous figures of beings from other worlds as they traversed through the roadway constructed in space and entered the flaming gateway in front of them.

His gaze only lingered briefly on the party of Celestial Disciples as he moved forward himself with great expectations. They would all be thrown in different locations after they passed through the gateway, so only the future would show exactly who he will be lucky enough to come across.

He observed the humongous gateway, as well the numerous number of sh.i.p.s all around it before he let out a deep breath and disappeared into the doorway leading to the First Realm of Hell.

FLASH!

Only slight disorientation and adjustment occurred before he found himself in an entirely new area. Looking around, the entire space held a hue of orange shade as all around him, wisps of flames continuously burned.

Below him was reddened rocks that expressed the one major thing about this world- it was extremely hot!

There were dense orange-red clouds far above in the horizon that obscured one's view to look any further, as the tongues of flames all around seemed to be dancing and trying to land on anybody that was near.

The landscape was jagged and uneven, and he could even see the outlines of wide mountains and valleys in the distance, along with something else he was coming across for the first time.

GRRRR

All around him, numerous growls could be heard as in the few seconds that he had entered into the First Realm of Hell, he was already surrounded by numerous Infernals.

He looked curiously at the outlines of these new beings as he used one particular summoning skill that he had longingly upgraded all the way from Mythical ever since he turned back time three weeks ago.

The Infernals in front of him had an outline similar to reptilians, but their bodies stood on two legs which had flaming hoofs at the end of each of them. Serrated tails that controlled the flames in the surroundings were even more prominent as they moved closer to him, his eyes clearly making out their sharpened clawed hands and jagged teeth that were dripping with bloodl.u.s.t.

Their heads were surprisingly similar to that of dragons, with crimson horns erupting from either side of their foreheads as they circled around Noah, seemingly testing his power before they voraciously jumped towards him.

The numbers simply surrounding him had reached thousands as each of their bodies let out levels of power no less than Mythical, with an abundant amount of Phantasmal and a few Transcendent Infernals standing further back.

The skill that Noah had cast finally came to life as golden-green runic circles released a terrifying being that let out powerful waves of power, causing a few of the infernals to pull back.

The being was wrapped around in a dark cloak that hid an extremely peculiar figure within. One could distinctly see if they were close that the figure hidden in the dark robe was a skeleton that was fully colored green. The bones of this skeleton were inlaid beautifully with golden runic inscriptions throughout as from its bony hands, a dark green staff that held a golden skull at the top glowed menacingly with a green light.

Its aura powerfully made itself apparent as it was used by its master for the first time in what felt like forever.

From its beginnings as a Rank S [Summon Virulent Abomination], all the way to the Mythical [Summon Death Lord], and now standing stably at SAINT+ after more than three months altogether in the Time Space of the Spiritual Land, the first-ever summon was now under the name of [Lich Lord of Abomination]

[Lich Lord of Abomination] :: A skill that is unique in the universe, with its synthesis being something that only a single being can duplicate. It summons a Lich holding immense essence in its bones, a Lich that is proficient in poisons, healing, and summoning deadly forces of death. Its current abilities include Summon Poison Totem, Summon Undead, Noxious Outburst, and Dereliction of the Saintly Poison Lord.

He knew the effectiveness of a summoning skill in the past, and knew its power would be just as immense when it reached the same rank he was in now! One of his projects with the time spent in the Spiritual Land was the maxing of proficiency of many skills that were complementary to [Summon Death Lord] as he raised the rank of his first summon all the way to SAINT+. Its skeletal structure towered in size, being more than five meters as it raised the golden-green staff towards the rushing Infernals who could not hold back their bloodl.u.s.t anymore.

[Summon Poison Totem]

OONG!

Essence rumbled as from the skies, a huge green-gold structure of a prominently large totem holding inscriptions of laughing and baleful skeletons struck into the ground, destroying those nearby as it stably took root.

SHAA! SHAA! SHAA!

An eerie sound that was similar to that of rapid waves of the ocean rang out and all around the Totem, waves of cloudy milky green lights erupted out as far as 10 meters, fully covering all the Infernals nearby as a horrendous sight occurred.

Any infernals covered by this poisonous cloud released from the Poison Totem found their bodies melting right away, with those who were powerful enough to withstand it with their lives barely hanging on despairing when yet another wave of poisonous cloud released from the Poison Totem,

SHAA! SHAA! SHAA!

The waves of poisonous clouds continued to be released from the totem as in its surrounding 10 meters, everything had melted down to a mess of bloodied goo as it continued to release its waves of poison nonetheless.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Poison Totems similar to this were summoned by the Lich Lord of Abomination as they struck down in multiple areas where clouds of infernals were present, causing a terrifying sight to replay as everything melted from clouds of poisons.

OOOOH!

The more powerful Infernals watching from the back roared in anger as they moved in, maneuvering around the Poison Totems still continuously releasing poisonous waves as they made a beeline for the large hooded green-gold skeleton and Noah. Multiple Transcendent Rank Infernals, as well as two Saint Ranked Infernals, had appeared in the surroundings.

The Lich's eyes shone a green light as the skeleton atop its staff shone a golden light, its immense energies casting yet another skill as Noah watched the abilities play out with a wide smile on his face.

[Summon Undead] was cast as shining green lights began to appear in droves all around them. The green lights seemed to be multiplying at a rapid pace, increasing exponentially as an aura of death began to spread out all around them.

OOOH!

Encompassing screams resounded as in the vicinity of Noah and the Lich Lord of Abomination, thousands of powerful Undead had appeared. Numerous Skeleton Warriors wielding poisonous jagged blades, Dullahans releasing poisonous smoke, immensely large Ghouls and Zombies, as well as...a humongous sized Bone Dragon that whipped its skeletal head towards the oncoming Infernals...and let out a poisonous Dragon's Breath.

VOOM

A gory scene of melted Transcendent Rank Infernals played out as a fiery light erupted from the Saint Ranked Infernals, a barrier of flames surrounding them that fully protected them from the poisonous breath.

They pulled back briefly as they pulled in their bloodlust and observed the beings in front of them yet again.

Around the human and Lich, droves of powerful Undead were screeching at the Infernals as the Bone Dragon began the charge, and thousands of the undead spreading out towards the Infernals swarming around them.

RUMBLE!

"Haha!"

Noah could not help but laugh at this sight, recalling how he loved summons so much with the ease they brought. Watching a pet that he called out move across the battle field as they reaped havoc and chaos had always had its own charm, and he was reminded of it yet again right now. He was about to move forward and put in some work himself when he felt a reddish form of energy come from the dead Infernals all around him and enter his body.

