

Paragon 1461

Chapter 1461 - 1461: The Jade Ant Queen Nest Opening

The past five days had been bliss for Klaus.

He had spent a great time with Lady Narcisa, Idalie, Lista, Queen Leah, and Rania. While it wasn't to the point where they crossed the bridge, he knew the connection that had formed between them had become much stronger.

Because of this, Klaus knew he must come back to Planet Caelmir again soon.

Thankfully, now that his blood is in their system, they can come to him, too. Naturally, that was the arrangement he made with Lady Danika.

While drinking her blood seemed to help him awaken that strange energy much faster, it turned out she was benefiting as well.

So far, a part of her bloodline had started to awaken.

Every time he drinks her blood, she becomes stronger, and since she wanted to become strong enough to be on the same level as his wives, even when he leaves, she wants to have her blood drunk.

So now that his Star Monarch bloodline has become more robust and runs in her system, they plan to meet every few weeks.

Klaus might come over, or she will. At the end of the day, the connection they share will make travel easier.

But since he had made some progress with the five royal ladies, and considering his wives and grandma live on this planet, he has more than enough reasons to come back more regularly.

When he and Lista woke up in the morning, and she found herself holding his dick, her shyness returned. Thankfully, Klaus was prepared this time.

In the end, they spent a few hours in each other's arms before coming out.

Five hours later, Klaus and Rory were ready to go.

They all gathered in the main royal mansion to see them off...

"I am going to miss you, Kiddo," Lady Nivara said, hugging Klaus tightly. Thanks to Queen Leah, she had already started tempering her body using a unique method Klaus had given her.

Her cultivation is still at the Nether stage, but that won't last much longer. The more progress she made in body tempering, the higher her chances of reaching the next stage much faster.

Soon, she will become immortal again, and from there, they will work to make her a goddess again.

"I will miss you too, Grandma. However, I will come back the moment I return from my mission."

"You promise?"

"I promise, Grandma."

She nodded, and after a few more hugs, she let go of him and allowed others to hug him as well. His wives swarmed him like ants around a bowl of sugar.

They came for hugs and kisses. Klaus, who knew this was the end result of having more than one wife, didn't complain and gave them what they wanted.

His grandma smiled, already looking forward to when her grandson would give her some grandkids.

Klaus, in his incarnation as Kaden, had already bragged to her that the moment he becomes a god and addresses the issue of why the heavens had become a mess, he will give her as many grandkids as she needed.

He even gave her a Celestial-grade cloning technique, claiming she would need more bodies to play with them all.

So she is happy for him.

After his wives had their turn, his potential wives did as well, starting with Emily, followed by Miko, Mio, and finally Lady Danika. They had become much stronger than they were one month ago.

As for Rory, since she was leaving with Klaus, they knew she would get to spend more time with him, so not hugging him now was nothing.

Lady Narcisa and her family also came to see him off. They tried to remain formal and royal, but the shameless Klaus didn't allow them. In the end, they also received their hugs and kisses, making them happy.

After all hugs were out of the way, Klaus went to see his old man.

"I am leaving, Pops. Hope you won't miss me too much."

King Alric smirked. "Just take care out there. Now that you are a magnet for trouble, I know trouble will find you. Just in case it is beyond you, know I am here for you."

Klaus looked at him for a few seconds and smiled. "I know you are going to miss me."

While he would probably miss him simply because Klaus is a lot, he is also worried about him. Magnus wasn't that much of a problem back then simply because he was someone many were running from.

Now, however, a lot had changed. There are more demigods, gods, Supremes, and Celestials than before. So there is just no telling what is waiting for him out there.

Being careful is paramount, and so he had to remind him.

"Rest assured, Pops, I will be fine." Klaus retrieved seven envelopes from his space ring and handed them to his old man.

"Give these to my stepmothers who are giving you the cold shoulder. I am sure it will help solve your marriage problems."

A knock landed on the brat's head before King Alric received the envelopes.

It turns out that during the era of the 7th paragon, after the awakening battle, some of King Alric's wives despised him for how he treated Magnus and his mother.

While they were also at fault, they learned to hate and belittle the poor vampire and his mother because he had also treated them so. So when the illusion cleared, they blamed him, which later led them to distance themselves from him.

While they still qualified as his wives, they had been giving him the cold shoulder for billions of years now. Painfully so, all seven of them are powerful Supremes now, with even two managing to become Celestials in the last 100,000 years.

He wants them back, and so Klaus wrote them letters which he believes will solve the issue. Of course, he did this for his own good.

While he wouldn't go after his stepmother, using them to extort money and resources from his old man was something he wouldn't mind doing.

"The Jade Ant Queen was a powerful Supreme Insect goddess during the Star Monarch Era. She had many treasures, but also her domain is filled with all kinds of dangers. Be careful when in there."

King Alric said one last time, causing Klaus to nod.

"I will be careful, Pops. And tell my stepmothers and step-siblings that I said hi. Once everything calms down a bit, I will come for a beautiful family dinner with my wives."

"They would love that."

After a handshake that turned into a hug, Klaus returned to the main mansion, and before long, he was ready to leave with Rory.

By the time they got back to planet Stella, Lord Victor and the three other Immortal Lords who would be embarking on the mission with them were already prepared.

Aside from him and Rory, the other three are Omen, a swordsman, Slate, a spearman, and Echo, a combat mage who specializes in the use of ice and spatial magic.

News of the Jade Ant Queen's nest opening had already spread far and wide. All who have a token to enter started making their way to a ruined planet called Jade Mine.

The entrance to the nest is there, and that is where the major powerhouses will be gathered to send their protégés inside. It was also where Lord Victor and his team would be heading.

A few minutes after they returned, they left Planet Stella and started heading to Planet Jade Mine.

Chapter 1462 - 1462: Monsters Gather

[Dark Universe Channel - Klaus's POV]

After they took off from Planet Stella, Lord Victor handed Klaus a map fragment.

His part of the mission is to lead the four teammates to retrieve at least a drop of Immortal Essence Water, believed to be hidden somewhere in the Jade Nest.

The map fragment they have will help them get to it, or maybe not. Nobody had really been inside the Jade Nest after it was sealed, so this map was from back when warriors bravely tried to steal from the Jade Ant Queen.

"There are about fourteen map fragments. It was said that if all 14 fragments were brought together, a complete map of the Jade Nest would form. Unfortunately, it had been fragmented by an unknown person. So you can only go on with this."

Lord Victor paused and took a deep breath. "If by chance you meet a team that wants to compare maps and you believe you can trust them, do so and get a much bigger picture of the nest.

I will talk to a few friends of mine when we get to Planet Jade Mine and see if we can compare maps before you enter. However, you should be careful too. The Nest is not a place to joke around.

While you will be suppressed to the True Immortal stage, I doubt that will be for long. Somehow, many believe there is a conspiracy behind all this, so be careful. If there is nothing else to find, the moment you get the Immortal Essence Water, you can leave."

Klaus and his teammates nodded.

Klaus, however, paid much closer attention to the map.

All the way on the second floor of the inheritance tower, Kaden paused his training with the battle doll and took a deep breath. Then a smile appeared on his face...

[Looks like we are finally going back to that dreadful place.]

He proceeded to share a memory with Klaus.

