

## Paragon 1481

Chapter 1481 - 1481: Power of the Star Monarch

God Beast Beyhos was only a Nirvana stage Beast when the Star Monarch visited the Jade Nest millions of years ago. She wasn't even an Immortal, a sign that she wasn't that important to come under the radar of the Jade Ant Queen.

This was also why, when she and a few others hid in a cave during the Heavenly Court's coordinated attacks on the Jade Ant Queen, they were left untouched.

However, while those battles were indeed harrowing, the one they all felt the most was the battle between the Jade Ant Queen and the Star Monarch.

That day, she had just survived an ambush from another Calamity Beast and was barely dragging her body to safety when a shockwave blew over her.

It was the day she saw the Star Monarch, and since then, she couldn't forget his face. In fact, even after a million years had passed, she could still remember his face all too well.

Of course, it was only natural for her to remember him; after all, it was because of him that she awakened her bloodline.

The Star Monarch is known for many things, and one of them is having the ability to bring out the best in beasts and monsters. His mere presence had changed the lives of many beasts, and Lady Beyhos was one of them.

As long as his bloodline resonates with you, one way or another, he will leave an impact on your life.

So forgetting such a person was virtually impossible.

What she never expected was that the first human she had met after the war with the Heavenly Court would actually be the Star Monarch.

The first thought that came to mind was to call his bullshit. However, that thought was interrupted by another, one that made her narrow her eyes a bit.

'How did he know my name, bloodline, and even how Calamity Beasts rise above the rank of a True God?' Obviously, Crux doesn't know the first two things.

So even if she were the one to reveal the evolution path of a Calamity Beast to him, she wouldn't have known about my name and bloodline.'

This means Klaus is not simple, and, as someone who had awakened her bloodline merely by looking at a man, she knew there was some truth to what Klaus said.

"You are finding it hard to believe me, aren't you?" Klaus asked, a smile playing on his face.

"I wouldn't believe me, too, Lady Beyhos. However, inasmuch as I would love to laugh and say, 'it was all a joke,' I actually am the Star Monarch, and I need your help.

Well, calling it "help" is a bit of an oversell. More like we need to help each other if we want to live in the coming weeks."

"If you are the Star Monarch, prove it."

"First, tell me what you know about the Star Monarch, and then I will prove myself." Klaus leaned in his chair, relaxed, almost as if he wasn't in the presence of a god.

The only time he came close to death during the Star Monarch era was when he faced the Jade Ant Queen. Many times in the past, whenever he sensed a resonance between him and a beast, he always found it easy to talk to them.

So he wasn't afraid of Lady Beyhos. If anything, he wanted to understand more about the people who set the trap and, if possible, recruit her. By asking for more details about the Star Monarch, she would have to reveal where she learned them.

Klaus had always suspected that whenever he resonated with a beast, it made them more civil, and so interacting with them was a bit easier. However, the more they talked, the less resistance they showed until, eventually, there was none whatsoever.

"From what I know, the Star Monarch was an existence who had a special connection to beasts, and as such, he had enslaved many of them to do his bidding."

"Enslaved?" Klaus raised his brow, a pale smile forming on his face. "Let me guess, somebody told you this."

Lady Beyhos nodded.

"Who, I might ask,"

She sighed and started to reveal, "10,000 years after the Jade Nest was sealed, a man visited four of us with a proposal. He offered to help us become gods, and in return, one day, when this place opens, we must kill every human that enters. Afterward, he would take us away from here and help us become Supremes.

We accepted, and so he started sending help every 100,000 years. One time, I requested information on the Star Monarch, and he sent this manual over."

She retrieved a clean book and handed it over to Klaus.

He didn't even bother to open it.

Pressing it against his forehead, every last word entered his head, a weak smile playing on his face.

Inside the book, the Star Monarch was painted as a villain, someone who enslaved beasts and used them as pawns in his game. The book showed graphic images of the beasts under the Star Monarch's command being murdered while carrying out his bidding.

The most disturbing part was when several thousand images of the final battle between the warriors of the Star Monarch and Heaven's Warriors were shown.

When he saw that, his eyes narrowed a bit, a wave of killing intent appearing through them.

"Oh, they are bold, very bold." Klaus gritted his teeth, his fist clenched. "I am very angry and offended right now."

Naturally, he was beyond pissed.

However, he swallowed his anger and turned to Lady Beyhos. "I want you to have a look at something small." Klaus pressed his index finger against his forehead, extracted a small part of his memories, and sent them toward Lady Beyhos.

"Take a look for yourself and tell me if what they described was indeed the kind of person I was... I am."

She hesitated for a moment. However, as someone obsessed with learning more about the Star Monarch, she wanted to know more, so she accepted the memory.

Inside, the memory showed him how Klaus met some of his beast companions, how much help he gave them in turning them into powerhouses, and how they helped him return.

Of course, he didn't just show the good side; he also shared the bad sides. In those memories, he showed how they were ambushed many times; sometimes, his beast companions disregarded his warnings and would rather give their lives to save him.

The pain, the trauma, and all kinds of emotions he felt were shared, and so by the time the memory ended, Lady Beyhos saw that she had been deceived.

She is a god, so she could easily tell if something was fake. The memory Klaus gave her was completely genuine, and as such, she knew all she had known about the Star Monarch was a complete lie.

"You know, I planned on killing you simply because I was afraid you would enslave me, as they said in the book. However, now that I know what kind of person you are, I only have one question: can I trust you?"

Klaus smiled, and instead of answering, he asked a question: "Have you ever heard of the Three True Calamities?"

Lady Beyhos narrowed her eyes. "I am a Calamity Beast, so of course I have. What about them, though? And be careful what you say."

Chapter 1482 - 1482: Recruiting a God Beast

Klaus smiled.

He may not have known much about Calamity Beasts back when he was on Earth. However, now that he had recovered his memories of the Star Monarch, he knew quite a lot about them.

After all, he was able to tame the Three True Calamities during the era of the Star Monarch.

"When I was the Star Monarch, I had the pleasure of meeting all three True Calamities. Back then, I had this wild assumption that the day we met, I would subdue them with my power and take them under my wings.

However, when we did meet, it was me who was subdued—literally. They were calamities through and through. However, we got to know each other, and eventually, I managed to convince them to join my side.

They were beings cursed by the Heavens to usher in the end of an era. They were meant to wreak havoc and cause mayhem, only for the Heavens to swoop in, take them out, and restore peace to the universe.

They had succeeded many times in the past; however, I stopped it during the Star Monarch Era, and it was then that I discovered something chilling."

Klaus sighed and sent his mind back to the day he learned from Nari's past self why the Heavens hated them and why they placed a curse on them.

"You see, the Calamity Beast race is one that treads on the thin line of fate. From the day they are born, fate struggles to keep them tethered to its will.

However, once they become gods, that little hold becomes even more fragile until eventually, they become fateless. That is what the Heavens feared, and so they made it so that all Calamity Beasts get stuck at the peak of the True God stage.

They don't want you to become fateless because the moment you do, your existence becomes yours to control. It was why they hated the True Calamities.

I found out that over the years, the True Calamities had been using their blood to help many Calamity Beasts become fateless. They wanted to free their kind, and so they were cursed.

