

Paragon 191

Chapter 191 - 191: Beheading A Devil [Bonus]

Klaus unleashed ten percent of his Star Qi, channeling it into a soul attack that struck the monster, making it stagger for a brief moment. Seizing the opening, he dashed forward, his sword aimed directly at the creature's neck. But just before his blade could land, the monster leaped back, narrowly evading the strike.

Klaus smirked. With a swift stomp, he sent shards of ice shooting toward the tiger. They erupted from the ground, striking the beast's chest and pushing it back several meters. This gave Klaus the chance to summon his Lotus flower once again.

"Ice Beam!" A freezing blast shot forward, hitting the tiger square in the chest. Simultaneously, Klaus's eyes flashed, and another soul attack slammed into the tiger, disorienting it once more.

"Moon Slash!" An icy arc cut through the air, coated with sword qi as it slashed across the creature's chest. This time, with the tiger still dazed from the soul attack, its defenses faltered. A deep cut appeared on its chest, making Klaus smile.

The tiger roared in pain, shaking the ground beneath them. Its eyes burned with rage, but the disorientation from Klaus's soul attacks kept it off balance. Klaus didn't let up—this was his chance.

He charged again, his body moving with practiced precision. With each step, the ground beneath his feet froze solid, leaving a trail of ice in his wake. He swung his sword downward, aiming for the tiger's weakened chest. But the tiger, in a last desperate move, rolled to the side, narrowly avoiding the fatal strike.

"Damn it" Klaus cursed under his breath but quickly adapted. He slammed his palm into the ground, sending ice spikes shooting up around the tiger, boxing it in. The beast snarled, its movements growing more frantic, but the cold bit into its skin, slowing it down.

"Another," Klaus's eyes flashed again. As before, the tiger faltered, its movements stuttering in the ice trap, giving him the perfect opportunity to strike. With its body momentarily frozen in place, Klaus's follow-up attack landed with a dangerous boom.

The force sent the tiger flying back, crashing into the frozen ground. But instead of feeling victorious, Klaus grew more disturbed. Despite his relentless physical strikes and repeated soul attacks, the tiger still seemed unnervingly strong, refusing to give in.

"How is it still standing?" Klaus muttered, watching as the creature began to recover, its fierce eyes locked onto him. His frustration deepened.

"Does this mean I have to use the Pentaface Bead?" he whispered. The tiger was already charging at him again, claws tearing through the frost-covered ground.

"No," he shook his head, steeling his resolve. "I need this fight to gauge my strength. I haven't reached my limit yet."

His grip tightened on his sword, the cold air biting at his skin. This battle wasn't just about survival—it was about testing himself. Klaus wasn't ready to rely on the bead just yet. He needed to push harder, to break through the barriers he knew still held him back.

Klaus could feel it deep within—he wasn't living up to his full potential. That arrow should never have sent him into a coma. Ever since he woke up, that memory continued to haunt him, gnawing at his pride.

He blamed himself for being weak. He should have been able to defend against that arrow, but instead, he had nearly died. Too weak.

The thought sickened him. He hated it with every fiber of his being. All he wanted now was to become stronger, much stronger. The way forward was clear—he had to break through the chains that were holding him back.

Wasting no time, Klaus dashed forward with renewed focus, his eyes locked on the devil-class tiger. His grip on his swords tightened, and this time, there was no hesitation. He wasn't going to rely on tricks or strategies. He was going to kill the beast with his bare strength.

"Time to break these chains," he muttered under his breath, the ice beneath his feet cracking as he lunged at the tiger, ready to push beyond his limits.

Boom!

Klaus clashed with the tiger, this time holding his ground. He wasn't pushed back, which was a good sign. He dodged a swiping claw and countered with a swift slash, landing a cut on the monster's left arm.

The tiger roared in frustration, but Klaus was already moving. He sidestepped a heavy stomp from the beast, and like a flash of light, his sword cut deep into its left leg.

His eyes flashed again, and the tiger, disoriented, closed its eyes for a brief moment. That was all Klaus needed. He aimed his sword at its chest, targeting a vital spot. Just before the blade could pierce, a sudden, violent burst of energy erupted from the tiger, sending Klaus flying.

He hit the ground hard, but instantly dashed forward again, freezing the earth beneath his feet with every step. His body moved on instinct, and his mind was laser-focused.

Klaus cursed himself for not using his [Absolute Ice Domain] to gain an upper hand. He could have made this fight easier, but he didn't want that. He had relied on those abilities for too long. This time, he needed to see what he could do with just his sword.

Clang!

His blade clashed with the tiger's claw, the sound ringing like metal striking metal. But Klaus didn't back down. He pressed forward, his attacks growing more precise, more dangerous.

Without realizing it, he was adapting to the tiger's speed and movement. His body started to flow with a newfound rhythm, and each strike carried purpose.

Unknowingly, Klaus was creating his own battle style. Every slash, every dodge was becoming part of a new technique, one born out of this fierce struggle. He wasn't just surviving—he was developing.

Klaus's swordsmanship was evolving without him realizing it. It was as if he had entered a new phase of combat, one driven by instinct and reflex, though still lacking the killing force needed to finish off the monster.

"I guess I'll just trade injury for injury and see who gets the last laugh," Klaus smirked, his body bruised and battered from the attacks he had sustained. There were cuts scattered across his skin, but thanks to his superior healing, he was holding on.

He grinned, feeling the tiger's stamina beginning to wane. "It's getting tired. Best time to see if my beheading technique has a future, or if it was just a dumb idea," Klaus muttered, clashing again with the beast.

The tiger had used several of its abilities, but Klaus's relentless close-combat pressure had prevented it from activating any of its more powerful skills. It was good for him—bad for the tiger. With each attack Klaus landed chipped away at its strength, slowly wearing it down.

However, Klaus knew the truth. Without using the Pentaface Bead, dominating a Tier 7 stage creature wasn't going to be easy.

"It's not like before," he admitted to himself. The other tiers had been manageable with his skill set, but this was different. It was a fight of pure endurance now, one that would force him to dig deeper than ever before.

Still, this was exactly what Klaus wanted. He needed to push himself, to see how far he could go without relying on external power, even if it was his power. But so far, the results were disappointing. He was doing badly—too badly.

"Let's end this. I need to reevaluate my strategy," Klaus muttered, realizing that if the fight dragged on for just a few more minutes, he'd lose. The tiger is strong and relentless, and even though it was weakening, so was he.

"Bell of Harrows," he whispered, knowing he had no other choice.

At once, the bell appeared. Inside his soul sea, his Star Qi surged into the first face of the Pentaface Bead.

Ding!

The bell rang, and the tiger froze. It was only for a moment, but Klaus didn't need more than that. His sword, now coated in shimmering sword aura, flashed forward with lethal precision. In the next heartbeat, the tiger's head was severed cleanly from its body. The head flew through the air and landed with a dull thud on the ground.

"Ha," Klaus exhaled, a mix of frustration and relief in his voice. "In the end, I had to use it."

He stared down at the fallen beast, knowing that he was no match for a true devil.

[You have killed a Tier 7 Devil Monster called Red Eye Sabertooth Tiger. You have received 500,000 Exp.]

[You have leveled up. Current Level: Level 5 Master. You have received 400 Stat points.]

Chapter 192 - 192: Two Red Sinister Eyes

Klaus's Void Piercing Needle had been on a killing spree ever since the Monster Devil died. As soon as the big one fell, the smaller ones swarmed him.

But with his Spirit Eye still active, he could see exactly where they were. He controlled the needle, sending it out to kill them with precision.

Thanks to his recent level-up, his stamina had been fully restored. Now, he was fighting like a man with nothing to lose, swiftly dispatching the lesser monsters. He moved towards the fallen Devil Tiger and stopped beside its massive corpse.

"So this is what an Elemental Core looks like," Klaus muttered, picking up a red crystal-shaped core radiating intense heat. He studied it for a moment before storing it away in his ring.

"Good job, kid," the senior's voice echoed from his soul sea. "But don't be stupid next time. If you think you can take on a Devil without using your active abilities, you're fooling yourself."

Klaus smiled weakly, knowing the old man was right. If he had used his external abilities like the Ice Lotus Bloom, the Bell of Harrows, the Eye of Despair, or even the Ten Thousand Soul Needles technique, the fight would have ended much sooner.

