

Paragon 1261

Chapter 1261: Big Announcement

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I know you all have been entertained so far, right?" A lady, half-naked, judging by what she was wearing, shouted into a microphone as she hovered just a few inches off the ground.

All over the large Arena, thousands of people cheered like crazy.

They are all full of adrenaline now that the Blood Tournament has entered the quarter-finals. All battles in the quarter-finals and onward are always intense, so they are pumped.

Of course, a part of why they are all giddy is because of Klaus.

As a mortal, he had demonstrated great combat ability and extreme combat experience that not only gave him an advantage over his opponents but also made many people look forward to what he would do next.

He alone had become the face of this week's Blood Tournament. They all want to see him in action yet again.

"I know you all are enjoying the shadow. I know I am. What we have seen so far is proof that the Blood Tournament is not dead... it rather keeps getting better every day.

I mean, who would have expected a Mortal who isn't even at the Peak of the Empyrean stage to be this powerful?

I am thrilled. I know you are thrilled, too. In fact, everybody is thrilled to be here today. And we are all ready to see more bloodbaths."

"Hell yeah. I want to see more blood."

"Same here. I want to see that mortal kick ass and gut those hateful immortals." Of course, the man who said this is also an immortal. However, years of crime had made him forget who he is.

But he wasn't the only one hungry for blood.

A lot of immortals that at one point in time were monsters who dared to go against the gods had now become lowly spectators in a straight-up fucked-up bloodbath labelled as a tournament.

Of course, in the current modern universe, the number of Real Immortals and below is everywhere. They are like a useless bunch of immortals.

In this modern Era, only True Immortals are regarded as immortals. So it is perfectly understandable that Immortals who should be putting their lives to good use would gather to witness a massacre on a televised scale.

Back in the day, when a Void could open and spawn terrifying ancient beasts, even Early Immortals were regarded and respected more than anything.

In fact, during the Divine Era, when the gods decided to rule with an iron fist, it was immortals who stood up and said no, leading to a losing battle.

However, in the end, they rewrote the rules forever, liberating the universe from the gods' suppression.

However, now, it seems the universe is much more peaceful thanks to the Heavenly Court and the other powerhouses, so people like this could fool around.

Their cheers filled the entire Arena, even spilling over into the city. The allure of seeing more bloodbath had intoxicated them to the point that their sense of purpose had become jumbled and tangled.

Hearing all their cheerful shouts and cheers, the lady smiled with them. After a while, she brought the mic to her mouth again and continued.

"We will see some blood for sure. After all, we have eight contestants left, and guess what, their battles start in less than 10 minutes.

Even our personal favourite, Blood Sword, is paired against the Chilling Queen herself.

However, before that, I have an announcement to make." The lady pulled out a tablet and turned it on. An image appeared on it the next second.

She made a gesture with the hand holding the mic, and a hologram appeared in the air. It is a colossal skull, possibly from some powerful creature.

Just looking at the skull, Klaus estimated it to be at least 3,000,000 km wide. In fact, the socket of the skull is very large and extremely deep, filled with darkness.

They look like the maw of an abyss that threatens to swallow everything that comes near.

Klaus had never seen this before; however, he read the name, and, judging by everyone's great enthusiasm, he could tell they were happy to see it.

"Hollow Skull Grave," Klaus muttered, watching the hologram.

"As you all know, this is the Hollow Skull Grave, the biggest and greatest underworld Arena in all of the Dervas Star System. It used to be the head of an Underworld Wyvern that was chopped off by the Ice Sword Mistress 300,000 years ago.

Of course, we all know that. We also know that every 3000 years, the Underworld Slaughter Tournament takes place there, where a champion from all underworld organisations below the rank of an Immortal King is sent to compete.

The next tournament is just 14 months away, and it is going to be a blast," she paused to let people get acquainted with what she had said.

After a minute, she continued... "Guess what, the Black Tempest Cartel has qualified to participate this time around. This means, in 14 months, our very own Cartel will send a rep who will be escorted personally by the leader of the Black Tempest Cartel - Lord Varkos."

Cheers rang out once more.

To the delinquents of society, this league that always resulted in the death of hundreds of thousands of their fellow criminals sounded like a fun thing to them.

Whenever the Underworld Slaughter Tournament takes place, the entire underworld flips upside down. It is a cruel trial that shakes every corner of the underworld.

One gets to witness the cruelty of the criminals who are selected to participate. In fact, in this tournament, all bets are off. At the end of the day, they want to see blood and blood and blood and more blood.

Hundreds of thousands will enter, and only three will walk out alive. Those three will become the newest Champions of the Dervas Underworld Organisation.

It is a trial of blood and metal, one that will shake the whole star system.

"I know you are wondering why I am announcing this now when I could have waited for the finals. Well, the reason is simple.

I was told to make this announcement since this will be the last Blood Tournament until after the Underworld Slaughter Tournament."

Shouts rang out in the crowd as many started asking question after question.

"Relax, everyone. I know you have questions, but know this order came from the big boss.

In 4 months, another blood tournament will be held, with the winners of the last 128 blood tournaments competing for the chance to represent the Black Tempest Cartel in the Underworld Slaughter Tournament.

Details will be announced later, but know this: 4 months from now, we all will meet here to witness a massacre unlike one we have seen before.

This also means whoever wins this week's Blood Tournament will be the 128th member to join that exciting battle and get to ride with the big boss himself.

Of course, participating in the Underworld Slaughter Tournament is good exposure, but who wouldn't want to have the honour of riding in the same ship with the big boss?"

She smiled slightly, "That will be all. Now, let's start the quarter-finals."

Cheers filled the Arena yet again.

Chapter 1262: Klaus vs Niva (1)

Because the Blood Tournaments are fought within a day, the four quarterfinal battles will be fought at the same time in four separate arenas.

This means the audience will be divided into four, since everyone has their preference.

Klaus and Niva had occupied the biggest arena. This is due to the sensation Klaus had created in his first three battles. They were all captured by his brilliance and combat acumen, and so his battles are now the highlight.

Now, everyone wants to watch him battle Niva, so the biggest arena was assigned to their battle. Of course, their battle will also receive the most attention, as it was the largest of the four quarter-final battles.

Klaus is a young mortal genius, while Niva is a deadly vixen whose overwhelming abilities have captured the attention of many so far.

Soon, Klaus and Niva were standing in the arena, her cold gaze locked on Klaus. The 30 meters around her is frozen solid, the Law of Ice radiating off it.

'Looks like she is not joking around.'

[She is here to kill the leader of the Black Tempest Cartel, Master. If she were joking around, she wouldn't have come here in the first place.]

Klaus didn't bother telling Icon he meant that to be a rhetorical thought. However, there is some substance to what she said. Niva indeed didn't come there to have a relaxing vacation.

Her mission is to kill an Immortal King, and so she came prepared to win.

'Too bad I will be standing in her way here,' Klaus smiled and gave the command to Icon to connect the two of them.

Suddenly, Niva's brow furrowed just when a voice entered her head.

'The weather is rather hot for you to hold such a frown on your face.' Klaus smiled, causing Niva to narrow her gaze at him. She said nothing, but the fact that Klaus could speak into her mind told her what she had to know.

