

Paragon 1581

Chapter 1581 - 1581: Haunted Valley

The Haunted Valley is one of the most dangerous regions in all of the Devil's Maw.

From what many had posted in several threads on the Uniweb, it contained dangers in the form of unstable space, void tears, deadly beasts, and all kinds of things that could cause any human to die easily.

So, most people didn't venture close to that place, just as most people didn't dare go near the Twisting Vine Forest, unless they planned on dying.

The Haunted Valley itself wasn't haunted as one would think. It was more like going there was akin to asking it to haunt you.

However, such a dangerous place had become a gathering ground where thousands could be seen today. It was as if they had no fear whatsoever and had decided to venture into such a dangerous region willingly.

Naturally, it was all for the Flame Dao Crystal, the same item that Rhazor himself had come for. They knew the value of such an item, so teams of powerful Gods and Demigods had come from all kinds of factions for the very same purpose.

When Rhazor arrived with Amaru, they were stunned to find this many people gathered there, each eager to get the same thing.

He recognised a few of them from the research he and Icon had conducted on their way to the Haunted Valley.

But despite the large number of people present, his attention was focused on a select few.

These people were the kind who could prevent him from succeeding, so he studied them first. With Icon now vastly more powerful, he could see more about them than others could.

His first target was the Nightstalker, a God King with an affinity for shadows. Based on what he had discovered, this person could be considered one of the deadliest assassins at the God stage. She was a bounty hunter who would stalk her prey for as long as necessary, and at the slightest opening, her dagger would find its mark.

The second was the Skeleton Shaman, someone who, if Rhazor didn't find a counter for him, could prevent him from reaching the Flame Dao Crystal. He was also a God King, but with a more refined Divinity that made him a significant threat.

His powers were somewhat strange when compared to those of a Necromancer. He wasn't a Necromancer per se, but he possessed the power of bones, allowing him to summon them and shape them into anything he desired.

With such versatility, Rhazor knew he had to stay one step ahead of him when the battle began. Of course, he already had a plan, and it would be put to the test when the formation opened, and everyone started fighting for the treasure.

The third was, of course, the Butcher God, a God Emperor. From him, Rhazor could sense only a deep killing intent rooted in every aspect of his existence. Rhazor was even tempted to recruit him, but after seeing the arrogant expression on his face as he scanned everyone around him, he decided it would be better to teach him a lesson first.

The one called God King was actually a handsome fellow with feminine features. He was slender, with perfect bone structure, flawless skin, and long strands of refined brown hair that flowed neatly behind him. In fact, he was the most approachable-looking of them all, but Rhazor knew his danger level was even greater than the others.

Also, even if he were approachable, he was a God Monarch, but because of his handsome appearance and calm expression, many people liked him more than they feared him. Rhazor knew better, and so he planned to be especially careful around him.

As for the Shadow Oracle, he wasn't an assassin, but he possessed an affinity for shadows and was somewhat strange. It was the kind of strangeness that instinctively made you wary, even when you couldn't explain why. He was also a God Emperor, and Rhazor had no intention of underestimating him.

Then there was the Bone Flayer God, the most dangerous of them all. He was only a God King, but Rhazor had no intention of letting him get anywhere near him. He even planned to let Amaru handle him since they were both God Kings.

The Bone Flayer God gave him the creeps, and so staying as far away from him as possible would improve his odds of obtaining the Flame Dao Crystal.

But aside from them, there were also the three monster tribe leaders: the Naga King, the Planet-Devouring Ant Queen, and the Grim Wolf Alpha.

Each of them looked eager to get their hands on the Flame Dao Crystal.

However, Rhazor could sense the presence of other equally dangerous beings, both human and beast. He recognised their auras, and so he found a place to sit and wait. There were still four days left before the formation broke.

That was a long time to plan and prepare for what could be considered one of the most dangerous battles he would ever fight.

Amaru sat beside him and began to cultivate. She needed to get used to her powers again since it had been millions of years since she had lost them.

Rhazor knew that just as he was studying the others, they were also studying him.

However, their mistake was choosing the wrong person. Instead of focusing on him, their attention was on Amaru, something he had intentionally arranged.

They would devote their time to one person, forgetting that the real danger lay in the Immortal Monarch seated beside her.

Then again, even if he wasn't a danger himself, he still possessed the [Lotus of Destruction] and four deadly flame spirits capable of helping him accomplish just about anything.

So he remained seated, minding his own business.

Two days later, a group of people approached him, looking to partner with him, but Rhazor rejected their proposal, stating that he alone was enough to get his hands on the Flame Dao Crystal.

They left disappointed, already planning to ensure that he wouldn't obtain the crystal.

Rhazor knew they had approached him because of Amaru. They had recognised her strength and wanted to use it to their advantage. But by rejecting them, he had inadvertently infuriated them.

A day before the formation opened, the void shattered, and a carriage pulled by two Rocs burst out from within.

Instantly, everyone felt their bodies tremble as a terrifying pressure descended from the carriage and crashed down upon them.

Even Rhazor felt it. However, he merely smiled.

<Your understanding of Gravity has improved slightly>

Instead of feeling pain, he benefited.

However, he instantly realised that everyone he had seen and sensed up until this moment was insignificant. The real threat was the person inside the carriage.

"Who dares be arrogant before me?"

Suddenly, a terrifying pressure erupted from the Grim Wolf Alpha, colliding against the pressure emanating from the carriage.

For a brief moment, the pressure bearing down on everyone was lifted.

However, a second later, an even more terrifying pressure crashed down upon them all, and Rhazor grinned.

<Your understanding of Gravity has improved greatly>

Meanwhile, the Grim Wolf Alpha was sent crashing into a mountain several kilometres away, blood gushing from his mouth and nose.

Aside from him, many others were bleeding as well, with some already unconscious on the ground.

In what could only be described as a few seconds of interaction, over eighty per cent of the gathered crowd had been defeated.

This caused the remaining twenty per cent to wonder just who dared to be so arrogant.

Even Rhazor wanted to know.

So when the carriage door opened, and a young lady with short, curly green hair stepped out, everyone's eyes landed on her.

However, the moment they sensed her true cultivation base, their eyes widened in shock.

"A Demigod..."

Rhazor's body tensed at once, and then his eyes widened.

Chapter 1582 - 1582: Second Star Light

The shock on everyone's face as they watched the lady walk out of her carriage was just out of this world.

Just now, everyone present had been suppressed by her overwhelming power, and even a mere flick of her hand had sent a Universal God flying several kilometres away.

To think she was merely a demigod, that was just mind-blowing.

However, as she exited her carriage, her short, curly green hair whipping behind her, everyone arrived at the same conclusion: Was she truly a demigod, or had she deliberately suppressed her cultivation to the demigod stage just to enter the Devil's Maw?

Many Supremes in the past had tried to suppress themselves to the Universal God stage so they could access the Devil's Maw, but failed.

The laws in the Devil's Maw were not ones that could be fooled. So even though all came to this conclusion, they knew she was indeed a demigod.

But if a demigod was able to one-shot a Universal God, then there was no telling just what kind of monster she was.

She walked to the front of the two rocs that pulled the carriage and scanned everyone gathered. Her gaze lingered for a moment on all the dangerous people who had come out of hiding after sensing that a competitor had arrived.

After making sure everyone was accounted for, she declared...

"The Flame Dao Crystal will belong to me, so it would be good if none of you dared compete with me. Of course, if you refuse, we can fight now and see if you have the power to dare go against me."

She sounded arrogant, and everyone heard that.

But they couldn't muster the words to go against her. Even the Planet Devouring Ant Queen and the Naga King were quiet, having witnessed what happened to the Grim Wolf Alpha.

They could sense when someone stronger than them had arrived. More shocking still, nobody knew where this young lady came from or who she was.

That alone made the humans back down. Someone with this much power clearly had a backing none of them wanted to offend, not for a Flame Dao Crystal.