Instead, he had only relied on his Soul Shock and Ice Beam, which had turned out to be more effective than expected. Even though he hadn't used much star qi, it had been surprisingly powerful.

"Still, I guess it worked out," Klaus muttered, a faint smirk on his lips. "But next time, I'll make sure to use everything I've got."

"Do that," the senior said. Though he was always about the Karma involved in him teaching him some things, he doesn't always care to tell him the important stuff.

Klaus unsheathed his sword from his back, the blade gleaming in the dim light. After quickly storing the monster's body, he dashed forward, his mind sharp with focus. The Tier 7 Devils were too powerful to practice his sword skills on right now, but the Tier 6 Terrors would do just fine.

As he cut through the air with his sword, his mind also kept controlling the Void Piercing Needle, guiding it toward distant targets.

With his brain managing two tasks at once—slashing with his blade and directing the needle—he knew he was training more than just his body. He was honing his mind, sharpening it like a weapon.

The clash of battle shook the forest around him, and the sounds of dying beasts echoed in the air. But Klaus had no intention of stopping anytime soon. If he wanted to farm Elemental Devil Cores and grow stronger, he had to level up as quickly as possible.

He needed to be ready to face multiple Tier 7 Devils at once. Within five hours, Klaus had killed enough monsters to gain 50 percent of the experience points needed for his next level-up. But as the sky darkened, he decided to stop and head back to his resting area.

Stepping into the cave, Klaus sat down in a lotus posture, closing his eyes to replay the battle with the Tier 7 Devil in his mind. He analyzed every move, checking if he could have attacked differently or found a weakness in its defense.

After replaying it over and over again, Klaus came to the same conclusion: the Tiger Devil had outmatched him in speed, strength, and defense. He was at a disadvantage from the start.

"I was really stupid to think I could keep up with that thing without using [Absolute Ice Domain]," he muttered to himself, shaking his head.

With a sigh, he pulled out the Fire Devil Core, its heat warming his hand. "Senior, what do I do now?" Klaus asked, looking for guidance.

The senior's voice came from within his soul sea, sounding gruff but patient. "Brat, one core alone won't make much difference. You've got two choices. First, consume it and hope for a fire-related power-up.

No promise it'll awaken your fire element, though. Or, second, create a technique like you did with the ice element. Consume the core to strengthen it, like how you fed the lightning runes to the Ice Lotus."

Klaus frowned. "But senior, I tried everything. I couldn't make it work," he admitted. He had spent hours trying to create a lotus with the fire element, but nothing had come of it. He had even tried shaping other flowers and animals, but every attempt failed.

"That's because you're not trying hard enough," the senior said bluntly. "You need to focus. Imagine exactly what you want your fire element to be. What does it look like? How does it act? Channel that vision into reality.

I'm sure you'll figure something out."

Klaus exhaled deeply.

"I need to come up with something," Klaus muttered, but deep down, he knew sitting and thinking wouldn't help. Instead, he entered his soul sea and began studying the Pentaface Bead for now.

He had to do something, even if it wasn't what he initially planned. The faces on the bead were bizarre, far more complex than they had first seemed. As his connection to the bead grew stronger, he knew there was more to uncover. Much more.

As Klaus focused on the strange faces, he realized that beneath their emotionless expressions, something was hiding. He could feel it. There was something beneath the surface, something he hadn't understood before. He focused harder, trying to peel back the layers.

The first face, "The Nightmare of Harrow Sounds and Ringing," drew him in the most. There was something sinister beneath that blank expression, something that seemed ready to awaken. Klaus wasn't sure what he was looking for, but he could feel a deep connection to this face.

"Maybe I've been going about this the wrong way," he muttered, settling into a lotus posture.

Tentatively, Klaus sent a strand of his sense into the Face of Harrow. Just as he expected, his mind was pulled into it—sucked into a void. But only for a moment. The instant his mind entered that dark space, two blood-red eyes slowly opened in the darkness.

Klaus felt his entire being freeze. Those eyes, huge and dripping with malice, filled the entire space. His mind went numb, overwhelmed by the sheer terror. In the real world, his body went limp, and he fell backward, unconscious.

It all happened so quickly that Klaus didn't even have time to react. His mind went numb, and before he knew it, he passed out. When he opened his eyes again, he was back in that familiar yet eerie space—the same place he'd been after his death during the Arcadian Mine invasion.

The strange monk was there, just as before. The same violet hair, the same handsome features, and that all-too-familiar expression. He was staring right at Klaus.

"God, I hate myself," the monk muttered, his eyes locked on Klaus with a strange intensity.

Klaus scowled. "Tsk, of all the names in this world, you chose Fruity? What an idiot," he said, glaring at the monk. Despite the calm aura around him, Fruity's gaze was anything but peaceful.

"You're weak," Fruity said flatly, his voice cold.

"And you're annoying. Why am I here?" Klaus shot back.

"You tell me," Fruity replied, his tone laced with mockery. "You were the one who thought it'd be a good idea to stare into the face of an Ancient Nightmare. God, how stupid can you be?"

Klaus clenched his fists. "Hey, shouldn't monks be more polite with their words? You're blaspheming the monk title," he retorted with a smug grin, though deep down, he knew Fruity was right. He had been reckless to send his sense into the bead. And now, he was paying the price for it.

Fruity clicked his tongue, giving Klaus a sideways glance. "Tsk, tell me, do you want some tea?" he asked with an infuriating smirk.

"Not today, bastard," Klaus replied, his irritation growing. He didn't like what his past self was hinting at. He wanted to learn more about his past, but he hadn't even processed the last memory yet. Watching his mother die had affected him more than he cared to admit.

"Tsk, weakling," Fruity said, dismissively waving his hand. "Then go back. Oh, and hey, you don't happen to still be infatuated with dragons, do you?" He smiled, but it wasn't a friendly one.

Klaus's eyes widened in sudden realization, but before he could ask anything, his vision darkened. He woke up back in the cave, his heart pounding.

"Fuck, my head hurts," Klaus groaned, rubbing his temples.

Chapter 193 - 193: Nine-Headed Azure Dragon

"Fuck, that bastard is too hateful," Klaus muttered, rubbing his temple. He knew he'd been stupid this time. Sending his mind into something the senior had described as a Forbidden Relic was just plain reckless.

Still, he had to blame someone. The fact that he had run into the renegade monk again only fueled his frustration. He had learned the Nine Divine Soul Beads Art from that bastard, so if anyone was to blame, it was his past self.

"And how the fuck is he so damn handsome?" Klaus groaned, feeling an irrational pang of envy over Fruity's good looks. It annoyed him more than it should.

He leaned back, not forgetting to take a sip of water before letting his thoughts spiral any further.

"I'll wait until I'm strong enough to enter the bead again," he decided, his jaw tightening with determination. He wasn't about to give up on it, not after coming this far.

Klaus knew there was something more inside that relic—something worth uncovering—and he wasn't going to rest until he found out exactly what it was.

"Dragons," Klaus muttered, recalling what Fruity had said before sending him out of that strange space. For some reason, hearing the word from his past self as the Renegade Monk stirred something deep within him.

He didn't know what it was, but he had a feeling he would find out soon. Klaus sat back in a lotus position and began meditating, clearing his mind while also pondering the strange sensation he'd felt when he heard "Dragon."

Minutes passed, then hours, yet Klaus remained motionless, deep in meditation. He hadn't had much time to meditate these past few weeks, so he took advantage of the quiet. Half a day drifted by, and still, nothing happened.

Suddenly, his eyes snapped open, and a small smile tugged at his lips.

"That could work," he muttered. With a flick of his wrist, a fireball appeared in his hand. He closed his eyes again, allowing the fire to rest in his palm. He wasn't manipulating it or doing anything special—it simply sat there, flickering with a calm, infernal glow.

More minutes ticked by. The fire remained still, burning steadily in his hand, as Klaus continued his meditative state. Then, without warning, the flame shook—but almost immediately, it returned to its tranquil state.

Suddenly, Klaus's eyes snapped open, flickering with an infernal hue. It was like those eyes of his were possessed by a fire deity for a moment.

The cave trembled violently and then exploded, sending debris flying from the mountain peak. From his back, a massive ring appeared—elegant yet imposing.

