

## Paragon 1561

Chapter 1561 - 1561: First Trial

Klaus stood there for a few seconds before asking a question...

"Are there rewards for completing a trial?"

Supreme Engineer Winnie blinked a few times, and so did the rest of the dignitaries gathered to watch his assessment. The question came as a surprise to them.

Seeing this, Klaus smiled weakly...

"I only asked because my overly enthusiastic tour guide told me there are secret rewards for completing a trial, so I wanted to know before I start."

Supreme Engineer Winnie smiled and nodded.

"Indeed, she spoke the truth. There are rewards for completing a trial. However, to receive them, you must obtain at least an 80% pass from both the evaluation system and all seven elders.

You must know this: the trials you have been given are real-world problems, so by fixing them, you are aiding not only the academy but the universe out there.

You will understand when you see the content of the trial."

Klaus nodded. "In that case, I am ready."

Supreme Engineer Winnie waved her hand, and a projection appeared before Klaus.

"On this screen are three trials from different rankings.

As you can see, the lowest rank is Class E, indicating the problem will affect Class B weapons and below. Passing only that and failing the rest will put you at the rank of Senior Engineer.

We have up to Class X, which is the highest class in this academy. You can choose trials from multiple classes. This means you can pick the first one from Class G, the second from Class E, and the third from Class X.

But I must caution you. The moment you pick a trial, you cannot change it. So choose wisely."

Supreme Engineer Winnie gave a more detailed explanation, and Klaus finally understood the kind of trial he had found himself in.

"Thanks for the details, Headmistress."

"You can make your first pick and start working on it. Remember, your time starts the moment the first trial is picked."

Klaus nodded and scanned the projected trials.

'From what I know and have accomplished before, limiting myself is not wise. However, I also cannot jump into the shark tank without first knowing if it can bite. Let me take a much easier trial first and get the hang of things.'

A smile formed on his lips, and without any hesitation, he made his first pick.

"Class H."

Klaus picked Class H, which is the rank where SSS-Class weapons are made. The kind of weapons that even gods run away from. One must be a Tier 8 Array and Formation Expert to handle such a trial.

Klaus, who had absolutely no accomplishments in the field of engineering, picking such a trial came as a shock to everyone, especially the disciples watching.

"He is biting off more than he can chew," some of them remarked as they looked at Klaus's handsome smile on their screens.

"We have yet to see what he can do, so let's not judge him too soon..."

The moment he selected the trial, descriptions appeared...

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[First Trial: The Fractured Starfall Bow]

[Class: H]

[Difficulty: Saint Engineer (Tier 8)]

[Description: Three years ago, a Saint Engineer crafted the SSS-Class weapon known as the Starfall Bow. The weapon performed flawlessly until its Array Core began destabilizing during combat.

The bow can currently unleash only 37% of its intended power before the internal formation collapses, risking the death of its wielder.

Your task is to identify the flaw within the Array-Formation Network and restore the weapon to at least 95% operational efficiency.]

Success Conditions:

1. Locate the source of instability.

2. Repair or redesign the Array-Formation Network.
3. Achieve 95% or higher efficiency.
4. Ensure the weapon can safely withstand Supreme-level energy infusion.

Failure Conditions:

1. Weapon efficiency remains below 80%.
2. The Array Core collapses during testing.
3. The Formation Network becomes unstable.

[Reward: Hidden]

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A golden bow materialized before Klaus.

The moment his eyes landed on it, a smile formed on his face.

"Flawless."

He admired the craftsmanship with an open mind and an impressed look. As someone who had created weapons that even the heavens became jealous of and stole, he was indeed impressed.

He reached for the bow and brushed his hands against it.

Up on the platform, the seven elders furrowed their brows, watching as Klaus admired the bow as if it were a woman.

"What is he doing?" one of them asked, looking puzzled.

"I don't know, but I guess we will find out soon enough."

A few minutes later, Klaus tapped the side of the bow, and a large, intricate core materialized in the air. Klaus set the bow aside and focused on the core.

He reached in and pinched, and the core expanded, revealing interconnected arrays and formation pathways.

"Interesting."

Klaus was once again impressed by the core's complex nature. However, instead of feeling pressured, his hands moved, and he began manipulating the core structure, examining everything with an open mind... Hivemind.

Everybody waited to see if he could identify the problems within the core structure.

Twenty minutes later, Klaus smiled and turned to Supreme Engineer Winnie.

"Am I to explain the problems with the core structure to everyone, or can I go ahead and fix them?"

"Because of time, fix them first and explain later."

Klaus nodded and then asked one last question.

"Am I allowed to use any technique at my disposal to work?"

"As long as it has nothing to do with the Uniweb or Dark Space, then it is fine."

"Thank you for the response."

Klaus walked to the center of the stage and compressed the core structure, allowing it to hover a meter away from him.

'I have identified three problems. Once I fix them all, this bow will be reborn and even surpass the previous efficiency level.'

He closed his eyes, and then, when he snapped them open, eight additional hands appeared, each holding a rune knife.

Many disciples widened their eyes when they saw the eight hands appear. However, when the hands moved and array symbols—or, as most called them, runes—started to appear, their jaws dropped.

Supreme Engineer Winnie, who had seen Klaus draw runes before, smiled and said inwardly,

'Ah, the ancient runes. He is drawing the ancient runes. Just who is this kid?'

Klaus started slowly. However, as the seconds passed, he began to enter the mindspace of an engineer—the same space Efad, his ninth incarnation, and Paragon, his first incarnation, had spent a great deal of time in several years ago.

His speed picked up, and all 10 hands holding the knives went to work. With thousands of minds working together, he could summon more hands, and he wouldn't feel out of focus or pressured.

"This is unreal. How can he control that many hands and still remain focused?"

"Beats me. The most I can control is two hands, and even then, I sometimes lose control over them after a couple of hours."

"It is either his mental strength is on another level, or he has a special technique that allows him to create hands."

"What kind of technique would allow someone to create that many hands?"

Unbeknownst to the disciples, the technique Klaus was using to create his extra hands was one of the legendary techniques that countless warriors had died pursuing.

In fact, if the creator of the [God of War Art] learned Klaus was using his creation to produce extra pairs of hands for drawing runes, they would be furious.

The extra hands were meant to wield weapons and cut down powerful foes, not hold rune knives.

But thanks to Ares, the god of war and brilliance, Klaus got to show off his power, letting everyone know he was both a monster in combat and in engineering.

Two hours later, Klaus had filled the hall with over five million runes.

The moment he set down the rune knives, he started forming arrays and formations to solve all three issues at once.

Chapter 1562 - 1562: Second Trial

'Let me shock this old bag of bones with my engineering skills,' Klaus smiled inwardly and started forming arrays and formations at the same time, merging thousands of runes in rapid succession.

As his ten hands moved through the air, the runes responded, each moving along a preplanned path, a feat that was impossible even for the seven elders or Supreme Engineer Winnie.

A few thousand runes and arrays, and they might be able to manage, but anything beyond that was where the problem began.

Just a few minutes in, complete arrays and formations started to appear.

The seven elders immediately rose to their feet, their expressions revealing their shock.

"What is he doing?" one of them asked, jaw open and eyes wide.

"Don't tell me..."

"Impossible!"

The elders stared at the projected rune structure, disbelief written all over their faces.

Normally, an engineer would isolate each flaw, repair it, test the results, and only then move on to the next issue. In most cases, they would first create a replica of the original issue and test their fix before implementing it.

That was the safest and most accepted method taught to all engineers.

Yet Klaus was doing the exact opposite.

He was repairing all three flaws simultaneously and at a speed that none of the elders or disciples could comprehend.

One mistake.

Just one.

And the entire Array Core would collapse, ruining everything he had done over the past two hours.

"He is insane," one elder muttered. In his eyes, Klaus was excellent at drawing runes but terrible at implementing them.

However, while he saw a reckless kid, someone else saw something profound.

"No, look carefully," Supreme Engineer Winnie said.

The others immediately focused on the projection.

Only then did they notice something terrifying.