Most importantly, they knew someone like her wouldn't travel alone. If she had two Universal God-level Rocs pulling her carriage, what then is stopping her from having universal god guards hidden somewhere from sight?

That alone was enough for them to sigh in their hearts and choose not to challenge her.

The one who mustered the courage to speak against her, however, was the last person anyone expected.

"Aren't you a bit arrogant, young lady?" Rhazor said, his expression showing a smile, though deep within, he couldn't believe his eyes at the message he had received when he laid eyes on the young lady.

<You have discovered the second Star Light>

A very long time ago, he discovered that whatever secrets about him and whatever he came to this universe for were locked within the nine Paragon Stars, and the only way to open them was through the Star Light Keys.

These Keys, however, were scattered across several eras and all walks of life. There were nine of them, and he needed all nine before he could fully unleash the Paragon upon the universe.

One of them was his wife, Hanna, and now, he found himself staring at another. However, unlike the weak and shy Hanna he met back on Earth, this one was terrifying and arrogant.

The young lady turned and looked at Rhazor, scanning him with an expression of disdain. This look made Rhazor frown, but before he could speak, the young lady spoke.

"Who are you to call me arrogant? From where I stand, you are nothing but a bug, so it would be best if you stayed in your lane before I am forced to crush you like the bug you are."

Rhazor smirked and responded, "It would also be in your best interest not to anger me. Trust me, killing you would be as simple as flicking my hand."

BOOOOOM!

A terrifying pressure descended from the young lady, crashing down hard on Rhazor. For a moment, his legs buckled. However, his Gravity Law was activated, and his body started to adapt to the pressure.

Within ten seconds, he stood upright, an arrogant smile on his face.

The young lady narrowed her eyes when she saw Rhazor still standing despite her using the pressure of her bloodline power to suppress him.

Seeing the look of surprise appear in her eyes, Rhazor became even more arrogant.

"I'll tell you this, lady. If you beg me, perhaps I wouldn't mind sharing the Flame Dao Crystal with you. Of course, you can take a page out of your own playbook and back down while you still have the chance.

"I cannot, in good conscience, bring myself to harm a fragile beauty such as yourself." Rhazor grinned at the end.

But this only infuriated the young lady, intensifying the pressure bearing down on him. What she didn't know, however, was that Rhazor was actually improving at a tremendous speed.

Still, despite using sixty percent of her power, she couldn't suppress Rhazor the same way she had suppressed the Grim Wolf Alpha.

After a few minutes of repeated failures, she withdrew her pressure and looked dangerously furious at Rhazor.

"Do you know who I am, and do you dare offend me?"

Rhazor grinned. "I do not know who you are, and I most certainly don't care. That said, you also do not know who I am, so it's better to stay away from the Flame Dao Crystal. If you don't want to experience my wrath, then stay back and watch."

Just as Rhazor said that, a howl came from the distance, and a second later, the Grim Wolf Alpha appeared, his expression narrowing at the young lady who had sent him flying away.

Judging by the look in his eyes, he planned on attacking the young lady again. However, seeing that she was locked in a verbal exchange with Rhazor, he held back and began watching.

After hearing Rhazor's response to her attempt to use her name to pressure him, her tone changed. Rhazor wasn't like the others she had faced in the past, and so she chose to take things in a different direction.

"Before you make a mistake you cannot afford to make, know this. I may be a mere demigod, but my name is Nyrela, daughter of the Genesis Flame Queen. I am here to get the Flame Dao Crystal for my mother, so you'd better back off before you regret everything."

[The Genesis Flame Queen is one of the thirteen founders of the Warrior Temple. The one named Nyrela ranks twenty-fourth on the Ancient Demigod Chart, and she is the lastborn child of the Genesis Flame Queen.] Icon quickly gave Rhazor an idea of who he was dealing with.

'How strong is the Genesis Flame Queen?'

[She ranks ninth on the Ancient Celestial Chart and is one of the most wanted warriors on the Foreign Races' Most Wanted List. So she is at the same strength level as the Burning Angel, who is ranked eighth. She is a Deadly Celestial stage warrior.]

'Damn. If that is the case, then she is indeed dangerous.' Rhazor grinned and smirked.

'Too bad for her then. I also have some backing and several bodies to fool her. Most importantly, the Genesis Flame Queen owes me a favour, so we will call it even.'

Rhazor looked at Nyrela with a smile.

"Great to finally meet the daughter of a true warrior. But rest assured, unless your mother is here, I will not back down, so you'd better get ready to snatch the Flame Dao Crystal from my cold corpse."

Chapter 1583 - 1583: Formation Lifted

During Klaus's ninth incarnation, he rescued the Genesis Flame Queen from a pack of hungry wolves when she was merely an Immortal King.

Back then, she had no way to repay him for saving her, so she asked for his name and promised to repay him later.

They never met again, but later Efad learned of her rise after she awakened a powerful flame element and was accepted into the ranks of a terrifying group of warriors who wielded flame as their primary source of power.

So, since she never paid him back, he would take this stone, knowing she would be pissed off if someone snatched the Flame Dao Crystal right from under her nose.

Although Rhazor knew that Nyrela would play a role in his life, he was not about to pamper her. She had to understand that even with strength, one could not always have luck when it came to something everyone was willing to kill for.

She might be strong, but Rhazor had the [Lotus of Destruction] and several other deadly abilities up his sleeve. He was not weak either, and thankfully, Amaru was on his side now.

Nyrela narrowed her eyes at Rhazor but said nothing.

She knew that while she had succeeded in making everyone fear her, Rhazor wasn't intimidated. So she returned to her carriage and waited while Rhazor settled back in and resumed watching the formation in the distance.

Meanwhile, inside the carriage, Nyrela wore a frown as she read a document bearing the name of the one true criminal everyone seemed to have learned had ventured into the Devil's Maw.

"This kid sure is not simple," she muttered and took a deep breath. "If what the reports say is true, then in less than a year, he moved from a mortal to an Immortal Monarch. That is even more monstrous than the Renegade Hunter, who is still a True Immortal."

She scrolled through dozens of pages before letting out another sigh.

"Let's see if he survives this ordeal. If he does, then he will be picked over the Renegade Hunter. However, if he fails, I will have to reevaluate my plans."

She leaned back in her chair and started to relax, unfazed by the countless eyes locked onto her carriage. In her mind, she had already claimed the Flame Dao Crystal. All that remained now was for the formation to open.

Time passed slowly as more and more experts arrived near the formation. Even with the time for the formation to break approaching, many continued to come.

Some came alone, while others arrived in groups. They came in all kinds of shapes and sizes, with a few beasts included. Yet despite the growing number of participants, nobody dared cause trouble.

The reason was simple.

The terrifying young lady inside the carriage was still here.

Every newcomer who arrived and heard what happened to the Grim Wolf Alpha immediately chose to behave themselves.

Even the dangerous humans who ruled different sections of the Devil's Maw remained unusually quiet.

The atmosphere gradually became tense.

Everyone knew that once the formation opened, blood would inevitably be spilt.

That moment soon came when, suddenly, a crack appeared in the formation. Everyone became serious the moment the formation started to show signs of breaking. Instinctively, they all gripped their weapons, ready to enter battle.

However, the moment the carriage door opened, and Nyrela stepped out, all of them backed away.

It was crazy to think that a mere demigod could make hundreds of gods, including over two dozen Universal Gods, frightened to such a degree.

However, they were, and it wasn't only because she was the daughter of the infamous Genesis Flame Queen, one of the founding members of the Warrior Temple.

They were aware that such a background made her a danger that could not be taken lightly. However, they were also aware of the cruel way she and her siblings had been raised.

From what was known, the children of the Genesis Flame Queen and several other powerful warriors were raised on the Foreign Battlefield.

This meant they grew up fighting life-and-death battles against the foreign race. So she was far more dangerous than the average child of a powerful figure.

Many of them had never heard of Nyrela before, but from her actions and background alone, they chose to back away.

However, not everyone did.