'Who are you, and how can you access my mind?'

The communication wasn't happening through the use of spiritual qi. She could just hear Klaus in her head... That means he, in a way, was able to access her mind.

That is not something she can take easily.

'I am Klaus, but these losers call me Blood Sword. Of course, as to how I was able to access your mind, that is my secret. However, I have something to tell you.'

'I have nothing to hear from you, so leave my head and prepare to die.'

Klaus almost laughed; however, he masked it with a cough.

Niva meant every word she said, which to Klaus sounded like she didn't want to be saved. If she were to be a True Immortal, then Klaus wouldn't have said anything and just run.

He knew deep within him that killing a True Immortal was not going to be easy at all. So he wouldn't have bothered. However, a Medium-level Real Immortal is not a worry to him.

But hearing Niva's determined voice in his head made him chuckle.

'Prepare to die, you say... Those are some bold words for a pretend criminal.' Klaus smiled and walked to his left, giving Niva a wink.

They still have 2 minutes before the battle starts, so he wanted to use the moment to convince Niva to accept defeat and let him take on her revenge mission.

Of course, being called a pretend criminal struck a deep chord in her heart. Her eyes narrowed further, chills radiating off her body.

In an instant, the 30-meter frozen radius had expanded to 50 meters. The temperature dropped even further, causing the Ice Laws to start reacting wildly with the air.

'Damn, you didn't exaggerate when you said she is dangerous, Icon.'

[Of course I didn't. Her understanding of the Law of Ice and Space Law is quite advanced. The Master should be careful.]

Klaus nodded inwardly, hearing what his system had said. Icon is now more advanced than before the awakening, so her words are well researched and hold some substance.

If she said Niva is a threat to him, then he will take her seriously and not dally.

Klaus decided not to play around and take action.

'I will get straight to the point, so listen. I know you are here to kill Varkos for killing your friend. I also know all the people you allegedly killed are still alive and hiding in a different star system.

This all means I know you are not a criminal. You are just here to get revenge. So killing you isn't something I will be happy about. I am only here to get into the exclusive auction that will commence three hours after the Blood Tournament.

They have something on sale that I want, so I cannot afford to lose it. However, I also cannot kill you in good conscience. This is why I have a proposal I believe will benefit both of us.'

Niva didn't respond. Not even her expression changed. However, the icy coldness kept intensifying by the second.

'I will just say it. Just like you, I am no criminal... Well, I have my low moments, but I don't kill innocents for sport.

I am only here to buy that item, and the only way to get it is to win the Blood Tournament. So here is my offer... Allow me to take on your mission and, in the process, save your life.

I will keep you safe somewhere nobody will find you, and in return, I will help you kill Varkos. Of course, I can kill him on my own, but since this is your mission, you will deliver the killing blow.

We don't have to fight and kill each other. I, for one, cannot gather the courage to kill you, so think about my offer and tell me what you think.'

Just when Klaus ended his words, a cold and chilling voice entered his mind... 'I have no idea who you are referring to. But I am here to win, so you can die by my blade.'

Klaus smiled and extended his hand, summoning the Flame Eater Bow. Then, with a wave, ten spears appeared again and hovered above him.

These spears were much more slender than the ones he used against Raxxion. Of course, these spears are much more deadly than the previous ones.

Of course, rank-wise, the first spears were legendary grade spirit weapons. These ones are Mystical grade, making them much more deadly.

Klaus would take the battle seriously, since this wouldn't be an easy win.

They lit the next second on fire, painting the air with different hues. All four flame elements augmented both the spears and the bow, casting the orange, white, deer-red, and golden hues across the arena.

By then, the robot had already lit up blue, indicating they should get ready to battle. Klaus's eyes turned cold, though a smile was playing on his lips.

'Since you don't want to hear reason, I will knock it into your frozen brain.' Flame wings burst out on Klaus's back, and the moment the robot turned green, he exploded forward, a large arrow escaping his bow.

Chapter 1263: Klaus vs Niva (2)

Niva moved the instant Klaus fired the arrows.

Her reaction speed is even faster than Seraya, who was an assassin. This shows just what kind of monster Niva is and why Klaus should take her seriously.

She quickly tapped into the Law of Space and harnessed its insidious power, aiming to make Klaus's life hard from the get-go.

Space folded around her like rippling glass, her body vanishing and reappearing three meters to the right. The arrow streaked past her, carving a molten line across the frozen ground.

The impact shook the arena.

However, just when the flame mixed with her ice, the temperature plunged again, extinguishing it.

In retaliation, a pillar of ice erupted beneath Klaus's feet, trying to skewer him. Klaus flipped back, wings flaring. He landed lightly as the ice spire shattered where he once stood.

'Excellent control of Ice, huh. She is not a cookie that can be cracked easily.' Klaus smiled.

Just when he landed on the ground, Niva raised her hand, causing the air to turn even colder. The ice started to stir, and the space started to freeze.

Nirvana's tattoo on his arm lit up, warming his body.

Dozens of crystalline blades formed behind her, each one humming with both Ice Law and spatial distortion.

She snapped her finger, and the blades warped forward with deadly speed. One had to applaud her control...

They weren't just sharp—they were vibrating between locations, making their trajectory impossible to predict. To understand their trajectory, one would also need to be familiar with space law.

However, Klaus was already prepared even without harnessing his comprehension of the space law.

Tapping into his Hivemind, he calculated countless directions instantly. His hivemind allowed him to think much faster than the ordinary folk, so making complex computations wasn't at all difficult for him.

His flame wings wrapped around him, shielding him as he shot backward, each step melting the ground. He pulled the bowstring, but he didn't unleash an arrow. Instead, a white and golden fire condensed instantly into a blazing spear-shaped shot.

The space shuddered, and flames burst out of Klaus's body.

Looking at the two of them, one surrounded by ice-cold blue ice and one surrounded by multicolored flames, everyone cheered loudly.

This sight is magical, and they could see and feel the cold, flaming intensity in the air.

The fiery spear tore through five of the spatial-ice blades, evaporating them instantly. Klaus's calculation was spot on, but also skewed, indicating that he isn't yet at the point where he can predict everything.

To get it right, he had to apply the space law as well. However, he isn't doing that since it will be draining and tiring.

The remaining blades curved midair and chased him like hungry ghosts. With space folding around them, they were moving much faster than they should.

'She is actually controlling them independently... how troublesome.'

One blade closed in on his shoulder. However, Klaus swung his bow like a staff, smashing it apart in a burst of steam.

However, that was when Klaus realized he had fallen into a deadly trap.

'Damn, she really wants me dead, doesn't she. I just wanted to help you.'

A massive yet complex ice formation erupted, instantly encasing Klaus. It expanded into a circular dome of frozen space, swallowing everything within a 20-meter radius.

Klaus didn't even have a chance to make a move. Not even the void step would have saved him from this formation.

Klaus's brows lifted. A part of him felt amused while the other felt cautious of Niva. Despite having 450 minds, he couldn't calculate this outcome.

In fact, he never saw it coming, nor can he pinpoint when Niva executed this move.

From what he had seen and experienced so far, she only attacked him with blades made of ice. He destroyed five using his arrow and cut one with his bow, while the others were wasted.

