

## Mech 4001

### Chapter 4001 The Dark Saint

As the Battle of Shardeen Fortress reached a new and more intensive phase, the soldiers of both sides were no longer the protagonists.

Instead, the gods and heroes dispatched by the Oblivion Empire and the Abyssal Empire attracted all of the attention!

Everyone knew that the only way the Oblivion Army could prevail on the battlefield if the Oblivion Empress and her Saintly retainers were both able to repel their godly opposition.

Yet how easy was it for them to repel three dark gods at once?

None of them were that much weaker than the Lady of the Night!

Past confrontations had shown that Lady Nyx was able to defeat a single dark god only after exerting a lot of effort.

There were even rare instances where she encountered two of them at once, during which the Oblivion Empress was only able to hold off her powerful enemies long enough to buy time for the Oblivion troops to retreat from the battlefield!

This time, the price of running away was much heavier for the Oblivion Army.

If the defenders retreated from Shardeen Fortress, the Oblivion Empire would lose an important and vital stronghold and logistical hub!

This would profoundly affect the battle readiness of the Oblivion Army in the coming years.

Even though the non-core elements of the Abyss Army was not that well-organized, their numbers and constant reinforcements from outside made it hard to repel their constant offenses.

Vital bases such as Shardeen Fortress played an essential role in increasing the depth of the Oblivion Army! Without enough defensive and logistical support, it became a lot harder for the Oblivion Empire to maintain their place in the Nyxian Gap.

At worst, the Abyssal Empire might actually win the Nyxian War!

Not only would this be devastating for the soldiers who pledged their loyalty to the Oblivion Empire, this would also rob Lady Nyx and the Dark Saint of their only form of shelter against their great enemy!

Ryncol Larkinson knew more than anyone aside from his wife how important it was to maintain their foothold of the Nyxian Gap.

The complex terrain and anomalous conditions were the only reasons why the two Larkinsons had been able to fend off the Compact's hunters for so long.

After the ignomious fall of an arrogant Holy Daughter, the Compact clearly wisened up and displayed more caution in fighting against its opponents this time.

By using the Abyss Empire as a vessel, the Compact leaders gathered a large number of splinter organizations and other hidden elements under a united banner!

For over a year, the Abyssal Army grinded the Oblivion Army and checked its growth.

At the same time, the new generation of 'dark gods' frequently showed up in order to clash against the Oblivion Empress!

Many ordinary people held the mistaken belief that the Oblivion Empress and the dark gods were all god pilots who were fighting a private battle in the corner of human space for some reason.

Despite the fact that no one had ever seen them display anything that remotely resembled a mech, the belief of all of the mech pilots and soldiers who flocked to the Nyxian Gap could not be shaken!

This was because god mechs completely surpassed the common definition of mechs!

What was amazing right now was that the Devil Tiger was currently able to put up a decent fight against an opponent of this caliber!

The giant manifestation of a blue frozen woman made repeated attempts to freeze or cut the gigantic predator cat, yet none of the frozen attacks proved fatal.

Just as how the Cold One was able to regenerate her bitten arm by channeling her vast reserves of energy, the Dark Saint's own energy manifestation was able to heal up as well!

Even so, the man known to the outside as the Dark Saint struggled to keep up with the Cold One's offensive.

"We can do it!" Ryncol Larkinson gritted his teeth. "Alone, we are weak. Together we are strong! Isn't that right?!"

A loud roar echoed through his fiery will. Ever since his wife partially merged him with Zeigra, he had grown closer to this design spirit than anyone else.

Over the years, Ryncol had gained a huge amount of power from Zeigra, though it had been hard for him to absorb the influx as it threatened to subsume his mind!

Fortunately for him, he managed to endure all of the mental torture and rapidly polished his will and spirit as a result.

With the occasional help from his wife, his force of will developed at a rapid pace, and he found out that the bottleneck that stopped a huge number of expert pilots from advancing further was no hindrance to him at all! He easily advanced to ace pilot with the help of his son's evolved work.

As a masterwork mech, the Devil Tiger not only provided a huge amount of support to Ryncol, but also benefited enormously from its pilot's rapidly rising spiritual feedback!

Over time, the new ace pilot found himself surpassing the strength of his other peers who had recently joined the Oblivion Empire as well.

Even though Ryncol felt that he was only as strong as a junior ace pilot, the synergies he was able to achieve with both Zeigra and the Devil Tiger allowed him to channel the battle strength of a strong and developed senior ace pilot!

It sounded as if there was hardly any difference between these two ranks, but their impact in battle was far apart!

A junior ace pilot was more aptly described as an expert pilot that had grown mature.

A senior ace pilot was seen as a mech pilot that had come closest to reaching the strength and majesty of a god pilot!

Ryncol had learned from more knowledgeable and educated peers that those at the senior ace rank already merged with their ace mechs at least in part!

This was an essential requirement for them to be able to complete their last steps to godhood!

While Ryncol's resonance strength had not developed that rapidly after his recent breakthrough, his close cooperation with his two feline 'battle partners' allowed him to fight leapfrog battles!

This was why he dared to confront the Cold One!

Of course, he was one of the few who knew the truth about the dark gods. If the Cold One was an actual manifestation of a god pilot and a god mech, the Dark Saint was absolutely certain that he would stand no chance!

However, the Cold One was just a powerful Compact sorceress. No matter how strong she had grown, she was only by herself whereas Ryncol always fought alongside his two battle partners!

Pure aggression suffused his mind and will as he continued to maintain the strenuous effort of maintaining total resonance with both Zeigra and the Devil Tiger!

The lines between them had already blurred to a large extent. While they hadn't been together for centuries, they grew so close and fought so many battles together that each of them had shared pieces of themselves with each other.

There was a bit of Ryncol and the Devil Tiger within Zeigra.

There was a bit of Ryncol and Zeigra within the Devil Tiger

There was a bit of Zeigra and the Devil Tiger within Ryncol.

With the sharing and blending of each other's aspects, they not only understood and trusted each other to an unprecedented degree, but also found it easier to merge themselves together and evoke the legendary state of Unity of Man and Machine on demand!

This was currently his capital to resist the Cold One!

With the help of the Megara Hex and several other 'normal' ace mechs, Ryncol found that he was only able to contain the Cold One.

"You cannot defeat me, infidel." A soft, frozen voice rang through Ryncol's will. "You and your barely helpful lackeys may be able to stop my advance for now, but your so-called empress will not be able to withstand the might of my fellow gods much longer."

"THEN I WILL JUST HAVE TO GO THROUGH YOU FIRST!" Ryncol burst as the gigantic manifestation of Zeigra grew more ferocious!

The power of frost continually infused its massive limbs, causing it to slow down and freeze at times.

Each time this happened, the Crown Cat manifestation surged with power that forcefully dispelled the gripping chill that sought to freeze it to death.

Claw after claw battered the Cold One's form, but each time the Compact sorceress was able to block the attacks by conjuring a frozen shield.

A massive illusionary ice blade manifested above the giant tiger. It struck with rapid speed, causing the fusion of Zeigra, Ryncol and the Devil Tiger to scream in unison as they felt as if an executioner's blade had cut through half of their necks!

"ROAR!"

A massive burst of power escaped from the maw of the giant tiger, causing the Cold One's shielded form to shake and become unstable for a moment!

"Assist the Dark Saint!"

The Megara Hex and other ace mechs quickly attacked and pressured the Cold One, which delayed her from recovering from the roar attack.

This bought enough time for Ryncol to recover from the latest strike and reinforce his double resonance.

It took an immense amount of focus and concentration to maintain total resonance with two entities!

If not for the fact that both Zeigra and the Devil Tiger were willing to cooperate, there was no way that an ace pilot could maintain this state!

Even so, Ryncol already felt he was rapidly nearing his limits. Time was not on his side as this was not his own strength.

Each second that passed by drained his energy and that of his battle partners further.

Each attack they suffered drained their energy as well while also imposing greater strain on their minds.

As the giant tiger resumed its attack on the Cold One, it tried to coordinate with the friendly ace mechs in an attempt to overpower the dark god as quickly as possible.

Yet no matter what they tried, the Cold One still maintained decisive advantage in power, technique and endurance!

As one of the most senior members of the Five Scrolls Compact, the woman who took on the guise of the Cold One displayed an impressive amount of control over her own power.

Whereas the fusion of Ryncol and his two battle buddies were largely relying on wielding true resonance as their club, the Cold One efficiently transformed raw power into refined techniques that always frustrated her opponents.

In one instance, the Cold One suddenly lifted her giant blue arm and released a cone of frost in the direction of the Megara Hex!

The Hexer ace swordsman mech hastily relied on its powerful domain field to block the ice spray, but the Cold One's power was not so easily to break!

With Ryncol already occupied with launching another attack, Saint Catara Evern screamed as the freezing cone bit through her Saint Kingdom and froze half of her precious ace mech!

The Megara hex almost shut down entirely due to losing half of her systems!

However, Saint Catara summoned all of her willpower in an attempt to regain control of her ace mech!

"I... will... not... disappoint the Superior Mother!"

She knew that the Superior Mother was fighting above her head at this very moment!

Even though she was a powerful halfgod herself, as a descendant of the Evern Matriarchal Dynasty, she had embraced hexism from the moment of her birth.

Saint Catara did not hesitate to believe in the Superior Mother once the Valkyrie mechs showed their power in the Komodo War.

While she did not have the opportunity to pilot an ace mech that was blessed by the Supreme, she had fought alongside more than enough Valkyrie mechs to recognize that the source of their glows was closer to her than ever before!

"WITNESS ME! BY YOUR NAME, I SHALL SLAY THIS ENEMY GOD!"

The Megara Hex miraculously seemed to shake off all of the damage it previously incurred while releasing even greater power than before!

The strengthened beliefs and conviction of Saint Catara literally fueled her strength as she brought her indomitable will to bear against the frighteningly powerful spirit of a dark god!

As long as Ryncol and his fellow ace pilots were able to sustain their explosive state, they were actually capable of pushing the Cold One back, at least for the moment!

However, the powerful Compact sorceress did not take her opposition seriously at all. She smirked as she deftly defended against the incoming attacks. The amount of energy in the possession of those that had yet to reach the level of a god was limited!

The Cold One knew that as soon as the ace pilots lost their steam, she would be able to wipe them out with ease.

In fact, she might not even need to exert any additional effort to achieve victory in this battle.

The entire battlefield momentarily shook as a soundless scream tore through the surrounding space!

Invisible blood dripped from the giant glowing face of the Oblivion Empress. She had suffered terribly after getting ganged up on by two of the Abyssal Empire's dark gods!

The Patient One maintained a serene expression on his face even as the exaggeratingly long and sharp nails of his gnarled hand was dripping with the intangible blood of the Lady of the Night!

What was frightening to the soldiers of the Oblivion Army was the fact that this was not the first obvious injury suffered by their god-monarch!

The Oblivion Empress had previously suffered a stab wound on her stomach while a gravity wave had crushed one of her feet.

Normally, she should have been able to regenerate these wounds by expending her power, but the power of time exerted by the Patient One significantly slowed down her regeneration speed!

A secret dialogue took place as the two dark gods readied themselves for their next offensive.

"You have run away long enough, apostate." The Patient One conveyed. "Running to the ends of this galaxy will not save you from our pursuit. You may have been able to evade our search long enough, but as long as you still cling to life, we will always be able to grasp it and take back what is ours."

Cynthia Larkinson refused to show any weakness towards her hated enemies. Her giant form responded to the Patient One by pulling out the shadow of a giant crown from nowhere.

"You mean this little thing?"

"RETURN OUR CROWN!"

Cynthia snorted! "Over my dead body!"

A new round of divine attacks ensued as the Oblivion Empress continued to resist the Patient One and the Massive One!

The space above the main battlefield turned into a vision of heaven under siege as attacks that were far beyond the power of technology continued to ravage the godly beings!

In some cases, the wide area attacks even struck the mechs and ships fighting in the distance, causing them to get crushed without any chance of resistance!

## Chapter 4002 The Power of a God

In the Battle between Gods and Heroes, ordinary soldiers didn't even qualify as cannon fodder.

No amount of attacks from mechs or even warships for that matter could possibly make a difference against those who wielded Saint Kingdoms and even stronger domain fields.

The very space around the powerful entities turned into impassable regions. Nothing could get past these powerful fields so long as their sources did not allow for it. Just this defensive measure alone was enough to make many mortals give up their futile thoughts of defeating their opposing gods!

Even expert pilots such as Venerable Dorsa Avinx found herself unqualified to join the ranks of the heroes that fought at this crucial level.

She had only tried to attack the Cold One once with her submachine gun before she personally felt how the dark god easily crushed her resonance-empowered attacks without conscious effort!

That brief moment of contact caused the Hexer expert pilot's hardened will to almost get frozen by the Cold One's unimaginably powerful domain!

"How can I possibly help the Superior Mother fend off these dark gods?" Venerable Avinx murmured.

