

## Paragon 1491

Chapter 1491 - 1491: Jade Ant Queen's Rebirth (4)

"Behind you," a voice called out in panic. An assassin, wielding a slightly long dagger, turned and looked behind him at the warning of this voice. That was a mistake because the moment he turned, a sword came from his left, aimed at his neck.

Being an Immortal Lord, he managed to react quickly, moving his body up. However, it was futile because the moment he moved his body to save his neck, a spear rose from the ground and embedded itself deep into his heart, making him the second casualty that Klaus had registered.

His body fell limp but never got to land on the ground.

Just when it was a few meters off the ground, it vanished into thin air.

Klaus smiled, then turned himself intangible, causing a shadow to pass by him. It was the same mysterious person who kept attacking him with the poisoned dagger.

While he hadn't figured out a way to keep him from being hurt by their dagger, Klaus knew that with the [Intangible Me] skill, he could at least evade some of the attacks, provided he managed to track when they took aim at him.

Looking at the 8 remaining assassins lunging at him, a grin appeared on his face, and he moved, turning into a blood mist.

In combat, there are many ways to empower one's abilities. Some methods are costly and even deadly. At the top ten, three of them stood out.

The first is Immortal Rings Explosion.

It is one of the best ways to strengthen one's abilities. Whenever an immortal ring is exploded, it floods the body with so much energy, allowing the warrior to unleash powerful attacks.

When used right, it can even aid a demigod in killing a god.

Looking sideways, Klaus could tell that was what Crux was doing. She is a Calamity Beast, so Immortal Rings come naturally to her. Exploding a few to raise her strength wasn't much of a struggle.

However, she would pay for it when she ran out of immortal rings to explode.

The second way is soul-burning. This involves burning the soul, thereby directly absorbing Pure Soul Qi. This is dangerous because a small mistake can cost one their life.

Not many dare to do this.

The third, however, is common and also causes many powerhouses to become vegetables after a harrowing battle.

It is a method called Bloodline Burning. This involves burning one's blood essence to strengthen oneself. It is ranked high on the list because its effect depends on how strong one's bloodline is.

Klaus was now using this method, thanks to his overpowered bloodline.

Of course, when one burns their bloodline, it comes back to bite them, since refining blood essence is extremely hard.

In fact, most of the time, it is impossible to refine more blood essence, so many use this method at their own risk.

Klaus, however, is different. The reason why he is using it is rather simple: he has many wives.

Before the planet's awakening, he awakened a new ability linked to the [Paragon Mark] called [Bloodline Points]. This ability allows him to turn Paragon Points into Bloodline Points. These points can then be used to increase the power of his bloodline.

In short, if he were to burn his blood essence to 0%, all he needed to do was convert Paragon Points to Bloodline Points to strengthen it, thereby restoring his blood essence to 100%.

Before the battle, he asked Icon how many Paragon Points he had, especially since those points are accumulated through sex and killing.

The more sex he had with his wives, the more he earned. Aside from that, his kills, their kills, and the kills of anyone having his blood running through their veins add to his points.

He had no idea what his friends and beast legion were up to or how much sex he had had, but when he checked the points, he was blown away.

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[Paragon Points: 198,880,930,100]

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The billions in Paragon Points told him he could do as he pleased, and he would never run out, not when 1 million Paragon Points is equivalent to 1 Bloodline Point now that he is a True Immortal.

So as he burned away his Primordial Vampire Monarch bloodline, he had no fear since it wouldn't be the end of him.

In fact, as he evaded a dagger to the neck, his hand whipped back and landed a dirty slap on a green-haired assassin lady.

"That felt good," he smiled and turned to blood mist, evading another attack from the mysterious person.

He reformed, and with a wave of his hand, 100 spears formed from the metal element appeared from the ground, and they all attacked one assassin.

She tried to evade; however, Klaus used the time law on her, causing her movement to slow down considerably.

She was skewered by all 100 spears, ending her life.

Seeing another one of their teammates die at Klaus's hand, all caution was thrown into the wind. One assassin ignited their life force, causing their power to surge into the ranks of a demigod.

At once, Klaus felt a powerful force fall on his body.

'Damn, I need to kill him next before his power surges beyond the demigod stage.'

**\*BOOM\* \*BOOM\* \*BOOM\* \*BOOM\***

Before Klaus could make his move, four more assassins ignited their life force. At once, his body became so heavy that when the mysterious person attacked, he couldn't evade.

<You have been poisoned with the Dantura Nightshade Toxin>

<You have been poisoned with the Dantura Nightshade Toxin>

<You have been poisoned with the Dantura Nightshade Toxin>

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<You have been poisoned with the Dantura Nightshade Toxin>

Nine deadly attacks lacerated his neck, arms, and legs, instantly raising the toxin level in his body to a lethal level.

[Dantura Nightshade Toxin Lethality Level: 72%]

"Damn it," Klaus's bloodline burned fiercely, his strength rising. However, when the five assassins, now comparable to demigods, unleashed their combined attacks, he was instantly locked in place.

"Not today."

His eyes flashed red, and from his soul, a wooden staff vibrated. On the outside, Klaus raised his hand, and the wooden staff appeared. With a deadly thrust, he embedded it into the ground.

"Staff of Gravity," the ground trembled, causing many cracks to appear.

Klaus moved and formed a couple of complex hand seals, causing the staff to ignite in brilliant golden light.

"Absolute Zero Gravity."

The five fake demigods coming at him froze midair, and then they came crashing down. Klaus had cancelled gravity, and, using the power of the wooden staff, he rewrote the laws around them, so they could all fight on level ground.

However, by doing this, he could not use the law of gravity or any other law in that case. But Klaus wasn't worried, not when he had already prepared for the next best thing to mitigate the staff's effect on him.

Watching the five fake demigods lunging at him again, his eyes flared dark for a moment, then he smiled weakly.

"I am still too weak."

He lifted his sword, and for the first time after he awakened the Primordial Vampire Monarch's bloodline, he activated his partially awakened domain, the same domain that was once wielded by the Paragon of War, Magnus.

"Domain of War and Carnage."

The ground exploded, and lava poured out, followed by the ringing of chains brushing against one another. Flames ignited from the lava, and deep from the scorching maw of flames, a red eye flared, releasing a terrifying soul attack that swept across the entire Jade Nest.

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For a moment, every battle halted, all eyes turning in the direction where the lava battlefield had mysteriously formed.

Standing at the centre, Klaus pointed his sword, now bathed in a flame-type aura that wasn't exactly flame, though they all felt their hearts shaken when they saw this.

"What was that?" a human warrior who had fled but now stood with a few friends, watching the grave battle, asked, his expression filled with shock.

"That is the Renegade Hunter. It appears he had unleashed his domain..."

"Damn, I have never seen a domain this terrifying. Just looking at it makes my soul feel like it's trying to abandon me. Just what kind of domain is that?"

"I don't know, but I feel like it is a Primordial Domain," another person spoke, causing a few others to turn and look at him, their gazes asking for more context.

"I learnt from my father that when it comes to domains, we have two types: Primitive and True domains."

Many nodded, already aware of the types. The Primitive Domain is the most widely known, as it involves the warrior merely turning their realm at the mortal stage into a domain. While this is powerful, they're nothing compared to True Domains.

True Domains are those formed by comprehending a Dao. Many focus on the Heavenly Laws, for that is the most straightforward way. However, some go deeper than that.

"According to my father, there are those who go about creating True Domains by comprehending an aspect of a warrior. I believe you all know when it comes to a warrior, there are three aspects: the mind, soul, and body."

They nodded again.

"These three aspects are what define a warrior, but also what links one to the Dao, such as the laws. If a warrior is to comprehend one of these aspects, they can be said to have taken a step toward knowing their true self.

