

## **Paragon 1061**

### Chapter 1061: Pledges

Klaus appeared in Dream City with a heavy heart.

He had just learned that the big sister of one of his lovers is on a countdown to face the heavens in a battle where her chances of winning are less than 1 percent.

Klaus knew if Miriam were made aware of this, she would be devastated. However, he also knew that if nothing was said, and the worst were to happen, it would break her.

Because of this, Klaus was left in a state he never knew he would find himself in.

The last thing he wanted was to see Miriam go through her pain and sorrow again... For 53 years, she blamed herself for the death of her sister, well, at least that was how she remembered it.

However, she thought her sister had died, and that left her in a state of pain and sorrow, one that she only managed to start freeing herself from after she met Klaus and his wives.

Thankfully for her, she reunited with her sister in the end, and now, she was more than happy.

However, if she were to lose her again, only this time, she wouldn't be reuniting with her again; it would break her.

Klaus knew he couldn't let that happen.

"Icon, come out," he called, and the Fairy appeared and hovered before him.

"Has the senior left anything on claiming one's fate from the heavens?" Klaus asked.

"No, master," Icon answered. "However, there is something that talked about breaking free from the hold of the heavens. According to the senior, the heavens will send someone called Heaven's Adjudicator.

Their mission will be to collect the soul of the one who rebelled against the heavens. However, he made no mention of how strong this person will be.

Just that no Heaven's Adjudicator had ever failed their mission."

"I see. Are there rules that prohibit a third party from participating in the trial?"

"No, master. However, if you were to join in, then there is no telling what will happen."

Klaus didn't say anything to that. He knew that, as a paragon, stepping into the heavens' business was like a trap that had been prepared in advance for him.

"One last thing. I have calculated a 30% chance that this Heaven's Adjudicator will arrive before the end of the awakening.

There is also a 40% chance that the heavens would be using the awakening to break the rules and send more than one Adjudicator.

What I can't calculate is how overwhelming our opponents will be. I don't have that data. So tap into the seniors' data and examine all events related to a paragon.

Calculate the number of times the heavens played dirty and use the rough data to calculate the percentage that the heavens will seek outside help."

Icon looked at Klaus as if she were impressed by how quick and decisive he was.

"As a matter of fact, I have already done that calculation. Per the data from the heavens, there is a 98% chance the heavens will seek outside help."

Klaus laughed and sat down atop a tall glass building in Dream City.

"As expected of the shameless heavens."

"However, the master shouldn't worry. With the preparations we are making, regardless of how many Domain stage warriors they bring, I am sure we will be able to win..."

Icon flew and sat on Klaus's shoulder. "The senior didn't leave without leaving something behind. When the time comes, I will show them they messed with the wrong family."

Klaus turned and looked at Icon, who held her shoulders high...

He laughed.

However, knowing the senior had left a trump card made him feel better somehow.

"The master shouldn't worry. You are not alone in this... so when the time comes, know that you won't be fighting alone."

"Thank you, Icon. I really needed to hear that."

After spending a couple of minutes talking with Icon, Klaus left and went to find his Doom Guards and Undead Legion. They were with him the longest, so he wanted to have a sit-down with them.

"How is Earth treating you?" Klaus asked, hovering outside the planet with his three undead and five Doom Guards.

"It is very small," Hans, the angel half of the twins, answered, looking at the beautiful blue planet. The others nodded and laughed.

"However, it is a lively place. I like how innocent the humans think and how soft they are."

"Indeed. I even made friends who promised to take me fishing tomorrow." Yawily, or as she likes to be called, Yaw, added to her brother's words.

"It is a nice world full of life worth protecting," Nyxthar said.

"I guess that is why we are here," Klaus said. "To protect it. Millions of years ago, we barely protected Caelmir. This time, we have to give it everything we've got."

Among the billions of people down there, you eight are the ones that truly understood the horrors of the heavens," Klaus sighed.

"You all saw what they did to Planet Nol. Just to kill me, they killed 13 billion others. They are merciless and heartless."

Asmodeus and his friends also sighed, hearing one of the biggest failures in the past. The heavens blew up a planet with 13 billion lives just so they could kill Magnus.

That action was something not even Magnus saw coming. However, it happened, and perhaps because of that, Magnus went rogue and killed many times over.

It reached the point where even the Paragon Guards, the undead, and the Doom Guards started to fear Magnus.

So hearing him mention Planet Nol brought back unpleasant memories.

"We will give them hell, Master. My Undead Legion is now ready to charge into battle," Asmodeus said.

"I have also mastered the first two levels of the Death's Gaze Art. I will give them hell," Eryx said.

"I struggled to hold back three Domain stage warriors back then, causing many warriors to die. This time, no matter what, not even a fly will get past me," Alesi said, wearing absolute resolve on her face.

"My arrows will do the talking, Master, so fear not, the Infernal Bowmaster will rise to the occasion just like he did in the past." Veylor clenched his fist, ready for anything.

"Unless there are no shadows, then they wouldn't know how they died," Eren said, wearing a calm expression.

"Fear not, Master, the twins will rise to the occasion with flames and lightning trailing behind us." Both Hans and his sister Yaw said the same thing.

Finally, Nyxthar crossed his right hand on his chest. "Back in the forbidden universe, there was a saying that 'the last thing anyone wanted was to face a Deathknight who is fighting with a purpose in mind.'

I was the only Deathknight to survive the fall of my universe. You saved me, nurtured me back to life, and gave me a purpose.

So fear not, Master, I will fight and kill with a purpose in mind that at the end of it all, this beautiful blue planet will remain intact and every last life preserved."

Klaus felt his spirit rise, hearing the pledges from his Doom Guards and Undead. He knew, for better or worse, they would stand behind him. But hearing them pledge made him feel happy.

"We will win," Klaus said, looking at the planet. "We will win."

Chapter 1062: Deadly Weapons

Five days had passed since Klaus had the conversation with his Doom Guards and the Undead.

This means there are only 25 days left before the awakening.

However, while everyone is aware that the Earth will be facing a tribulation in 25 days' time, their focus is on two things.

The first being Klaus's upcoming wedding. Everyone is pumped and ready for the wedding of the century.

Klaus's mom, with the help of the Knights of House Klaus, was doing everything in their power to ensure everything was perfect.

They are working around the clock every single day, making sure that in 22 days' time, the wedding everyone has been waiting for will come off with no defect.

The second thing is the warrior competition Klaus announced a while back.

They named it League of Defiance, featuring only Chaos, Nether, and Domain stage warriors. They didn't have much time to include all other warrior ranks. But even so, for the past three days, just the preliminaries hadn't ended.

However, everyone was paying attention to it just like how Klaus wanted them to. He wanted them to see the warriors who would be fighting for them in 25 days.

He wanted them to have confidence in the defenders of Earth. So far, everyone seems to be enjoying it, and Klaus knew that when this competition comes to an end, everyone will be ready for the real battle.

Klaus, on the other hand, had been working nonstop inside the Paragon Forge with Icon to create some weapons he planned to give to the warriors.

He and the seven Nerds had already created some powerful weapons alongside Project Moon Gaze, Project Poseidon, Project Icarus, and the Next Gen Exo Living Armour.

In fact, they created some next-level badass weapons that he is sure will come in handy.

However, now, Klaus is creating a different kind of weapon.

"Master, are you sure about this?" Icon asked, looking at the schematics of a Raygun she and Klaus had designed.

Klaus looked at the schematic and laughed, "Fear not, Icon, this weapon is something we will use as a last resort should the need arise for it."