Given her low qualifications, she had no choice but to turn her Valkyrie Reaper's death-seeking spear against the more mundane forces of the Oblivion Empire.

"All we can do is spread more death!"

As the Valkyrie Reaper and many other mechs of the Oblivion Army resisted the advance of the Abyssal Army, the battle taking place far above continued to shake and warp the surrounding space to a concerning degree!

The fabric of spacetime was already significantly weaker in the Nyxian Gap. The anomalous region made it easier for entities such as the Oblivion Empress and the dark gods to exert their respective powers, but it also posed greater hazards to the surrounding mortal forces!

Normally, Lady Nyx and the dark gods would put some effort into taming the instability of the surrounding space in order to protect their subordinates.



Neither side had the luxury to care about that right now as they focused all of their power and concentration on defeating their current opposition!

Cynthia Larkinson did not make it easy for her two powerful opponents to gain the upper hand.

When her power alone failed to shake the combined efforts of the Patient One and the Massive One, she began to harness the power and authority that she had partially wrested from the Nyxian Gap!

"This region has a far greater history than humanity in this galaxy! Let me introduce to you the ghosts that haunt the Gap!"

The Lady of the Night seemed to meld with the local space. Slowly but surely, a huge swirl of shackled and tortured apparitions came into form!

These horrible alien souls uttered silent screams as their trapped forms sought freedom that was never attainable.

Even though they had never been able to extricate themselves from their eternal predicament, that did not mean they were unable to inflict harm.

As soon as Cynthia summoned the ghosts, they pelted and ravaged the invisible fields surrounding the dark gods!

It was a pity that the effect was not as powerful as he hoped.

The Massive One's immensely powerful gravity force went beyond the physical and was able to crush intangible entities with just as much ease!

Meanwhile, the Patient One was even more direct in his successful attempt to fend off the large amount of ghosts. The sage-like man used one of his long nails to trace a circle.

As soon as he did so, the flow of ghosts heading into his direction slowed down until it practically froze!

While this did not cause the ghosts to disappear, their snail pace meant that they no longer actively battered against the defenses of the dark gods.

"You do not control that power. It is useless for you to direct such pathetic means against a god." The Patient One contemptuously said.

"You are not gods." Cynthia scoffed as she prepared her next attack.

"No, but we are the closest to them. Let us show you how true power should be wielded!"

The large, black orb that represented the Massive One uttered a soundless but painful roar as a fragment of its spherical form suddenly tore away on its own accord!

The long and thin shard of the Massive One's body oriented one of its sharp points towards the Oblivion Empress.

As soon as it locked onto its target, the Massive One exerted his gravity power to repel the shard, causing it to shoot forward at great speed!

Cynthia already knew that she was unable to dodge the attack, so she raised a hand and formed a more solid energy shield in an attempt to block or at least weaken the incoming blow.

Yet before the shard of the Massive One was able to arrive, the Patient One pointed his finger at the projectile, causing two more shards to appear from slightly different timelines!

The Lady of the Night was barely able to reinforce the power of her shield as the three powerful shards struck in quick succession!

Several explosions of light and energy temporarily blocked the view of the soldiers fighting below.

When the interference disappeared, everyone tried to see whether the Oblivion Empress had suffered serious harm.

The threat and power exuded by the shards of the Massive One had been formidable!

There was no way an attack that prompted one of the dark gods to sacrifice a part of his own body was weak!

Yet much to everyone's amazement, the Lady of the Night managed to avoid getting impaled by the three shards!

The reason for that wasn't because Cynthia had been able to summon enough power to repel the triple strikes by herself.

It turned out that another god-like entity had arrived to reinforce Lady Nyx's defenses at the last instant!

Many mech pilots and soldiers, particularly those that had joined the side of the Oblivion Empire, stalled for a moment.

"THE SUPERIOR MOTHER IS HERE!"

"Witness our courage, Supreme!"

"We shall smite your enemies on your behalf!"

Every former member of the Hex Army became invigorated as the Superior Mother personally manifested on this battlefield!

As soon as they regained their wits, they fought with greater motivation than ever before!

The Valkyrie mechs fighting against the Abyss troops even showed greater power as their glows received a substantial boost in their power!

The dark gods didn't care about all of that. Mortals were completely dispensable in their eyes. What mattered more was that another powerful entity had joined the Battle of Gods and Heroes!

In contrast to the dark and ominous form of the Oblivion Empress, the Superior Mother radiated power in a much more overt manner!

Though she actually harnessed multiple attributes at once, at this time her death aspect had become abnormally strong.

The Superior Mother had always been gathering the power of death ever since the Hexers started to fight and kill in her name!

Each Valkyrie mech that slaughtered an enemy and each of their mech pilots that fell in battle inevitably enriched the Superior Mother's aspect step by step.

Though the death of a single ordinary soldier was trivial to the Supreme, the accumulated deaths of billions of soldiers and civilians all added up to a frightening amount of accumulation!

Not only that, but all of the fighting that took place in the Nyxian Gap also fueled her death aspect even further.

This was because the Cynthia Larkinson and the Superior Mother shared an unbreakable bond!

From the moment of her emergence, the Superior Mother had turned into Lady Nyx's incarnation by accident.

While both intangible women mostly kept to themselves most of the time, when they truly needed to, they were able to call upon each other's help and combine each other's power!

Right now, the Oblivion Empress and the Superior Mother formed a united front. Two different women stood against the dark gods that sought to crush one of the apostates that had eluded their pursuit for a long time.

While the Massive One expended a large amount of energy to heal his broken form, the Patient One sneered while stroking his long beard.

"The appearance of a false god shall not avail you, apostate. This 'Superior Mother' that we have heard so much about is a disappointment. Her elements are grossly out of harmony."

Cynthia raised her fist, causing the space around the two dark gods to turn turbulent!

"You stand no chance against the killer weapons that I have prepared against you parasites!"

While the Lady of the Night used her partial control over the Nyxian Gap to inhibit the movements of the dark gods, the Superior Mother finished charging up her attack and unleashed a powerful ray of death!

The ancestral spirit of the Hexer people had already turned gray and black after she had started to channel her immense accumulation of death energy.

The massive death ray she had unleashed was powerful enough to snuff out the spirits of almost every soldier on the battlefield without getting hindered by any energy shield or armor!

When the Superior Mother fired it at the Massive One in a concentrated form, there was no chance for the dark gods to evade or block the incoming death energy beam.

The Patient One tried to slow the passage of time in the space traversed by the beam, but the death energy was so corrosive that it killed the dark god's extension of his power!

As for the Massive One, the heaviest dark god attempted to take away the Lady of the Night's control of the surrounding space by increasing his mass to a terrifying degree.

The Massive One formed a gravity well that was so powerful that it almost turned into a singularity!

The space around the giant black sphere curved so much that it was almost able to bend the passage of the death energy beam!

Yet even in this case, the Superior Mother's death energy beam still retained so much power that it literally killed the opposing gravity forces that attempted to divert the incoming attack!

A fluctuation ran through the Massive One's body as the death energy beam struck the dark god without any hindrance!

The Massive One immediately experienced a loss of vitality. Part of his spherical body grew gray and lifeless.

When the Superior Mother finally couldn't sustain the beam anymore, over half of the Massive One's body had lost any signs of life!

"Did you think that would change the results of this battle? You are too naive. A false god does not have that power." The Patient One taunted!

As Cynthia continued to attack and constrain her two opponents, she became dismayed when she saw the Massive One recover from the Superior Mother's powerful strike!

The dark god had indeed suffered a lot of damage, but he simply commanded his dead portions to crumble away before drawing a massive amount of energy from his reserves to form a complete body again!

Though Cynthia was happy to have forced the Massive One to squander his energy, she was less pleased to see that the Superior Mother's best efforts failed to inflict any lasting damage!

She knew extremely well that if this battle came down to a contest between energy reserves, her side would definitely lose!

"It's time, Superior Mother."

Cynthia directed a glance full of meaning towards her own incarnation.

The silent personification of the six aspects of hexism did not need to issue her own response.

She had been preparing for this moment for over nine months.

While the Patient One and the Massive One began to grow suspicious at what this supposed 'false god' would do next, the Superior Mother began to channel more death energy than ever before!

This time, the spiritual entity did not gather all of that energy onto her hand in an attempt to unleash another beam attack.

Instead, the Superior Mother resolutely channeled all of her accumulated death energy into her abdomen, or more precisely the place where her womb should be located if she was a regular woman!

The sight completely stumped the dark gods. Neither the Patient One nor the Massive One understood the significance of this action.

That didn't stop them from intensifying their attacks in order to stop whatever the Superior Mother was doing!

"Never stand in the way of a mother!" Cynthia roared as she did not hesitate to drain her reserves to shield her powerful incarnation from incoming attacks!

Try as they might, neither the Patient One nor the Massive One possessed enough of an advantage to overcome Lady Nyx's blockade, at least in a short period of time!

Cynthia bought plenty of time for the Superior Mother to prepare for one of the most important moments of her spiritual existence!

Every nearby Hexer began to feel a special calling. The soldiers unreservedly worshiped the Superior Mother while passing along whatever they could give to their object of worship!

Not just the mech pilots, but also the living mechs offered their tribute! The Valkyrie mechs piloted by the Wrathful Doves that had been able to survive up to this day had harvested many lives throughout their time in service.

Each of them grew lighter and less ominous as they all passed on the remnants of their harvests to their all-powerful design spirit.

This phenomena did not just take place in the vicinity of Shardeen Fortress.

Beyond the boundaries of the Nyxian Gap and many light-years away, the surviving Valkyrie mechs and mech pilots each froze whenever possible and donated as much death energy and spiritual feedback as they could provide!

In fact, they didn't have too much to give because they already passed on much of their harvest in previous instances!

Whatever the case, the Superior Mother separated all of the excess death energy that she was able to gather and concentrated it into one of the most remarkable babies to have ever taken shape!

Motherly smiles appeared on the faces of the Oblivion Empress and the Superior Mother. They gazed at the forming spiritual fetus.

However, the concentration of so much death energy did not achieve the desired result!

Despite the fact that the Superior Mother had channeled some of her life energy into the fetus, her baby had yet to move!

The Oblivion Empress took the initiative to donate her own life energy to the silent fetus, but that made no difference.

Cynthia wasn't too upset about this sight. She had already expected that they might encounter this result.

"You know what to do." She softly communicated to her incarnation.

The Superior Mother diverted a fraction of her attention and cast her gaze and consciousness hundreds of thousands light-years away. She stopped extending her awareness as soon as she reached a particular location in the Red Ocean Dwarf Galaxy.

Inside a capital ship parked in high orbit of Davute VII, a certain mech designer was dead asleep as he lay next to his wife.

A giant feminine hand suddenly manifested above his body and reached straight into his head!

"Whu!"

The hand held the shape of a purple spiritual cat in its grasp!

As the Superior Mother's intangible hand shook and squeezed, Blinky unconsciously vomited out a spray of life-attributed energy that was unique to Ves!

The Superior Mother's limb dropped Blinky back into Ves' mind before ingesting Ves' energy.

As it disappeared, the main manifestation of the Supreme shone her eyes as she channeled the siphoned energy into her womb!

It was as if she introduced light in the midst of darkness.

After the baby made out of almost pure concentrated death energy obtained the spark of life, the Superior Mother's spiritual offspring finally came to life!

Try as they might, the dark gods were unable to stop the Superior Mother from doing something that gave them a faint sense of crisis.

Even as Cynthia herself suffered increasingly more severe wounds that she could not easily heal, her bloodied face displayed an increasingly more gleeful grin.

"Helena, come to life so that you may bring death to your enemies!"

Naturally, the Superior Mother did not undergo a normal process of childbirth. As a powerful spiritual entity who was giving birth to another spiritual energy, her process was a lot more direct and accelerated!

Fueled by the charm of Ves' life energy, the fetus of the Superior Mother's firstborn daughter emerged from the womb and ballooned into a powerful gray spiritual entity that was almost as large as her mother!

Every Hexer observing this magical process of childbirth became absolutely feverish at the sight!

The Superior Mother had given birth!

Not only that, but her child had become the purest embodiment of death!

A name seemed to descend in their minds. Each of them silently congratulated the Supreme for gaining a powerful daughter!

Already, the collective imagination of the Hexers came up with a range of monikers!

"Helena, the Daughter of Death!"

"Helena, the Vengeance of the Hexers!"

"Helena, the Eldest Sister!"

As soon as the short but exceptional process of childbirth and growth had run its course, the giant manifestation of a grey-robed girl had fully taken shape!

Appearing as a teenager who was around 18 to 20 years old, the young woman looked both youthful while at the same time radiating so much restrained death that many people seemed to foresee their own demise if they looked too closely at the newborn spirit!

An impudent smirk appeared on her smooth and lovely face. She seemed to see everyone and everything around her as amusing toys.

The only exceptions were the Superior Mother and the Oblivion Empress.

The Daughter of Death showed genuine love when she directed her gaze towards her mothers.



Helena finally started to make her first move.