"Hmm?"

...

[Error.]

[Oh?]

[Now what is this?]

He stopped as he heard the messages from the Planetary Core of his homeworld, with the core of the Beast World and Demon World chiming in soon after as they came across something new!

Memories about the Infernals reappeared in his mind as he recalled the words of Elder Baldwin and Elder Spacewarp about how these beings were diametrically opposed to them, with their bodies releasing unique energy which directly helped improve the cultivation and comprehension speed of those that defeated them. The same applied to the Infernals, where anytime they defeated any of them, their ranks and power would climb that much faster!

So why exactly had this unique form of essence caught the attention of the Planetary Systems?

Chapter 264 - Exploring a Shocking New Feature!

[A new form of energy is directly interfering with skills and abilities.]

[Contained. Isolated. Analyzing]

[This...!]

His home world's core continued to speak in its monotone voice as the cores of the other two worlds continued to speak with more emotions, all three rapidly analyzing this new form of energy given off by the defeat of the Infernals in this First Realm of Hell.

The Infernals existed in the Seven Realms of Hell, with the first one having the lowest levels of Infernals, the place where most of them are newly born.

When the various powers first faced the Infernals, they found to their surprise that the defeat of these beings would grant them boosts in their power, with beings that studied the Laws of different elements finding themselves gaining increased comprehension speed as they progressed much faster.

This same energy that many powerful powers in the universe had come across, Noah was finally coming in contact with it for the first time.

[Isolation and Analysis successful. New form of energy has been broken down and quantified, and will be displayed in the form of numbers under a new feature- Infernal Skill Point(s)]

What?!

Noah phased his mind out from the Infernals surrounding him that the Lich Lord of Abomination was taking care of as he focused more on the words of the planetary system, trying to fully understand exactly what they had come across.

[While increasing comprehension speed and power in others, it can be better utilized if it is directed and focused onto a few specific abilities and skills of the user. Hold on while a sufficient explanation is prepared.]

...

A few brief seconds passed as Noah activated his numerous mind-enhancing abilities, and he didn't wait long before a new blue screen appeared in front of his eyes.

<<Infernal Skill Point(s)>> A unique essence found only in the Realms of Hell. The user is able to open up multiple paths of evolution for their skills and abilities through using Skill Points, and while working in conjunction with [Skill Combination], achieve a smooth enhancement of all abilities through sacrificing skills of equivalent level. Skill Trees of multiple abilities can be viewed and activated through the use of the Skill Points, and they can also be used to increase the proficiency of skills and abilities. Current number of Skill Points- 1.3

Noah's eyes read over the new feature multiple times as he could feel his heart pounding, his mind trying to understand this new concept more as he opened his panel and tested this one the skill he used most recently.

SAINT+ [Lich Lord of Abomination] (0/15) :: A skill that is unique in the universe, with its synthesis being something that only a single being can duplicate. It summons a Lich holding immense essence in its bones, a Lich that is proficient in poisons, healing and summoning deadly forces of death. Its current abilities include Summon Poison Totem, Summon Undead, Noxious Outburst, and Dereliction of the Saintly Poison Lord.

In front of the skill, a new counter that read 0/15 had appeared! Noah focused as he sent a command while watching the Infernal Skill Points that continued to increase in a decimal pace as the Lich Lord continued to kill the Infernals around them. The counter next to the <<Infernal Skill Point(s)>> went to 0 as he put everything in the [Lich Lord of Abomination] skill.

SAINT+ [Lich Lord of Abomination] (1.6/15)- Two Skill Trees for evolution are possible once sufficient points and a base requirement of two equivalent level sacrificial skills are reached: >>**Miasmatic Poison Lord**- Leads the summon towards the path of a master of poison, additional abilities include Necrotic Touch, Venomguard, and Decaying Earth. >>**Abhorred Lich Emperor**- Leads the summon towards a path of a master of death, additional abilities include Undead Legion, Will of the Undead Emperor, and Delay Death

...!

Noah's mind became extremely active as he thought through this new feature that allowed for unbelievable actions!

To put it in simpler terms, these Infernal Skill Points could be used to enhance the level of power for each of his skills, and once they reached the highest required number, which in the case of SAINT+ skills is 15, he can choose to proceed with the evolution of the skill and by sacrificing two SAINT+ skills and open up the Skill Trees of two possible paths while also allowing the skill to reach the Void Rank. This was different from the usual Skill Combination that took two complementary skills of the same level and simply increased their rank.

In the case of the [Lich Lord of Abomination] skill, after it reached 15/15 Skill Points and he chose two Saint+ skills to sacrifice as the base, it would upgrade the skill and open up two possible directions- one which focused on strengthening the poison aspect, while another direction focused on improving the death aspect of the Lich Lord's abilities!

Each pathway provided additional abilities that could be unlocked by the Skill Points, and even strengthened to even more powerful levels depending on how many points he placed in one particular ability.

For example, if there was a [Raise Skeleton] ability that allowed one to raise 1 small weak skeleton after placing 1 Skill Point in it, placing another skill point would increase the power and allow you to summon 2 skeletons. Placing another Skill Point would allow you to summon 4 skeletons that would be much stronger than before...and this process just continued until the ability reached the cap of exactly how many Skill Points could be assigned to it.

The more that Noah put this new feature into simpler terms, the more he felt his heartbeat increasing as he came across too many stupendous ways to strengthen himself and his skills to insane degrees through using these Infernal Skill Points.

His attention went towards the Lich Lord of Abomination as he observed it to have grown a few inches bigger, its aura becoming slightly more powerful. This was the result of him placing the 1.6 Skill Points into the skill, the power of the lich becoming even stronger.

The number of <<Infernal Skill Point(s)>> continued to increase in his stat panel as the Lich rained down poisonous death through his Summon Poisonous Totem and even more pain through the undead that were spreading out.

Noah felt a brilliant smile forming in his face as he so quickly wanted to obtain even more Skill Points from these Infernals so he could test the immense boost they would provide when they were focused in one particular direction.

OONG!

His body shone a reddish hue as he activated his Arch Demon Transformation and pulled out the medallion that was connected to the outside world and showed how many Infernals each person had killed. He cut off the signature of 'Crixus' as he put the medallion in the isolated Spiritual Land, not wanting to scare the watchers outside on how many Infernals he was about to kill. He would reconnect the signature every now and then as time passed so that he could keep his achievements high enough to be able to obtain his goal of the Absolute Space Technique once the events in the First Realm of Hell were over.

