

## **Paragon 1401**

### Chapter 1401: The Burning Angel

The legend of the Burning Angel is one that almost everyone, regardless of where they are, has heard something about. He is famous, and every aspiring warrior wishes to be like him one day.

His legendary feats in the past and the ones he continues to accomplish to this day are mind-blowing.

So if such a person suddenly decided to teleport a spaceship from millions of light-years away and crash it without harming anyone inside, the most logical choice would be to start begging.

However, what did Klaus do?

He gave the Celestial a smile and then, in a somewhat unaffected tone, he asked.

"Burning Angel, I suppose?"

Lord Victor and his daughter, Rory, became even paler upon hearing what Klaus said. They had lived for thousands of years but had never once set eyes on a Celestial before.

So the fact that their first turned out to be somebody Klaus may have offended, just the mere mention of his name left them wishing for a quick death.

That feeling only intensified when Burning Angel gave a narrowed look at Klaus, the flame wings on his back and the ones in his eyes burning even more furiously.

He clearly was angry, judging by how he said nothing but kept staring at Klaus with deadly intent.

A few minutes later, however, the fire in his eyes dimmed, and his expression became calm. His wings retracted, and the hold he had on Klaus weakened.

"You are not the Paragon," he said, almost disappointed. Klaus saw this and, instead of taking the win, decided to poke the bear.

"Why do you sound disappointed? Are you that eager to kill someone who is probably way weaker than even me?"

"Kill him." Burning Angel turned to the side and stared deep into the cosmos. "I don't want to kill the Paragon. He and I go way back; you can even consider us friends. So no, I don't want to kill him, I want to fight him."

"Oh, somehow I find that hard to believe. But let's assume I believe you, aren't you afraid the Heavenly Court will come after you? I am from the Zorvian family, so I know quite a lot about the Paragon. The Heavenly Court and he are natural-born enemies, so they will be pissed if you were to meet him and not kill him."

Hearing his words, Burning Angel chuckled. "Afraid of whom? Don't make me laugh, kid. I have been alive long enough to know who to trust."

He paused and gave Lord Victor and Rory a hard look before he continued, "I can tell your heart as a warrior is true, so I won't kill you. However, for disrespecting my Warrior Tower and making us look like a joke, I will punish you."

He retrieved an item from his space ring and threw it at Klaus. When he caught it, a powerful force slammed into his body, causing him to fly back and slam into the ground several thousand miles away.

"That is the Seven Dominion Eye Art. You ask if I am not worried the Heavenly Court will come after me for saying I won't kill the Paragon.

The answer is yes. They are as evil as the demons, and that became plain to me years ago. Or do you think I just woke up and created the Warrior Tower?

Away from that. For your punishment, you have seven days to comprehend the first level of the Seven Dominion Eye Art. If you can't decide by the end of the seven days, I will kill one of these two. Afterwards, you will have a month to comprehend two levels, or else the last will die.

You, I can't kill because even now, I can sense powerful people looking for you. But they have nobody looking for them. Call it a punishment for thinking you can get away with everything."

Klaus lifted himself from the ground, some of his bones broken. Turning around, he saw that Lord Victor and Rory had become even paler now.

Clearly, using them as potential collateral damage was not something they liked. However, instead of frowning, Klaus smiled and reassured them, "Relax, I have never lost a bet in my life, so I am not about to lose one now."

He stood up and dusted himself off before taking flight again.

"Seven days, you say. What if I can do it in a day?"

Burning Angel showed no reaction, but he seemed intrigued by what Klaus said.

"If you can do it in a day, I will owe you three favors."

"Just three? Sounds like you want to cheat me."

"What do you mean?" Burning Angel frowned.

Klaus, however, smiled. "There are seven days in a week. So if I were to use one day to understand your technique, shouldn't that be six favors instead of three?"

"That..."

Lord Victor and Rory turned and looked at each other. The audacity in Klaus's words made them wish they had never met him.

However, seeing Burning Angel stare suspiciously at Klaus, they couldn't help but give the brat a thumbs-up in their hearts.

There is just no way anyone would believe them if they said Klaus, instead of nodding like a baby, actually had the balls to bargain with a Celestial who could snap his neck with a look.

Klaus has the confidence many his age lack, even against true immortals.

"Sure. You have a day to comprehend the first level of the Seven Dominion Eye Art. Failure to do so will result in the death of the young lady. Your time starts now."

Klaus nodded, then turned to Lord Victor and Rory. "Neither of you has the Flame Element, so this place won't benefit you. However, you can use the flame essence to temper your Immortal Rings."

After saying that, he flew 2 km to the east and sat on a stone.

Far away on Planet Virel, his other body was seated in a lotus posture, his four flame spirits in their human forms seated around him.

On their foreheads, their Flame Seals could be seen shining. Clearly, right under the nose of a Celestial, Klaus was using the chance to strengthen his Flame Element.

And judging by how visibly Qilin, Nirvana, Void, and Fury were growing, it was clear he was benefiting more than one would expect.

Meanwhile, back on Burning Angel's planet, he made the token containing the technique float before him.

On the side, Lord Victor and Rory continued to look at him weirdly. Although he told them how they could benefit from the flame essence in the air, the mere fact that his failure meant their death was preventing them from having the mind and clarity to cultivate at the moment.

Away from them, Burning Angel stood with his gaze locked on Klaus. In his hand rested an item that, upon closer inspection, appeared to be the same token Lord Victor used to uncover Klaus's identity.

"You clearly are him, but why can't I sense you are him?" His expression hardened. However, as Klaus began to focus on the technique, he relaxed and waited.

If he managed to comprehend the technique, his suspicion would be confirmed. For now, he could only wait.

#### Chapter 1402: Meeting The Star Monarch

Klaus expected the technique to reveal itself the moment he channelled his energy into it. However, he was shocked to find that a puzzle must first be solved before he could open the technique.

The puzzle is simple: he must align nine runes in perfect order to open the technique.

At first glance, it seemed very straightforward. However, that changed when he started to comprehend the runes.

At first, he saw a word, but hidden within those words were several others that, the deeper he looked into them, the more he seemed to uncover.

It is like inside the one word, there are two and inside those two, there are four, and it keeps stacking and stacking till it makes no sense.

Within five minutes, he had seen so much that he just had no idea how the heck he would have to know just which rune to put where and why.

'This is like the matrix all over again.'

A smile appeared on his face, and then he did something different. Instead of focusing on knowing what each rune means—something he knew would take days—he would rather focus on knowing the words only.

He had no interest in piercing deeper into the runes. Instead, he focused only on the words they represented.

In less than 2 minutes, all the words were read and understood.

"Elements, Star, Shadows, Blood, Divine, Arrogance, Death, Illusion, War"

These were the words after deciphering the runes. They were pretty easy to figure out since he can read ancient runes.

However, learning them and applying them are two different things. He knew how to comprehend complex languages and codes, but using them to solve a problem was a bit taxing.

However, he had no time, so Klaus started to look much deeper into all nine, making sure he had absolutely no interest in losing himself in the thrill of learning what each rune means.

Instead, he was looking at the surface, looking for ways to connect the missing dots.