Just because she was barely a minute young didn't mean she was as ignorant as an actual baby!

Both of her hands began to glow in ominous gray as Helena gathered concentrated death energy of a considerable higher quality than harnessed by the Superior Mother!

As a spiritual entity that was solely based around the power of death, Helena's mastery of this aspect surpassed that of her mother!

The Patient One and the Massive One didn't remain still.

They attempted to interrupt whatever the Daughter of Death was doing, but now that the Superior Mother had joined the injured Oblivion Empress' side, the dark gods became less able to overcome the blockade!

Once Helena finished gathering all of the concentrated death energy that she was able to collect, she opened her mouth and soundlessly conveyed her first words to every god, hero and mortal on the battlefield.

"No one can escape death."

Soon after that, the concentrated power of death exploded from her hands!

An expanding sphere of grayish energy expanded from her position and washed over everyone and everything on the battlefield!

Whenever it passed through the bodies of the soldiers of the Oblivion Army, the potent death energy passed them by without inflicting any harm.

The same could not be said for the soldiers of the Abyssal Army. The followers of the dark gods found that their patrons did not avail them as the expanding death energy snuffed out their spirits without resistance!

Tens of thousands of active mechs and thousands of scattered ships all lost control as soon as the astonishing death sphere passed through their forms without obstruction!

Not even the gods and heroes on the side of the Abyssal Empire remained unscathed!

The expert pilots fighting on the side of the dark gods suffered greatly as the Daughter of Death's discharge of excess energy overwhelmed their powerful wills!

In the end, the only enemies to have retained their lives were the dark gods themselves, but none of them had been able to remain unscathed!

The Cold One fared best out of the three present on this battlefield. She was located further away and only got struck by Helena's first ever outburst when it was already dilated over a wider distance.

The Patient One and the Massive One were less fortunate, however!

Not only were they much closer to the Daughter of Death when she unleashed her initial attack, Helena also made sure to direct a lot more death energy in the direction of her main opponents!

The Patient One and the Massive One had combined their forces in order to form a united defense.

Yet when Helena's stupendously powerful energy attack proved too much to bear, the Patient One instantly repositioned himself behind the Massive One's body!

The Massive One, who had already expended much of his energy during this battle, found that the death energy was so powerful and so concentrated that his entire black body perished within an instant!

By the time the expanding sphere of death energy finally faded in the distance, no one made any overt moves.

The lifeless body of the Massive One no longer restored to life.

Instead, it crumbled entirely, showing that each and every trace of the dark god had died in truth!

The heavily-injured Patient One looked horrified as he cradled his necrotic arm. The surviving dark god was unable to imagine how an entity with so much death was able to come to life! The existence of Helena was a living contradiction!

"H-How?"

The Superior Mother's daughter playfully smirked. "Death has no need to explain herself."

The Daughter of Death had spoken!

Chapter 4003 The Rise and Fall of Gods

The outcome of the Battle of Gods and Heroes had widespread effects on human civilization!

The direct and indirect consequences of what had happened during this miraculous battle actually shifted the course of human history, even though most people didn't notice the changes at this time.

Naturally, the most immediate change was that the trend of the Nyxian War had shifted!

The members of the Oblivion Empire not only gained a huge morale boost out of this consequential victory, but also found it easier to go on the offensive this time!

Before the crucial battle, the Abyssal Empire had been gaining ground. The constant flow of reinforcements along with the advantage of attacking an overextended rival empire made it easy for the Abyssal forces to chip away at their opposition's territory.

However, their strategy could only work as long as their attack fleets enjoyed the protection of the dark gods!

The Abyssal Army was able to provide adequate cover to its fleets most of the time. This forced the Oblivion Empress to make frequent appearances and stretch her endurance in order to defend her territory.

Though the remarkable god-monarch managed to fend off many attacks by driving away the opposing dark gods, this was not a sustainable pattern.

Few people were aware of it, but even gods could get exhausted. The necessity of manifesting on so many battlefields and fighting repeated rounds against god-like opponents who were not that much weaker than her took a toll on her mental wellbeing and energy reserves.

The Oblivion Empress started to fight less vigorously and put more effort into conserving more energy.

Even if her actions led to the loss of a few more battles and the fall of thousands more soldiers, she remained unmoved by the consequences of her change in strategy.

Perhaps the dark gods smelled weakness in their main opponent. Perhaps the Abyssals grew overconfident. Perhaps the controllers of the Abyssal Empire ran out of patience.

Whatever the case, the Abyssal Army gathered a large fleet and drove straight to Shardeen Fortress in order to force a decisive battle!

The mechs and ships didn't really matter. They were only there to force the Oblivion Empire to commit to the battle.

The true purpose was to defeat the Lady of the Night and put an end to this entire farce!

The entire reason why the Abyssal Empire attacked the Oblivion Empire was because the Five Scrolls Compact wanted to get back the relics that it perceived to be its property!

Whether it was the stolen crown or the missing trace of the mythical Metal Scrolls, the stakes of this war were too high for the powerful and secretive cult!

Three of the Compact's powerful and precious envoys showed up for this reason.

Having learned from the mistakes of the Holy Daughter, the envoys were all chosen elites who had distinguished themselves as they climbed the ladder of the Ruined Temple.

All of them possessed plenty of talent, motivation and ruthlessness! Their power and authority far surpassed that of Temple Protector Dista. The oldest among them was even a vice leader of the Ruined Temple!

After entering the Nyxian Gap and taking on the convenient identity of a dark god, the three envoys thought they had gained the measure of the power of their chief opponent.

The Oblivion Empress had definitely become more powerful after defeating Sacred Speaker Daphania and her massive retinue. Her progress in gaining control over the Nyxian Gap had already picked up a bit, making it more difficult for one or even two of the dark gods to prevail on the battlefield.

However, there was no reason for the Abyssals to play fair this time. The dark gods were confident that three of them was more than enough to gain an advantage, and for a time they were proven right!

The Abyssal Empire had already accounted for the appearance of the Oblivion Empire's ace mechs. Their well-hidden spies already learned about the presence of the Dark Saint and even the recently-joined ace pilot of the Hex Army.

Even if these ace pilots were powerful enough to stop the Cold One for a time, there was a reason why they were merely considered halfgods instead of gods in full!

If the calculations of the Abyssal Empire proved accurate, the Oblivion Empire would have collapsed by now. The envoys of the Ruined Temple no longer had to waste any time in this quagmire and could bring back their precious crown and possibly other relics.

None of that came true. The Battle of Gods and Heroes reached a turning point as soon as the Oblivion Empress revealed that she was not alone!

For reasons that were unknown to many people, the Superior Mother not only joined the war at the side of the Oblivion Empire, but actually manifested on the battlefield in her full form!

The cost of doing so was great, but her intervention in the battle proved critical!

The Superior Mother did not hesitate to sacrifice all of her excess death energy that many Hexer soldiers frantically harvested on the battlefields of the Komodo War.

By using this potent death energy as the base of her child, Helena was born!

While the dark gods were caught off-guard, the newborn Daughter of Death immediately debuted in battle by performing a devastating opening move.

The reasons why her sole death attack was so much more powerful than that of her mother were twofold.

First, the Daughter of Death embodied her element to a near-perfect degree! She was literally an incarnation of death in its purest form. The same energy became at least three times more powerful due to her insanely high affinity for its attribute!

Second, the birth process that created the Superior Mother's daughter left plenty of excess death energy unused. The mech pilots of the Valkyrie Redeemer had gone rabid during the later stages of the Komodo War, thereby supplying way more death energy than a newborn spiritual entity could absorb at this time!

Even though Cynthia and the Superior Mother had tried their best to make their daughter start off her life with the strongest footing possible, Helena was nowhere close to matching their strength and development.

The Daughter of Death decisively weaponized all of the remaining excess death energy in an attempt to deal the dark gods a crippling blow!

Her attempt succeeded!

The mass deaths of the soldiers of the Abyssal Army were inconsequential to the gods.

What truly mattered was that the Abyssal Empire had nearly lost all of their dark pillars at the end of this crucial battle!

Though the dark gods all appeared in the form of energy manifestations, they had actually shown up in their true bodies. This was the only way for them to leverage their greatest power against an opponent as formidable as the Oblivion Empress.

Unfortunately for them, Helena's overcharged attack overwhelmed all of their defenses without exception due to the quantity and quality of her potent death energy!

The Massive One's consumption during the previous stages of the battle was the greatest. Not only that, his mobility was the lowest, so he had no other option than to withstand the expanding wave of death energy at close range!

The results were devastating to the Ruined Temple. One of their most powerful envoys had fallen into battle! He had become the Superior Mother's daughter first and most powerful defeated opponent!

Already, Helena attained a legendary status within the Oblivion Empire! She was not only a powerful Hexer goddess that personified the phase of death, but also harvested the life of fellow 'god' within the first minute of her existence!

The prestige of the dark gods in the Nyxian Gap had fallen to the bottom as the survivors of the battle spread this one-sided narrative!

The Patient One and the Cold One both managed to escape from the battlefield with their 'lives' intact, but only barely.

The sequela from getting exposed by the potent death energy harnessed by the Daughter of Death were absolutely great!

The loss of vitality, the decay of energy and the acceleration of aging were just a handful of the consequences of getting exposed to so much concentrated death energy!

No one except the surviving envoys themselves knew how much damage they incurred from the supercharged attack.

It was telling that the Patient One and the Cold One no longer showed up in the subsequent battles and skirmishes of the Nyxian War!

Though the Ruined Temple eventually transferred over additional envoys to prop up the Abyssal Empire, the replacement dark gods no longer fought as bold and daring as before!

It couldn't be helped. The Five Scrolls Compact may have many powerful envoys, but many of them were divided into different factions that competed against each other. The fall or wounding of one of them had profound implications on the fortunes of their respective allies and backers!

In addition, the Ruined Temple was not without its enemies. If it lost too many envoys or diverted them away from the galactic center, the headquarters of the Compact would become awfully vulnerable!

The advances of the Abyssal Army had stalled. Not only were the current generation of dark gods unwilling to take too many risks, they also had to contend against an additional opponent at their level!

While the Superior Mother had never showed up again after participating in the Battle of Gods and Heroes, her daughter had become a frequent presence in the Nyxian Gap!

Helena frequently gave the dark gods headaches even though she wasn't able to launch attacks that were powerful enough to kill them in a single blow.

Just the fact that her element was powerful enough to corrode the energies harnessed by the dark gods was enough to turn her into a dreaded existence within the Abyssal Empire!

The fanatical Hexers spontaneously created idols and other symbols of the Daughter of Death. Those who were fortunately enough to have witnessed her birth and display of power eagerly extolled her power and virtues to their fellow Hexers!

In fact, many Hexers had already become enlightened to her birth and existence.

This was because the Valkyrie Redeemer and her many variants spontaneously changed design spirits after the decisive battle!

The Superior Mother herself had taken the initiative to retreat from the Valkyrie mechs and allow her daughter to take her place!

The consequences of this swap immediately became evident to many Hexers.

Not only did many of their mech pilots come into touch with a much more youthful design spirit, they also found that the performance of their Valkyrie mechs had received substantial upgrades!

The Fridaymen mech pilots who were in the process of conquering the remaining territories of the Hexadric Hegemony began to experience a new form of hell.

Whenever formations of Valkyrie mechs charged their positions, they came under a lot more stress and fear as the attention of a female death goddess paralyzed them in their piloting chairs!

Not only that, but as the more successful Hexer mech pilots continued to harvest more lives with their Valkyrie mechs, their machines started to accumulate greater invisible power.

It was as if the souls of each slain Fridayman directly fed the hungry mechs, causing them to become more terrible and intimidating!

The glows of the 'fed' Valkyrie mechs became more difficult for the enemies of the Hexers to resist. No matter if they were Fridaymen or Abyssals, both of them were unable to endure the oppression of mechs that had effectively turned into the avatars of the death goddess!

"Helena, Helena, Helena!"

The name of the newborn goddess spread through more and more lips.

Not only did she make her mark in two different wars, she also managed to make her presence felt in the Red Ocean!

The Glory Seekers who were not up to date on the events taking place in the Nyxian Gap suddenly found that their Valkyrie mechs had all become stronger for some reason!

The Penitent Sister Mech Legion also made the same discovery when they examined their own stock of Valkyrie Redeemers!

While all of this took place, Ves became utterly bewildered when he heard the news.

"Huh? Who's Helena...?"

Chapter 4004 Surprise!

When Ves woke up after a surprisingly restless night of sleep, he expected to spend most of his time on preparing for his next round of negotiations with the Aduc Family.

Nothing else was more important than establishing a favorable agreement with the treehugging terraformers.

His three opening demands not only reflected his desire to pull the Aduc into his orbit, but also exposed his greed for the Aduc Family's secret method!

The value of obtaining the knowledge or means to enable people to activate their spiritual potential and acquire specific domains was great!

Many of the ambitious plans that Ves wanted to implement in the future would go a lot easier if there were a lot more spiritually active Larkinsons at his disposal.