My blood broke the curse, but it also called down the wrath of the Heavens, ultimately resulting in the death of billions."

Klaus sighed again, this time feeling intense hatred toward the Heavens for what they did to his people.

Many who died were innocents living in their peaceful world, but because of their hatred for him, everyone was slaughtered—everyone, including children and pregnant women.

They showed no mercy.

"This is what I am going to do. I will make you fateless, and in return, you will fight for me. If we manage to leave here in one piece, I'll take you to one of the True Calamities and let her transfer the true inheritance of the Calamity Beast race to you."

Lady Beyhos trembled in her seat, the look of shock appearing in her eyes.

"Are you saying the True Calamities are alive? I thought they died."

Klaus laughed. "Oh please, do you think I play chess to lose? I always have some aces up my sleeve, and so I can confidently say they are alive. Well, the Black Flame Calamity Phoenix died, but the Red Horn Qilin and Demon Eye Dragon are still alive and well."

"Oh, the Black Flame Calamity Phoenix has already risen from the ashes, like the phoenix she is."

Klaus wanted to summon Nari over, but he decided against that. The last thing he wanted was to put her in danger when he still didn't have his blood in Lady Beyhos's system.

He doesn't trust her just yet, so he can't make such a bold move.

"So what do you think, Lady Beyhos? Do you accept my proposal to become a member of the Star Monarch family, or will you sell me out to the Heavens Court and hope to become an even more cherished pawn in their game of deceit?"

Clearly, she was pissed to have learned she had been deceived all this time.

However, committing to another person right after seemed like a rushed decision.

"You said that we have to fight together, or else we will all perish. What did you mean by that?"

"The only reason you are alive today is so you could kill the humans who would be entering this place, preventing them from fighting against the warriors who would be coming after the Jade Ant Queen."

"WHAT?" Her eyes widened.

"The Jade Ant Queen is dead, so why would they come after her?"

"That is because she would be undergoing her rebirth in a couple of weeks, and your employers want to get their hands on her. Of course, once they succeed, they would have no use for you, and so, to prevent you or anyone from telling on them, they would kill you all.

I plan to stop them from succeeding. However, I will need your help if we are going to have a shot at keeping our lives intact."

"I see. I suppose I want to live, and so do thousands of Calamity Beasts out there. However, even if my subordinates and I join you, there are thousands of us out there who would still be a hindrance.

How do you plan to address that?"

Klaus smiled and waved his hand, extracting four drops of his blood. "Here is the key to breaking the hold the Heavens have on you. You can take one, and when you see its effect, I am sure you will kindly offer it to the other three gods.

Crux already told me you are the strongest, so I have no doubt you will face any opposition, especially after you are done taking my blood."

The intoxicating smell of his blood caused Lady Beyhos to absentmindedly lick her lips. Seeing this, Klaus smiled and stood up.

He froze three of the blood samples in an ice block. He waved his hand, and they flew toward her alongside the unfrozen one.

"I will be taking Crux with me. Her speed is something I need to get to a very important place. When I return, we will have a meeting on how best to handle the coming battle."

She was so focused on the golden blood that she nodded, but didn't even notice when Klaus walked out of the trunk house.

Klaus had no fear that in a couple of days, four gods would be joining him. In the past, just one of his subordinates could recruit hundreds of others simply by giving them drops of his blood to give to those they deemed worthy of joining his cause.

This time, too, he knew Lady Beyhos would join his cause. After all, just when he took three steps out, he sensed she had consumed his blood.

He smiled and turned toward his left, locking eyes with Reed, the mantis-type beast that tried to suppress him when he arrived with Crux.

Seeing him come out of the trunk house, alive and in perfect shape, shocked him.

Crux landed by Klaus's side. "How did it go?"

"I am alive, so I suppose it went well."

She nodded and turned toward Reed and Lizzy. After flashing a smirk, she took to the air, and Klaus followed. He had already discussed his plan with her, so she knew where they would be going next.

Chapter 1483 - 1483: The Jade Vault

Klaus had no idea when the egg housing the jade ant queen would hatch. However, he knew everything would happen in the vicinity of the Jade Vault.

Of course, since he knew that, it meant the Heavens Court also did, and as such, they would head over to that place. So he wanted to get there first and take what he could before they arrived.

To do that, he needed Crux's speed.

She is an aerial-type beast, so speed in the air is her speciality. Aside from that, she is a demigod, so aside from the other three gods, no beast in the Jade Nest would dare cross her.

Of course, there are those who just can't take a hint—those who are left to suffer for their own idiotic reasons. However, he doubted they would face much resistance on their journey.

Thankfully, it took them three days to get to the vault.

This was even more so because Crux had to take some detours just to evade the domains of the other three gods.

As Klaus expected, they were the first to get there.

He had been to the Jade Vault once. In fact, it was where he and the Jade Ant Queen fought when he visited her in the past.

So being back there brought back some old memories. He was severely trashed back then, to the point that he had no idea how he had landed in that situation.

Actually, he did. After all, he had just managed to form a contract with the three True Calamities, and so his ego had inflated to the point that he thought he could pull the Jade Ant Queen to his side.

Losing a few body parts was his luck. Had it not been for a life-saving treasure he had on him back then, he would have died for sure.

"Ah, being back here brings back some unpleasant memories," he smiled faintly and turned to Crux.

"Do you want to enter using the back door, or do you plan to do so when it opens manually?" Since he had received permission from the Jade Ant Queen herself, he could enter the vault at will.

Of course, since the nest had opened, it was only a matter of time before the vault also opened. By then, much attention would be drawn here, which, from what Klaus calculated, would also be the final battleground for those who were still alive.

Crux chose to enter with him, so Klaus put her inside the Demon Bead and entered using the Jade Ant Queen's permission.

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Meanwhile, in four places—one of which was where the five masked assassins broke the seal—cracks began appearing in some statues.

At the first location, the crack appeared on a statue of a frog-like beast.

The second location had a horse-like beast with a crack running along its neck.

The third was a jaguar with its side agape with a large crack.

As for the last, a beautiful crow-type beast had almost one of its wings fallen off.

One could visibly see the cracks expanding.

These four statues were the ones the Jade Ant Queen had placed her seals on. Now they were broken, and the seals were slowly becoming undone, somewhere underground in these four places, some sealed warriors were stirring.

If nothing disturbed the statues, which would in turn hasten the damage, then in exactly five weeks, all sealed warriors would be awakened, and when they did, the final battle would begin.

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Somewhere else, hidden underground, a golden egg starts to glow, releasing a subtle divine aura. It is the Nirvana Divine Egg, a treasure that the Star Monarch gave to the Jade Ant Queen as a token of his goodwill back when he tried to recruit her.

She kept it, which she ultimately needed to undergo her rebirth.

Now, it seems to have fully matured and has entered its final growth phase, where it will hatch and release the baby version of the Jade Ant Queen.

Looking at the density of the aura, it will take the egg about six weeks to hatch.

That would be the perfect time for the Heavens Court to finish what they started several years ago.

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In another place, too, a three-person team comprising two men and a woman was busy at work assembling a device.