So if they form a domain by comprehending one of these aspects, it means that as long as they are alive, their domain remains strong. It also means that as long as they are alive, whatever law they have comprehended can remain useful regardless of how many Law essences they have."

"Hold on a minute, buddy. If I understand what you are saying clearly, you mean to say if one comprehends a True Domain using, let's say, the soul, then for as long as they have soul essence, their domain can remain active and even allow them to wield their law abilities without having to worry about law essence."

The man who explained the True Domain nodded.

"Damn," many exclaimed, their expressions shifting from shock to regret.

If only they had known there was such a thing.

Right now, Klaus had blocked all laws, ensuring that those around him, those the wooden staff had affected, could not use them, including himself.

However, since he had unleashed his partial domain, he had unblocked, or more like partially unblocked, himself. It is already a known fact that his comprehension of heavenly laws is deep, to the point that they can be considered his trump cards, so rendering him unable to use them is just a waste and a huge debuff.

Now, he could use them, and the best part, he didn't even have to worry about law essence.

"Wait, why did you say his domain is a Primordial Domain?"

"When it comes to True Domains, there are various stages, each stage having a significant effect on the domain. We have the True Monarch Domain, True Divine Domain, True Supreme Domain, and finally, the True Primordial Domain.

I said his domain is Primordial because of the orbs behind him. There are four orbs, each representing a stage. Four orbs point at a True Primordial Domain."

The people gathered could only stare in shock. They didn't know whether this was luck or calamity, but those who wanted to walk away from the battle began to think they might be making a big mistake.

In their minds, if only they could get close to the Renegade Hunter, perhaps they would get to learn something from him.

Some subconsciously started moving toward the battlefield, while others recorded everything that was happening. When this was over, and they all managed to leave, they would sing his praise, for they would be leaving thanks to his power.

While they were all shocked by the power Klaus had unleashed, a pale smile formed on his face.

'I am not strong enough to use its full power or even use it for long, so it seems to have dropped back to the Primordial stage. That is okay; at least now, I have the upper hand.'

He looked at the assassins, now pale and their clothes on fire, and a laugh escaped his mouth.

"It is quite unfortunate, but I have never once considered that I would be pushed to the point where I had to resort to using a domain to win. However, now that we are here, I suppose it would be best if you all could tell me who hired you."

"Damn you, brat. I will kill you," the red-masked assassin cursed at Klaus, and then he lunged forward, his dagger poised for a deadly attack.

He only managed to get within 2 meters of him before a large spear formed from the metal element, imbued with soul essence, shot from the ground and went through his heart.

"Unless any of you are a god, then know I have complete authority here." Klaus grinned and then turned to his left. "The same goes for you. Who are you, and what do you want?" he spoke to the wind from how people saw it.

However, a few seconds later, a figure shrouded in dark armour appeared from thin air and pointed his dagger at him.

When the 6 remaining assassins saw him, they all bowed. "Senior Poison, kill this bastard."

"Oh, so you are with them."

Instead of responding to Klaus, the figure smirked at the assassins. "Bunch of idiots. You couldn't even kill a mere brat."

Hearing his words, Klaus laughed. "As if you were any different. You tried many times to kill me but failed. From where I stand, it seems you are as useless as them all, perhaps even the most useless."

The expression on the man's face shifted, becoming even darker. He glared hatefully at Klaus and pointed his other dagger at him.

"I will give you a chance to go down on your knees and apologize. I might just have pity and not kill you and these useless humans with you."

The smile on Klaus's face vanished, replaced with a dangerous look. "I see. Then why don't I offer you an even better deal?" Klaus pointed at four other places and smirked.

"Instead of hiding like cowards, why don't you show your useless selves so we can get this done? Or do you think hiding will increase your chances of snatching the Jade Ant Queen once she hatches?"

The man frowned, and from the four places Klaus had pointed, four demigods walked out, their expressions mirroring those of the first assassin, who was also a demigod.

"Brat, die for me," one of them pulled back his bowstring, and an arrow formed in it. In an instant, it locked onto Klaus, causing him to narrow his eyes as a dangerous feeling washed over him.

He was about to raise a defence when a spear streaked through the air, stabbing through the demigod's chest, sending him crashing into a mountain far away from Klaus's domain.

A chilling laugh followed...

"Kekekekekekekeke..."

From a cloud of smoke 300 meters from Klaus's domain, Asmodeus walked out, a black staff in his firm grip.

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The voice that spread across the space held so much evil that everyone present—including the gods—felt their backs break into a cold sweat.

Even Klaus, who knew Asmodeus would be coming, couldn't help but feel his spine tingle at the tone of his voice. Turning sideways, his gaze landed on his undead necromancer walking out of the smoke, a smile painting his face.

Following right behind him was an Immortal Lord shrouded in a black cloak, his face covered behind a mask. After they walked out, the black-cloaked figure extended his hand, and the spear that was hurled at the demigod who aimed his bow at Klaus flew back into his firm grip.

Klaus said nothing, for he wasn't about to blow his cover.

Asmodeus would soon be recognized as the aide of the Paragon, so he planned on distancing himself from the most evil person he knew.

All battles came to an abrupt halt, their gazes turning to Asmodeus.

Seeing he had their attention, Asmodeus grinned and waved his staff, causing a cloak to materialize behind him. "I figured since the hero is here, he might as well look like one."

He rose slowly into the air and spoke:

"Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Asmodeus, the greatest necromancer this universe has ever seen. I am here today to pave the way for the arrival of my one true lord, so while you all have put in some effort, it would be best if you take a step back and let me handle things from here onwards."

He cast his gaze around, making sure every last person was registered in his eyes. Eventually, his gaze landed on Klaus, causing him to smile.

"You are the Renegade Hunter," Asmodeus asked, playing his part.

"You can call me Klaus."

"I see. I have heard some interesting things about you, though now that I have set my sights on you, I can tell you aren't even half the man my Lord is."

He laughed, and Klaus frowned for a moment.

To keep up appearances, however, he smiled. "I suppose there are those who are just outside the scope of normal comprehension. Though I must ask, who is this Lord you speak of?"

Asmodeus chuckled. "Wouldn't you want to know? But since you ask, I will answer. My master is the greatest warrior this universe will ever witness. His arrival is just around the corner, so enjoy the fame of being among the top for now."

Klaus smiled but gave no reply. Rather, he tapped into the connection they shared.

'Asmodeus, buddy, why are you just standing there? Attack these demigods before they discover my bluff.'

While it appeared like his domain was absolute, he was actually paying a steep price just to keep it active. He was not at the stage where he could wield a domain of this magnitude.

Even if he was a monster, until he reached the rank of a demigod, using it took more than he could provide for a prolonged time.

He used it only because he didn't want to reveal more of his trump cards. The battle wasn't at the point where he had to go all out yet. The Jade Ant Queen had yet to emerge, so wasting energy and revealing more of his hand seemed like a bad move.

Calling Asmodeus over was a plan he cooked up from the start. After he failed to summon his legion when the seals finally came undone, he knew the Heaven's Court had done something.

So he created a formation that would open a hole through the restriction once he had accumulated enough souls.

He deployed three in total, hoping to bring over Asmodeus, Nadia, and Asha. So, for Asmodeus to be the first but still not have made a move to help him, he didn't expect that.

'My dear master, it appears your acting skills aren't as sharp as they used to be,' Asmodeus replied, his gaze sweeping the dead bodies on the ground.

'What do you mean?'

'Do you seriously think I would, out of the darkness of my heart, help you without you asking for help first? Or do you think the great Asmodeus would just offer his help without a payment?'

Klaus frowned, his gaze turning to the five demigods encircling him. 'What are you hinting at, bastard?'