"I know that, Master; however, I am worried about the event that the enemy gets their hands on it." Icon seemed worried. However, Klaus, who is a functional human, knew she had nothing to worry about.

"They wouldn't be able to use it." Klaus pointed at a part of the schematic that he had yet to add the necessary runes. "I plan to encode the weapons to only one person, so unless they manage to get their hands on him, they wouldn't be able to fire it."

Klaus pointed at another part of the schematic, "And if they try to tamper with it, then the failsafe will trigger and create a devastating blast that not even a Peak Domain stage warrior can survive.

However, for everyone's safety, including ours, I hope it doesn't explode here on Earth."

"Whose DNA would the Master encode the weapon to?"

"Mr. Pickles, of course." Klaus smiled, recalling what happened four days ago.

A day after his conversation with Nyxthar and co. in space, Mr. Pickles, now a handsome white-haired young man, arrived in Dream City with Annabelle.

He had now reached the Void stage, and the first thing he wanted after meeting Klaus again was to fight beside him in the upcoming battle.

However, Klaus laughed, knowing even with his Void stage strength, he wouldn't be able to win in a fight against an Ascendant.

However, Mr. Pickles told Klaus he had awakened a Marksmanship class that allows him to wield any firearms.

This, of course, opened a door for Klaus to turn him into a powerful warrior. So he entered the Paragon Forge and began working on some weapons for Mr. Pickles.

At first, he merely wanted to make him some simple weapons.

However, while he was brainstorming, Klaus discovered that buried deep in his mind, inside the treasures Pickle Berry had stolen from the heavens, were records of weapons that had never appeared in the universe before.

So he looked through, and just as he and his friend couldn't use those treasures yet, most of these weapons were beyond him.

However, he was able to get one that, with Icon's help, they managed to create. Klaus named it Mega-Beam Ray Gun.

"I suppose since this is for someone on our side, then there is nothing to worry about. However, for everyone's safety, he can only use the Super Beam Drive ones."

Icon's existence is to ensure no harm comes to Klaus. Seeing a weapon that could harm him being made by his own hands, she couldn't help but feel afraid for Klaus.

"Relax, Icon. Naturally, I wouldn't be creating something that can pose a threat to me without putting safety measures in place.

Our focus now is to create the Silent Nerve Bombs. The heavens want to play dirty; however, they haven't met me yet." Klaus laughed, adding the last details to the schematic before sending it to the forge to begin the creation process.

It turned out that creating weapons and other non-living things doesn't require him to comprehend the core essence of that thing. He just needed the schematic, and the forge would handle the rest.

Klaus pulled up three more schematics, each a devastating weapon.

Icon could only sigh and continue to help her master handle his business to the best of her abilities...

Five days later, Klaus and Icon had created 12 deadly weapons.

"Master, I believe with just 20 days left, you should set up the statues. With them set up, I will be able to run my final simulation and input the results into the battle suit before giving it to your mother."

"You are right, Icon. I believe with these weapons, things will get even more interesting."

"Indeed. However, the master should focus on the other things."

Klaus sighed and walked toward a room. Inside this room are hundreds of thousands of arrows. In another room, there are swords, spears, axes, hammers, and others.

He walked to three more rooms, each filled with different types of weapons. Once he finished inspecting everything, he walked out and appeared back on Earth.

"So what statues would the master be using to create the formations?" Icon asked.

"They are known as Space Monkeys. I met them back in my 4th incarnation. They have this uncanny ability that allows them to create a force field that keeps anything out. Once you leave its confinement, you can never come back in."

"So you plan to trap some people from entering Earth?"

"Indeed. With Project Icarus firing sun beams from space, we can only send some people out and prevent them from coming back in."

"That is smart, Master. This will indeed give us an advantage, and with Jane's ability, we can send even Domain stage warriors outside and let Project Icarus handle them."

Klaus smiled.

Being praised by a super-intelligent sentient life form surprisingly felt good.

After they appeared back on Earth, Klaus created four large ice mountains and snapped his finger, summoning a hundred thin swords.

With a mental command, the swords moved, and he began sculpting the three monkeys. He believed that with his sculpting technique, he would be able to replicate the power of the Space monkeys to some degree.

Chapter 1063: Space Monkeys

Klaus didn't know how effective these Space Monkeys would become after sculpting. However, when he met them back in his 4th incarnation, they had already reached the Immortal King stage.

And since the sculpture will capture the essence of the being that is being sculpted, Klaus knew that if he managed to capture even a sliver of their essence, then not even a domain stage warrior could pass through their forcefield.

However, sculpting just one would be a headache. However, Klaus had to sculpt the four at the same time, taking the pressure fourfold.

Hundreds of swords appeared, and twenty-five each started working on the four ice mountains he created. Given his strong mental strength, Klaus was navigating the process much more easily than one would expect.

The beautiful Fairy, Icon, hovered behind her master, observing to ensure nothing went wrong.

In no time, a suffocating aura began to fill the space where Klaus was working.

This showed he was capturing the Space Monkeys, and as such, their power was manifesting.

Klaus started turning pale in no time.

However, if this were before reaching the Chaos stage, he might have stopped. However, this Klaus was different, so he chose to continue, making sure his focus was unwavering.

After an hour of sculpting, Klaus turned as pale as a white sheet. However, the four statues of the Space Monkeys were brought to life.

Klaus then chose to refine the ice sculptures of the four space monkeys, making them indestructible even if a domain stage warrior were to attack them.

Thankfully, with Efad's bloodline now at 20%, his runic sorcery had reached a level where he was able to write thousands of runes within minutes.

So, despite the tired state he was in, the runes he had already prepared were being injected into the statues.

Icon was helping him, making sure her master didn't pass out before he got the job done.

"Does the master intend to give control of the statues to Jane?" the Icon asked, and Klaus nodded.

"Indeed. Since she will be in charge of making sure the right warrior faces the right enemy, she can only be allowed to decide who gets back to the world after they are transported out."

"How about the Moon Gaze weapon currently charging on the moon. Won't the forcefield mess with the beams it will fire?"

Klaus smiled, "I will exempt it from the moon gaze and even project Icarus."

"I suppose the master had thought everything through. However, I have a proposal for the master."

"I am listening, Icon."

"How about the master, instead of preventing the enemy from coming back to earth, create a mini teleportation array instead that will teleport the enemy to specific places on earth where they can be ambushed.

For example, if the master were to prepare a place where all fire-type abilities wouldn't work, Jane can easily send them out of the world, and if they try attacking it, they will be teleported there.

I mean, if a fire-type user were to lose their fire abilities, they would be sitting ducks.

I know it is too much to ask, but with the master's knowledge in creating arrays and the knowledge the senior left me, we only need three days to prepare the entire world and the Moon for combat."

Klaus smiled, "That is not bad at all, Icon. In fact, I plan on turning the entire world into a battlefield. However, now that you have managed to narrow it down for me, all I need to do is make only some parts combat-ready.

If I were to turn the entire world into a battlefield, then not only would the arrays be much weaker, but sustaining them would be a headache."

Icon nodded, "That is true, master. I calculated that if the world were to become a battlefield, then not only would it be impossible to work on domain stage warriors, but even some Nether stage warriors would be able to resist.

However, with the specific parts acting as battle arenas or prisons, there is no doubt that if we play our cards right, the enemy will find it extremely hard to resist.

I have already prepared some specific arrays you can work on. My favourite, of course, is the Nightmare Prison. It is an array that brings out one's deepest and darkest fear." The Icon studied Klaus's expression.