Of course, he didn't necessarily have much use for people who had developed strong affinities in life and earth.

He would already be happy if more of his mech pilots and other professionals possessed spiritual potential than before.

He would be even happier if he could help his future students and spiritual researchers develop their own life domains!

As long as their spiritual attributes leaned towards life, they had the potential to become just as useful to him as Venerable Joshua!



He imagined a future where he successfully raised thousands of mech designers, mech pilots and spiritual researchers who were aspected towards life. Ves was certain that the collective might and capabilities of such a powerful group would be enough to start an entirely new age in human history!

Of course, all of this depended on whether Ves could successfully obtain the Aduc Family's secret method and harness it for his own purposes.

"I hope I didn't scare the Aducs too much yesterday." Ves muttered as he prepared for another meeting with his advisors.

He drove a hard bargain last time, but he did so with the confidence that the Aducs would not easily choose to reject his offer.

He offered a great service in exchange for a couple of sacrifices! The chance to not only heal the Old Lady but also evolve her into a higher state was a dream come true to the Aduc Family!

From what Ves had gathered during his visit to the Green Dream, the Aducs pretty much treated the ancient oak tree from Old Earth as if she was a primeval god.

Sure, the Aducs may claim to be secularists who believed in the power of science, but their behavior regarding the Old Lady was so irrational that they would not look out of place in a church!

Ves had met many different secularists and believers in his life. He could tell the difference between those who had faith in the power of humanity and those who looked up to higher powers.

From the set of criteria that Ves applied to people, the members of the Aduc Family definitely fell under the latter category! They had even explicitly voiced their assumption that they would no longer be as effective in terraforming planets if they lost their direct connection to their only heirloom of Old Earth!

"What they actually worship is Old Earth rather than the Old Lady." Ves observed.

This was an important distinction. Ves was confident that he could use this detail to his advantage during his next talks with Matriarch Erexia Aduc.

He was determined to obtain the secret means of the Aduc Family one way or another!

Nothing else the Aducs could offer to him was as valuable as this sole prize! Ves was even willing to give up a controlling majority of his T institute if that was what it took to gain their life-changing method!

While Ves leisurely read through another intelligence report on the Aduc Family, a metal weight plopped onto his head.

"Meow..." Lucky lazily yawned as he treated Ves' hair as his nest once again.

"I agree. It's nice to be able to work without things exploding in my face and people dying all around me. Ever since I started my damn career, I've careened from one life-threatening crisis to another. It would be nice to take a break from all of that chaos. I look forward to enjoying a long period of peace and tranquility."

He had enough of encountering surprises for the time being. While surprises could be good as well, he already harvested enough valuable treasure and resources for the time being. It made more sense to digest all of his current gains than to go off on another great adventure.

Ves would certainly miss the feeling of dancing on the edge of a knife in the coming five-year expansion period. He knew that if he did not take the initiative to leave the Davute System and explore the deeper parts of the frontier again, it would be unlikely for him to experience a great moment of uncertainty to the point where he questioned his decisions.

Ever since he returned to safe harbor, he felt as if he had jumped from a raging ocean to a tranquil pond. He had the illusion that he possessed a greater grasp of the future. Since every actor and every event in the more civilized parts of the Red Ocean were more transparent, it became easier for him to read their future trajectories!

"Is this what it feels like to be Prophet Ylvaine?"

As Ves continued to entertain his delusions, he suddenly jerked as he felt something prodding his side!

"What the hell?! Lucky, didn't I tell you to avoid disturbing while I am engaging in important and productive work?!"

"Meow?!"

"You just poked me, you naughty cat!"

"Meow meow meow!" The gem cat aggrievedly defended himself.

"Oh, you just rested on my head all this time?"

"Meeeeow!"

Ves frowned. "If that's the case, then what happened? Did I imagine it, or did something really hit my side earlier?"

He looked around only to see nothing at all. His honor guards hadn't caught sight of anything suspicious either, though Nitaa was beginning to show concern at his searching behavior.

He called up the security feed of his office and studied the recent footage.

The sensors in the current compartment did not detect anything unusual. Ves for that matter did not pick up anything except for the painful poke at the time.

He scratched his head and eventually decided to get back to his work. He was getting nothing done by wasting time on this fruitless search.

Of course, he also prepared a precaution in case he suffered another 'attack'. He picked up Lucky's body and turned it around so that his pet was able to look backwards.

"Pay more attention this time, Lucky. If you see or hear anything suspicious, then make sure you warn me, okay?"

"Meow."

As Ves went back to studying the information on the Aduc Family, no one noticed as an invisible spiritual apparition emerged behind his back.

At first glance, the young woman that showed up looked like one of those fear-inducing creepy girls that haunted the audiences of cheap horror dramas.

Her shoulder-length gray hair along with her pale gray-white skin caused her to appear as a translucent corpse. If not for her glowing yellow pupils and her impish grin, she would have definitely given people definite proof that the dead were able to rise again!

As it was, this playful-looking 'ghost' possessed a demeanor that was completely opposite to that of a horror drama monster.

What was strange was that she appeared in a manner that did not alarm anyone or anything. The sensors and security systems in the office compartment still thought that there was nothing in the place of the ghost.

The guards that were watching the surroundings with constant vigilance did not detect any intruders either.

What was even more ridiculous was that Ves remained ignorant to the entity that had shown up from behind!

Though it was true that he directed most of his concentration to his current work, he always regarded his spiritual perception highly, especially after he created Blinky!

Perhaps Ves would have been able to detect the ghost hovering just behind his chair if he let out Blinky, but his companion spirit was currently dozing off in his mind as usual.

The female ghost did not appear completely undetected, though.

Lucky, who was still perched on top of Ves' head, was somehow able to perceive her weak form despite the fact that the apparition hardly possessed any energy

As the cat was about to call out a warning, the ghostly woman grinned wider while pressing a finger to her lips.

The gem cat subsided and idly flicked his tail as if nothing was happening.

Once the ghost became satisfied she had gained the cat's cooperation, she hovered closer while extending both of her translucent hands to Ves' sides.

"Hihihi!"

Her hands pressed into Ves hard enough to tickle him for half a second!

"What?!"

Ves actually jumped from his seat this time! He swiftly turned around, only to see nothing had crept up behind his chair. This was strange because he definitely felt that someone had appeared behind his back earlier!

"Lucky, did you see anything this time?!"

"Meow."

"I don't believe you! I am really sure that someone showed up this time."

"Meow meow!"

"I'm not imagining it! You're lying again!"

"Meow meow meow!"

He kept arguing with his cat until the hatch to his office slid open without warning.

"Ves!" Gloriana called as she ran inside. "Why didn't you tell me about Helena?!"

"Huh? Who's Helena...?"

"Your sister, of course!"

"What?! I don't have a sister!"

"You do! Word has already spread throughout our clan! Everyone knows you have a little sister!"

Ves became completely bewildered as he tried to process his wife's insane statement.

This day was turning weirder and weirder. He felt as if his reality kept spinning out of control. Couldn't he enjoy a normal day in his life for once?!

"Slow down, Gloriana. Explain it to me clearly. Why do you think I have a sister called Helena?"

His wife looked at him as if he was being silly. "Don't you know?"

"Of course I don't know! I would know if I had a sister in my family! I am pretty sure that my mother only had me when she was married to my father! I am absolutely certain that I did not grow up with a younger sister back when I grew up in Cloudy Curtain!"

Gloriana frowned in puzzlement. "I think you need to see something, Ves. Come with me to the hangar bay. Juliet is already there. A lot of people have already noticed the changes!"

He followed her to the hangar bay of the Spirit of Bentheim after receiving her urging.

When he reached the place, he noticed that several different Valkyrie mechs had converged at this time.

The coatings and markings of the different mechs showed that they hailed from the Penitent Sisters as well as the Glory Seekers.

Ves was familiar with every variant fielded by the Golden Skull Alliance. As one of his most successful commission works, still remembered every important detail about his Valkyrie line.

Right now, the Valkyrie mechs in his memories did not match the ones that had been parked inside the hangar bay.

As he slowly stepped closer, it became more obvious that a lot of changes had happened overnight without his notice.

"The Valkyrie mechs... aren't supposed to be like this. They're considerably stronger than before!"

While Ves was happy that one of his iconic mechs received a power up that likely increased its battle effectiveness, he was not as happy about the fact it happened outside of his control!

As Ves finally came close enough to examine his mechs in details, he soon figured out the truth behind the changes.

"What the...?"

He detected to his horror that the design spirit of his Valkyrie line had changed!

The familiar presence of the Superior Mother in her death phase had disappeared. Her grace, her ill will towards her enemies and her maternal protectiveness had faded.

In her place was a different spirit, one that tasted far more youthful, vivacious and vindictive than her predecessor!

Not only that, the replacement spirit exuded a lot more concentrated death energy than Ves had ever felt in anything else!

The most frightening part about all of this was that Ves completely did not recognize this brand-new entity!

"Are you... supposed to be my sister?"

Ves felt as if nothing in the cosmos made sense anymore!

#### Chapter 4005 Tangled Family Tree

What would happen if a kid returned home one day and found out that mommy and daddy brought home an extra sister?

Ves was kind of feeling like he was that kid right now as he confronted the truth that an entirely new design spirit occupied his Valkyrie mech models.

"This isn't supposed to happen!"

Each of his Valkyrie mechs were based on his designs, which he developed with the Superior Mother as their sole design spirit.

While it was possible for his existing mech designs to exchange one design spirit for another, this was only supposed to happen under his conscious direction.

They were his creations and possessions, after all! Not even Gloriana should be able to do this as far as he knew.

The only other possibility was if his design spirits consciously pulled themselves away from a particular mech design. Ves wasn't able to keep them if they truly wanted to disassociate themselves with his work.

None of them had ever taken the initiative to pull out, though. The spiritual feedback they received from doing nothing but extending their presence to a mech design was immensely valuable to them! They hardly had to do anything in order to gain a lot of rewards that were capable of fueling their growth!

Of all of the Hexer mechs that Ves had designed for the Hex Army, the Valkyrie Redeemer and its official variants were by far the most popular and celebrated mechs in use by his clients.

They were pretty much the only offensive Hexer mechs that Ves and Gloriana designed for the Hexer people. The other designs were useful as well, but most of them possessed more auxiliary and supportive functions.

To many Hexers, particularly their militant female population, the Valkyrie line was their most loved collection of living mechs!

The Superior Mother benefited enormously from the Hexadric Hegemony's widespread embrace of the Valkyrie Redeemer and its variants. Its strength, utility and versatility all made for a good combination, but when combined with the Supreme's death phase glow, the mech model truly came together!

For years, the Hexers used it to good effect. If not for the fact that the Friday Coalition were actually competent at diplomacy, the Hexadric Hegemony would have likely been the state that enjoyed the last laugh in the Komodo Star Sector.

Logically speaking, there shouldn't be any reason for the Superior Mother to relinquish her links with the greatest sources of spiritual feedback she had access to! None of the other mech models such as the Blessed Squire, the Cherub, the Bright Boy, the Eternal Redemption and the Devious could provide as much spiritual sustenance to a design spirit.

The Superior Mother had not become the most powerful design spirit in his collection for nothing!

For her to cut herself off to the Valkyrie line was just as devastating as Ves turning his back on the mech market!

It would be a lot more difficult for the Superior Mother to maintain her upkeep in the future! This was dangerous as the Superior Mother was an important source of energy for Cynthia!

Ves needed to design a new Hexer mech in the near future in order to give the Superior Mother another strong source of spiritual feedback.

For now, he needed to address the more immediate changes.

There weren't many reasons why the Superior Mother would vacate a profitable mech design, but giving way to a daughter sounded like a plausible possibility!

As Ves slowly reached out his spiritual senses towards the gathered Valkyrie mechs, he slowly familiarized with the new design spirit in town.

He frowned as he confirmed without a shadow of a doubt that he had not taken part in the new design spirit's creation!

"This is strange!"

Every spiritual product of his own creation possessed certain unique characteristics. He doubted that others would be able to recognize them, but as the creator of many design spirits, he was incredibly familiar with the traces of his own work!

"How is this possible?"

He would know if he had done anything like this in the past! His schedule was fully accounted for. In no way did he ever had a period of time where he could have possibly spent time to create a brand-new design spirit.

"Did I make one in my sleep?" He wondered.

This shouldn't be the case. It required active, conscious manipulation in order to create something as complex as a design spirit.

Ves narrowed his eyes in suspicion.

"Gloriana?"

"Yes, Ves?"

"Earlier, you told me that the Superior Mother had given 'birth' to a new design spirit, right?"

Gloriana nodded. "I did. Helena is her first and only daughter so far! Congratulations, Ves! You've gained a sister!"

"How do you know all of that?!" Ves puzzled. "Did the new design spirit tell you all of this or did you get this information through another channel?"



He was still dubious about the identity of 'Helena'.