The lady appeared to be the leader, so she held her expression calm, her hands clasped behind her, as she paid close attention to the device the two people were assembling.

After watching for a while, she asked:

"How many can come through this device when it is done?"

One of the men fixing the device turned and looked at her for a moment before answering:

"As I have answered ten times before, it can let through an entire unit. That is roughly about 10,000 warriors."

The lady smiled faintly and nodded.

A few seconds later, she asked again:

"And are we sure this device will be able to point toward the right place? I have already checked, and it seems this place has no signal to the outside. Not even the Dark Space works here."

"Relax, General Bimbo. There is no need to worry just yet. While there is no signal here, we will establish connection once all the seals are broken. So relax your nerves and prepare for what you have to do once we are done."

She nodded again and turned away.

The two men sighed and got back to work.

It took them nine more hours to finish assembling the device, which came out like a gateway. "General, we are done. You can use the key to turn it on, and our final work here will be done."

She nodded and retrieved a golden key. She inserted it into the space provided and turned it clockwise. The device hummed, and a white light started to form inside.

She turned and looked at the two men and asked:

"Now what?"

"Now we wait for the seals to go down. Once that happens, the team on the outside will make a connection, and the gate will open. As for who will be sent over, we will all see when they appear."

General Bimbo nodded and walked back to a seat, and started to wait.

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On the outside of a certain green planet, a legion of 10,000 warriors stood before a similar gate, their expressions fixed on it.

The weakest among them are True Immortals, and the strongest are the five gods. Two of them are True Gods, and the other three are Real Gods. They also have 24 demigods and over a thousand Immortal Lords.

A red flag hangs loose on a flagpole with the insignia of a green-eyed Qilin.

If anyone from the mission hall were present, they would recognise this legion of warriors as one of the 12 Scarecrow Legions.

In fact, they would recognise them as the 8th Legion, one of the most dangerous mercenary groups in the human universe.

Three months ago, they were hired with one mission in mind: to enter the Jade Nest and kill a group of corrupted warriors and four beast gods. They were paid handsomely and provided with planet-shattering weapons to ensure the job ended in their favour.

Now they are just waiting for the door to open so they can enter.

Chapter 1484 - 1484: The Jade Queens Mission

Klaus appeared on the first floor of the Jade Vault, appearing in front of a large statue. The statue depicts a man unleashing a wide arc with his swords.

Klaus regarded it for a few seconds before turning away.

He could tell the statue was not simple; however, he didn't place much emphasis on it, since his mission had nothing to do with it.

He wanted to go to the seventh floor since, from what Queen Mantis said, he would find something that would impress him.

"Icon, start scanning the floors and let me know if there is something good that would interest me," he gave an order to Icon before turning to the next objective.

He retrieved the Demon Bead and opened the portal.

Rory and the rest of his teammates walked out first.

Crux came out next, and then the 7th Jade Queen and her team followed.

It had been 4 days since they entered the Demon Bead. That was enough time for her teammates to recover somehow. Thankfully, the Immortal Essence Water that Klaus gave them helped.

Crux really did a number on them.

Looking at them, he knew they had recovered somehow. Though he can sense some apprehension toward Crux coming from them.

"Welcome to the first floor of the Jade Vault."

They all looked around, examining their new environment.

"Has it already opened?" Princess Evren asked, her focus turning to the statue.

"No."

"Then how did you manage to enter?"

"I have backdoor access. That said, it wouldn't be long before it opens for those still alive to enter. Oh, I met with the god beasts, and indeed, they had orders from someone to kill all of us. I managed to convince her to spare us, but the same cannot be said for the others.

That said, if everything goes as planned, the death toll would be reduced dramatically."

They nodded, though he could tell from their expressions that they were in shock. Hearing he had met a god beast that had been ordered to kill the likes of him, yet had managed to come out alive, impressed them a bit, and their respect for him shot up.

But they couldn't help but wonder just what kind of existence he is. No ordinary human can be this amazing.

"So what next?" Rory asked, holding Klaus's hand.

"We are inside the Jade Vault, my dear. The only thing we can do now is take what we can before it opens. By then, the humans and beasts would swarm this place, raising the difficulty to a whole new level."

They nodded.

It would indeed be a bit chaotic when that happens. However, since they have a head start, taking advantage of it seems like the most logical decision.

Icon sent Klaus a message, so he opened it to see its content.

<All floors have been scanned, and a map of the treasures has been created. I did not identify any valuable treasure that would benefit the master, though.>

'Oh, that is a bit shocking, don't you think? For a queen such as the Jade Ant Queen, I expected her to have overpowered treasures lying around.'

Klaus was a bit stunned to find that there weren't any treasures of importance to him on any of the 6 floors.

<I suspect she is just like the master. Most of her treasures are soul-bound, so only she could use them.>

'That makes sense, but still a bit shocking.'

<To be honest with the master, there aren't many treasures here. There are even some that I am not sure can be claimed, considering they are hidden behind layers of formations. I have also located the doorway to the 7th floor.>

Klaus accepted his loss since that was the only thing he could do.

However, with this information now at his disposal, he knew where he had to go. The invisible 7th floor is now his destination.

But before that, he turned to Princess Evren and asked:

"I suppose now would be the best time to tell me why you chose to enter this Nest."

There is no doubt she came to look for treasures. Everyone entered to look for treasures; however, someone with her status wouldn't enter for just any treasure.

As expected, she nodded and replied:

"I am indeed here for a reason. In fact, now that I am inside the vault, finding it would be very simple." She turned and looked at her teammates before adding, "I am here to find the Jade Pendant."

Klaus nodded, a bit taken aback, but managed to maintain his composure.

The Jade Pendant is a mental-type treasure. When used, it enhances the wearer's mental attack. Of course, the only reason he knew how it worked was that he had experienced its lethal power before, and so he was a bit stunned to hear the Jade Princess was here for the same thing.

<The Jade Pendant is on the 6th floor, Master.>

'Thank you, Icon.'

Klaus sighed first and spoke:

"The Jade Pendant is on the 6th floor. It will take a while to get there, but I believe we can get there before the vault opens to the public."

Klaus wanted to leave the vault before everyone else entered. This was so he could plan well for the danger ahead of them.

"I guess I will be in your care then." After what she had been through a couple of days ago, she knew better than to play the high and mighty card.

Klaus had proven how capable he is, and so accepting his kind gesture was only right.

Then again, if only she knew Klaus only wanted her to get her hands on the pendant so she would become much stronger and more useful for the coming battle, perhaps she wouldn't have seen him in the same light.

'Icon, draw a path that will take us through places where some of the treasures are. While I don't need them, I have wives who might find them useful.'

<The master can just focus on his mission. I will summon some of your beasts and lead them to the treasures. I will leave a clone behind to handle that.>

'Well, I have no reason to reject such an offer.'

"Then we should be on our way."

They soon left. A few minutes after they were gone, a clone of Icon appeared from thin air and smiled. She snapped her tiny fingers, and a portal opened.

From within, over a thousand Real Immortal-level beasts and five True Immortals walked out, every last one of them in their demi-human form.

"Alright, like we discussed, we all should do our best, and maybe I will be impressed and gift you all a drop of Master's blood."

They nodded and got to work.

Icon watched them go, an evil smile playing on her face.