"Imagine if a peak domain stage warrior started having bits and flashes of their deepest fears. If an Ascension stage warrior were to play their cards right, then killing this domain stage warrior would be easy enough."

"I like it," Klaus said. "Let's work on that after this one." Klaus was ready for anything, so he was making sure the enemy found it extremely hard to move on the battlefield.

By the end of the day, Klaus was ready with the four statues.

He managed to imbue a skeleton of a much bigger teleportation network that, if the person transported out were to want to come back, they would be teleported to any of the prisons he would be preparing later.

Klaus then went to find Jane and gave her control of the Space Monkeys.

"Big brother, these are powerful statues. Are they a gift for me becoming your disciple?" Jane asked, looking at the four statues.

Klaus smiled and nodded, "These are indeed your gifts for becoming my disciple. They will allow you to better protect the world."

Jane became very happy.

She was now a Domain stage warrior, so unless a Life stage warrior were to appear, she would be able to mess with even Domain stage warriors regardless of how powerful they are.

Icon already saw Jane's potential, so making her a Domain stage warrior was the best thing to happen to Klaus and his legion.

"Position them outside the planet so we can activate the forcefield," Klaus said, and Jane nodded. She moved her hand, and the four statues moved, creating a square around the planet.

Klaus clapped his hands and closed his eyes, linking with the four statues.

The moment he connected with them, he activated the forcefield, and just like that, Earth was now protected by a powerful forcefield.

"Big brother, I will be going back to the Primordial Cave to handle some issues. In case you need me, I will come running," Jane said now that her work was done.

"Okay."

After Jane left, Klaus and Icon got to work, dedicating the next three days to working on creating dozens of array prisons for the upcoming awakening.

---

[Planet Meena - Somewhere in the Universe]

Far in the universe, on a planet that houses only Array Masters, four handsome men, each in their late 40s, stood staring into the distance with solemn expressions on their faces.

Reading their aura, one could tell all four of them were gods.

"Is it just me, or did someone just harness our power?" Leo, the dark-haired man among the four, asked.

Luno, the redhead, answered, "I can sense it too. Someone indeed has harnessed our power. But who would be that brave to do that?"

Eros, the blonde, also spoke, "A much better question, how was anyone able to harness our power?"

"An even better question: who had such an unshakable will to harness our power?" Cosmo, the green-haired man, asked and then added, "I mean, even demigods would be crushed if they tried that."

Luno brushed his tiny beard. "Do you think those Heavenly Court bastards finally managed to discover our secrets?"

"Impossible," Leo shook his head. "In all of our existence, only one person managed to figure out how our power works, and he—"

Leo paused and stared at his three brothers.

"It can't be him, right?" Leo asked, but all four of them stood frozen in place.

"It can't be him, right?" Cosmo repeated Leo's question.

"It is him." Suddenly, a feminine voice spoke from behind them, causing them to turn around and look at the person walking toward them.

Chapter 1064: Nyxaria, the debt collector

Leo, Luno, Cosmo, and Eros stood frozen, staring into the distance when they heard a lady's voice enter their heads.

Upon turning around, their gaze landed on a darkly alluring woman with midnight-purple skin. Just her skin color was enough to tell them she was a demon.

She had silver-white hair flowing like mist and glowing crimson eyes that told them she was no rainbows and sunshine.

Of course, four gods were not about to fear a mere Monarch stage warrior. However, looking at her, something told them if they dared lay a finger on her, their end would come swiftly and painfully.

"Who is this fairy?" Luno asked, allowing a weak fake smile to appear on his face.

"I am Nyxaria, a shadow demon and a debt collector."

"Oh." The four gods furrowed their brows, hearing Nyxaria's words.

"What sort of debt do you collect?" Eros asked.

"The destiny kind," Nyxaria said, taking out a purple scroll from her space ring and unfurling it.

"Many billion years ago, the court of heaven found out there were four monkeys living on Plane Xtar with abilities that made them the perfect weapons to use against their most dangerous foes.

They asked peacefully for these monkeys to join their ranks, but we both know monkeys are anything but law-abiding beings." Nyxaria smiled, and the four gods scratched their heads.

"They refused the heavens' peaceful offer, and so the heavens chose to use persuasion since diplomacy failed. They sent some of their powerful warriors to destroy Planet Xtar and capture these four monkeys.

It was a dangerous day for the four monkeys. Aside from their unbreakable forcefield, they don't have any combat ability. They were basically sitting ducks waiting for their capture the moment they ran out of energy to power their force fields."

Nyxaria observed the expressions on the faces of the four men change, causing her to smile inwardly. "If I am not mistaken, the four monkeys were at their wits' end back then.

However, just when they saw their doom falling upon them, their savior came in the form of a strikingly handsome, violet-haired renegade monk who not only slaughtered every last heaven's bastard, but he even made sure the heavens wouldn't dare lay their eyes on these four monkeys ever again."

Nyxaria furled the scroll and stowed it back in her space ring. She studied the four men before her, and a smile appeared on her face.

"These four seniors wouldn't happen to know these monkeys, would they?" The four men stared at Nyxaria long and hard before Leo asked a question.

"Which of the Paragon guards are you?"

"Cunning," Nyxaria answered, maintaining her smile.

"I see. I suppose that explains your character." Cosmo waved his hand, and they appeared inside a room.

Despite being surrounded by four gods, Nyxaria remained calm. It was almost as if she didn't care that the four men before her were gods who could end her existence with a snap of their fingers.

"We only met the Paragon guard of emotion. I believe her name is Yuying," Cosmo said, and Nyxaria nodded.

"I suppose this is indeed destiny's debt. However, may I ask what you want from us? If I am not mistaken, the Paragon doesn't take lightly to his debts."

Nyxaria chuckled. "That was because Yuying keeps making him appear sweet and calm. However, trust me, my master is anything but sweet and calm."

"Then why did the one we met appear calm and sweet?" Leo asked, and Nyxaria just smiled.

"It was all Yuying's doing. However, that was in the past. Now, my master will show you all there is to know about him.

However, before that, you four are going to repay his kindness."

"How are we going to do that? I believe we owe him greatly, so if there is anything you need us to do, we wouldn't hesitate."

"I like to hear things like this." Nyxaria took another scroll from her space ring.

The four space monkeys looked at her weirdly. Most people use high-tech phones for this stuff.

Nyxaria, who knew what they were thinking, smiled, "I don't trust technology, so I prefer to write on scrolls."

The four monkeys said nothing and just smiled.

"There are 47 worlds written on these scrolls, and where to find them. I am not asking you to go to all, but I know that these worlds are dear to my master. If possible, use your large network of Array Experts to set up a powerful shield around these planets.

Nothing fancy, just something that can prevent even an Immortal Emperor from entering. Of course, you can make it so that those who dare force their way in will not appear on the other side.

If you manage to help with this, then consider the debt you owe my master cleared."

"Just like that?" Luno asked.

"Very easy, right?" Nyxaria smiled. "Of course, if you four feel like going to the dark side, then you can let me know any day. I will be happy to make arrangements for you to officially become a member of my master's dark organization.

But until then, do your best to protect these worlds for my master."

Nyxaria stood up and left.

As the Paragon guard of cunning, she truly was more qualified to handle this mission. Yuying understood Klaus the best, so knowing this time things would be different, she made plans in advance.

Nyxaria's job is to ensure that people who owe her master, in his nine lives, pay back that debt. She had already visited some places, and now that she had finished with the four-star monkeys, she was headed to the next place.

Meanwhile, the four monkeys who had been waiting for this day their entire life felt like they had just been struck with the most unbelievable news.