Burning Angel, who knew this, kept a close eye on Klaus, knowing that even if he could solve the puzzle, he would need several hours.

'It took me 300 hours to solve it. I wonder how long it would take you, kid.'

Klaus remained seated for an hour, making no progress. Not even Icon could help him. She tried to look deeper, but it became clear even she has her limits.

He pulled back his mind and decided to make sense of the words one more time. However, instead of looking into them, he asked Icon to perform a search.

'Icon, perform a search on all nine words and tell me what you can find.' Icon got right on it, and for 20 minutes, she searched until she found something good enough.

[The words are common when all things are considered. Making it an open search brought up countless results that just don't make any sense.

In the end, I wasted my time for nothing. So I decided to conduct a close search, focusing on Heaven's Court and Warrior Tower.

The results were rather shocking. The word Elements appeared more in matters concerning the 8th Paragon. I caught that as weird, so I searched Star, and that is where it all clicked.

The Star is linked to the 9th Paragon, the Star Monarch. To be sure, I added one more search, and the Shadows came out as the 5th Paragon.

Master, I think these words align with the nine lives you have lived.]

'But if that is the case, then it means this person knew something about me, and he is trying to confirm it.'

[So if the Master solves the puzzle, it would confirm you are the Paragon, and as such, he would have a reason to kill you.]

Klaus frowned even deeper now.

He is too brilliant not to know what the Burning Angel was planning. He used Rory's life and that of her father to threaten him to solve this puzzle.

If he fails or decides not to solve it, they will die; if he solves it, his secret will be revealed. Either way, he would be in danger.

It is the perfect trap, and he most certainly fell for it. However, Klaus couldn't help but wonder why the Burning Angel is keen on learning who he is and why he even said he had no plans to kill him.

He did not buy the whole 'I want to fight the paragon bullshit. There had to be a reason, and that kept telling him to solve the puzzle.

But to be sure, he asked Icon to perform one more search...

'Icon, can you tell when this technique was created, who created it, and who had learned it before?'

[It is an ancient technique, so I cannot determine. But per some hidden records, a powerful Primordial beast that once followed the Star Monarch had a set of eyes called the Seven Dominion Eye.

As for who had learned it before, I can't tell, but this puzzle had been solved before.]

'Oh, then I suppose the Angel isn't telling me everything. However, if he had solved it before, it means he knows this puzzle, which only means he had already suspected I can solve it.'

Klaus smiled and shook his head. 'He knows I am the Paragon, Icon. He just wants to be sure before he reveals who he is to me too.'

[How sure are you?]

'As sure as I can be. Look deeper into the Star rune. I failed to see it at first, but now that you connected the dot, the words start to make sense.'

[It is not too late to live a beautiful life.]

'Those were the words I said to someone a very long time ago. That someone was a wounded angel at the brink of death. I saved her and cared for her for thousands of years.

Before we parted ways, I said those words to her as a way of making sure she lived a good life, not a life filled with revenge.'

[Are you saying the Burning Angel had a relationship with this person?]

'Only one way to find out.'

Klaus moved the runes so that they would be in order. A few seconds later, the technique opened. However, instead of seeing millions of runes, his consciousness was pulled to the shore of a river, where a lone figure sat on a lounge, sunbathing.

Even from behind, Klaus knew who this person was. There is just no way he would mistake him.

"I never pegged you as someone who sunbathes, Efad."

"What can I say? I have a knack for trying new things." He turned his head and gave him a smug look. "You should try it sometime."

Klaus smirked and sat in the lounge beside Efad. He took a moment to take in the clean air before asking a question.

"The Burning Angel—why don't you tell me who he is and why he is keen on finding out my identity?"

"Oh, you don't remember him, huh?"

"Am I supposed to?"

"Actually, yes. He, after all, is the only person in the Universe with a Primal Bloodline, something you gave him several lifetimes ago."

"Primal Bloodline. What is that?"

Efad turned and gave him a quick look. "The Primal Bloodline is the only bloodline that can ascend to the next realm, the primordial realm."

He is the backup plan you had planted from the moment you arrived in this universe."

"Arrived?"

Chapter 1403: Primal Bloodline

There are two words that Klaus has been looking for answers to for a while now.

One is 'why' he was here. Why is he the Paragon? Why do the heavens hate him?

This word had raised so many questions over the years that he had no answers for.

Most of the time, he wonders why his nature is different from everyone else's.

However, as he grows and learns more about his past, some of those questions are being answered, even if in the most subtle way.

But when the second word comes into play, everything changes.

'Where' is he from? Where did he come from? Most importantly, where are the Paragon stars from?

These three questions needed answers. Thankfully, Efad just said something that caught his attention.

"What do you mean by when I arrived?"

"Oh, you are not from this Universe, buddy—we are from somewhere else. We are just here on a mission."

Klaus stared at his past self with a stunned expression for a few minutes before a word came out of his mouth.

"Huh?"

He was at a loss for words. Obviously, he expected Efad's answer. In the past, when he found out the heavens hate him, he had anticipated this reason.

He wished to find out where he is from, and in some cases, he even expected the answer to be just what Efad said.

However, expectation and reality are two different things. In fact, a part of him wished his suspicions weren't true.

"No need to look stunned buddy. The answer will come to you eventually. For now, know our existence in this universe—the reason why we had to reincarnate nine times—was all to prepare for the mission we are about to embark on."

"Don't just end there. Add more context."

Efad laughed. "Sorry, buddy. That is all I know."

"Bullshit. I know you know more than you are saying."

"I am telling the truth. I don't know more than I said. After all, you had that memory wiped before you entered into the nine reincarnation cycle."

"Then how am I going to know why I am here if I don't have memories of that?"

"That is where the Star Lights come in. All you need to know is in the Nine Paragon Stars. Unlock them, and everything will become clear."

Klaus stared long and hard at his 9th incarnation before a smirk appeared on his face.

He hated that whenever he was drawing close to something that would finally explain his existence, something else seemed to be in the way.

In the past, he had encountered these problems.

However, while he hated it, there is just no way he could change anything. He would have to wait until the day he finally unlocked all Paragon Stars.

"Tell me more about this Primal Bloodline."

"Sure." That is within his capabilities, so he started to speak. "A very long time ago, you gave the Primal Bloodline to an angel who, since then, has passed it down through his lineage.

You told him that one day, someone in his family will awaken the complete version of the bloodline, and that when that day comes, they have only one thing to do: raise this person into a fine warrior.

This Burning Angel is that child. He had no idea you were the reason he is who he is, but he also cannot kill you since you made him who he is." Efad smiled, then continued.

"When you first met him, he hadn't yet awakened the innate talent that would finally awaken the true Bloodline. So he tried to kill you, but later on, when his true bloodline awakened, he started dodging you, perhaps out of shame.

Millions of years ago, when I was about to enter the last reincarnation, I met him. He recognized me with a mere glance, and we bonded. I learned about his adventures and gave him some pointers on improving his strength.

I even got to meet his family. However, when the day for my ascension was drawing near, the Heavenly Court attacked my people and killed them.

Hael's family was among those who died. I was too late to save both his family and mine. So before I entered reincarnation, I gave him a way to identify me early this time around so we could better plan our revenge on the Heavens court."