Inside that memory, Efad, who was known far and wide as the Star Monarch, the 9th paragon, ventured into the domain of the Jade Ant Queen's Nest, hoping to make her one of his contracted beasts.

Efad was merely a demigod back then; however, he had over a million powerful beasts under his command, many of whom were gods.

That kind of power gave him the confidence to approach the Jade Ant Queen. He believed that with her joining him, he would have a good chance of challenging the Heavens Court.

Long story short, Efad lost all forms of connection to his beasts. He couldn't call for help, and on all sides, he was surrounded. By the time he managed to escape, he had lost one arm, a leg, and an eye.

He never stepped there ever again until his last breath. Today, it appeared they would be going there once again.

This time, however, while he may lose connection to his beast's legion, with four of his bodies out there, he can easily bypass that restriction and call for help.

'I pray her ghost doesn't recognize me, else I will leave with half of my body missing this time.'

Kaden laughed, and somewhere else, Orion and Rhazor also smirked.

Kaden sized the battledoll who had been giving him a good ass-whooping the past days and smiled before adding:

[In case you come across our severed arm and legs, kindly bring them. We can't have two parts of our shameful past falling into anyone else's hands now, can we?]

'No we can't.'

Kaden grinned, and he lunged at the battledoll once again.

Klaus, however, turned and looked at Lord Victor. "Rest assured, we will get the job done."

He nodded and leaned back into his chair. He had already gotten a way to form his 10th Immortal Ring, which will leave him two more to go. If the Immortal Essence Water is found and retrieved, he can form the 11th.

The moment he forms the 12th Immortal Ring, he will form his law core and become a demigod. However, with him having 12 Immortal Rings and a Celestial as his master, he will soon become a god.

Naturally, he will become one of the powerful ones.

So this mission is very important. Klaus knew that, and so did the four of his teammates. Rory knew what her father was after, so she would work hard to help him.

6 hours later, they entered the atmosphere of Planet Jade Mine. The moment they did, Klaus sensed the spiritual qi in the air become dense and contaminated.

"This place used to be one of the valuable planets in the human universe due to its richness in jade and spirit crystals. However, an accident occurred, causing one of the larger mines to explode and releasing toxins into the air.

Overnight, those below the immortal stage died. Only a few and the immortals survived. But they couldn't stay for long either, so after a few years, the planet was abandoned.

Later, it was discovered that the explosion was caused by the sudden emergence of the gateway that led to the Jade Ant Queen's Nest. The spiritual qi here is toxic, so don't absorb it."

Klaus nodded. However, he didn't listen to Lord Victor. Even if he wanted to, he couldn't, mainly because of what had started to happen when they entered the planet's atmosphere.

<A unique energy has been discovered: Condensed Poison Spirit Qi.>

<Your ?????? is trying to refine it.>

<Your ?????? has successfully refined the Condensed Poison Spirit Qi into Spiritual Essence.>

<Your ?????? is absorbing the Spiritual Essence.>

Klaus didn't know what to even say. Deep down, however, he was pleased to see that he could absorb even poisoned spiritual qi.

This made him wonder just what energy this strange power can't refine and absorb as it slowly awakens deep inside his soul sea.

As the ship moved through the clouds, Klaus could tell that the rate at which he was absorbing the essence started to increase. However, since it wasn't strengthening his cultivation, he didn't mind.

A few minutes later, they appeared from the clouds, and that was when his gaze landed on thousands of immortals already gathered and waiting for the gate to open.

The majority of them are Immortal Lords. Clearly, everyone wants to be prepared for anything. Klaus, however, ignored them and focused on the demigods and gods gathered.

They were all like Lord Victor. They brought their people to come and enter the Jade Nest.

After finding a place to land, they walked out of the ship, instantly earning many gazes. Klaus was, of course, the center of attention. Many recognized him instantly.

Whispers spread, and soon, those who hate him made themselves known when their killing eyes locked on him. Klaus was surprised to sense even some gods giving him a chilling gaze.

Unfortunately, they can't kill him in the open like this. Doing so will call the wrath of the Burning Angel and the Mission Hall. So they are saving everything for when they enter the Jade Nest.

They found a place to rest, and Lord Victor moved away to meet a few friends of his. When he was gone, Klaus swept his gaze across the space, meeting the eyes of those who seemed to have a problem with him and smirked.

"Looks like you are very popular, Renegade Hunter," Omen said, a smile forming on his face.

Klaus chuckled. "It appears so. Though I can't help but wonder how many of them will be returning from the Nest alive should they follow through on their threat."

The chilling atmosphere intensified when those who heard what he said unleashed more killing intent.

Just when things were about to escalate, a sudden soothing voice filled with vitality and peace spread across the place, bringing calm to everyone's heart, Klaus included.

"So you are the infamous Renegade Hunter,"

Chapter 1463 - 1463: The 7th Jade Princess

Klaus and everyone turned their heads toward a silver-colored SSS-class spaceship.

It was where the voice came from.

Just when many started to wonder who had spoken, the door opened, and a golden-haired beauty clad in what appeared to be a cotton-laced dress walked out, causing many to gasp.

Behind Klaus, Slate muttered the words he needed to hear to perform a quick search.

"7th Jade Princess"

Klaus showed no expression despite the golden-haired lady walking toward him in steady steps. She is a beauty without a doubt; however, Klaus had seen great beauties in his long life, so he wasn't affected in any way.

As she walked by, many bowed toward her, some even demigods, while she was merely an Immortal Lord.

Inwardly, Klaus had already given Icon the command to search for information on her.

On the outside, however, he kept his calm gaze on her. Rory, who stood beside him, moved subtly and half hid her body behind him, clearly wary of the lady walking toward them.

[The 7th Jade Princess. She is one of the Princesses of the Human Universe.]

'Oh, so she is a royal in reality, rather than just a term used to describe her beauty,'

[Not merely a name. She indeed is a royal, one of the many princesses found in the Jade Temple. All Princesses in the Human Universe can be found there since it has been built to teach them what it means to be a Princess and a future leader of the Human Universe.]

'So am I supposed to bow before her or something,'

[That is indeed what the master is expected to do,]

'Good thing I am not everyone.' Klaus smiled inwardly and asked a question. However, before Icon could reply, he felt the world around him start to twist.

Suddenly, a crack formed, and a beam of incandescent light spilled from the crack, landing on both eyes. At once, Klaus felt like his mind was forcefully opened for all to see.

However, he closed his eyes, and instead of closing the crack, he forced his mind back and looked at the golden-haired lady.

"How cute. As they say, it is the beautiful ones that you should look out for."

The golden-haired lady stopped 4 meters from Klaus, clearly stunned, though she didn't show it. Inwardly, however, she wondered just why she had failed.

Just now, she used a mind attack to get past Klaus's defenses and make sure that when she was close to him, he would bow toward her. However, her mind attack met a brick wall, so tough that not even all her immortal rings would be able to leave a dent in it.

This made her a bit impressed and more wary of the white-haired young man that everyone knew was the renegade hunter.

Klaus tilted his head and asked, "Can I help you with something, Your Highness?"

Many frowned seeing Klaus's back still straight. Some felt insulted, considering they expected Klaus to bow to their princess. Not giving due respect to those who deserve it is considered a grave offense, and Klaus had just committed the biggest one.

However, none were able to voice out their complaints, not when the Princess seemed okay with Klaus, at least on the outside.