'Very simple, master. Beg me to help you.'

\*Cough\*

Klaus coughed, his eyes snapping toward his left, where True God Eric's angry eyes locked on him. He nearly turned to Asmodeus; thankfully, the gaze of a god was enough to pull his attention.

But hearing Asmodeus' words made him seethe in rage.

'Brat, do you know who you are messing with?'

Asmodeus smiled, waving his staff. On the ground, an Immortal Lord Demon Spider Calamity Beast rose to its appendages and bowed toward its new master.

'I want to help you, master, I really do. But until you beg me, I wouldn't. And oh, it would be unwise to threaten me. Just so you know, I am not the same Asmodeus you knew three years ago. Now, I am not even afraid of gods.'

For a True Immortal to speak those words, Klaus knew his Undead Necromancer must have had great fortune. This made him curse his luck, for he indeed wanted to threaten him.

Especially looking at that smirk on his face, he couldn't help but wonder if this bastard had actually gone back to the Undead Realm after their last meeting or if this was just the effect of his visit to the Underworld during the planet's awakening.

'Damn you, Asmodeus. I will remember today's events.'

Turning to look at the five demigods again for a moment, he turned and looked at Asmodeus and smiled.

"I suppose one day, I would want to meet your Lord and see for myself the kind of existence he is. That said, I want to request that you aid me in vanquishing my foes."

"Kekekekekeke," Asmodeus laughed, raising another dead beast from the realm of death, making it his undead beast.

"Asking for my help, I suppose." He turned and looked at Rory and the rest of Klaus's teammates. "I see, but my help comes at a cost, one I am afraid you cannot pay."

Klaus frowned, but then he sensed a shift in the air. The demigods were preparing to attack...

"I am an heir of the Zorvian Ancient Family. Do you really think I can't pay you for your services?"

"Keke, the last I checked, they had temporarily kicked you out. So what makes you think you can use that status to curry my favour?"

Klaus smirked and looked at his scythe, still devouring all the blood on the battlefield.

"If you are looking for short-term gain, then I suppose you aren't a visionary person. As a necromancer, you should know that somewhere like the Zorvian Primordial Grave lay some of the best warriors this

universe has ever seen. Having a chance to raise one of them back from the maw of death will surely be enough to pay for whatever service you can render today."

Perhaps the demigods sensed the change in the air at Klaus's offer, so they moved, hoping to end him before Asmodeus intervened.

However, just as they did, Asmodeus smiled and extended his staff.

\*Whoosh\* \*Whoosh\* \*Whoosh\* \*Whoosh\* \*Whoosh\*

Five orbs came from the staff and transformed into five demigods, each clad in the same cloak as the Immortal Lord standing behind him.

All five of them attacked, and the five demigods lunging at Klaus were forced to abandon their attacks to defend themselves.

Chapter 1494 - 1494: Jade Ant Queen's Rebirth (7)

The battles resumed once again, only that this time, the focus shifted to Asmodeus, whose arrival had changed everything.

With a mere wave of his hand, five demigods appeared, each terrifying just from the sheer magnitude of the battle between them and the five demigod assassins.

Nobody expected him to hold that much power.

However, their true shock came when he turned his attention toward the corrupted warriors. Already, out of the 1200 corrupted warriors, only 5 had fallen, while the beasts had lost over 500 warriors.

That alone showed the kind of legion they were, and so when Asmodeus extended his staff and summoned five more demigods and 300 Immortal Lords, everyone's eyes widened.

"Kill them all, for they would be your comrades soon." The order was simple, and the result was immediate.

He used his power to raise all dead beasts and the five corrupted warriors, sending them toward the battlefield where the other beasts were locked in with the Qilin Mercenary team.

There too, he raised the dead beasts and human mercenaries and commanded them to kill some more. Afterward, he turned and looked at Rory and the others.

Already, Rory had sustained some injuries, but her battle spirit remained at its peak. She had clashed with two assassins, one using a hit-and-run tactic.

So despite holding the advantage against her opponent, the second assassin seemed to keep her always on edge.

Now, Asmodeus chose to take away the second assassin and let her handle her true opponent. He summoned an Immortal King-level Undead Assassin to go handle the Immortal Lord assassin, who had tried many times but failed to kill Rory.

Turning slightly, Rory gave Asmodeus a nod. "Thank you, Senior."

Despite Asmodeus being merely at the peak of the True Immortal stage, she recognized his power, and so she called him a senior.

Asmodeus smiled evilly and said:

"Make sure you don't die. As much as I would love to make you one of my undead, dying would be a big disappointment." After saying that, he shifted his attention to Slate, Omen, and Echo.

Seeing they were holding on just fine, he turned to Princess Evren. Klaus had already commanded him to aid his people, so he was just doing what he was asked to do.

Unlike Rory, Princess Evren had sustained quite some injuries, some a bit grave. While she would beat her chest and say she was as monstrous as Rory, the truth of the matter was she was not, at least not when close combat was concerned.

"Your strength lies in crowd control, young lady, so don't push yourself too hard. If by fate you catch my master's sight, perhaps he would help you gain a close combat class." Asmodeus said with a smile, giving Princess Evren an appraising gaze.

"For now, allow me to take this weakling off your hands..." An Immortal Emperor appeared at his command and soon clashed with the Immortal that Princess Evren was fighting.

He waved his hand, and a pill appeared in it. Tossing it to Princess Evren, he added, "You can go experiment with your mind attacks on those idiots; Number Ten will guard you."

The Immortal Lord standing behind Asmodeus nodded and moved toward Princess Evren.

She flinched a little but regained her composure. She opened her mouth to ask why he was helping her; however, Asmodeus beat her to it.

"Like I said to the Renegade Hunter, my help is not free, so take heart and enjoy my generosity today, for you will pay for it in the future."

After saying that, he walked away, stopping when he was only 40 meters from the egg.

Two demigod undead clad in silver-like cloak armor appeared and stood guard. Once he was protected, he started waving his staff about, muttering some complex words.

Meanwhile, Klaus, who was now free of the five demigods, looked at the seven immortals before him and smiled.

"Ah, how the tables have turned."

All seven of them tightened their hold on their daggers.

"Renegade Hunter, do you think you can't be killed?" one of them blurted out, his expression turning ashen. The dagger in his hand trembled, and a wave of powerful soul energy gushed out of it, causing the space around him to tremble.

Klaus felt a powerful force slam into his soul.

'Wow, that actually hurts,' he narrowed his eyes at the assassin, and for a moment, all he saw was resolve.

'It appears he is about to make a desperate move using his life as a conduit.' Seeing this, Klaus knew he had to move, or else he risked death.

His body surged with power, waves of terrifying energy coming out. Knowing he was in danger, he let go of the domain and tapped into his first elemental trump card.

\*Hush\* \*Hush\* \*Hush\*

Air blew over everyone, spreading far and wide. Wherever it passed, ice formed, coating every surface. Klaus rose into the air and raised his sword, causing a light beam to fire up, separating the clouds.

The seven assassins also sensed danger, and so the six who had yet to make their move did, all of them igniting their souls. In half a second, Klaus felt their combined soul energies condensing.

'What are they planning?' he thought.

[Master, run.]

Icon's voice entered Klaus's head, but just before he could respond to it, the seven assassins formed into a straight line, with the one in front now holding an A-class gun called [Soul Blazing Cannon].

The moment it was aimed at Klaus, it locked onto him, depriving him of any chance to run for his dear life.

He immediately lowered his sword and tapped into his elemental law. Using the ice as a conduit, he activated one of his defensive abilities.

"Law Art: Ice Body Transformation."