What Klaus didn't know was that, while the treasures may be useless to him, there are thousands of them scattered across the vault, and Icon intended to take every last one of them.

In a few weeks, when the vault finally opens, not even a single treasure will be found.

In her defence, she had yet to gain access to Klaus's vaults from his past lives, so when she gained access to those belonging to others, she wouldn't be polite.

So they got to work. With Klaus soon going into battle, maybe he would find some of the treasures useful.

Three weeks later, Klaus and the others arrived on the 6th floor. By then, Icon and her cohort of thieves had arrived on the 5th floor.

#### Chapter 1485 - 1485: The 7th Floor

Because Icon didn't want Klaus and the others wasting too much time, she led them through a path that had little to no treasures. This hastened their journey through the various floors.

Of course, she was not stingy, so she made sure every last one of them found something that was better suited for them.

By the time they got to the 6th floor, only Klaus and Princess Evren remained without a treasure.

However, now that they had reached the 6th floor, she would be gaining a treasure too, and Klaus's is waiting for him on the 7th floor.

Rory got her hands on a stone-like item that could be used to refine her bow. While it had become much stronger after the Burning Angel blessed it, now that it had become a soul weapon, feeding it treasures would greatly improve it.

Icon made sure she had that. She knew all the treasures in the jade vault, and so she picked the ones better suited for people following her master.

This was so the upcoming battles would be tilted in their favor somehow.

Oman got a sword sheath that once belonged to a legendary sword god. Contained within it was the sword intent of that person. By inserting his sword into it, he had started to absorb some of that intent, sharpening his sword greatly.

Slate received a pair of boots that enhanced his speed by 120%. Since he wielded the wind element, these boots made it so he could move much faster and become more deadly.

Echo received a crown-like treasure that boosted her imaginative abilities. As someone who could bend the Ice element to her will, she needed all the creativity she could muster. Having the imagination to envision creative scenarios would come in handy.

Crux received a whip, which she seemed to have developed some form of fascination with. When she fought Klaus with her clone, she wielded no weapon since she fought in her beast form. However, now that she had a weapon, she could use her demi-human form more often.

Princess Evren's teammates also received their fair share of the treasures. Now, it was her turn to get something.

"We are here now," Klaus said, looking around him. The 6th floor is an island with green water surrounding it. While he won't be spending much time there, he let the beauty of it all imprint on his mind.

He would be heading to the 7th floor while the rest would spend some time exploring the 6th floor. Once he was back, they would leave and return to planning how best to handle the incoming threats.

He pointed at a certain mountain. "The Jade Pendant is there. You can take your teammates with you since they have recovered now."

She nodded and turned to her four teammates. "Rest for an hour before we head out."

Turning away from them, she regarded Rory before turning to Klaus. "Where do you plan on going?"

Klaus pointed at the green water. "I will be going for a swim. Just like you, I am also here for something, so I will go look for it. Once I return, we can head out before this place is opened to everyone."

She had no reason to question him any further, so after a few more exchanges, Klaus moved away to talk to Rory.

"Use the time you have now to enhance your bow. I am afraid when I return, we won't have much time to do anything else."

She nodded and hugged him.

Since they could talk telepathically, he had already informed her of where he was going once they reached the 6th floor, so she didn't ask any questions.

"Be careful over there. I will be waiting for you here."

Klaus nodded and kissed her. A few seconds later, he dived into the water and started descending.

Icon had located the doorway to the 7th floor hidden somewhere in the ocean, so he started swimming toward it.

Luckily, just like the other floors, there were no dangers here either, so he rapidly advanced, moving deeper into the ocean. It took two hours, but eventually, he came to a stop in front of a glowing portal.

Klaus wasted no time and entered the portal.

The next second, he appeared in a room large enough to fit over 400 people.

There were no chairs, tables, or beds; rather, the entire floor and walls had been decorated with one rune after another.

Klaus was taken aback by this sight; however, he started to examine the runes soon enough, making sure he at least understood them before ruling them out as useless.

It took him a few more hours to decipher them. When he did, a smile formed on his face.

"Such a headache."

The runes were actually coordinates that pointed to three places.

The first coordinate pointed toward a tree that bore a fruit called the Divine Apple. It could not be consumed by just anyone since it was extremely poisonous. However, while it was only useful to a select few, just one was enough to fetch a substantial amount.

Klaus knew he needed the fruits since he had poison affinity.

While he might be immune to poison, if a God-level poison or higher were to get into his system now, there was a chance he would be affected, so he wanted to improve his Poison Resistance and, if possible, boost his understanding too.

The second coordinate led to a storage space where his severed arm, leg, and eye had been kept. Klaus was a bit taken aback when he saw how much trouble the Jade Ant Queen went through to preserve his severed limbs.

He was even grateful she did. Because if he were to refine them, he could use those bones to enhance his current body.

The last coordinates were unknown, so he first went to the Divine Apple tree to see if he could find a few ripe ones.

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While he was on his way, outside the vault, the five assassins arrived, their breath coming in ragged. It had been days since they destroyed the seal and began searching for Klaus and the 7th Jade Princess.

They tried all kinds of means but couldn't find even a trace of them. This left them disturbed and a bit angry. However, their worries were soon turned into fear when they mistakenly walked into the domain of a rather dangerous, immortal Lord-level calamity beast.

It was purely by mistake; however, looking at how miserable they looked now, it was plain as day that they had it worse over the past few days.

"Damn it. When I get my hands on those two, I will be sure to savor the moment when killing them," the blue mask assassin said, his voice cold.

The green mask assassin placed his hand on his shoulder and said:

"Relax. With the seals coming undone soon, this vault will open. When it does, they will show up. Nobody can deny the allure of getting their hands on some treasures. Especially, once that used to belong to the Jade Ant Queen."

"Green is right. We just have to wait for them to come to us," the red mask assassin added, making the blue mask assassin nod in acceptance.

"I wonder if we can even record the renegade hunter's death and later share it. I am sure the company will be pleased to take credit for his death."

The other assassins nodded.

"When the connection is established, we will think of what to do. For now, let's wait for them to come to us, unaware that they are walking into a trap. The rest will take care of itself."

Chapter 1486 - 1486: Immortal Claw Scripture

"Wow, that is a lot of Divine Apples," Klaus remarked as he stood 300 meters away from a tree holding about 40 ripe fruits.

When he arrived, he expected to find at least 5 fruits, since he remembered that the Divine Apple tree produces a single fruit every 100,000 years. In fact, even if he got his hands on just one, he would have appreciated it.

Finding 47 Divine Apples came as a shock. However, he wasn't one to be polite. The more the merrier.

"I guess it had been here long before Heaven's Court attacked this place." Considering it had 47 fruits on its branches, it had been 4.7 million years since it bore the first fruit.

Now he is fortunate to be the one to take all the fruits.

His [Poison Affinity] had already reached the perfect stage. While that was good enough for someone only at the True Immortal stage, if he could get to the harmony stage and even step into the perfect harmony stage, then perhaps attaining [Absolute Poison] affinity wouldn't be too hard.

He cannot compare himself to Ohema, but his understanding of poison is also good. The more control he has over it, the better.