"I suppose that explains why he seems to hate the Heavens Court." Klaus sighed, but then his mind picked up on something.

"That is all good, but where does he fit in? What does the Primal Bloodline do..."

"Oh, that—it keeps this Universe sealed. As long as he lives, this universe will be sealed, and nobody, absolutely nobody aside from him, can ascend to the next realm."

"Which is..."

"The Primordial Realm. His blood holds the key that has kept the universe at bay for all these years. Of course, the Cosmic Mother had her hand in it, but without the Primal Bloodline, even she wouldn't be able to lift the seal."

Efad paused again and stared at Klaus's confused face for a while before a smile appeared on his face.

"Take it like this. The Cosmic Mother, the one who regulates all Cosmic Laws, needs the blood flowing through Hael's body to open the seal binding this universe.

But for that to happen, you must become a Celestial and fully awaken all nine bloodlines and the Primal Bloodline that binds them all. So you, Hael, and the Cosmic Mother are the only things keeping this universe alive.

Hael is alive because he is your backup plan. If you were to fail your mission, he would ensure the universe at least doesn't fall into the hands of a tyrant."

"So if I am to make sense of what you are saying, Hael is like the heir of the Universe, that one day, if I were to fail at my unknown mission, his bloodline, which is binding this universe at the Celestial stage, will trigger and make him the king of the universe."

"That summarizes it. Looks like your brain is even bigger now." Efad laughed. "However, if this universe becomes his to rule, then it will forever remain a Celestial Universe. It can never ascend."

Klaus nodded. "I think I am getting the gist of things."

His mind is too big for him not to see some hidden details. Just now, he learned there is a realm above the Celestial stage and that he came from another universe.

Naturally, that is a unique way of saying you are from a place where Celestials aren't the strongest. However, because you had to come save a universe, you left it all behind and had to start from the bottom again.

But maybe because you were not sure you could succeed, you brought a backup plan in the form of a bloodline that will trigger and automatically make him the king of the Universe.

That is just something to think about. However, Klaus isn't that concerned now.

Knowing the Burning Angel is on his side gave him all the confidence to know his past lives didn't just mess around. They made sure this life, being the last, gets ahead of things before it is too late.

"Why the Seven Dominion Eye, though?" Since all this started when he was tasked with learning the technique, there must be something unique about it.

"The universe is weakening, buddy. The Foreign Race is here, and so you must be prepared. However, while their arrival weakens the fabric of the universe, it also opens windows into the unknown."

Efad stood up and stretched. "Reaching the God stage is the easy part. As a Paragon, your privileges end at the God stage. So to reach the Supreme and finally climb to the Celestial stage, you need to look into the unknown.

The Seven Dominion Eye will come in handy when that time comes." After saying that, he turned to Klaus and pressed his finger against his forehead.

"Good luck, buddy. You have a lot to do and little time to prepare."

Chapter 1404: The Seven Dominion Eye Art

Klaus opened his eyes on the outside.

In that instant, when he opened it, he saw the world change color from its natural glow to black and white. He looked up and saw that everything around him had changed.

Lord Victor and Rory still looked human, but what he was looking at went beyond what the normal eye could see.

First, he saw the energy flowing in their bodies. He saw how many Immortal Rings they had, how powerful they were, and even the location of their cores.

Aside from that, he could see their domain and other secrets that the ordinary eye could not see.

He even managed to see beyond their physical appearance, seeing deeper into their skeletal structure. In that moment, he felt like he knew everything about them.

He saw the flaws in their body and how to help them fix them. His eyes had become a supernatural X-ray machine.

However, that also made him furrow his brow, because what he was looking at, if translated accurately, meant that Rory and her father are monsters of nature.

All nine Immortal Rings under Lord Victor's command each gave him a 30% boost, while Rory's gave her 28%.

Naturally, that is something he never saw coming.

To many, 30% is the biggest boost an Immortal Ring could give. However, it is actually 35%. But if someone like Lord Victor has a 30% boost from one Immortal Ring, then it means when all are applied, that is a 270% boost.

Naturally, that makes him super powerful. With that much boost, there is just no way an average Immortal Lord would be able to do much when facing him in battle.

But away from that, Klaus noticed something else.

Looking into their eyes, he could see three colored auras coming from them. There was gold, silver, and blue.

He had no idea what those were, but he didn't dwell on it much, since the next moment a voice reached him.

"Congratulations on learning the Seven Dominion Eye Art."

Klaus turned his gaze toward the Burning Angel.

However, while Lord Victor and Rory were black and white in his eyes, the Burning Angel was colored.

This instantly told him his technique wouldn't work on him.

He turned back to the two, and as he expected, they remained black and white. This made him sigh and decide to deactivate it altogether. He is not at the stage where he could use it against a Celestial.

"Thank you," he said, stood up, and dusted himself before flying back into the air. "How long was I out?"

"Seven hours. That is impressive, by the way." Although he was in great shock because Klaus had done the impossible, something else had taken hold of his thoughts.

He had his suspicions that Klaus was the Paragon. However, because he sensed no Paragon energy from him, he concluded that he wasn't him, that maybe the token was flawed.

But that thought is gone now. This time, he knew Klaus was indeed the Paragon.

Klaus narrowed his eyes at him, making sure their gazes met for a few seconds before he smiled. Then, using telepathy, he spoke to him,

'I know you know I am the Paragon and that you and I go way back, so stop pretending. These two already know who I am because, just like you, they also have a way to tell my identity.'

For a moment, the Burning Angel said nothing. However, that was only for a few seconds before a smile appeared on his face.

"How did you do it?" he asked.

"Do what?"

"How were you able to hide your aura? You know, the aura that always allows the heavens to sense you are the Paragon."

Klaus laughed, almost feeling amused by how curious the Burning Angel became. He expected him to ask something else, like how he had learned all seven levels of the technique so quickly. However, hearing his question, he couldn't help but laugh.

"I suppose you can say you aren't the only one with a Primal Bloodline."

The Burning Angel raised his brow. "So that was why, huh. Looks like you knew what you were doing from the start."

He turned and looked at Lord Victor and Rory. "Sorry for threatening your lives. I just wanted to confirm something and needed leverage."

They nodded, but seeing the look that appeared in his eyes, Klaus knew he could see they didn't trust him. This piqued his interest, so he asked,

"The colors, what are they?"

He saw three colors when he scanned Rory and her father. While he had no idea what they each represented, the Burning Angel had been using them for a while, so he knew.

"They are the emotional, feelings and psychological states of a person. Each color represents an emotion, feeling, or just the thoughts of the person."

"Gold, silver, and blue," Klaus said.

"The gold represents trust. Anyone with that color trusts you. They only show when you interact with the person for a long time. Of course, if you also happen to trust them and make them aware of that, there is a chance they would too.

It was the reason why I knew they could be trusted and didn't kill them immediately.

Silver represents fear. These two have it on them, which is perfectly normal. They are mere Immortals in front of a Celestial. That alone is enough reason to know they are genuine with their emotions.

Also, using them to get under your skin didn't help. Once again, I apologize for that.

And as for the blue, it means sorrow or regret." He paused and looked at Lord Victor and Rory.