It all happened in under two seconds, and through it all, Niva didn't move. So, the question is, how did she manage to cast that formation and accurately predict where Klaus would be, so she could manifest it?

'Unless the blades aren't the main attack.' Klaus smiled inwardly, a part of him wishing Niva would listen to reason and let him save her. Her talent is monstrous.

'Using blades as a conduit to draw and activate a formation. I need to copy her.' Klaus looked around and saw that there was no sound entering the dome.

"That's new."

He shot upward, wings blazing.

But the dome reacted instantly—space twisted, and the top of the dome appeared above him again, locking him inside like a shifting cage.

Niva's cold voice echoed inside his skull.

'You cannot run from space itself. So relax and let me freeze you to death.'

Klaus grinned. 'Who said I'm running?'

He raised his hand, sending commands to his spirit weapons.

All ten flame spears ignited at once, the four flame elements roaring like beasts. Niva sensed danger, so she pulled her focus away from the dome of ice to focus on the spears.

The moment Niva's attention shifted, the dome's pressure loosened—only slightly, but enough to give Klaus an opening to make his move and break free from his confinement.

At the moment, he is at a disadvantage.

Niva had him suppressed, and while he can employ other means to break free, Klaus could yet again sense the True Immortal locked his gaze on him.

But even if he wasn't there, just being at a disadvantage is enough for Klaus to train and advance his combat power using just the bow and the flame element.

Klaus felt the space around him tremble.

He forced his wings open, flooding the dome with a violent pulse of flame.

He wove the flame laws into his flames, causing cracks of molten gold to ripple across the frozen barrier, though they sealed almost instantly as Niva refocused.

Outside the dome, Niva lifted her palm.

A chilling circle of runes spun beneath her feet. Then an ancient sigil of Ice Law and Space Law intertwined.

The arena floor beneath her froze into a fractal pattern, shimmering with deadly ice-cold intent.

The coldness grew even colder, causing the defense barriers to be reinforced to protect the audience. However, even with that, they started to break slowly, showing that Niva was not joking around.

Klaus didn't need Icon to tell him this was dangerous, that his life was in danger.

Inside the dome, the air had condensed so severely that every breath cut his throat like shards of frost. Ice crystals formed along his hair, lashes, and wings, weighing him down.

He clenched his teeth.

"Explode."

On the outside, like how he had intended, all ten flaming spears detonated at once.

The explosion didn't burn outward—it bent space itself, collapsing into a spiraling inferno. Klaus harnessed the flame law to create that explosive effect.

And it worked as intended. The dome buckled. Cracks spiderwebbed across its surface.

For a heartbeat, it seemed ready to shatter...

However, Niva didn't let that happen. She slammed her hands together and focused more ice into them. Then she taps into the space law.

The dome restored itself, stronger, denser, colder.

Klaus hissed. 'That's troublesome. She reinforced it with Space Lock.'

Outside, Niva raised two fingers, and Klaus felt his life threatened.

Chapter 1264: Klaus vs Niva (3)

The moment Niva's two fingers tightened, the temperature plummeted so sharply that the arena lights flickered. The audience shuddered, feeling the cold air blow past them.

Those with weak resistance to ice felt their bones freeze and turn brittle.

"Wow, that is chilling even for a Real Immortal like me."

"I know, right. Looks like Blood Sword is in trouble this time around. This is the first time Niva is using space law to fight, and it seems she is rather good with it."

"It seems so. He is completely suppressed with no way of escaping... Unless, of course, he knows space law too."

"That is unlikely for a mortal. Harness the law of space is something even Immortals find draining."

A needle-thin strand of frozen needle formed at her fingertips—a compressed killing line that could slice through mountains like silk.

Niva basically compressed space into a needle. When released, defending against it will become a headache for Klaus.

Inside the dome, Klaus felt the threat instantly. His heart pounded once—just once—as instinct screamed to not dally.

[Master, the attack is called Spatial Sever. When unleashed, it will attack your core and shatter it from within. So you cannot allow it to hit your core.] Icon warned.

'Spatial Sever...sounds ominous'

The dome shifted, aligning itself so the attack would fire straight into him without resistance. Klaus saw this and started making his move to defend too.

Niva flicked her fingers, and a beam of razor-thin frozen needle shot forward, silent, and invisible.

Klaus reacted on instinct.

He crossed his flame wings before him, slamming every flame law he understood into them.

Orange, white, deep red, and gold flames burst out in a violent swirl, heating the frozen air until the dome began to hiss like boiling steel.

The Spatial Sever struck.

The impact was... soundless.

Klaus's flame wings shook violently, cracking at the edges as the spatial cut sliced through them.

Klaus gritted his teeth, blood coming from the corner of his lips. This time, he had met his match.

"Not... enough," Klaus muttered, his mind spinning to gather the next best move to use.

"I can't use the void since that is my trump card. I also cannot use those weapons unless I want every criminal chasing after me. If that happens, it will even affect my True Identity. So I must win using the flame law."

Klaus is determined, and that determination seems to fuel his strength.

He wanted to create many personas and until he knew what the mission on Planet Korvel-3 will go, he wouldn't reveal too much of her. Once he completes that mission, then perhaps he will create a proper criminal life.

He pushed more flame forward, forcing Nirvana, Fury, Void, and Qilin to fuse into a single point of heat. Klaus compressed the four flames at his disposal, weaving complex arrays of flame laws.

A miniature sun flickered between his wings, igniting the air in fiery radiance. In an instant, the ice started to melt.

However, Klaus also paid for it. His core was being drained so rapidly that he knew he had to end the battle soon, or else he would be forced to reveal more than he should.

The frozen spatial beam began to warp, bending around the heat. However, while the law of space contained in the beam is potent and complex, it had no luck breaking the miniature sun.

Outside, Niva lowered her hand slightly, eyes narrowing.

'He blocked it...'

She looked genuinely impressed that Klaus managed to block her attack. In fact, something in her heart accepted defeat just from this feat alone.

A mortal managing to block one of her signature techniques is more than enough reason to know Klaus is not an ordinary person.

'Just who are you?' she asked inwardly, finally seeing Klaus as a worthy opponent. However, she wasn't about to grow soft on him.

She raised her other hand.

Dozens of frozen sigils ignited around her, each with layered circles that stacked upward into a floating, rotating array. Its beauty captured everyone's attention.

However, inside the dome, Klaus's brows twitched. A feeling he once felt during his 4th incarnation, when he battled the Domain Ice Lady for 7 days before he was forced to run away, surfaced in his mind.

'This is getting out of hand quickly,' Klaus said inwardly.

Back then, the Domain Ice Lady used a law that came from the Primordial Era. Laws from that era are complex and ancient.

They even said such laws are what the modern era used to derive their primitives laws from.

Most of those Primordial laws are mostly used for superimposition. In other words, if one attack doesn't kill, they will reinforce it into something that can kill.

Because of this knowledge, Klaus immediately realised what Niva was about to do.

'She's building a formation on top of a formation. Damn it—she's too talented for her own good.'

[The Master asked for it, and he got it. Now, find a way to survive.]

Klaus smiled and flapped his wings once, shattering the thin frost on his shoulders.

But before he could try to make an escape, the dome shifted again.