The millions of runes floating around Klaus were not random.

Every single rune was connected to another.

Together, they formed an enormous support network that monitored every movement within the core. This allowed the runes to move at impossible speeds through complex pathways, without crashing into each other.

The moment one section changed, millions of calculations were adjusted instantly, eliminating the need to implement changes one by one.

The elders felt chills run down their spines.

"This..." they were left dumbfounded.

"This is not engineering. Is this even engineering?"

"This is engineering on a completely different level. I had the privilege of witnessing a true master at work in the Dwarven Galaxy, but even he wasn't this insane."

Supreme Engineer Winnie smiled. "There is a first time for everything, I suppose."

Klaus remained oblivious to their reactions. But even if he knew, he would have just smiled and remained focused on his work.

For now, his entire consciousness had sunk into the core.

Thousands of formation pathways flowed before his eyes like rivers. From where he sat, he could see every flaw, every weakness, and every imperfection.

The first issue lay within the energy circulation channels.

The original creator had designed them perfectly for ordinary use, but once Supreme Qi entered the bow, microscopic deviations began to appear. Those deviations, though minute at first, had accumulated over time until the Array Core destabilized.

The second flaw was hidden within the formation anchors.

Several anchor points had become incompatible after years of repeated stress, causing tiny disruptions whenever the bow released powerful attacks.

The third flaw was the most dangerous.

At the very center of the core was a resonance conflict.

Two independent formations were attempting to synchronize.

Of course, from the core structure, Klaus could see that the synchronization succeeded most of the time when the bow was in use.

But during intense combat, a delay of less than one-millionth of a second would appear in the relay.

That tiny delay triggered a chain reaction that threatened to destroy the entire weapon from the inside out. This issue, of course, had to do with three materials used in the construction of the bow itself.

The original Saint Engineer had never discovered it.

Nobody had, because the flaw did not exist when the weapon was first created.

It had evolved over years of use and had remained within the core, slowly degrading it.

A smile appeared on Klaus's face.

'This is incredible. I never knew I would enjoy engineering this much ever again.' His smile spread across his face as he formed the last three formations and ten arrays.

'I guess, with where the universe is heading now, creating weapons of mass destruction is the way forward. If I remain complacent, I might just end up dead in some ditch sooner rather than later.'

A few seconds later, 1,200 arrays and 590 formations hovered in the air. Then, with a wave, he sent all of them into the core, causing all eyes to widen.

Every disciple and elder held their breath as they waited for the results.

It took just a second for the core to tremble, and to everyone's amazement, it stabilized itself. Klaus proceeded to integrate the core back into the bow, and then a powerful wave of pressure erupted from it.

On the screen in the room, a computer displayed the results.

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Final Result

Starfall Bow Efficiency

Before: 37%

After: 99.8%

Maximum Safe Output

Before: 37%

After: 120%

Array Stability

Before: Critical

After: Perfect

Formation Integrity

Before: Failing

After: Saint Grade

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Everyone was left in great shock. Meanwhile, Klaus had already moved on to the second trial. This time, he selected a trial from Class I.

Engineers at this stage were called Immortal Engineers, and they specialized in creating SSE-Class weapons.

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[Second Trial: The Dying World Engine]

[Class: I]

[Difficulty: Immortal Engineer (Tier 9)]

[Status: Active Crisis]

[Description:]

Twenty-seven thousand years ago, an SSE-Class World Engine known as the Celestial Ark Reactor was constructed to power the floating continent of Astravia.

The reactor serves over three billion inhabitants and powers:

1. Planetary Shields

2. Continental Flight Arrays

### 3. Interstellar Gates

### 4. Divine Energy Collectors

Five years ago, the reactor began experiencing unexplained energy loss.

Current efficiency has fallen to 41%.

Every repair attempt has failed.

If efficiency drops below 30%, the continent will lose power and crash into the Void Sea.

Estimated casualties:

3,214,883,912

Your task is to identify the cause of the failure and restore the reactor to operational status.

Available Information:

1. Complete reactor schematic

2. Maintenance records

3. Array architecture

4. Formation blueprints

5. Energy-flow recordings

Success Conditions:

1. Identify the root cause
2. Restore efficiency to at least 90%
3. Prevent future degradation
4. Preserve existing infrastructure

Failure Conditions:

1. Reactor collapse
2. Efficiency below 90%
3. Structural damage to Astravia
4. Unstable energy output

Reward:

Immortal Engineer Treasury Access Token

(Reward unlocked only if all seven elders grant at least 80% approval.)

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The moment Klaus finished reading the description, thousands of reports, blueprints, schematics, and much more appeared in digital form.

Beside them, a massive core structure also appeared. The moment Klaus's gaze landed on it, he felt the weight of an entire continent fall upon his shoulders.

'If I can't fix this, the continent will fall, and billions will die.'

He saw the challenge and the risk of failure and instantly knew he had to succeed. His failure would not be penalized, but knowing that lives depended on it made him dive into the materials at once.

While many were still recovering from the shock of him fixing the Starfall Bow, he had already started working on his second trial.

#### Chapter 1563 - 1563: Third Trial

The moment Klaus touched the first blueprint, his consciousness seemed to sink into an endless ocean of information. Within that information, he saw...

Millions of runes.

Hundreds of thousands of formations.

Tens of thousands of interconnected arrays.

Every component of the reactor had been designed by Immortal Engineers whose names he did not know. Yet, judging by how complex and intuitive the runes were, he found himself wishing to meet them one day and collaborate on a project together.

Klaus always said he hated weakness and aspired to perfection. Moments like this, when perfection is shown, make him proud, and seeing the blueprint's complexity left him taken aback. More accurately, he was impressed.

"This thing is absurd. It is as if the creators of this reactor deliberately ensured that every aspect of it was handled with absolute care and dedication. They did a very good job," he let out a sigh. "Too bad their work is now failing."

A thought popped into his mind.

"I wonder where they are now."

His question was heard by many, who all sighed.

The field of engineering had become so vast that engineers constantly aspired to greatness and sought more knowledge. The creators of this reactor had vanished into a ruin said to date back to the Primordial Era years ago and had yet to return.

Perhaps if they were still around, fixing the bugs in their creation would have been simple. But they were not, and frankly, even if Klaus failed, the people could still be evacuated.

However, that would be difficult given the sheer amount of resources required.

So he knew he had to succeed no matter what.

Meanwhile, outside the trial space, the seven elders and Supreme Engineer Winnie were experiencing a shock of a different kind.

Most disciples, and even they themselves, would spend several days simply familiarizing themselves with the reactor's architecture before attempting a diagnosis.

Yet Klaus had already begun dissecting every subsystem simultaneously.

Energy distribution.

Shield networks.

Flight arrays.

Gate stabilizers.

Divine collector systems.

His mind was split among them, working in a state of absolute focus and clarity. His thoughts had already reached the realm of complete understanding and endless curiosity, especially whenever he encountered something new.

Two hours passed, bringing the total elapsed time since the trial began to roughly five hours.

The elders held their breath as they watched Klaus work his magic.

"I honestly don't know where this kid learned his style of engineering from or how any of what he is doing is possible, but if he can handle this second trial, I would appoint him to an elder position."

One elder spoke calmly, though inwardly he desperately hoped Klaus could handle the second trial as successfully as he had the first.

"I was thinking the same thing. However, unless he can handle a Class X trial, making him an elder would be a bit controversial. Besides, I want him to compete in the upcoming Engineers Meet."

The elder's eyes remained fixed on the projection.

"With what he has shown so far, I think we have a good chance of winning. He might even get the opportunity to enter the Dwarven Engineering Academy."

"I hope so too."

Supreme Engineer Winnie remained to the side, her expression calm as she watched Klaus work to identify the core issue and fix it.

'If you manage to handle this error, I will personally write a recommendation letter to Universe Grand Architect Yorik on your behalf. With so much research being poured into developing the first-ever XX-Class weapon, your enormous mind would come in handy.'

A smile appeared on her face.

Thanks to her position and status, she knew more than most.