"So after waiting for billions of years, he only wants us to protect 47 worlds." Leo wondered out loud. "If I didn't know better, I would say she is messing with us."

"Same here."

"Indeed."

"However, I think she is serious, and since she is a Paragon guard, then it means she was indeed working at the orders of her master," Luno said.

"True. I sensed no deceit in her words, meaning she indeed just wanted us to protect these 47 worlds."

"In that case, why don't we do an even better job and ensure not even Demi-gods will be able to enter this world?" Cosmo proposed, and his brothers nodded.

"He saved our lives and even made sure the heavens don't dare come against us ever again. In a way, he gave us a peaceful life, the kind we have always sought after.

Since that is the case, we can only ensure that what he holds dear is protected. Since these 47 worlds are dear to him, we can only ensure they are protected."

Just like that, 47 worlds that were gearing up for battle that they weren't sure they could win, without even knowing it, had just found the favor of four gods who were known for creating impenetrable defenses.

Until the Paragon of the Nine Stars makes his appearance known, then all those who owe him for actions he took many years ago would step in to protect what he holds dear.

The next few days would see the four gods utilizing their extensive network of Array and formation experts to establish various defenses across these 47 worlds.

In the end, the heavens would find themselves facing the shadows of a Paragon, pissing them off yet again.

Chapter 1065: League of Defiance Final Selection

And just like that, five more days passed, leaving only 15 days before the awakening.

Klaus and Icon had worked tirelessly for the past five days creating several dozen Array prisons.

It took them four days to complete this setup, and they began brainstorming other measures they could take in preparation for the upcoming awakening.

After five days, the preliminaries of the League of Defiance finally came to an end. The elimination round followed. The main event began with 6 Domain, 10 Nether stage, and 14 Ascension stage warriors.

So far, the battles that had occurred were merely a way to fish out the main warriors with potential for the main event. They wanted the first edition to be perfect, so the warriors who would battle it out had been selected.

Naturally, Pickle Berry is in charge of the League simply because when it comes to stuff like this, she is the most experienced.

She will be 16 years old in a few days, meaning Klaus will start recalling his life as Kaden. But even so, Pickle Berry already has memories of her life spent with Klaus's 8th incarnation.

This means that, after leaving for many years and seeing what needed to be seen, she is perfectly suited for this role. Of course, she has helpers, but the face of the first edition of the League of Defiance is Pickle Berry.

"The six Domain stage who had qualified for the Domain League of Defiance are," Pickle Berry said, broadcasting to the entire world, "Nyxthar, the Deathknight."

An image of Nyxthar appeared, causing his fans to cheer all over the world. The past days had seen how impressive Nyxthar was, so he had developed a bit of a fan base.

"We also have Eryx, the one-eyed demon spawn."

Eryx's image appeared, and just like Nyxthar, cheers rang out everywhere. Many people witnessed his duel with Nyxthar, so seeing them qualify for the main event made them want to see them fight for real this time.

"The third is Veylor, the Infernal Bowmaster." The greatest Bowmaster anyone had ever seen also appeared, earning his own cheers.

"War Goddess Miriam, the Supreme Swordmaiden." The 4th of course is Miriam, who had displayed how impressively she could wield the sword and light energy.

"Vampire Queen Tifa, the nameless Vampire." The beautiful vampire queen decided to let go of her worries and join the League of Defiance.

She had defeated the likes of Asmodeus, Eren, and Hans. Of course, Alesi didn't join, citing she had no plans of fighting her idol.

Her idol, of course, is the 6th on Pickle Berry's list.

"And the final contestant is our very own Overlord of the Earth, Queenie, also known as the Asura Queen."

Naturally, her cheers were more than any of the 5 contestants. Of course, it was to be expected.

After all, Queenie is someone who has fought and protected the Earth from the day the apocalypse descended. So they love her more than the others.

Klaus' uncles didn't participate, saying they didn't like to bully the young ones. Kilian joined, but he was defeated by Queenie. Of course, at first glance, it was obvious he didn't put much effort into their battle.

Ohema, who was paired against her sister, gave an excuse that she had attained some enlightenment and wanted to enter seclusion, so she forfeited their battle.

Later, she told her sisters she had no plans to fight her sister even if it was in a virtual world. When asked why, she claimed she didn't want to defeat her this early in her rise to dominance.

Naturally, that was bullshit, but her sisters indulged her in her wishful thinking.

Pickle Berry gave the lineup next.

Nyxthar will face Veylor. This lineup made the Infernal Bowmaster scratch his head with a weak smile. He knew he was cooked even before the battle.

Eryx will be facing Queenie. Naturally, this is a battle that everyone wants to watch.

Queenie merely smiled, seeing who she would be facing, while Asmodeus started teasing his brother for meeting the Asura Queen in his first big battle after he was summoned back from the dead.

Then Miriam will be facing her sister Tifa in yet another battle many want to witness.

This battle, however, is one Miriam wants to use to show her sister how powerful she has become and that if she ever needed help in the future, she can always turn to her.

After reuniting with her sister, Miriam had been doing her best to be strong enough to protect her sister just like she did for her from the shadows.

However, to Tifa, this was the only chance she would have to have a good battle with her sister should she fail to the heavens and reclaim her fate in 16 days' time.

They all have their objectives, so it is proposed to be a memorable battle.

Of course, if Prince Challa were to be around, he would have joined, which many from the Bast Race knew he would have been part of the 6 Domain stage warriors. However, he is in seclusion, tying up loose ends.

In fact, even Lord Trench didn't join and instead chose to act as Pickle Berry's personal guard.

As for the ten Nether stage warriors, the first two are Linx and Jinx, Asha's first and second in command. They are at the peak of the Nether stage and two of the deadliest warriors to grace the battlefield in the upcoming duel.

Mason, Lily, Danny, Old Lu, Miguel, Hanna, Sword King Hiroshi (Aoi's father), and Aoi.

In a twist nobody saw coming, Aoi was paired against her father. Of course, in terms of cultivation base, Aoi is at the peak while her father is at level 7.

However, he wasn't known as the Sword King for nothing, and now that he has Klaus's blood flowing through him, he has become much more dangerous.

Of course, many Nether stage warriors didn't join. There are just too many Nether stage warriors on Earth, and no time to make them all fight to select the top ten.

As for the 14 Ascension stage warriors, 6 are from the Cavalry of Defiance, 4 came from the Bast Race, and the rest came from the Vampire Race.

Klaus wasn't paying much attention to the League due to how busy he was. However, when he found out 6 people from the Cavalry of Defiance made it into the main event, he was happy.

After all, they are his passion project, so seeing them succeed was something that brought him great joy.

He will be around for the final battles, but for now, his focus is on making sure Earth is ready for what's coming.

The Ascension League of Defiance was first to commence. All 7 battles happened at the same time. Naturally, the audience had the option to watch all seven by selecting the one they wanted to watch.

After the seven winners were selected, which comprised 3 warriors from the Cavalry of Defiance, 2 Bast Races, and 2 Vampires, they took their slots, and one became a seeded candidate.

The next battle happened, and three more emerged as winners. The next day, the last battle to decide which two go to the final happened.

Chapter 1066: Battles

At the end of the Ascension League of Defiance, one warrior from the Cavalry of Defiance and a warrior from the Bast race emerged as finalists.

The warrior from the Cavalry of Defiance is called Sidra; however, she prefers to be called the Grim Reaper simply because her Class is the Grim Reaper class.

There are many rumours around her.

Some say she can literally go to the underworld and back like drinking water. Some say she is an immortal, that she cannot be killed, while many say her father is the Yama King.