\*Shing\* \*Shing\* \*Shing\* \*Shing\* \*Shing\*

Ice crystals formed from the purest essence of ice merge from his body, melting and covering his body in a brilliant white armor. On his chest, all seven forbidden ice appeared, and one by one, they augmented him.

'Still not enough.'

His mind spun, looking for a way to further improve his defense. By then, the [Soul Blazing Cannon] had been charged and was ready to fire.

"Even if you survive this, it won't be for long before your life is reaped by our reinforcement, brat."

Just when the desperate assassin spoke those words, he pressed the trigger, and the beam shot out, moving toward Klaus with deadly speed.

In the span of a second, Klaus was swallowed by a golden light that spilled over, hitting some beasts and humans. Those struck screamed, some even dying in the process.

However, Klaus, who was the main recipient of that attack, was eerily quiet.

All who witnessed the attack sighed, some clenching their fists, knowing Klaus was as good as dead. They knew there was just no way he would survive such an attack.

However, they were all proven wrong when, after the beam died down, a solid ice statue stood where Klaus had been, its surface coated in a metallic substance.

A few seconds after the beam died down, the statue cracked, and Klaus's handsome self was revealed, his white hair billowing in the air.

"Elemental Law Fusion..." The onlookers recognized the power Klaus used to survive the attack from the A-class [Soul Blazing Cannon].

This discovery, however, sent shockwaves among them.

Klaus brushed his hair backward and moved, taking off the head of the bastard who pressed the trigger.

Chapter 1495 - 1495: Jade Ant Queen's Rebirth (8)

Elemental Fusion has two forms.

The first is the basic elemental fusion, where a warrior with double affinity—ice and fire—can fuse the two to form a new type of element.

This method is widely known, and many can do it, provided their understanding of the elements involved is deep enough.

The second is Law Elemental Fusion. This method, like its name, requires one to have some knowledge of elemental law, something that many struggle with.

Every element has its own laws governing it. By understanding this law, one can easily bend the element in however forms they want. However, understanding it is much more complex than one might think.

In fact, the idea of merging two elements to form a new one, with the law as the focus, isn't something that can easily be achieved. So one can only imagine the shock these people felt when they saw that Klaus had fused elements.

Unfortunately for them, even Klaus isn't at the point where he can fuse two or more elements using the Law.

What he did, however, involved his seven forbidden ice elements.

When the beam came, Klaus hesitated for a moment since he was torn between taking out a treasure to defend himself or using one of his trump cards to do that.

That slight hesitation nearly cost him his life.

Thankfully, the danger of the moment drew much of the attention away from his ice, since they all thought he was dead. That allowed him to layer all seven forbidden ice elements to form a statue-type armor.

So while people saw the statue's multicolored nature as elemental fusion, it was actually him simply using his ice elements simultaneously.

"This Renegade Hunter might just be the only person that can contend against the Paragon in the future," someone said, his admiration for Klaus deepening.

"I think so too. While we haven't yet seen the Paragon in action, I believe the Renegade Hunter is no simple person either. I would pay to watch him battle the Paragon one of these days."

"Me too."

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In a span of five minutes, Klaus had killed three more assassins, reducing their number to only four. Their bodies were collected by him.

In the air, his scythe (Bloodwork) was nearing its first awakening stage. Once that happened, his combat power would rise by many levels, giving him some form of advantage over what was coming.

Already, he calculated that the Jade Ant Queen would be hatching in less than an hour, so he wanted to finish everything fast enough so he would be prepared.

He still believed there were hidden dragons lying in wait for that moment, so he could not slack off and think that by killing these assassins, he would be the one to claim the reward.

"AAHHHHHHH!"

Just when Klaus started to think, a sudden loud scream came from the sky. Klaus blocked a dagger aimed at his thigh and kicked the assassin away before turning to see who screamed.

There, lying in a pool of blood in the distance, True God Eric coughed a few times, each time blood spilling from his mouth, nose, and ears.

"Oh damn," Klaus muttered, his gaze turning toward the figure hovering in the sky.

Lady Beyhos stood calm, her sword shining in the dull light. Drops of blood fell down its length, her expression cold as she looked down at the god now bathed in his own blood.

Paying close attention, Klaus saw no cuts on her body. In fact, her armor was squeaky clean to the point she didn't even appear like she had been locked in combat with someone of the same rank as her.

"Weak. You are not my match, so surrender and save yourself the pain. I might just choose to make you a slave," Lady Beyhos said, her sword pointed at the fallen god.

His expression hardened, though the fear in his eyes showed he was terrified of the lady.

"AAARRRHHHHGG!"

True God Eric rose to his feet and released waves of divine qi. His injuries healed, and around him, a green energy mist hung.

"Burning Divine Qi, huh?" A smirk formed on Lady Beyhos's face. "It would be in your best interest to know that even if I use 50% of my power, you wouldn't be able to touch a hair on my head. Do you know why?"

"I don't care."

"I will tell you anyway. It is because I have awakened my True Calamity Bloodline. While I still don't have full control of it, killing three of you at the same time is within my capabilities."

Just when she said that, her body flickered, and the next second, she was standing behind True God Eric, her left hand poised for a deadly attack.

\*SLAP\*

A crackling slap sound filled the entire battlefield, causing many, including Klaus, to shield their ears instinctively.

"Damn."

True God Eric was sent flying, his body crashing through several trees and boulders.

Klaus focused his attention on Lady Beyhos. Seeing the smile on her face, he made a mental note to bestow the rank of Beast General on her once his Star Monarch powers fully awakened.

His body blurred, and before an assassin could land an attack, his left hand moved, a dagger appearing in it. He drove it through the poor bastard's skull, killing him in an instant.

He retreated and then, with a wave of his hand, over 100 weapons appeared in the air and attacked, dividing among the three remaining assassins.

---

While this was happening, standing 200 km away from the battlefield was a demigod lady—the same lady who activated the gateway that brought the Qilin Mercenary team to the Jade Nest.

In her humble opinion, when she was told the plan her employer had in mind, she saw it as overkill. Sending five gods and 24 demigods, and 10,000 immortals on top of the assassins sounded like they were overdoing it.

However, now as she gazed at the outcome of the battle, her expression turned pale.

"Just how?" she asked herself, yet no answers came.

Tapping the watch on her left arm triggered a calling mechanism. A few seconds later, a man with short green hair and blue eyes appeared in the projection.

"What?" the man asked in an overbearing tone.

This made the demigod lady tremble slightly. "My Lord, we have a problem."

The man said nothing, waiting for her to speak.

"The teams we have sent into the Nest are losing the battle. I don't know how or when it happened, but the humans and the beasts formed an offensive team and attacked the mercenaries and the corrupted warriors.

The Renegade Hunter is still alive. He alone has killed over ten assassins. The 7th Jade Princess is also alive. Aside from them, there is an unknown necromancer whose presence seems to have tilted the battle in the Renegade Hunter's favor."

By the time the lady finished the report, the green-haired man's expression had turned completely dark. He hung up the call and dialed a different number.

A second later, a masked figure appeared on it.

Judging by the background, it was plain as day that they were inside the Jade Nest.

"So you called..." the masked figure spoke in a mocking tone. Clearly, there was bad blood between them.

The green-haired man gritted his teeth and said:

"Change of plans. Your new mission is to get the Jade Queen and kill only the Renegade Hunter." He paused for a moment, then added, "I will pay the amount you requested. Just get the job done."

"Of course."

Chapter 1496 - 1496: Jade Ant Queen's Rebirth (9)

It took Klaus some time to finally manage to kill the last assassin. By then, Rory had also finished off her opponent and switched back to her Archer Class and started attacking the mercenaries from a distance.

Princess Evren had also taken Asmodeus' advice to experiment with her mind attacks. With Number 10 protecting her, the minds of the mercenaries were being probed by her, causing many to falter in their steps, allowing the beasts to slaughter them.