She was aware that Class X weapons were known as Doomsday Weapons, and so far, three classes of Doomsday Weapons had been created.

The dwarves had created the first-ever XSS-Class weapon 400,000 years ago.

They claimed it was a weapon capable of destroying galaxies and killing several Celestials at once.

Of course, it existed, but powering it was the real problem. It takes a lot to power it. For now, they only have enough energy source to power it once.

They claimed it is the next step in human evolution and that every warrior must adapt to the use of external weapons to stay ahead in battle.

Based on recent discoveries from the enemy front, they knew that relying solely on warriors would be a mistake.

As a result, new weapons were being developed every day, and with more dangers lurking beneath everyone's noses, there was no telling when they might be needed.

Thankfully, the Dwarven Galaxy had chosen to remain neutral, meaning their weapons were not in the hands of either the Heavenly Court or the Demon Court.

They stood on humanity's side.

And with them fully committed to creating weapons to aid humanity, Supreme Engineer Winnie wanted Klaus to join them. With his mind, humanity would have a chance against the Foreign race, known for their technological advancements.

Suddenly, her attention snapped toward Klaus.

He had abruptly stood up and walked toward the table holding the three formation discs.

Reaching out, he picked up one of them and returned to the center of the stage.

He summoned the hands again and, this time, added two more, bringing the total to twelve, including his own two hands.

Forty-five minutes later, intricate arrays and formations filled the air, leaving everyone stunned.

Klaus ignored their reactions and arranged the arrays and formations into a core before storing it inside the formation disc.

He then turned to Supreme Engineer Winnie and the elders.

"I have solved the energy loss issue, which was caused by leakage within the Divine Energy Collectors orbiting Astravia. I also reduced energy consumption, allowing the reactor to use 21% less energy while maintaining high efficiency. Its overall performance has now been boosted by 24%.

"Lastly, I added a self-repair function capable of detecting and resolving future issues before they become serious problems."

Klaus placed the formation disc on the table.

Ignoring the stunned and shocked looks on everyone's faces, he turned his attention to the third and final trial.

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[Third Trial: The Eternal Void Lock Formation]

[Class: X]

[Difficulty: Divine Engineer (Tier 10)]

[Status: Unsolved]

[Description:]

One thousand three hundred years ago, an ancient spatial prison hidden within the Devil's Maw began showing signs of collapse.

The prison contains an unknown entity said to have existed during the Primordial Era.

The records describing the prisoner have long since been erased by an unknown force seeking to harness the power of this mysterious entity.

However, while the records had been deleted, all surviving accounts agreed on one fact: The prisoner must never be allowed to escape.

The original formation responsible for sealing the prison was destroyed during a Void Storm. Since then, countless engineers have attempted to recreate a replacement.

All of them failed.

Your task is not to repair an existing formation, but to create an entirely new Divine Formation from scratch.

[Requirements]

1. Seal a space measuring 100,000 kilometers.
2. Suppress Spatial Laws.
3. Suppress Void Laws.
4. Suppress Divine Energy.
5. Automatically repairs itself.
6. Remain operational for at least 100,000 years.
7. Function without requiring an external energy source.

[Available Resources]

1. One Empty Divine Formation Disc.
2. Infinite Simulation Materials.
3. Historical Prison Data.

[Success Conditions]

1. Formation passes simulation.
2. Formation remains stable for 100,000 simulated years.
3. Seal integrity remains above 99%.
4. Receives approval from all seven elders.

[Failure Conditions]

1. Formation collapse.
2. Energy instability.
3. Seal degradation.
4. Failure to suppress the prison's internal energy.

[Reward]

Unknown (To be awarded by the Dwarven Engineering Council)

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"What in the hell?" Klaus shouted.

It wasn't because of the trial's difficulty, nor because of the terrifying requirements.

It was because one of his incarnations was currently inside the Devil's Maw.

Chapter 1564 - 1564: Eternal Genesis Prison

Klaus's sudden outburst snapped many back to their senses. They had been so consumed by his achievement in the second trial that they failed to notice him dive into the third.

However, the stunned expression on his face led many to wonder whether he had finally encountered a problem he could not solve.

He had, after all, picked a Class X trial for his third trial.

To be frank, many wouldn't mind if he couldn't handle the third trial. After all, he had already done the impossible twice, and that alone was enough to cement his status as one of the best in the Engineering College.

However, Supreme Engineer Winnie went ahead and asked, "Disciple Klaus, if you cannot handle the third trial, you can stop here.

Already, you have earned a position as an Immortal Engineer, which makes you a Class I student and an engineer qualified to handle the design and construction of SSE-Class weapons."

"The Headmistress is right, Disciple Klaus. You have already proven yourself."

Klaus turned away from the description of the third trial after reading it for the third time and looked at the elders and Supreme Engineer Winnie.

"Sorry about the sudden outburst. It's just that some friends of mine have ventured into the Devil's Maw, and this trial states that there is a dangerous entity living down there."

"Oh, I see. You can send them a message later and warn them not to go near the Haunted Valley. It is assumed that the entire place is haunted by the entity."

Klaus nodded, but inwardly, he cursed his luck.

Flying at top speed toward the Naga King's domain, Rhazor grinned and muttered, "Ah, I will probably die this time if I don't turn back and run away. There is no need to court death this early in my career."

He laughed and then added, "Then again, when danger comes, I will adapt. I always do."

The allure of the Flame Dao Crystal would not let him see the danger ahead. Until the danger arrived, he had no plans to run away.

"Thanks for the heads-up, Headmistress."

Klaus turned back to his trial, but Supreme Engineer Winnie asked, "Are you confident you can build such a formation in four hours?"

Klaus looked at the countdown and saw he had 3 hours and 58 minutes remaining.

"I already have an architecture in mind, so the rest is just drawing the runes and creating the mega formation."

He calculated with his fingers.

"It would take me three hours to handle everything. The rest can be spent explaining and answering your questions."

Supreme Engineer Winnie studied him for a few moments before nodding.

"Good luck, then."

She returned to her seat, unaware that Klaus was about to blow everyone's mind.

Klaus sat down and closed his eyes. In his imagination, he slowly created a prison that even Celestials would not be able to escape from.

'Since I am creating a core, I should make it so it can be used only once and cannot be copied. I wouldn't want my creation falling into the wrong hands.'

Klaus separated every component, and when he was done, he summoned the ten hands again. However, this time, he summoned three more clones, each possessing six hands.

They looked exactly like him and moved like robots, something Klaus deliberately did to deflect suspicions about how advanced his cloning skills were.

However, the moment the clones appeared and started drawing runes, everyone's jaw dropped, including those of the ten Celestials.

"This..." Supreme Engineer Winnie muttered, but no words followed. She was at a loss for what to say or do as all the disciples watched.

None of them could wrap their minds around what Klaus was doing.

Within ten minutes, Klaus and his three clones had drawn runes that would have taken an hour to complete. In fact, he expanded even further the next minute, and by the time 2 hours and 30 minutes had passed, he had over 15 million runes floating in the air.

The entire hall was filled with runes to the point that everyone started wondering how he was going to form the formation.

To their shock, after he was done, Klaus merely raised his hand and snapped his fingers. Then, as though the runes had minds of their own, they started to move, and arrays began forming.

Soon, the arrays merged into formations, and by the time thirty minutes had passed, only one mega formation remained.

Klaus stored it on the provided formation disc and turned to face everyone in the hall.

"Allow me to introduce the Eternal Genesis Prison, a five-layered Class X formation designed to trap and imprison the strongest and most dangerous prisoners.

"The first layer is called Infinite Spatial Lock. This layer anchors the prison space to itself. The prisoner may move, fly, or teleport. However, every action returns them to the exact same location. To the prisoner, it feels like endless movement, but in reality, they never move at all.

"The second layer is called the Void Consumption Array. This layer specifically targets Void Energy within the formation and the prisoner. Any Void Law released by the prisoner is instantly absorbed and converted into Formation Energy. The stronger the Void attack becomes, the stronger the prison becomes.