His gaze turned voracious as he looked for the two Saint Ranked Infernals that were throwing powerful attacks towards the Lich Lord of Abomination that was standing above the Bone Dragon's head as he disappeared in a cloud of smoke, his targets locked on!

Chapter 265 - The Stupendous Skill Points

Outside the flaming gateway of the Door of Hell, various powers stood in their sh.i.p.s as they observed the projection of various names the moment they entered the First Realm of Hell.

It fluctuated rapidly in the beginning, with some names quickly jumping up and only to be replaced a second later as yet another name gained more points. A minute in though, they were able to see a clear name take hold of the number one spot briefly, and even hold on to it for an entire minute.

That name was Crixus, of the Profound Astral Sect!

Elder Baldwin showed extreme elation as he observed his son's name actually occupy the top position among the many geniuses of the surrounding powers, while Elder Spacewarp was just happy that someone from their Sect had been the first to garner the attention of everyone else.

But the name Crixus only remained on top for a minute, before its exponential rise slowed down, and it was soon caught up by powerful and famous names that were well known among the major powers.

William's name soon came into the picture as Crixus only continued to be pushed further and further down, with the names of powerful disciples of the Magus World, Underworld, and even the elusive group of Pureblood Vampires that had sent in their True Prince were among the powerful names that quickly took and retained the spotlight.

The name Crixus gradually continued to fall until it moved out of the top 50, with much less attention paid to it now as the beings focused on the changing top 50 ranks as they brought out foods and entertainment around their sh.i.p.s and watched the continuing Infernal Hunt with great interest.

Names rose and fell on the huge projection in space, but neither of them were privy to the massacre of unknown proportions taking place by the same being who had exponentially risen in points just a few minutes prior.

Noah was moving with extreme enthusiasm that he had only felt when he first received the Skill Combination feature. The enthusiasm stemmed from the continuously rising Infernal Skill Points as he killed more and more Infernals. He was able to increase the slow decimal point additions even faster the moment he fully utilized the abilities of the <<Absolute Sin>> on top of the powerful Lich Lord of Abomination.

What made him amazed was the maddening increase of power in the Lich as he continued to add more Skill Points to the [Lich Lord of Abomination], the counter next to the skill now reading 13/15!

Every time he added a single Skill Point to the skill, he visibly watched as the form of the Lich gained more runic markings and released an even more fearsome aura. When it reached 10/15, the Lich waved its golden shining staff as it was able to summon yet another huge Bone Dragon, making it two powerful Undead Dragons now flying across the burning lands of the First Realm of Hell as they pressured the Infernals rushing in more and more.

All the other Undead that the Lich Lord summoned were increased in numbers and the power they released until they reached a climax when Noah placed the last Infernal Skill Point that made the skill [Lich Lord of Abomination] reach 15/15!

OOONG

A resonance of essence erupted out as a golden light shone briefly from the Lich and all the undead it was connected to, with Noah observing a second later that every single undead that the Lich had summoned now held powerfully glowing golden weapons on their hands. The Bone Dragon's claws and sharp teeth had a golden sheen as the serrated blades that the Skeleton Warrior and Dullahans carried became beautiful to look at. It was an enormous change that when Noah actually took a step back to measure the level of power that the still Saint+ Lich released from its body, he found it to be infinitely close in power to the next rank, even though he had yet to perform the final advancement!

He took a deep breath as he looked at the remaining number of Infernal Skill Points being no more than 3 as he pulled back and focused on the stat panel, wanting to observe for himself the first opening and activation of a skill tree that only went to further amplify the strength of the selected skill.

SAINT+ [Lich Lord of Abomination] (15/15)- Skill Point requirement met. 0/2 SAINT+ Skills are needed for advancement to either the Miasmatic Poison Lord OR the Abhorred Lich Emperor.

Time seemed to slow down as he increasingly felt the beating of his heart, his mind moving rapidly as it sent a command to use two Saint+ skills that were among the limited few he had raised in his months of time spent in the Time Space of the Spiritual Land

The requirements were all met as Noah felt a resonance of essence, and a magnificent light erupted out as in front of his eyes, he synthesized his first ever skill of the Void Rank while also opening up a Skill Tree for the first time. Under the [Lich Lord of Abomination], connecting arrows had appeared as the blue panel expanded, showing the skill at the bottom of the screen with a blue arrow pointing towards a brightly shining [Abhorred Lich Emperor] above it!

That's right! He had chosen the skill tree that was geared towards increasing the death aspect of Lich, wanting to see exactly how crazy he could make the summoned undead of this skill.

[Lich Lord of Abomination] (15/15):: Abilities- Summon Poison Totem(0/5), Summon Undead(0/5), Noxious Outburst(0/5), and Dereliction of the Saintly Poison Lord(0/5) >> **[Abhorred Lich Emperor](0/30) ::** Additional Abilities- **Undead Legion(0/5), Will of the Undead Emperor(0/5), and Delay Death(0/5)**

[Undead Legion](Passive) (0/5) :: The summon's skill set is expanded as they are able to call upon even more variations of undead, and they become able to store the summoned creatures in an isolated space where they can be released in less than a millisecond. Possible Unlocks: Undead Blue Phoenix, Bone Qilin, Wraith, Specter

[Will of the Undead Emperor](Passive) (0/5) :: +50% to all damage. +50% Death Damage. +50% Poison Damage. +50% Death and Poison Resistance. +1 Summon Limit to all High Level Undead. -15% Skill Energy Cost.

[Delay Death] (Active)(0/5) :: As long as it is within 10 seconds, the call of death can be delayed. As long as the target is healed of life threatening injuries during this time, they can live on.

A glorious selection of additional abilities that only went on to further increase the power of the summon appeared before Noah's eyes as he quickly honed in on the passive of [Will of the Undead Emperor] to test the stupendous effects of the Skill Points on a skill that provided damage and other types of modifiers. He added a single Skill Point to begin with as he observed the modifiers changing with his own eyes.

[Will of the Undead Emperor](Passive) (1/5) :: +100% to all damage. +100% Death Damage. +100% Poison Damage. +100% Death and Poison Resistance. +2 Summon Limit to all High Level Undead. -30% Skill Energy Cost.

...

Every single modifier had effectively doubled with the addition of a single Skill Point! Noah's eyes shone as he added the rest of the remaining skill points and watched the results yet again.

[Will of the Undead Emperor](Passive) (3/5) :: +200% to all damage. +200% Death Damage. +200% Poison Damage. +200% Death and Poison Resistance. +4 Summon Limit to all High Level Undead. -60% Skill Energy Cost.