This was a no-surrender battle, so unless one side completely annihilated the other, the battle wouldn't come to an end.

But with how much advantage the beasts had found themselves in, thanks to Asmodeus sending some of his undead to their aid, it was only a matter of time before the battle came to an end.

Already, the dead beasts and mercenaries had risen and rejoined the battle.

Now, the moment a beast or human fell, Asmodeus' power would bring them back to life, turning them into the undead.

Basically, with him around, the winner of this battle would not be the beasts or humans. The ultimate winner would be Asmodeus, whom Klaus called over for this exact purpose.

He wanted to bring Asha and Nadia too, but since they hadn't arrived yet, it could be said that the formation hadn't found an opening.

After Klaus finished off the assassins, he turned his focus to the corrupted warriors. Seeing Asmodeus had everything under control, he let out a sigh of relief.

He turned his attention back to the egg that was still glowing.

'Icon, how much longer?'

[Less than 15 minutes, master. You have to be ready for anything at this point.]

Klaus lifted his head and looked at his scythe, currently cocooned in a red shell.

'Hurry up, buddy. The climax is almost here.'

In the distance, a figure sat on a boulder, a whip lying on his lap, staring at a projection of a radar map. Beside him, a wolf at the demigod stage stood, its hungry eyes scanning their surroundings.

They sat in stunned silence for a few minutes, staring at a tablet-like device. On it, about 15 dots slowly moved toward the egg.

He sighed and smiled. "Wolfy, looks like we have some competition coming toward the prize."

The wolf let out a low howl, causing the man to smile weakly. His eye snapped toward Klaus, who had taken a seat on a stone 200 meters from the egg.

"How funny. To think a mere True Immortal thinks he can enter the race to claim the egg," he scoffed, almost dismissing Klaus. However, when he saw Klaus look up at the red cocoon, his brow knitted.

"This weapon is dangerous," he muttered, rubbing the wolf beside him.

"No need, the battle is beyond him, so we should focus on securing the asset first before attending to matters related to him."

Unbeknownst to him, the 15 people he saw moving toward the egg also sensed the same danger, but like him, they chose to focus on the mission they had been sent to do.

---

[10 minutes before the egg hatches]

\*CRACK\*

\*WHOOSH\*

A sudden chill traveled down the spines of everyone still alive when an intense blood qi spread all over the battlefield.

Many lifted their heads to look in the direction of a red scythe hovering midair with a single runic circle revolving around it.

The power emanating from it was so strong that the Immortal Lords present felt their backs break into a cold sweat, some even losing the will to continue the battle.

They all could tell that a single swing of this weapon was enough to end their pitiful lives. In fact, they all could feel their bodies tremble at the sight of this scythe.

Klaus flew toward his weapon and grabbed it with practical ease, the look of joy and happiness painting his face. His weapon had finally awakened its first seal, thereby awakening the weapon spirit slumbering inside it.

Within Klaus's soul sea, a few weapons already had their weapon spirits. These weapon spirits were added and cultivated in the past. However, after he reincarnated, some fell into slumber, waiting for the day their master would awaken them.

Bloodwork had been awakened, and with it, Klaus was now ready to unleash his True Immortal stage strength in its full capacity.

"Welcome back, Bloodwork," Klaus said, his left hand brushing the razor-sharp and rather jagged blade of his deadly scythe.

"Good to be back, master."

Klaus's grin widened.

During the era of the Paragon of War, this weapon came to him. Back then, it was black instead of red. However, a hundred years before he entered the cycle of reincarnation, its true nature awakened, becoming red.

Nobody saw him use a red scythe. So when it awakened again in this life, he knew he had to use it. He had wielded many legendary weapons in the past. However, Bloodwork is a one-of-a-kind.

Klaus waved his hand, and under the terrified gaze of everyone watching, the ten bodies of the immortals he had killed appeared.

He pointed his scythe forward, and like being sucked by a vacuum, the blood in all ten bodies was devoured, leaving dried bones covered in armor behind.

"Poor taste, but that would do for now," Bloodwork said after devouring the blood of the ten immortal assassins.

"Relax, buddy. I have a feeling we will be making a bountiful harvest soon." Just as Klaus said that, a figure was sent crashing into a mountain 2 km away.

The mountain crumbled, and the figure lay on the ground, his life hanging by a thread.

When people realized the person on the ground was one of the mercenary gods, their expressions darkened.

Crux landed 2 meters away from the near-death god, a whip crackling with lightning and surging with blood qi held firmly in her grip.

"This is where you die, bastard."

Her hand moved, and the whip lashed through the air, landing on the mercenary god's forehead. The pointed tip of the whip bore through the god's head. Blood was sucked through the hole created and absorbed into Crux using her whip as a medium.

"A blood-type beast, I see," Bloodwork said, admiring the lethality of Crux's attack. Nobody expected her to actually manage to kill a god. But she did, and now, all eyes turned to her, some hidden ones poised for attack.

They couldn't have such a person alive when the egg hatched.

However, just before they could move, Asmodeus appeared beside her, and after a brief chat, she vanished, leaving many wondering just where she had gone.

Klaus, who knew Crux couldn't continue the battle, considering she had shattered all 12 Immortal Rings, had told Asmodeus to send her into his Undead space to recover.

Now the battles were starting to wrap up.

Lady Beyhos had knocked out True God Eric and, using Icon's assistance, Klaus imprisoned him inside a weapon he planned on refining into a weapon spirit.

Kaz had also knocked out his opponent, and Icon did the same. As for the 24 demigods, thanks to Asmodeus's interference, they were almost wiped out.

The corrupted warriors were also down to their last 300 warriors. The two demigods were barely holding on. However, they managed to kill 4 demigod beasts, so that was something.

It also means Asmodeus gained four more demigods from that battle alone.

Klaus knew the ending of today's battle would be determined soon.

Just as he was about to issue a command to Lady Beyhos and the other gods under his command, the egg cracked, and all eyes turned in that direction.

Chapter 1497 - 1497: Jade Ant Queen's Rebirth (10)

The cracking sound was what everyone was waiting for, so when it appeared, they all turned and started making their way to the egg.

The battles were almost over.

Lady Beyhos and Kaz had joined the other two beast gods to knock out the remaining mercenary gods and allow Icon to take them away and extract their souls, which Klaus planned to use as weapon spirits.

As for the demigods, he allowed them to be killed so Asmodeus would turn them into his undead. Asmodeus was even luckier, for he got to get his hands on one god's body, thanks to Crux and the other demigod killing a Real stage God.

Naturally, with the mercenary gods dead, it wasn't long before the immortals and remaining demigods died too.

With Asmodeus taking care of that, Klaus commanded the four beast gods to be on high alert and make sure no god sneaked up on him.

Even five Immortal Lords sneaking up on him would be a problem. The next battle will be short but decisive, one that will determine who gets to have the Jade Ant Queen.

The moment the crack sounded, Icon made her move.

[Entering Combat Mode]

Klaus felt his power surge when Icon went into combat mode. Now, unless he was surrounded by ten Immortal Lords, a few demigods, or a god, he would swim like a fish, finally showing everyone his power.

CRACK

Another cracking sound reached every ear.

In the air, 15 people appeared: five gods and ten demigods.

Three seconds later, Icon spoke into Klaus's ears.

[Master, ten of them are a team from the Scarecrow Mercenary Organization, while the other five are rogue warriors hired by the Heavens Court to make sure the Jade Ant Queen is secured, even if the mercenaries fail.

I am sure they anticipated the failure of the Qilin Mercenary Team and the assassins, and so they hired reinforcements.]