As to whether any of these rumours were true, nobody can tell.

But one thing is certain about her.

When it comes to killing, she can be put right behind the likes of Kilian, Queenie, and Nia.

The warrior from the Bast race is also one of their best. They call him Nayth Varu. However, his title is the Huntmaster.

There are many rumours about him, too; however, the most popular rumour is that many claim he has the power to harness the power of the Grey Panther.

The Grey Panther is a myth in the Bast race.

Many say that during the battle against beasts in the early stages of the apocalypse, a Grey Panther with an unknown origin came to their aid when they truly needed it.

However, once they settled down, the Grey Panther left.

Many who witnessed his feat gave him the moniker, the Huntmaster. Nayth is a Huntmaster, and his fighting style is similar to that of the mysterious Grey Panther.

Now, everyone was just waiting for the time to come for the Grim Reaper and the Huntmaster to clash and see who was the genius among the two.

As soon as the last two finalists were selected for the Ascension stage, the Nether stage battle commenced.

This battle gathered a lot of attention.

There were 10 Nether stage warriors, meaning there would be 5 battles in the first round. Naturally, all the warriors scheduled for this battle are anything but weak.

Of course, none of them would be using their trump cards in a friendly competition, even if fighting inside a virtual space.

However, none would be holding back when using their normal skills.

Klaus told them not to reveal too much since the heavens are always watching.

But even so, the first battle, which happened between Aoi and her father, Sword King Hiroshi, lasted for 2 straight hours with Aoi emerging victorious in the end.

Even so, many could tell her father was not weak either, and some even speculated he let his daughter win to make her happy.

That worked like magic since Aoi became happy after defeating her father.

It was a good battle, one that showed just how good the Hiroshis are with their swords.

The second battle was between Linx and Lily.

Naturally, this battle ended in 45 minutes with Lily emerging victorious.

This didn't shock many who knew the innocent Lily was someone very dangerous.

Even now, Pickle Berry doesn't feel safe around her. To her, the Red Fury who nearly killed her and her big brother/master years back in the past is still the same harmless Lily everyone seems to like.

Linx is a great warrior, but Lily is on an entirely different level.

After the battle, when Pickle Berry, in her attempt to give assurance to the audience that indeed Earth has great warriors to protect them, asked Lily and Linx how much they put into the battle.

Linx said she put in 60% effort, citing that she still has more to give than what she had displayed.

When Lily was asked, she said she used 20% of her true speed.

This answer left many with widened eyes and jaws hanging. The reason being, the speed Lily displayed was already enough for her to take down an average Nether stage warrior.

So, saying she only used 20%, what then would become of her when she used 100%?

Everyone wanted to see that.

The third battle of the day was between Mason and Old Lu.

Mason is fast like Lily and also hits hard. However, in the end, Old Lu showed him that age is also a favourable factor when it comes to combat.

Mason tried to use his speed, but Old Lu made sure the ground he was running on wasn't ideal for speed, so he was forced to switch back to brute attack.

In the end, Old Lu, who excels in brute strength and reading his opponent, put Mason in his place.

Mason learned a valuable lesson from it, and Old Lu also saw how it could be disadvantageous to him if his opponent were to fly instead of running.

The 4th battle was between Jinx and Danny.

This battle lasted for only 20 minutes, with Danny winning.

His winning was decided from the moment the battle began.

It turned out that Danny had come a long way, mastering both his bloodline powers and his Light element.

It was only after the battle that many learned he had already touched the Light Elemental Law.

All of Jinx's attacks passed through his body since Danny decided to become lazy and turn his body into light, and then, using a titan ability called 'Intangible Body', he was able to handle all attacks from Jinx.

In the end, Jinx surrendered with a smile on her face. She knew that unless she used one of her 5 forms, beating Danny was nearly impossible. However, this was a friendly battle, so she let it slide.

The last battle was between Miguel and Hanna.

Their battle lasted for 45 minutes, with Hanna winning.

If Miguel were as fast as Lily, perhaps he would have had a shot at winning. However, with Hanna using her Divine bodies, Miguel struggled to defend against her barrage of arrows.

Of course, Hanna also held back, so in the end, it was a battle that shouldn't have happened; yet, they both learned a valuable lesson.

Hanna learned that targeting much slower opponents would maximize her kill speed, while Miguel learned that picking archers is not something he should do.

Thankfully, they have Jane to handle those pair-ups for them.

Hanna became a seeded candidate after they picked their next pair-ups. The two to emerge in the quarter-finals were Danny, who defeated Old Lu, and Aoi, who defeated Lily.

After the battle between Lily and Aoi, many recognised something, and that was that Lily is dangerous. She practically ran circles around Aoi.

But in the end, she surrendered.

She couldn't get through Aoi's Sword Pool, so even though she far surpassed her in speed, the labyrinth of swords Aoi prepared for her was one she never had the means to pass through without using one of her trump cards.

The final match was determined by something Pickle Berry called Immortal Stare.

All they had to do was walk toward a large eye in the sky. The one who gets closer will be seeded, and the other two will fight to pick the finalist.

In the end, Danny won that, and Hanna had to face Aoi.

Their battle was the last for the day, which ended with Hanna winning. She won after displaying impeccable mastery of the bow.

Of course, Knox, Klaus's second soul body, knew Hanna won thanks to her bow.

She had unleashed a power held within the first seal, which temporarily allowed her to land one arrow on Aoi, who only found out how she was defeated after the battle.

The next day, the Domain stage battle began with Queenie and Eryx opening the day with a bone-chilling battle.

Chapter 1067: Queenie vs Eryx

"Ladies and gentlemen, the time you have been waiting for has come," Pickle Berry said, broadcasting to every last view screen on Earth and the moon.

"The most awaited battle between the Overlord of Earth, Queenie, and the one-eyed demon spawn, Eryx, is about to begin.

They will be fighting in Saint Berry's Arena."

The screens changed, showing a large arena.

Naturally, it was an entire planet turned into a fight arena. Of course, the name Saint Berry was just Pickle Berry making sure she hosted the first edition of the League of Defiance well.

A statue of her hovered atop the arena.

All who saw this just laughed.

They had found a liking for Pickle Berry after seeing how well she had been working over the weeks to ensure this competition went well.

"The rules are the same. Either you surrender, or the one left standing is the winner. Of course, those afraid of death should know they are fighting in a virtual world, so death is not permanent.

Also, to parents, be sure to follow the PG rules, for the footage isn't suitable for kids.

And to all warriors, be sure to watch this battle, for there will be a lot to learn from it." Pickle Berry smiled and let her words sink in for a while before speaking again.

"I don't like to play around, so may the battle begin."

Right when Pickle Berry gave the order, Eryx, who was clad in dark armor, moved, his long sword trailing a wide arc that appeared before Queenie in an instant.

Queenie stood with a calm expression, clad in red leather armor.

The sword arc closes in rather fast...

If it were to be a nether stage warrior Eryx had attacked, they would've been severed before they knew how it happened.

However, Queenie stood there and cut the sword arc with her bare hand, crushing it.

Eryx didn't falter, seeing his attack handled so casually.

He vanished and appeared behind Queenie and stabbed his sword at her shoulder while his right leg moved in a wide arc, aiming for her waist.

WHOOSH

Queenie turned into blood mist and vanished, reassembling herself 30 meters from Eryx. Both the sword stab and the leg swing missed.

This time, Eryx narrowed his two fake eyes, and Queenie smiled.

"Do you understand?" Queenie asked.