A beautiful view of numbers passed through his eyes as he turned his attention to the outside world to observe the stupendous changes of his summon and the crazy rise of power each of its undead received with the [Will of the Undead Emperor].

The sight...left his jaws wide open!

Chapter 266 - An Undead Legion Traverses the First Hell, A Vampyre Makes a Move

In a certain location of the First Realm of Hell, a sight of unimaginable proportions was playing out as for the first time in the history of this world, an area of a few miles was filled with beings that were not Infernals.

For miles around, one could see shining golden flames vigorously burning from the eyes of numerous Undead beings as they moved like a single organism, the direction they went towards acting as a grinder that cut down everything they came in contact with.

Noah watched his first ever Void Rank skill in action as the [Lich Lord of Abomination] gained the additional abilities of the [Abhorred Lich Emperor], heavily boosting the aura that it released itself, and the even more prominent effect being the large numbers of Undead that continued to increase as he observed the Lich to be moving its now golden bony jaws in laughter as it waved its Skull Staff around maddeningly.

KA KA KA!

The powerful jaws of the Lich snapped open and shut in wild emotional laughter as abundant essence released from its body, summoning as many undead as it could with its expanded abilities!

The Lich was no longer five meters tall with a green exterior. Now, his skeleton had adopted a more golden green coloration as its size was actually reduced, being slightly less than three meters but its aura being multiple levels more overwhelming than when the Lich was more than five meters large.

The Skull Staff it was waving around with wild emotions had numerous runic inscriptions and golden flames burning out of its eye sockets as they resonated with the fiery but empty eyes of every single undead on the burning plains of the First Realm of Hell!

Far in the distance, Noah could see not two, but six humungous Bone Dragons in total flying through the skies as they rained deadly Dragon's Breath filled with a poisonous green-gold hue towards the scrambling Infernals. This was due to more Skill Points being added to the [Will of the Undead Emperor], allowing the Lich to summon an additional Four High Level Undead on top of the current limit of two!

Aside from the Bone Dragons, Ghouls reaching five meters maneuvered through the burning plains as they were accompanied by fast-moving Zombies, Skeleton Knights, Dullahans, and even more Undead.

Noah recalled the other additional skill unlocked by the Abhorred Lich Emperor skill tree, the [Undead Legion] that allowed for even more types of Undead like the Blue Phoenix, Specters, and even Wraiths to be summoned as he checked the number of Skill Points he had amassed in the last few minutes.

The number was still in the decimals, dampening his excitement briefly before his eyes voraciously looked at the bloodthirsty Infernals that now held an uncertain look in their eyes as they looked at the eerily laughing Lich Emperor while more and more Undead continued to fill the burning plains of the First Realm of Hell.

Noah made a few calculations as he moved all other goals aside and focused singularly on a single one for now- obtaining even more Infernal Skill Points by massacring as many Infernals as possible.

He made a few calculations as he knew he would meet the other powerful disciples, trainees, and even the Celestial Disciples in this vast landscape of Hell sooner or later, his mind sending commands as he activated {Shapeshift} and felt the musculature and bony structure of his body changing.

Only a minute passed when a brand new being appeared where the figure of a dark-haired Crixus used to be, now being replaced by a bony Skeleton Knight wielding a large serrated golden blade.

In this inconspicuous Skeleton Knight form, Noah disappeared from his high position atop the head of the Bone Dragon where he and Lich Emperor were standing on as he blended in with the thousands of other Skeleton Knights that were clashing with droves of Infernals, leaving the maddeningly joyful Lich atop the head of the Bone Dragon as he continued to wave the golden Skull Staff and orchestrate the movements of a stupendous never before seen Undead Legion in the First Realm of Hell.

The beings watching the projection of names on the screen near the gateway to the First Realm of Hell were continuing to discuss with enthusiasm as they watched names rise and fall.

More than half of all the disciples and trainees that had entered through the gateway had already returned, where even though most made it in time to use their medallions and be teleported away, there were still hundreds of beings from different powers that faced their death.

Some were simply unlucky and were teleported in an area where numerous amounts of Saint Rank Infernals were congregated and they were forced to end their journey early, while those who were even more unlucky to meet the very rare Void Rank Infernals met an early death as they did not even have enough time to use their medallions to be teleported out.

As for the names that currently occupied the Top 10 on the leaderboard of the Infernal Hunt, it was actually the Pureblood Vampyre, Price Cassius, taking the number one spot! Next to his name, a glaring golden number that read 342,912 pulled in the eyes of all those that were watching.

The Pureblood Vampyres were a powerful ruling race in the Underworld, holding unknown power and potential in their bodies as they were the descendants of the powerful Vampyre Progenitor Vladimir whose name once resounded throughout the Prime Worlds.

They would normally hold high ranking in the Infernal Hunts, but never so staunchly hold on to the first ranking position this tightly, and for this long.

"Have the Vampyres raised yet another monster to dominate the Underworld in the coming years?"

"Dominate? Hmph, maybe if they weren't as arrogant and worked with others, they would already have the entire Underworld beneath their fingertips."

A variety of powers were discussing the beings shifting position on the leaderboard, with a few focusing on the names of unknown disciples from a power called the Profound Astral Sect that had more than six beings in the top 50!

The ones most worthy of note was the name William that was ranked 44th and holding 135,237 points, Crixus who was ranked 47th and holding 126,365, and the one called Athena who was holding 327,476 points, and was actually ranked 2nd!

Many powers knew the movements behind the scenes, and were wondering the true identity of this being that they had never before seen participate in the Infernal Hunt. Just who was able to keep up with one of the High Races of the Universe, the Vampyres, and only be one rank below a powerful Pureblood Vampyre Prince?

The question circled in the minds of many as back inside the First Realm of Hell, the beings being talked about outside the gateway to hell were also looking at their medallions that counted how many Infernals and what level of power Infernals they killed.

Just like how those outside could see their ranks, the ones holding the medallions could see their own ranks as they either became excited to work harder or realized they weren't the geniuses they thought they were.

Among the flaming landscapes of the First Realm of Hell, a being dressed in a tight-fitting business suit was floating on what looked to be a large drop of blood. On his back, pristine looking red-blood wings that closely resemble those of a bat stretched out as they propelled him forward even faster. His head was full of shining silver hair as his eyes had a dangerous color of bloody red.

His gaze was languid and calm as from his fingers, small drops of blood dripped out and fell towards the ground below where numerous Infernals were flocking around, those that were even more powerful flying towards him ferociously like a swarm.