"Divine Suppression Heaven Net is the third layer. This layer forms billions of invisible chains. The chains are not physical; they are formed from Laws.

"Every Law the prisoner comprehends is automatically analyzed. The formation then creates counter-laws to suppress it. The stronger the prisoner's understanding becomes, the stronger the suppression becomes.

"The fourth layer is the Samsara Cycle Formation. This is the most terrifying part. Every hundred thousand years, the prison recreates a copy of the prisoner's soul state. Should the prisoner somehow manage to break free, which I doubt would happen, the formation would rewind them back to that stored state.

"It is essentially a checkpoint system. No matter how much progress they make, they are forced back to where they started.

"Lastly, the fifth layer is the Eternal Genesis Core. It is the heart of the formation. Based on past innovations, I created a massive, self-evolving formation intelligence.

"Unlike normal formation spirits, this one learns, observes, adapts, and evolves. Every attempt to break the prison becomes knowledge, and every failure becomes experience. Over time, the formation continuously improves itself."

There was no sound after Klaus finished speaking. All he saw were stunned expressions on everyone's faces.

Suddenly, Supreme Engineer Winnie started clapping her hands, and everyone followed.

Outside, the same thing was happening. Thousands of disciples started clapping for Klaus, who had done the impossible yet again.

He held a smile on his face, but back on the second floor of the Inheritance Tower, Kaden was laughing out loud like a maniac. He loved the praise, not because he craved it, but because he could see it in their eyes. The respect they had for him had reached an all-time high.

As a Paragon who, in the past, hadn't managed to reach this far into the ranks of the Heavens Court, this moment meant everything to him.

'One step at a time, Klaus. One step at a time,' he said to himself.

The outcome of this assessment wasn't what anyone expected, but in the end, Klaus became the top engineer at the academy, and from that day onward, he would begin gaining access to more advanced materials and knowledge.

Chapter 1565 - 1565: Doomsday Engineer Klaus

Klaus stood at the centre of the stage, all eyes locked on him.

He had successfully completed all three trials, and that, coupled with his final creation being considered the perfect prison, left everyone stunned.

But Klaus could already tell things were about to get weird.

First of all, the looks in the eyes of the ten Celestials told him they were eager to get their hands on the formation.

After all, it sounded like the perfect prison for the Paragon.

Klaus had already weighed his options and concluded that this formation could indeed trap a Celestial. However, it could never trap the Paragon.

The reason was the flaw he had deliberately left behind.

He had designed it so that any form of teleportation could be interrupted, except one linked to the Paragon Link. But even if that method could somehow be blocked, Klaus had also ensured that, no matter what, he could always leave, provided the formation was the same one he had personally created.

To further prevent anyone from exploiting it, he had embedded a matrix within the core that subtly misaligned the arrays and formations. As a result, even if every rune were copied perfectly, the formation itself would remain useless.

Of course, if someone were willing to run through twenty-three billion raised to the power of three possible combinations, they might eventually come close to reproducing the original formation.

So if they forced him to hand it over, he would gladly do so.

However, they would soon discover that it was useless, and the only person capable of recreating it would be Klaus himself.

By then, he would hold all the leverage in any negotiation.

After clapping for a while, still stunned by what they had witnessed, Supreme Engineer Winnie stood up and walked toward Klaus.

"Congratulations, Disciple Klaus. You have successfully completed all three trials and have officially become a disciple of the Engineering College."

She stopped two meters away from him and took a moment to calm her emotions before continuing.

"For completing a Class X trial, you are now officially a Doomsday Engineer. You may visit the Doomsday Department to collect your badge and other miscellaneous items.

"However, since you are now a Doomsday Engineer, someone at my level, you have the freedom to come and go as you please. You also have unrestricted access to all files and resources. You may select as many tasks as you wish and even assign tasks to others.

"Although you are still a student, one year from now, you will have to transfer to the Dwarven Engineering Academy, where you will gain access to more advanced knowledge regarding higher grades of weapons.

"Of course, if you choose to become an elder of this academy instead, that would also be good."

She smiled, fully aware of how shameless she sounded.

Even Klaus smiled.

He had come to become the best, and now he had achieved exactly that without even realising it.

Of course, with the level he had reached, the Heavens Court would begin paying much closer attention to him.

They would want him to learn more, improve further, and build increasingly powerful weapons for them.

It was exactly as he had planned.

The more weapons he built for them, the easier it would be to bring them down later.

It would be as though he were stuffing their pockets with countless nukes capable of detonating whenever he desired.

'Things are progressing well for me. Now I just need the Celestial Supreme to personally request an audience with me, and the rest will take care of itself.'

His plan revolved around that bastard, so until the man invited him to a face-to-face meeting, he could only continue drawing more attention to himself.

"One important thing. There will be an Engineers' Meet five months from now. It is a competition, much like the Galactic Warrior Competition, which takes place every hundred years. This one is for engineers. I would like you to participate.

"The winner receives a rare-grade mineral that can be used to create the core of Class X weapons. Winning would also expose you to the wider universe and cement your status as one of the best rising engineers of this generation."

"I will do my best."

"I know you will. With that said, you must say a few words that will be recorded in the history books as your first declaration as an engineer."

Klaus nodded and spoke without wasting any time.

"I aspire to create weapons that protect this universe rather than harm it. Under no circumstances will I create a weapon intended to take the lives of the beings living within this universe."

"Spoken like a true engineer," Supreme Engineer Winnie said with a laugh.

Many engineers chose to sell their services solely for profit. Because of that, the vision that the dwarves and a few others held for engineers had become tarnished.

Many engineers did not care how much damage their weapons caused or how many lives they destroyed. They only cared about money, and so they created increasingly powerful weapons that claimed countless lives.

The dwarves were wealthy, but their wealth came from shields and defensive technologies rather than destructive weapons. They specialised in creating tools that protected rather than killed.

It was because of them that Efad, Klaus's ninth incarnation, had chosen to become an engineer.

Efad had created the first Doomsday-class weapon, but it was a shield capable of deflecting attacks from even Peak Supremes and certain Celestials.

He had always made sure that most of his creations were incapable of taking lives.

Of course, he had created weapons that could kill, but those had only been entrusted to capable warriors.

Most of his creations had ultimately been used by his Beast Legion.

This time, however, his objective was to completely eradicate the Foreign Race, and that goal could only be achieved through superior weaponry.

If he could make it to the Dwarven Galaxy, there was a chance he might become part of history itself.

He knew very little about the Foreign Race, but he did know one thing.

They were extremely advanced when it came to weapon development.

That alone was enough motivation.

He wanted to protect himself, his wives, his legion, his friends, and his allies.

"You may go to the Doomsday Department now. Tomorrow evening, there will be a banquet celebrating your achievement. You will have the opportunity to personally meet and greet the seniors who came to witness your trial."

Klaus nodded and soon left the hall.

His gains this time were enormous, as reflected in the way people looked at him as he walked out.

The moment he stepped outside, he saw Eiko staring directly at him.

Seeing her expression, Klaus smiled and approached her.

"Told you I was better than the top five engineers you talked about."

Eiko didn't say anything. She simply stood there in silence.

Klaus knew she was still in shock, so he allowed her a moment to recover.

After a while, she let out a sigh and looked at him.

"You are clearly way out of my league when it comes to engineering. But this is good. At least someone from this academy will make it into the Dwarven Engineering Academy."

Klaus smirked.

"You can join too if you want."

Eiko looked at him before turning away.

"Stop making fun of me. With my talent, becoming a Doomsday Engineer is nothing more than a pipe dream."

"Not if you have a teacher like me."

Eiko froze.

Slowly, she turned back toward him.

"Are you serious?"

"Yeah. If you want, I can teach you how to improve your engineering skills and become a Doomsday Engineer within a couple of years.

Of course, you won't be as good as I, but you'll surpass most people and be able to transfer to the Dwarven Engineering Academy."

"I want to. Please teach me," Eiko said, beaming with joy.

"Sure, but first let's find something to eat. I'm starving."