The beasts in the Devil's Maw clearly had no reason to fear her mother, even if Nyrela herself was a danger. After all, the Genesis Flame Queen cannot come in person even if they snatch the Flame Dao Crystal.

Aside from them, Rhazor could tell that the likes of Bone Flayer God, Butcher God, Shadow Oracle, Nightstalker, and Skeleton Shaman had no plans of backing down.

Beyond them, several Universal God-level beasts and other humans would undoubtedly take advantage of the chaos and try to get their hands on the Flame Dao Crystal.

But Rhazor had already planned for all of them.

What he never planned for was the green spear that came at him from nowhere just as the second crack appeared in the formation.

BOOOOM!

Rhazor used the flat of his sword to block the spear, and the impact blasted dust into the air. He had no idea who had attacked him, but he also didn't have the time to track the attacker before an arrow came from another direction.

Before he could deal with that, the ground exploded beneath him, and spears made of the Earth Element shot toward him.

However, before the spears could reach him, Amaru swatted them away with her glaive.

Just then, three Universal Gods with dead eyes and cold expressions appeared in the air, each gazing down at Rhazor with chilling killing intent.

One wielded a bow, another a spear, and the third held a hammer. They were all Universal Gods, but Rhazor could sense something unsettling about them.

"Uhm, who are you guys, and why are you attacking me when I have no plans of attacking you?" Rhazor asked, his bow manifesting in his hand.

He also summoned ten spears and made them hover behind him.

Just when he expected a reply, the one with the bow unleashed another arrow, and Rhazor was forced into battle.

Meanwhile, everyone gathered sighed when they saw that Rhazor had finally been taken off the chessboard.

However, when they noticed that Amaru made no move to aid him and instead kept her focus on the formation, they realised things were far from over.

Nyrela looked briefly at Rhazor before turning back to the formation. Nobody knew what she said to herself, but she seemed far more relaxed compared to the others.

Rhazor entered a deadly dance of attack and defence, making sure he stayed one step ahead despite never expecting to face three Universal Gods at once.

[Master, I have determined their identities.] Icon suddenly spoke just as Rhazor dodged a spear thrust and deflected an arrow using the body of his [Flame Eater Bow].

'Go ahead, Icon.'

[All three of them are from the Twisting Vine Forest. They are Universal Gods without domains since they were killed by the forest and transformed into Vine Demons.]

'So it came after me, huh?' A smirk formed on his face. He knew the Twisting Vine Forest would not let him go just like that, but he also didn't expect them to come after him this quickly.

Then again, he had escaped and damaged a large portion of the forest, so it was only natural that they would come after him.

Unbeknownst to Rhazor, his days of reckoning had yet to arrive. After all, the Twisting Vine Forest had sent an entire armada of Vine Demons after him.

Ten minutes later, the formation finally broke apart, and battle erupted in every corner of the area.

Chapter 1584 - 1584: Chaotic Battle

The Flame Dao Crystal was suspended on an elevated platform, hovering 4 meters off the ground. It is shaped like a triangle and lined with three distinct colors: red, blue, and gold.

The moment the crystal was revealed, everyone lost their rationality.

They were all afraid of Nyrela; however, the moment the Flame Dao Crystal was revealed, they lost that fear, and in its place, the greed they had buried deep within them ignited.

So they all moved, and, as expected, everyone wanted to reach the target, but none wanted their fellow man or woman to be the one to get it first; such is the greed of man.

So they all started fighting among themselves.

Meanwhile, the moment the Flame Dao Crystal was revealed, the Grim Wolf Alpha narrowed his eyes at Nyrela, who immediately sensed him.

The trashing she had given him had to be repaid.

But before she could caution him not to throw his life away, the angry wolf lunged at her, and to everyone's shock, a few other beasts rallied behind him.

Even the Planet Devouring Ant Queen and the Naga King joined him.

They realized that the threat to them wasn't the other beasts or humans they had initially thought it was. The threat to their lives was Nyrela, so they concluded that she should be dealt with first.

And they were right; against one of them, Nyrela was overpowered, but surrounded five to one, she was pushed back, and the frown on her face showed she didn't expect such an alliance between the beasts.

But she was surrounded on all sides, and the only thing she could do was fight them seriously. Meanwhile, the likes of the Butcher God, Bone Flayer God, Skeleton Shaman, God King, and Nightstalker had all found themselves in similar situations.

Before Rhazor was attacked, he instructed Amaru to go after the Bone Flayer God the moment the formation was down, and he made a move toward it. So she had locked him down, and after a few exchanges, it became clear who was the strongest.

Amaru is a forbidden beast, one of the deadliest and most resourceful. Even after she was suppressed by the Heavenly Dao, she managed to keep her strength at a certain stage.

So now that she had recovered some of her powers, it was only right for her to overpower another God King.

But while she could have had an easy time taking out the Bone Flayer God, Nightstalker, and Skeleton Shaman, they surprisingly joined forces, and just as Nyrela was surrounded, she was also locked down.

She didn't even bother to turn into her dragon form. Rhazor had instructed her not to do that just yet, so she remained in her demi-human form and kept on attacking and defending against all kinds of attacks.

Within five minutes, everyone present was either attacking someone or being attacked. Nobody had even made it 4 km to the Flame Dao Crystal.

Nyrela surprisingly has a Spearman class, with her weapon of choice being the glaive, the same as Amaru's. This gave her the reach she needed to stay ahead of attacks from the likes of the Naga King and the Planet Devouring Ant Queen

She continued to deflect, analyze, and attack whenever an opportunity appeared.

Suddenly, the Nightstalker slipped behind Amaru and stabbed at her with a dagger, aiming for her heart from behind.

However, before the dagger could get close to Amaru's lower back, she twisted her body, and her left foot swept through the air, creating a sonic boom around it.

BANG!

Nightstalker was struck in the stomach, sending her flying back as she coughed blood and winced from the pain. But before she could get back up and attack again, three deadly arcs came from Amaru's direction, forcing Nightstalker to block with her dagger.

"Damnit!"

The impact sent her flying back once more, her body hurtling several meters through the air. At the same time, the Butcher God got closer to Nyrela than ever before and stabbed his sword toward her chest, just as Nightstalker had tried to do.

However, Nyrela was a step ahead. She used the pole of her glaive to deflect the stabbing attack, and with a quick spin, she unleashed a wide arc aimed dangerously at the Skeleton Shaman.

Seeing that he was being ignored, the Butcher God roared furiously and unleashed three blood arcs, each packed with immense killing intent.

Amaru responded by unleashing her own arcs, which collided with the incoming attacks and exploded. However, she was struck by a powerful force the next second, sending her flying back toward the ground.

Before she could hit the ground, spears made of bone erupted from below and shot toward her. At the same time, the shadow of the Bone Flayer God fell over her, causing her expression to change.

If she defended against the spears, the Bone Flayer God would get her, and if she ignored the spears and focused on the Bone Flayer God, the spears would deal significant damage to her.

For a moment, she found herself in a bind. However, as if clarity had finally set in, her brow furrowed, and a smirk formed on her face.

The next second, the ground exploded, and lava gushed out, shooting into the air. The Bone Flayer God, who was much closer to her, was blown back, part of his body turning charred.

But the others didn't escape unscathed.

Nightstalker was blasted back by a solidified lava fist, while the Skeleton Shaman was struck by a lava palm.

"Bugs," Amaru smirked and charged at the Bone Flayer God, the main target in this ordeal. She might have forgotten for a moment that she was a Lava Dragon.

But while all this was happening, she remained on the lookout for the Shadow Oracle and the God King.

She couldn't see them anywhere, and to be honest, she wanted them within her sight so she wouldn't have to worry about either of them.

Meanwhile, just as Amaru was displaying her Spearman skills, Nyrela was doing the same. However, her opponents were much stronger and deadlier than Amaru's.

Aside from the Naga King, the Planet Devouring Ant Queen, and the Grim Wolf Alpha, the Fourteen-Legged Demon Spider and the Slayer Beetle had joined the three monster leaders in an attempt to take down the demigod lady whose sheer power had shaken their hearts.