The inner walls bent, folding like mirrors toward a single focal point.

Klaus's eyes narrowed.

'She's compressing space inside the dome... a collapse attack.'

Klaus, in a strange way, smiled despite feeling his life in danger. He smiled because, while Niva is not a criminal, he kind of wanted to have a true deathmatch with her.

In Niva's mind, she is aiming to kill. But Klaus wasn't... He wouldn't kill her since her mission is a noble cause.

However, seeing how terrifyingly powerful and intelligent she is, he couldn't help but feel sad that this wasn't a deathmatch. This made him smile.

The air grew heavier within the dome. His hair and feathers froze again.

Then the dome vibrated, shrinking inward.

Outside, the sigils stabilized behind Niva, releasing waves of ice.

She whispered coldly, emotionless, in his mind.

'Frozen Singularity.'

The entire dome began collapsing into a single, deadly point. The more it collapsed, the more threatening the dome became to Klaus.

However, he didn't just sit there and do nothing. He reacted instantly.

He threw his bow into the air.

The Flame Eater Bow spun, absorbing the four flame elements swirling around him.

"Alright then... let's see whose law burns hotter." Klaus gritted his teeth, feeling the space collapsing around him.

He slammed his palms together, creating a crackling sound.

His flame wings folded inward, wrapping around his body like a protective cloth.

Suddenly, an intense heat surged, so intense the shrinking space trembled. The barrier shielding the audience started to melt, but more kept replacing the damaged ones.

The audience of course continue cheering like a bunch of crazies.

A vortex of flame erupted around Klaus, bathing him all over. Klaus tapped into the flame law again, and this time, he saw a way to break free.

He had been going about the whole process the wrong way. Now, Niva had given him a hint on how to break her dome.

Naturally, Klaus, with his Hivemind, was able to weave the flame law just the way he wanted in less than ten seconds.

It was just that he wouldn't be using an ancient law. His knowledge of Primordial Laws are limited at this moment. So he would just build upon his miniature sun.

Soon, he was done.

"Flame Law: Collapse Break!"

Chapter 1265: Defeating Niva

The miniature sun (fireball) exploded upward, slamming against the dome at the exact moment the singularity tried to compress him.

Klaus timed it perfectly, and it worked...

The dome split in an instant, hairline fractures racing across it like lightning snakes. The explosion was loud and threatening, something Klaus enjoyed doing.

Years back, he loved to explode large fields filled with horrors just for fun. Today, he got to do it as a way to break free from a dangerous bind.

Niva's eyes widened for the first time.

'He's using collapse to counter collapse... But that shouldn't be possible. The collapse law is ancient; he shouldn't be able to use it. Even I can barely use it without compressing my cells.'

The fact that Klaus had defended against her attack by countering it with something she was proud of shook her. Finally, she asked the question she had been holding back.

'Who are you, really?'

Klaus didn't reply to her. He first formed a complex hand seal, and the Chaotic Nirvana flame surged out like a violent storm.

A deafening crack echoed through the arena as the dome finally ruptured, exploding outward in a shower of debris. Ice shards infused with intense heat scattered everywhere.

Klaus burst out of the collapsing formation, wings blazing, steam rolling off his body. He had finally broken free from his temporary prison.

It turned out that he had to break free from a dome formed using space law and Ice; all he had to do was collapse the space inside by exploding it.

He pointed the bow downward, glaring at Niva with a smile on his handsome face... 'I am a winner, Niva. So, you can either submit and let me save you, or I will beat you into submission.'

Niva didn't blink. Her cold blue eyes locked on Klaus, a single sweat forming on her forehead.

She had poured so much space essence into that last attack, hoping to kill Klaus with it, but as it happens, things aren't as simple as they look.

'I will kill you now,' she said coldly, her voice entering Klaus's mind like a frozen transmission.

She stepped forward, her eyes glowing with frigid killing intent.

Then she whispered.

"Absolute Zero State."

The temperature suddenly fell so drastically that even Klaus's flames began to dim.

'Oh... this just got serious. Too bad I now have to beat you till you can't lift a finger.'

The world froze.

Not just the ground, not just the air, it felt like reality itself shuddered as Niva entered Absolute Zero State.

Frost crawled across the arena floor in fractal veins, spreading so fast the reinforced barriers cracked like brittle glass. Everyone started to panic at the sudden turn of events.

From the start of the battle to this point, Niva had been harnessing the power of her ice element...However, she didn't harness it to its truest potential.

The fact is, on top of her having an affinity for the Ice element, her comprehension of it has already reached the Ice Harmony stage and even transcended to the next level - Absolute ice.

This form of ice can only be countered with another Absolute element. It is, as most likely to say, the divine form of the element.

If Klaus wants to continue with his flame element, then it must be an Absolute flame.

Every breath he drew felt like inhaling needles dipped in liquid ice. Klaus appeared calm on the surface, but inwardly, he began to debate whether saving Niva was even worth it.

'I mean, she wants me dead, so killing her is fine, right?' Klaus chuckled inwardly, but then his brow furrowed.

Niva vanished just like that.

She did not teleport.

Nor did she move.

She simply ceased to exist at one point and appeared a heartbeat later—right in front of Klaus.

A blade of condensed Absolute Zero Ice extended from her hand, humming with deadly intent. The air around it, as it moved, froze solid.

Klaus's eyes widened.

'I didn't see that come.'

The frozen blade descended with deadly precision.

Klaus snapped his wings shut, rotating midair as the blade grazed his cheek. A streak of white frost spread across his skin, freezing a thin layer instantly.

He landed with a skid, flames erupting under his feet to keep his legs from freezing solid.

But Niva was already behind him. She moved with flashing speed, attempting to stab Klaus in the heart. However, just when her blade was 3 inches from him, Klaus extended his hand and grabbed it.

"Woman... I admire your spirit. But I'm starting to think knocking you out is the only way to protect your stubborn ass."

Klaus's hand moved and landed five punches on five different parts of her body. Before the 6th, she vanished and appeared 20 meters from him.

'You will thank me later,' Klaus transmitted to her, and then he extended his hand, all four flames at his disposal ignited.

Nirvana, Fury, Void, and Qilin formed into a deadly arrow, which Klaus quickly loaded into his bow and aimed at her.

'I have locked five meridian pathways in your body, so if you don't want to cripple yourself, play along and let me help you get back to your life faster and safer.'

Klaus didn't wait for her reply; he just released the arrow, allowing it to streak through the frozen air. Then, just when it was a meter from her, it exploded, swallowing her in a storm of fire.

Klaus formed a hand seal, and the flame surged even more.

"AaaaarrrrggghHHH"

From within, Niva screams painfully. This scream caused many to shudder deep in their spine.

However, Klaus didn't allow her to relax

Three more arrows were released, and the more they enter the storm of fire, the more she screams. The flame was, in fact, so intense that more barriers were raised.

Klaus had long attained Absolute Flame and Ice. In fact, if he finds a rather cold place, he can turn his seven Ice elements into elemental spirits like he did with his four flames with Lunara's help.

"If you have Absolute Ice, I have Absolute Fire," Klaus said with a chuckle before unleashing another fire arrow.