The two soon left the pavilion and headed toward the cafeteria.

Of course, their conversation had been heard by everyone inside the Assessment Building.

## Chapter 1566 - 1566: A Prodigy

[Dwarven Galaxy - Engineering Headquarters]

The Dwarven Galaxy isn't that vast, so instead of calling it a universe, they chose to stick with the term galaxy to keep things simple.

However, despite their size, they are the greatest weapon developers in the universe. They are also the wealthiest. Every planet is protected with shields and weapons capable of deterring even Celestials.

They had no intention of leaving their people unprotected.

Since they possessed the means, they secured every part of their galaxy. Rumour even has it that they possess a Galactic Shield that surrounds their entire galaxy and can withstand a full-scale attack from a Celestial.

For now, it remains only a rumour.

But given the progress they have made, one can only wonder whether those rumours are true. The brilliant minds they possess are capable of achieving the impossible.

Currently, inside the headquarters of the Dwarven Engineering Council, ten dwarves, each with long beards and sharp eyes, continued watching the video of Klaus's assessment.

After the assessment, Supreme Engineer Winnie sent the recording to the headmaster of the Dwarven Engineering Academy, Universe Grand Architect Yorik.

He is one of the Fifteen Universe Grand Architects, an engineer capable of building Class XSS weapons.

According to their own documentation, such weapons were capable of devastating an entire galaxy. For now, those weapons had been stored away in highly secure locations.

But for ten such powerful individuals to wear stunned expressions as they watched Klaus complete one task after another, it was obvious from their faces that they were impressed.

They were both shocked and deeply impressed.

The prowess Klaus displayed during his assessment was on an entirely different level of genius.

After hours of watching everything, all of them sighed.

Then they turned to Universe Grand Architect Yorik.

"Have you already invited him to join the academy, or should we take him straight to the council, where he can work on real-world problems?"

Universe Grand Architect Cask asked as his hands ran through his beard.

Universe Grand Architect Yorik nodded in response.

"I have already sent the invitation. However, he will have to contribute to the Heavens Academy for at least five months before he is allowed to leave.

"That said, they have agreed to let us meet him through Dark Space and interact with him while we wait for him to arrive."

Universe Grand Architect Olson nodded before letting out a loud laugh.

"That is better. For a moment, I thought the Heavens Court would try to monopolize him the same way they did with the Elves and that human."

"Indeed. If they had tried to play hard to get, I would have personally gone there to recruit him. Such a talent is exactly what we need in these dire times," Universe Grand Architect Ohpal stated, his fist clenched.

"The report we received a hundred years ago already showed that the Foreign Race had developed a Class XX weapon capable of dealing significant damage to us. While they have yet to use it, if we can build something with equal destructive power, I am sure they would hesitate before deploying it.

"Naturally, we need all the help we can get, and this kid sounds like exactly the kind of help we need."

"You are right, Ohpal, but what about the Paragon? From what I last heard, he plans to eradicate the Foreign Race soon. Clearly, he knows something we don't. How about we invite him here and see if we can work together to achieve success?" Universe Grand Architect Durin suggested.

Everyone present nodded.

"That is also a valid suggestion. Based on past experiences, I have come to learn that the Paragon is far more knowledgeable and sincere than the Heavens Court. I, Yorik, would rather work with him a billion times over than even consider working with the Heavens Court."

"Then it is decided. We will send an invitation to him as well. Five days from today, we will host both the Renegade Hunter and the Paragon here and have a meaningful discussion that will benefit all parties involved.

"My daughter has already foreseen three catastrophes, and according to her, victory or defeat rests on the shoulders of the Paragon.

"The Heavens Court will not listen, but since they can afford to oppose us, we will work with the Paragon and, if possible, invite other talented individuals as well.

"It is about time we rid this universe of all dangers before the Great Calamity."

"Then let us work toward a brighter future for our children and their children."

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Meanwhile, as the Ten Universe Grand Architects discussed Klaus's future, the Celestial Supreme was also watching the recording of Klaus's assessment.

When it ended, he let out a sigh and looked at the two vampires seated below his throne.

"What do you two make of this?"

Hex, the immediate advisor to the Celestial Supreme, answered first.

"I believe he has great potential. He has already shown himself to be a capable warrior, and now he has proven his brilliance as a top engineer under our banner.

"While the dwarves have already laid claim to him and wish to train him, we should allow them to do so. At the end of the day, he is still a member of the Heavens Court, which means we can summon him whenever we require his services."

"Hex is right, Your Excellency," Lark, his second advisor, said. "From what I have observed, he is someone worthy of being nurtured, especially after his family temporarily disowned him. If we can build a strong relationship with him, then using him against the Paragon in the future will not be a problem."

The Celestial Supreme nodded at their suggestions and let out another sigh.

"He is indeed a talent unlike any other. For now, let us continue observing him and see whether he can accomplish even more than he has already displayed. If he truly is that brilliant, I will personally meet with him to discuss the possibility of forming a much deeper bond."

"That is wise, Your Excellency."

"Send word to the academy. The Renegade Hunter must be challenged further. I want to see more of his brilliance."

The two advisors nodded before leaving the hall.

The moment they departed, a strange smile appeared on the Celestial Supreme's face.

"Perfect. His rise perfectly aligns with my lord's imminent arrival. If he truly is that capable, then becoming a servant of my lord would benefit both this universe and the countless others we will conquer afterwards."

His smile widened slightly as he looked forward to the day his one true lord would descend upon this universe and elevate him into the strongest existence in existence.

"Paragon, very soon, you will face my wrath, and this time, I will make sure you stay dead."

Unbeknownst to him, his greed and his desire for power beyond his ability to control would ultimately become his downfall.

Until only a few weeks ago, the Paragon had been moving within his timeline, walking the same path he had once walked in the past. However, with Atomic's appearance and Icon's evolution, the situation had completely changed.

Now, he was the one moving within the Paragon's palm.

Klaus had already discovered two unexpected powers, and with them, he had begun raising a terrifying army.

But the truly frightening part was what awaited him after clearing all twelve Void Vortexes and what the Asura Race had become after billions of years of evolution.

In the end, the question would not be whether the Heavens Court and its allies could go to war against the Paragon Legion.

The question would be whether they would dare.

The answer was no.

And Klaus planned to make sure that countless unnecessary deaths never happened.

Chapter 1567 - 1567: Rhazor's Master Plan

Two days had passed since Klaus's assessment.

The day after the assessment, he attended the Headmistress's dinner, where he signed the remaining contracts with the Universe Bank. Supreme Queen Mirabel was more than thrilled to have him on board and promised to provide him with the best treatment whenever he needed assistance from the Universe Bank.

After witnessing what Klaus was capable of, she was more than happy to have him on her side.

After speaking with her, Klaus also met with the ten Celestials. Some congratulated him on becoming a Doomsday Engineer, while others attempted to recruit him into military contracts to create weapons for them.

Klaus, of course, politely declined their offers, thereby turning down a substantial amount of money.

But Klaus did not care much about that.

He knew that when the time was right, he would earn far more than what they were offering.

The main reason he turned them down was that he did not trust the Heavens Court to make good use of the weapons he would create.

He knew the kind of people they were.

As far as he was concerned, he would rather build weapons to destroy them than aid them.

In fact, he already had a weapon in mind.

All he wanted now was to meet the Celestial Supreme.

While the ten Celestials were disappointed after their discussion with Klaus, none of them said anything that might anger him or reveal their dissatisfaction.

Later, Klaus met with Supreme Warrior Sayuri and her two sisters, who, in a subtle manner, confirmed that he was indeed the Paragon.

The discovery made them extremely happy, but to maintain appearances, they did not spend much time catching up.

Klaus promised to visit them at the Warrior College in a week's time so they could have a proper conversation.

He also planned to send them to Planet Caelmir for upgrades.

At the moment, however, the most important thing was obtaining what Klaus wanted and identifying the people he intended to leverage to achieve it.