She held her glaive in a firm grip, her senses spread wide as she weaved through one attack after another.

She was only a demigod going against the Universal Gods. While she was a monstrous talent herself, defeating them was practically impossible, and Nyrela knew that better than anyone.

Universal Gods are no joke.

But she wasn't raised to retreat when the odds were stacked against her. She was raised to face those odds and overcome them so that the next time, she would breeze through them.

She saw this as a trial, and so, with everything she knew, she kept her glaive moving, and that alone spoke volumes about her determination.

But while she was a demigod fighting five Universal Gods at the same time, Rhazor was an Immortal Monarch fighting three Universal Gods.

By all logic, he should have been crushed within a few exchanges. Yet, to their shock, not only were they unable to corner him, but Rhazor seemed to continue improving with every exchange.

It was mind-blowing, and that alone said a lot about the kind of monster he was. A paragon is no joke, but they didn't know that.

Rhazor maintained his momentum while keeping part of his focus on the Flame Dao Crystal.

So the moment he saw the Shadow Oracle slip past everyone and make a run for the Flame Dao Crystal, he smiled.

"Fury, destroy this bastard's soul."

ROARRRRRRR!

A tattoo on his arm glowed, and a white flame dragon roared to life. Everyone felt their souls tremble when Fury appeared and lunged at the Shadow Oracle.

Chapter 1585 - 1585: Intense Battle

The Shadow Oracle clearly had no idea he had been found out. But even if he did, he had no idea he would find himself facing an existence that countered his nature in every aspect.

A shadow cannot be attacked by tangible weapons. A shadow is formless, so basically, it can be anything. So attacking a shadow is akin to attacking the air or the ground.

However, when Fury roared to life and flames gushed from his mouth, the Shadow Oracle found himself struck by a deadly soul attack, the kind that made him grit his teeth and materialize his body.

A shadow's fatal weakness is its soul.

The moment they become formless, their soul merges with them, so even the smallest soul attack would damage them. So an attack from the Soul Fury Forbidden Flame was surely enough to severely damage his soul.

COUGH!

He coughed and spat blood onto the ground, his eyes narrowing at Fury. The latter loomed over him, his colossal white flame dragon body casting a vast shadow across the land. Fury flapped his wings as if taunting the Shadow Oracle to attack, but he did not.

"Who are you?" the Shadow Oracle asked instead, but to his shock, the reply was a bit infuriating.

"Your daddy."

Fury lunged forward, and when he got close enough, his massive body shifted sideways, and his tail lashed out with terrifying force, crashing down hard toward the Shadow Oracle.

BOOOOOOM!

The moment Fury's tail descended, the space beneath it shattered, and a devastating shockwave swept across the battlefield, one filled with ever-incinerating soul power.

The Shadow Oracle's expression changed drastically as he sensed a grave danger heading his way. He knew that the moment the attack landed on him, he was done for.

He raised both arms and summoned dozens of shadow barriers in front of him.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

The barriers exploded one after another, unable to withstand the overwhelming force behind Fury's attack.

As an Absolute Flame with an intelligent flame spirit, Fury's power was comparable to that of a True God. Of course, the Shadow Oracle stood no chance, not when he was a pitiful shadow.

By the time the final barrier shattered, the tail was already upon him.

"No!"

BOOOOM!

The tail slammed into his body and smashed him into the ground.

A massive crater spread outward as rocks, dust, and shattered terrain erupted into the air from the impact.

The Shadow Oracle coughed out several mouthfuls of blood, his bones cracking from the force of the attack.

However, before he could recover, Fury opened his mouth, charging yet another devastating attack, one meant to erase him entirely.

A white flame gathered between his jaws. However, while everyone could tell a flame attack was coming, the surrounding temperature didn't increase.

Instead, everyone felt an unusual chill spread through their souls.

Even the nearby Universal Gods, whether fighting among themselves or against Nyrela, instinctively distanced themselves.

They could sense the danger hidden within those flames.

"Fury Breath."

ROARRRRRRR!

A pillar of white fire erupted from Fury's mouth and descended upon the crater where the Shadow Oracle had been sent, slamming down with devastating force.

The Shadow Oracle's eyes widened in horror.

Without hesitation, his body dissolved into countless shadows that scattered in every direction, fleeing as fast as he could.

The beam crashed into the ground.

BOOOOOOOOOOM!

A terrifying explosion erupted.

The crater expanded several times over as white flames engulfed everything in sight.

The Shadow Oracle managed to escape the center of the attack, but the moment one of the shadow fragments was touched by the flames, his soul trembled violently.

"AAARRRGGGHHHH!"

A miserable scream escaped his mouth, sending chills running down everyone's spine.

His figure reappeared several kilometers away, blood pouring from every orifice on his face.

His soul had suffered another heavy injury, and to his utter shock, the damage this time was far deadlier than before.

"You bastard!" he roared hatefully.

Fury merely snorted.

White flames escaped from his nostrils as his enormous eyes stared down at the Shadow Oracle as though he were nothing more than prey.

"Stop barking and come receive another beating," Fury said arrogantly, causing veins to bulge on the Shadow Oracle's forehead.

Fury may not be the most talkative among his siblings, but whenever he spoke, he meant it literally. This meant he truly wanted the Shadow Oracle to come and receive another beating.

Around them, countless warriors were stunned.

The mighty Shadow Oracle, a God Emperor feared for his elusive abilities, was being completely suppressed by a dragon that seemed no more than an Immortal Monarch, yet was in fact a True God.

Even Rhazor couldn't help but grin.

"Good job, Fury."

ROARRRR!

The white dragon roared proudly before turning back toward the Shadow Oracle.

This time, however, there was no trace of mockery in his eyes.

Only the gaze of a predator staring at a wounded meal.

Rhazor knew the Shadow Oracle had only one way out, and that was to run and never look back. Fury had found his prey, and to be honest, Rhazor wanted to see just what else he could do.

Meanwhile, Void, Nirvana, and Qilin were all urging Rhazor to let them out so they could also join the chaos of the battle.

"Relax, guys, your chance will come."

They clearly didn't want to wait much longer, but they had no reason to rebel at this point. Rhazor planned to release all of them eventually, but for now, he wasn't done accounting for all the hidden dangers.

"AAARRRGGGHHHH!"

Suddenly, another scream came from one side of the battlefield. Turning around, Rhazor saw that Amaru had managed to land her first fatal attack, and unfortunately, it was against the Skeleton Shaman instead of the Bone Flayer God.

Her glaive stabbed into his shoulder, and with a deadly pull, she inflicted a terrifying wound across it. The cut caused his arm to grow limp, and with lava pouring into the wound, it wasn't healing at all.

Amaru has a skill called [Lava Infusion]. She can infuse her lava into her weapons, causing every injury she deals to be infused with lava. While the effect would eventually fade, for the next fifteen minutes, the Skeleton Shaman wouldn't be able to heal.

That, in Rhazor's eyes, was a win.

This meant Amaru had fifteen minutes to find a way to completely take out the Skeleton Shaman.

Even more alarming, if she could do the same to the Skeleton Shaman, then she could do the same to the Bone Flayer God and the Nightstalker. They knew that, and so they distanced themselves from her.

Suddenly, Nightstalker turned to her right.

"God King, what are you doing? Attack her before she singles all of us out."

For a moment, nobody said anything.

However, out of thin air, green petals started to fall from the sky.

Amaru, with her extensive battle experience, sensed danger at once, so she immediately distanced herself.

The God King stepped out from thin air and smiled at Nightstalker and the others.

"Looks like you three are not having any luck, just like the Shadow Oracle."

"Shut up and get serious," Nightstalker cursed and readied his dagger.

However, before he could move, a black-and-red coloured Qilin radiating overwhelming power appeared before the God King, and before he could make any move to evade, a massive paw slammed into his chest.