And just like that, the screams stop coming from the dome. Soon, the fire died down, and to everyone's shock, not even a bone was left behind.

This caused the entire arena to turn quiet. Not even a single soul dared to make a peep.

On the other hand, Varkos and his people felt their blood run cold as they lost yet another Immortal Spirit.

Niva just ceased to exist. Unlike what happened to Seraya, Niva lost both her body and her immortal spirit. It felt like Klaus had burned her out of existence.

So, while they would have loved to have the immortal spirit of such a talented warrior, in the end, they lost her to Klaus's flames.

Klaus smiled, taking a deep breath.

Then, for the first time, he turned to his fans and said in some way an arrogant tone.

"At this point, I believe you all would agree they should just hand me the winner title. I have surpassed all expectations so I deserve it"

For a moment, nobody said anything. But then cheers suddenly rang out, causing Klaus to smile before walking away.

Chapter 1266: Maud to the Rescue

[Five Minutes Before Klaus Defeated Niva – Maud's]

Perhaps Klaus had already anticipated he would need a fast exit, so he left Maud with the S-class spaceship after they switched the spaceship just when they were entering Planet Yahmir.

They were entering the Maw of the Abyss after all. It was better to be safe than sorry.

So when he called and asked her to get to work, Maud simply left the planet.

She made sure she left as fast as possible, speeding away in the ship, further out of the comms range for Planet Yahmir. Though she had been pulled away from the bustling fashion festival, she knew the mission came first.

Klaus had already told her she could be called at any moment.

Of course, with her face covered, it was impossible to tell if she was mad or angry. However, as she sat with her eyes closed and muttering some words, one could tell she was ready for anything.

Suddenly, Klaus's voice entered her head: "Maud dear, be ready."

She said nothing, but she formed a hand seal, and at once, the void opened inside the spaceship; however, it wasn't the violent and vicious tears that most often happen during battles.

It was subtle and quiet.

This one was in the form of a portal laced with death energy. If one were to sense it, they would lean more toward a death portal instead of a void portal.

However, it is in fact a Void portal that Klaus and Maud had coordinated to open. It spanned several light-years.

And since the spaceship is moving, Maud had to maintain the portal open long enough and stabilize it for safe travel.

A few minutes later, the portal shuddered, and Niva appeared from within, panting heavily. The portal closed the next second, and Maud raised her head, locking gaze with Niva.

Niva took her dear time to calm herself down before focusing her attention on Maud.

“Who are you?” Niva asked in a rather cold tone.

Maud stared at her for a few seconds before replying, “The one who saved your life...Duh”

Clearly, the reply didn't sit right with Niva, considering how she narrowed her eyes at Maud. However, thinking about what happened just now before she was transported away, she was inclined to accept her words.

Klaus indeed came close to killing her when he unleashed the Absolute form of the Flame element. Niva's strongest move is her absolute Ice. She had hidden it well, and if not for Klaus proving difficult to kill, she wouldn't have shown it.

However, she did, and just when victory was near, Klaus shattered that belief.

In truth, Klaus's Absolute flame was also his trump card he had been holding back for a while now. Of course, his soul bodies had been scheming inside his soul sea.

However, long before the Earth's awakening, Lunara helped him reach the flame harmony stage on Mars.

Afterwards, thanks to the dedication and excellence of his four flame spirits, their ranking ascended to the next level, which is Absolute flame.

Naturally, they had long started mastering the flame laws with Absolute flame when Klaus left them on Earth. So while Niva's Ice is potent, the forbidden flames aren't as simple as they appear to be.

All four of them are forces to reckon with.

So when Klaus fired the 'Multiple-Coloured' arrow, she truly felt death. Luckily for her, Klaus didn't aim to kill, so he used that quick moment of chaos to send her away.

The first arrow was to cover her in the chaos of the moment, shielding her from the eyes of the masses. Then the last three arrows he fired were to open the void.

All the screaming was an act that Niva was forced by Klaus to perform in order to divert suspicion. The last arrow merely closed the void and also created death energy in the air, masking people's beliefs.

They wouldn't be sensing the void if the abundance of energy in the air were death.

"Sit down and relax. Lord Klaus saved you because he deemed you worthy of saving... or perhaps he has a soft spot for women. Also, as to what he had promised you, know that he doesn't break his promises... so all you can really do is relax and let him handle it."

Niva stood there for four good minutes before taking a deep breath. She walked to a chair and sat down.

She said nothing to Maud for a while, only looking out the window, watching space move across her vision.

Eventually, she asked the question that had been bugging her... "Who are you people?"

"I am Maud, Lord Klaus's traveling companion. As for Lord Klaus, he would have to tell you about himself, but know that he is a Hunter, and he merely came to Yahmir for something he can't afford to miss."

Maud paused for a few moments, then she added, "You should be grateful Lord Klaus came to your rescue when he did. Or do you think going after an Immortal King surrounded by five True Immortals is child's play?"

Niva narrowed her eyes at Maud... "Are you implying I am a child?"

“Of course I am implying that. I mean, from my experience, only a child will wake up and think that coming after an Immortal King, while just a Real Immortal, is the right decision to make.

Only Lord Klaus can make such a reckless decision and actually see it through to the end. And you are not Lord Klaus.”

Being called a child clearly didn't sit right with Niva. Being measured against a mortal is even more infuriating.

She is a Real Immortal, after all. If anything, she should be the one calling Maud a child. But as it stands, she indeed had made an impulsive decision that could have cost her her life.

She wouldn't be going after just Varkos; there are five True Immortals who will stand in her way, and that is why she would have lost and possibly even died in the process. If Niva wasn't angry, she would have seen it.

Thankfully, Maud only speaks the truth, so she laid it out to her. Whether she accepts it will depend on her.

“You have already lost, so deal with it. However, since you still have the chance to get your revenge, I will advise you to be happy about that and let the rest take care of itself.

Lord Klaus will get things done, so relax and let him help you. Of course, if you want, I can throw you out and try your luck elsewhere.”

“I wouldn't be too excited just yet,” Niva muttered, looking out the window of the spaceship... “To win, he would have to get through the one called Xar'kul.”

Maud turned her head to the side and stared hard at Niva as if she had seen the biggest dump bitch of the century. In the end, she chuckled and gave Niva something to ponder on.

“If Lord Klaus wanted you dead, you would have died within the first five minutes.”

Somewhere in the locker room, Klaus smiled, feeling amused by the conversation happening between Maud and Niva.

Icon, of course, was streaming everything to him...

Chapter 1267: Deadly Precision

Battles to the death are a stark contrast to battles merely aimed at suppressing the opponent.

As Maud said, if the battle between Klaus and Niva was merely to kill her, he would have achieved that much faster, though not as fast as Maud exaggerated.

But then again, his nine soul bodies hadn't even done anything just yet.

However, if Klaus were to employ all his strength in that battle, it would have taken him only 15 minutes instead of 45 minutes.

But since he managed to defeat her before time ran out, that also counted as a big win, and now Klaus could relish his win.

Defeating Niva had pushed him to his limits in the path of the flame. He never expected to even win just with that, but being pushed that far to the brink was enough to show that, facing even a medium-level Real Immortal, he would have to put in some work.