As he walked forward, he felt the air around him start to change. At first, he paid little to no attention to it; however, when the messages started to show, he could only smile.

<Your ?????? Energy has sensed the presence of poison>

<Your ?????? is trying to absorb the poison energy>

<Your ?????? has absorbed a large amount of poison>

<Progress: 52%>

'That takes care of itself.' With the unknown devourer inside his soul sea doing all the devouring, he moved much faster toward the tree. When he stood right under it, his gaze scanned the 47 fruits.

There, up on a certain branch, a more ripe fruit, riper than the others, hung loose. Looking at its shiny surface, Klaus saw some runes on it.

"Icon, what are those runes for?"

[Once a Divine Apple is formed, it undergoes several stages of growth. The longer it remains on the tree, the more potent it becomes. The potency can be determined based on the number of runes on it.

This one fruit has 47 runes, showing it has been here for a very long time. Judging by how many runes it has, I can say it contains enough poison to kill even a celestial. It would be advisable for the master not to eat it just yet.

While the master has poison immunity, he would die a very painful death if he attempted to eat something this potent.]

Klaus licked his lips but said nothing.

Instead, he summoned a small knife and made it fly up. When it was close enough to the fruit, he controlled it to cut the Divine Apple down. Klaus used his mind to grab hold of it, making it fall slowly toward him.

He examined it a bit, taking note of the runes before storing it away. He proceeded to pluck the remaining 46 fruits.

Even if he couldn't eat them all just yet, Ohema was someone whose understanding of poison was far beyond his. She would benefit greatly from it, so he would be sharing it with her.

Once he had had enough, he went to retrieve his severed arm, leg, and eyeball at the place. It took him a day to get there and another 5 hours to decipher the lock mechanism on the door before he entered.

When his eyes landed on his cleanly severed arm and leg, perfectly preserved, he smiled faintly. He opened the glass chamber they were stored in and grabbed them.

"Still holds this much power even after this many years have passed,"

While it was a bit disrespectful that his limbs were severed, he understood that he had been a bit overconfident, which made him look down on his opponent.

Holding his limbs now was a clear signal telling him to never look down on others ever again.

He stowed the arms and grabbed his eyeball. Once all of his severed body parts were tucked away, he left for the last place.

This time, it took him 8 hours to get there. When he unlocked the room and entered, he was shocked to find only a small stone tablet standing against the wall.

Walking closer, he stopped when he was only a meter away, his eyes widening.

"This can't be it, right?" he muttered, crouching down for a better look.

"Oh my god, it is indeed it," his breath caught in his throat, making him gasp for a moment and blink a few times.

"It is indeed it."

Klaus lifted his head back and laughed.

"Immortal Claw Scripture... it is indeed the Immortal Claw Scripture."

A long time ago, long before the Paragon arrived in the Primordial Era, there lived an existence known only by his title, 'Beast God'.

This Beast God was an existence that transcended all forms of limitations and reached a level that nobody could measure. They said that during his time, he had created seven powerful skills, each worthy to be ranked among the top ten most powerful Beast-type skills in the universe.

Klaus knew this because he had hunted down some of his skills during the Primordial Era and the other eras he had lived in.

The Beast God was an existence even he respected, and so he wanted to learn more about him and perhaps even use the knowledge to improve himself.

The Paragon was a terrifying existence, but there were beings far stronger than him. The Beast God was one of them, and so to have his hands on one of his skills, Klaus could be considered the happiest man in the entire universe at the moment.

"I need to learn it right now."

[But master, it would take months to do that. Inside this small tablet are billions of runes, each ancient and extremely hard to decipher. We have less than 3 weeks before the vault opens. By then, the corrupted warriors will break free, and if we are not ready by then, it will be too late for us.]

"I know, Icon. However, this is something I cannot just have tucked away. I can't focus, even if I have it stored in my soul sea. I need to learn it to clear away all the anticipation. Also, it won't take more than three weeks since I plan on learning it with more than one body."

Klaus had the mind to comprehend this skill. Of course, with him alone, it would take about 2 months. However, if he included his other bodies, that time would be reduced by weeks.

His incarnation as Kaden was training on the second floor of the Inheritance Tower. Rhazor was on his way to the Devil's Maw, and Orion was on his way to the Beast Universe.

If they were to join him, then things would be simple.

[I suppose the master can learn it much faster if he includes them. But it would be best if the master leaves this to the other incarnation while he focuses on other things.

We have a formation to prepare after all, so maybe let's focus on that first.]

Klaus stood there for a few minutes before a sigh escaped his lips. His other incarnations were already aware of what had to be done, so giving the tablet a gentle rub, he sent it into his soul sea.

"Worth it. Coming here today was worth it," he laughed and punched the air.

Clearly, he was delighted. In fact, he was more than pleased because, as far as he was concerned, he had just found something that would take his Star Monarch Bloodline to the peak.

Chapter 1487 - 1487: Jade Vault Opening, Shock

If, before arriving on the 7th floor, Klaus was disappointed that none of the treasures in the jade vault suited his long-term needs, then now, he was more than happy with his gains. In fact, he was very happy.

Inside his soul sea, the small tome containing the runes for the Immortal Claw Art hovered, releasing waves of ancient aura.

In three places, three of his incarnations were actively working to comprehend the technique and even master the first form. If that were achieved, then perhaps he would be winning the coming battle.

So as he made his way back to the 6th floor, he was happy.

He appeared beside Rory, who had found a small peak and was cultivating there.

"How did it go?" she asked the moment she sensed Klaus's presence.

He smiled and nodded at her. "Better than I had hoped."

"I guess you had a great fortune, judging by the smile on your face." Rory also smiled, already happy for her man. So far, she could tell the most logical step would be to go back out there before the vault opened.

However, seeing Klaus happy, she felt happy as well and even wanted to know more.

"Relax, I will tell you more when we are out of this dreadful place." Klaus turned and looked into the distance. "By the way, where are the Princess and her people?"

He could see Omen, Slate, and Echo seated in the lotus posture not far from Rory. The only ones he couldn't see yet were the Princess and her cohort.

"She had found the Pendant and bonded with it. Afterwards, she said she and her teammates were going somewhere, and when you returned, I should contact them."

Klaus furrowed his brow. "There is no signal here, so how do you intend to—"

Before he could finish his sentence, Rory retrieved her bow and fired an arrow into the distance. After traveling far enough, it exploded into fireworks.

"I suppose that works too."

She smiled, and they started to wait. There weren't many treasures on the 6th floor, so they didn't even bother to look. However, Klaus already knew they wouldn't benefit from any of the 10 treasures aside from the Jade Pendant here.

That said, Icon would handle everything when he was gone.

Already, Klaus knew things were going well for him on the outside. While he was on the 7th floor, he sensed he had formed three more connections with powerful beasts.

That was a clear sign that Lady Beyhos had succeeded in convincing the other three god beasts. Of course, that also meant he now had over 9 demigods under his command and several other immortal-level calamity beasts.

However, the battle would be happening on three fronts, and Klaus already knew that having this advantage wasn't enough.

Crux had already told him that aside from the three of them working under God Beast Beyhos, there were several demigods out there, some even having one foot in the realm of godhood.