"I honestly don't know why that emotion is there, but I suppose learning they are about to die made them sorrowful and regretful. You would be surprised by how many regrets one has buried that only surface when they are about to die.

I have spared many because of those emotions. Some turned out to be good people who were made to do bad things just so they and their loved ones could live."

Klaus nodded, a bit stunned by how much information is hidden within colors. He had only seen three colors, but he knew for a fact that there were other colors that he would discover later.

If he could understand them to some degree, there was a chance that, with a simple glance, he could tell why someone had to die or which button to press to get under their skin.

However, before he could ask for more clarity, the Burning Angel spoke.

"I will contact you later through the Dark Space. If I keep you here long enough, there is a chance more Celestials will join the search, which I know for a fact wouldn't end well.

So why don't you tell me what favors you want, since I owe you six?"

Klaus nodded.

He indeed wouldn't want to be the reason so many Celestials meet and start fighting. Now that he knew the Burning Angel was on his side, he could rest well knowing the Warrior Tower wouldn't dare come after him as if he were their worst enemy.

Of course, he is bound to have some altercations with them every now and then, but they wouldn't send a powerful warrior after him, not when the Burning Angel is protecting him from behind the scenes.

Also, he may have rejected the gifts the Supremes gave him so he could better explain his current standing and tell everyone he is not a simple person. However, he knew he would have to meet them and apologize soon, rather than later.

The last thing he wanted was for the Universe Bank or the academy to become his enemies.

Plus, now that he has a Supreme or a few Supremes as his enemies, he really needed a weapon from a Supreme Engineer's personal vault and the backing of the Universe Bank for treasures he would be purchasing in the future.

But that is for later.

Now, he needed to make things right with Rory and her Father.

Chapter 1405: Two Favours

So far, if there is anyone Klaus had troubled the most since he left Earth, it would be Rory and her father. They had gone through a lot because of his troubles.

So the reason he was forced to gain the six favours was to ensure they were fully compensated before leaving. Initially, he didn't know Burning Angel was an old friend, so he merely wanted a way to keep his life intact in the future.

With six favours, he can call on Burning Angel a lot of times, and he would come.

However, now that he is aware of their relationship, the six favours don't mean much to him. So he decided to be generous and make up for the trouble he had caused the father and daughter.

"For my first favour," Klaus said, turning to look at Lord Victor and Rory before he spoke, "I want you to take in Lord Victor as your disciple for 100,000 years."

"Huh?" Both Lord Victor and Rory widened their eyes.

Obviously, they weren't looking forward to Klaus asking such a favour.

"Klaus, you don't have to worry the senior about something so insignificant. I am sure he has more important things to do than waste time on me."

"As a matter of fact, I don't." Before Klaus could say anything, Burning Angel stepped in. "I have been working hard for millions of years, so I think it is time to take a break."

Taking in a disciple seems like a good thing. It will keep me busy, but not in a way I used to. Also, I am curious why you are over a million years old yet still haven't reached the Demigod stage."

Lord Victor's entire body froze, his expression filled with shock. Klaus smiled at this sight, knowing he was going through so many emotions by now.

There is just no way someone like him ever expected to become a disciple of a Celestial, and not just any Celestial, but the legendary Burning Angel of all people.

That is mind-blowing.

"You heard the man; he doesn't mind."

Lord Victor moved forward and gave a respectful bow toward Burning Angel. "Thank you, Celestial Burning Angel."

"Shouldn't you call me Master instead? Also, my real name is Hael." Burning Angel smiled as he said that.

Lord Victor nodded and corrected himself. "Thank you, Master Hael. I will do my best not to disappoint you."

"Oh, you will not. I see a warrior inside you, so I think we will have a good time together. Who knows, maybe after 100,000 years, if you manage to impress me, I will extend it and add a million more years to it."

Klaus smiled, knowing there was no better gift for the man whose quick thinking had saved him a lot of trouble so far.

"Glad we have taken that out of the way." Klaus turned and looked at Rory before he asked for the second favour.

"As for my second favour, I want you to inscribe just a single Celestial Rune of my choosing on Rory's bow."

Burning Angel narrowed his eyes slightly at Klaus before a sigh escaped his lips. "What rune do you want?"

Klaus grinned, and then he snapped his finger, and a rune appeared in the air. "Spirit."

This sight made Burning Angel shake his head and smile slightly. "I guess you didn't ask for such a favour without reason. However, are you sure you want just one rune?"

"Yes. Just one."

"Okay."

Klaus turned to Rory. "Can I have your bow for a second?"

She hesitated, but then she retrieved her silver bow from her space ring and handed it to him. Klaus received it and gave it a quick examination before handing it to Burning Angel.

"Put the rune right here." Klaus pointed at the grip.

Burning Angel nodded and formed a needle from celestial energy, and started to inscribe the rune. Klaus stood on the side, a smile playing on his face.

Only he understood what he was asking for.

While many would have used this chance to ask for all kinds of runes, he went for the Spirit Rune simply because he first wanted to turn the bow into a soul item.

In the few days he had spent knowing Rory, she spent almost half of that time admiring her bow. Initially, Klaus didn't want to pry into her weird obsession with her bow, so he asked Icon to look it up.

It turned out the bow belonged to her mother, who died at the hands of the Taxation God. The God of Taxes wanted to kill Lord Victor, but he accidentally ended up killing her instead.

After she died, Rory inherited her bow, which, as she grew, she was supposed to part with, for it was not keeping up with her strength. However, she seemed attached to it.

So the only way for her to forever be with it was if it were a soul weapon. This would make it grow with her and forever be the weapon she would wield.

The Spirit Rune would also make it possible for him to put a weapon spirit inside it. This way, it would even become more powerful.

But Klaus's ambitions go beyond that. He wanted to transform the bow into a weapon worthy of earning a name. He would create complex formations that would aid him in incorporating powerful abilities.

Just like most of his weapons, he wanted to transform Rory's bow into something similar. He had lived long enough to know just what he had to do to make it a weapon to be feared.

There was so much he could do with the Spirit Rune, so he waited patiently for Burning Angel to be done with it. Once that was handled, he gave the bow back to Rory.

"When we go back, I will help you form a soul contract with it. Then we can proceed from there."

She nodded.

Though she seemed to have some questions on her mind, she kept them to herself for now. When they were gone, she would ask them.

"That will be all for now. Though you still owe me four more favours, which I will collect in the future."

Burning Angel didn't seem to mind. To him, Klaus could ask for as many favours as he wanted, and he wouldn't mind one bit.

"Aren't you going to ask how I cracked your [Beast God Dominion] technique?" Klaus asked, hoping to gloat a little, but Burning Angel didn't seem to care.

"You only broke 1% of it, so I don't need to worry about anything. Honestly, I was a bit shocked that no one had been able to break it all this time, until you, of course."

"Because it was hard to crack. I had to use Ancient Runes to break it. But I don't mind having a go at the main thing."

"Become a god first, then we can talk."

Klaus chuckled, but he put it at the back of his mind to break it one day. "Maybe I should create my own formation that can't be broken even by the best formation expert."

The idea was put at the back of his mind. One day, maybe he would do it.