Was there another person aside from Ves who was capable of creating new spiritual products? This was not an entirely unreasonable assumption. Anyone with his particular life domain should be capable of accomplishing similar feats, at least in theory.

He suddenly made an astonishing guess!

What if... a future version of himself traveled in the past for the sole purpose of creating a new design spirit in the form of Helena?

Why would future-Ves do something like that? Had he and other humans fallen victim to a massive calamity in the next years that required a distinct spiritual entity like Helena to save their butts?

If this was the case... then future-Ves sure was a genius!

Not only that, future-Ves gave present-Ves a huge amount of convenience!

A hand suddenly slapped his face!

"Idiot brother!"

Ves backed off a bit. "Who did that?!"

"What is wrong with you, Ves?" Gloriana confusedly turned around. "This is your new sister, you know! Why don't you introduce yourself properly?"

"..Maybe you're onto something."

Ves was lacking a lot of relevant information right now. Rather than speculate based on guesses and assumptions, he might as well gather information straight from the source!

He stepped forward and approached a pair of Valkyrie Brunhilds that radiated more power than any of the other Valkyrie variants in the hangar bay.

They not only stood out due to the fact that their quality and technical performance was far above the other Valkyrie mechs aside from the Valkyrie Prime which no longer existed, the pair of Valkyrie Brunhilds also possessed spiritual foundations that were also much thicker and more developed!

The reason why they had grown so much that they had evolved into new third order living mechs was the mech pilots standing proudly before their respective machines.

"The Handmaidens of Death." Gloriana introduced. "If there is anyone who is most familiar with the Valkyrie line from the perspective of pilots, it's them. They are also the ones who have offered the clearest statement on what has happened."

Ves did not have a strong impression of Venerable Olivia Remis and Venerable Eona Ballentine. They were typical Glory Seekers who possessed a lot of Hexer traits but also mellowed out a lot after spending a lot of time outside of hegemony space.

Aside from that, Ves didn't really pay attention to them seeing as he did not interact with the Glory Seekers on a daily basis. He paid more attention to his own Larkinson mech pilots most of the time.

"Holy Son."

"Holy Son."

"Don't call me that!" Ves protested.

"Why not?" Venerable Olivia looked puzzled. "You are the son and brother to deities."

Ves didn't bother correcting these misconceptions. "Just call me by my title. Now what is going on with your mechs?"

"Your mother has given birth to your sister. As you can no doubt feel, Helena has already assumed her responsibilities as our goddess of death."

Ves took a deep glance at the pair of Valkyrie Brunhilds. He could tell that their new design spirit was paying close attention to what was taking place in the hangar bay.

"Have your close ties with the Superior Mother told you exactly why she has decided to relinquish her place for her daughter?"

"The Supreme is already powerful enough." Venerable Eona explained. "She is known to every Hexer and is worshiped by all. The Daughter of Death has just appeared and still needs to be introduced."

"Daughter of Death? Is that how she goes by?" Ves wondered.

"She's also a better fit for the Valkyrie line." Gloriana remarked. "I can definitely feel these mechs have all grown stronger and more deadlier than before. I wonder how much better they perform in battle now that my little sister-in-law inherited my mother-in-law's position!"

Ves scratched his head. "Why give birth to Helena, though? Has anything happened that necessitated her creation?"

Venerable Olivia Remis looked surprised that Ves didn't know what was going on in his own family.

"We have heard... that a major battle took place in the Nyxian Gap."

The Glory Seeker expert pilots quickly narrated what they learned from their colleagues serving in the Oblivion Empire and what they received from their new but already intimate bonds with the Daughter of Death.

The tale sounded fantastical to the point where he wondered whether the Handmaidens of Death had imagined at least half of the story. Oblivion Empire? Abyssal Empire? New dark gods? The Dark Saint?

All of this sounded like an unreasonable plot for a childish fantasy drama rather than a serious recounting of an actual battle.

Even though Ves knew that battles in the Nyxian Gap tended to be a little weird, this was something else! He found it difficult to accept all of this nonsense about 'gods' and 'heroes' duking it out while a large number of mechs and warships were completely rendered irrelevant!

Yet the truth was that the Superior Mother had truly pulled out of the Valkyrie mechs while Helena took her mother's place.

Just the notion that a spiritual entity had actually given birth to another spiritual entity was new to him! He never knew that spiritual life forms could reproduce in this manner.

Even though he created the Superior Mother around the concept of an ideal mother, he didn't actually mean for her to be able to reproduce in this manner!

Had she evolved to the point of being able to do this herself? This sounded plausible, but extremely difficult to accomplish!

Ves knew exactly how difficult it was to create new spiritual life forms from scratch. It was not just a simple matter of gathering a lot of spiritual energy or cutting it off an existing form of life.

Without the spark of life, there shouldn't be a way of creating an entirely new spiritual life form.

"Wait a second..."

As Ves took a deep look at the new design spirit, he recognized the signs that indicated that he was involved somehow.

He began to develop a clearer guess of what kind of role he played in Helena's birth!

The Superior Mother couldn't have just concentrated a lot of death-attributed spiritual energy and be done with it. She needed to get the spark of life from somewhere, and the only known source of that was...

"Me!"

Ves widened his eyes! Had his mother swiped his spiritual seed without his awareness before using it as the most crucial ingredient to bring Helena to life?

"Doesn't that mean... I'm Helena's...?"

He started to get another headache as he tried to puzzle out his increasingly more convoluted family tree.

The Superior Mother was technically his mother since she was Cynthia's incarnation. At the same time, the Supreme was also his 'daughter' since he brought her to life in the first place.

By these same relations, now that the Superior Mother had given birth to Helena, the latter had become his sister as well as his granddaughter!

Yet technically speaking, he was also Helena's direct father as the Superior Mother had presumably stolen his spiritual seed some time in the past in order to catalyze a new life.

With three different possible family relations, how exactly should he regard the newborn Daughter of Death?

"Are you my new granddaughter, Helena?"

A flare of anger burst out of all of the nearby Valkyrie mechs at once!

A grey arm materialized above Ves' head and gave him a good smack!

"MOTHER WAS RIGHT! YOU ARE AN IDIOT!"

Chapter 4006 Partially Exposed

Ves gained a new relative.

He still had to wrap his mind around that fact.

After discovering that his Valkyrie mechs had changed to a new design spirit that he had never encountered before, his entire outlook had changed.

It turned out that a lot of extraordinary events recently took place back in his home galaxy!

Even as Ves and his clan rapidly managed to settle down and thrive in the Red Ocean, his parents took off as well!

Using the Nyxian Gap as their base of operations, the so-called 'Oblivion Empress' and the 'Dark Saint' built a nascent empire out of conquered pirate groups.

His mother had even begun to elevate mech pilots into expert pilots through her own means, which was absolutely remarkable!

This alone caused Ves to feel as if he was being overshadowed by his mother once again. What was she capable of and how vast was her knowledge on spiritual engineering?

He previously thought that his mother was just connected to an unknown group of refugees that sought to escape the clutches of the Five Scrolls Compact, but her incredible powers made him feel her identity was much more remarkable than he previously assumed.

Being able to contend against the sorcerers of the Ruined Temple showed that her original status likely reached their height!

However, Ves didn't care about his mother's past at this time.

He became much more concerned about her present and future actions!

Although the Big Two had remained conspicuously absent while the Nyxian War raged on, Ves would be a fool to believe the mechers and fleeters were ignorant of what was going on in one of their backyards!

Ves knew without a shadow of a doubt that the Mech Trade Association was paying extremely close attention to the Oblivion Empress' rumored ability to elevate ordinary mech pilots onto the path of godhood.

If someone smart and clever like Master Willix or the Polymath took a look at the situation, then they would probably make a lot of deductions with the help of their frightening analytical prowess.

The chain of logic would go like this:

Fact 1: The Oblivion Empress was rumored to possess the ability to help mech pilots advance beyond their mortal limitations.

Fact 2: The Nyxian Gap was known to be a region where the threshold to become extraordinary was lower. It was also a region where extraordinary beings found it easier to reside and manifest their power.

Fact 3: The Dark Saint, formerly known as the Dark Cleaver, had promoted from mech pilot to expert pilot to ace pilot within a single decade, which was absolutely a remarkable record that could never be attained through ordinary methods! Not even the most talented mech pilots with A-grade genetic aptitudes could break this record!

Fact 4: Both the Oblivion Empress and the Dark Saint were rumored to be a couple. They had appeared in the Nyxian Gap at the same time and had always worked together.

Fact 5: Ves Larkinson, an exceptionally remarkable Journeyman who developed a lot of fantastic applications, originated from the Bright Republic. He definitely had to have received help, resources and guidance in order to develop this far. 'Mr. S.' was rumored to be his teacher, but that might not be the extent of his hidden backing.

Fact 6: Ves Larkinson was born in a third-rate state in the Komodo Star Sector. This star sector also happened to encompass the Nyxian Gap.

Fact 7: Ves Larkinson's mother had 'died' early in his childhood while his father went missing as soon as he started his mech design career.

Fact 8: The people who eventually became known as the Oblivion Empress and the Dark Saint were known to operate in the Nyxian Gap at least a few years after Ves Larkinson's parents went missing.

Fact 9: Ves Larkinson's transcendence glow could achieve the same results as the Oblivion Empress' rumored ability.

Conclusion: It was highly likely that Ves Larkinson's missing parents the Oblivion Empress and the Dark Saint!

"Damnit." Ves cursed.

If someone like Ves could form this chain of logic, then so could the smartest mech designers of the MTA!

While Ves was relieved that only a limited number of people knew all of the aforementioned facts, he was certain that the Survivalist Faction and the Transhumanist Faction already figured this out! His identity and the identity of his parents became at least partially exposed!

"Fortunately, I have already thrown my lot with the MTA."

The reason why Ves didn't worry too much about this exposure was because he had already aligned himself with the MTA. There was no reason for the Association to screw him over considering that he was already actively collaborating with the mechers!

As an organization that had risen to prosperity by becoming good at establishing mutually-beneficial relationships with many people, Ves did not think that the Polymath would suddenly come out of nowhere and squeeze his secrets out of his mouth.

That would be too crude and short-sighted!

Instead, it was better to maintain the current pattern of cooperation. As long as the Survivalists and the Transhumanists were willing to be patient, they could slowly obtain his wonderful methods and applications.

This was not a bad deal for Ves. One of the upsides to this 'exposure' was that the mechers would definitely assign a higher value to him! This meant that they would put more effort into protecting him and keeping him in their camps.

Ves was also a mech designer, so he was already a good fit for the Association. Both of them shared some of the same goals with regards to mech design, so a cooperation would definitely benefit both sides!

As Ves slowly relaxed, Helena's pale and translucent body curiously floated around his office.

She proved her ability to interfere with the material realm by picking up the mug which depicted Ves in the guise of a devil.

"This is so cute!" She spoke.

Her speech was remarkable as well. Most spiritual entities were only capable of communicating through conveying their intentions in a non-verbal manner.

This allowed them to talk among themselves without getting hindered by the language barrier. Every spirit could basically understand other spirits regardless of what languages they learned.

Even exobeasts who never utilized the concept of language in their original lives were also capable of holding articulate discussions with another spiritual life forms!

However, communicating with physical entities such as humans was beyond them. Most people did not possess any notable spiritual sensitivity at all, so they were essentially deaf to spirits.

Aside from shenanigans involving living mechs and glows, the only way for a spirit like Helena to communicate with ordinary people was to exert enough power over reality to produce sound waves!

This not only required a lot of power, but also fine control as it was not easy to produce coherent sound waves that completely reproduced the effect of human speech!

"You're awfully strong and skilled for a newborn design spirit." Ves remarked.

Helena smirked as she put the mug back on its place. "I am a god, not a mere 'spirit' as you call it. I wield one of the fundamental forces of nature and reality. I am the embodiment of death in many of its facets. I AM A DEATH GODDESS WHO CAN HARVEST LIFE AND SOW DEATH WHENEVER I PLEASE! BILLIONS OF HEXERS HAVE BEGUN TO WORSHIP ME AND MILLIONS OF LIVES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SACRIFICED IN MY NAME! BOW BEFORE ME, BROTHER, AND ACKNOWLEDGE MY POWER AS I HAVE SLAIN AN OPPOSING GOD AND BEATEN BACK ANOTHER PAIR OF DEITIES WITHIN THE FIRST MINUTE OF MY BIRTH!"

"...Are you done now, Helena?"

A childish pout appeared on the spiritual entity's face. "You could have indulged me by pretending to be impressed, you know! I'm only a day old, you know! I'm still an infant goddess!"

"Gods don't exist." Ves reflexively stated.

"I can't believe this." His sister palmed her face. "Hello? A goddess is floating right before you! I might not be THE goddess of death, but I'm getting there! Even though I still have a long road ahead of me, I am already a god according to its classical definition in human language!"

Ves crossed his arms. "As your father and grandfather, it is my duty to educate you. Here's your first lesson from me. Gods don't exist and you are not a god! As far as I know, you are not omnipotent and omniscient. You are merely a special form of life that is much more powerful than ordinary organic life forms, but still subject to many of the same limitations that constrain every ordinary life."