The moment these small droplets of blood touched the ground or came in contact with any Infernal, they expanded to cover areas of more than twenty meters as everything they encompassed thereafter...was shredded into a mess of blood and gore.

The being, a particular Vampyre Prince that many were paying attention to, suddenly shifted his gaze as he sensed a group of beings on the horizon that were not giving off the signature of Infernals.

It was a being from the Faerie Race that was accompanied by two humans as they fended out attacks of ten Saint Rank Infernals that were leading droves of lesser ranked Infernals with them.

The Vampyre Prince's languid gaze quickly turned into focus as his red eyes honed in on the being of the Faerie Race, his eyes noticing something that very few would be able to across the Universe.

Those with an abundance of knowledge and know-how on a specific organization would be able to use unique methods that would have allowed them to know that this being of the Faerie Race was a disciple of the Celestials.

The calm gaze returned to the Pureblood Vampyre Prince as he used an ability and spread his senses for the surrounding miles, checking to see if any other beings were in sight. Within a few seconds of confirmation, the Vampyre Prince bent his knees under the teardrop of blood beneath him like a spring, his wings became taut and vibrated as the muscles became coiled, and then he released himself like a loaded missile towards the location of a Celestial Disciple accompanied by two humans.

BOOM!

...

Chapter 267 - An Enemy, or an Ally?

Like an uncoiled spring, the powerful body of the Vampyre Prince broke the sound barrier as he neared the Celestial Disciple of the Faerie Race in the blink of an eye!

His hands had formed into the shape of a bloody claw as he aimed towards the heart of the being in front of him without a second thought.

Although taken back and given less than a millisecond to react, the being of the Faerie Race was not holding the title of a Celestial Disciple for nothing.

"Fate's Protection!"

A resonant howl escaped from her as her hazel blue wings shone, gaining a golden hue as a protective bell formed around her to meet the bloody claw.

BOOM!

An eruption rocked the skies of the First Hell as the bloody claw met the golden bell, the two beings that clashed being safe and sound as the Celestial Disciple had blood dripping from her mouth. The two humans that were moving with her were ripped to shreds from the impact as the Vampyre Prince looked languidly at the enemy in front of him, not sparing a second more as he had already felt the movement of numerous beings headed their way.

"Blood World."

OOONG!

Essence rumbled and roiled as the simple words triggered ancient magic that went to envelop the area half a mile from the Vampyre Prince at the center. An expression of confusion and slight fear entered the mind of the Faerie as she recalled her teachings on Fate, never having foreseen something like this happening to her today. The fear overtook her pride as she took out her medallion and placed essence into it without a second delay, knowing her power could not stand against the enemy targeting her.

...

Yet to her dismay, nothing occurred no matter how much energy she placed onto the medallion!

"In my Blood World, not even an ant can find respite. What makes you think you can escape?"

More and more confusion clouded by fear sprung into the mind of the Celestial Disciple as she looked towards the Vampyre bubbling with essence as she calmly called out.

"Do you know who you are targeting? My death will bring you untold trouble, and most likely your death if you were to know exactly who was behind me."

The Faerie wiped away the blood still leaking from her mouth as she looked calmly at the silver-haired Vampyre whose eyes had turned even redder at her bleeding body, and sharp teeth that glistened gold could already be seen in his wide jaws.

"Little Celestial, your identity is the sole reason why I targeted you to begin with."

Shock!

Fear!

The calm expression that was always kept by all Celestials wiped away from the Faerie's face as she moved her essence in a last minute dash the moment she realized this madman targeted her even while knowing who she was.

"Constrain."

SHAA!

With a simple command, countless lines of dripping blood erupted from the circular Blood World domain as they tightly held and pulled on the limbs of the Celestial Disciple. The lines of blood went on to cover her entire body as she found she could not move any muscle, nor any of her essence as she felt helpless for the first time in many years.

Her eyes were barely wide open as she noticed the silver-haired Vampyre right on her, his bloody eyes glistening with hunger as his jaws went for her tender white neck, two extremely sharp golden canines leading the way.

...

The Blood World that had covered the distance of the surrounding half a mile disappeared a few minutes after, a gorgeous Vampyre Prince becoming visible again as he licked the last bit of blood from his lips. There was an ashen husk of a being in his arms that was gradually turning into ash as he turned his attention to his surroundings.

Not too far from him in the flaming skies, numerous flying Undead had surrounded the area just a few meters where his Blood World used to be. He could observe fearsome auras leaking from Bone Dragons and deadly Blue Phoenixes, not to mention the tens of thousands of undead that had inexplicably populated the molten ground. All of them had golden fires shining in their boney eyes as they looked up solely at him.

The Vampyre Prince looked coldly at this, watching the Undead leaking the most fearsome aura at the Void Rank, a golden green skeleton that was standing on top of a Blue Phoenix that blazed with flames. The commander of these undead seemed to be tilting its head in confusion as it looked at him.

A few thoughts passed through his mind as he began to float away, not wanting to engage with this new being after expending so much of his energy, while also not worrying about whether they knew the identity of the being he had just killed.

There were very few people across the vast worlds who would be able to ascertain the identity of a Celestial, especially one that was on the thrones of death. His slightly reckless actions here today would not be known by anyone other than himself.

The droplet of blood beneath his feet began to move away from the eyes of the many undead as he prepared to break the sound barrier and leave this area, but his plans came to a complete halt as his calm expression became stern the moment he heard a few words.

"Now why would a Prince of the Vampyre Race be hunting down Disciples of the Celestials?"

...

The Vampyre Prince was brought to a halt at the mention of these words, his gaze turning increasingly serious as he tried to find their source among the droves of undead circling the skies and the ground below him, finding nothing but shining eyes with burning flames.

OONG!

He acted without a delay as he knew the importance of what he just did a few minutes ago, and how such an event could never meet the light of day. Should it be known that the Prince of the Vampyre Race had killed a Celestial Disciple, the consequences would be catastrophic. He placed his hand near his chest as a bloody key formed out of nowhere, entering his chest as he turned it swiftly, unlocking something he never thought he would use in the First Realm of Hell.

THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

A resounding sound of a beating heart erupted as the Vampyre Prince shone with a red light, a circle of blood erupting with him at the very center as it went on to cover the surrounding two miles!

SHAA!

He wasted no time as in this expanded Blood World that covered four times the distance of the normal ones, his first target was the Lich holding a golden Skull Staff as ropes of bloody lines turned into sharp spears around the Blood World, piercing any Undead they came across as even more spears targeted the Lich standing above the Blue Phoenix.