It exuded an aura of chaos. Within this grand ring, three star-shaped orbs that formed into a perfect triangle could be seen. Inside each orb, small golden, red, and white stars glimmered, each about the size of an apple.

The energy swirling around them was dense, capable of shattering mountains. Suddenly, the fire in Klaus's hands shot upward, soaring into the air. He, too, was lifted, still sitting in his lotus posture.

For a while, the flame just continued to flicker, shifting from red to black then dark gold, and then back to red. Klaus sat in the air looking at it with hungry eyes.

Suddenly, the star flickered and shot forward, entering Klaus's forehead in an instant.

The moment it entered his forehead, his eyes rolled back, and he fell into a trance-like state while suspended in mid-air. The massive golden ring behind him moved, hovering flat above his head. From each star, beams shot forth, forming a triangular dome around him.

In an instant, Klaus found himself in his soul sea, but this time, he was far from the doors. He had arrived in a part of the soul sea filled with burning flames. His soul sea consisted of different types of elemental energies and this time, he was submerged in the fire-type space.

"What is happening?" Klaus muttered, his voice uncertain. But before he could get an answer, the sea of flames began to shake violently. He stood there, watching the fiery waves sway and crash against one another.

"What is happening?" he repeated his voice barely a whisper.

Suddenly, from the depths of the sea of flames, a huge egg formed, made from red and black flames. It shot upward, parting the sea just like the Eye of Malevolence did when it was awakening. The egg is massive, its surface adorned with swirling black markings, radiating intense flame energy.

The moment it surfaced, the entire soul sea trembled. Klaus felt his own soul boil with a terrifying, chaotic energy. A while later, the egg shook and then began to crack.

He watched in awe as the egg began to crack. He held his breath, waiting for what was next, his heart pounding. As expected, the crack widened, and before long, the shell fell apart.

Inside the egg was a ball of flame, roughly the size of five basketballs. The flaming orb suddenly vanished, and Klaus quickly sensed its presence shift. His consciousness was yanked from his soul sea, and then he opened his eyes to the outside world. There, floating above him, was the ball of flame, burning brightly in the air.

Suddenly, it began to swirl, growing larger until it inflated to the size of 50 basketballs. Suddenly, with a deafening explosion, it detonated in a blinding flash, sending a shockwave that blew the trees away.

Klaus, safely inside the protective dome created by the ring, remained unharmed. Instead, he watched curiously, waiting to see what would be left after the explosion.

As the smoke cleared, Klaus saw it. Coiling motionless in the air was a dragon, about the size of an adult human. Its body shook, and with a sudden boom, a wave of fire exploded from it, sending Klaus flying backward this time. He landed hard but never took his eyes off the dragon now hovering in the air.

This time, the dragon became enormous—about 20 meters tall—with four clawed limbs, a scaly red and black body, and two imposing horns on its head.

"Is this... a real dragon?" Klaus muttered, his eyes wide as he studied the creature.

"No," the senior's voice echoed in his mind. "This is a fire dragon made from your element. But it's not just any dragon. It's an embryonic elemental spirit."

"Elemental spirit?" Klaus asked, confused.

"Elemental spirits are like you when you enter your soul sea, but they possess a unique nature. They can exist in both the soul sea and the physical realm. It's not a real dragon, but it is a real dragon in a way."

"So, it's like a dragon spirit?" Klaus pressed, still trying to understand.

"Yes," the senior confirmed, making Klaus smile.

Before he could ask another question, the dragon let out a deafening roar. The sheer force of it made Klaus feel like he was about to die.

"This..." the senior's voice echoed in alarm.

"Brat, you're awakening your fire element," the senior said urgently. At that moment, Klaus felt his soul sea shake violently. Then from the back of the dragon, a large crystal, bone-like structure emerged.

It was the size of a person's palm. However, soon, more began to follow. One by one, nine crystal bones appeared on the dragon's back. Then suddenly, the form of the dragon began to change.

Its body stretched, growing larger. Klaus barely had time to register what was happening before he was lifted into the air again and stopped only when he was a few meters from the dragon. Now floating in front of the dragon, the nine-star tattoos on Klaus's back began to glow.

A bone-shattering pain ripped through him as the stars lit up, but Klaus gritted his teeth, enduring it, knowing something powerful was happening.

As the transformation was completed, the dragon's head began to shimmer. Like a mask shifting, its head changes, revealing another dragon's head instead. Then that head also shifted, and another appeared. This happened eight times in total, giving the dragon nine distinct faces.

By the time the last head was revealed, Klaus's mind went numb, overwhelmed by the intensity of it all. He was on the brink of passing out. But just before he lost consciousness, he heard the senior's voice whispering inside his mind.

"The Nine-Headed Azure Dragon."

Chapter 194 - 194: The Azure Dragon Spirit

"Fuck, my head hurts," Klaus groaned, clutching his temples as he woke up in an unfamiliar part of the forest. His surroundings looked different, but the pain in his head was just too much for him to care about.

He barely cared where he was; his mind felt like it was being torn apart. After a few moments, the pain subsided enough for him to lift his head and take in the environment.

"The Fire Region," Klaus muttered under his breath. He quickly activated the projection on his tracking watch and confirmed his location, indeed, he was now in the Fire region. Inside the Demons Abode Forbidden Zone, there was an area known as the Fire Region.

It was said that when the apocalypse struck, part of the mountain near the reserve had exploded, releasing chaotic lava. That lava spread across the land, and the monsters that survived were altered, gaining fire-type abilities.

The monsters here were dangerous, far beyond what most could handle. Years ago, the military tried to eradicate them with advanced missiles, but it turned into a disaster. When the nuclear weapon detonated, only a small fraction of the monsters died. Worse, the uranium from the missile mutated the survivors, turning them into berserk, uncontrollable creatures.

After that, the government declared the area a no-hunting zone. Ten years ago, a team of 20 people ventured into the Fire Region, but only two came back. They reported seeing just five monsters still alive in the area, which shocked everyone. The military once again sent another force to investigate, and it was confirmed—the five monsters that remained were Devils.

The military attempted to fight them, but the creatures were too powerful. So they didn't do anything reckless. A while later while making plans to handle them, the overlords of Earth told them to leave, and the military complied, sealing off the area from any further exploration. They officially named it the Fire Region and marked it as a no-hunting zone.

"I need to get out of here," Klaus muttered, forcing himself to stand despite the lingering pain.

"What's the rush, brat? Aren't you after a Fire Devil Core? There are five powerful fire-type beasts here, and your Fire Spirit Dragon needs those," The senior's voice suddenly entered his ear.

"The Fire Dragon?" Klaus asked, immediately remembering what led to him going unconscious again. But before he could process it, he felt a burning sensation on his right arm. Looking down, he saw it—a dragon tattoo, glowing with fiery energy.

Klaus grinned and summoned the dragon with a thought. In an instant, a massive 40-meter-long dragon appeared, its body adorned with two giant horns and nine glowing crystals on its back. Its scales were a deep red, darkened with shadows, and its four clawed legs ended in menacing fire-tipped talons. Just the sight of it made Klaus shudder.

"Very powerful," he muttered, watching the dragon glide effortlessly through the air, its presence radiating heat and fire.

"Senior, I heard you say it's the Nine-Headed Azure Dragon. Care to share more?" Klaus asked, curiosity gnawing at him. For a moment, there was silence, making Klaus wonder if he had misheard. He had been half-conscious earlier, after all.

However, it didn't take long for the senior to start speaking again.

"All you need to know is that your Spirit Dragon is anything but normal. You haven't just awakened your fire element—you've awakened nine of them. Yes, those crystals on its back represent the nine awakened fires, but for now, you can only use one fire element because the Spirit Dragon is weak."

Klaus's eyebrows raised. Nine fires? He could barely process what that meant.

"And when I say it's not a normal dragon, I mean it," the voice continued. "The Nine-Headed Azure Dragon is the only dragon of its kind, born since the Primordial era..."

Immediately the senior said that, the heavens rumbled making Klaus smirk. He knew they were itching for an excuse to send down a tribulation. They had tried the same when he formed the Ice Lotus Bloom with the ice.

However, now, they wouldn't be able to do anything, the dragon wasn't just a skill—it's more like the spirit of his fire element. The heavens couldn't unleash a tribulation just yet, so they were trying to intimidate him instead.