"I do," Eryx replied with a nod. "However, I don't believe you can use this technique of yours for an extended period of time."

"And what makes you think that?" Queenie asked, maintaining her smile that could charm anyone.

"Because I have fought many vampires who used this technique, but in the end, they ran out of blood essence, and I killed them." Eryx smiled.

"Well, you are indeed right to assume that. However, you are forgetting something. I am not a vampire, Eryx. I am an Asura, meaning I can do this."

Queenie extended her hand, and a pool of blood rose from the ground and transformed into an identical copy of her.

Then, in a twist, the clone spoke,

"As an Asura, I have what we call the Blood Pool. All Asuras have that. This Blood Pool is like our personal reservoir that we fill with blood. The way to fill it is, of course, through slaughter." Queenie's main body scoffed.

"I have killed hundreds of thousands, Eryx, and that means my Blood Pool is now larger than you can imagine."

The one-eyed demon spawn raised his brow.

"This means if I were to use Blood Mist continuously, even after ten years, I would never run out of blood." Queenie laughed and snapped her fingers.

The clone's body dissolved back into blood, and then a sword was formed.

"However, people are counting on me to fight, so I will not use Blood Mist." She swung her sword, and a large blood arc flashed out.

Eryx saw the attack, but he was slow to evade, so he tanked it with his sword by crossing it over his chest.

He was sent flying 2 km away.

"However, I will use Blood Step, allowing me to do this." Queenie took one step and appeared 1 meter from Eryx, who used his movement step to move back.

However, when he thought he had moved 1 km back, Queenie was again standing before him. She didn't attack; instead, she pointed at Eryx's left arm...

"I am bleeding." It was now that Eryx noticed he was bleeding from Queenie's Blood Arc strike.

"You are indeed bleeding. Do you know what this means?"

Eryx shook his head, though he knew whatever Queenie was about to say was something he could not counter. Naturally, he had an idea.

"The reason why you bleeding will spell your doom is because, unless I run out of blood, you cannot stop the bleeding, and as long as you are bleeding, I can always follow you anywhere.

If you don't believe me, move back 2 km."

Eryx did as he was told, and to his shock, Queenie was standing 1 km from him again, smiling at him.

It became plain as day that unless he could handle Queenie in close combat, he had already lost. However, he also had something to use against her.

"I am an undead, which means you can't kill me. If I manage to tire you, then I might just win," Eryx said, regaining some stance.

However, Queenie merely smiled.

"Oh, Eryx dear, hasn't your master said anything about the Asura Borns to you?" Queenie laughed. "You see, we Asura-borns were created for one thing, and that is to kill.

Naturally, that means we can kill anything we face in combat. Anything, including undead. So Eryx, if you are counting on your undead immortality, don't. I can kill you before you know it."

Eryx took a deep breath, and then he looked at his sword.

He then looked at Queenie and shook his head. "You are a monster."

"I know." Queenie laughed and then swung her sword, cutting Eryx in half, vertically.

As if to tell everyone she could indeed kill the undead, Eryx woke up on the outside, a smile playing on his face. This shows he had died inside Oracle.

"She is even more dangerous than the stories portray her," Asmodeus, who was standing beside Eryx's Oracle Pod, said.

"Indeed," Eryx replied. "I felt so small before her. It was like staring at the face of danger, knowing no matter what you do, you can never overcome it."

Asmodeus smiled. Just like every last person on Earth, he too was in shock, unsure of how to quantify Queenie's display against Eryx.

Many expected to watch a great battle; however, with just a few displays, Queenie had shown everyone what true terror looked like.

"They say the Asura is a race that never tires in battle. Initially, I never believed that, but after seeing what big sister Queenie had just shown us, I think I am now a believer," Pickle Berry said.

She turned to the cameras and, with a smile on her face, chose to give some comments. A couple of minutes later, she announced the next battle, which would be happening early, considering Queenie had used mere minutes to win.

The second battle was between Nyxthar and Veylor. It lasted for just ten minutes, with Nyxthar winning by beheading Veylor.

He had proven to many that with a good understanding of one's abilities, even if the opponent is unkillable, you will always find a way to kill them.

Veylor tried to use his speed, but Nyxthar used the void against him.

The last battle, however, was one that was promised to be a good one. After all, it was between sisters, Miriam and her big sister, Vampire Queen Tifa.

Chapter 1068: Sisters Battle

"Ladies and gentlemen, after two shocking battles, we are finally about to witness the last battle of the day," Pickle Berry said, stirring everyone watching the competition.

"However, before we begin, I would like to announce that this battle is special. It is a one-of-a-kind experience that I believe everyone will enjoy greatly.

The reason it will be a special one is that the battle is between two sisters who were separated for 50 years before reuniting in a moment that I am sure will bring most to tears when they experience it in theaters a year from now.

Now, they each are a powerhouse gearing up to defend this world from the heavens.

They have proven how brave they are, and I think you all can bear witness that when it comes to having the best interest at heart, these two sisters have done their part."

Miriam's image appeared, "War Goddess Miriam had fought and protected several cities from the days the heavens fell and the world went into chaos.

She fought and protected the innocent from harm, and now, she is gearing up to face the doom that is coming to us."

Tifa's image appeared next, "And while most of you didn't know this, the Vampire Queen saw the best in everyone, and so even as zombies, she managed to save them and help them regain their sanity.

She not only saw humans as the righteous, but she also gave the zombies a chance, and now they will stand alongside us humans as evolved and ready-to-fight warriors.

Ladies and gentlemen, the battle between the War Goddess Miriam and her big sister Vampire Queen Tifa is about to start in the Kade Antic Arena."

A grey planet appeared on every screen and quickly zoomed in on the planet's surface, showing two ladies standing 100 meters apart.

The arena is situated in a desert, featuring both hard ground and sand.

There will be dust if you stomp hard on the ground, but it is not too soft to sink the feet into the ground if the stomp is too hard.

Tifa stood opposite her sister, a calm smile on her face.

She wanted this moment, and now that she has it, she plans to make the best of it.

"Are you ready?" she asked.

"Born ready," Miriam answered.

Tifa smiled and took out two short swords. Miriam also retrieved her sword, but hers is only a single sword. She only uses one sword.

"Then prove to me you are capable of handling yourself," Tifa said, and Miriam nodded.

"BEGIN"

At the same time, Pickle Berry's voice entered their heads, prompting them to move.

The two sisters moved and clashed in a symphony of metal, one that caused sparks to fly.

Miriam swung her sword in a horizontal arc. However, Tifa was quick to block with her left sword and used the right to counter, stabbing it toward Miriam's chest.

But she was also a step ahead.

Miriam twisted her body, letting the sword narrowly miss her body. But it scraped against her golden armour, creating sparks.

Miriam used her hand to grab hold of Tifa's left sword, and, using her knee, she tried to strike her right hand, aiming to send the sword in her hand flying to the ground.

But who is Tifa, if not one of the most dangerous vampires in the world?

Before Miriam could hit her hand, she dissolved into blood mist and evaded her attack.

When her body reassembled, she held a smile on her face while Miriam seemed to sense that this was not going to go well for her.

Of course, unlike Eryx, she was not about to give up. Her sister is a vampire, so she can't use the Blood Mist skill like Queenie, who is an Asura. This means she isn't invincible yet.

Miriam's sword glowed golden, and then she swung it hard, sending a golden arc at Tifa. The sword arc contained her light element, which seemed to possess reality-warping capabilities.

The space around it grew soft, and Tifa, who wanted to use Blood Mist to evade, felt that if she used it, she would not be able to completely evade Miriam's attack.