"Constrain. Pierce. Absorb!"

Powerful words left his mouth as stupendous destruction began to occur in the Blood World, many of the lesser ranked Undead turning to nothing in a few seconds as only a few Bone Dragons and Blue Phoenixes were left, some being ground down to bones while the remaining few had each of their bodies holding serious injuries, but not yet dead.

The Vampyre Prince sighed at this as he placed his hand near his chest again, knowing he would have to go all out if he wanted the events in this place to never be known by anyone.

"The more curious thing is that the Underworld should be aligned with the Celestials, thus your participation in this Infernal Hunt. Which makes these set of events so interesting, don't you say?"

The Vampyre Prince's face turned ugly for the first time as he heard this voice again, and it was not anywhere in the two miles where he had expanded his Blood World, but somewhere outside of it.

His impossibly gorgeous face twisted slightly before it regained its composure, and he breathed out slowly as he pulled his hands down and recalled the Blood World. The silver hairs on his head looked slightly dimmer as he turned towards the injured undead in the skies, and the many more Undead outside the two miles of his previously cast Blood World as he voiced out with a devilishly dangerous smile appearing on his face.

"Who are you, and what do you want?"

...

A simple meeting was taking place between two completely different beings in the First Realm of Hell.

At the same time, a Celestial Disciple had faced an untimely death.

Chapter 268 - The Pureblood Vampyre, Prince Cassius

In a Celestial Star quite a distance away from the First Realm of Hell, an old man was sitting down in the middle of a monastery as he enjoyed a cup of tea while looking at five golden glowing pieces of circular stones floating on top of a white board.

Some pieces were bigger than the others, with one being particularly large than the rest floating at the forefront.

The Celestial continued to drink from his cup as a few hours passed, when he finally observed a change as one of the golden pieces floating on the board...became dim and crumbled.

"Oh?"

His gaze seemed to contain interest and a hint of wrath as his fingers moved and collected the remains of the golden stone that were now grey. The remains became absorbed in his hands as he closed his eyes briefly and activated a particular skill, but he was soon disappointed as the results came to be nothing.

"Hmph."

The Celestial Grandmaster was annoyed that his tracing had not worked, his annoyance coming more from the fact that he had lost a piece, and yet he gained nothing from it.

A being had taken the life of one of the Celestial Disciples that he had sent, and this being was careful enough to first isolate the disciple in a different space before they killed them. Thus, the Celestial Grandmaster had lost one of his pieces that he sent forward to try and catch the worms trying to wiggle out of the Order and Balance that they had worked so hard to create.

His gaze became calm again as he looked at the remaining four golden stones floating on the board, quickly bringing the tea cup back in his mind as he fully turned his attention to these four stones, and simply observed once more.

It was only a matter of time before the fly was caught in his net.

A devilishly calm Vampyre floated in the azure skies of the First Realm of Hell as he was surrounded by droves of undead all around.

He watched as a single small Skeleton Knight moved out from the groups of undead as its empty sockets filled with golden flames looked up towards him. The Skeleton Knight opened its pristine jaws as it began speaking.

"I-"

BOOM.

Before a single second passed, the Vampyre Prince waved his hand as droplets of blood instantly appeared where the Skeleton Knight was, exploding the entire area as it cleared to reveal only broken bones.

Prince Cassius watched for a response from the surrounding undead as nothing happened, making him sigh as he turned his sight to another location and watched an identical Skeleton Knight move forward from the horde.

The golden flames dancing around the skeleton's eye sockets seemed to be having fun as a voice rang out once again.

"As I was saying, I'm just a lowly passerby who happened to see something I wasn't supposed to see, and now I'm just curious as to the meaning behind it."

As the skeleton spoke, the destroyed bone Dragons and Blue Phoenixes that had been killed in the Blood World reappeared around them as good as new, with one bone Dragon coming to the Skeleton Knight as it lowered its large head and allowed the skeleton to climb on top, its bony wings flapping as it shot into the skies and came to the same eye level as the Vampyre Prince.

"Is it a personal vendetta? Or have I stumbled upon something entirely different?"

Prince Cassius could see the skeleton more clearly as he adopted a serene expression and thought of ways to contain this situation. He spoke languidly as he sorted the facts in his mind and replied.

"You mention the Celestials with disdain, and your first reaction to seeing one of them killed is not to leave instantly and report the killer to the Celestials to gain their favor, but to try and understand what happened."

An eerie devilish charm continued to be released from the Vampyre Prince as he snapped his fingers, the droplet of blood he was standing on quickly changing as it expanded and formed into a regal chair made of glistening blood.

Prince Cassius sat down domineeringly as he looked towards the skeleton and continued.

"This means that you are either a being from the long-forgotten Ancient Races that still holds a grudge against Celestials, or a little disciple from the Alliance, which means this is as much fun as you're going to have. So once more, what do you want?"

Calm, collected, and domineering.

Prince Cassius said these words imposingly, purposefully revealing some information that served as bait and to answer this being in front of him, yet wasn't too revealing of his own position.

His red eyes gazed calmly towards the skeleton that held dancing golden flames in its eye sockets, the only thing giving away its emotion being the happily dancing flames that seemed to have found something interesting to play with.

The skeleton in front of the Vampyre Prince's eyes was just a random Skeleton Knight chosen by Noah, with him transferring his voice as he was safely hidden miles away within the Undead Legion. His location was not even in the outside world, but in a luxurious house in the miniaturized Spiritual Land that was the size of a grain of sand as he relaxed on a fluffy couch next to a snuggling Barbatos.

The curvaceous woman had eaten too much and now rested her head in Noah's thigh as she let out cute breaths while napping. She had been training hard in the Time Space as her skills continued to increase in proficiency, and her rank was already at Transcendent as she enjoyed [Core]s from Noah first hand.

All she had left to do was bring her skills to the same rank, a task that was much more time consuming for anyone that wasn't Noah.

His mind stopped focusing on Barbato's cute face as he concentrated on his connection with the Abhorred Lich Emperor, sending commands on what to make the Skeleton say on his behalf.

He was happy as he got a chance to witness something stupendous on top of his already ecstatic mood as he farmed Infernal Skill Points and simply watched the power of the Lich he continued to dump the points into climb to insane degrees.

He had come across the first ever being that seemed to belong to a force that actually stood against the Celestials, and this being was expertly hidden in the Underworld, a world known to be an ally of the Celestials.

His smile continued to deepen as he wanted to find out more information, the moment he heard about Ancient Races and the 'Alliance', his ears perked up even more as his mind worked rapidly.