"Go on, Senior," Klaus urged, his smirk growing.

"As I said, it's a one-of-a-kind dragon. Those crystals on its back represent the fire elements you've awakened. The first one is called Chaotic Nirvana Flame, and as the name suggests, it's chaotic, unpredictable."

Klaus observes the first Crystal has more glow to it than the other eight. This of course means that only the first Crystal which is the Chaotic Nirvana Flame is active.

"However, the flame is in a weakened state for now. To restore its full power, you'll need to collect many Fire Devil Cores," the senior explained. "And before you ask, the other flames will awaken as your Spirit Dragon grows stronger."

Klaus nodded, absorbing the information. His dragon wasn't just a weapon—it was more like his fire element made real. It's now stronger in this form and can be controlled, something Klaus wants more than anything.

"Senior, can it talk?" Klaus asked, his curiosity piqued.

"Not yet," the senior replied. "It hasn't awakened its dragon soul yet. So for now, it can only send out emotions, which I'm sure, with your Universal Enigma passive skill, you can easily understand. But it's intelligent enough to know when you're in trouble. I mean, it literally carried you here."

Klaus's jaw dropped upon hearing that. He had been far from the Fire Region before passing out, and now he realized it was the dragon that had brought him all this way.

"This is great! I can finally fly on a fire dragon!" Klaus exclaimed, his excitement barely contained.

"Don't get ahead of yourself," the senior warned. "You need to fully awaken the Chaotic Nirvana Flame and unlock the abilities that come with it before you think about joy rides. Even your dragon knows this. Why else do you think it brought you here? It's after those Fire Devil Cores."

Klaus was taken aback again. The dragon had its own desires and its own purpose. And it even sensed this place, exactly how powerful it is. Klaus was both happy and curious.

"So, I have to kill five Tier 7 Devils," Klaus muttered as he stood up. He walked over to the edge of the cliff the dragon had brought him to. He dismissed it with a wave of his hand and then called it back again.

Seeing the activation speed, he was more than pleased with his gains this time. He stared across the scorching forest expanse, spotting the distant home of the Lava Tail Mountain Lion.

Klaus had made sure to research everything about the Forbidden Zone before coming here. He knew all about the five remaining Devils. The five were the last ones standing after killing all the other monsters and feeding on them.

The Lava Tail Mountain Lion, the Fire Horn Leopard, the Berserker Flaming Wolf, the Laser-Eyed Demon Cheetah, and the Black Flame Devil Fox.

Each one is more dangerous than the last. They were the most fearsome creatures a warrior could ever face, and Klaus—who was still four realms below them—was about to challenge them to feed his flame spirit.

He glanced at the dragon. "Do you have any other abilities aside from flying?"

In response, the dragon rose into the air and lashed its tail forward. A powerful fire arc shot out, slashing into the small mountain where Klaus stood. The rock erupted with flames, sending bits of debris flying when the attack landed.

"Hey! Are you stupid? Do you want to kill me?" Klaus yelled, but a wide grin spread across his face. He was impressed.

"This will do," he said with a chuckle. He mentally went over his arsenal: The Void Piercing Needle, his Eyes of Malevolence linked to the second face on the Pentaface Bead, the Eye of Despair, the Bell of Harrows, and of course, his Nine Star Ice Lotus Bloom. That should be enough.

"This time, I'll shock the whole world when I kill all five Devils," Klaus declared confidently. He pulled up a screen on his tracking watch, his smile widening as he tapped on "Accept."

Just like that, Klaus entered the bounty pool created by the Overlords, a challenge left for anyone brave enough to hunt the five Fire Devils. His name was the only one on the list, marking him as the first person in ten years crazy enough to accept the challenge.

Chapter 195 - 195: The Devils Killer (1)

Klaus chose the Lava Tail Mountain Lion as his first target. As its name suggests, the creature's tail is its deadliest weapon, shaped like a blade capable of slicing through metal with a single swipe.

Ten years ago, the Overlords could have easily wiped out all five Fire Devils that roamed the Devil's Abode. But they left them untouched, setting a challenge rather for anyone brave enough to take them down.

A reward was promised, though no one knew what it was. Dozens of warriors entered, but none returned. Over time, people gave up on the idea of venturing into the Devil's Abode, not only because of the danger but also because the area lacked any real resources. Eventually, the place became deserted.

That was exactly why Klaus picked it. He wanted to push his skills to their absolute limit without risking the life of another warrior. Here, it was just him and the monsters lurking in the infernal lava pool.

His main targets were the five Fire Devils. He planned to kill them all and feed their cores to his Flame Dragon Spirit. If that also meant completing an old quest, so be it. The reward would come, and his name would spread even further. That was the plan.

With careful, calculated steps, Klaus moved deeper into the region, his Spirit Eye activated and scanning the area. The Lava Tail Mountain Lion was nearby, and he was ready for it.

After twenty minutes of moving through the rugged terrain, Klaus finally located the Lava Tail Mountain Lion. Using his Spirit Eye, he saw it resting in a pool of molten lava, radiating intense flame energy.

The lion was massive, about 3.5 meters tall. Its fur looked less like fur and more like a metallic coating, glistening with fire-like patterns. Its legs ended in razor-sharp, fiery claws, and its burning red eyes gave off an eerie glow. Each breath it took made the air ripple with heat waves, the sheer energy it radiated visible to the naked eye.

Coiled behind it was its infamous 2-meter-long tail, sharp as a blade. The tail looked like a hybrid between a saber and a scythe, ready to slice through anything that came near.

"That is one terrifying motherfucker," Klaus muttered, a smirk tugging at his lips. A plan was already forming in his mind—a crazy one, but that was how he operated.

He wanted the danger and he has finally found one. With a grin, Klaus moved appearing in the sight of the terrifying Lion.

"Hello there," he said casually, standing opposite the beast. "I'm Klaus, and I happen to need your core. You wouldn't be willing to give it up without a fight, would you?"

The Lava Tail Mountain Lion roared in response, its fiery eyes snapping open as it stood, muscles tense, radiating even more heat and pressure. It looks both fiery elegant and terrifying. Just a sight was enough to tell one this was no easy target.

"I guess not," Klaus chuckled, standing his ground. He could feel the immense weight of the lion's presence bearing down on him. 'This is no ordinary Devil,' he thought. 'Even its pressure is stronger than the last one I killed.'

Klaus's heart raced, but he wasn't afraid. This was exactly what he wanted—a chance to test just what the Pentaface Bead was truly made of. After his near-death experience trying to peek inside the first face of the bead, he knew one thing for sure: the bead was no ordinary artifact. Underestimating it could cost him his life.

Roar!

Slash!

The Lava Tail Mountain Lion didn't give Klaus a moment to think. Its tail whipped forward, sending a crimson arc of energy hurtling toward him. Instinctively, Klaus swung his sword, releasing a fiery arc of his own. The two attacks collided with a massive explosion, and the shockwave knocked Klaus backward.

"I can't beat it one-on-one," Klaus immediately realized his shortcomings. 'I'd be sending myself to the grave if I try to face it head-on.'

Without hesitation, Klaus muttered something under his breath. A bell materialized behind him, growing rapidly until it hovered at three meters tall. At the same moment, the lion lashed its tail again.

This time, Klaus didn't bother with his sword. Instead, he pointed forward, and the giant bell surged ahead, slamming into the lion's fire arc. A deafening ring echoed across the battlefield.

The lion, standing 100 meters away, roared in agony as the sound wave hit it, forcing it back. Blood began to burst out of its eyes and nose as the sonic wave pressed down on its brain. Its eyes burst under the pressure.

"Not good," Klaus muttered, eyes narrowing. He hadn't expected the bell's sound to be so powerful. It felt more like a beacon—a call for the other four Fire Devils. If he didn't act fast, he would have more than a single battle on his hands soon.

With that thought, Klaus sprang forward, the bell spinning above his head, still pristine with no cracks. However, the attack had drained him. He felt a massive pull on his Star Qi—12% of his 170 million qi pool had been used in that single attack. But the results were worth it.

The lion's eyes were gone, leaving it blind, but that wasn't the only effect. Its soul had been shaken by the bell, leaving it vulnerable. Its molten fur dimmed, and Klaus knew he couldn't waste any time.