Queenie, who was watching from outside, managed to keep a smile on her face when she saw this.

"Smart move, Miriam. Without Blood Step added to Blood Mist, evading this is impossible," she said, watching as Tifa swung her sword, raising a blood wall.

The golden sword arc slammed into it, creating an explosion. However, Tifa, who sensed her surroundings becoming hard again, moved using a Blood Mist before the explosion could reach her.

"That was smart, Miriam," Tifa said, looking toward her baby sister, who held a small smile on her face, feeling proud of her sister's praise.

"I am not done." Miriam's entire body glowed golden, and then she moved, her speed increasing even more. Tifa smiled and also moved.

However, instead of her body glowing, a faint red smoke started rising off her body. The moment the smoke appeared, her speed also surged.

Within mere seconds, the two sisters exchanged many sword strikes. However, none of them seemed to have the upper hand.

So their blades continued to meet in fierce close combat, one that only allowed them to show their mastery with the sword.

After five minutes, the two sisters had exchanged hundreds of sword attacks, each fierce and deadly.

Everyone watching held their breath, reacting to every movement made by the two sisters.

"Too slow, Miriam. If this continues, I will behead you before you know it," Tifa said, blocking a swing from Miriam, and then using her left leg, she landed a kick on her stomach, sending her flying back.

Miriam said nothing.

She instead moved faster than before and closed in with her sister yet again.

However, before she could attack with her sword, Tifa stomped on the ground, and blood rose from the ground and covered Miriam's legs.

Her movement came to a halt.

But the next second, chains made of blood latched onto her hands, locking her in place.

Tifa moved, stabbing her right sword toward her chest.

However, Miriam merely smiled, and her light element surged. The chains binding her arms dissolved instantly, almost as if they had been set on fire.

She moved and closed the distance between them.

However, Tifa didn't seem to mind that her blood chains were easily dissolved. She even looks impressed by how Miriam neutralised her skill.

She clashed with Miriam again, and this time, she chose a different approach.

Miriam also learned from her lesson, so her legs and arms were covered in a golden light.

"Blinding Slash." She swung her sword, and yet another light arc flashed out. Tifa defended against it with her own blood arc.

"Light Emergence Strike."

Miriam attacked again, this time opening tiny portals where beams of light shot out, creating a devastating explosion around Tifa.

"Nice play, Miriam, but still not enough."

Whoosh, whoosh.

Two blood arcs came from the explosion, sending Miriam flying back. Miriam regained her footing without fail.

Her sword shook violently in her hand, yet she dashed forward, aiming for another close combat.

It was plain as day that Miriam was good at close combat. Of course, if this were to be some other battle, perhaps she would have had luck in close combat.

However, Tifa also excelled in close combat, so she wasn't having it easy. Thankfully, she wasn't being suppressed as well.

Well, at least that was what she and everyone thought.

Klaus, who was currently watching this from somewhere in Dream City, held a smile on his face, knowing things were anything but simple.

#### Chapter 1069: A Meaningful Battle

"What do you think, Icon?" Klaus asked, drawing a schematic of a formation device he planned to create and use in the upcoming battle.

Icon, who was paying close attention to the battle, answered.

"I believe the Vampire Queen is holding back to allow her sister to match her combat power."

"That is true," Klaus smiled, "But can you estimate by how much she is holding back?"

"I can't estimate her true strength since I don't have data on how strong she really is. However, based on her profile and skills, and the trump cards in her arsenal, I can work something."

"If we were to factor in her bloodline powers and the restriction the heavens have on her, I would say she is fighting at 20% of her strength, meaning she is holding 80% of her powers back."

"Ha," Klaus laughed, "You really are innocent, Icon. You see, when it comes to the heavens, they take pride in creating weapons worth fearing, and this Vampire Queen was one beautiful weapon."

Back when we fought, I was at the 'Law' Core Formation stage, and she was an Empyrean, a stage ahead of me.

However, even back then, with my Core Formation stage strength, which allowed me to kill even Immortal Emperors, I struggled against her.

Do you know why?"

"I don't, Master."

"It is because the lady you are looking at is a weapon. Every part of her body is a weapon. She was created to become someone who, regardless of the situation she finds herself in, can always keep going.

This is why it will sound shocking, but the current her is merely using 5% of her power while Miriam is using 25%."

The beautiful Icon seemed to have been taken aback by this discovery.

"This is disturbing," she said, and Klaus nodded.

"Indeed, Icon, this is indeed disturbing. Not only is she overpowered, but she is practically unkillable.

Of course, that is good for her, but I still can't shake the feeling that if we fail to take back her fate, then regardless of the outcome of the awakening, Earth is doomed."

Klaus sighed, watching as Tifa clashed fiercely with her sister.

Icon studied Klaus' expression and, as a system, she immediately created ways for her master to handle the possible outcomes.

"The master must be prepared to put her down if things turn out unfavorably. I already have ways to go about that."

Klaus smiled, "That is easier said than done, Icon. If killing her was that simple, she would have let me do that in the first place.

However, she knew that outcome would be bad."

"How so?"

"Because if I were to kill her, the heavens would win, and their winning is like a sword through my heart. I cannot kill her, and nobody else can do it either.

This means she must be saved no matter what."

Klaus laughed, watching as Tifa was sent flying back by Miriam.

"Bastards. They truly came prepared this time. They saw this day, and they planned well for it."

"So what is the master planning on doing?" Icon even seemed worried.

As a system, although she was still growing, she had been doing all she could to create favorable outcomes for the battle coming.

She had made considerable progress.

However, the past days had seen her hitting a roadblock whenever she factored in Vampire Queen Tifa's nature as Heaven's Executioner into her equations.

This left her frustrated, even for a sentient intelligence being.

Klaus smiled and used his thumb to brush Icon's hair, "I don't have a way out now, Icon. So I will fight, and the outcome will be determined by how powerful I have become and how determined I am to raise the middle finger at the heavens."

"Then does the master have an estimation for his winning margin?"

"Indeed. I calculate that winning will be relative. However, factoring in the undistributed 16 Bloodline points, if the opponent is not 3 times stronger than me, then I have a 3% chance of winning and a 97% chance of failure."

"Then what is the master's chance of winning if the opponent is at the Life stage and 5 times stronger than the master?" Icon asked and added, "Per the seniors' data, he indicated that the Heavens' Adjudicator can break the rules to some extent."

Factoring his data into account and isolating the probable schemes the heavens will play, there is an 18% chance the Heavens' Adjudicator will be at the Life stage and 5 times stronger than the master."

"I would like to stay positive, Icon." Klaus laughed, "But in any case, I would be forced to use the throne if things were to reach that level."

Icon smiles, knowing her master's Throne is one that will shake the foundation of this universe again.

Inside Oracle, the battle between Miriam and her sister had been ongoing for the past 30 minutes, but neither seemed to be backing down.

People were enjoying it, considering the first two battles ended much faster.

By the time 45 minutes had passed, the clash grew even fiercer.

"Don't lower your shoulder, Miriam, that will allow a small, almost hidden opening to appear. Many might not see it, but I can, and others would also." Tifa used the hilt of her left sword to hit Miriam's shoulder, sending her skidding back.

"Thanks, big sister," Miriam said, dashing toward her sister again. Their clash kept getting fiercer. However, Tifa seemed to be using the moment to teach her sister.

"Your left leg is moving too slowly when swinging from right to left." Tifa blocked her attack and then, using her right leg, she struck forward, hitting Miriam's left leg.

"Don't show the direction you will be swinging unless you want your opponent to always anticipate your attacks."