Chapter 1406: Selfie With The Burning Angel

"So where are you going next?" Burning Angel asked.

"Well, Lord Victor is taking me somewhere before you forcefully teleported us here and destroyed our spaceship."

"About that." Burning Angel smiled weakly. He indeed acted a bit harshly, dragging them through space and even shattering their SSS-class spaceship.

"I will compensate you for the spaceship. But if I know where you are going, I can teleport you there with a mere snap of my finger."

"Is that something a Celestial can do?" Klaus asked, a bit worried by how simple it was for Burning Angel to drag them through space. If that was the case, then he was in no way qualified to make enemies out of Celestials.

"No. The least a Celestial can do is seal space, and if their comprehension of the Space Law is a bit higher, they can teleport anyone from light-years away.

However, my bloodline allows me to link with the Dark Universe, so I can travel at light speed and also move people through it.

But unlike a spaceship, I can move several times faster, sometimes even instantaneously, depending on the gap between us. I had already moved toward that planet. You were on it when I sensed your spaceship leaving, so it was easy for me to do it."

"That is a cool ability to have." Klaus turned to Lord Victor and asked where they were heading.

"Planet Stella."

Burning Angel nodded, then his eyes turned red. A few seconds later, they returned to their usual colour, which was also red, but not glowing like the sun.

"I can teleport you there. Later, I will have someone deliver the spaceship I destroyed." He then turned to Lord Victor.

"We will meet in the Dark Space most of the time to train. Once I manage to get a good understanding of your abilities, we will schedule our time better. For now, go back and wait for my call."

"Okay, Master Hael."

"In that case, see you three later." Before he could snap his finger and send them away, Klaus retrieved his phone. "How about a selfie?"

"Uhm, what?"

"You know, a picture with you. Since I happen to be disowned by my family and bad guys seem to be waiting for me at every corner, I figured posting a selfie with you would make people back off."

"This..."

Burning Angel, as well as Rory and Lord Victor, were all shocked by Klaus's strange request. Never in their lives did any of them expect someone to dare ask for a selfie from a Celestial.

But then again, it was Klaus they were talking about. His shamelessness knew no boundaries.

In the end, he and Burning Angel took a couple of pictures. Afterwards, he teleported them away.

After they were gone, he took a deep breath and exhaled. Then his gaze narrowed. "Heavens Court, soon, you will answer for your crimes."

In the past, when he met the Paragon, just like how the Heaven's Court had painted him, he attacked, thinking he was the most evil person to walk the face of the universe.

However, he had his reality check after his family was killed by the same Heavenly Court that he had dedicated most of his life to working for.

This made him understand that the problem had never been the Paragon. Of course, he did some more research and found out that during the first three incarnations of the Paragon, he was an ally of the Heavens.

However, that all changed at the end of the third incarnation when the Asura race was slaughtered. Before then, they were allies of the Heavens.

They fought many battles and defended this universe from all kinds of threats. But in the end, they were branded traitors and slaughtered.

Since then, they have always tried to paint the Paragon as evil whenever he reincarnates. So he knew their schemes and knew this time, too, they would do the same thing.

However, from what he had seen after meeting Klaus, things would be different this time around. They had done so much evil, so they had to pay for their crimes.

A few seconds after they left, he teleported away as well.

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[Planet Stella]

Planet Stella is the homeworld of the Stella human race.

It is very large and well protected. Lord Victor wanted to take Klaus there for security reasons. If they had remained on Planet Baski, he wouldn't have been able to do much, but on his homeworld, even a god would find it hard to break through his security.

When they arrived, he ordered a full lockdown and ordered that all security features be engaged. Klaus told him reinforcement from the Dark Space Company would arrive soon.

He anticipated all this happening, so he made sure his Star Guards stayed ahead of things. Now that he is their warrior candidate, they would not let any harm come to him.

Of course, after everything was handled, Klaus decided to make everyone widen their eyes yet again.

Because of his recent fame, he had become a sensation, with everyone wanting to know everything about his day-to-day life. So he had many followers who just wanted to hear from him.

So when a picture of him and Burning Angel suddenly appeared on the Uniweb, everything ignited again.

What left many hanging their jaws loose was the write-up attached to the image.

"Just spent the afternoon with the legendary Burning Angel - cool dude, by the way. We talked about our shared interest in protecting the universe from bad guys and how much goes into actually making it happen.

He expressed his interest in having me join his ranks, but after some consideration, he decided it would be best for me to stay with the Mission Hall. Also, since I would be going to the academy soon, he saw it best that I stay focused on one thing.

However, because I'm awesome and have proven I am not all talk, he couldn't just let me go, so I proposed acting as a freelancer under the authority of Supreme Elder Ryuu.

This way, while I am not technically a warrior, I can still aid them at the directive of Supreme Elder Ryuu, who actually wanted me to join the Warrior Tower in the first place.

Senior Burning Angel seems to hold her in high regard, so I think I would also like her. That said, he didn't seem to mind that I broke his formation.

Though he shared his admiration and praise, we both know it wasn't that much of a deal. But overall, we had a good talk, and I, for one, am looking forward to our next meeting.

Standing on that, I would like to also extend a heartfelt apology to Supreme Queen Mirabel, Supreme Scholar Demel, Supreme Engineer Wennie, and the Doom Hunter for my uncultured behaviour toward them.

I was very angry and, perhaps knowing what revealing my identity would cause, I acted out of character. I am sorry and hope that when we meet in the future, we can have a good talk.

All in all, I am glad I had such an experience. Thank ya."

And just like that, his name started trending even more, only that this time, many started to wonder just why he seemed lucky at every turn.

#### Chapter 1407: Going Back To Planet Yahmir

While the rest of the universe digested the implications of Klaus's post featuring an image of him and the Burning Angel, he decided to enter seclusion to absorb the knowledge Efad had given him.

Planet Stella is a beautiful and well-protected planet, so he decided to stay there for the duration of the time left before the mission to the Jade Ant Queens' Nest.

But before entering seclusion, Lord Flux called him inside the Dark Space, so he decided to go see him first. They met in Lord Flux's private residence inside the Dark Space.

"Looks like you have caused more than enough trouble to cause the entire Warrior Tower to come after you," Lord Flux said, a smile appearing on his face.

"You are a unique individual, Klaus."

"I get that a lot," he grinned, feeling somewhat regretful that he nearly pulled Lord Flux into his drama. If not for the fact that he wasn't seen with him before, people would have gone after him.

Thankfully, Hael (Burning Angel) came into the scene early.

Now, at the Warrior Tower, even the Supremes would like to gain his favour. After all, meeting a Celestial and taking a selfie with him, many just wanted to learn his ways and how to cozy up to powerful people.

"I called you here because of Lady Ryuu. She wants you to do one last thing to prove your identity."

"Oh, what does she have in mind?"

Although he had done most of the name clearing, there was no harm in adding more.

"According to Lady Ryuu, the criminal underworld is hosting a tournament in a few days. Per the report, the criminal whom Supreme Elder Juo said was the same as you, or at least tried to use to smear your name, will be participating.

So she wants you to make a public appearance during that time. This way, nobody would keep thinking you are the same person as him.