Slamming the bell forward again, Klaus struck the lion in the head, sending it staggering backward. The beast was weakening with every attack, and its defenses were dropping fast.

With no hesitation, Klaus leaped into the air, sword raised high. Its tip glowed with sharp sword qi. The blinded, weakened lion struggled, its instincts barely keeping it aware of its surroundings. But it was too late.

Klaus plunged his sword into the lion's neck, and as he did, his ice qi surged through the blade, flooding the Lava Tail Mountain Lion's burning body. The clash of ice and fire created an intense reaction, boiling the lion from the inside. Its massive body shuddered violently as the heat and ice fought within.

Suddenly, a wave of dense fire energy exploded from the lion's body, throwing Klaus through the air. He crashed 200 meters away, but a satisfied smirk crossed his face. He had already achieved his goal. Moments later, the colossal lion staggered and fell, its life force extinguished.

A notification flashed before Klaus's eyes:

[You have killed a Tier 7 Devil Monster called Lava Tail Mountain Lion. You have received 800,000 EXP.]

"I knew it, this devil's way stronger than the Sabertooth Tiger," Klaus muttered, eyes locked on the lion's steaming body as it collapsed to the ground.

With a swift movement, Klaus used the fire essence lingering in the air to propel himself forward. In the blink of an eye, he was standing beside the lion's fallen body. He reached down and pulled out the monster's core. Without hesitation, he crushed it in his hand.

The dragon tattoo on his right arm glowed fiercely as the energy from the core surged into it. Klaus smiled, watching the power get absorbed.

"Rest for now, buddy. You'll be hard at work soon," he whispered, patting his arm. Then, almost casually, he pulled out his phone.

He set a timer, and using his ability to control objects, he made the phone float in front of him, positioning it for a picture. With a step on the lion's head, he struck a pose, the phone snapping the shot.

"Ha! What a waste of talent," he chuckled, looking at the phone. Controlling weapons was one thing, but using his abilities for a selfie? He couldn't help but smirk at the absurdity.

After securing the picture, he stored the lion's body in his spatial ring. But there was no time to waste. The other four Fire Kings would soon sense the disturbance, and Klaus had no intention of letting them gang up on him.

Pulling up his Tracking Watch, he located his next target: the Fire Horn Leopard. Without hesitation, he began moving toward its lair, ready for the next battle.

Chapter 196 - 196: The Devils Killer (2)

"This monster is more like a jaguar than a leopard," Klaus muttered, using his Spirit Eye to observe the Fire Horn Leopard. He was concerned after using the Bell Of Harrows in the last fight, the other Fire Monsters would come.

But from the look of this, this Fire Horn Leopard has no such plans. It was just sleeping, or at least that was how it wanted others to think.

It was also clear that the five Fire Devils didn't like each other, or rather, they simply stayed out of each other's business.

"Brat, try not to cause too much disturbance. Below that rock is a Fire Tulip. Eating it will greatly boost your fire element potency," the senior's voice echoed from within Klaus's soul sea.

Klaus's eyes lit up. "You mean there's a treasure here? Senior, was there a treasure in the first region where I killed that lion?" he asked, his mood visibly improving.

"Everything about this place is a treasure. Just being here will greatly temper your body and strengthen your fire element," the senior replied, slightly amused.

"Well, isn't that just great," Klaus said, glancing around with newfound excitement. After a few moments of observing his surroundings, he realized he had to be careful now. The leopard was resting on a rock, which was precariously balanced on two others. Using his heightened senses, Klaus spotted the flower hidden beneath the rock.

"I need to kill it as fast as possible," Klaus muttered, quickly shifting his focus to a plan. From what he knew, the Fire Horn Leopard has only two abilities: Fire manipulation. The horn on its head is what he uses to manipulate the fire. Also, extreme speed.

Its speed is similar to how Klaus taps into the elemental essence in the air to move but its own is faster—much faster.

Klaus knew better than to engage in direct combat with a beast like this. He might be fast, but he isn't quicker than a Tier 7 Devil that could control fire. Entering a straight fight would be suicide.

"Brat, you have to be careful," the senior's voice echoed once again. "This monster has a unique skill—it can heal itself using fire. And, well, you're literally in the heart of flames here, so be cautious."

Klaus's brow furrowed. "Great," he muttered.

"Just what I needed—an opponent that regenerates in its own element." He glanced around, feeling the oppressive heat of the environment. The flames that surrounded the area were like a constant energy source for the creature. One wrong move, and he'd be stuck in an endless battle with a beast that wouldn't stay down.

But Klaus wasn't one to back down. He had faced worse odds and survived. He took a deep breath, steadying his nerves.

He quickly started moving forward, each step revealing a different aspect of the leopard. It was massive, stretching three meters long, with a hard exoskeleton that looked like molten lava, gleaming like hot metal under the sun.

Its eyes were deep, blood-red, glimmering with a predatory intensity. Atop its head sat a twelve-inch horn made of unyielding metal. The tip radiated heat, and Klaus could see the jagged teeth lining its powerful jaws—each one sharp and menacing.

"What a hideous creature," Klaus muttered, trying to suppress a shiver that ran down his spine.

"This better work," he said, steeling himself as he stepped into the monster's line of sight. The leopard responded immediately with a deafening roar, shaking the very ground beneath Klaus's feet.

"I know, I know. I promise it will be quick," Klaus smirked, but he was being more careful this time.

The Fire Horn Leopard stood up, towering over him, its massive form still atop the rock. Klaus noticed that its horn began to glow, pulsing with fiery energy. The air around it shimmered with heat, and Klaus could feel the intensity building.

"Here we go," he whispered

He muttered something, and in an instant, a terrifying red eye appeared behind him—large and menacing. Klaus's Eye of Malevolence had merged with the second face of the Pentaface Bead, the Eye of Despair. This fusion allowed him to control the skill more actively than ever before.

The horn atop the leopard glowed fiercely as a ball of flame began to materialize on it. Sensing the imminent danger, Klaus quickly formed a hand seal, and at that moment, his Star Qi surged, flooding into the eye.

A sharp headache pierced through his skull, but he pushed through the pain, locking his gaze on the leopard.

"Later, buddy," he muttered. With a surge of energy, the eye shot out a wave of red energy, a beam that slammed directly into the leopard's head.

The creature let out a roar and staggered backward, disoriented. Just then, a sixteen-inch needle streaked through the air, aimed right at the leopard's skull. Just when it seemed the needle would pierce, the leopard, barely hanging on, roared again, deflecting the attack with a desperate swipe.

Klaus smirked, tapping into the fire essence swirling in the air around him. In a flash, he moved, his sword gleaming blue as he channeled his ice essence into it. With a swift thrust, he stabbed the blade deep into the leopard's neck, his ice qi surged freezing it from the inside.

Within seconds, its massive body was frozen solid, and then slowly, it fell with a thud.

"Sorry, buddy, I don't have all day to see what kind of skills you have," Klaus muttered, standing atop the stone where the leopard had been just a few moments ago.

"Good one, kid. Now sit on the stone, and I'll teach you a way to channel that energy to temper your body. It'll increase your resistance to fire." Klaus didn't need to ask for more details; he knew the senior wouldn't offer any explanations, given the karma involved.

Klaus settled into a lotus posture, preparing himself for what was to come. At that moment, deep within his soul sea, a golden orb shot out from the first door, pulsating with energy. As it entered his mind, Klaus felt a surge of information flooding his consciousness.

He quickly formed a series of hand seals. From the ground, a round diagram appeared, glowing with energy. As soon as it took shape, Klaus felt his skin start to burn. The hot energy from the surrounding lava began to bake him alive.

"Fuck, this hurts!" Klaus gritted his teeth, forcing himself to stay still as the intense energy coursed through his body. Despite the searing pain, he knew he had to endure.

He could feel his body growing more resistant to the heat, and he knew that with this, he would be able to walk around the Fire region without feeling even an ounce of heat.

Thirty minutes later, the heat baking him subsided, meaning it had no effect on him anymore. He stood up and kicked the large stone he had been sitting on, sending it flying. Beneath it, he found a red flower, burning hot. He scooped it up and stored it in his space ring.

"I'll absorb that when I get back home." He then moved to the body of the leopard and, with a flick, picked out the Fire core and crushed it. The dragon tattoo glowed, and the energy from the core flowed into it.