She was still stunned by how Klaus defended against her mind attack, but she put on a smile that enchanted the environment.

"I indeed need something from you, if you don't mind,"

"I am all ears, Princess."

She nodded and walked toward him.

When she was close enough, she regarded Rory, who averted her gaze, not bothering to look at her. Omen, Slate, and Echo, however, bowed to her.

Unlike Rory, who can be considered a princess herself, they are mere warriors; offending a Princess is way above their pay grade.

The Jade Princess said nothing and casually retrieved a fragment of a map. Klaus recognized the fragmented map because he also had a similar copy.

"I want us to compare maps and see if we can build a much broader topography."

"Of course." Klaus didn't even think about it and retrieved his map fragment and brought it close to the Jade Princess's own.

They both looked intently at each other's maps.

<Second Map Fragment of the Jade Ant Queen Nest Acquired>

It took the Jade Princess some time to memorize everything in Klaus's map. Klaus, however, didn't have to, since Icon had already started building a map.

He already planned to get all 14 fragments and build a complete map, so offering one, despite knowing there was a grave chance he and the other team would be forced to clash over a treasure, didn't deter him.

Inwardly, Klaus knew he had a much bigger advantage than many, the reason being that he had been inside the Jade Nest before. While he hadn't roamed through the place, he saw enough to know where to go once inside.

So getting a map fragment in addition to his is a big boon.

After they finished reading each other's maps, they put them away. The Jade Princess then retrieved a golden card and handed it to Klaus.

"I don't know if there will be danger inside the Nest. That said, be careful while in there, and if you make it out, you can reach me through this ID. I have a few things to discuss with you, if you don't mind."

Klaus received the golden card and looked at her ID. After that, he stored it in his space ring and nodded.

"Rest assured, I will reach out when out," he paused and then added in a cryptic tone, "It will be nice to have a proper talk with you later too, Princess,"

She nodded and teleported away.

Klaus smiled and turned to Rory. "Looks like we wouldn't have to worry too much about where we have to go."

Rory's eyes widened. "Really?"

Klaus nodded. "Thanks to the Jade Princess, I now have a location. Once we enter, we will head there first." Klaus turned and looked around, seeing that many were giving him looks.

While initially, everyone was pissed he didn't bow down to the Jade Princess, a few understood that, considering he is also like a Prince of a very powerful ancient family.

It was only right for someone like him to have his pride.

Now, however, the jealous ones and simps wanted to get their hands on the golden card the Jade Princess had given him. Most of them were infatuated with her and had tried many times to connect with her, but had failed each time.

Klaus was just handed her contact without him even asking. That, in many people's eyes, felt like an insult.

Klaus wasn't at fault since he was merely the recipient. However, since they couldn't disrespect the Princess, it was only right to shift the blame to Klaus.

Klaus, however, didn't seem to care about their looks. Inwardly, he was already looking forward to entering the Jade Nest.

Meanwhile, on the other side, the Jade Princess appeared inside her spaceship and sat down. Beside her, four other ladies sat, their reverent gazes locked on her.

Away from them, a veiled lady sat, her legs crossed. She regarded the Princess for a moment before asking, "So what do you think, Princess? Is he a worthy candidate?"

She sat there for a few moments before answering, "He would have to pass one more test, but for now, he seems okay,"

The lady smiled behind her veil. "I see."

Chapter 1464 - 1464: Entering the Jade Nest

The Jade Princess didn't say anything, and neither did the veiled lady, for a few minutes before she sighed.

"Master, do you think I will succeed in this endeavor?" She paused and exhaled. "You know, at retrieving the Jade Pendant."

The veiled lady looked out the window, her gaze landing on Klaus, who retrieved a golden fruit from his space ring and started to eat without a care for all the looks he was getting.

"What an interesting guy. I have met many prodigies, but he seems different, almost as if he sees himself as better than everyone. While a bit arrogant, he might just be onto something," she smiled behind her veil and turned to the Princess.

"My dear student, you have been preparing for this expedition for 200 years. You did all the research you needed and even identified the Pendant's location, so naturally, you should be able to retrieve it.

When I had just become a True Immortal, the Jade Ant Queen came out of her nest after who knows how long. She had just reached the peak of the Supreme stage and was looking to become a Celestial, so she embarked on a pilgrimage around the universe.

I had the blessing of meeting her in person once. It was then that I got to see the Pendant up close. Later, I discovered that it is one of the three Primal Chaos Pendants said to have been born from the Primal Chaos Storm.

Years later, I discovered that the Pendant holds the key to overcoming the mental barrier that plagues mind cultivators as they ascend to godhood.

So, my dear disciple, regardless of what you are feeling right now, know that for the sake of reaching the peak and one day having the power to command all minds, you must get your hands on that pendant."

The Jade Princess nodded, her fist clenched and eyes filled with determination.

The veiled lady smiled yet again. "You know, in the vast universe, only a few people managed to reach the realm of godhood and ascended beyond with mind cultivation as the grassroots.

The Hive Queen was the first to reach godhood and even take it all the way to the Supreme stage, and eventually barely made it to the Celestial stage. Of course, her advantage was that she was an insect tamer.

The second was the Formation Queen. She also reached the Celestial stage. Of course, knowing she was from the Zorvian family, it was only normal.

The third was the 9th Paragon. He was only at the demigod stage when he died, but he was able to cultivate his mind to the Celestial stage. Then again, we both know the Paragon is an abnormal existence.

Aside from these three, there are many others, myself included. The thing, however, is that we cannot move past where we are now, but you will, and I know you know that.

This is also why I will advise you to take this mission seriously. Also, it will be good if you employ the help of the renegade hunter."

"Huh, why?"

"Do you even have to ask?" The veiled lady stood up and walked toward the Jade Princess. "When you tested his mental defense, what happened?"

The Jade Princess fidgeted with her finger for a moment before answering in an embarrassed tone, "I met a brick wall, literally. It was like his mind has this invincible wall around it."

The other four ladies beside her turned and looked at each other. Clearly, they never expected to hear that answer come from their usually prideful Princess.

The veiled lady, however, expected it.

"I also tested him, but failed. This can only mean one of two things. First, it can be that his mind is very robust, such that even a Universal God cannot mess with it. Of course, I never really tried, but what I saw was enough to say this.

The second being his Master, the Burning Angel, has given him a treasure that can shield him from mind attacks from even gods.

If that happens to be the case, then on your quest to retrieve an item that every mind cultivator probably needs, you will need to have a team that has strong mental defense.

I have no doubt the Pendant will be protected. So even if you don't trust him, hire him. He is a warrior, so pay him to help you."

The veiled lady teleported into her seat and looked out the window again. This time, her gaze landed on Rory. "You can get to him through the young lady beside him. I know you two have a past,"

The Jade Princess nodded and started to think. A few minutes later, she exhaled and thanked her master. Then she closed her eyes to ponder on some other things.

Meanwhile, on the outside, Klaus gave the same fruit he was eating to his teammates as they waited for Lord Victor. After 20 minutes, he returned with a dejected sigh.

"No luck, huh?" Klaus asked, and he nodded.

"None of them want to compare maps. Clearly, they all want to be the first ones to reach the treasures their maps lead to."

"Can't really blame them. However, you don't have to worry, we already have two fragments, and even better, I have already found the location of what we wanted."