The memories of the Celestial Disciple Drax were abundant, but they did not have all the knowledge and intricacies of the enemies that stood against the Celestials.

From Drax, Noah was only able to know that there were other powers in the Universe that were not aligned with the Celestials, with some of them even being their enemies, but he did not know who these hidden powers were.

Yet now, he seemed to have stumbled upon a being that most likely came from one of these powers, and this...brought about a few possibilities. He looked at the Vampyre that had his body leaking an oppressive aura. This was a being at the Void Rank, and a powerful one at that. He did not have to move against them, and could perhaps make use of them if he played things correctly.

"We actually seem to have aligned goals, which creates new possibilities. Why don't we talk for a bit and share some information with each other?"

A skeleton with dancing golden flames observed a regal Pureblood Vampyre Prince seated on a throne of blood as a conversation that would flip the Infernal Hunt into untold chaos began.

Chapter 269 - The Pureblood Vampyre, Prince Cassius II

A skeleton with blazing golden flames in its eye sockets and a devilishly handsome Vampyre stared at each other for a long time before the Vampyre spoke again.

"Even more Celestial Disciples are in this Infernal Hunt?"

Noah nodded as he thought back to the vigorous back and forth conversation he had been on with this Prince, finally making way after he mentioned his knowledge of the Celestial Disciples that came in through Profound Astral Sect.

"And you won't tell me which organization you come from?"

Noah shook his head as he replied.

"No, I don't see a need for that right now. Though I do have gaps of knowledge on the Celestials that I would love for you to fill in. How did you attack and kill one so confidently without any worry that your identity would not be known with the Celestial's mysterious means?"

Yes! This was one of the reasons why Noah wanted to talk with this being belonging from a power standing against the Celestials. Because not too long ago, while he was watching for the many possible routes his new path would lead, he found himself coming face to face with Celestial Disciples, and he successfully killed them!

Yet, the moment he did, a golden light descended from the skies the moment the disciples lost their life and bound itself to him, a circular golden marking appearing above his head that he would have no way of removing. This golden circle made him believe that it acted as some sort of a marking that was forced onto him the moment the Celestial Disciple faced her death.

He could only make the assumption that the arrival of this many Celestial Disciples into the Infernal Hunt had many underlying reasons, and that unlike the time when he killed Drax, there was somebody scheming behind the scenes. Either they were planning something else and he would unwittingly fall in their plot, or they were more terrifying than he thought and had somehow already begun aiming for him personally.

Thus, he needed more information about the Celestials that even a disciple like Drax would not be privy to. Unless he got his hands on a high ranking Celestial, which was only a pipe dream as they were all insanely powerful, he had to make do with other means. And who else would know more about the Celestials if not their enemies?

The Vampyre Prince looked at Noah briefly before he replied.

"For you to ask me that, you must know the information that Celestials are capable of tracking who they are connected to through fate. My technique, 'Blood World', breaks those types of connections for all that are in it, and I can do whatever I wish without peering eyes. Though it is not as useful if someone is physically near and snooping around."

His last words were directed more towards Noah as a brief silence occurred between them. Noah always kept his unique skill, {Observant}, active at all times. Thus he was privy to many of the things occurring for miles around him. Observing a Vampyre shoot down like a missile and envelop a Celestial Disciple in a bloody world just happened to be one of the things he saw.

He nodded his head as the skeleton facing the Vampyre Prince opened its skeletal jaws.

"Ok, how about we move together? I want to make a move against the Celestial Disciples, but I do not have a way to stop anyone watching from identifying me once any of them fall."

Prince Cassius looked at this skeleton standing atop a humongous bone dragon as his silver hair regained most of its shine.

"What do I have to gain? It doesn't look like you are providing anything for me."

The Prince replied while closely watching this eerie skeleton in front of him. The skeleton tilted its head as it replied.

"Oh did I not mention it? I have seen glimpses of the future, and they do not end so well for you."

What!

A tremor passed through Prince Cassius as he listened to the explosive words, he was about to refute them as he knew of his own power when the skeleton continued speaking.

"You are lucky enough, or in this case unlucky enough to actually run into the most powerful Celestial Disciple in this Infernal Hunt, someone that you might know as Athena."

...!

Prince Cassius's eyes squinted as he stood up from his regal chair made of blood.

"The War Princess is here?!"

"Not just here, you die from her hands as well."

Noah replied curtly as his eyes bore into the devilishly handsome face of the Vampyre Prince. His last words were actually all bullshit, with him having no knowledge of whether the Vampyre Prince would meet Athena or not. The [Insight] ability was powerful, but it did not show him the possibilities of others that he had not even met yet, with most of its focus placed on himself.

Through it, he had been able to see the positions of the Celestial Disciple, as well as the position of Athena. But the terrifying thing was that when it came to Athena, besides her general location, everything involving her was a huge engulfing darkness of nothingness.

This made him extremely careful as he moved with even more scrutiny across the First Realm of Hell, removing himself completely from even the undead legion as he went into the Spiritual Land and later miniaturized it to the size of a grain of sand that an inconspicuous undead was carrying.

He had been sending commands and watching his summon continue to rip apart Infernals as he gained more and more Skill Points that he went on to add to the [Abhorred Lich Emperor] Skill Tree, continuing to reinforce the strength of the Lich as its Undead Legion became more and more powerful, with more variations as now even Undead Blue Phoenixes could be summoned.

He had been moving like this for the past hour, using the Dagger of Time to make more plans for the future when he coincidentally came across the Vampyre Prince who was now looking at him with an interested gaze.

"The War Princess..."

Prince Cassius said the name with an indiscernible meaning as his eyes gained an even bloodier shade, his devilishly handsome face turning towards the skeleton representing Noah as he reached out his pale hands.

"Very few techniques exist that can foretell the future, and even less organizations are privy to them. You have my attention, Little Skeleton. I'll move with you for a bit."

The Skeleton Knight with golden flames in its eye sockets reached out as a handshake was exchanged, confirming the agreement between these two beings as they began to move out.

Noah exchanged more words with the Vampyre Prince as they began moving forward in a particular direction, officially beginning a hunt that was not just aimed at the Infernals.

Chapter 270 - Unceasing Growth, An Aberration

In the safety of the Frozen Plateau Spiritual Land, Noah was only expanding his mental energies as he followed the onslaught of the forces of his summoned Lich that continued forward tirelessly. The creatures in the Undead legion had continued to grow even stronger as the Lich Lord received more and more boosts from the [Abhorrent Lich Emperor] Skill Tree, where Noah had now added even more Skill Points to the abilities that improved their power the most.