"So, senior, does that mean I just need to feed the Flame Spirit if I want to unlock the other awakened fire elements?" Klaus asked as he stored the monster's body and started moving toward the next region.

"Yes," the voice answered. "You've already awakened them, so just feed the Flame Spirit, and you'll gain enough control over the fires for combat. But that doesn't mean you can stop strengthening your body.

Even though the Flame Spirit holds all types of flames, your body wouldn't be able to handle them yet. The best plan is to keep using all sorts of resources to temper your body. With enough resistance to the fire, you will be able to start actively using them without getting any harmful backlashes"

"So what are my chances of using the Chaotic Nirvana Flames" Klaus suddenly asked

Chapter 197 - 197: The Devils Killer (3)

"So, what are my chances of using the Chaotic Nirvana Flames?" Klaus asked.

"You won't get burned, that's for sure," the senior replied. "But detonating it up close? Not a good idea. You should absorb the Fire Tulip first before trying to blow up your Fire Dragon. Trust me, the damage this new flame will cause is hundreds of times worse than that fireball, so be careful."

The senior's words made Klaus laugh and frown at the same time.

He had awakened nine different flames, ones he had never even heard of before. When he asked the senior for more information, all he got was, "You'll find out soon." Klaus didn't want to seem desperate, but he was. He hadn't summoned the dragon in battle yet, but he could feel its power—just from how it reacted each time he fed it a core.

They were connected on a soul level, so he could sense it, like how one feels their cultivation. He knew it was strong. And even though the senior said he needed to unlock the skills that came with it first, Klaus knew that just detonating it could solve most of his problems.

"Sounds great then, I guess I have nothing to worry about," Klaus said, already thinking of the destruction he could unleash with his new attacks. Of course, the senior could sense the mischief brewing from a mile away.

"Brat, don't do anything reckless. Even consuming the meat of the two monsters you've killed will increase your resistance to the flame more," the senior warned. Klaus only nodded as he entered the region of the Berserker Flaming Wolf.

"Brat, I'm afraid this isn't going to be easy," the senior added, but before he could finish, Klaus's senses flared. The Berserker Flaming Wolf was already charging toward him at full speed.

Without hesitation, Klaus willed his Ice Lotus Bloom into existence. His dragon tattoo glowed, and with a mighty roar, his Fire Dragon emerged into the air.

"Attack from the side, and don't get too close," Klaus said. While it felt natural to give the dragon commands, he knew from the senior that until it awakened its dragon soul, it wouldn't be able to make decisions on its own. Still, he couldn't help but guide it.

As the Dragon soared upward, the Berserker Flaming Wolf came into view. The creature stood four meters tall, fangs dripping with molten lava. Its crimson skin was engulfed in flames, and its claws glowed with fiery heat. Its tail, ending in a serpent's head, swayed menacingly.

Klaus activated the first ability of the Lotus Flower, sending a concentrated beam of ice toward the beast. But the Wolf reacted swiftly, raising a fiery dome around itself to block the attack. At the same time, the Fire Dragon unleashed its skill, one Klaus had named [Tail Slash Kill].

The dragon's tail whipped forward, releasing a sharp arc of fire that sliced through the flaming dome. It cut the barrier in half, but the Berserker Flaming Wolf barely seemed fazed.

It leaped back, and true to its berserker nature, its body shuddered before launching a volley of sharp fire arrows directly at Klaus.

Reacting quickly, Klaus surged his star qi into the Ice Lotus. His Absolute Ice Domain activated, forming a barrier that stopped the incoming fire arrows. For a moment, the battlefield was split—flames on one side, ice on the other.

Klaus narrowed his eyes. This beast wasn't going to go down easily, but neither was he. The Berserker Flaming Wolf was berserk by nature, and Klaus knew that just using ice to block its attacks wouldn't be enough. He had to get more aggressive with his techniques.

Ding!

The Bell of Harrows appeared and rang out, sending sonic waves and soul attack, crashing into the Flaming Wolf. For a moment, its fiery body dimmed—proof that Klaus's soul attack had worked.

But he didn't give it a chance to recover. The [Eye of Despair] manifested next, glowing ominously. Klaus focused, sacrificing 20 percent of his Star Qi. Tapping into the soul beam skill of the Eye of Despair, a powerful soul attack was unleashed.

The Flaming Wolf tried to activate its defense again, but this time, it was useless. The soul attack bypassed its physical defense hitting its soul directly.. Its fiery body dimmed even further. Up in the air, Klaus's Fire Dragon, draining his stamina and qi by the second, lashed out once more with its tail sending fire arc at the wolf.

Howl!

A painful howl erupted from the Berserker Flaming Wolf as the fire arc from the dragon's tail slashed deep into its side. Klaus couldn't help but grin slightly. He'd finally landed a serious hit.

"I need to end this quick before I'm drained," Klaus muttered to himself. He could feel his stamina dropping fast, his qi pool draining with each passing second. Using the dragon alongside the [Bell of Harrows], [Eye of Despair], and the [Nine Star Ice Lotus Bloom] was taking its toll on him.

He knew he didn't have much time left before he was completely spent. He retrieved his sword and then deactivated the Bell of Harrows. Klaus focused again, channeling another soul attack with the eye of despair that landed squarely, just like before.

"Going in," Klaus muttered. He dashed from his position, his sword slashing down as he appeared beside the wolf in an instant. A deep cut landed on its hind leg, causing it to howl in pain. But Klaus wasn't satisfied.

"This is a problem," he thought, feeling a tingling sensation in his hand from the impact of the strike. "Is its leg made of metal?"

The Berserker Flaming Wolf's skin had been tougher than he anticipated. Klaus examined the wound he had inflicted, realizing that it didn't bleed like it should have. Instead, it glimmered ominously, almost as if it had a protective layer beneath its fiery exterior.

"No matter, plan B then," Klaus muttered. A 16-inch needle appeared in the air as the dragon slashed its tail one last time before dissipating. Klaus had to recall it to preserve his remaining Star Qi and stamina. But the dragon's final attack wasn't in vain—it shattered the wolf's new defense.

This gave Klaus the opening he needed. Wasting no time, he unleashed a combined attack. The Eye of Despair glowed menacingly, while his own Eye of Malevolence sharpened his aim, making his strike more precise.

But that wasn't all. The Nine Stars Ice Lotus Bloom activated its Ice Beam skill, sending a focused blast of icy energy. In a deadly three-way combination, the Eye of Despair unleashed a soul attack, the Ice Beam followed, and Klaus's Moon Slash, infused with fire essence, sent a crescent-shaped flame arc cutting through the air.

All three attacks collided with the Berserker Flaming Wolf in rapid succession. The wolf howled in agony as the combined force struck it with devastating precision. Yet, Klaus wasn't done.

The Void Piercing Needle shot forward, slicing through the air and piercing the wolf's neck. Blood gushed from the wound, but the needle didn't stop there. It flashed through the air again and again, stabbing the wolf's neck dozens of times in a blur of lethal strikes.

Despite the savage onslaught, the Berserker Flaming Wolf refused to die. Its body, though battered, still clung to life. However, it no longer had the strength to fight back. Its berserk rage had been wasted, as Klaus never gave it a chance to attack. He knew better than to allow a Tier 7 Devil beast any opportunity to retaliate—that would be a death sentence.

Finally, the wolf let out one last pained howl before its massive body collapsed to the ground with a heavy thud. Klaus sighed knowing it was a close one this time. The Wolf was far more powerful than he had expected, however, he managed to take it down, thanks to his control over his skills.

"Great control, brat," the senior praised. But Klaus was too exhausted to respond. He collapsed onto the ground, sitting heavily on his butt as he gasped for air, his body spent from the intense battle.

After a few minutes, Klaus forced himself to his feet, still drained but determined. He staggered over to the Berserker Flaming Wolf's fallen form, carefully prying out the Fire Core from its chest. Then, with a sigh, he slumped down again, this time sitting on the massive wolf's body.

"Three down, two more to go," he muttered, his voice weak but his face lit up with a tired smile.

Chapter 198 - 198: The Devils Killer (4)

Klaus spent the next four hours sitting on the body of the Flaming Wolf, consuming core after core. He hadn't made much progress leveling up in the past few hours, so he used the time to close the gap. He added the 400 points he gained from leveling up to level 5 straight into his stamina, which helped him recover much faster.