"Really?" Lord Victor asked with a delighted gaze.

"Indeed. The 7th Jade Princess was kind enough to compare maps. As it happens, what we seek is hidden between the two map fragments. This also means someone here has a map that points directly to where we need to go.

But since we don't have it, we will just have to enter that place blindly. But rest assured, we will get there regardless of the danger."

"This is good news. Though you must be careful. The majority of the people entering are elites from their various clans and factions. Some also seem to have some anger issues toward you, so be careful."

Klaus nodded.

An hour later, a hum came from a cave a couple of kilometers away, sending out waves of condensed Spiritual Qi. Everyone turned in that direction.

"The gateway is opening," Lord Victor said, looking in the direction of the cave. A few minutes later, another hum sounded, and then a beam of light descended on the cave, causing the small mountain to shatter, revealing a beautiful jade-like gateway.

"It has finally opened." Many started rushing over to enter.

"Remember, the gate will remain open for a year, so do whatever you want to do before then. Of course, if you are done and want to leave, there will be several exits littered across the Nest. Find one, and you will be taken out."

Klaus and his teammates nodded.

Looking at the gateway, Klaus could tell many had already entered. While they were standing there, the silver ship opened again, and the Jade Princess walked out, followed by four others.

Passing by Klaus and his team, she cast him a sidelong glance before moving away. After they were gone, Klaus turned to his teammates. "Let's go."

They nodded and followed him. A few seconds later, they were only a few meters away from the gateway.

Rory retrieved the jade token and activated it. A blue bubble formed around all five of them, and without even making any move, they were dragged toward the portal.

Just when they were about to enter, Klaus caught sight of a man clad in a dark hooded cloak making a killing gesture toward him.

He said nothing and entered. Before him, however, a message hovered, written in red.

<I have marked him for death, master>

Chapter 1465 - 1465: Nine-Headed Demon Spider

When Rory appeared on the other side of the portal, she found herself in an eerie forest. At first glance, she saw thousands of spider webs, tangled and woven into all kinds of contraptions.

The branches had been joined by thick red-colored webs, each lethal enough to cut off the limbs of a True Immortal.

The moment she sensed danger in the air, she called out to the one person she needed, "Klaus."

Unfortunately, no response came. Turning, she saw she was alone. Klaus wasn't there, and neither were the three other members of her team, Slate, Omen, and Echo.

She became stunned for a moment, but a thunderous explosion coming from the east of her location prompted her to make a move, so she did. She tapped into her space law and shortened the distance between her and the explosion.

She took one step and found herself only 1 km away from the explosion.

'Damn, I forgot I am now a True Immortal.'

The suppression of the Nest pushed her cultivation down to the True Immortal stage, so when she used the space law, it had a much steeper toll on her body than if she were still at her Immortal Lord strength.

Even so, she relaxed her nerves and focused on the most important issues at hand first. Klaus was nowhere to be found, but she heard an explosion and came to observe.

There, in the distance, her gaze landed on a 300-meter-tall spider, its body encased in a metallic carapace, its legs forged from metal and venomous saliva trickling down, burning the ground.

It had nine enormous heads, each lined with rows of different-colored eyes.

"Nine-Headed Demon Spider"

Rory recognized it immediately. She had fought one before; however, not one so enormous and heavily protected like this.

Chilling enough, the aura of the spider wasn't that of a True Immortal. In fact, upon closer inspection, she felt the danger seep into her bones.

"An Immortal Lord...but how?"

The Nest was supposed to suppress everyone's cultivation to the Peak of the True Immortal stage. However, the demon spider was an Immortal Lord.

As someone who, mentally, was still an Immortal Lord, she knew they were in danger. Strangely, the danger wasn't because the spider was built from metal or that it was an Immortal Lord.

The danger came from something else, something she couldn't quite place her finger on. The spider demon was more than it appeared to be.

The urge to turn and run filled her heart, but she brushed it off and chose to observe more critically...

When she narrowed her gaze at the three people running from this monstrosity, she had a change of mind. Her silver bow appeared in her firm grip, and an arrow was let loose the next second.

It streaked through the air with deadly speed, aimed at one of the nine heads.

Far in the distance, Omen brandished his sword, letting one swing after another, aiming all attacks at one of the spider's fourteen legs. Each sword arc he released, however, bounced off the leg.

It was a bit disheartening, considering the kind of sound each attack makes when it lands on the spider's leg.

CLING

It was as if metal was being used to hit metal, only that the metal being used to hit the other was the one being dented.

'Damn it,'

Omen rolled to the side, narrowly evading the piercing attack of the spider. But he was far from danger. Just as he landed on his side, another leg was thrust forward.

Thankfully, Echo was there. She waved her staff, using spatial law to expand the distance between Omen and the spider.

This gave Omen the chance to escape unscathed.

Slate moved like the wind, arriving beneath the colossal body of the spider. Then, brandishing his spear, he attacked the joints on its belly, aiming to open it wide.

Unfortunately, his attack only produced metallic sounds and sparks of light as it scraped across the spider's belly.

He cursed under his breath and opened the void, jumping into it. The next second, he appeared beside Echo.

"Damn it... Where is the Renegade Hunter and the Princess?"

Just when he asked that question, a silver arrow streaked past them and embedded itself into one of the numerous eyes on the spider. The impact threw one of its heads back, sending green blood into the air.

When it poured onto the ground, the soil started to melt, smoke and poison rising from it.

Omen, Slate, and Echo turned in the direction the arrow came from. There, up in the air, their eyes landed on Rory, now clad in silver armor, strips of seven gold ropes of fabric bellowing behind her like a cape.

Atop her head, a golden halo hovered, releasing a potent energy that instantly washed over all three of them.

They felt energized.

"Since when did the Princess become an Angel?" Echo muttered, her eyes sparkling like a fanatic seeing their idol up close for the first time.

Rory fired a second arrow, then a third, fourth, and fifth.

By then, she had moved much closer to her teammates.

"Way to start the day, huh?" she smiled and fired another arrow before finally landing on the ground. The spider was pushed back, six of its eyes blinded, silver arrows sticking out from them.

This bought them a few seconds to strategize.

"Where is Klaus..." she asked, but the three teammates looked at her weirdly.

"We thought he was with you."

"He is not. I appeared in a forest 10 km in that direction alone. A few seconds later, I heard the explosion and rushed over, hoping to find him here."

The three teammates turned and looked at each other. "He is not, and well, we arrived five minutes ago, landing headfirst in this dump. Safe to say this dump is not exactly welcoming."

The spider let out a hissing sound, and the air pressure began to change at once. Rory's eyes narrowed, sensing the danger more clearly.

In fact, the other three teammates did the same, and soon they discovered the source of that danger. When they did, however, they all broke into a cold sweat.

"It will be best if we retreat as fast as we can," Rory said, about to use space magic to pull them away, when a thin line of web encircled them, forming a 3 km-wide barrier.

She immediately knew running away was out of the equation. That was because she felt like the thin spiderweb wasn't an ordinary web. In fact, it was a domain of the spider-demon that had been manifested and made tangible.

This could also mean the spider was halfway to the demigod stage. It was only at the demigod stage that one could manifest their domain into reality, making it tangible and allowing it to exert stronger will on the world.