He had already selected several targets, and over the next five months, he intended to accomplish every one of his goals, making it impossible for the Heavens Court to continue ignoring him.

To do that, he first needed to complete the mission assigned to him by the Mission Hall.

Once he finished settling into the academy, he planned to leave for the Elven Galaxy in a month's time.

His objective was to rescue the planets that were not under the jurisdiction of the Heavens Court from the demons while simultaneously spreading his name throughout the universe once again.

After all, his other incarnation inside the Devil's Maw was working toward the same goal.

Three days after the dinner, Klaus visited the Mission Hall to accept his first mission.

Time could not be wasted, especially not when three catastrophes were already on their way.

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[Devil's Maw]

While Klaus worked tirelessly to earn an invitation from the Celestial Supreme, Rhazor, his criminal incarnation, was also drawing closer to the Naga King's domain.

He knew the bastard would sense him coming from miles away, so along the journey, he came up with numerous plans to deal with such an opponent when they finally met.

In order to avoid wasting too much time crossing the Naga King's domain, Rhazor devised a master plan. He believed this plan would be enough to get him through without encountering any major obstacles.

While the [Beast God Claw Art] was sufficient to give him the upper hand even against a Universal God, it would not be an easy battle, and he certainly had no intention of attacking them.

However, he knew he would be attacked.

And his master plan was simple.

Run.

The journey would undoubtedly expose him to all kinds of monsters, just as it had when he found himself inside the Twisting Vine Forest. However, with the right techniques, he was confident he could make it through without any major issues.

A few days of flying later, he arrived four miles away from the borders of the Naga King's domain.

"Looks like crossing it would take me at least four days if I face no opposition and about a week if they sense me and decide to attack," Rhazor muttered, his expression tightening slightly.

"Hold on a minute. The old man said that only those who have reached the Universal God Stage can enter this place. If that's the case, are the beasts living here also capped at the Universal God Stage?"

The question made Rhazor scratch his head.

He had been so focused on the people who entered this place that he had completely overlooked its native inhabitants.

Already, his encounter with the forest had revealed that the area's true nature possessed strength beyond that of a God.

He had fought against two entities, each wielding Divine Qi and a Domain.

In reality, that should have been impossible.

A being that was merely at the God Stage should not possess the power to grant divinity to the creatures trapped within its territory.

It might make sense for the Death Tree, since it was the source of its own power.

However, the same should not have applied to the humanoid vine.

The more Rhazor thought about it, the more uneasy he became.

Either the old man had been mistaken, or the Devil's Maw was hiding far more secrets than anyone had imagined.

His encounter inside the Twisting Vine Forest simply didn't make sense.

The Death Tree was one thing. As the ruler of its territory, possessing abilities beyond its apparent cultivation level could be explained. There were countless strange existences in the universe capable of breaking common sense.

However, the humanoid vine was a completely different matter.

That creature had displayed Divine Qi and even wielded a Domain.

Those were powers that should belong exclusively to beings who had stepped beyond the God Stage.

Supremes, perhaps.

Yet the humanoid vine had used them as though they were natural abilities.

"If that's the case..." Rhazor muttered as his eyes narrowed. "Then either the Devil's Maw suppresses everyone's cultivation to the Universal God Stage while allowing them to retain higher-level powers, or every creature living here is hiding its true strength."

Even if they were suppressed to the peak of the Universal Stage, it might mean that they possessed power beyond that. Naturally, that was something Rhazor found alarming.

"No wonder the bounty on their heads is that staggering. It appears they aren't as simple as they seem after all."

He smiled and looked at the domain of the Naga King once more.

"Facing him can wait. I need to get to the Flame Dao Crystal first and, if possible, claim it and use it before pursuing them. Luckily, I have the materials to cultivate the third form of the Heavens Defying Body."

Tapping into the power of the Star Monarch, Rhazor transformed into a Roc, one of the fastest birds in the universe. With the boon he received whenever he used his Star Monarch bloodline, coupled with his affinity for wind, space, and void, he became a blur as he moved.

The master plan was simple: he would use his speed to pass through the Naga King's domain. Nagas were naturally great warriors, so he even contemplated using his Star Monarch bloodline to gain their favor.

However, he advised against it since, if he cultivated the third form of the Heavens Defying Body with all its flaws fixed, he could become a demigod.

Klaus had learned that, provided he had the body, Atomic and Icon could advance his cultivation. So he chose to cultivate his body to the third stage since his Beast Legion had the necessary materials.

Ignitia and Aleera had even claimed that, as long as he provided a list, they could obtain the items.

So while Rhazor was on his way, Orion, the Paragon Incarnation, sat in a lotus position, ready to consume the items.

It had been a week since his grandparents were brought to Planet Caelmir by Runner under Klaus's command. With Atomic and Icon, Klaus had upgraded his wives and most of his Beast Legion.

Aside from Lady Danika and Asha, all of them were now Supremes. Asha and Lady Danika had entered some form of cocoon state and were undergoing evolution. So, unless they finished evolving, he could not help them.

He had also made his grandfather, King Alastor, a Celestial King and pushed his father, King Alric, to the Celestial Monarch Stage.

The void energy from the two Void Vortexes had accomplished all this, and now his other incarnation, Efad, was close to conquering the third vortex.

The next to be upgraded was the God Butcher.

But before that, Klaus wanted to grow stronger as well, so he could unlock more of his bloodline powers.

"Time for me to grow stronger."

He consumed all the treasures, and his body was soon filled with immense power. He felt it immediately. The flaws that had limited the Heavens Defying Body had been wiped away, and now he could sense himself growing stronger by the second.

'Becoming a demigod in at least one incarnation is the plan now.'

Chapter 1568 - 1568: Unexpected Development

To ensure things didn't get out of hand while cultivating the third form of the Heavens Defying Body, Klaus chose to ground all his incarnations.

In the academy, his main body was seated in a lotus posture within his specialized mini-mansion.

Since he was now a Doomsday Engineer, he had received his own living space, as had most of the elders and disciples who had reached this sacred rank.

His status was now on another level.

Of course, he chose to experience whatever he was about to undergo since Icon had confirmed that all ten Celestials were gone from the academy.

Even if they were present, Icon and Atomic could seal his mansion, preventing them from spying on him. But with them gone, he chose to handle this without a worry.

Kaden, his incarnation on Earth, was also seated on the top floor of the Tower of Defiance, ready to see where this would take him.

He had chosen to take a break and explore Earth a little more. He had learned that treasures had started to appear after the Awakening, so he wanted to investigate them before returning to his training.

Efad, who had managed to clear the third Void Vortex, was also seated in a lotus posture. With the third Void Vortex cleared, Atomic and Icon could help more of his people.

Lastly, Rhazor was forced to land 400 meters away from the Naga King's Domain, since he would also benefit from it.

Klaus knew all his incarnations would benefit, so he allowed them to stop first. Once everything was over, they could resume their missions.

The moment Klaus began cultivating the third form of the Heavens Defying Body, he sensed something deep within him awakening. Initially, he only felt that something extremely powerful was stirring within him.

However, as time passed, the feeling only intensified until, three hours later, things began to manifest.

The first thing he saw was a set of flaming wheels appearing from deep within his Soul Sea. He had no idea where they had come from, and, considering they were not the only things to have appeared, he did not focus on them for long.

The next item was a leather rope.

It looked ordinary, but Klaus knew it was anything but simple. He could sense a power both vast and unfathomable emanating from it.

The third item was a mask shaped like a lion's face.

It looked mysterious, and Klaus knew it possessed extraordinary qualities, but he ignored them all and focused on the nine runes that had appeared.

When he approached them and reached out to touch the runes, a message appeared before his eyes.

<You have discovered the Runes of Origin>

[Runes of Origin]

[Description: Everything came from the Origin, and everything will return to the Origin. To escape the inevitable, one must comprehend the Law of Origin and overcome the Great Catastrophe. Only by understanding Origin can one escape its maw.]

[Uses: The Runes of Origin contain traces of the Law of Origin. By absorbing them, you can use their effects to elevate your power. The stronger your comprehension ability, the greater the benefits you gain.]