"Well, I suppose I should have expected that. However, which of them is a team, and who is the most dangerous of all?"

[The three gods in black masks and seven demigods wearing black belts are a team. The strongest is the true god with the white eye mark on his mask. He is a soul cultivator and a very good shaman.]

Klaus smiled inwardly and then tapped into his connection with Asmodeus.

"Asmodeus, buddy, how confident are you in handling a true god whose power has to do with souls? He is a good shaman."

Asmodeus, who stood 2 km away from the egg, smiled and replied:

"It depends on how the master defines handling. I have the power to kill him in less than ten minutes, but that will prevent me from helping you with the other gods."

"That is fine. I will handle the rest."

"Then leave him to me. However, the master must also know there are two demigods hiding with their attention aimed at you. It would be best if the master prepares for them."

"I know, Asmodeus. I have long discovered them, so they can't sneak up on me."

"Then good luck, master. I feel like you are going to need it."

Klaus smirked. "I am not worried then. You are the great Asmodeus, the one who doesn't have feelings."

Turning from staring at the egg, Klaus focused his gaze on the true god with white eyes on his mask. He first sent a command to Icon.

"Icon, initial Plan B, C, and H."

[Plans initiated. The master can enter Tyrant Mode at any moment.]

Hearing his assistant speak, Klaus smiled and leaned on his scythe (Bloodwork).

The god sensed his gaze, so he turned and looked at him. "What are you smiling about, brat?"

The other gods and demigods turned in Klaus's direction, everyone wondering why he was smiling. Some felt annoyed, while others became intrigued, considering a mere true immortal dared to look smug in front of demigods and gods.

Klaus smiled and spoke:

"A wise man once wrote, 'the arrogance of a warrior is believing they have everything under control when, in fact, they are merely dangling within the web of control mounted by the true warrior.'"

Most of the demigods and gods with visible faces furrowed their brows, some clenching their fists. They understood what Klaus said, and so they felt like they had been insulted but also conspired against.

"And what makes you think you have the right to call yourself a true warrior?"

A grin appeared on Klaus's face as he replied:

"Because I have calculated 205,800 ways this battle would end. 205,799 of them ended with me dying a gruesome death. However, one ended with me killing you, you, you, and the two idiots hiding, thinking they had everything under control..."

Klaus pointed at three demigods and turned to look to his left, his gaze traveling in the direction of the demigod with the whip and wolf standing in wait.

Every last demigod and god present turned in the direction he looked, and lo and behold, they saw two demigods hiding from everyone.

This discovery made many suck in a cold breath. Had Klaus not exposed the two of them, neither of them would have been made aware that there were two dangerous warriors lying in wait to strike.

[Master, these two were hired by Supreme Elder Juo.]

Perhaps sensing everyone had discovered them, the two teleported and appeared in the air, their gazes narrowed on Klaus.

Klaus smiled and said:

"I suppose Supreme Elder Juo couldn't live with his failure, so he sent you two to come die in his place." Klaus laughed, then lifted the scythe and slung it over his shoulder, an aura of an absolute warrior exuding from his body.

"Perfectly understandable for him to send you two. My only worry is how stupid you all can be, thinking you have any shot at securing the Jade Ant Queen."

As he said that, Klaus rose into the air, and from his body, one Immortal Ring after another started to appear and hover behind him, each layering to create a diagram.

\*One\*

\*Two\*

\*Three\*

" "

" "

" "

\*Ten\*

The more his Immortal Rings appeared, the more shocked the warriors surrounding him and those watching from afar became. Ten Immortal Ring configurations around a true immortal—that is unheard of.

However, things didn't end there.

Just when the 10th Immortal Ring appeared, the 11th, 12th, and 13th appeared, thanks to his wives. All three of them were red.

The 11th came from Queenie (Asura Queen), the 12th from Tifa (Vampire Queen), and the 13th came from Lily (Red Fury).

Seated somewhere on Planet Caelmir, three of his wives smiled and muttered the same word, "Looks like some people are about to witness his true power."

They were already aware that he had entered the Jade Nest, so sensing their Immortal Rings taken away by him wasn't a shock to them.

He made them aware that whenever they sensed their Immortal Rings taken away, they should know he was about to go all out.

Klaus smiled and winked at Rory, who now stood beside an undead demigod.

\*CRACK\*

\*CRYING\*

A third crack appeared, and what followed was the crying of a baby.

A golden dome formed around her, but one could tell it wouldn't be long before that dome dispersed. Once that happened, the fastest and strongest would get to have the Jade Ant Queen.

Klaus smiled and spoke the words he had been waiting to say from the start.

"Well then, it is about time you all experience the true power of the Immortal Rings." Just as he said that, the air grew tense, and from the egg, a baby with golden hair and a cute jade crown on her head.

"Primordial Immortal Ring Art,"

Chapter 1498 - 1498: Jade Ant Queen's Rebirth (11)

Klaus grinned and extended his left hand, causing one Immortal Ring to move and hover before it.

Every god and demigod was ready to move and see who got to claim the prize. However, they waited to see what he would do next.

Perhaps they shouldn't have done that because the next second, all hell broke loose...

"Shatter,"

Klaus clenched his fist, and the Immortal Ring shattered.

**\*BOOM\***

A terrible aura exploded from his body with so much power that the demigods and some of the gods felt their bodies tremble.

'Kaz, Beyhos, Reis, Merle, activate your bloodlines and stop the four gods. Leave the one with the white eye on his mask,' Klaus commanded the four beast gods.

They nodded, and the next second, while everyone was focused on Klaus, four of the gods felt their lives in danger, so they moved, and just like that, they were taken out of the equation.

The last god felt the danger, but before he could do anything, he was pulled away. As for the demigods, they sized each other up, and they moved. The demigod with the whip lunged at Klaus, while the wolf was attacked by Rory, who chose to test her true power on a demigod.

Klaus grinned, and just when a whip attack was mere meters from him, he raised one leg and stomped on another Immortal Ring.

"Shatter,"

\*BOOM\*

His power surged again, the shockwave blowing the whip away. He raised Bloodwork to eye level and smiled. Then, as if by design, the baby form of the Jade Ant Queen looked in his direction.

He gave her a playful wink and moved, his body surging with so much power.

"Let's see how long it would take me to kill a demigod."

Just when he closed in on the demigod, Icon activated the technique Klaus picked for this particular battle.

"Blood Tyrant Art: First Form - Blood Supremacy,"

"Hahahahahaha," Bloodwork let out a terrifying laugh as he was swung, meeting the deadly whip.

\*BOOOM\*

When the two weapons met, the whip was pushed back, the demigod taking ten steps back. Klaus took 15 steps back, but he smiled and raised his scythe, slamming the handle on the third Immortal Ring.

"Shatter"

His body surged with energy again, and with it, his speed and strength tripled. He moved again, and this time, his attack was fierce. The demigod was blasted back, but didn't allow Klaus to get close.

He used a technique to vanish from sight, momentarily leaving Klaus in a daze. A disappearing art is one that cannot be underestimated. However, good thing Klaus came prepared.

"Void Eyes,"

Klaus' golden eyes turned black, and for a moment, all color in the world vanished, replaced by the bare structure of reality. Hidden runic lines were revealed, and to some level, he could even see faint threads of fate.

"Damn,"

Klaus moved back, barely evading a whip to the heart. If he had been a second too slow to use the Void Eyes, he would have sustained a very grave injury.

However, as he evaded, his left hand moved and grabbed the whip. With a sudden pull, the demigod was pulled forward, flying toward Klaus.

He never saw that sudden move from Klaus coming, so he was caught off guard. He tried to pull away and evade, but Klaus saw that and made provision.

Just when the demigod moved his body to evade his attacks, Klaus turned into blood mist and appeared behind him, reforming into a deadly scythe.