'Wherever you are, Klaus, please don't come here.' Rory prayed inwardly before she flew back into the air. The next second, her body ignited into silver flames, and the strips of rope behind her flared.

They extended into razor-sharp, alien-like ropes, each dancing in the air like they had minds of their own.

"That is a Calamity Beast, meaning our Immortal Rings are useless against it. Slate, you and Omen should keep it busy. Echo, find a way to get us out of here. I will find a way to put it down or die trying,"

She regarded the towering spider and smiled. "Maybe not dying, since I have plans after this expedition."

The sky ignited, and a powerful arrow tore through the air.

Chapter 1466 - 1466: Second Meeting

Klaus expected to appear in a wild forest surrounded by raging wild animals ready to sink their fangs and claws into him. He expected and looked forward to it.

However, when he did appear, he found himself inside a small garden. All around him, lush flowers and beautiful butterflies could be seen.

A green-striped butterfly flew and landed on his head. The next second, a yellow one landed on his shoulder, and before long, he was surrounded by dozens of butterflies.

"Ah, my bad luck,"

Just as he said that, he sensed a presence appear in the garden. Turning around, his gaze landed on a beautiful lady clad in thin, layered clothing, 90% of her body exposed to him.

The next moment, however, butterflies covered those exposed areas, creating a beautiful dress around her. Her gaze scanned Klaus for a few seconds before she spoke.

"We meet again, Paragon."

"Indeed we do, Queen Mantis," Klaus smiled and narrowed his eyes. "I have been meaning to ask, but why is your name Mantis when in reality you are an Ant?"

The Jade Ant Queen blinked once or twice and smiled. "I still have your left arm, right leg, and eye. I suppose adding more to it won't hurt, would it?"

Klaus smiled widely. "On a second thought, I am happy to see you again, Queen Mantis. Can't say I have gotten over your beauty even after billions of years."

"Tsk," Queen Mantis clicked her tongue and started walking toward a pavilion not far from him. "Let's have a seat and talk, Paragon. I have some things to discuss with you that I believe will be of great interest to you."

Klaus followed behind her. Somehow, he knew they weren't in reality at the moment. If anything, as someone who had met his past lives several times, he knew they were in the astral planes.

This meant somewhere out there, his body was suspended between life and death. But that wasn't his concern at the moment. His focus was on Queen Mantis, the only beast he couldn't tame when he was the Star Monarch.

'So she died, huh.' Klaus sighed and added, 'Though I wonder who and what was capable of killing such a monster.'

A few seconds later, they were seated.

Queen Mantis regarded him for a split second before she started to speak. "By now, you might have already realized where we are, meaning I am dead. Indeed, I am dead, and this is my astral space, where I have been waiting millions of years for your return."

"Why?" Klaus asked, but then he changed his question. "Answer this first. How did you die? Who or what was able to kill someone like you?"

Queen Mantis smiled, her beauty captivating. However, Klaus could see that deep in her eyes, she was furious. Her killing intent, even in death, oozed with untamed fury.

"I owe you an apology, Paragon. You warned me, tried to help me, but I rejected, insulted, and even nearly killed you. I am sorry. I should have believed you when you warned me against the Heavens Court."

Klaus sighed, his expression calm.

As if he already knew who was responsible for her death, he wasn't so surprised when he learned her death was caused by the Heavens Court.

'Those greedy bastards,'

He had already clashed with them several times, starting from the Era of Blood when he was the Asura God. So if anyone knew just how evil the heavens were, it was he.

"How did it happen, and why haven't I heard of it? Even better, why didn't you call for my help?"

Queen Mantis smiled. "You are a good person, Paragon. Even after nearly killing you, you still had my best interest at heart."

Klaus coughed and smiled. "I wouldn't say best interest. More like a mutually beneficial relationship that would have gotten both of us what we wanted."

"Still, you tried to help me, and even when I chased you away, you still had me in your heart." Her eyes looked into the distance, and then she revealed what had happened.

"When I chased you off back then, I decided to close my Nest and never accept anyone for at least another million years. However, 30 years after your visit, the Heavens Envoy arrived in my domain with a proposal.

They wanted me to join the Heavens Army to attack Planet Comet Prime. I didn't know it was the planet your people lived on back then. Of course, even if I did, I had already planned to reject their offer, and I did. I sent him packing, but not before he threatened me.

Fast forward 200,000 years, a 100,000-warrior-strong army sent by the Supreme Celestial arrived at my doorstep, and without any notice, they attacked.

It was a grave battle, one that resulted in the death of 90% of my children. They fought valiantly but perished one by one until only a few thousand remained.

In the end, I won the battle. A few months later, after I burned my second supreme core to invoke the will of my world, I left the Nest to search for you.

Unfortunately, by the time I found news of you, it was already too late. Planet Comet Prime had fallen, and you were declared dead.

So I returned here to wait for my eventual death.

100 years later, the Supreme Emperor sent a second team, and this time, my children and I couldn't hold on for long. I did my best to reduce their numbers considerably, but I alone wasn't enough.

Before I died, however, I used my second supreme core to banish most of the Heaven Warriors. The few left were imprisoned, and for the past billions of years, I have been using their essence to keep my Nest alive.

Afterward, I did what you claimed was possible when I believed it was impossible: I invoked samsara and entered the cycle of reincarnation. In the end, following your instruction, it worked, but the Supreme Celestial intervened, making it so that one day, I would become a lackey of the heavens.

Hidden somewhere in this realm is the nirvana egg I stole from you back then. It contains my reincarnated body.

In 75 days' time, it will hatch. The moment it does, the trapped Heaven Warriors will be freed and will try to take me away."

"So you want me to take you from them?"

"Yes. If you can take me away, I will be eternally grateful. I will swear my loyalty to you and become your most invaluable asset."

Klaus looked at her for a few minutes before he nodded. "Okay."

"Huh... Really?" She was clearly not expecting Klaus to accept her offer that easily. The last time they met, it ended badly, so she expected him to grin and mock her.

Accepting her offer just like that was a shocker.

"To be honest with you, even if I am pissed with you, considering how you treated my harmless visit the last time, at the end of the day, you are the legendary Supreme Jade Ant Queen. Having you as an ally outweighs the anger.

Of course, I also plan to gift you to one of my many wives. She is an Insect Tamer just like you, but a much better one than even you." Klaus grinned and moved his face closer to Queen Mantis and asked:

"You wouldn't happen to know anything about the Primordial Hive Queen would you?"

Chapter 1467 - 1467: Corrupted Danger

The mission to the Jade Ant Nest was for Klaus to lead Rory, Omen, Slate, and Echo to retrieve a drop of the Immortal Essence water that was known to have existed in the Jade Nest when the Jade Ant Queen was alive.

If they manage to get their hands on it, it would greatly help Lord Victor in forming his 10th immortal ring.

That was the main mission objective.

However, Klaus had side missions, and one of them was to find a way to add more Ant Queens to Asha's Legion of Ant Soldiers.

Granted, he had no idea how Queen Mantis died, so he believed he would be able to get his hands on some Ants that may still exist inside the Nest.

Unfortunately, that wouldn't be the case since the Heavens Court had already slaughtered her and her children and even buried the reason, so nobody was aware they were involved.

Now, however, he had something even better.