Helena clearly didn't agree with his opinion. The air shook around her as a fraction of her death energy escaped from her manifested body!

"I AM YOUR SISTER, NOT YOUR DAUGHTER OR GRANDFATHER! NO MATTER WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT MY CREATION, I AM A DAUGHTER OF THE SUPERIOR MOTHER, AND YOU ARE HER SON! HAVE I MADE MYSELF CLEAR, BROTHER?!"

"Hey, control yourself! Don't destroy my ship just because you have a temper tantrum!"



It would have been bad if his guards were here, but Ves had dismissed them since he didn't want anyone to overhear his talks with this self-proclaimed goddess.

Only Lucky had remained by his side, and currently the gem cat had floated all the way up to the corner of the compartment! Helena had suddenly become a lot scarier!

"Meow!"

"I said cut it out, Helena! You're scaring my cat!"

Helena blinked and retracted her lethal energy. "Oh. Sorry."

All of her anger faded away so quickly that Ves couldn't get used to it. He hadn't interacted with the Daughter of Death for a long and already found her to be incomprehensible.

"Ahem, pardon me about that. You acknowledge me as your sister, right?"

"Uhh...."

"RIGHT?!"

Ves felt it was quite unwise for him to deny Helena's request, so he quickly nodded and raised his hands.

"Yes, yes, whatever you say, Helena! You're my sister! My new sister! Now that I think about it, I always wanted a sibling, haha!"

That last part was true. Ves always felt a bit alone when he grew up back in his childhood home. His mother was the joy of his life, but she had left him far too soon.

Though his father Ryncol had always brought him warmth, Ves frequently wished he had brothers and sisters to keep him company during those times.

While he finally obtained a little sister, she had come two decades too late. Ves still felt reluctant to treat the newborn spirit as his family.

Helena was not as entangled, however.

Her gray form floated towards Ves and dove in to embrace him in a hug.

Surprisingly enough, her physical embrace was not as cold and dangerous as he feared. Despite being made up out of death energy, Helena possessed exquisite control over herself.

None of her dangerous death energy affected Ves at all. Instead, she wholeheartedly radiated the love and affection she held towards the human she saw as her older brother!

Speech could still be faked, but the feelings from the depth of a spirit could never be falsified.

Helena did not hide her thoughts towards him at all, so Ves could clearly recognize that her family affection towards him was real and authentic. There was no hesitation from her at all, and that was enough for him to embrace this bewildering reality.

"Sister..."

"Brother..."

The two spent a few more seconds embracing each other as if they hadn't seen each other in decades.

Helena became happy again as she rubbed her cheek against his shoulder. "Mother was right. You are so full of life. Say, haven't you forgotten about something, big brother?"

"What did I forget?"

"I just celebrated my zeroth birthday yesterday! How could you have forgotten! Am I not your baby sister? Where is my birthday present!"

Helena had only been born a short time ago and already she had learned how to beg for gifts like any cute little sister!

"Uhh... let me think of something."

#### Chapter 4007 A Different Way of Fighting

"Really, Ves. You just got a new sister and you haven't prepared any presents for me! If I didn't remind you of my birthday, you wouldn't have entertained the thought of giving me a gift at all! I thought we were family!"

"We are! Just give me a moment, okay?! I just learned about your existence half an hour ago. How could I have prepared any gifts?"

"Just make it right, then."

Ves thought about what he could possibly prepare as a gift for her sister. Normal ones didn't work as she was primarily an intangible life form. Even if she was capable of

interacting with the material realm due to her advantages at birth, she would benefit the most from obtaining a spiritual gift.

As he started to brainstorm for ideas, Helena went back to exploring his office like a curious kitten.

Though she looked and talked like a teenager with a literal god complex, her true age was much shorter!

When Ves studied her behavior, he had the sense that Cynthia and the Superior Mother tried to kill two birds with a single stone.

On one hand, they wanted to create a new spiritual entity that was strong enough to harness potent death energy in battle against powerful enemies such as dark gods.

On the other hand, they wanted to birth a new daughter that possessed an immature temperament. This was the only way they could enjoy the genuine motherhood experience!

These were rather contradictory goals. Ves wouldn't have attempted to pursue both goals if he was in their place. It was greedy decisions like theirs that produced weird outcomes like Helena!

In contrast, design spirits such as the Solemn Guardian, the Golden Cat, Lufa and the Illustrious One were much easier for him to manage.

They clearly knew their purpose and didn't need any emotional management. Ves could just plug them in a compatible mech design and let them grow without needing to exercise any supervision.

None of his design spirits had made frivolous demands to him. They weren't as immature as Helena and did not need to celebrate their 'birthdays'. They already received more than enough benefits by partnering with Ves and serving as the design spirits of his mechs. Each of them were the equivalent of hard-working adults who always showed up at the office every day on time.

As for Helena, she already came across as a cheeky high schooler who could barely sit still in class!

He noticed that his new sister had returned to his display case in order to pick up one of his more remarkable creations.

The masterwork mech figurine of the Valkyrie Redeemer fit in her hand as if they belonged to each other!

Now that Ves looked a bit closer, he discovered that the reason why Helena was able to manifest in his office without looking like was exerting herself was because of this old creation!

"That..."

"This is truly a fantastic toy. As expected of my talented brother!" Helena grinned as she caressed the figurine. "You should keep it in your office. Better yet, you should bring it along with you. I will always be able to reach out to you as long as you don't get too far away from any of the mechs and 'totems' that carry my presence."

"...I'll just keep it in my office, thanks."

"Awww, you poor little brother. Do you think you can get away from me so easily? We're family, you know. I can always reach you no matter where you go. It's just easier for me to appear like this if there are objects like this mech figurine nearby."

"Great."

Ves had been looking forward to enjoying a quiet period of designing his next mechs and supervising the growth of his clan.

He did not look forward to doing so while at the same time managing a hyperactive new sister who was simultaneously a self-proclaimed death goddess!

"Can I ask you a question, Helena?"

"Always, Ves. You're my big bro, hehe."

He gestured towards her translucent form. "When you're like this, are you mostly present in the Red Ocean at the moment or are you still anchored in the Milky Way?"

"What a weird question. Don't you know the answer, already? You're a god maker, Ves. You should already know how we work."

"I'm a human. I've created several spirits but that doesn't mean I know everything about how they work or how they go about their day. I just want to get a clear answer from you. Does the concept of distance and location even apply to entities such as yourself?"

The gray girl sighed and put the precious masterwork mech figurine back on the display case.

"It's complicated. Gods around my level and the level of our mothers look as if they can be in many places at once. In truth, we exist in a different place and plane of existence. The reason why I can appear here and elsewhere is because we can pay attention to what goes on around areas that carry our mark and choose to project a part of

ourselves in the vicinity. Before you ask, our marks can be carried by both devout worshipers as well as objects made in our name such as idols. Your Valkyrie mechs and your totems happen to be much more convenient for us. You are a literal godsend for growing gods and goddesses such as myself!"

Ves smiled. Compared to spreading faith through the usual schtick of hoodwinking people into attending church, it was much easier to spread one's name and harvest spiritual feedback by distributing a lot of mechs tied to specific design spirits!

Despite the ongoing collapse of the Hexadric Hegemony, many millions of surviving Hexer mech pilots still made use of the Valkyrie mech line! Each of them also happened to be fervent believers in the Superior Mother and would undoubtedly welcome the news of the birth of a new Hexer goddess!

Seeing that Helena already satisfied all of her most basic and essential needs for survival, Ves found it difficult to come up with a good gift for his new sister.

He did not want to be perfunctory and give her a throwaway gift. Now that he had accepted her as his actual sister in truth, he was serious about treating her as close family. This was the kind of deep trust that he was only willing to extend to his closest kin such as his wife and his daughter.

"Hey, earlier you told me you're involved in a war of sorts, right?"

"Yup! I've only been introduced to it a short time ago, but I'm already having a blast, literally! It's not every day I get to smack around a couple of false gods. It's a pity that the nature of my powers make it difficult to preserve any divine essence. I would have passed on the remains of the Massive One to you if that was the case. Our mothers have told me that you can make good use of god corpses."

"They're right."

"I will try my best to exert more control over my powers so that something stays behind when I kill the next dark god."

Ves grew more interested in the war that had engulfed several of his family members.

"Can you tell me more about the fighting that goes on in the Nyxian Gap?"

"Sure! I may be new to it all, but I've already inherited a lot from our mothers."

This whole business of mechs and warships fighting under the auspices of superpowered beings sounded like a completely new mode of warfare.

It also sounded like a nightmare to mech designers such as Ves! If most mechs weren't even qualified to act as cannon fodder in confrontations involving these supposed gods,

then why bother to invest in them? A weapon that was ineffective against the dominant type of enemies would eventually be replaced by more effective alternatives!

"The Nyxian War will likely drag on for many years." Helena explained as she floated over to Lucky and coaxed the cat into accepting her embrace. "The Abyssal Empire is too difficult to eradicate. Enemy reinforcements are constantly arriving from different parts of human space while their headquarters is hidden deep within the most inaccessible region of the Nyxian Gap. So long as the Abyssals and their dark gods retain their anchor in the region, they can keep assailing us even if their dark gods are no longer brave enough to fight as boldly as before."

Ves rubbed his smooth-shaven chin. "Interesting. What would you say your side lacks the most?"

"Our Oblivion Empire is lacking in a lot of different things. There is a lack of population, infrastructure, cities, luxury goods, imports and so on. Our subjects shouldn't have any trouble surviving, but life is still hard for them in many ways. It's fine, though. We are holding out against the Abyssals and that is what matters to us. Our parents truly need the shelter and protection offered by the Nyxian Gap."

He was aware of that as well, but there was little he could do to help. Fortunately, it sounded as if his parents were already managing well enough on their own. His mother had become a veritable empress while his father had actually surpassed his brother Ark Larkinson in becoming an ace pilot first!

If not for all of the other astonishing developments, Ves would absolutely celebrate his father's fantastic achievement! He was the Larkinson to undergo his second apotheosis and become an ace pilot, thereby fulfilling the dream of many of his family members!

Ves wondered how much help the Devil Tiger still provided to him. He was lucky that he turned his first masterwork mech into a fluid machine with continuous evolution in mind.

The most capable mech designers in the employ of the Oblivion Empire should be able to upgrade the Devil Tiger into an ace mech without losing its advantages.

His father and his mothers didn't need any further assistance from him. His sister also sounded as if she could take care of herself in a fight.

However, given that Helena was much younger and less experienced than their parents, Ves wanted to give her a bit of extra insurance. He did not want his new sister to fall in battle so soon!

He gazed at her form and tried to figure out a way to boost her combat effectiveness.

.

Ves was a bit new at this. He was much more familiar with mechs than with spiritual equipment. For a moment, he felt a bit lost.

"Wait a second."

What if he could design a spiritual mech for his sister? He entertained this idea several times in the past, but never went through with it as he was short on time.

However, if a spiritual mech could help his sister survive the Nyxian War, then he would gladly invest his time into developing a working example!

"It is still too difficult, though."

Ves did not think he was ready to design such a massive spiritual construct. Not only did he have to push his spiritual engineering skills to a much greater height, he also needed to collect a huge amount of spiritual resources in order to be able to build a spiritual mech that was able to accommodate a powerful spiritual entity!

He wanted to give her a birthday present right away instead of several years later. He needed to scale back from his earlier idea and settle for a more modest creation that he could finish within the day.

The sooner his Helena obtained new gear, the sooner she could leverage her new advantages in battle!

Ves could think about providing her with stronger and more impressive gear in the future. For now, he needed to make sure that Helena possessed the capital to fight and defeat the Compact's powerful envoys!

Her battle was his battle, after all. Ves did not forget that he was a priority target as well. If he did not want to be pursued by the Compact, then he had to make sure his parents and his sister were strong enough to keep attracting all of the heat!

## Chapter 4008 God Gear

Upgrading Helena's combat prowess was an important priority to Ves.

He did not want his new sister to suffer an accident. It would be best if she did not have to show up on the battlefield, but their mothers had explicitly created Helena to help them fend off the dark gods.

In other words, their parents had literally turned Helena into a child soldier!

Fortunately, the Daughter of Death lived up to her moniker. She was not as defenseless as an actual newborn baby.

"Say Helena, you're familiar with mechs, right?"

His sister's energy manifestation nodded. "That is correct. The Oblivion Empire makes use of a lot of mechs, so I have already inherited much of the knowledge that my mothers possess of them. Admittedly, what we know can't compare to what mech designers such as yourself have mastered."

Memorizing a lot of knowledge wasn't enough. Mech designers actually had to combine theory with practice and learn how to create new outcomes out of existing solutions.

This was way harder than it sounded! Few people possessed a talent for innovation, and he figured that a spiritual entity that revolved around death didn't have it either.

It didn't matter. It was already enough if a single person in the family was an innovator. Ves alone could already serve as Helena's equipment supplier.