As for the issue with you being the Paragon, now that it was revealed you are a Zorvian, you shouldn't worry about that."

"Sounds like a good idea. However, where should I go if I want to make a convincing debut? I doubt live-streaming my daily routine would be convincing enough."

Lord Flux waved his hand, and a panel appeared. On it, profiles of several people appeared.

"This is the Warrior Challenge chart. The Warrior Tower has this in every planetary system, star system, and galaxy. These are the current top 100 ranking members on the S-rank chart. The strongest is a True Immortal.

Surprisingly, after your battle with Rouni, they all want to battle you. As you can see, they have issued their challenges and conditions.

I have sent it to you, so use the next couple of days to review them and pick one. Remember, you must review their conditions before accepting."

"Sure." As long as he managed to clear his name, there would be no reason to doubt him anymore.

After he closed the panel, he retrieved two black keys and gave them to him. "Lady Ryuu said Supreme Queen Mirabel and Supreme Engineer Winnie gave these to her to pass to you.

It seems they still want to meet you, so when you have time, go see them." After a few more discussions, the meeting ended, and they both returned to the real world.

Klaus entered seclusion after making sure that, in two days, he would be done digesting what Efad had given him. He would be spending the next few months meeting one powerhouse after another.

Then, when all that was done, he would head to the academy to register. As for his issue with Supreme Elder Juo, the Zorvian family would handle it.

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[Planet Virel]

Meanwhile, back on Planet Virel, after using his main body to absorb the flame essence from Burning Angel's planet, he broke through to Peak Early Immortal.

However, he wasn't the only one who benefited. The four flame spirits had all become more powerful. Before the absorption, they were all 13-year-old teenagers. But now, they had reached at least 15 years old.

This growth is a clear indication that they have reached another level of strength. Of course, judging by how fierce they look, there is no doubt they would be making waves in the upcoming Blood Tournament.

"Daddy, are we leaving already?" Nirvana asked, sounding more mature compared to before.

"Yes. But before we head out, I need to talk to Big Sister Niva, so you four should go back and wait for my call."

They nodded and vanished back into his soul sea.

Niva, who had already met the four flame spirits, just shook her head but said nothing. When Klaus arrived on Planet Virel a week ago, he wanted to reveal his true identity to her, but after some thought, he chose not to.

Instead, he tried to make her connect him to her father, who, as far as he knew, was a Planet King. He wanted to create a way for her to be able to return to the Righteous Faction after she killed Varkos.

However, he was stunned when he learned that her father had been in on the plot from the start. This means she has a sure way to go back. The only downside is that she cannot return to the academy without concrete evidence that she did all this without harming anyone.

She did harm some people, so that would play against her. But since she was disguised during her time on Planet Yahmir, Klaus found a way to help her.

Her father would play a big role, of course, so when the time comes, she would have to reach out to her father to know.

In the end, the one who would be helping her wouldn't be Klaus's main body. Instead, the Paragon would make his debut in the most unexpected way.

Varkos would die at the hands of the Paragon.

"Remember what I said. When you reach the peak of the True Immortal stage, take the blood essence I gave you."

She nodded.

"How long will you be gone for?"

"Two, maybe three weeks. However, after the tournament, I will have to throw off those who would come after me, so we will be meeting in a few months' time.

Sera will provide whatever you need, so do well to become an Immortal King by the time I return."

"I will."

"Also, a friend of mine will be reaching out to you, so be sure to pay attention to your communicator. There is a chance Varkos will be dying sooner than you think."

She nodded.

After handling a few things, he left in a sleek SS-class spaceship. The Blood Tournament will start in three days, and this time, there will be 128 candidates, each within the rank of True Immortal.

The only one with a much weaker cultivation base is Klaus, who is only a Peak Early Immortal. So it is going to be a wild tournament, one that will determine who gets to represent the Black Tempest Cartel in the upcoming Underworld Slaughter Tournament.

Klaus wants to have a presence in the Underworld and the Heavenly Court while also playing his role as the Paragon. So, regardless of how dangerous this tournament turns out to be, he can only do one thing - win.

#### Chapter 1408: Blood Tournament Starts Again

Although Planet Yahmir is a dangerous place, it is also easy to live on, especially for those who have issues with the law or just don't like playing by the rules.

Every day, thousands come and go, bringing and taking with them all kinds of things.

However, today, people aren't living. They are coming because, for the next couple of days, perhaps weeks, the Blood Tournament they've all been waiting for will be taking place, and the lineup is crazy.

"I can't believe every last winner of a Blood Tournament will be participating in the upcoming Blood Tournament," a reporter who only reports for the underworld said as her live show streamed on the dark web.

The only way to watch is to have access reserved only for criminals. She has with her a few others who, if the righteous faction were to check their profiles, they would be freaked out of their skins.

"There is going to be a lot of bloodbath, and I, for one, am ready to cheer on the winners. I have been working tirelessly to secure a spot in the VIP area, and thanks to a few connections I have, I will be watching live as the slaughter happens."

"You aren't the only one, buddy. I will also be there and report live." The mere fact that they look happy and eager to watch a slaughter go down seems a bit disturbing, even from a criminal perspective.

But then again, the kind of heinous crimes these criminals have committed are just too chilling to let them live even a day longer. Killing them is completely justified.

"I am going because of Blood Sword," one of them suddenly said, causing the room to turn quiet. A few months ago, Klaus participated in the Blood Tournament using the name Blood Sword.

Since then, his name has spread in the underworld just like how the Renegade Hunter had also dominated the righteous faction.

Every day that passes, people can only anticipate when he will return to the Arena. His battles have been on repeat for months now, and so, with the day of the tournament drawing near, the anticipation building around him only keeps increasing.

"He won the last one using his own skills and wit, so I, for one, would love to see if he can repeat that again."

"Repeat that again? Please don't make me laugh. I admit that Blood Sword is indeed a capable warrior. He has proven he could fight those stronger than him; however, you seem to be forgetting something. The people he is about to face now are all veterans.

Take Jagged Axe, for instance. He won the 30th Blood Tournament when he was at the High-Level True Immortal stage with three Immortal Rings.

The last I heard, he had formed two more Immortal Rings, reached the Peak-Level True Immortal stage, and even killed a High-Level Immortal King who happens to be a trusted bodyguard of the Night Merchant."

"Really..."

"Yes. Or how do you think the Night Merchant was robbed in the first place? I even heard Lord Varkos had invited him to join his inner circle, but he rejected the invitation.

Such a person is way out of Blood Sword's league, and he isn't even the deadliest or the strongest. There are several others that even Jagged Axe will run from."

"Still, I believe in him and know he will deliver. If he was able to defeat Real Immortals while not even an Immortal, then guess what he could do when he reaches the Immortal stage."

"If he manages to reach the Immortal stage, that is."

The room became quiet again.

The question of whether Blood Sword would be ready for the Blood Tournament had been circulating long before this debate. However, it only grew increasingly louder when, even three days before the tournament, he still hadn't arrived.

The 127 had already reported, and many of them even granted interviews. However, Blood Sword remained absent, almost as if he weren't aware that the time for the tournament had arrived.