If he managed to get to the Nirvana Egg and rescue the baby version of the Jade Ant Queen, not only would Asha earn a very powerful Ant Queen that, in a few years, would raise her strength to levels nobody would see coming, but with the Star Monarch Bloodline, the Jade Ant Queen would become a terror of existence.

He could not allow such a treasure to slip through his fingers.

Asha deserved the best, and so did Queen Mantis. So why not pair the two together and watch what they'll become?

Watching Queen Mantis' stunned expression, he knew she would love to be contracted with Asha.

Why?

Because just like every Insect Queen alive or dead, they all had one idol, and she was the Primordial Hive Queen, an existence that even the first Paragon feared.

"No need to become shocked just yet, Queen Mantis. The last time I came to you, I offered my blood; today, I offer both my blood and the chance to become one with your idol.

You were once a terrifying existence that threatened the heavens. Because of that fear, they sought to turn you into their lackey and put a leash on you. When you rejected them, they revealed their true colors.

Thankfully, you now have a second chance at life. I will leave the decision to your reincarnated self. After all, I cannot force you. But know that I will do everything in my power to ensure you are rescued from the clutches of the heavens. That I promise you."

"Thank you, Paragon. I will do everything in my power to help you." She sighed and revealed, "Though I have to be honest, because of the Celestial Supreme's intervention, my Nest has grown chaotic and out of my control.

In my absence, strange beasts and abominations were born, and now they are everywhere, laying waste to anyone they see.

Unfortunately, when I invoked the will of this Nest, I made it so that things that were not born inside this realm when the second core was used to seal it would be suppressed to the True Immortal stage.

This means the beasts in here won't be suppressed. The same can be said for the 1,200 Heaven Warriors I sealed in here and used as an energy source." She closed her eyes and inhaled.

"I can sense they are awakening, and well, they are very angry and a bit corrupted."

Klaus nodded and asked,

"How strong are they now, and how much corruption are we talking about here?"

"Out of the 1,200 Heaven Warriors, 1,118 have declined to the Immortal Lord stage. They were Peak Demigods and some God Ascension stage warriors when I sealed them.

As for the other two, they are Demigods and the generals who led the charge.

As for the corruption, they would not spare anyone they see, just like how the abominable beasts currently roaming the Nest would also devour everybody they meet.

The silver lining, however, is that the moment they awaken, the seal will slowly start to break. Once that happens, the Nest will start to crumble, lifting the suppression.

Once that happens, you all can fight at peak strength."

"I guess that is a silver lining. But then again, you wouldn't happen to have a map of the entire nest, would you? I happened to enter this place today to retrieve a drop of Immortal Essence water, but the map fragment I have is limited to only a small section of the nest.

I have the general direction to go, but since I now have to save your baby self, finishing that mission first is my top priority. Once that is done, I will have time to dedicate everything to preparing for your rebirth and the inevitable battle with the Corrupted Heaven Warriors."

Queen Mantis nodded, understanding what Klaus was hinting at. She extended her hand, and a green rune appeared in it.

"This is the complete Map of the Jade Nest." It flew and merged with Klaus's forehead. "Though you must know that in my absence, the infestation of the abominations would have long altered some things, so don't be too confident following it to a T.

That said, I have marked the location where my egg will hatch. It is much closer to the location where I have sealed some of the Heaven Warriors."

Klaus nodded.

He didn't yet know how harrowing it would be, but he was happy he had a head start. Now that he knew the danger level, he would prepare accordingly to meet it.

There was one reason why many feared the Paragon. He was someone who always had a backup plan for the first plan. And if those plans failed, another plan was in place to address it.

Basically, with enough prep time, Klaus could be the most dangerous opponent anyone would ever face.

"The Heavens Court would probably have known you would be returning again, and so they have sent people inside to ensure your capture.

I'd better return to my team and handle things fast. This will be my first major battle after becoming an Immortal, so I'd better prepare."

"Be careful, Paragon. The danger is beyond your current strength level, so in case you can't handle my rescue, feel free to kill me. I would rather die than let myself become a slave to the Heavens."

Klaus laughed and stood up. "Rest assured, Queen Mantis, you will get the chance to live a more fulfilling life this time around. That said, don't you have any more gifts you can bestow on me?"

Shamelessness was rooted deep in his bones. Of course, Klaus, as a Paragon, needed all the help he could get since the heavens would offer none. So, since he would be clashing against them this time around, he might as well have some advantages.

Queen Mantis thought for a moment and sighed.

"I have nothing else to give you, Paragon. However, if you can get to the Jade Vault, there is a secret I have kept for years hidden in the 7th layer. The mark I left on you is the key to unlock it."

"Huh," Klaus narrowed his eyes, a bit stunned. "I thought there were only 6 layers in the Jade Vault. Where did the 7th come from?"

Queen Mantis smiled and winked at him. "Remember, the moment I hatch, all hell will break loose, so hurry and get to me first."

Klaus felt the air spin, and he vanished from the pavilion.

Chapter 1468 - 1468: Deadly Battle

Rory and her teammates had been literally pushed to the corner.

When the Spider unleashed its domain, they at least expected to have some time to find a way out. However, it took just ten seconds of assault for them to realize the danger was far beyond them.

Echo was forced to abandon her pursuit of finding a way out and focus instead on keeping her teammates alive.

Slate and Omen were, of course, her top priority. They were the most at risk because they had to get closer to attack the spider.

Omen's handle on his sword is great, and the same can be said for Slate with his spear. They are some of the accomplished warriors of the Stella Human race who had trained under Lord Victor.

They could be counted among the top 10 best warriors in the Stalla human army. So despite the danger, they were thriving, making sure the monstrous beast was distracted long enough for Rory to land an attack.

Safe to say they were walking on the edge of a very sharp knife.

Rory never missed any of her attacks. However, despite all that, she hadn't managed to bring the monstrous spider down. She had blinded almost all of its eyes, yet it still stood, attacking even more furiously now.

Rory distanced herself and let loose another arrow.

Behind her, the seven rope-like fabrics moved and formed into seven pointed living alien ropes, stabbing through the air. The moment the arrow stabbed into an already blinded eye, the ropes grabbed onto seven of the legs and pulled, spreading the seven legs.

This move caused the spider to tilt to one side, revealing its dark belly.

Omen appeared not far from it and unleashed a powerful attack, sending a condensed sword fashioned from sword aura and Immortal energy.

The attack connected, and a thin cut appeared on its belly. However, it healed the next second, and the spider retaliated, spitting a thick, red web.

Slate zoomed past Omen, severing the web. The next second, they found themselves hundreds of meters from the spider.

Echo muttered some spells, and up in the air, shards of ice started raining down on the poor abomination.

Slate tapped into the moment and activated a skill that allowed him to manifest a giant spear made from ice. He stomped on the ground and stabbed down at the spider.

In the air, the giant spear descended like a judgment.

The spider raised one leg, hoping to meet the descending spear. However, Rory had other plans that, if executed well, would give them their first win and open the door to their eventual victory.

"Be ready, Omen," Rory said as she jumped into the air, a thick silver arrow lined with golden runes manifesting inside her bow.

If this were a battle against an ordinary beast, she would have augmented the arrow with her immortal rings. However, against calamity beasts, immortal rings are useless.

Even so, she had augmented her bow, making it more robust.

Also, her race is now Stella Angelic Human, so she has awakened some innate talent abilities that amplify her power. So the arrow that had formed in her bow isn't ordinary at all.