So he was aware that during the battle, such powerful existences would try to get their hands on the Jade Queen. Of course, if they were the only threat, he wouldn't worry.

However, here lies the case where the Heavens Court wouldn't want their dirty secret to be spread out there.

His Hivemind was so robust that he knew the real threat had yet to arrive. The corrupted heaven warriors were like a big red flag that they would want taken out.

Even if the corrupted warriors somehow managed to kill all humans, they also must be dealt with.

Aside from them, the god beasts would also have to be taken out. This meant gods were coming, and he had to be ready to outsmart them all.

So he was more than prepared to ensure that when all of this was over, the blow that would strike Heaven's Court would be one they could never recover from.

An hour later, the Princess and her teammates arrived.

"Before we leave, you all should know one thing," Klaus said, drawing everyone's attention. "The battle that is about to happen will be between Immortals, demigods, and gods. Now, while I love to risk my life, I cannot say the same for you all, so if you want to walk away, I wouldn't think any less of you.

Of course, before you can leave, my side would have to win. Though winning at this point is a relative term. I have a bad feeling about the portals leading out of this place, so only by winning can we leave.

However, I can store you inside the treasures I used a couple of days ago. That said, if you choose to fight side by side with me, I will be forever grateful to you. Also, there are bound to be thousands of calamity cores after the battle, so the gain is a bit on the level with the risk."

He let a smile appear on his face.

Rory had already given him her answer, so he was only addressing the rest of his team, the Princess, and her teammates.

Slate looked at Echo and then at Omen. "As long as we won't have to fight gods, then why not? Sounds like it would be a good battle."

Omen and Echo nodded.

"Thanks, guys, and I promise, you won't be fighting gods."

They smiled and nodded back.

Princess Evren looked at her teammates, who nodded at her. She smiled and turned to Klaus. "I suppose we will be joining your campaign. However, if I sense my teammates' lives are at risk, I won't hesitate to pull them out."

"That is also good." Klaus nodded at her and then smiled.

"Since we are all in agreement, then we should go meet our teammates." Klaus put them inside the Demon Bead, and soon he was gone from the 6th floor, appearing back at Lady Beyhos's domain.

He would be meeting the three other gods in a few days' time; afterward, he would prepare a formation he planned to use in the battle.

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Meanwhile, three weeks after they left the jade vault, it finally opened. The moment it opened, all kinds of humans and beasts rushed inside, hoping to take the treasures for themselves.

However, their greed and anticipation were met with the most shocking sight ever.

The display cases for most of the treasures were there, but the treasures were nowhere to be found. In fact, many saw tracks leading from one treasure to the next, so they rushed to the other floors to explore.

However, even after reaching the 6th floor and finding nothing but display cases, their expressions turned dark. To make matters worse, on the sixth floor, the cloud in the sky was manipulated to write the most arrogant words possible.

"No need to cry over something that is not yours to begin with,"

This sentence evoked a range of emotions in both the beasts and the humans. This led to a battle, one that caused the jade vault to shake.

Their hatred for the unknown person who beat them to the loot had ignited, sparking a rage that made them all lose their reason.

Thankfully, the battle was short-lived. Three days after the vault opened, the seals were undone, and everyone regained their cultivation bases.

A few hours after that happened, they all sensed terrifying presences descending into the Nest. Two days later, corrupted Qi filled the air.

Finally, a week after the seals broke, an egg appeared in a valley 20 km away from the Jade Vault, calling all the presences inside the Nest toward it.

Klaus and his team were the first to answer the call.

Chapter 1488 - 1488: Jade Ant Queen's Rebirth (1)

A few days before the egg emerged...

Klaus and his team decided to hold one last meeting to ensure the coming battle is won, regardless of what the enemy throws at them.

In the meeting are his teammates: Rory, Omen, Slate, and Echo. Princess Evren is also there with her teammates, who decided to stay and fight with him.

Lady Beyhos and her three demigods are also present. Crux is her strongest, with Lizzy (the Naga) and Reed (the mantis) as her other trusted aides.

Aside from them, the three new gods were also present, each fully aware that they had been deceived by their mysterious benefactor.

Since they had taken Klaus's blood, all three of them are now aware of the lies they had been sold. This, and the fact that they had been schemed against by their former benefactor, added to their anger and hatred, which they planned to rain down on the head of the Heavens Court in a few days.

The second god beast is a lion-type beast with flame affinity. His name is Reis.

The third is a wolf called Kaz. His affinity is lightning, and he is perhaps the second strongest after Lady Beyhos. Klaus even has reason to believe he may be stronger than Lady Beyhos since he can enter berserk mode, where all his attributes gain a 100% boost.

The third is the demon spider beast called Merle. Klaus didn't fully grasp her power, but he knew if they had to keep some gods at bay, she would be the perfect candidate. Her webs are extremely sturdy, so breaking free from them is just impossible.

Unless the god is a True God, breaking her webs would take time and a lot of energy.

Just like Lady Beyhos, they also have three demigods each under their control.

They are all present in the meeting. Today, Klaus planned to assign roles and ensure they had a lifeline to fall back on.

"Thank you all for coming. I know by now you all have seen the corrupted warriors marching toward the Jade Vault. Yes, these are the same warriors who attacked and killed the Jade Ant Queen several years ago.

This time, they want to ensure the mission they started many years ago succeeds. As I said before, the Heavens Court wants the reincarnated version of the Jade Ant Queen, and they will do everything in their power to have her.

Our mission is to prevent that. To do so, we must massacre the corrupted warriors before they even get to make their move.

Once that happens, the main threat will reveal itself. Those are the ones we should go after with full force. Of course, the other demigods and several other beasts will also be a problem. However, as long as we can block the unknown forces, we will win.

We just have to fully crush them or push them back. That said, it would be advisable to prioritize your safety, so when there is danger, pull back and make new plans."

They all nodded.

Klaus had already discovered the main threat, and when he learned they had five gods and 24 demigods, he was a bit taken aback.

On his side, he has only 4 gods and 12 demigods. Of course, he had reasons to believe some of the other demigod calamity beasts would rally behind the four gods. However, he also has reasons to believe they will want to use this time to backstab the four god beasts of the Jade Nest.

Regardless, there is nothing he can do but hope that the four gods on his side will be able to keep the five gods at bay. He would think of something to handle the other demigods with the 12 he had on his side.

"God Beast Beyhos and Kaz will handle the True Gods, should there be any present." They nodded.

Klaus proceeded to share roles with everyone. Once that was done, he moved ahead and implemented some backup plans before heading out.

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Meanwhile, at the same time that Klaus and his people were having their final meeting, a similar thing was happening somewhere in the nest.

Five gods and 24 demigods stood before about 10,000 warriors, everyone strapped and ready to go into battle.

"Remember, our mission is to kill the four gods, the corrupted warriors, and every human inside this nest. Of course, I have reasons to believe the gods will be held back by the corrupted warriors. If that were to happen, you all must focus on killing the humans.

I have already informed those who hired us, and they have sealed this place, so rest assured that, before those waiting outside become aware, we will be long gone.

Make sure you don't mess around. Most importantly, it is imperative to kill the Renegade Hunter first. He is a priority kill, so whoever manages to take him out gets a bonus."