"PUNK!

Qilin had joined the battle.

Chapter 1586 - 1586: Grave Outcome

God King clearly wasn't expecting his arrogant entry to be met with a deadly paw. However, he was severely disappointed. As he found himself crashing toward the ground, he saw that the free entry he expected wasn't going to happen.

The 4-meter-tall black-and-red Qilin staring at him was his opponent, and as someone with powerful intuition, he could sense that this beast was not so simple.

And he was right. The Primordial Desolation Flame isn't a simple one. That forbidden flame has the power to create and destroy.

However, Qilin chose to lean more toward the destructive aspect of it. After all, he had nothing to build. So the poor bastard sensed the destruction rooted inside the flames covering Qilin's body and trembled.

Then again, if he knew everything about Qilin was created from the Primordial Desolation Flame, he would have already made a run for it.

BOOOM

His body crashed into the ground, creating a crater. However, he rose back up, and a whip appeared in his firm grip. The moment the weapon appeared in his hand, he moved, hoping to take down Qilin and go aid his temporary friends.

They hated each other, but for a common goal, they decided to work together.

Unfortunately for them, Rhazor and Amaru had destroyed their plans, and now that he was locked in battle with a deadly beast, if he failed to defeat Qilin, then they might as well forget about leaving here alive.

The bounty on their heads was already huge enough to earn Rhazor some money, after all.

Rhazor was still locked in battle with the three Universal Gods. Every move he made was met with a counter, and every counter that came after him seemed to grow even fiercer.

The last time Rhazor felt this way was when he fought Blood Shadow, who was an Immortal Lord when he was merely a mortal. He knew he was fighting an uphill battle, and to be frank, he hated it.

While all three Universal Gods were merely puppets, they were still Universal Gods. Killing them wouldn't be simple.

But even if it could be simple for someone like Rhazor, he still had to keep his attention on things while he waited for Icon to finish scanning the crystal and find out the dangers surrounding it.

So basically, if he used the Lotus of Destruction now, he wouldn't be able to use it when a real danger appeared. He was already using his Flame Spirits in battle, so using the Lotus of Destruction more would drain them easily.

So for now, he remained optimistic while weaving his way out of one attack.

Suddenly, an arrow zipped past Rhazor, causing him to turn to his left.

There in the air, a man clad in green armor locked another arrow onto him. He had no time to evade since one of the Universal Gods unleashed a spear thrust at his head.

Just then, a hammer came falling toward his head from the second Universal God, and an arrow came from the third Universal God.

But while their attacks were packed with great power, his skull went numb when the arrow of the fourth person locked onto his body.

This newcomer was just a True God, but with great power. Rhazor had no idea where he came from, but he wasn't about to let him get away.

But first, he had to handle the arrow flying toward him. Rhazor waved his hand, and a spear shot toward the arrow.

BANG

The arrow and spear collided, and the shockwave was immediate.

Both weapons were blasted back, and Rhazor, who used his mind to control the spear, felt a wave of pain pass through it. Luckily, he had more than one mind, so he switched to a new one.

Rhazor had no time to worry about the new archer since he had to handle three deadly attacks at the same time.

His body twisted at an unnatural angle, and before the hammer could hit him, he kicked the spear, causing it to crash into the hammer. Then he used his left hand to block the arrow from the third Universal God.

He moved back and then stomped the ground, causing flames to burst out. Using the chaos, Rhazor used the void to move and appear before the second Universal God, grabbing hold of his spear.

His left hand moved, and a slap echoed across the battlefield, causing heads to turn.

Three spears, controlled using his mind, followed the poor bastard, who had no idea his death was imminent. The moment the spears appeared before him, his body moved and evaded two, but the third landed on his shoulder.

Of course, there was no need to worry about a minor injury. However, the moment the spear landed, a terrible poison seeped into the body of the Universal God, and his body started to corrode.

After the evolution of his poison, Rhazor knew its terrifying power would now affect even Universal Gods, and it did. The moment the poison set in, the Universal God felt his body slow down and begin to grow weak.

The moment weakness spread through his body, panic flashed across the Universal God's face.

'Poison?'

That was the only thought that came to his mind as he desperately circulated his energy, hoping to suppress the corrosive force invading his flesh.

Unfortunately for him, Rhazor's poison was no longer something ordinary.

The corrosive energy spread through the Universal God's meridians like a raging flood, devouring everything in its path.

His movements slowed.

His reactions dulled.

Even the flow of power within his body slowed considerably.

Rhazor naturally wasn't the kind of person to miss such an opportunity. He knew the only way out was to take out one of the fake Universal Gods, so he could make room for more opponents.

The moment he sensed the change, Rhazor's body vanished, and void ripples spread through space.

The weakened Universal God's eyes widened.

"Behind you!" one of the other Universal Gods roared, the first time any of them had spoken out loud, at least.

But the warning came too late.

Rhazor stepped out of the void directly behind him, his hand already reaching forward.

The Universal God instinctively tried to turn around and thrust his weapon, just like anyone in this dire situation would have done.

However, his poisoned body failed him.

Everything felt heavier.

Everything felt slower.

By the time the spear moved, Rhazor's claw had already reached his back. Rhazor may have been just an Immortal Monarch, but his attack power rivaled even the Gods.

"[Beast God Claw Art: Domain Cutter.]"

SWOOOSH!

Five black claw arcs tore through space, tearing the void along their trajectory.

The Universal God's defensive barrier shattered instantly, and his armor exploded.

Blood sprayed through the air as claw marks extended from his shoulder all the way to his waist, nearly splitting his body apart.

"AAARRRGHHH!"

A painful scream erupted from his mouth as he flew backward.

But before he could regain control of himself, the three spears controlled by Rhazor changed direction again.

One attacked his chest.

One targeted his neck.

The final spear aimed directly for his head.

The Universal God's expression turned pale. He never expected Rhazor to be that decisive, at least not when he was merely an Immortal in his eyes. However, he was mistaken.

From the moment Rhazor made up his mind to kill him, he had already died. Such was the terror of fighting a Paragon. When it came down to killing, a Paragon didn't make mistakes.

The Universal God wanted to dodge.

He wanted to counter.

But the poison spreading through his body made even simple movements difficult.

Meanwhile, not far away, the mysterious archer in green armor narrowed his eyes. A thought crossed his mind as he watched the battle unfold, wondering whether the outcome of what he came for would benefit him or bring him grave consequences.

Chapter 1587 - 1587: Terrifying Guardian

What Rhazor didn't know was that the True God archer had come with a deadly mission: to make sure he never returned to the surface world.

His mission was that simple.

Kill Rhazor and ensure he remains dead.

As for who sent him, nobody knew, but he trusted his abilities and firmly believed he could accomplish the task. However, just when he thought he had found the perfect opportunity to strike, Rhazor went ahead and did the impossible.

All three spears found their mark.

The first pierced the Universal God's chest.

The second tore through his neck.

The third blasted through his skull.

BOOM!

His entire body exploded into a rain of blood and flesh, filling the air with the metallic scent of blood.

This time, the Universal God died for real.

He had already died once before, but the Twisting Vine Forest had brought him back using a strange ability.

Now, Rhazor had made sure he could rest in peace forever, sending him on his way in the most gruesome manner possible.

This display shook the True God.

For a brief moment, doubt surfaced within his heart, and he began to reexamine the mission he had accepted.

Was it truly worth risking his life?

Could he really kill a monster capable of slaughtering Universal Gods while still being an Immortal Monarch?

Unfortunately, he wasn't given the luxury of making a decision that would lead him to flee.

The moment the Universal God died, Rhazor turned his attention toward him.

Their eyes met across the battlefield.

The True God's heart skipped a beat.

It wasn't because of killing intent.

It wasn't because of pressure.

It was because Rhazor looked completely calm, as though killing a Universal God was nothing more than swatting a fly.

This terrified him.

As for the two remaining Universal Gods, they showed no signs of anger despite one of them dying just now.