Two days before the start of the tournament, when he didn't arrive, the theory that Supreme Elder Juo cited during Klaus's battle with Rouni started to trend.

People started wondering if the Renegade Hunter was indeed the same as Blood Sword. The next day, when he was still nowhere to be found, this theory grew even more chaotic and began spreading throughout the universe.

However, something shocking happened just four hours before the tournament began.

Three days ago, inside the Anonymous Poker House, a young man with a tiger mask walked in and has been on a winning streak since then.

Many legends inside the Poker House were all defeated by him in a single sitting. However, four hours before the start of the Blood Tournament, he suddenly stood up and removed his mask.

"Ladies and gentlemen, duty calls, so I will see you all later." He was instantly recognised by almost everyone present inside the poker house.

With everyone holding their breath, he walked out of the Poker House a rich man. News spread everywhere, shutting down all the theories circulating.

All who claimed he was the same person as the Renegade Hunter were left disgraced beyond measure. It turned out Blood Sword had been around for the last 72 hours, but was in disguise.

However, now that he had appeared and his strength as a Peak Early Immortal started to spread, everyone came to the conclusion that the Renegade Hunter and Blood Sword were not the same person.

After all, Blood Sword is at the Peak while the Renegade Hunter had just touched the Medium Level. The gap is plain as day, and that can be verified through his hunter profile.

So Blood Sword, the criminal, had appeared, and with that, the rest of the underworld, who were tuned in to watch this Blood Tournament, got ready.

Just when the clock hit 12 noon, the tournament officially started.

A large arena built specifically for this tournament was filled with 100,000 in-person audience, while billions watched from home and all kinds of hellholes they found themselves in.

Supreme Elder Juo's outburst had drawn attention to the Blood Tournament, so even people from the righteous faction were watching.

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome once again to the Blood Tournament. I am the Needle Mistress, and I will be your host for this edition of the Blood Tournament."

Just like last time, the flirtatious-looking lady whose crime would make even a god hallucinate appeared on everyone's screen.

"As we all know, this edition of the Blood Tournament will be used to determine who will represent the Black Tempest Cartel in the upcoming Underworld Slaughter Tournament.

Since we have seen some of the blood-curdling battles over the past year, this time, we will be seeing an even more deadly and soaking hot battle between all 128 winners of the past editions of the Blood Tournaments.

This means we will be seeing the likes of the Midnight Queen, the Wind Whisperer, Jagged Axe, the Blade Cleaner, and even our very own wild card, the legendary Blood Sword himself.

As for who will walk away as the lone survivor, we can only wait and watch." Cheers spread everywhere.

"I like the enthusiasm, so without further ado, let's see the first lineup."

Chapter 1409: Rask Vorn - the Iron Breaker

The screen turned on, and the first 64 battle lineup was displayed.

Since 128 criminals are participating, there will be 64 battles, with two battles happening simultaneously because the arena is large enough for two.

This time, it would not be a one-day thing. Two battles happening at the same time, even if they stretch for hours, is fine.

They might spend a couple of days this time around, since it won't be a simple battle.

When the pairing was made, many checked to see who Blood Sword would be facing. When his name was seen in 6th place and who he was paired against, many sucked in a deep breath.

"Is this bad luck, or is this just the heavens' way of telling us Blood Sword should just give up? How in hell is he going to even survive a single attack from that brute?"

Many started to wonder, some even calling out the organizers for being shameless in pairing Blood Sword against someone who had shown what brutal fighting looks like several months back.

Rask Vorn, or as he likes to be called, the Iron Breaker, won the 41st Blood Tournament through sheer brutality. He had crushed every opponent he faced with ease.

That display had been imprinted on everyone's mind, so seeing that he would be facing Blood Sword, they all started to lose hope in their dear wild card.

"There is no need to question anything. This is a tournament, and since the pairing is done automatically, everyone can have just about any opponent, and that would be that."

The Needle Mistress said, hoping to calm the outrage. However, all who seemed to have become die-hard Blood Sword fans kept cursing the organizers. Seeing they wouldn't shut up, she decided to start with the first battle.

Meanwhile, inside a room reserved for one person, Klaus sat, a large screen displaying Rask Vorn's details active before him. He had already tasked Icon with finding more about his opponent.

From what she had gathered, Rask is a member of a race of humans called Ironblood Humans. He is a natural-born metal user and a Low-Level True Immortal with three Immortal Rings.

He also found out the kind of monster he is.

According to videos recorded during his Blood Tournament, all the opponents he faced died with their heads smashed in.

His classic kill move was slamming both hammers together, using the head as the target. He can also turn his skin as hard as metal, making it nearly impossible for any attack to get past his defense.

"Looks like I will be facing a difficult brute this time around." A smile appeared on his face.

This brute reminds him of a demigod he once battled during his 4th incarnation. The battle, from start to finish, was him looking for a part of his skin to attack and injure.

Just like Rask, that brute also had metal affinity, so the battle this time will be a repeat of that. If his metal affinity is high enough, then it will be a difficult challenge.

Klaus relaxed his mind and waited. Although he never managed to get past that brute's defense, he managed to break a few bones before the battle ended. This time, he would succeed or die trying.

The first two battles started, and right from the start, they became chaotic.

The first battle was between the winners of the 47th and 30th Blood Tournaments, while the second was between the 51st and 25th winners.

They all were once winners, but this time around, two out of the four would be walking away alive.

Crimson Reaver won the 47th Blood Tournament not from luck but from battle experience and sheer evil. He wields chain blades that extend dozens of meters.

From the start of his battle with the 30th champion, all the attacks he landed were meant to both torture and kill. He knew where to strike and when to strike it.

In the end, he killed his opponent within 30 minutes, bringing the first battle to an end. At the same time, the second battle ended with the Queen of Silence winning.

Just as her title suggests, she doesn't speak. However, if her deeds were to be made public, everyone would love to see her tortured to death.

She had done all kinds of disgusting things over the years, which, if nobody told you, believing she had the guts to do such things would be unbelievable.

However, after she gutted her opponent in every painful way possible, every last person watching started to fear her once again.

As they say, it is always the silent ones you should fear.

Once her battle ended, the next set was called.

Klaus' name came sixth, so he was next.

"Next, we have the battle I know most of you have been waiting for," the Needle Mistress said, and everywhere went wild. Cheers filled the arena and even spilled over.

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome the 128th winner of the Blood Tournament, Blood Sword."

The door to the room where Klaus was resting opened, and he walked out, his hands behind his back, a small smile at the corner of his lips as he headed toward the stage.

He had already heard from Icon what all 127 criminals in this tournament were capable of, so he would show no mercy.

They are some of the most dangerous and evil beings alive, so he wants them dead, and he will most certainly send them all on their way.

The smile on his face wasn't from the cheers he was receiving; it was merely his way of feeling happy about the massacre he was about to commit.

After he entered, his opponent was called.

"Now let's welcome Rask Vorn, the Iron Breaker, who happens to be the winner of the 41st Blood Tournament, to the stage."

Another door opened, and a two-and-a-half-meter muscular man, dragging two large hammers behind him, walked onto the stage.

His gaze was locked on Klaus the entire time. He seemed to have already concluded that Klaus was as good as dead, judging by the look in his eyes.