\*BAM\*

A terrifying attack landed on the demigod's shoulder, sending him crashing to the ground.

"Heavens Engine,"

Klaus didn't hold back and unleashed his gravity law, sending a terrible pressure crashing down on the demigod. He dropped to his knees, and for a moment, he saw his life flash before his eyes.

Klaus smiled and shattered his 4th Immortal Ring, pouring all the power into the Heavens Engine. The pressure increased fourfold, causing the suppressed demigod to bend in sheer agony.

"Still not enough, huh,"

Klaus grinned and shattered his 5th Immortal Ring, and yet again, he poured all the power into the [Heavens Engine], turning the pressure fivefold.

This time, the demigod dropped face-first onto the ground.

\*WHOOSH\*

Klaus moved his head back, evading the arrow of a demigod who was previously locked in battle with a demigod now on the ground vomiting blood, an arrow sticking out of his chest.

Another arrow formed, and just when Klaus was about to shatter the 6th Immortal Ring, a terrifying sensation crept into his body. He turned away from the slowly dying demigod, who had already had his bones shattered in all kinds of ways thanks to the Heavens Engine.

Many trembled when they saw how easily Klaus subdued the demigod.

However, their eyes remained on Klaus, watching as a rain of arrows surged down on him.

Seeing the look of apprehension that appeared in his eyes, the demigod smiled and was about to inflate his ego when he found himself staring at thousands of deadly arrows.

"W-What,"

The shocked look that appeared on his face as his own arrows rained down on him was priceless. Icon even captured it, planning to share it on the Uniweb later.

Watching the demigod drop from the air, crashing down on the ground, arrows sticking out of his body, Klaus grinned and said:

"Karma is a bitch indeed..."

The attack that was meant for him ended up taking the life of the attacker.

Of course, while it may seem like Klaus had merely swapped places with the now dead demigod, the truth of the matter was, he had to shatter all the way to the 9th Immortal Ring just to fuel the [Void Swap] skill he recently learned.

Using it drained him, but with four more Immortal Rings active, he knew he could go on for a few more minutes.

He never had the chance because just when the demigod died, a wolf came from his left, its claws taking a swing at Klaus's head.

Klaus evaded and retreated.

It appeared Rory hadn't managed to contain the wolf. However, looking at the three arrows sticking out of its body, he knew she had managed to injure it at least.

In fact, she did more than injure it. Black blood could be seen oozing from the injuries she left on the wolf's body. Clearly, she also managed to poison it.

But that is not of use now, not when the wolf was burning its life force to boost its power. Already, the demigod it came with was dying slowly under the pressure of the Heavens Engine. So it had to avenge him.

But just when the wolf was about to attack, the dome surrounding the Jade Ant Queen disappeared, and a sharp cry reached everyone.

"Get the asset," the true god with white eyes on his mask commanded, causing three demigods to jump from his shadow and lunge at the baby.

Klaus wasted no time and exploded all four remaining Immortal Rings and poured everything into his speed.

BOOM

He moved and activated space law, causing the space between him and the Jade Ant Queen to contract. He moved past the three demigods and evaded an attack from another demigod lunging from the side.

A moment later, a terrible force fell on him. Up in the air, a demigod attacked with a deadly gravity law skill.

However, Klaus used the law of gravity to mitigate the pressure. This slowed him down for a moment, allowing two demigods to slip past him.

He gritted his teeth and burned his bloodline, surging forward like a missile.

Just when all six of them were at the finish line, the void cracked, and a giant cauldron exploded out, arriving before all six of them, a terrible pressure slamming into all six of them.

Chapter 1499 - 1499: Jade Ant Queen's Rebirth (12)

\*BOOOM\*

Because Klaus was slowed down for a moment by the demigod that used gravity on him, he was slightly behind the five demigods, so when the cauldron came, they took the main hit.

However, all six of them were sent flying back, blood gushing out from their mouths, noses, and eyes.

One of the demigods that came from the true god's shadow had every bone in his body shattered since he was the one closest to getting his hands on the Jade Ant Queen.

Klaus snapped his eyes forward, his gaze landing on a black cauldron lined with golden runes. It is both elegant and dangerous. Even at a glance, he could tell the cauldron was not a simple weapon.

Of course, he knew that firsthand.

Shockingly, however, it was the one who came with the cauldron who took him aback. Seated on the edge of the cauldron is a 12-year-old kid with short black hair and two dragon horns on his forehead.

In his hand is a large vanilla shake with extra whipped cream and a black paper straw sticking out from it. He sucked a mouthful and turned and looked at Klaus and everyone, now looking at him.

Perhaps by design, the true god Asmodeus commanded his undead to attack and was sent crashing face-first into the ground, creating a large crater.

"Ouch, that looks like it will hurt," the kid exclaimed, a dubious smile on his face. Seeing him smile, nobody dared make a move at him. It can be said that the cauldron is giving off the power that made some of the gods still alive take a step back.

It is not without saying that even Klaus was a bit scared of the cauldron.

"Kid, who are you and what do you want?" a demigod asked, his expression showing his confusion.

Right now, the Jade Ant Queen is up for grabs. However, just when everyone made their move, this kid and the cauldron appeared, preventing them from getting close to the baby.

Hearing the question from one of the demigods, he tossed the vanilla shake to his other hand and pointed up...

"Oh, I am merely paving the way for my big brother,"

Right as he said that, a shattering sound rang out from the sky, causing everyone to lift their heads and look.

There, up in the air, a black portal filled with death qi exploded open, causing the immortals to turn pale. Some of the demigods even felt their legs weaken.

From the black portal, a dark-haired human walked out, a lady in his arms. Both of them wore masks, but one could tell they were good-looking just by the way they walked.

An air of domineering authority surrounded them as they descended slowly. Despite both of them being merely True Immortals at the peak, everyone felt a sense of danger coming from both of them.

It is that form of danger you cannot explain, yet it is there.

Under everyone's stunned gaze, the two new arrivals stopped beside the Jade Ant Queen, and the lady reached out and took her. Even more shocking, when she reached forward, the Jade Ant Queen opened her arms, almost as if she had been waiting for them.

Some tried to move; however, the cauldron released an unknown energy, forcing them to stop in their tracks. Already, all the gods, including those on Klaus's side, are wounded, so they didn't feel confident in their ability to do anything.

The one who could do anything is Asmodeus, but he just stood there, a smile painting his face.

After the lady picked up the Jade Ant Queen, the masked man turned and looked at everyone, his gaze stopping on Klaus.

Even from behind the mask, one could tell he was smiling.

"Renegade Hunter, we finally meet." His tone was calm, too calm for anyone's liking.

Klaus, whose nose was bleeding thanks to the cauldron, wiped the blood with his hand and narrowed his gaze at the masked man.

"Who are you,"

"Rather straightforward person I see." A chuckle escaped his lips. "No need for the hostilities, Renegade Hunter. You and I are destined to be rivals for the next thousands of years, perhaps millions of years if you don't die early."

A laugh came from him, and the kid on the cauldron laughed with him.

"Your destiny is to be raised by the righteous faction with hope that you will be able to put an end to my reign. However, while I hate to look down on people, I can't help but say I will look down on you, Renegade Hunter. Do you know why..."

"Can't say I have any idea," Klaus said, his expression calm, though one could tell his hold on his scythe tightened a bit.

"Very simple, really. You are the lapdog of the righteous faction, so naturally, I am entitled to look down on you. Anything from those people reeks of mediocrity, and I detest mediocrity." The expressions on everyone's faces started to change.

The masked man sensed that, so he pressed on, "Even now, I count over a dozen people sent by the same people you plan to grow stronger and defend to come and kill you."