Although his Star Qi was heavily drained, he still had enough to push his Overlord healing passive skill into overdrive. After consuming hundreds of cores from his earlier hunt and eating some regular food, he managed to recover his stamina and restore about 70% of his Star Qi.

He also boosted his experience points to 32 million, leaving him just a million and some spare coins short of reaching level 6. That level-up was crucial—he needed it for his final target, the Dark Flame Demon Wolf, a really nasty creature that would require every skill in his arsenal.

But for now, his next focus was on the Laser-Eyed Demon Cheetah, one of the most dangerous offensive monsters in the region.

Klaus had seen a post online saying that five years ago, five Great Sages—each as strong as a Tier 7 monster—had tried to take the cheetah down. Only two of them made it out, and they were severely battered.

He even saw a post that said they fell unconscious and only woke up two years later. That was enough to tell him how powerful the Monster was.

That was five years ago, so Klaus knew the beast had likely grown even stronger since then. This time, he would need to be extra cautious.

He fed the fire core to the Dragon, then started moving toward the region where the Laser-Eyed Demon Cheetah was said to roam. The cheetah is one terrifying monster, known for shooting devastating attacks from its eyes.

It had no other abilities, but that single skill was deadly enough on its own. As they always say, a warrior with one skill that can be used a thousand ways is more dangerous than one with many with less mastery over them.

"Brat, your control over your skills is impressive, as it should be for a Weapons Overlord," the senior said, his tone blunt as always. "But you need to be extra careful when using them. Your last battle was won because your Star Qi is several times stronger than Spiritual Qi."

The senior's words hit Klaus like a brick. "Had it been Spiritual Qi, you'd be dead by now," he added, dropping the bomb without hesitation.

Klaus nodded, knowing full well that the old man wasn't exaggerating. He really would have died if not for his superior energy source. Star Qi had saved his life in that battle, but it also masked his mistakes.

"You've got to learn when to use a skill and when to hold back," the senior continued, his voice gruff but filled with experience, one that Klaus needed to hear. "Instead of activating everything at once, you should've been strategic. Analyze the situation before unleashing a technique."

You need to learn how to use your abilities without draining so much stamina and Star Qi. That's the key to surviving in the long run. Your current style won't hold well in a large-scale combat"

Klaus felt a twinge of embarrassment, knowing he had gotten carried away during the fight. His eagerness to end it quickly had led him to recklessly unleash his abilities, burning through energy like there was no tomorrow.

"Thank you, senior," Klaus said sincerely, his voice steady, but there was a weight in his chest. He was grateful for the advice, but it also reminded him that he still had much to learn.

Being a Weapons Overlord wasn't just about raw strength. It was about control, precision, and making every move count. He has control over all weapons, but he has to learn how to effectively learn to use them.

The senior's words echoed in his mind as he continued toward the Laser-Eyed Demon Cheetah's territory. He would have to be smarter this time. His Star Qi might be powerful, but he couldn't rely on it alone. If he kept wasting energy recklessly, he'd eventually find himself cornered without enough strength to get out.

"I've only got 70% of my Star Qi left," Klaus thought, clenching his fists as he stepped into the domain of the Laser-Eyed Demon Cheetah. "I need to end this battle in five exchanges, or I'll have no choice but to retreat and try again later."

His eyes scanned the area, and his jaw tightened when he saw the massive beast before him. "They keep getting bigger and bigger," Klaus muttered under his breath, locking his gaze onto the 4-meter-tall cheetah standing inside a pool of fire.

"I guess they weren't exaggerating when they said it only has one eye," he added, eyeing the creature's demonic form.

The cheetah was a terrifying sight, its twisted features resembling a monster straight out of a nightmare. Its legs looked like sharp metal blades, and its entire body glowed like molten lava, emitting waves of heat.

But the most terrifying feature was the single dark red eye centered on its forehead. That eye is its weapon, the deadly source of its attacking power. From everything Klaus had read online, once that eye locked onto its target, there was no escape. One shot from that thing, and it was game over.

Klaus moved discreetly, careful not to draw attention just yet. His mind raced as he formed plans, weighing his options. He needed one precise attack to finish this fight, but the Cheetah would also only need one precise attack to end him.

It would be a deadly game of cat and mouse, and Klaus wasn't sure if he could defend himself from its laser. He had to be extra careful.

The air was thick with tension, and Klaus could feel the weight of the upcoming battle pressing on him. His heart pounded, but he forced himself to stay calm. If he let his emotions get the best of him, he'd make a mistake, and there'd be no second chances with this beast.

"Alright, buddy, it's all on you now," Klaus said, rubbing the dragon tattoo on his arm. He had come up with a plan, and it was a wicked one.

He moved closer to the range where he knew the cheetah could sense him and stopped. Just as he expected, the cheetah turned its dark red eyes toward him, ready to lock on. At that moment, the dragon appeared in the air, roaring loudly.

The cheetah averted its gaze to the dragon. With a swift motion, the dragon slashed its tail, sending a sharp arc of fire that cut through the air. The cheetah retaliated by shooting a red flame laser beam from its demon eye.

The two attacks collided, resulting in a massive explosion. This gave Klaus the opening he needed to move forward. The cheetah, now focused on the dragon, roared and fired a terrifying red beam at it. It was fiercer than the first one.

The dragon responded by swinging its tail again, but it was no use—the laser cut through its body, dispersing it completely. Klaus, now only 50 meters away from the cheetah, coughed up blood when the dragon was destroyed.

There is a connection between them, so if he wasn't the one to deactivate or detonate the dragon, any attack that takes its life would have a backlash on him. Although not too severe, it was still dangerous enough to slow him down.

But he had prepared for this moment. With one attack in mind, he didn't hesitate. He closed the distance further, and when he was just 30 meters away, the Void Piercing Needle appeared alongside the Bell of Harrows. The bell rang, and at such close range, the sonic and soul attacks were lethal.

The cheetah staggered as the attack hit it very hard, and a smile crept onto Klaus's face. "Got your ass," he muttered.

The Void Piercing Needle shot forward, and before the cheetah could react, it pierced its eye, blinding it instantly. Klaus's plan was simple, disarm it before taking his time to kill it properly

And now, the strongest and only weapon of the Laser-Eyed Demon Cheetah has been destroyed.

"It's Gang banging time" He muttered.

Chapter 199 - 199: The Devils Killer (5)

Thud!

The body of the Cheetah, now littered with cuts and holes, fell with a heavy thud. Klaus smiled cheerfully as he looked at it. His sword vanished into his space ring, and a water bottle appeared in his hand.

"Haa, it's always good when things work out," he said, grinning at the massive body of the cheetah, which he had been using as target practice for the past 20 minutes. Without his fancy skills, he knew a one-on-one battle would have left him lying on the floor, but hey, warriors are meant to use their skills, and he was doing just that.

"Dinner time, buddy!" Klaus declared as he crushed the core. The dragon tattoo on his arm glowed, and all the energy was sucked into it. He could sense the dragon's energy had dropped after its death. He quickly realized that using the dragon as a meat shield was a bad move on his side.

"Sorry, buddy, I didn't mean to sacrifice you like that," he said, feeling a twinge of guilt. "But hey, cheer up! We killed it, and now we have just one last monster to take down." He snapped his usual selfie with the fallen cheetah and then stored its body away.

Klaus moved to a nearby spot and sat down. "Let me level up first before facing that monster," he thought. Once he leveled up, his stamina and other attributes would be fully restored, along with his Star Qi pool. He was counting on that.

An hour later, a burst of energy erupted out of his body signaling he had leveled up. He opened his status window and smiled looking at his qi pool and stats.

Name: Klaus Hanson

Age: 16

Talent: Celestial Elemental Overlord

Class: Weapons Overlord

Bloodline: Dormant

Physique: Nine Reincarnation Divine Body

Realm: Master - Lvl: 6/12

Strength: 1,230 | Agility: 1,270 | Stamina: 1,640 | Defense: 1,100 | Intelligence: 1,500 | Health: 4200

Star Qi: 208,130,200

Stat Points: 400

[Next Level up: 9,000/35,228,800]

"200 to Agility and 200 to Stamina will do," Klaus said, allocating the 400 points he had earned to his Stamina and Agility. "God knows I'll need my speed to escape if things go wrong."