They all nodded, and after a few minutes, they also headed toward the Jade Vault.

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Inside the 5th level of the Jade Vault, four sets of teams sat down to have a meeting. In attendance are the Masked Assassins, the Green Scarf Ladies, the Grim Brothers, and the Ice Queens.

In the human universe, there is an assassin organization called Green Paradox. Nobody knows to what extent their influence reaches. However, one thing is known about them: they have teams made up of five members.

Each team has five members, and every member is a lethal assassin.

Two months ago, someone hired five of their teams for three missions.

The first mission was to kill the Renegade Hunter and the 7th Jade Princess. The second was to break all four seals that the Jade Ant Queen had mounted several years ago. As for the last mission, they were to retrieve the Jade Ant Queen when she hatched from her egg.

They entered the nest with expectations, but they were left disappointed. Even after more than a month, they couldn't get their hands on even the Jade Ant Queen. It was as if she and the Renegade Hunter had vanished from the nest the moment they entered.

They expected them to appear when the vault opened. However, to their horror, they never did.

Thankfully, another chance had arrived for them to make their move.

"According to what we were told, the rebirth will happen in two days, so we should get into position. I have already, on good authority, that the Renegade Hunter and the 7th Jade Princess have been made aware of our presence, and so they chose to hide from us.

However, they will come out this time around, and we should be ready to handle them when they do. Also, I would like to point out that when we get our hands on the Jade Ant Queen, our mission will be over, so be sure to kill the two before that time comes."

The red-masked assassin stated, and everyone nodded.

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While everything was about to turn to shit inside the Jade Ant Nest, on the outside, everyone seemed oblivious except one person.

Lord Victor had sensed from the moment Klaus and his team entered the Nest that something wasn't right. However, he said nothing. Now, he sensed something was terribly wrong.

However, he chose not to act and rather sent an SOS to the Burning Angel, who had already told him to keep a close eye on Klaus.

Chapter 1489 - 1489: Jade Ant Queen's Rebirth (2)

Klaus, Rory, Omen, Slate, Echo, Princess Evren, and her team stood atop a small mountain, overlooking the valley where a 3-foot golden egg hovered just a few meters off the ground.

The aura around the egg seemed to give off a feeling of attraction as well as power. Perhaps because of this presence, many were drawn toward it.

Standing not too far from where Klaus and his team were most of the surviving humans who survived the massacre of the Beasts, both on the outside and inside the Jade Vault.

Their focus is on the egg.

Not far from them, too, thousands of beasts stood, staring daggers at the egg. Leading them are the four beast gods. Klaus was a bit stunned when they arrived with this many beasts.

Of course, he expected something of the sort, but he never expected them to pull this many calamity beasts to their side.

Naturally, not all beasts followed them. Klaus could also count 9 demigod beasts on the scene; behind them, thousands of beasts stood, ready to charge into battle.

On the other side, the corrupted warriors also stood with crazed eyes and an aura that reeked of danger. Two demigods, whose true power he couldn't measure, stood before them, their gaze locked on the egg.

Klaus was shocked when he found out that, though they are corrupted, they could still converse in a sound tone. This, of course, made them a danger, but also a bit civil, provided the right agreement could be reached.

Of course, he knew it would be hard to reach them in a civil manner, but he didn't care for that just yet, not when the main dangers stood directly opposite them.

On one side, he counted four assassin teams, each with five members. Their focus was locked on Klaus and Princess Evren.

Klaus had no idea why they were looking at them like that; however, he recognized one of them. This made him conclude that they were not friendly.

But they can wait, because the main danger comes from the side where 5 gods and 24 demigods stood before an army of 10,000 warriors.

They don't look friendly, and most importantly, they all seemed to have their eyes on Klaus, his team, the humans, and the beasts.

This made him smile faintly, knowing the rescue mission is at the point where he can only place the impossible tag on it. He can't easily handle it, so he needed help.

Against demigods, he can manage, but gods are where he draws the line.

But since he can't handle them, he knew he had to ask for help. And to do that, he must ensure that these five gods and 24 demigods become everyone's enemies.

Thankfully, he has the right skill set to accomplish that.

'Icon, activate that skill,' Klaus said, his expression calm, though one could tell he was about to do something reckless.

[I have activated the skill, master. You are good to go.]

Klaus took a step forward, and his voice spread across the entire valley and beyond.

"Good day, everyone. I go by the Renegade Hunter; however, you all can call me Klaus for convenience's sake." He regarded the four god beasts before scanning the others. He stopped at the five gods from the Qilin Mercenary Legion.

"I don't suppose I have met these seniors before,"

Klaus expected them to arrogantly shut him down and say he wasn't qualified to know about them. However, to his shock, one of the True Gods, Eric, smiled at him.

"I have heard about you, boy. However, I never expected to see you here."

Klaus smiled. "You know, where there is treasure, I ought to go there. That said, I wonder why this senior is here, though," Klaus feigned ignorance, pretending he did not see the egg that everyone was eyeing.

Everyone present there wanted their hands on the egg, and so it was only natural for the Qilin Mercenary Legion to also be after it.

To his absolute shock, however, True God Eric shook his head.

"Honestly, knowing you are here makes me super happy, kid. Do you want to know why?"

Klaus nodded. "Making a god happy with my presence is, of course, intriguing, so I want to know."

True God Eric smiled and tapped his watch, projecting a bounty. On it, Klaus's image appeared with 100 million GC (God Coins). That is 10 billion Universe Coins (UC).

"There is a large bounty on your head, and aside from that, the one who hired us also wants your head along with the head of every last human present here." He paused and turned to the corrupted warriors. "Both sane and corrupted, and all sentient beasts."

He laughed and turned to Klaus. "You can say I am here to have fun, kid, so don't struggle. It will be over soon enough."

Klaus said nothing for a minute before he smiled faintly. "I see. I suppose you are the main enemy here. You want to kill all of us because you were hired to."

He turned and looked at the four god beasts. "I believe these seniors have already heard what he said and know what must be done."

To the shock of True God Eric and his teammates, the four god beasts nodded.

"This is our home, human, so of course we will not sit idly and let just anyone attack us. That said, it would be ideal if you and your fellow humans don't interfere. We might just mistake you for the enemy."

Klaus nodded and turned to the humans who were already panicking. This sight made him smile faintly...

"I came here for this egg, so it would be best if none of you cross me. I might not kill you, but I can cripple you. That said, the portals leading out of here have been sealed, so until the battle is over, you can either rally behind me and ensure we live to tell the tale tomorrow, or die trying."

Klaus pointed at the 1,200 corrupted warriors and added:

"They are our enemy, so those who want to fight should fight. Those who want to run should do so too. After all, survival is everything."

Standing opposite him, one of the assassins in a green mask unsheathed his dagger and vanished into a shadow.

Those standing beside him, if they had paid close attention, would have realized a smirk appeared on Klaus's face the moment the green-masked assassin vanished.

However, they were more focused on what he said, failing to realize that the start of the battle would be determined by the blood of an arrogant assassin who thought he had everything figured out.

Klaus turned and looked back at True God Eric, flashing him a teasing smile. "It appears you are fucked, Mr. I will advise you to live first before thinking about reaping a bounty."