"Echo, Seal the space around the spider now,"

At Rory's command, Echo spun in the air, her staff drawing a perfect circle. Around the spider, the space was sealed, leaving it encased in a small circle.

The spear was almost upon it. However, upon sensing the space seal, it tried to destroy the seal. This caused the spear to land on its carapace, creating a clanging sound.

This move, however, was all Rory needed.

"Omen, now,"

The swordsman moved, and thousands of swords materialized in the air behind him. They moved and circled around before forming into one giant sword.

With a gesture, the sword moved and stabbed into one of the blinded eyes.

Rory also released her arrow, and instead of following in Omen's steps, her arrow found the spider's belly again. This time, however, it pierced through the joints, embedding itself into bone and chitin.

"Yes,"

The bow vanished from her hand, and she formed a hand seal. Below the spider, the arrow glowed, transforming into a lotus flower. With a snap, it exploded, sending the spider flying back.

A large chunk of its belly was ripped out, metallic bones falling to the ground. Blood oozed from the ragged wound, staining it. The acidic element corroded the ground, causing it to boil and melt.

Echo had already released the space seal, having started running low on Space Essence.

"Echo, use ice magic to coat the ground, I am going in,"

Dazed and fatigued from using too much space essence, Echo became puzzled at Rory's command, but her hands whirled, and the entire 3 km was coated in ice.

Rory landed on the ground, skidding for a moment. The seven ropes contracted and hovered behind her. Extending both hands, crescent-shaped razor-sharp blades appeared, and she moved, her speed blinding.

In no time, she was below the spider, her body spinning like a vortex.

Thin arcs of blades manifested into being and started slicing the already wounded belly of the spider.

"Since when did the princess learn to fight in close combat?" Omen asked, a bit dazed and extremely stunned as he watched Rory move from one leg to another, nimbly evading one stabbing attack after another.

"I guess there is a first time for everything," he said, and he moved and joined the fury. Slate was the same; he also brandished his spear and joined the chaos.

Echo, however, started using ice magic to slow down their target.

All in all, everything was progressing as expected. The spider was held back, and with Rory's impeccable close combat skills, they were getting closer to the climax of the battle.

Soon, however, they sensed something else start to happen. Rory was the first to notice, but she sensed her strength rise a bit.

Echo was the next to notice it. Soon, they all noticed it.

However, in the heat of the moment, they didn't examine it. If they did, they would have sensed the buff came from someone else, someone who was happily seated in a tree, watching them duel it out with the spider.

When Klaus was sent away from the astral plains, he appeared under this tree. Surprisingly, the moment he arrived, Rory and the three other teammates were locked in battle.

He wanted to join, but then he decided to see what Rory was capable of. After he gave her his blood, she had become much more powerful, so he wanted to see her limit.

So he climbed the tree and chose to wait.

Soon, he started to see the extent to which Rory had become powerful. Safe to say, after watching her for ten minutes, he knew she had transcended her limit and entered a whole new realm of awesomeness.

From wielding her Archer class to taking on her new class called [Lunar War Maiden], she was excellent. Even so, Klaus still saw several mistakes with how they coordinated some of their attacks.

He will address that soon; however, for now, he chose to give them a boost. He used Icon to form a party between them, and, using the power of one of his immortal rings, he began empowering them.

Soon, they felt the impact, and before long, they managed to bring down the Demon Spider.

Chapter 1469 - 1469: Value Of a Calamity Beast

Klaus watched as Rory, Omen, Slate, and Echo let out a relieved sigh after finally managing to bring down the Demonic Spider.

The battle was intense and, to some extent, life-threatening. However, thanks to their battle-hardened experience, they managed to pull through. Surprisingly, none of them sustained any life-threatening injuries.

Echo had made sure they were always out of range whenever they found themselves in danger. Now, as they gazed at the colossal body of the beast, a sense of happiness washed over them.

The body of the spider is metallic, so naturally, they knew it would fetch them a couple of million Universe Coins. Aside from that, its blood is a rare commodity; if they manage to extract even a few drops, it will sell for billions.

Then there is the core, which, since it is an Immortal Level Beast, would benefit someone like Rory, Omen, Slate, and even Echo.

Calamity cores are such that even an Immortal Monarch-grade core will benefit an Immortal Lord. So whoever absorbs it will earn the immortal ring it contains.

This also means that whoever absorbs it will gain some of the Nine-Headed Demon Spider's properties.

Perhaps they will earn the ability to grow nine heads, shoot webs, grow several legs, produce toxic, corrosive mist, or just coat their skin with a metallic carapace.

Many things can happen to them. When Klaus absorbed his first immortal ring from the calamity core, it was from a blood-type beast.

The moment he absorbed it, his legendary scythe awakened.

Bloodwork awakened, and so whenever he uses the immortal ring, his bloodlust awakens, giving him both strength and speed, making him more in tune with blood. It also increases his control over blood.

So they might earn more than they bargained for.

Aside from its value as a body and core, another equally important aspect is its blood.

The spider's blood is corrosive and poisonous.

Even someone like Klaus, who is immune to all poison, is not safe from it. He may be able to handle the poison aspect; however, the same cannot be said for the corrosive (acidic) aspect.

Considering it is an Immortal Lord Level Beast and a Calamity-type beast, there is just no telling how much they would earn from selling it.

The only problem is that they had no way to store such terrible blood. The same can be said for the body. With it bleeding, even their space rings will be damaged by the time they leave this place and return to the outside world.

Of course, Echo can coat it with ice, but there is just no telling if even her ice can hold it long enough before they return to the outside world.

So they could only stare at their fortune bleeding out on the ground.

"Wow, I've been gone for a minute and you guys had already killed a Calamity Beast without me,"

They all turned around when Klaus's voice came from behind them. Rory, who had been worried sick for the past several minutes, ran toward him when she saw Klaus.

It was only when she was close to him that she remembered they weren't alone. But by then it was already too late since she had already jumped into Klaus's arms.

Omen, Slate, and Echo pretended they didn't see them. Though inwardly, they couldn't help giving Klaus thumbs up for managing to win their cold princess's heart.

'No wonder she was surprisingly chatty during the battle,' Echo said inwardly, a smile appearing on her face.

Klaus pulled Rory back and planted a kiss on her forehead.

"I saw the last move you executed, it was perfect and breathtaking,"

She blushed and hid her face on his shoulder. Klaus just laughed and turned to the three other teammates. "Great teamwork, guys. Sorry for not joining the battle, I was held up, and by the time I returned, you guys seemed like you had everything under control,"

Having everything under control seemed like an overstatement; however, since the spider is now dead and they are alive, perhaps they did indeed have things under control.

"Where did you go, by the way?" Omen asked.

"You know, the usual," Klaus smiled, and then cleared his throat, looking at the three teammates who gave him a certain look.

"I just had a chat with the Jade Ant Queen, managed to find the location of the Immortal Essence Water, and, well, uncovered a terrible conspiracy. Could you believe the Jade Ant Queen was killed by the Heavens Court,"

"WHAT,"

"Indeed. I couldn't believe my two ears when I heard it."

"You are messing with us, right?" Slate asked, his brow raised, clearly in doubt of what Klaus said.

Omen and Echo wore the same looks. The only person with a calm expression was Rory, who knew Klaus wouldn't lie about anything.