Their expressions remained blank.

Their eyes remained lifeless.

Even the aura surrounding them didn't fluctuate.

It was as though they had witnessed the death of a complete stranger.

Then again, perhaps that was exactly the case.

They were puppets, once powerful gods trapped and killed by the Vine forest, only to be brought back to life as beings without free will.

Nothing more.

Nothing less.

The death of one of their own held no meaning to them.

Without hesitation, the two remaining Universal Gods attacked once more, their figures disappearing from sight as they charged toward Rhazor from opposite directions, determined to complete the task they had been created for.

However, Rhazor was already a step ahead. He stomped on the ground, and flames exploded from the earth, covering the entire domain. All three of them were swallowed by his Forbidden Flame Domain.

The True God lost sight of Rhazor the moment the domain, or at least a part of the paragon, appeared. This made him sigh to himself.

However, before he could make a run for it, since he had already decided to flee, two ladies surrounded him.

"I wouldn't think a True God would even have the face to run from a mere Immortal," Void said, her words reaching the True God's ears like needles.

He turned sharply and fired an arrow. However, Void raised her hand and summoned flames that consumed the arrow.

Before it could reach her, the arrow was reduced to nothing but ash.

"What a disappointment. Qilin and Fury got to fight decent warriors, and we're left with this bum," Nirvana added with a smirk. Then she turned and looked at Void and added, "Let's make sure he has an agonizing death."

"As he should."

Before the True God could make a sound, he was surrounded by orange and crimson flames. The Chaotic Nirvana Flame and the Void Incineration Flame had been unleashed, raising the temperature of the space.

Everyone close to the flames moved even farther away. They could tell with certainty that if these flames touched them, they were done for, so they retreated to save themselves from the damage.

Unfortunately for the True God, he wasn't that fortunate.

Meanwhile, up in the air, Nyrela had sustained some injuries. She was locked in battle with five Universal Gods, each wielding deadly domains, so it was only natural to sustain some injuries.

Even for her, such odds weren't something she could handle easily. However, despite the disadvantage she was at, she kept stealing glances at Rhazor, who, from what she had observed, always seemed to be a step ahead of his opponents.

When he killed the first Universal God, she felt like she had been beaten.

Rhazor killing a Universal God before she could sounded like an insult to her. However, she also understood that the odds stacked against Rhazor weren't as high as those against her.

Then again, if she knew the Universal God Rhazor killed had no domain nor bloodline, she would have patted herself on the back. But then again, she didn't need to challenge herself, not when the smallest mistake would be devastating to her.

However, while she was doing her best to survive, some clever ones, who had been waiting to see if she would be helped by someone, perhaps her guards, came to the conclusion that she had none.

This made some people bold, and so the moment Rhazor had been waiting for came.

Three Universal Gods suddenly appeared from nowhere. All three arrived behind Nyrela, weapons drawn and mere inches from her.

Her eyes widened, and she moved her body, channeling space essence to stretch the distance between herself and the two Universal Gods. However, she felt locked down.

It was then she noticed the Grim Wolf Alpha had cast a gravity suppression on her.

'I was arrogant for looking down on him,' she cursed bitterly inwardly, but there was no surviving the two attacks.

However, just when she was at a dead end, two flaming arrows, each packed with so much flame essence that the space around them started to melt as they flew across the battlefield, arrived before the two Universal Gods.

"NOOOOOOO!"

They shouted, their eyes widening as the arrows arrived before their chests.

The first crossed his sword over his chest, while the second Universal God erected a translucent shield before him.

BOOOOOM!

Their bodies were blasted back, sending them flying toward the Flame Dao Crystal.

Naturally, many who had been holding back until now ignored the sudden, deadly attack and made a run for it, chasing after the two Universal Gods who had no control over their bodies.

The five beasts also abandoned their battles, ignoring Nyrela entirely as they made a move to get their hands on the Flame Dao Crystal.

Nyrela, who had come close to death, also felt that she should chase after the two since the arrows were sending them closer to the very thing they were all fighting for.

However, before she could move, a voice entered her head.

"Don't."

She halted in her tracks and was about to turn toward the flame domain where Rhazor was when something chilling happened. Her body suddenly lost control, and before she knew it, she was crashing toward the ground.

ROARRRRRRR!

A terrifying roar and deadly pressure erupted from everywhere, sending everyone crashing to the ground.

Up ahead, everyone chasing after the Flame Dao Crystal was either blasted to pieces or severely injured. Some even dissolved into mist, while others vanished from sight.

Up ahead, just two hundred meters from the Flame Dao Crystal, a colossal dragon with deep black scales, four deadly horns, metallic wings, and a tail ending in deadly talons burst from the ground and rose into the air.

Inside the Flame Domain, Rhazor grinned.

"And we are at the endgame now."

Chapter 1588 - 1588: Obsidian Jade Crystal Dragon

The dragon's appearance and devastating presence left hundreds dead. However, perhaps those who died had it easy.

This was because the moment the dragon made its appearance, those closer to it who didn't die outright were reduced to boneless warriors.

The roar and pressure shattered every bone in their bodies, and on top of that, the dragon's authority pressed down hard on them, causing both pain and helplessness to overwhelm them.

Some tried to use Teleportation Crystals to return to the moon and run for their lives, but nothing happened when they crush it. It was as if the moment the dragon appeared, space itself had been sealed.

Nyrela, who had been stopped by Rhazor from chasing after the Flame Dao Crystal, saving her from near annihilation, gritted her teeth, half thanking Rhazor for saving her life and half cursing the five beasts that had made her waste so much of her energy.

She could tell with certainty that, despite this dragon being just a Universal God like the five beasts she had killed, lasting a minute against it would be a miracle.

That was how helpless she felt, and that feeling was further intensified when, out of nowhere, a chilling breeze blew past her.

At once, her body began to turn to crystal.

Her eyes widened, and she was about to muster every ounce of her strength to run when white flames suddenly surrounded her, dispelling the freezing cold.

Turning her head, she saw Rhazor standing beside Amaru, the two of them calm and seemingly unaffected by the dragon's suppression.

Rhazor gave her a wink, then looked at Amaru.

"Do you want to take it on, or should I?"

Amaru first let go of her glaive, which vanished into thin air. Then she smiled.

"I will handle it. Just go for the crystal the moment I occupy its attention."

Rhazor nodded.

"Good luck then. I expect you to dominate this battle."

Amaru nodded.

"I will do my best," she added

She was a God King, while the dragon was a Universal God. That gap was vast enough for Amaru to be at a disadvantage.

However, she wasn't a simple warrior herself. She had once been a Celestial who fought many battles like this. So she wasn't about to panic.

Rhazor walked away from her side and approached Nyrela.

"Looks like your winning streak ends here, my lady," Rhazor said with a grin, a sight that made Nyrela grit her teeth, but she said nothing.

She knew Rhazor was right. Her chances of winning the Flame Dao Crystal were very slim, so she might as well retreat and save herself the trouble.

"But fear not. While you lost this time, perhaps next time you will win. As for your mother, when she asks why you didn't return with the Flame Dao Crystal, tell her an incredibly handsome man called Efad beat you to it. She would understand and perhaps even reward you."

Rhazor patted her on the shoulder as if they were old friends and started walking toward the Flame Dao Crystal while everyone else remained suppressed by the dragon.

He had killed the two remaining Universal Gods sent after him by the Twisting Vine Forest.

While the battle itself wasn't that devastating, considering his opponents had no real domains, bloodlines, or even divine essence of their own, the fact that he survived their combined attack made all the difference.

As for Fury, he had managed to severely injure the Shadow Oracle, causing the poor bastard to flee. However, Fury gave chase, something Rhazor had instructed him to do.

Qilin had also severely injured the God King, making the latter curse ever coming to the Devil's Maw. He managed to escape, but it would take him some time to heal.

The Primordial Desolation Flame wasn't a flame that could easily be defended against.