"If you know how mechs fight, then which ones do you like more?" He asked.

"I like the Valkyrie Redeemer the most!" Helena instantly replied. "The Valkyrie Brunhild and the Valkyrie Avenger aren't bad either, but you can't beat the original. I can channel my power the best through the most authentic version of your mech design. Don't you agree, Lucky?"

"Meow."

Lucky, who was currently being pampered by the newest member of the Larkinson Family, lazily issued his expert opinion.

"Hm, the Devil Tiger isn't that bad either. Our father wouldn't have been able to grow as fast if not for the help of that tiger mech."

"Helena, I'm trying to figure out a good gift that can help you in battle. The reason why I am asking about what mechs you prefer is because I want to see how I can best gear you for battle. Which mech type best fits your inclinations?"

"Hmmm, that is not an easy question to answer." Helena frowned. "What about a marauder mech?"

Ves shook his head. "Marauder mechs don't fit your style, I think. The Valkyrie Redeemer is designed to operate as a flanking or raiding force. Its submachine gun is light but weak while its spear is only strong in limited scenarios. Since our mothers expect you to fight against the dark gods, you will have to confront those powerful beings directly."

"You have a point, brother."



"Let me rephrase my question. Are you the kind of spiritual entity that likes to manipulate energy to bombard your opponents from afar, or do you like to get up close and hit them to death?"

"The former." Helena decisively stated. "Don't get me wrong. I can fight at any distance, but I prefer to stay as far away from those nasty dark gods as possible. I think that it is also more advantageous for me to fight them from a safer range. Many of them have strange powers that are difficult to deal with. It is easier to anticipate, evade and block these attacks from a distance. At least that is what I have learned from our mothers."

"Would you like to wield a rifle, then?"

She frowned. "I'm not sure, to be honest. Our mothers fight by manipulating the elements under their control. They have no need for weapons as their insights and their affinity to their elements are sufficient for them. The dark gods fight in the same way. They rely on their elemental masteries as well as their innate talents and abilities to fight against us. It is really difficult for any piece of equipment to be of use in battles of this level. This is also one of the reasons why our enemies are so eager to get their crown back."

He could see why this was the case. Entities as strong as the dark gods were so powerful that it was hard for them to benefit from having extra equipment.

Entities like the Unending One were more likely to rely on their evolved forms to improve their combat effectiveness. This fell in line with the combat doctrine of the Five Scrolls Compact. Its most powerful cultists eschewed mechs and warships in favor of relying on their own power.

Was this the correct approach? Ves didn't believe so! As a mech designer, he adhered to the idea that there were always gear that could massively boost the combat power of humans.

Helena may be way more powerful than an average human, but she should not be exempt from this truth!

"Are you as strong as our mothers?" Ves asked.

"Hm, I am probably weaker than them." Helena honestly replied. "The Superior Mother has grown by a lot, but it is hard for her to excel in any single element. She needs to balance all six of her current elements in order to maintain her peak form. When it comes to harnessing the power of death alone, I am considerably ahead of her already. She is only stronger because her powers are much more versatile and comprehensive. She also had a lot of time to learn how to shape and combine her elements in different ways."

The Superior Mother sounded like the Everchanger to Ves. The Hexer design spirit might not be strong in any single area, but she was so versatile that she could easily employ an attack that targeted an opponent's weak point.

"What about our other mother?"

"She's strong. Really strong. I have no doubt about that. She doesn't master as many elements as the Superior Mother, but her insights and understanding of the few elements she has mastered has reached a level that even gods struggle to reach. This is the main reason why she is confident whenever she fights against any of the dark gods. The Nyxian Gap has also facilitated her growth. There is something about this region that resembles and affirms her own path."

.

"You are different from her. You are your own person. It looks to me that you still have a long way to go before you can match the strength and accomplishments of our other mother. How about I design a gun for you so that you have a better chance of winning against a powerful dark god in your next big battle?"

Helena hesitated. "Guns aren't a part of my inheritance. Besides, can you even make a weapon that is able to amplify my power?"

"I'm a creator. Nothing is impossible." Ves confidently replied. "I just need to possess the right know-how and resources. I am not short on spiritual ingredients, so that should not be an issue. The only iffy points are that the spiritual weapon that I can create will probably be a little weird and that you need to make a little sacrifice. The resulting weapon should still be effective, though, and that is the important part. Give me a moment. I want to see if I can design a viable concept."

He became completely engrossed in this new and interesting challenge. He activated a design program and sketched out a few spiritual components that could function similarly to the physical components of his luminar crystal rifles.

"If I gave you a spiritual gun, what type of firearm would you prefer it to be? Do you want to wield a sniper rifle that can pick off the dark gods from afar? Do you prefer to carry around a big cannon that can produce a big and overwhelming blast? What about wielding a more compact pistol that is more elegant and easier to handle?"

His new sister looked as if she had no idea which one to choose. She never thought about wielding any firearms in the short time she was alive. Ves had presented her with a wealth of options that she was never supposed to utilize in the first place.

Nonetheless, the more she thought about all of the guns utilized by different mechs, the more she became intrigued by the possibility of wielding her own version in battle.

As a young and curious spiritual entity who was born with an immature mindset, she was much more open to embracing new methods and solutions than her more traditional-minded mothers!

"Give me a pistol."

"Are you sure? A pistol is not as big and voluminous as the other weapon types. I think a sniper rifle is an excellent fit for you. Lethality is the greatest advantage of the death energy that you are made of. If you can project that energy in a concentrated form at a distance, then you can reap many lives from afar with great precision!"

"I can do that with a pistol as well as a big and cumbersome rifle." Helena retorted. "The rules that you are accustomed to when you design your mechs don't entirely apply to gods. I prefer to carry around a pistol because it will compliment my look better. How can I convince the mortals that I am a strong death goddess if I have to rely on a large and imposing rifle to defeat my opponents? I am afraid that they will start to worship my weapon instead of me! At least a pistol is small enough to draw most of the attention to myself."

Ves wasn't too sure about the validity of her argument. From what he gathered from her argument, her choice was primarily driven by her need to look awesome!

Oh well. His sister was his client at the moment, so he had an obligation to meet her demands to the best of his abilities.

He turned his attention back to his design program and rapidly sketched out a few pistol concepts. Their appearances diverged wildly as he based them off a traditional revolver, an alien weapon model, a luminar crystal weapon and the Amastendira.

Of course, he also took his sister's aesthetics in mind. He stuck to a monochrome color palette and tried his best to shape white, black and grays into different elegant-looking weapons that could moonlight as works of art.

Helena became attracted by the different pistol concepts. Each of them conveyed a different impression.

The revolver looked bigger and ferocious.

The alien weapon looked like an ancient relic of an extinct race.

The crystalline weapon looked extremely high tech.

The Amastendira-like gun looked classier than the rest.

Helena pointed towards the last sketch. "This one. This is the one for me. I just love its look! If you can polish it further and add a few flowers, I think it will turn me into the most fashionable and modern goddess of death in the neighborhood!"

.

He had a feeling she would make this choice. The Amastendira was a well-designed weapon in every respect.

Ves did not straightforwardly copy the design of the Amastendira for this commission, but instead took inspiration from it to develop a weapon in the same category but incorporated his own design language.

The main motif of this pistol was flowers. He had added dark flowers to the surface of the weapon. This not only added to its elegance, but also gave it a feminine touch.

Helena's eyes turned starry when she explored its design further. The death flower pistol had completely captured her spiritual heart!

"That's great." Ves smiled. "Since it is just a single weapon, it won't take much time for me to flesh out this design. I will make it as soon as possible so that you have a better chance of defeating your opponents. I just need one thing from you before I proceed."

"What's that?"

"As you might already know, I need spiritual ingredients in order to realize this design. I can already obtain most ingredients from existing sources such as Vulcan and the Illustrious One. However, that does not account for the main ingredient."

"What is this main ingredient you're talking about?" Helena frowned.

"You. I need you. Can I take a piece of your body so that I can make your present? I promise it will only hurt at the beginning."

Smack!

"Idiot brother!"

## Chapter 4009 Spiritual Firearm

This was the first time that Ves made a spiritual weapon.

This was not a physical gun that just happened to possess the ability to harm spiritual targets. He was already familiar with those kinds of weapons and even made a few of them himself.

The Amastendira was the first weapon he came across that could harm spiritual entities, though it did not particularly excel in this aspect.

Ves no longer needed to rely on the Amastendira's mediocre threat against spiritual entities because he had Blinky now. His companion spirit was practically a natural opponent against any enemies that relied on spiritual energy to fight!

Later on, he learned that masterwork mechs and weapons also possessed the power to harm spiritual opponents by themselves. Ves hadn't exactly figured out why this was the case, but it was a handy discovery that gave him a bit more confidence in confronting troublesome opponents who claim to be deities.

The real breakthrough was when he experimented with luminar crystal technology and managed to replicate a version of the luminar race's iconic light beam technology.

It appeared that the extinct alien race had been keen on developing a technological solution against spirits and so-called gods!

This was an absolutely remarkable achievement and one that Ves still couldn't replicate on his own. The principles and mechanisms behind this feat was still a black box to him. Unless he slowly mastered the fundamentals of luminar crystal technology step by step, it was impossible for him to truly understand and utilize this application in his own way!

However, just having the ability to incorporate them into his own products was enough for now. His stalled Fearless Project was probably the most prominent mech that would take advantage of the power of luminar light beams.

"In any case, what I want to make is no longer a weapon made out of physical crystals. It has to be a purely intangible existence."

The leap from corporeal to intangible was immense! While Ves had come across amazing products of spiritual engineering such as his once-beloved Grand Dynamo, he did not have access to the profound theoretical knowledge that could allow him to make anything comparable.

Just the fact that spiritual energy and matter was not fixed by nature proved to be an enormous hindrance in his efforts!

Ves could make all of the weapons, mechs and even entire starships he wanted by using the power of his mind, spirit and imagination.

The problem was that none of them would last because they would quickly crumble and collapse by themselves as if they were sand castles on a beach!

Ves did not possess the secret to transform spiritual energy into a more fixed and permanent form. As long as this was the case, virtually every form of advanced spiritual engineering was out of reach.

Fortunately, Ves had discovered a loophole.

In terms of spiritual engineering, most spiritual sorcerers were similar to conventional mech designers. They all inherited the same mature tech base that was extremely comprehensive and well-defined.

Ves was like the oddball biomech designer who insisted on defying convention by trying to rely on an alternate tech base to achieve superior results!

Of course, in his case this was by necessity instead of choice. His deadbeat mother was apparently willing to infuse Helena with a lot of her theories, methods and techniques, but didn't leave anything for her son! The only way he could make anything meaningful through spiritual engineering was to fumble around on his own and build up his own theoretical framework!

It was fortunate that he was inventive and capable enough to succeed. He no longer cared about whatever spiritual engineering inheritance that his mother withheld from him. At this stage in his life, he could already make a lot of different spiritual products that were previously unattainable!

The only real limitations that constrained his output was time, ingredients and capacity.

When Ves directed his attention to the matter of developing a serious spiritual weapon for his new sister, he never considered the possibility that he would fail.

He knew he could do it. The only real considerations he had to make was how many spiritual ingredients he was willing to invest and how he should best match the design to his new sister.

Ves spent a bit of time quizzing Helena in order to learn more about her preferences and her needs. He enjoyed the process a lot more this time because he was working on something completely new and because the beneficiary of this project was his sister!

The last reason alone was more than enough for him to put his full effort into making Helena's very first birthday present!

Gloriana had taught him a lot about customizing an order for a client. Not only did he have to pay attention to Helena's answers, he also had to make a lot of deductions based on what she didn't say and his own experiences.

Ves might not have any first-hand accounts on how the Oblivion Empire fought against the Abyssal Empire these days, but he could fall back on his own experiences in the Nyxian Gap.

He recalled the times that he, his clan and his mother fought against a succession of powerful spiritual threats. The original three dark gods stood out as two notable opponents.

If Ves went back in time and confronted the likes of the Inexorable One, the Blinding One and the Unending One once again, he would no longer be as helpless as before!

Even if Blinky by himself was unable to match the might and scale of the Unending One, Ves could still leverage his companion spirit to produce a lot of spiritual arms that could give him and his subordinates a fighting chance against these massive threats!

From what he gathered from Helena, she was already strong and capable of putting up a fight against most dark gods. Her concentrated death attribute energy was considerably more potent than the death energy mastered by the Superior Mother.

This was the benefit of specialization!

As Ves asked his sister to demonstrate a couple of powers, he discovered that aside from harnessing the power of death, she was unable to do anything impressive with other forms of spiritual energy!

"There is a bit of life in every death, and I am no different." Helena stated as she lifted her palm and summoned a tiny mote of life energy. "Our mothers had to invest their life energies and borrow your own in order to overcome the strong natural tendency for death energy to remain lifeless and stagnant. It would be more apt to describe my existence as a fusion of both life and death, though overwhelmingly slanted towards the latter."