"Holy smokes, this is unreal!" Klaus shouted in five different places.

Orion, who was cultivating the third form of the Heavens Defying Body, shouted inside his Soul Sea, while the other shouts came from the academy, the Void World, Devil's Maw, and Earth.

Who was Klaus, if not someone with knowledge so vast and abundant that he could be considered a walking encyclopedia?

He knew exactly what the Law of Origin was. In fact, it was the main reason he had decided to walk the path of reincarnation. From what he had discovered, the universe revolved around a great cycle.

Every cycle was called an era. After every cycle, it stepped onto a path called evolution, which was driven by the Law of Origin.

Basically, just like mortals, one is born, and one day one dies. But between life and death, there is growth, and if one manages to step onto the path of immortality, then life becomes endless.

The same applied to the universe. It was expected to grow and attain immortality, thereby being recognized by the Law of Origin and allowed to evolve endlessly.

But the universe was not as intelligent as humans, at least from what he had discovered during the Primordial Era. Klaus had learned that while the universe could evolve, it lacked the capacity to touch the Origin and become one with it.

That alone was not too alarming.

The real issue lay in what happened if, after several cycles and eras, the universe still failed to become one with the Origin.

'From that book, when the universe fails to ascend, the Great Catastrophe will come, and the universe will reset, ending all life so that new life can emerge.'

Klaus smiled coldly, his expression tightening across all five bodies he possessed.

'Is this my mission? To ensure the universe passes the Great Catastrophe?' Klaus wondered, part of him questioning whether one of the three futures Destiny had shown him was the Great Catastrophe.

'No, I am certain they aren't the Great Catastrophe. However, since I now have access to these runes, it means Primordials exist in this universe, and if that is the case, then it also means this is the final cycle.'

His breath turned cold as his mind swept across everything he stood to lose if he failed.

'I cannot fail. I must comprehend the Origin and save this universe from whatever Great Catastrophe awaits it.'

He scratches the back of his head.

'Having too much knowledge is indeed a sin. Now that I know what is coming, I cannot rest knowing that my failure will doom everyone.'

He sighed and turned his attention to the runes.

"Icon, Atomic, is there anything I should know before absorbing these runes?" he asked.

His two overpowered assistants appeared beside him within his Soul Sea.

Icon studied the runes for a minute before turning to Klaus.

"Master, in my opinion, you should try using one rune to comprehend the Law of Death and see what happens. After all, the Origin is both the beginning and the end. If everything came from it, then the Law of Death also came from it. Using it might reveal a hidden aspect of death, or it might turn out to be a waste. We won't know until we try."

"Icon is right, Master. Try it and let's see. Though I wonder why your soul can now pull things from the void," Atomic said, his gaze focused on the flaming wheels and the other items.

Seeing his interest, Klaus asked, "Do you know what they are?"

"I do. They are powerful treasures, especially that movement treasure. It is called Nezha's Wheels. From what I know, its speed is limitless. It only requires you to have access to flames, and the more you improve them, the faster they become."

"Damn, that is overpowered in my eyes," Klaus laughed and made a mental note to give the wheels to his incarnation inside Devil's Maw.

For now, however, he reached for one of the Runes of Origin.

After examining it for a while, he absorbed it and then channeled his Law of Death into it.

BOOOOOOOM!

A terrifying Death Qi exploded out of his body, instantly drawing everyone's attention.

Before anyone could get close to him, the aura of death spread throughout the Royal Garden.

Chapter 1569 - 1569: Perfect Death Comprehension

Klaus lost consciousness on the outside, but inside, he stood atop a mountain overlooking a battlefield where death and destruction could be seen everywhere.

Both sides were killing, and as more died, more arrived, each eager to kill someone before being killed themselves.

Klaus didn't know how much time had passed.

But he knew he had been standing there for a very long time, simply watching as people continued to die, slaughtering each other.

At first, he saw nothing aside from sharp spears piercing heads and drawing blood. However, as time passed, he began to notice faint streams of golden energy escaping from the battlefield.

He discovered that whenever somebody died, a faint golden aura escaped from their body. However, as he paid closer attention, he also noticed that the aura varied from person to person.

Depending on how many people someone had killed before dying, the golden aura they released became denser and brighter than the faint golden wisps released by ordinary soldiers.

He even saw one of the leaders release a reddish-gold energy after being killed.

At first, he paid little attention to it since his focus was mainly on the various fighting styles. However, as he stood there watching everything unfold, something suddenly clicked in his mind.

He quickly assumed a lotus posture and began drawing in the golden energy.

A few minutes later, he successfully guided a strand of golden energy into his body.

The moment the energy entered him, a message appeared before his eyes.

<Your understanding of Death has improved slightly>

Klaus felt it immediately.

The energy that had entered his body was the purest form of Death Qi he had ever absorbed. It felt as though this aura was something that simply could not be obtained anywhere in the vast universe.

Understanding this, he delved deeper into the sensation and began drawing in more of the golden death energy.

It started slowly, but as time passed, the amount of death energy he absorbed steadily increased.

<Your understanding of Death has improved moderately>

An hour later, the message changed again.

<Your understanding of Death has improved greatly>

By then, Klaus could sense his understanding of Death expanding. Along with that expansion, his ability to absorb the golden death energy also increased.

The battle showed no signs of stopping.

Another hour passed in the blink of an eye, but Klaus never paused, not even for a second. His entire focus was devoted to the absorption process.

More and more golden streams flowed toward him from every corner of the battlefield, gathering around him like rivers converging into an endless sea.

His aura grew heavier.

His understanding deepened.

The mysteries of Death that had once seemed incomprehensible now began revealing themselves before him.

Suddenly, the message changed again.

<Your understanding of Death has improved tremendously.>

<You have absorbed enough Death Qi to level up. You have attained Super Death Affinity>

BOOOM!

On the outside, an even denser wave of Death Qi erupted from Klaus's body.

All around him, the flowers and trees withered away, leaving behind nothing but barren land. Everything ceased to exist just like that.

Lucy could have restored the Royal Garden, but she knew Klaus was not finished. So she chose to wait and see what he was up to this time.

By attaining Super Death Affinity, Klaus felt his comprehension expand tremendously. With that expansion came a greater capacity to absorb Death Qi.

<Your understanding of Death has improved tremendously>

This time, the amount of Death Qi he absorbed was far greater than before. It was thicker, denser, and purer.

But the most shocking part was that as his comprehension increased, so did the intensity of the battle unfolding before him.

The battlefield had become so chaotic that Klaus began to wonder whether his actions were somehow influencing it. After all, the more death qi he absorbed, the more chaotic the battle grew.

However, considering everything he was gaining from the experience, Klaus chose to stop dwelling on the matters beyond his understanding and focus entirely on the absorption process.

Streams of golden Death Qi surged into his body endlessly.

As more death energy is being absorbed, his understanding deepens.

His affinity strengthened.

His connection to Death became increasingly profound.

Four hours quickly passed in the blink of an eye.

Then another breakthrough arrived.

<You have absorbed enough Death Qi to level up. You have attained Perfect Death Affinity>

<You have unlocked a new Death Skill>

BOOOM!

The battlefield suddenly froze, almost like his breakthrough had halted everything.

The countless warriors stopped moving.

The screams of battle vanished.

The sounds of clashing weapons disappeared.

Even the wind ceased to blow.

Everything became eerily silent.

Then the entire battlefield shattered like glass.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

Countless fractures spread across the sky, snaking around for a few seconds before the world collapsed into darkness.

Klaus felt his consciousness being pulled away.

The next moment, he opened his eyes.

His consciousness had returned to his body.

The process had ended the moment he attained Perfect Death Affinity, causing his comprehension of the Law of Death to rise by several levels.

The Death Qi surrounding him slowly settled, though traces of it still lingered throughout the Royal Garden. The once-beautiful garden had become barren.

The barren land around him served as proof of what had occurred.

However, Klaus paid no attention to any of that.

His focus had already shifted to the notification floating before him.