Basically, he was lucky Qilin didn't go all out, since he was preserving his flame essence in case Rhazor planned to detonate more petals of the Lotus of Destruction.

As for Void and Nirvana, they managed to bring down the God King archer who had tried to take advantage of the battle between Rhazor and the three Fake Universal Gods to launch a sneak attack on him.

His arms and legs had been broken, and parts of his skin were charred. Void personally took her dear time roasting the poor bastard, making him curse ever accepting a mission to come after Rhazor.

If he had known Rhazor was that monstrous, he wouldn't have dared come after him at all.

This was an eye-opener—oh wait, his eyes had been burned out, so perhaps it was a lesson for him to never dare come after someone as dangerous as Rhazor.

Rhazor smiled coldly as he watched his flame spirits display their prowess without even trying.

Just as he had promised, he would make sure they evolved from mere flame spirits into Primordial Spirits and also advanced to the Extreme Stage.

It wouldn't be long before he himself became a Demigod, so he wanted them even more powerful and deadlier. Just like him, they weren't being suppressed either.

The reason he wasn't being affected was because of his Paragon Aura. It was the same kind of aura that made him fearless before the heavens.

Basically, if he didn't fear the heavens, then there was no way a dragon could use Dragon Authority against him and expect it to work.

Just as he was approaching the dragon, it roared and unleashed a tail attack, twisting its colossal body as its tail whipped through the air, aiming to slam into Rhazor with devastating force.

However, Rhazor grinned and summoned the Lotus of Destruction, plucking one of the petals belonging to the Soul Fury Flame.

The moment the petal, which contained the absolute version of the Soul Fury Flame, appeared, he tossed it forward.

It collided with the tail, triggering a chaotic explosion.

A deadly soul attack slammed into the dragon's soul, causing it to fly backwards and distance itself from Rhazor.

However, just before it could get far, another roar came from behind Rhazor.

Amaru transformed into her dragon form and unleashed a dragon breath attack, shooting a torrent of molten lava at the Black Dragon.

BOOOOOM!

The Black Dragon defended against the breath attack with a claw. Then, just as it had tried to do against Rhazor, it unleashed a deadly tail attack.

However, the attack swept through empty space, as Amaru was already upon the Black Dragon, her claws poised to strike.

Rhazor smirked and threw another Soul Fury petal, causing it to detonate beneath the Black Dragon.

This explosion unleashed another devastating soul attack, causing the dragon to lose its hold over everyone.

The moment it happened, many who weren't injured much by the appearance of the Black Dragon rushed toward the Flame Dao Crystal.

However, Rhazor merely smiled, and his legs lit up with flames.

He had summoned [Nezha's Wheels], and in an instant, his body vanished from sight like a blur, appearing directly before the Flame Dao Crystal.

However, instead of grabbing it immediately, he first scanned it to make sure there were no traps hidden within it.

After confirming it was clean, Rhazor reached forward and grabbed the crystal.

The moment he did, time came to a complete stop around him, and before he could blink, Rhazor found himself standing atop a mountain, face to face with a muscular man who possessed black dragon horns and long black hair.

"Finally..." the man muttered, a broad smile spreading across his face.

Chapter 1589 - 1589: Dragon Ancestor

Rhazor narrowed his eyes at the man, but no matter how hard he looked, he just couldn't see the man's strength. He stood like a mountain while Rhazor remained a pebble far at the base of that mountain.

Of course, his heart skipped a beat. However, instead of panicking, he asked, "How may I address this senior?"

The man smiled and nodded to himself. "Bold and filled with curiosity. I like bold people, kid." His smile grew as he regarded Rhazor some more.

"You can call me Dragon Ancestor, best friend and rival of the Legendary Beast God."

"Huh?" Rhazor's eyes widened upon hearing the man's introduction. He had clearly expected a name, but being asked to call Dragon Ancestor made Rhazor question how large this man's ego was.

However, instead of thinking too much, he paused his thoughts and first considered what the Dragon Ancestor said.

"You know the Beast God?" Rhazor asked, his eyes widening a bit more.

He had heard of the Beast God and even had one of his legendary techniques, the Immortal Claw Art, which he had already mastered the first form of to some level.

So hearing his name here made him question the Dragon Ancestor.

"So you know who the Beast God is, huh?" Dragon Ancestor asked with a furrowed brow, and Rhazor nodded.

"I have heard stories of him and even have one of his techniques."

"I see. Then have you heard of the Dragon Ancestor too?" he asked, this time looking closely at Rhazor as if to make sure he didn't lie to him.

Rhazor smiled weakly and shook his head. "I haven't spent much time around dragons, so even if there are those who know you, I wasn't one of them. I am sorry about that."

"No need to apologise, kid," Dragon Ancestor laughed and added, "While we were rivals, Beast God carried the universe on his shoulders, so it was only natural to still be remembered even after the Great Reset."

"Great Reset?" Rhazor's eyes sparkled.

Then he immediately asked, knowing he might just get some answers today, "Dragon Ancestor, does this Great Reset have something to do with the Great Catastrophe?"

Rhazor had only recently become aware of the Great Catastrophe, so he asked, knowing that if this Dragon Ancestor happened to be the real deal, he might just learn something new.

As he expected, the moment he asked the question, Dragon Ancestor raised his brow.

"So young, yet you know about the Great Catastrophe?" He frowned and narrowed his eyes at Rhazor. "I do wonder, though, how are you still alive when clearly, you aren't a Celestial or a Forbidden being."

He cleared his throat and added, "Just hearing about the Great Catastrophe should be enough to end your life, kid. It makes me wonder why you are still alive."

Rhazor smiled. "I am a special case, Dragon Ancestor."

"I can see that. What is interesting is that you remind me of the Beast God," he laughed, his mind going back to the good old days when he and the most dangerous person he had ever known fought against powerful opponents, sometimes narrowly evading death.

"Listen carefully, kid. The Great Catastrophe is not something that can be discussed, not even by me. Perhaps the only ones who could tell you something are the Beast God, the Vampire God, or the Crimson Tyrant.

They are the only beings in existence who can tell you what you need to know. I don't have such qualifications. After all, the Vampire God fought in the Second Great Catastrophe, and the Crimson Tyrant fought in the First Great Catastrophe."

Dragon Ancestor sighed, a bit disappointed that he could not tell Rhazor what he should expect. He could already see it: the kid standing before him was the real deal.

In his eyes, Rhazor was the one the universe had picked to carry its burden on his shoulders, just as it had done with the Beast God, the Vampire God, and the Crimson Tyrant.

"At least I now know the Great Catastrophe is real and that there is a way to learn about it. However, would you mind telling me where I can find the seniors you mentioned?"

And, most importantly, are there any survivors of the Great Catastrophes? Also, how many Great Catastrophes have there been so far?"

Dragon Ancestor nodded and smiled.

"Indeed, there are survivors. I survived the Third Great Catastrophe, but before the Beast God's and my time, two Great Catastrophes had already occurred, and the universe failed both, just as we also failed.

In my time, only 10,000,002 people survived, but it has been several years since then, so who knows if some have given birth or died inside the Universe Ocean, or as we initially used to call it, the Primordial Chaos, or Primal Chaos.

However, I learned several billion years ago that over 100 million people survived the First Great Catastrophe, and close to 50 million survived the Second Great Catastrophe.

Naturally, you should already see the trend. Every cycle is several times more dangerous than the last, hence the reduction in survivors.

So you cannot fail, kid, else you would lose more than you can imagine. Even though I cannot tell you about the true nature of the Great Catastrophe, I can say this: when the time comes, make sure all external threats are dealt with before facing it.

Also, do your best to reach the Universe Ocean and meet one of the three legends I mentioned before. Every cycle, we dream of the day our universe will transcend and become Primal. So do well to win, kid.

One last thing. When you come to the Universe Ocean, find me. I have something for you that I believe will aid your endeavours. Until then, appreciate the small gifts I have given you."

Rhazor didn't know when it happened, but Dragon Ancestor appeared before him like a ghost and tapped his forehead. The next second, he was back inside the Haunted Valley.