'I would have to pick fights with loads of Real Immortals even when I become an Early Immortal and see if I can defeat them without using even half of my core/strength.'

Klaus smiled weakly, knowing that if his thoughts were heard, everyone would love to slice and dice him. Considering experimenting with immortals is too much to imagine.

[Master, your next opponent is also a medium-level Real Immortal. He had a smooth run, so he is still energetic.]

'That is not a problem. I still have three saturated cores to burn while the rest slowly restore themselves.'

Klaus closed his eyes for the countdown to the semi-finals.

Maud and Niva had taken the lead to Planet Korvel-3. Once he is done with the Blood Tournament and acquires the item he came for, he will merely teleport to them.

Hopefully, by then, they would be much closer to the planet on which his epic mission is set.

After 15 minutes, which is exactly 19 hours since the Blood Tournament started, Klaus and his next opponent, a swordsman who uses lightning, faced off.

Before the battle even began, his opponent, Ildrr, of course, saw the battle to be an easy win, considering what he heard about Klaus's chaotic battle with Niva.

Such a battle would, without a doubt, have drained him, so this is going to be a cool win for him.

He wanted to use mind games to win.

"You have already proven yourself to us all. However, since this is a battle you cannot walk out of, why don't you give up and hand your head over for a painless death?"

He grinned, feeling like he already had this in the bag.

Klaus looked at him for a few moments before a smile appeared on his face... He then gave Ildrr a reply that caused many to raise their brows.

"Would you believe me if I told you I only use 40% of my true strength in my battles... Well, I used 55% on Niva." Ildrr's expression turned solemn.

Klaus merely widened his smile, and then he lifted his left hand and gave him the middle finger.

“I have seen 86% of your battle style, and based on that, I was able to calculate that if I use 70% of my power, there are 890 outcomes in which I can kill you in less than 5 minutes using less than 10 moves.

And if I use 80% of my power, then the outcome now becomes 971.

What then if I use 100% of my abilities?” Klaus summoned the Flame Eater Bow and retrieved five golden metallic arrows. He let the five arrows hover in the air beside him.

“I don’t have your complete data, but even with that, there is a 200% chance that I can kill you with less than 5 shots.”

At this point, Ildrr was already fuming like a tiger. “I have changed my mind. Regardless of your decision, I will kill you slowly and painfully,” Ildrr said, tapping into his anger.

Klaus’s words had angered him enough to fume... something Klaus was aiming for,

When it comes to mind games, there is nobody better than Klaus.

He smiled and shook his head, casting a pitiful look at Ildrr... “Don’t worry, I will make it quick and painless.” He paused and scratched his head. “Maybe painfully, depending on how well you defend against my first arrow.”

Klaus chuckled and walked back... Then, when he was far away enough, he gave Ildrr one more pitiful look before taunting him further... “They are Soul Arrows, so prepare to scream.”

Just as he said that, the robot appeared and turned red. Klaus also ignited his bow and arrows with pure white flames, tapping into the overwhelming might of Absolute Soul Fury Flame.

Ildrr felt his back break out in cold sweat, feeling a soul-hurting sensation come from his spine.

The robot turned blue, and above Klaus's head, a large bone skull made of white flames appeared, giving Klaus a terrible and insidious look.

He winked at Ildrr, making the poor guy tremble. Klaus further wove a complex illusion into the skull, so when Ildrr locked gazes with the hollow and abyssal sockets of the skull, his mind started to lose focus.

'What an idiot,' Klaus smiled inwardly, watching Ildrr lose the battle before it even began. The terror in his eyes was all the signs showing that he had given up.

Just then, the robot turned green, causing Klaus to unleash an arrow...

One of the white flaming arrows flashed out immediately, closing in on Ildrr. He reacted by crossing his sword over his chest and manifesting a defense woven from sword aura.

However, when the arrow landed on it and exploded... a painful scream escaped Ildrr's mouth, causing the audience to feel their backs break out in sweat.

"AAAAaarrrrrggghHHHH"

"Painfully it is."

The second arrow followed in an instant, causing blood to spray into the air. This blood came from Ildrr's mouth. However, the pain came from his soul.

Klaus was using the Soul Fury Flame to augment both the bow and the arrows that he had forged using the God Killer Art. All five arrows he retrieved had been nurtured inside his soul sea by Efad, the 9th Soul Body.

In fact, this is Klaus finally showing his true colors...even if it is draining.

So while Ildrr had mounted a great defense, the power of the God Killer Arrow, augmented by the insidious nature of the Absolute form of the Soul Fury Flame and the devastating might of the flame

laws, had not only rendered his defense useless, but it also caused the soul attack to strike where it hurt the most—his soul.

The moment the second arrow struck, Klaus let a smirk form on his lips...

“The Climax.”

And that is how putting all his focus and power into a death match allowed him to kill a Real Immortal in less than a minute.

The entire arena was completely silent... everyone was left staring at Klaus.

Chapter 1268: How much Klaus Is Hiding

Every single eye is on Klaus as he stands at the centre of the Arena, looking at Ildrr’s dead body.

The battle lasted for less than a minute, yet a medium-level Real Immortal lay dead, and the one who killed him is merely a level 7 Emphyrean.

A mere mortal who had no business fighting immortals.

Getting killed by a mortal in under a minute is just too much to take in. It is unacceptable.

Just the idea that such a thing could be accomplished is already preposterous.

Yes, Klaus is a monster in human form. Yes, he has nine cores and nine soul bodies. Yes, he can kill across realms. And yes, he has killed Real Immortals before.

However, in all those battles, despite limiting himself to only the bow, spirit weapons, and flame, it took him some time to kill them.

Even with Niva, Klaus had to put in the effort to remain alive long enough to defeat her. The same was true for Raxxion, whom he struggled a bit to kill.

However, with Ildrr, he merely unleashed three arrows, and the rest was history. Naturally, that shouldn't be possible. Killing an immortal shouldn't be that easy.

Maybe an Early Immortal could be killed that easily by Klaus. However, Ildrr was a Real Immortal, and Klaus just killed him like a chicken.

"I am clearly blind. I am sure of that. I mean, how can a mere mortal kill a Real Immortal that easily? Where is logic? Where is common sense?"

"Same here. I am also blind. I have always said from the start of the Blood Tournament that this kid is not simple. Now, I don't even know if he isn't simple. I can sense he is much more than just being simple."

"He must be investigated. Such a person defies the basic laws of common sense. He doesn't make sense at all"

"Yes. He clearly is hiding something."

"I am sure he is hiding something."

Of course, Klaus is hiding something. He is hiding quite a lot, actually.

Aside from his Void abilities and the fact that he has a high mastery level of Death, Gravity, Space, Time, and elemental laws, his spirits' weapons alone could cause chaos on a galactic scale.

He could have harness them all to win easily.

However, while he has some knowledge of said laws, using them in active combat would be dangerous, especially in a battle against Immortals.

Of course, if it comes down to it, those laws would be useful. However, unlike how his super mastery of the Void Law now allows him to use it more actively, he wouldn't be able to do the same with the other laws.

He had even restricted himself from using any of the said laws and only tapped into the Flame Law.

If he tapped into them and his deadly spirit weapons, then while it would drain him easily, winning would have been effortless.