This wolf and that flattened demigod were all sent by Supreme Elder Juo. These assassins and mercenaries were all sent by the Heavens Court to kill not only you, but everyone here to hide their little dirty secrets.

You see, the people you pledge to defend want you dead simply because they feel threatened by your power. Of course, in my opinion, they should be scared. Even I am a bit scared of you at the moment.

Killing demigods while only at the True Immortal stage puts you among the top 10 strongest in the Human Universe. However, the reason why I despise you is due to the fact that, knowing all this now, tomorrow, you will run into their arms like a little bitch,"

An Immortal Lord recording this interaction zoomed in on Klaus's face, capturing the frown that appeared on his handsome face.

Clearly, the words spoken by the masked figure reached him.

However, before he could say anything, the masked figure cut him off and added in a teasing tone:

"Your talent is being wasted if you ask me. From where I stand, this would be the only chance you will get to have a casual conversation with me because the next time we meet, I will probably attack and try to kill you.

That said, I have to thank you and everyone present for making things easy for me. I planned on coming early to handle the bugs myself, but when I learned the great Renegade Hunter had entered the Jade Nest, I knew I had nothing to worry about.

Many people wanted you dead, and so I calculated with 98% certainty that things would play out as they did. As expected, you all fought, and in the end, I got the prize."

His tone grew even more teasing. "Don't cry, Mr. Renegade, all is not wasted since you got to keep your life intact... at least for now."

He gave a mocking bow and winked at Rory. "Enjoy your days with your man, young lady, because soon, I will claim his life,"

After saying that, he snapped his finger, and a terrible pressure descended on everyone, forcing all of them to drop to their knees.

Asmodeus laughed out loud and teleported, appearing beside the masked figure.

Just then, everything clicked, and so Rory asked...

"You-You are the Paragon,"

He turned sideways and flicked his hair. "Pleasure meeting you all. Until the next,"

And just like that, the Paragon came, took the Jade Ant Queen, and left, leaving everyone in a daze—Klaus included.

#### Chapter 1500 - 1500: The Chaos That Followed

The battle that was supposed to happen between the one who would have the Jade Ant Queen and those who would try to take her from him didn't happen, since a third party came, took her, and walked away.

Shockingly enough, the person was none other than the Paragon of the Nine Stars.

The bitterness of what had just happened was so deep that everyone was left gritting their teeth.

Klaus stood calm, his expression filled with anger, but inwardly, he was laughing like a maniac.

From the start, he never planned to take the Jade Ant Queen.

If it were before he learned the ones who killed her were the Heavens Court, maybe he would have fought to have her. However, now, knowing the cover-up the Heavens Court tried to do, he knew he had to lose and win in the end.

Allowing himself to get this close to the prize only for his other incarnation to take the win was just too perfect.

All it took was burning his entire Unknown Bloodline, shattering all ten Immortal Rings that incarnation had, and burning 10 million years of his lifespan.

But that sacrifice paid off in the end since not even the gods were able to withstand his pressure—well, part of it was thanks to the Doomsday Cauldron.

The reason why Klaus didn't falter in his acting when the Paragon arrived was because of the Doomsday Cauldron. The last time he saw it, it wasn't this monstrous.

After the Planet Awakening, it left Earth for a place he said would awaken some of its power. Klaus lost all connection to it after he woke from his coma. So he never expected to see it again so soon, in the hands of his other incarnation.

The shock came from the fact that he didn't sense the Doomsday Cauldron had returned to his side.

It was as if nobody could sense it, even though it was there.

The senior once told him the Doomsday Cauldron is one of the three mysteries of the Universe. Nobody knew where it came from, just like how nobody had the faintest idea where the Paragon came from.

So Klaus was shocked but felt this was merely one of its powers. The other shock was seeing the item spirit appear in human form and even drink a vanilla shake.

"Ah, what I wouldn't do to have a vanilla shake right now," Klaus said, his expression breaking into a defeated smile. Turning around, he regarded the remaining gods and demigods.

Asmodeus had dragged the true god he was battling away, so aside from the four beast gods and the other four currently bleeding from the clash with the beast gods, only immortals and demigods remained.

"I suppose we go back to killing each other now,"

CRACK

Just when Klaus lifted his scythe and was about to attack, a crack appeared in the air.

"The seal is opening," some people were quick to read what was happening. It appeared the Paragon didn't just leave; he made sure to break whatever seal the Heavens Court had used to seal the Jade Nest.

Now, it is only a matter of time before the portals to the outside world form.

"Looks like we would have to put a pin in things for now. Rest assured, one day I will find you all, and when I do, it will be swift and precise." His threat wasn't baseless; he indeed would hunt them down.

Looking to the side, his gaze landed on the wolf. "Tell your employer to wash his neck. Soon, he will feel my wrath,"

Learning that the wolf was hired by Supreme Elder Juo to kill him didn't come as a shock to him. He had already established that until one of them is dead, there can never be peace between them.

So he would kill him one day.

CRACK

A second crack appeared, and everyone could feel the portals about to form.

Those hired to kill the beasts and humans felt their backs break into a cold sweat. They failed, and most importantly, they lost their leaders.

Going back is akin to walking to their death.

Klaus ignored them and turned to the beast gods. "Seniors, I would have to thank you for your assistance today. While we didn't get the prize, at least we managed to survive. That said, this place will come undone soon, and when it does, the people outside will hunt you all down since you are calamity beasts. I wonder if these seniors have a way out for that."

Lady Beyhos turned and looked at her fellow gods, but they shook their heads.

Klaus smiled. "It appears you are in luck." Klaus snapped his finger, and a circular item appeared in the air. "When the portals open, a special one leading to a Beast Domain somewhere far away will open. You can lead your people there."

He threw the item to Lady Beyhos, who caught it and examined it.

"Thank you, human,"

"No need. You protected my friends and me against people far above our power level. The least I could do is do something to protect you, too."

There was an exchange of nods before Klaus turned to his teammates and Princess Evren and her teammates.

A third crack appeared, and the faint energy of portals forming could be sensed.

"Congratulations, everyone. Looks like you all managed to survive your first chaotic battle." Klaus's smile made his teammates smile as well.

From the start, they saw no winning in sight. But now, as they stared at the calm battlefield littered with not even a single body, no thanks to Asmodeus, they knew they had survived, and that is just mind-blowing.

"It was all thanks to you going into an alliance with the beasts. If it hadn't been for that, none of us would be alive by now," Princess Evren said, her expression conveying her gratitude. "I will pay you back for helping me get the Jade Pendant and surviving a grave battle."

"Don't worry about it. I will gladly accept a few billion God Coins,"

Everyone laughed out loud this time, drawing the attention of the demigods still debating inwardly whether or not to attack and try to kill Klaus.

Klaus ignored them, already prepared to use one of his S-Class weapons on them.

The fourth crack appeared, and with it, some of the portals began to form.

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On the outside, the demigods and gods who had brought their people to the portal snapped their gaze toward the main portal, which had been dormant for the past few weeks, finally stirring.

Those who came with unfriendly intentions felt their backs break into cold sweats. Already, they knew what was meant to happen inside the Jade Nest.

However, they had received word that things had gone badly, so some were planning to ambush and ensure no secrets went out.

They wouldn't want the dirty little secret of the Heavens Court to be made public.

If only they had been informed that the Paragon had long since acquired the videos and knowledge he planned to use to tarnish the image of the Heavens Court, perhaps they would have dropped their guard.

However, that wasn't needed, not when just before the first person came out, a figure clad in green armor, oozing the power of a Celestial, appeared on the dead planet.

Everyone recognized him as one of the elders in the Jade Temple. It appeared that the Jade Queen had sent someone to ensure her daughter's safety.