Before he could even do anything, his body released a terrifying aura, one far beyond anything he had ever seen before.

In an instant, everyone within a 300,000-kilometre radius lost consciousness, including even Amaru. The only ones who remained awake were Qilin, Void, Nirvana, and the Black Dragon.

Rhazor only blinked, but when his eyes fluttered open, he saw the dragon turn into a black orb and fly into his body.

BOOOOOM!

Another wave of energy erupted from his body, and at once, his cultivation started to rise, breaking past the Immortal Monarch Stage and stepping into the Immortal Lord Stage.

But it didn't stop. It kept climbing.

Meanwhile, far away, far, far outside this universe and cosmos, a man with flowing black hair and two large dragon horns hacked through the body of a serpent-like beast that, if it were to appear in the universe now, no one would survive.

After killing the beast, he looked up and exhaled. Then a smile formed on his face.

This man was the Dragon Ancestor, a beast who had stood at the apex of power during the Third Universe Reincarnation Cycle.

Ten million light-years away from his location, another man with golden hair, a lean body, three eyes, and a handsome appearance looked back at the dragon man.

This man was called the Beast God by all, an existence even the Chaos Dragon respected during the Primordial Era, and still did.

"So he made contact, huh?" the Beast God spoke, almost as if he were standing before the Dragon Ancestor.

"Indeed. We should start making preparations for what is coming," Dragon Ancestor replied.

"I will contact the Crimson Tyrant and the Vampire God. They need to know what will soon be happening." Beast God stated.

"You do that. I, on the other hand, will move closer to the Outer Eastern Domain and see if I can find that item."

"Be careful while out there. As you already know, the moment he succeeds and the universe becomes Primal, they will notice and descend. Lord Paragon will count on us to defend everything while he heads back into his main battle.

We cannot fail him this time, Marvos."

Dragon Ancestor nodded, not minding that the Beast God called him by his first name.

Chapter 1590 - 1590: Demigod

[Planet Caelmir - Orion's POV]

Orion, Klaus's Paragon Incarnation, was hard at work using the power of Atomic Qi to upgrade his subordinates when, out of nowhere, his body tensed, and then he blacked out.

He knew for a fact that Rhazor was after the Flame Dao Crystal inside the Devil's Maw. However, just when he touched it, he also blacked out, and that was when he met the Dragon Ancestor.

This could be explained by the fact that when Rhazor was pulled away, the consciousness of all the incarnations was also pulled away.

He got to witness someone who survived the Great Catastrophe in person, and, most importantly, he received confirmation that others had survived it, including the infamous Beast God, whose traces still remained even after the Great Reset.

He received that confirmation, and that alone was more than enough to tell him he must be careful when out there.

However, when the Dragon Ancestor said he had something for him that would aid him in his endeavour, he thought it was the Flame Dao Crystal.

But now, just when his eyes snapped open, he felt a very powerful energy, one he had never sensed before, pour into his cores.

At once, Orion started climbing the cultivation ladder, shocking everyone present and watching.

But he wasn't the only one improving.

[Earth Moon - Kaden's POV]

Kaden had managed to visit all the important places on Earth and the surrounding planets to see if everything was in order.

When he finally completed all those tasks, he returned to the moon to spend some time with his beast legion. They were happy to see him, and some even chose to challenge him to a duel.

Seeing that they were all pumped to fight him, Kaden accepted and even chose to train his Star Monarch Bloodline with their assistance.

So he started shifting between one beast form and another, making use of the versatile combat styles he could employ.

The Star Monarch Bloodline was not just for taming beasts and upgrading them. It came with a very powerful combat aspect that allowed him to transform into any beast as long as it was his beast companion.

The moment he transformed, he could use their skills, combat style, and even bloodline abilities. However, it took practice to get used to such a power.

After all, he had to familiarise himself with each transformation and learn how to harness the various skills and techniques available to him.

However, just as he was getting used to the training, he blacked out again, and when he recovered, he started levelling up.

But the shocking part was that his beast legion on the moon began to level up as well. This sight made Kaden wonder just how much energy was contained in the orb that had merged with him.

This thought came to mind because, as the same person, he could sense that Efad was also growing.

And indeed, after clearing the 3rd Void Vortex, Efad didn't receive any new memories as he did with the 1st and 2nd Void Vortices.

However, when he tossed the key into the vortex, he received a powerful movement technique called [Void Monarch Chase].

Basically, if he mastered it, he would be able to traverse the void several times faster than he could in the past.

So he quickly got to clearing the 4th Void Vortex. In the middle of that, he blacked out, and now that he was back to his senses, his cultivation started climbing.

The only one not being affected was the incarnation in the academy.

Klaus didn't want to cause a commotion yet, so he was channelling the energy he received into making sure Seraya, the weapon spirit of the [Grim Void Blade], levelled up instead.

In less than two weeks, he would leave the academy and head to the Elven Galaxy. Naturally, he planned to return as an Immortal King or Immortal Emperor. But while still at the academy, he wouldn't want to draw attention to himself.

The only attention he sought was toward his engineering brilliance.

The past weeks had been one invention after another. Klaus was focused on showing his brilliance to everyone over and over again, so every single day, he was the centre of attention.

So he had good attention, and that made him the centre of everyone's attention.

However, he did not want any suspicion directed at him while at the academy.

But while he was relaxing, sipping on his coffee, the main person to come into contact with a relic left behind from the Third Reincarnation Cycle had already reached the peak of the Immortal Lord Stage and had started to sense divinity.

Rhazor was dumbfounded by how fast he was growing.

But he had a firm foundation, so he wasn't worried about messing up his cultivation.

Perhaps lost in his thoughts, he failed to notice that everyone else had passed out.

As for his flame spirits, they had all returned to his Soul Sea, and, like him and his other incarnations, they were also cultivating the energy, all four of them already showing maturity comparable to that of 18-year-olds.

Time quickly passed, and before long, a day went by, but the people present still hadn't woken up. More importantly, whenever someone else entered the 300,000-kilometre radius, they would also pass out.

This drew much attention, and by the 2nd day, over a thousand people had arrived just outside the containment.

Everyone wanted to know what had happened, and, most importantly, they wanted to know who had gotten their hands on the Flame Dao Crystal.

However, no matter how hard they tried, nobody could sense anything. In the end, they choose to wait.

Meanwhile, on the 3rd day, the aura around Rhazor intensified, and before long, a familiar feeling entered his body, causing a smile to appear on his face.

BOOOOOM!

Suddenly, a terrifying domain bathed in flames erupted from his body, covering a 2-kilometre radius.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Pillars of flame erupted and parted the clouds, lighting up the entire Devil's Maw. The moment it happened, everyone outside the containment felt a very dangerous sensation wash over them, causing many to turn pale.

"What was that?" some asked, but no answer came.

A few minutes later, another wave of energy washed over them, this time primal and filled with so much killing intent. The moment they felt it, some ran while the brave ones stayed, but their bodies trembled in sheer terror.

"Has a Celestial appeared in the Devil's Maw?" they wondered, already suspecting the feeling that had washed over them to have come from a Celestial.

Unbeknownst to them, it was from a Demigod, a newly ascended Demigod who had only reached the Medium Rank. Rhazor had finally reached the Demigod Stage.

He was happy, and so were his other incarnations.

After all, one of them had become a Demigod, while Kaden, Efad, and Orion had pushed to the rank of Immortal Lords and even managed to reach the Medium Rank.

However, while everything seemed to have come to an end and everyone was happy, something else suddenly ignited.

From deep within Klaus's soul, a powerful blood aura exploded, and on the outside, Rhazor's body was lifted into the air. Then, as if by design, his body was cocooned, and on its surface, millions of runes appeared.

A terrifying blood aura seemed to ooze from the cocoon, causing the air around it to tremble.

It was as though a terrifying blood beast was about to be born, and even before that happened, the air had already started trembling in sheer horror.