Then there is the bloodline power he has yet to harness. He didn't even tap into said powers, so in all the battles he fought, while he was powerful, he could have been even deadly.

But if one were to ask where his true strength lies, Klaus would say it is in his Nine Soul Bodies.

Klaus had already reached the point where just one soul body could help him so much that winning against even a True Immortal would be possible.

In fact, if he coordinates well with them, he can defeat up to a peak-level True Immortal. That is how monstrous he really is.

All nine soul bodies had already become 14-year-old teenagers, and even his 4th soul body (Fruity), 7th (Magnus), and 9th (Efad) were halfway to becoming Primordial Spirits.

It turned out that after reaching the Empyrean stage and awakening those bloodlines to 100%, they had evolved.

Now, the moment he steps into the rank of an Immortal, they would become Primordial Spirits, a leap that will allow Klaus to dominate the Immortal Realm in no time.

So Klaus had refrained from stressing them, even when they chose to help. He only told them to create more weapons for him.

The arrows he used on Ildrr were created by Knox (2nd Soul Body). In fact, if Klaus had accepted his request to imbue the Lightning Law into them, then Ildrr would have died from just the first arrow.

So Klaus is indeed hiding a lot, and he has no plans to reveal all his hand.

From what he had seen and planned on doing next, he would need to keep them guessing for now.

His next big plan as a Criminal is to get into the Underworld Slaughter Tournament, and to do that, he must win the Blood Tournament that will be taking place in four months' time.

This means he must win his next battle against one of the most dangerous criminals on Planet Yahmir.

He had decided to help Niva kill Varkos, and he intends to do that. So he would help her to the best of his abilities. Once he gets what he wants, he will kill his way to the top of the criminal world.

If he can become one of them, then when the time comes, and he plays his cards well, he will have a criminal organisation on speed dial.

—

While everyone was questioning what had just happened between Klaus and Ildrr, the man in question left for the locker room.

His next opponent is locked in combat.

Forty minutes later, Xar'kul emerged as the winner. Just as planned, he will face Klaus in the finals.

Klaus had already expected this, considering Icon had informed him of all he had to know about Xar'kul and the plans Varkos and his people had hatched.

From what he knew, Xar'kul is also an Ice user. Klaus is sure he also has Absolute Ice affinity, even though he hasn't shown it yet.

Such a monster of a man wouldn't be simple at all.

He is a human who has taken a gene-altering medicine, changing his composition to appear almost beast-like. Although he isn't a beast, he also isn't a human.

But if he was looking to become monstrous, then the gene therapy had worked. He is a monster in both appearance and strength.

He has, from what Icon could gather, already attained High Void Affinity, and he could wield it for attacks and movement.

Naturally, that makes him dangerous, so while Klaus may not want to do it, if it comes down to it, he would have to tap into the Void.

Of course, he could use his Void Incineration Flame to harness the power of the void.

However, against someone who can wield it to move and attack, Klaus would have to put in some extra work if he wants to survive.

'I must end the battle in under five minutes. The longer I stay in it, the more I reveal. I don't want to become the target of everyone's jealousy.'

Although he had already become a target that many would love to get their hands on, if he were to reveal just too much, then his criminal life would be heavily impacted.

He doesn't need everyone prying into his secrets.

Chapter 1269: Xar'kul

Because it was the finals, they allowed an hour for both Klaus and Xar'kul to relax and recover.

Of course, one hour isn't enough time to rest. However, it was good enough to let them calm down a bit before going into battle again. It is the finals after all. Only one would walk out alive...

Klaus used that time to review the information he had on Xar'kul.

The bastard is a monster for sure. However, he would also be meeting a monster whose strength can't be quantified.

In the end, Klaus concluded that if he put in just a little bit of Void Manipulation, he would be able to end the poor bastard in no time.

Soon, the time to put his theory to the test had come.

The Arena for the final battle is extremely large, with thousands of spectators jacked and ready to experience a battle of a lifetime.

The arena has also been reinforced to tank more force than the previous ones.

This is the final battle in the Blood Tournament.

After today, the next one will be in four months' time. Naturally, that can only mean that after this battle, many who made it their weekly entertainment would have to wait for four months.

That is unacceptable, but they have nothing else to say, so the least they can do now is enjoy this last battle and hope it will keep them happy for the next four months.

Klaus and Xar'kul stood facing each other.

On one side, there is a handsome redhead whose appearance and nature as a criminal seem to contrast with his nature. If anything, Klaus should be regarded as a prince of an entire planetary system or even a star system.

Even making him the prince of an entire galaxy is worthy of his good looks. One could say he is wasting his potential being a criminal.

Looking away from Klaus, one could see a hunched, beastlike, but unnervingly humanoid warrior whose crimes can't even be said out loud. His skin is totally black and thick like obsidian. There are cracked void-flesh laced with glowing frost-blue runes.

On his chest, there is a gaping hole where a heart should be. The sight is distasteful to even the eye.

As for his head, he has an elongated skull with no mouth, only a vertical slit emitting cold breath.

He has four primary arms—two ending in scythe-like void-ice blades. There are also two secondary arms folded against his ribs, used for grappling.

His spine is sharp, crystalline ice protrusions, and his feet are talons that freeze the ground whenever he takes a step.

'His appearance is already scary enough to scare even an Immortal off,' Klaus chuckled, his mind moving back to when he was young,

'Venom is going to be piss if he sees this bastard.'

Xar'kul is indeed a monster, standing with a body that holds so much power.

"I am just going to say it since you will soon be dead anyway," Klaus took a step forward and summoned his [Flame Eater Bow]. Then, instead of ten spears, he summoned ten golden arrows—the same kind he used in the battle against Ildrr.

"Did you have any idea that after the gene therapy you would look like this, or was this a result of the side effects of your transformation?"

Although Klaus had seen a lot of ugly warriors in his many lives, Xar'kul's looks seemed to baffle him. He could only wonder just why someone would choose to look that way, all because of power.

Naturally, Xar'kul said nothing. He merely stood there, his breath coming in short gasps. Every breath in and out releases cold mist that freezes the air around him.

Klaus smiled, unsure of how to feel.

After a short while, the same lady who made the announcement hours ago appeared again, holding a mic. This time, she is practically naked. She only had a thin pair of pants and a nearly transparent bra.

Her gaze looked on Kent as if he were the only one there.

"Looks like you made it to the finals," she said, and Klaus nodded with a smile...

"That I did. And I didn't even use my sword skills."

The lady smiled, almost feeling her heart ready to explode. She had been charmed by Klaus's good looks and incredible strength.

"I have no doubt you are telling the truth. However, your next opponent is the slayer of Leviathan himself." She turned and looked at Xar'kul before continuing. "How sure are you of winning this battle?"

"If I put in 100% of my power, then the big guy will be on the ground in less than ten minutes," Klaus spoke with confidence and slight amusement, making everyone wonder if he indeed meant what he said.

Many believe him, while others think he is overestimating himself.

In the end, he can only prove himself to everyone by defeating Xar'kul.

The lady ignored Xar'kul, probably because she was afraid of him, and just focused on Klaus and what she was there to say.