When he was finally inside the arena, he raised one hammer and rested it on his shoulder, while the other pointed at Klaus.

"Just because you have become an Immortal doesn't mean you have what it takes to face me as an opponent," he paused and rested the other hammer on his shoulder.

"Better surrender and let me smash your head in before wasting both my time and yours."

Klaus stood there with the same smile for a few seconds before a chuckle escaped his mouth. He extended his hand, and the Flame Eater Bow appeared.

"You know, they always say brutes have tiny brains, but I never believed them. I have friends who are brutes but possess great intelligence.

So I guess the saying is flawed in some way. Instead of saying all brutes have small brains, they should have said Rask Vorn, the self-acclaimed two-and-a-half-meter-tall brute, has little to no brain."

The veins on Rask's forehead hardened as his expression turned ugly. His anger burst open, and luckily for him, at that exact moment, the go-ahead to begin their battle was announced.

He leaped into the air in an instant, activating a technique.

"Titan Hammerfall."

## Chapter 1410: Killing Rask

Both hammers rose high above his head as metal essence surged wildly around him, forming the phantom image of a towering titan behind his massive frame.

In that instant, the very surroundings felt charged with a metallic law, one that Klaus could feel but couldn't harness.

He, after all, had chosen only the Flame Element as his elemental affinity for this persona, so despite being an elemental overlord, he cannot use the metal law this time.

The air trembled as cracks spread across the arena floor beneath the sheer force of his descent. Long before he touched the floor, the reinforced ground started to bear the weight.

Rask brought both hammers down with terrifying speed, aiming straight for Klaus' head, just as he had done to every opponent before him.

The impact alone would have been enough to reduce a Peak Early Immortal to pulp.

However, at the very instant the hammers descended, Klaus vanished.

One moment, he was standing there; the next, he was gone. The only thing remaining was the annoying smile on his face, which Rask could still see even though he was gone.

A deafening explosion rang out as the hammers collided with the arena floor instead, shattering the reinforced surface and sending fragments of stone flying in all directions.

A massive crater formed where Klaus had been standing just a fraction of a second earlier.

Gasps echoed throughout the arena as spectators leaned forward in disbelief. The destruction is on another level.

From the moment Rask leaped into the air and activated his technique, many had expected Blood Sword to be crushed instantly, yet he had disappeared at the final moment.

High above, a streak of crimson light flickered into existence. Klaus reappeared mid-air, already drawing the string of the Flame Eater Bow.

Flames coiled around the arrow forming between his fingers, compressing into a dense, blazing spear of fire aimed directly at Rask Vorn below.

This battle was his way of determining how much his four flame spirits had grown.

One quarter of the arrow became white, showing he had channeled the Soul Fury Flame. Another part showed an orange flame, indicating it was the Chaotic Nirvana Flame.

The tip of the arrow was red, showing it was the Void Incineration Flame, while the last part was black, a clear sign he had also channeled the Primordial Desolation Flame.

Although he decided not to call Fury, Nirvana, Void, and Qilin to appear in their humanoid or beast forms in this battle, he chose to harness their power in his first arrow.

The moment Rask sensed the arrow lock onto him, his back trembled, causing him to activate his metal Qi and three Immortal Rings.

At once, his skin changed from light brown to deep brown.

"Let's see if that is enough to stop you."

He released the arrow, and it took flight, arriving before Rask in an instant.

Rask roared and crossed his hammers in front of him, metal Qi surging outward as the phantom titan behind him solidified further.

The metallic law he wielded condensed into layers upon layers of hardened essence, forming a defensive shell around his already iron-like skin.

The arrow struck hard.

A thunderous detonation erupted upon contact, flames exploding outward in a spiraling storm that swallowed Rask's massive figure whole.

The arena floor beneath him cracked further, lines spreading in every direction as the heat forced even the reinforced material to scream under pressure.

The combined attack of the four flames proved more dangerous than he expected.

For a brief second, nothing could be seen but fire.

It was a battle between flames and metal, and the result said it all.

The four flames clashed against the metallic defense, each testing its limit. Since Rask had raised his defense and reinforced it with three Immortal Rings, he expected it to be strong.

The Soul Fury Flame invaded his consciousness, traveling deep into the soul. The Chaotic Nirvana Flame amplified the burn and added more chaos to the fold.

The Void Incineration Flame ate away at the integrity of his metal Qi, and the Primordial Desolation Flame eroded everything it touched.

There is no better combination than these four. They made it so Rask wouldn't have that easy run he had in the past. This time, he wouldn't have that chance where every battle was him dominating.

A guttural roar burst from within the inferno as Rask forced his feet deeper into the ground, anchoring himself.

Veins bulged along his neck as cracks began to form across his hardened skin, thin lines spreading from the point of impact where the arrow had struck between his crossed hammers.

His defense held for a moment, but crumbled, causing most of the attack to land on his metallic skin.

Then, with a violent explosion of metal essence, the flames were blown apart, revealing Rask still standing—his hammers trembling, his skin charred in several places, and a thin trail of blood running down from the corner of his mouth.

"Looks like you are not that metallic after all."

Instead of waiting for Rask to attack, Klaus activated a skill, and three pairs of flame wings appeared on his back. He flapped them, and he was airborne, out of Rask's reach.

"I have already determined your weakness, buddy. On the ground, you are a god. However, up here, unless you have space law that allows you to seal space and prevent flight, you are at my mercy.

So allow me to show you what I can do from up here."

The next second, the air lit up as hundreds of arrows started raining down on Rask.

One reason Icon would be Klaus's greatest strength is her ability to analyze just about anyone, identify their weaknesses, and exploit them.

During the Planet Awakening, when she was in her battle mode, she aided Klaus in various ways. However, even in her normal mode, she was still able to determine which aspect of Rask's power was flawed.

Now, with him airborne and out of reach, Rask could only go into defense.

Unfortunately for him, Klaus had more than enough energy to devastate him in every way possible.

Every arrow was packed with so much flame Qi. Even without tapping into the Flame Law, every arrow was enough to devastate his opponent.

"According to science, metal becomes malleable when heated to a certain degree. Since we have already started the heating process, I wonder how long it will take for you to melt."

All over the arena, everyone kept cheering as arrow after arrow rained down on the poor brute, who just could not hide his flaw from Klaus.

In the past, he used his overwhelming strength to overpower his opponents.

However, today, he had met someone who, aside from his battle experience, also seemed to have a keen sense of seeing beyond what the ordinary eye could see.

With Icon added to the mix, he only became even more powerful. So in the end, after bombarding him with countless arrows, the brute finally couldn't take it anymore. He dropped to his knees and gasped for breath.

His weapons lay on the ground, while his entire body was riddled with one gory injury after another.

Just one last arrow, and he would be kicking the bucket.

However, Klaus didn't do that. Instead of attacking with an arrow, he put away his bow and walked toward the two hammers, lifting them effortlessly from the ground.

Everyone held their breath as they watched what Klaus was planning to do.

Their wait lasted only a minute before Klaus leaped into the air and descended with a thunderous strike.

Both hammers came from both directions and sandwiched Rask's head, smashing it to a pulp.