[Lich Lord of Abomination] (15/15):: Abilities- Summon Poison Totem(0/5), Summon Undead(5/5), Noxious Outburst(0/5), and Dereliction of the Saintly Poison Lord(3/5) >> [Abhorred Lich Emperor](11/30) :: Additional Abilities- Undead Legion(2/5), Will of the Undead Emperor(5/5), and Delay Death(2/5)

The one that he made sure to max first with skill points was the ability that added huge percentage modifiers to damage and resistances, as well as how many high ranking undead that the Lich could summon. It was the ability called [Will of the Undead Emperor] that brought a significant change into the Undead Legion the moment it was maxed.

[Will of the Undead Emperor](Passive) (5/5) :: +300% to all damage. +300% Death Damage. +300% Poison Damage. +300% Death and Poison Resistance. +6 Summon Limit to all High Level Undead. -90% Skill Energy Cost.

When this skill, along with [Summon Undead], reached the cap of 5/5, a huge change occurred within the undead legion as on the powerful exterior of the summoned undead, terribly powerful armor and weapons had appeared. The tails of the Bone Dragons held golden spikes that oozed a fiery aura, while the flames of the Undead Blue Phoenix spread out to form the beautiful outline of shining blue wings that blinded those looking directly at them.

The rest of the Undead Legion gained striking similarities as thousands of undead adorned in golden armor traversed through the First Realm of Hell and rained destruction on the maddened Infernals.

At the forefront of the army, a Lich holding a flaming Skull Staff rode on an Undead Blue Phoenix as it seemed to breathe in the flames to rejuvenate itself, its gaze voracious and hungry as it sought for more things to kill.

Hidden amongst this Undead Legion, a small circle of blood was situated in the jaws of an Undead Bone Dragon as it sat next to a Skeleton Knight. One could see the appearance of the devilishly handsome Prince Cassius in this circle of blood as his nose wrinkled to the side, his voice coming out soon after.

"Your little pets have an uncomfortable stench."

...

"I can't change that."

A short reply came from the skeleton that Noah sent his words through as the Prince's gaze focused on it.

"When do you plan to reveal your real body?"

"You seem to be trigger happy with your blood bombs, so maybe later."

The Prince did not find that satisfactory as his silver hair shimmered, speaking in a slightly mocking tone as droplets of blood continued to leave him and explode on wide areas filled with rushing Infernals.

"Then I guess you must be one of those weak summoners who only rely on their powerful pets for power."

The words were intended to bring about a reaction, the bickering between the two continuing as they moved forward while mowing down the rushing Infernals. Noah replied curtly,

"No."

Prince Cassius put on an expression that seemed to have finally figured it out as he spoke while extenuating his sharp jawline.

"Ah, it must be because you've become ashamed of yourself after seeing my devilishly handsome appearance. Don't feel too down about that, we Vampyres are some of the very few naturally beautiful species in the Universe."

"..."

Noah didn't even know what to reply to the powerful Vampyre Prince as he kept half of his mental focus conversing with him while he continued to plan in the Spiritual Land. He held a glowing purple Dagger of Time in his hand, his sights set on something that had yet to even occur.

In the centermost location in the First Realm of Hell, a region which was hotter and more blazing than any of the locations in this Infernal Realm existed.

It was populated by some of the most powerful Infernals present in the First Hell, with the occasional appearance of Void Rank Infernals being a norm. Deep in the blazing earth at this centermost location, a unique Infernal was breathing with steady breaths, releasing a billowing stream of air that seemed to be fanning its own flames in this underground space.

It held a more humanoid appearance compared to the other infernals, with the major distinguishing features being the fiery horns blazing with flames growing on either side of its face, huge expansive wings shooting out from his back, and a long serrated tail still waving behind him.

It seemed to be consolidating its strength and power, something that many Infernals would never do as they would simply let their aura run free, using it to feed their bloodlust as they searched for more things to destroy.

This particular Infernal had long since reigned in its destructive thoughts as it entered a critical juncture in its realm that would allow it to break through the shackles at the Void Rank as it entered something much greater, allowing for its smooth ascension to the Second Realm of Hell.

Only beings at the Void Rank or lower could remain in the First Realm of Hell, with those being in higher ranks rejected outright from entering, or in the case of Infernals, achieving ascension to the next Realm of Hell the moment they crossed that threshold.

One of the most powerful Infernals in the First Realm of Hell had stopped its ascension before it even neared as it billowed out hot breaths and released some of its power. It had sensed the many intruders that entered the Realm and began murdering its brethren, and it did not want to ascend before it killed as many of them as possible.

Its rank would only be propelled further upwards when it killed those beings, but it would use that inflow of strength only to reinforce its power before it ascended into the Second Realm of Hell.

What this Infernal did not know though, was that this technique was the same one that the most powerful Infernals that arose from the First Realm of Hell used!

The powerful Generals and Infernal Scions that served under the Infernal Lords, and even some of the recently risen Infernal Lords themselves, this was the pathway they had taken before they rose to the great lengths and power that they did in the future.

Unwittingly, an Infernal at the Peak of Void Rank had embarked on a similar path as it was provided a conduit that coincidentally came the moment it was ready for its ascension, the entrance of many beings that held origins completely opposite to it, and would only serve as fuel to make it reach unbelievable heights in the future.

Its billowing breaths stabilized as it spread its wings wide open, expanding its senses in the blazing Realm of Hell as it located numerous amounts of beings using colorful techniques to destroy its brethren.

The orange flames in the surroundings seemed to be getting sucked into its body as its figure moved like a streak of light, moving so fast that its body disappeared and reappeared miles later, soon reaching an unsuspecting Saint Realm disciple that was fighting against a group of Transcendent Infernals as its flaming clawed hands smoothly entered the chest of the disciple as softly as dipping one's knife through butter.

THUMP

A single last heartbeat, and that was all as the claw tightened and shattered the heart like a grape, a stream of blue energy leaking from the body of the disciple as it went into the body of the Infernal.

The blue energy circulated amongst the reddish skin of the Infernal as it was prevented from taking many of the normal paths, eventually settling in the horns of the Infernal as a small blue runic marking appeared on the right flaming horn. The aura of the Infernal became slightly stronger than it already was as it moved again, faster than the eyes could observe as only wisps of flames could be seen, its gaze already landing on other targets.

An Aberration had risen in the First Realm of Hell through coincidental circumstances, or one could even call it fate, as it moved rapidly towards unsuspecting trainees and disciples!