“As to whether you can indeed do as you said, it will depend on how much effort you put in and how much you wish to win. However, while that is none of my business, I want you to know that I am rooting for you to win.

That said, the Black Cartel Auction will take place three hours after the Blood Tournament, so all who have been invited should head to the Dangling City right after.”

She paused and turned to Klaus. “If you manage to win, then your seat in this month’s Black Cartel Auction is secured. Also, you will have a 15% discount on your first purchase.”

Klaus nodded, while Xar'kul just stood there staring at Klaus with cold and dangerous eyes.

“I will be sure to grab this opportunity then,” Klaus said with a smile before turning to Xar'kul.

“No hard feelings, but know your death will get me a 15% discount. That is more than enough to be worth your useless life, at least.”

This time, Xar'kul reacted. He lifted one frost dagger and pointed it at Klaus. “Prepare to die, bug.” His voice was cold as it slipped into Klaus’s mind.

“We shall see about that, big guy.”

Just when Klaus said that, the robot appeared and turned red. Xar'kul changed his stance, ready to dash forward when the light turned green.

Klaus stood still, waiting for the light to turn blue.

When it did, he made a gentle motion with his hand, and four flame balls appeared—Orange (Chaotic Nirvana Flame), White (Soul Fury Flame), Deep Red (Void Incineration Flame), and Golden Silver (Primordial Desolation Flame)—forming a halo behind him.

Klaus decided to unleash all four flame spirits from the start.

Suddenly, the light turned green, and Xar'kul vanished into the void.

'And so it began.'

Chapter 1270: Klaus vs Xar'kul (1)

The moment Xar'kul vanished, the temperature of the Arena plummeted. It felt like his absence had made the arena colder.

However, what caused the coldness was the power he had command over, the void. He cultivates the Ice Void Infusion, so when he stepped into it, the temperature dropped.

Klaus felt a bone-chilling cold, and so did the audience watching. However, none of them felt any fear just yet. It was still too early to feel their lives threatened, like how Niva had made them feel when she unleashed her Absolute Ice.

Klaus didn't move. He didn't even blink.

It was like he wasn't bothered by the sudden vanishing act that Xar'kul had pulled.

However, the next second, the ground beneath him cracked as frost raced outward in jagged lines, freezing stone, air, and sound itself.

The entire arena became quiet, not even a sound being heard by anyone, including Klaus.

It felt like the coldness in the air had swallowed everything else, leaving only the coldness. If someone were to move, not even a sound would be produced.

A heartbeat later, space warped behind him. The void folded like a torn curtain, and Xar'kul reappeared, four arms striking at once.

Two scythe-like void-ice blades came down from above, aimed to cleave Klaus in half. They trailed a chilling arc in the air as they descended on him.

The other two arms shot forward, talons spread wide, seeking to tear him apart at the ribs. Basically, the abomination of a man attacked with the intent to end the battle in an instant.

He wanted Klaus dead as quickly as possible, so his attack was aimed with the intent and the need to put an end to the mortal bug who entered the battle of immortals and just refused to die.

Klaus, on the other hand, did something nobody saw coming. He stepped forward instead of back. Despite the deadly strike coming at him, he wasn't fazed even a bit.

The Orange flame behind him flared wildly.

The Chaotic Nirvana Flame erupted from his body in a violent spiral, colliding head-on with the descending blades.

The impact detonated like a miniature sun, sending a shockwave through the Arena. The shockwave was so violent that when it collided against the shields protecting the audience, three layers were shattered in an instant.

Xar'kul was blasted backwards, skidding across the ground, his talons carving trenches into the reinforced floor. Klaus wasn't spared either.

However, unlike Xar'kul, he had already anticipated this outcome, so he calculated and prepared for it. While midair, he activated the second move.

Before Xar'kul could stabilise himself, the White flame moved.

The Soul Fury Flame surged forward like a living predator, piercing straight into Xar'kul's chest. It went into the hole on his chest where his heart should have been.

Obviously, Klaus had already prepared well for the bastard who had no heart to speak of.

Looking at his unusual anatomy, naturally, he could be considered undead, considering he had no heartbeat.

Well, he had no heart, so where would the heartbeat come from?

His mutation had caused that to happen, so while his heart isn't beating—because it isn't there—a soul attack is possible. He still has a soul that can be attacked after all.

Klaus had already deduced that, and so he attacked accordingly.

The flame didn't burn his flesh despite engulfing him in its furious radiance. Instead, it burned deep into his soul, causing a soul-eating scream out from him.

Klaus raised his bow, and one of the ten golden arrows forged using the [God Killer Art] flew into the bow. He pulled the bowstring, muttering a spell. In an instant, a spell diagram appeared around the arrow.

With the activation of the spell, a soul-shattering killing intent exploded out of his body, pouring into the air.

The sound of whispering souls echoed through the air as dark flame mist slowly poured from the arrow.

“Soul Damnation Arrow”

The words left Klaus's lips, and the arrow screamed.

The moment the Soul Damnation Arrow was released, space itself seemed to recoil. The power contained in it was just too much.

The golden arrow tore through the frozen air, dragging behind it a torrent of screaming souls and blackened flame mist. The arena trembled as if something ancient had just been awakened.

It is eerie and unmistakably terrifying.

Xar'kul reacted instantly.

The hole in his chest flared violently, frost-blue runes blazing brighter than before. His four arms crossed in front of him, and the Absolute Ice surged outward.

The coldness in the air intensified even more, fueled by the immortal energy of a Real Immortal.

A crystalline wall formed in a heartbeat, layered with void-ice and compressed frost, thick enough to stop even immortal-level attacks.

Xar'kul didn't hold back at all. If anything, he sensed a potential danger to his life, and he reacted by summoning the powers at his disposal.

Combining Ice Qi, fused with Ice law and empowered by immortal energy, he was able to create a relatively robust defence for an immortal that doesn't specialise in defence.

But would that be enough?

The arrow struck.

But there was no explosion this time.

Instead, the arrow sank into the ice barrier as if it were flesh. It shredded his defence, immediately causing him to sense danger.

The screams coming from the arrow intensified even more.

Cracks spread instantly, not across the surface, but inward, as if the ice itself was being eaten from the inside.

At the same time, the Soul Fury Flame still embedded in Xar'kul's chest resonated with the arrow, creating a violent feedback.

This chain of events was all planned by Klaus before the battle even started.

However, while executing it could have been extremely difficult, he was able to make it happen as he intended, causing chaos to erupt everywhere.

Xar'kul let out a distorted roar that finally broke the silence of the arena. The arrow was aimed at his core; however, the soul attack contained in it was meant to act first, distracting Xar'kul enough for the arrow to embed itself into his core.

The ice wall shattered into countless shards, each causing the ground to freeze. However, while the arrow came in an instant, it lost just enough momentum for Xar'kul to twist aside.

This caused the arrow to miss his core by inches, tearing through one of his secondary arms instead. The limb exploded into frost and void fragments, disintegrating before it even hit the ground.

Xar'kul was sent crashing into the far end of the arena, smashing into the reinforced wall hard enough to deform it.

The audience erupted.

Some screamed in shock. Others stood frozen, unable to comprehend what they had just witnessed.

A high-level Real Immortal had lost a limb in the opening exchange.

That is unprecedented.