"Okay, big sister."

As more time passed, the battle grew fiercer; however, the two sisters were still far from completion.

At least that was how things were being presented. However, as more time passed, Miriam began to sense that something was amiss.

Her sister had been correcting her flaws for an hour already. Of course, she was grateful; however, she couldn't help but sense something wasn't adding up.

This prompted her to also start looking for openings for her sister. However, instead of physical openings, she was aiming for emotional openings.

Two hours into the battle, Miriam spotted the first opening, and so she aimed for it.

"Big sister, why do I feel like this is a farewell battle?"

This question caused Tifa to falter. This allowed Miriam to move closer, and before Tifa could recover, Miriam's sword touched her neck.

However, despite winning, Miriam didn't smile; instead, she asked a question that caused the entire world to turn quiet.

"Big sister, are you leaving me again?"

Klaus, who to some degree expected this outcome, sighed.

Miriam was intelligent.

Among her sisters, aside from Lulu, Nebula, Sofia, Princess Eshira, and Lunara, who had recalled their past lives, she had also made progress.

She discovered that she was the infamous Tyrant Queen, who was obsessed with a paragon to the point that she waged war on his enemies.

In that life, she was extremely intelligent, and as she began unraveling her memories, her uncanny and tyrannical yet intelligent mind started to return to her.

As such, what would have escaped Miriam if she were just a human without memories of her past life didn't escape her now that she had become several times more intelligent.

Tifa was left speechless, not expecting her sister to discover the meaning behind their battle.

"I will be back, Icon." Klaus vanished and appeared in Paradise City, where the competition was being hosted.

Chapter 1070: This is not Goodbye

"End the transmission."

Klaus issued the order right when he appeared beside Pickle Berry.

Pickle Berry nodded and cut the transmission of Miriam and her sister to the rest of the world.

Many who wanted to see what happened next became sad, but some matured enough to realize the battle was over, and the next thing was something they weren't supposed to see; they sighed and went on about their day.

It is too personal for the rest of the world to see.

However, back inside Oracle, Miriam stood frozen, staring at her sister.

Tifa was also frozen, never expecting her sister to discover her true reason for joining the League of Defiance. Now that she had, she had no idea what to do.

"Big sister, don't tell me you really are leaving me again," Miriam asked, running toward her sister and hugging her.

Tifa willed herself not to cry.

She forced herself to hug her sister back. Of course, while she was but a weapon created by the heavens, at her core, she is still human.

Thus, while she did not want to cry, her emotions overcame her, and she began shedding tears.

Miriam, who felt her sister's tears, felt her heart break.

She knew, even without Tifa saying anything, that she was indeed leaving.

And since Miriam is that intelligent, she knew this leaving wasn't one they would ever reunite from again. Unlike the first time, when they were merely separated because she became a zombie, this time, she knew she would be leaving for good.

Just knowing that was enough for her not to want to let her sister go.

However, Tifa knew she had to tell her something else; Miriam would be broken for good.

Klaus, who expected this outcome, chose to leave everything to Tifa. If she manages to handle it, then he will use his charms to assure Miriam that he will do everything in his power to save her sister.

After a couple of minutes of hugging, Tifa pulled her sister back and looked her in the eyes...

“Stop crying, Miriam. I am not going anywhere, so stop crying.”

Miriam shook her head, “I don’t believe you, big sister. I know you, and I knew that, unless you had no other choice, you wouldn’t look the way you do now. This means you really are leaving me...again.”

Tifa forced herself to smile, “You are too smart for your own good, Miriam.”

“So you are indeed leaving me,” Miriam said, her tears falling even more now.

“I am not leaving, Miriam. You know me, I don’t go down without a fight.”

Miriam studied her sister’s expression for a few minutes, her tears continuing to flow down her face. Tifa held her hand, making sure she knew she was there for her.

“Are you in trouble, big sister? Tell me, and I will ask Klaus to save you.”

“Oh,” Tifa smiled, “for a moment I thought you would be the one doing the saving.”

Although Miriam was crying, she blushed, “I am not a child, big sister. I knew you used less than 10% of your strength in the duel. This means I am far behind you, so how am I going to save you from trouble then?”

Tifa shook her head, "Thank you for showing concern, but I didn't ask for this moment to use you to ask for a favour for me. I joined the competition so that you and I could have one last duel.

Obviously, that is over now. However, I would like to spend time with you for the next few days. I want to be there during your wedding and celebrate with you afterwards.

So why don't we have this moment to ourselves, just two sisters, talking and spending time together?"

"I would love that," Miriam said with a nod.

"Great." Tifa moved close, wiped Miriam's tears, and kissed her forehead.

Oracle soon sent them back to the real world.

When they emerged from their gaming pod, they were greeted by the faces of dozens of some of the most beautiful women in the world.

"Miriam, are you alright?" Lily asked, seeing the tears on Miriam's face.

Miriam smiled and assured her sister she was fine, "Don't worry, Lily, I am fine."

"Uhm," Lily nodded and reached for her hand, holding her close. Meanwhile, Tifa was also surrounded by some of Klaus's wives.

"Are you alright?" Queenie asked, and Tifa nodded.

"You lost," Queenie said again, and Tifa nodded yet again.

"Sorry for losing to my sister."

Miriam, who had heard what her sister said, blushed, knowing she had only won because she took advantage of the crack that appeared in her sister's emotional state.

But even so, she felt no shame knowing that in combat, a slight lapse in judgment can result in one's death.

Queenie smiles...

"Too bad. I was hoping you would win so you and I would fight," Queenie said, and Tifa could only shake her head.

"At least I know I would lose knowing what you are made of."

Queenie shook her head slightly, "I know you are stronger than me. Aside from Klaus, you and the Black Panther are two people I can't see myself winning against.

Of course, I am happy knowing that I have two amazing people who will be fighting alongside me and the rest of the Earth's warriors.

However, when everything is over, I want us to have a good duel, one where we will go all out."

"I would love that too," Tifa smiled, though deep within, she sighed, knowing what awaited her.

Yet again, as she looked at the beautiful smiles on everyone's faces who came to check if she was happy, she couldn't help but wish she could emerge from her tribulation alive.

'This is not goodbye. I will not give up without a fight.'

Klaus stood at the entrance to the room, looking at all this with a calm expression. One couldn't tell what is on his mind.

However, without even knowing what was running through his mind, it was plain as day that he was thinking about many things.

Thankfully, he had the mental capacity to think and still unwind.

'Cruel heavens. Why can't you just let two sisters have a happy ending?' Klaus sighed and walked away.

Tifa watched him leave with a heavy heart.

She was once with the heavens, and so she knew just how much pain they put the paragons through. She was one of those pains that nearly ended a paragon's life.

So now knowing her life or death relied on a paragon, she couldn't help but feel like she was still working for the heavens.

'I am sorry, Paragon. I was selfish in thinking that, after all I did, I would be able to live a peaceful and loving life. Who would have thought that because of my decision, you would be forced into a corner yet again?'

Miriam, who was paying attention to her sister, saw the pain that appeared in her eyes when she saw Klaus leaving. This made her connect some dots, and it became clear what needed to happen.

Of course, it wasn't just her who saw this. Almost all of Klaus's wives saw this, and they knew something beyond them was amiss.

'We need to do something,' Miriam said, using the connection she shared with her sisters to telepathically speak to them.

'Indeed. But first, we need Alesi's help.'

Suddenly, the League of Defiance became a secondary concern to Klaus's wives and the well-being of their sister, and her sister's well-being became their priority.