"I am afraid I can't do that," he grinned, unleashing a trace of his power.

Klaus smirked, "Then happy dying, you are going to make a fine Undead."

Just when he said that, his hand struck back with deadly force, Bloodwork appearing in his firm grip mid-motion.

To everyone's shock, the empty air behind Klaus was severed, and the red, razor-sharp, pointed blade of the scythe stabbed into the green-masked assassin's head, killing him in an instant.

Klaus pulled him from nothingness and held him loosely, his body dangling like a doll off his scythe (Bloodwork).

"I suppose that is the start of chaos."

In the distance, all 19 remaining assassins retrieved their weapons and lunged at Klaus.

He grinned and winked at True God Eric before vanishing into the void. The next moment that he appeared, his scythe was mere inches from the neck of one of the assassins.

Rory and her friends joined in, and before long, Princess Evren and her team moved as well.

Lady Beyhos and Kaz moved, their targets: the two true gods of the Qilin Mercenary Legion.

Chapter 1490 - 1490: Jade Ant Queen's Rebirth (3)

Nobody expected a bloody battle to break out inside the Jade Nest.

To those on the outside, the Jade Vault was expected to open three months from today, since that was when the seals would naturally lose their strength and break.

However, in less than two months after entering, the battle that would determine the fate of everyone who entered had started, and already, dead bodies had started to pile up.

Klaus and his team had engaged the four assassin teams from the Green Paradox. Killing the green-masked assassin had provoked them, so they dropped all caution and attacked.

All of them are Immortal Lords, so aside from the surprise attack that claimed the life of the green masked assassin, taking out the rest will take some effort.

Klaus knew he must put everything on the line here, or else he risked dying easily.

However, as he was surrounded by 9 assassins, a smile crossed his face, showing he wasn't at all afraid of them.

Of course, he wasn't about to be arrogant. In fact, all ten immortal rings he had formed were active, each working to keep him alive long enough for the formation to take shape.

Rory was locked in with one assassin who wielded a short sword, while another seemed to circle around her, waiting for an opening to attack.

Slate, Omen, and Echo had also found their targets.

Princess Evren and her teammates were also locked in, their battles sending shockwaves far and wide.

Klaus never expected the delicate princess to actually be proficient in close combat. However, watching as she wielded a sword and clashed with the assassins, he could tell she wasn't all beauty and no substance.

Of course, winning would be hard since she isn't a hardcore warrior. But Klaus knew she would live—at least long enough for his formation to bloom.

On the other side, the 9 demigod beasts who led their own beast army to the valley had clashed with the corrupted warriors, and their battle had already taken a dark turn.

Already, over a hundred beasts lay dead, with not even a single corrupted warrior among them.

This sight shocked Klaus greatly. The battle had only been going on for 5 minutes, but they had already killed this many. Chilling enough, the two corrupted demigods were locked in against all nine demigod beasts.

Until today, Klaus had heard from many that calamity beasts are monsters beyond measure. Today, it appears they were weaklings before these corrupted warriors.

Even if these calamity beasts aren't those from the calamity zones, the mere fact that they are calamity beasts should count for something. However, that wasn't the case.

They are dying, and that is very shocking.

If anything, he knew the true danger had been revealed, and they were the corrupted warriors, not the Qilin Mercenary Legion.

The Qilin Mercenary Legion already have their hands full.

Beast Goddess Beyhos was locked in against True God Eric, while Kaz was locked in with the other True God.

Beast Gods Merle and Reis were also keeping two out of the three remaining gods at bay, while unexpectedly, Crux and another demigod from Beast God Kaz's domain held back the other god.

That unexpectedly made it so that the demigods on Klaus's side dropped to ten. This also means they had to take on 24 demigods, which, in Klaus's opinion, is impossible.

Unfortunately, he had no way of mitigating that just yet, so the beasts were being slaughtered rather faster than he had hoped.

However, he knew they would pull through for now. If they can hold on for a while, then he can help them.

He, on the other hand, must also handle his opponents before they handle him...

"It is rather heartbreaking to think your existence was lowered to the point you couldn't tell you are being manipulated," Klaus said while blocking a dagger aimed at his heart.

He deflected that blow and, spinning his body around, struck with his spiked boot, landing a hit on a female assassin's shoulder.

She was pushed back, blood oozing from the spike marks he left on her shoulder.

Another assassin slipped behind him while a second and third came from both sides, their daggers poised for a deadly attack.

Klaus smiled and moved down, landing on the ground with a heavy thud.

The impact caused metal spikes to erupt from the ground, shooting at the three assassins. One of them was caught off guard and struck. However, he managed to move sideways fast enough for the spear to land on his shoulder.

Even so, he was pushed back and injured, reducing the active attackers to 7.

"I don't know who hired you to come after me. It is just that they failed to tell you I cannot be killed easily," Klaus retreated and swung his scythe, meeting the dagger of another assassin.

Just when he moved forward to land a punch, a shadow moved past him at a deadly speed. He only had time to lift his shoulder and pull to the left fast enough for the attack to land on his shoulder instead of his neck

<You have been poisoned with the Dantura Nightshade Toxin>

Klaus furrowed his brow, reading this message.

His body moved on its own, evading a dagger to his torso, only for another cut to land on his left leg.

<You have been poisoned with the Dantura Nightshade Toxin>

Klaus narrowed his eyes again, his expression turning darker. He counted nine assassins before him, and as far as he could tell, none of them escaped his sight, so who kept attacking and poisoning him?

He had no time to think about it since he was already targeted by five assassins, their daggers mere inches from him.

Klaus paused for a moment, the poison neutralizing as his Poison Immunity took effect. However, it wasn't fast enough, not when, before he could escape from the five attacks, his left arm was cut again.

The same message appeared, but he couldn't see the target.

Thankfully, he managed to evade the five attacks and even injured one of them in the process.

'Icon, how long until the poison becomes lethal,'

[Dantura Nightshade Toxin lethality Level: 22%]

'And how fast is my immunity handling it for now,'

[Not fast enough, master. However, by my calculation, you have about 30 minutes minimum and 45 minutes maximum to figure out who keeps attacking you and take them out.]

Klaus nodded.

He looked at Rory and saw she was holding on perfectly. On the other side, Slate, Omen, and Echo were also doing okay.

Princess Evren had a cut on her left arm, but other than that, she and her team were also holding on.

Seeing this, he smiled.

"Really sad to have to kill such fine warriors," his eyes turned from golden to red. At once, a powerful blood aura exploded from his body and his scythe, causing the 9 assassins fighting him to halt for a moment.

The aura around Klaus had changed, and for some reason, they felt in danger.

To make that clear, Klaus pointed his scythe forward, and from the ground, the blood spilled from the slain beasts, and some humans started moving toward it.

When the first blood entered the scythe, it hummed.

Klaus let go of the handle and retrieved a black sword.

He looked at the scythe and smiled. "Feast, buddy. By the time you awaken, I will have nine fresh immortal bloods for you to devour."

Klaus took a step forward, and his body turned to blood mist. The next second, a scream came from one of the assassins.

His left hand was severed and flew into the air, blood gushing out from the shoulder.