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<Death Skill Unlocked>

[Death Harvest]

[Grade: unknown]

[Description: Death is not an ending but a return. Every fallen life leaves behind traces of Death Essence. Through Death Harvest, the user can gather and refine this essence, converting it into Death Qi, lifespan, vitality, soul energy, or cultivation energy.]

[Passive Effect: Every death within your perception range generates Death Essence.]

[Active Effect: Instantly harvest all Death Essence within range.]

[Special Effect 1: The greater the strength of the deceased, the greater the rewards.]

[Special Effect 2: Harvested Death Essence can be stored indefinitely.]

[Special Effect 3: Death Essence may be used to empower Death-based skills and abilities.]

[Special Effect 4: The user may glimpse fragments of a target's final moments.]

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Klaus stared at the description of the skill for a few minutes, then a grin formed at the corner of his lips.

"Well, well, looks like I have slowly started to become the Heir of Death."

His happiness was simply out of this world, and that was because he could already sense his understanding of Death had grown far beyond what he had ever imagined.

He opened his eyes and scanned the barren garden around him.

"Let me try it and see."

He extended his hand, feeling the death energy covering the entire barren land.

Tapping into the [Death Harvest] skill, he muttered quietly, "Transform."

The death energy that had consumed all the flowers' and trees' vitality, reducing them to nothing, transformed into life energy. From it, the flowers started to sprout.

In no time, the garden was filled with greenery, and before anyone could ask what was happening, the barren garden was no more. Surrounding them now was the once-green and beautiful garden they knew and loved.

"What in the..." Queen Leah muttered, her expression showing her shock.

"Did he just revive a garden?" King Alric asked, equally shocked.

Lady Elysia and Maud, whose understanding of the Law of Death was also profound, however, smiled.

Chapter 1570 - 1570: Absolute Flame

"Klaus, what happened to you?" Queenie asked the moment Klaus stood up and walked toward them. They had all just witnessed something that many thought was impossible.

Over the years, many have speculated whether death energy can be transformed into life energy. There were arguments that Life and Death came from the same source, so it should be possible.

In a sense, they were right.

However, to understand death qi to a degree that can warrant its transformation into life energy is something that many never even come close to.

Many said that if death qi can be transformed into life qi, then the concept of true death can be overcome for real this time.

While many say immortality is the cure for death, cutting off an immortal's head would still kill them, disproving that assertion.

But it is still widely believed that immortality is the cure for death.

With the ability to transform death qi into life qi, even at the point of death, one can transform the energy of death that is leaving their body into life energy, allowing them to retain their life and, in theory, even keep themselves healthy.

It had been a theory for the better part of the previous centuries, but Klaus had just made it practical, a reality even.

He smiled upon hearing Queenie's question.

The rest of his wives, excluding Asha and Lady Danika, were present alongside his parents, including King Alric. His grandparents, some of his Beast companions, Grim, Runner, Gorr, and the Caelmir royal family were all present.

They all wore curious expressions, but deep in their eyes, he saw that they were scared of him. After all, if he could transform death qi into life qi, then theoretically, he could also transform life qi into death qi.

Naturally, that was frightening because, with just a thought, he could kill a person by converting their life qi into death qi.

"You all have nothing to worry about," Klaus said, holding Queenie's arms.

"While I have indeed transformed death qi into life qi, I am, at the moment, limited to only that. So, if you guys are wondering whether I can turn a living person into a dead person, the answer is no.

"However, with enough understanding of the Law of Life and the Dao of Life, who is to say I cannot do that? That said, if and when I am done with whatever path I have stepped onto, I will reveal everything.

"For now, let me handle a few things with my other bodies while I work in this body to upgrade and improve your cultivations."

They nodded, but they still had many questions that needed answers, especially his wives, who wanted to know if he was alright.

If he had only one body, they would have allowed him to get back to his missions. But with five bodies, they did not care how much time they took.

Klaus, or more precisely, his Paragon incarnation, Orion, smiled and started answering them.

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Meanwhile, back in the Devil's Maw, Rhazor first distanced himself from the Naga King's domain and found a cave to seclude himself in for a while.

With success in the Death Law, he wanted to try the Flame Law.

Klaus had already tasked Atomic with figuring out how he was able to pull the runes and the other items into his soul sea.

If the answer proved positive, then he would soon be able to make progress in all aspects of the Laws and even help some of his wives and legion.

But until then, he wanted to focus on the Flame Law.

Taking out a Rune of Origin, he examined it some more before absorbing it. Then, he channeled it into his Flame Law as he had done with his Death Law.

The moment his Flame Law activated, his consciousness was pulled out of his body.

When he opened his eyes, he found himself standing at the base of a very tall stairway engulfed in flames, with thousands of steps stretching endlessly upward.

Immediately, his body was bombarded by powerful Flame Qi.

This time, however, Klaus was prepared. The moment he felt the Flame Qi, he started absorbing it. A few seconds later, he saw a message appear, which made him smile.

<Your understanding of Flame has improved slightly>

This message was all he needed to know that he had come to the right place.

"Up the stairs we go."

He took one step forward and landed on the first step.

At once, the flame energy bombarding him increased, but he also sensed an increase in the flame essence permeating the air.

"No pain, no gain, I suppose."

He grinned and began absorbing the energy as he slowly moved forward, keeping his expression calm and trying not to focus on the pain.

Two minutes later, another message appeared, causing him to smile yet again.

<Your understanding of Flame has improved moderately>

And so, he continued moving forward, enduring and absorbing the flame essence in the air. Every step he climbed increased both his pain and his gains. But with a winner's mindset, he continued onward.

Rhazor's target now was to advance beyond the Perfect Harmony Flame Stage and reach the Absolute Flame Stage, since he knew the runes had a limited duration.

With his Immortal Monarch strength, Beast God Arc, Void Law, and various other abilities and techniques, he believed that once he attained Absolute Flame, he would be able to get his hands on the Flame Dao Crystal regardless of the obstacles standing in his way.

As someone who cultivated four forbidden flames, he knew things would become even more explosive when he attained absolute flame.

Already, his [Chaotic Nirvana Flame], [Soul Fury Flame], [Void Incineration Flame], and [Primordial Desolation Flame] were halfway to the Absolute Stage.

He knew it was only a matter of time before he broke through.

With a clear goal in mind, he continued climbing.

<Your understanding of Flame has improved moderately>

<Your understanding of Flame has improved greatly>

<Your understanding of Flame has improved significantly>

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<Your understanding of Flame has improved tremendously>

Five hours later, after climbing the thirty-fifth step, the messages he had been waiting for finally appeared before him.

<You have absorbed enough Flame Qi to level up. You have attained Absolute Flame Affinity>

<You have unlocked a Flame Skill>

Outside, Nirvana, Fury, Void, and Qilin appeared and sat before Rhazor.

At once, their bodies were engulfed in flames, and slowly, they began to age. If they had been teenagers before, then with this upgrade, they gradually matured into their late teens.

Rhazor remained unconscious, a clear sign that he still had some time left within the Realm of Origin.

Even so, within twenty minutes, the four Flame Spirits had aged to roughly seventeen years old.

But setting their appearance and age aside, the power emanating from their bodies was so dense and overwhelming that if they detonated themselves again within the Twisting Vine Forest, the resulting damage would be catastrophic.

After another ten minutes, they opened their eyes.

Nirvana now had flowing orange hair wreathed in flames. Since the Chaotic Nirvana Flame was orange in color, it was only natural that its Flame Spirit possessed the same coloration. Aside from that, she had matured in all the right places.

Fury, surprisingly, had chosen to rock short white hair. As the Soul Fury Flame, his power to burn souls had increased even further.

Then came Void, whose long crimson hair whipped behind her. She had also developed in all the right places, making her surprisingly attractive for a Flame Spirit. Then again, the Void Incineration Flame was known for its terrifying heat.

Finally, there is Qilin, sitting calmly with a mix of black and red hair. The black was more dominant, a clear sign that the Primordial Desolation Flame was leaning further into its destructive nature.