Ves looked intrigued. "That sounds interesting. Does the presence of an opposing element hinder your expression of your death powers in any way."

"No. It's not as straightforward as that. If you combine opposing elements in special ways, you can form a stable balance where they can feed and complement each other. One of the reasons why our other mother is strong enough to contend against multiple dark gods these days is because she has successfully applied the theory of yin and yang onto her own domain. Well, this is all a bit too complicated. I am far from being able to apply it myself."

His eyes lit up. His mother might be too stingy to teach him any lessons, but Helena obviously wasn't as careful about sharing what she knew!



Of course, Ves already had a lot on his plate. He did not have any time or need to explore this particular avenue.

He still had a weapon to develop.

After he gathered a sufficient amount of information, he began to sketch and refine his design for Helena's first true weapon.

He started with the base form of her weapon, which actually came in the form of a flower!

Helena was constantly paying attention to his work. When she saw that he was actually drawing a flower instead of a weapon, she became puzzled.

"What are you making, exactly? Don't get me wrong. I like this pretty flower, but it doesn't look like anything you've described."

"Be a little patient, sister. I'm slowly getting to that point." He said as he continued along the lines of his current idea. "One of the key facts you should know about my creations is that they are all alive. I don't have the knowledge or ability to make normal spiritual constructs, but it's a different story when they are alive!"

That caused Helena to regard his current work in a different light.

Ves had opted to base his weapon out of a flower for a deliberate reason. He wanted to gift his sister a weapon, not a pet or a companion.

Compared to livelier animals such as cats, flowers were generally quiet and peaceful. While Ves did not mind giving Helena a pet if she asked for one, he felt it was best to stick to a fairly simple concept for his first spiritual firearm project.

"Is that a lotus?"

"Yup. It will be a lotus that is almost entirely made out of your death energy. It's not just a pretty flower. I plan to implement a few useful functions to it. I will make it so that as long as you carry it around with you, it will steadily absorb any death energy that you feed it or unconsciously leak from your form."

"What is the purpose of that?"

Ves smirked. "The Death Lotus in its Flower Mode will be able to store a large amount of death energy. This will not only be its primary energy reserve for its Pistol Mode, but also serve as an emergency battery in case you are running dry for whatever reason."

"I take it that Death Lotus can do more than just store my energy." Helena cleverly guessed.



"Yes. I have added a few functions based on my own companion spirit to it. Your Death Lotus should not only be able to absorb your death energy, but slowly process it so that it becomes more pure and concentrated. You can choose to reabsorb this purified energy in order to accelerate your evolution or you can opt to keep it in the Death Lotus in case you want to save it for another purpose."

"And what is this purpose?"

Ves grinned. "You can use it to supercharge your next attack with the Death Lotus!"

Once he finished the design of the Flower Mode, he quickly started to shape the Death Lotus in its second and more offensive mode!

Once Helena transformed the Death Lotus to its Pistol Mode, her spiritual firearm truly turned into a threat!

Not only did he try his best to replicate the structure and functions of a luminal crystal pistol that incorporated a light beam attack phase crystal, he also designed it so that it was able to draw from multiple energy sources.

Helena could directly feed her new spiritual firearm with her death energy, but she could also choose to make her Death Lotus draw on its existing energy reserve.

"Depending on how much energy the Death Lotus has gathered and whether you instructed your spiritual firearm to purify what it has gathered, the Death Lotus has the potential to discharge all of its power at once, thereby allowing you to launch an attack that is far above your normal capabilities! I based this special attack capability from your recounting on how you killed the Massive One."

Helena became genuinely surprised when she heard what Ves planned to make. Though she still wasn't sure whether her brother was able to realize this function, if he succeeded, then the Daughter of Death would become a lot more confident in her chances of killing the dark gods that stood in her way!

"Ves... if you are able to pull this off, I'll give you a gift in return. Your present is too valuable!"

"Really?"

"I'm serious! We're family. We should always look out for each other!"

## Chapter 4010 Family Hierarchy

After hearing that his new sister would be willing to reciprocate his gift, Ves became a lot more driven to succeed in his first spiritual firearm project!

He worked faster and more diligently than before. He put extra effort into channeling his artistic flair and made sure that Helena would become happy and delighted by his gift for a long time.

Making his transformable spiritual firearm as pretty as possible was only a sideshow, however.

The true challenge was realizing all of his ideas for his Death Lotus!

Ves was embarking on radical new territory here. While he was just creating another living spiritual product on the surface, the power and threat of his new spiritual firearm was much different from his previous creations!

He had never developed a spiritual product for the purpose of creating the most lethal killing weapon possible.

His previous products were all centered around creating new spiritual entities that possessed their own personalities and could grow by themselves over time.

While it was possible for design spirits such as the Illustrious One and companion spirits such as Blinky to develop powerful new attacks, the crucial distinction here was that they were not designed for this purpose from the start!

The Death Lotus was different. It wasn't as lively as his previous spiritual products, but Ves believed that focusing on its lethality and power above all else would allow him to create an unparalleled spiritual weapon, one that still retained enough living aspects to grow and evolve over time!

In order to make sure that he was able to implement all of his ambitious design targets, he did not hesitate to lift up his Hammer of Brilliance and give himself a good whack on the head!

"Ouch!"

Even though he bumped his skull a bit harder due to his enthusiasm, the pain was not as important as all of the inspiration he gained from connecting so many different ideas and solutions together!

His eyes fully lit up as his passion raged like a firestorm in the middle of a planet suffering from a heatwave.

The Death Lotus design seemed to bloom before his eyes. It not only possessed an increasingly more intricate internal design, but also gained numerous features that did not possess an equivalent in reality.

Though Ves added more experimental features and design solutions to the weapon design than he originally intended, he was confident that his efforts were not in vain!

In fact, it didn't matter if his work didn't quite work out the way he intended to. Since he intended to breathe life to the Death Lotus, it would become a living spiritual entity, thereby transforming its initial form into a living state that could constantly improve and correct itself through continuous growth and evolution!

This was the corrective nature of spiritual life. Through the power of growth, Ves felt assured that his Death Lotus would definitely reach its ambitious performance targets eventually.

It could even grow beyond the level that Ves envisioned by growing even further!

As long as Helena took good care of the weapon and made sure to feed it with her spiritual energy, the Death Lotus would slowly become more powerful and remarkable.

His sister would definitely be able to defend herself against even the most formidable threats from the Five Scrolls Compact in the future!

Of course, Ves understood that the Death Lotus had a long way to go before it could attain this level. The power of the Death Lotus was also highly dependent on the strength of its wielder. If Helena did not grow fast enough, then the power of her gun would become difficult to control.

As Ves tried to take all of this into consideration, Helena decided to play with Lucky while keeping an eye on her brother's work.

"Mother told me a bit about you. You're so handsome, Lucky. You must get all the lady cats."

"Meow." The gem cat arrogantly lifted his head while he settled on the spiritual manifestation's lap.

"Since Ves is my brother, you belong to me as well, isn't that right?"

"Meow..."

"Who do you listen to first, our mothers or Ves?"

"Meow!"

"That's right!" Helena smiled. "I should come next, do you agree, Lucky?"

"Meow."

"Ves should go last, of course. He's the runt in our family, though his creative talents are quite powerful. Nonetheless, that doesn't change the fact that he will need my protection going forward. He's too weak!"

"Meow meow!"

"Hm, you're partially right. His mechs and mech pilots are powerful, alright, but the reason why many of them are so strong is because they borrow the strength of other gods! If Ves didn't have access to deities such as Qilanxo, my mother and that odd Ylvaine person, he would have never made it this far! In the end, all he has ever done is borrowing the strength of others. He hasn't spent enough effort into improving his own strength."

"Meow meow meow."

"He's not a human anymore. There are many paths to ascension. Just because he calls himself a mech designer doesn't change the fact that he has far surpassed his mortal limitations. Every high-ranking mech designer is a god, essentially. The only difference is the degree to which they have surpassed their mortal limitations. My mothers have taught me that Star Designers are the scariest of all of them. Even I need to take a detour if I ever meet them in person!"

"Meeeoow!"

"Don't get me started on god pilots. They are combat freaks who are even more perverse. It's a miracle that they have emerged at all. There is no greater nemesis to a god than a warrior who can overpower any attack through limitless willpower. It is a pity that the final hurdle is so difficult to overcome. These powerful ace pilots must all brave death in the hopes that they can ascend through the force of their willpower alone."

A complicated expression appeared on her face. Though she had faith in her own strength and potential, entities at her level had learned to respect and fear the deities in human form known as god pilots.

"It's done!" Ves uttered as he just put the finishing touches to his spiritual firearm design!

.

Helena perked up and floated closer to his side. "Is that the complete design?"

Ves nodded. "Yup. I won't explain too much about how it is put together. I doubt you will be able to understand its mechanisms. Just trust me when I say that my Death Lotus will not disappoint you in terms of power. I just need to know whether you are happy with its visual design. Are you pleased by the looks of the two modes?"

"Hmmm..."

Helena found the Death Lotus to be charming. It completely fit her theme and would look great in her hands no matter the form.

The only point she was hesitating about was whether she wanted to add a bit of color to the Flower Mode and the Pistol Mode.

"On one hand, I feel tempted to ask you to make it red. However, that doesn't quite fit with my main element. Never mind. I am happy with the way it looks."

"Don't worry about it." Ves smiled. "The Flower Form may look like a plain black lotus, but it should have a bit of extra flair once I complete it. The appearance of the Death Lotus isn't static either. If you desire to change its shape or accentuate its current look, it will slowly grow to match your wishes. That is the benefit of owning a living product."

Helena grinned and gave him a hug. "I'm so eager to get my hands on this gift! Hurry up, Ves! I don't want any longer!"

"Okay. I'll go and prepare the ingredients. Don't forget that you will have to make a sacrifice as well. The Death Lotus can only be fully attuned to you if I make it out of your spiritual energy."

Ves did not speak any further nonsense and left his office for his personal workshop.

He did not forget to bring the masterwork mech figure of the Valkyrie Redeemer along as well. It not only acted as a relay for Helena to manifest her form in the vicinity, but also happened to serve as a small and useful container of her spiritual energy.

It was easy for Ves to obtain the other main ingredients of the Death Lotus.

Aside from his own spiritual energy, he also plucked a spiritual fragment from both Vulcan and the Illustrious One.

The reason why he wanted to make use of the spiritual fragment of the Illustrious One was obvious. Ves did not want to make a firearm that only superficially channeled Helena's death energy into a beam attack.

His sister could already do that by herself by projecting her energy from her spiritual form!

What Ves aimed to make was an energy weapon in its truest sense. This meant taking one form of energy as input before processing and transforming it into a form that inflicted much more effective damage to any enemies struck by the weapon's discharge!

"I really hope this works."

As for Vulcan, Ves added a piece of him to the Death Lotus in the hopes of emphasizing the engineering and the functions of his creation. He wanted his new spiritual firearm to be more of an object with a defined purpose rather than a pet with a more scattered focus.

"This should be enough. I don't need to add more."

More ingredients weren't necessarily better. They could add more complexity and other functions to the Death Lotus, but that would also weaken its strongest functions and affect its purity.

The last consideration he had to make was whether he should use up any of his universal life energy in order to speed up the growth of the Death Lotus.

He shook his head. "It shouldn't be necessary."

The Death Lotus was not an independent spirit but one that was attached to an existing entity. It could rely entirely on Helena to speed up its growth and evolution.

Ves felt that Helena would ultimately benefit more if she was able to feed and nurture her new spiritual firearm step-by-step!

"Alright, let's start."

After gathering all of the necessary ingredients, he took a deep breath before summoning Blinky from his mind.

Mrow!

"How cute! Your cat form is so adorable, Ves!"

Before Blinky could get to work, Helena's floating form instantly raced to his side and pulled him into a hug!

The Star Cat looked a bit comical for a moment as he tried to pry himself out of the Daughter of Death's embrace!

"Uhm, sister, can you let go of my cat, please? We really need to process all of the ingredients I've gathered."

"Ah. Sorry about that. Here you go. You can proceed."

Ves and Blinky proceeded to work while Helena and Lucky watched from the side.

The fact that Ves tackled an entirely new category of spiritual products did not stump him at all. The Death Lotus still possesses similarities to design spirits and companion spirits that he could continue to apply his existing framework and solutions.

The most important difference was that Ves had to make sure to sculpt and shape a lot more elements that ordinarily belonged to physical weapons.

While Ves was smoothly able to shape his ingredients according to his design, he still wasn't certain whether the Death Lotus in its initial state would be able to fire an attack comparable to an actual luminar crystal weapon.

The only way for him to find out was to complete his work and pass it on to Helena so that she could test its firepower in person!

"If this actually works... can I pair it up with my mechs?"

This was an interesting question and one that had massive implications for certain projects!

However, Ves did not dare to get ahead of himself. He needed to verify whether spiritual firearms was a viable concept first before he could think about applying it in other ways!