"I don't mess around when there is something important to share. I indeed met the Jade Ant Queen, and she told me how she died. She also showed me where we have to go for the essence water. Aside from that, you have to know that in a couple of days' time, strange things will start happening, ones which will take this Nest by storm, and we will be right at the eye of the storm."

"I suppose that had something to do with the Heavens Court," Omen asked.

"As a matter of fact, it did. You see, in here, we are all at the Peak of the True Immortal stage; however, the monsters and beasts aren't restricted. This means we will face more dangers than even this spider.

However, the true danger will awaken in the coming weeks, and it involves a few corrupted Heaven Warriors sealed here by the Jade Ant Queen several million years ago.

That said, I happen to have struck a deal with the Jade Ant Queen. In exchange for giving me the location of the Immortal Essence Water, I have to save her reincarnated self from the hands of the Heavenly Court, and you all are going to help me.

In short, we will face several Immortals and a few demigods, but I trust we will be ready by then."

Klaus turned and looked at the calamity beast, smiling. "Oh, we will be more than ready."

They stared at him strangely, unsure of what to even say.

They were happy he managed to get the precise location of the Immortal Essence Water. That is, of course, why they are here. What worried them was what he said after.

Facing demigods as True Immortals is way above their pay grade. So, hearing him speak casually, they wondered if he had gone insane.

He may be a monster, but even he is not qualified to take on demigods. While that is indeed true, they failed to notice they are in the presence of a Paragon.

Klaus chuckled. "Relax your nerves, because when I am done with you three, not even an Early God will threaten you,"

Klaus extended his hand, and the Demon Bead appeared. He threw it at the dead spider, and before long, it was no longer on the ground. The only thing that remained was the black core oozing toxic mist.

Klaus waved his hand, and it flew toward Slate. "You have the first one. After you are done absorbing, we will head out,"

Chapter 1470 - 1470: Mission Detail

Slate became a bit stunned when Klaus handed the core over to him.

In his mind, an Immortal Lord-grade calamity core is something he had no business expecting to be handed to him. At best, being the one to extract it and then hand it over to Rory was something he expected.

In the past, when he and a few others managed to kill an Immortal Monarch-level calamity beast, the core was handed to Lord Victor without fail, for that was the right thing to do.

He never expected to one day absorb one.

At the moment, he has only 6 Immortal Rings. That, in some sense, is impressive even for an Immortal Lord such as himself. However, in Klaus's eyes, it is not enough.

Even he, who is just a True Immortal, has 6, and thanks to his wives, other incarnations, and beast legion, he can temporarily take more immortal rings, allowing him to wield 12 at the same time.

That would, without a doubt, make him a terrifying foe. If Slate and the others can also increase their Immortal Rings, then their small team would become robust.

"There is no need to feel shocked, Slate. The mission we are on is to retrieve something for Lord Victor. While that is important, if we don't have the required strength, we might just lose it to someone else.

So while we have the opportunity to grow stronger now, we might as well take it. We will be facing more Calamity Beasts, so relax, this won't be the last calamity core you will absorb. That goes to you all. If possible, by the time we return, I want you all to become terrifying warriors."

Of course, Klaus knew that the battle that was coming would be devastating, so he wanted his team to be prepared.

Lord Victor had no use for a calamity core unless, of course, it was from a demigod.

So they might as well make good use of the one they have. There is no telling what will be coming their way soon enough.

Slate stood there for a few minutes, then he nodded.

He moved to the side and began absorbing it. While none of them had any idea what power he would awaken, Klaus was certain he would benefit greatly from it, so he just smiled and started to wait.

Rory, who was still in his arms, looked at him and smiled.

"You sure know how to win the heart and trust of people. Though I wonder why that is," she eyed him and asked, "What are you hiding?"

Klaus smiled and hugged her from behind, not minding the looks coming from Omen and Echo.

"Nothing too drastic, just that to save the Jade Ant Queen, there is a chance we will clash against the Heavens Court. I am not worried about them, though; it is just that I can't help but feel like something doesn't add up."

With 1000 brains working in sync, he can see a flaw in everything.

"Queen Mantis said the Celestial Supreme intervened when she was entering reincarnation, and because of that, she lost access to most of her Nest.

She also said that while she was away, the Nest started spawning abominable beasts, which, from what I had just seen, may all be Calamity Beasts.

Lastly, she said the Heavens Court attacked her twice, and from what she said, it sounded like she won every time, despite losing all her children in the process. If that is the case, then why didn't the Celestial Supreme send a third team to break down the Nest and take her egg a long time ago? Why wait till now to make their move?"

Klaus is no idiot. He knew the Heavens always have a way, and so he is aware that if they wanted, they would have long destroyed the Nest and taken her egg away.

Since they did not strike and waited for millions of years, being someone who had schemed beyond space and time, he knew there was something afoot.

"Funny thing is, I feel like this is related to the Paragon somehow. Just that I cannot place my finger on just what that is,"

Rory smiled. "Maybe you are just overthinking things. But even if you aren't, there is no telling what they can do to you, considering we are all suppressed to the True Immortal stage,"

"About that," Klaus grinned, "Soon, the suppression will be lifted, and so you will all recover your cultivation."

"Oh, then that is even better. If we can hunt down more Calamity Beasts, then even if we were to meet other Immortal Lords, we wouldn't be in danger. I will protect you from them,"

Klaus, of course, nodded, happy to hear her loving words.

"I have already started making provisions for the last battle. For now, when Slate is done, we will head toward the location of the Immortal Essence Water. If we can even get our hands on more than one drop, then we can add more Immortal Rings to our arsenal.

After that, we will head for the Jade Vault and see if we can score some treasures. Then the rest would be waiting for the egg to hatch. If the Heavenly Court has sent people here, then the battle will be devastating, but since I gave her my word, I won't go back on that."

"Won't the Heavens Court hate you and come after you if you end up taking the Ant Queen from them?" Rory asked in a slightly concerned tone.

Since Klaus is destined to be part of them at least for now, going against them will sour that relationship.

He smiled and grinned. "Oh, trust me, I wouldn't be the only one they would be facing. But even if that were to be the case, when everything is over, they would have their hands full with the scandals, and so my issue will be the last of it."

Rory knew she had no business knowing more, so she kept quiet. Inwardly, however, she couldn't help but wonder just what Klaus was planning.

The mission details seem plain enough, but she knew Klaus wasn't saying everything. Even so, she trusted him completely, so there was no need to worry.

But if what he said about the Heavens Court turns out to be true, then she must up her game and protect him at all costs. Her sisters had already told her to protect him from himself.

Klaus is a ticking time bomb that can explode any day. If he is not protected from himself, by the time anyone becomes aware, he has already caused the damage.

So aside from external enemies, her other mission was to protect him on the emotional level, too. When it comes to matters concerning the Heavens, he tends to be a bit crazy.

Three hours later, Slate was done absorbing the core and the immortal ring. As expected, his gain was just that crazy. He gained two things: [Spider Scale Armor] and [Deadly Corrosive Poison].

The [Spider Scale Armor] allows him to coat his entire skin and weapon with the extremely hard skin of the spider they had just killed, while the [Deadly Corrosive Poison] gives him the power to channel poison through his spear.

Every strike corrodes the environment around him until there is nothing left but corrosion.