"I really should focus on boosting my defense next," he thought. After finishing up a few tasks, he set off for the last location where the Black Flame Devil Fox lives.

He only knew of two skills the fox possessed, one of which was hypnosis. It was said that being within 2 kilometers of it could hypnotize a person. Even worse, once that happened, your stats would drop by 30 percent. That was terrifying enough, but it wasn't the scariest part.

From what had been gathered over the years, one thing was clear: the fox possessed a type of flame that devoured everything it touched. If Klaus wanted a shot at winning, he'd need an even more precise attack than the one he used on the cheetah.

"Brat, if you manage to kill this monster, you can stay here for a while to cultivate using the method I showed you. This region is very dangerous but rewarding," Klaus heard his senior's voice in his head, causing him to smile.

"What do you mean by 'if' I manage to kill it? Have some confidence in me, Senior!" Klaus joked.

Although Klaus knew he had to be extra careful, having already killed four out of the five Tier 7 devils while being just a mere Master stage expert made all the difference. He couldn't help but feel a swell of arrogance about it. God knows he will soon be making waves as a slap in the face to all haters and the dark order who still hasn't managed to kill him just yet.

He briskly walked across the vast expanse of the fire region, and before long, he found himself in the territory of the Black Flame Devil Fox.

As he made his way toward the core region, he kept his senses sharp and ready for action. After about 20 minutes of careful walking, he finally came within range. Using his spirit eyes, he took a good look at the Black Flame Devil Fox, and it was anything but ordinary.

"It looks like a nightmare," he muttered to himself. Everything about it was twisted in one way or another. But that wasn't all; just observing the creature had a hypnotic effect on him. Despite that, he pressed on, determined to study the fox as it devoured a massive five-meter beast it had just killed.

"Oh, this is interesting," Klaus said, a smile creeping across his face. He had expected something like this. He felt a hot sensation spreading across his back, wiping away the lingering hypnotic effect just when he was about to succumb.

He didn't know what those tattoos were or why his dad had insisted he get them, but he was sure they were his strongest abilities. One day, he would figure out how to actively use them.

For now, though, he had no control over them; they only activated passively on their own.

Klaus took a deep breath, shaking off the residual effects of the fox's aura. He couldn't let himself be caught off guard. With a renewed sense of focus, he prepared to strategize his next move.

"Time to show this fox who's boss," he murmured, a confident grin spreading across his face as he readied himself for battle.

Klaus moved forward, confident that the hypnotic effect wouldn't hit him too hard. As he got within striking distance, the fox sensed him. Without even turning to look, its body ignited in dark flames, and dark smoke began to spread around it.

"Arrogant, huh? Well, that's your mistake," Klaus thought, feeling like the monster was looking down on him. Without holding back, he summoned the Ice Lotus, channeling 20 percent of his Star Qi into it.

He hurled it toward the fox. As it got within 20 meters, Klaus could see the creature react, clearly threatened by the extreme coldness.

"Too slow, scum," he spat, snapping his fingers. The flower stopped just 10 meters from the fox and then exploded.

A wave of ice surged across the entire area, freezing everything in its path. Thankfully, Klaus wasn't affected this time. But the fox wasn't so lucky; it was frozen solid, though not dead yet.

"Buddy, get your revenge!" he shouted as the dragon appeared overhead. Without wasting a second, it slashed its tail, sending a sharp arc of fire slicing through the ice and landing on the fox's neck.

Klaus heard a cracking sound and smiled. The dragon roared in response. "Good job, buddy!" he exclaimed, feeling pumped. He then launched the Void Piercing Needle, which zipped forward and pierced the fox's body, creating hundreds of holes that ended its existence for good.

"Your mistake was underestimating me," Klaus smirked, his ego swelling back to life. Little did he know, he had unlocked a terrifying trait within himself he wasn't even aware of. When looked down upon by others, he became extremely precise and lethal.

With just two attacks, he had taken down the fox he was worried would be hard to kill. It seemed that his anger only made him stronger.

Klaus retrieved the fire core and immediately felt something different about this one. "Senior, what kind of flame is this?" he asked, sensing that the fire from the fox was stronger than his own—or at least stronger than his current flame.

"It's called the Dark Devouring Flame," the senior's voice echoed in his mind. "It has several properties, like hypnosis and lethal burns, but its most dangerous feature is devouring. Anything that touches it will be consumed instantly."

Klaus's eyes widened in surprise. "Compared to my Chaotic Nirvana Flame, which is stronger?"

The senior chuckled. "Brat, when your Chaotic Nirvana Flame truly awakens, you'll understand its full power."

Klaus's eyes widened even further. So he was worried for nothing.

"Great! Time to shock the world again," Klaus said with a smirk, feeling more confident than ever. He took one last selfie with the monster's massive body behind him.

Within minutes, five new selfies were uploaded, and as expected, chaos erupted across the internet—and soon, the entire world.

Chapter 200 - 200: Shocking The Overlords

Far from the Demon Abode, in a lush room, eight people were seated around what appeared to be a meeting. Three were on one side of a large golden table, four on the other. At the head of the table sat a woman who could only be described as the true definition of beauty, scrolling through a glass tablet with an emotionless expression.

Despite her blank face, she was undeniably stunning. She looked to be in her 20s, but everyone knew that since the apocalypse, humans no longer aged like they used to. She might be very old, but she didn't appear a day older than 20. Suddenly, she looked up from her tablet and spoke.

"Report." That was all she said, her voice cold yet commanding.

A young man who appeared to be in his late 30s, having short black hair, handsome features, and a scythe tattoo on his forehead, spoke up.

"Everything seems fine in the Southern Union. No new threats, aside from that bastard still hiding in the mountains. The War Gods and Goddesses are always on high alert, so everything's pretty chill."

Another man, also handsome but with a rather unusual set of pink eyes, chimed in next. "Seems like someone's targeting the Dark Order. From the reports I got from the Eastern Region of the Northern Union, all their assassins in that area have vanished. It's safe to say they're all dead.

"They're not saying much, but according to my contacts, they're pissed—and scared. Somebody's wiping them out." He smiled, his pink eyes shining, giving him an oddly beautiful look instead of just handsome. He is almost too pretty for his own good.

"That is to be expected," the lady at the head of the table said, still maintaining her emotionless look. She turned to a young woman who looked like she had been carved from ice. Her long, snow-blue hair matched her snow-blue eyes, and her cherry-red lips and high cheekbones only added to her charm.

"How are things in the Glacial Union?" she asked.

The blue-haired woman, equally cold but more relaxed in her expression, replied, "Everything is going well. We discovered a new ice crystal mine last week and have already started mining. That's all."

The woman at the head of the table nodded and then turned her attention to the last four people seated on the other side. "How's the exploration of the ruins going?" she asked.

Just as one of them was about to respond, a device began beeping. She raised a finger, signaling for silence, and tapped on a small projector device.

"Sorry, Overlord, but you need to turn on the news. Something big just happened," a young woman's voice came through before the projection faded away.

With a tap of a button, all eyes turned to the large screen. As it flickered to life, Klaus's image appeared.

"This kid again. What did he do this time?" the blue-haired lady muttered, her gaze fixed on the screen.

In response, a familiar face appeared on the screen, and everyone turned to look at the cold lady with puzzled expressions. They all wanted to shout, "Really?" but they held back, not daring to speak up. On the screen, the reporter began talking.

"This is KKKickinIt with Controversial News! In an unexpected turn of events, after surviving an assassination attempt by the Dark Order—who he promptly renamed the Chicken Order—and then going ahead to topping the Regional Selection trials, Klaus Hanson, the most handsome, fierce, and arrogant warrior slash model, has done it again, y'all!

"In a rather unusual post, Klaus Hanson has shown the world that he's not just some arrogant showoff—he's a determined warrior. The Five Devils inside the Fire Region of the Demon Abode are dead, and guess who took them down? Yep, the kid who everyone thought was just a cocky nobody.

"When I say killed them, I mean he, a Master Stage expert, took down five Tier 7 devils, and even posed with their bodies afterward. On one side, you've got all the legacies, and on the other side, there's Klaus Hanson. The difference is crystal clear now.

"Alright folks, once again, this is KKKickinIt with Controversial News, and I'm out!"

I mean, for an Overlord, shouldn't she be watching more official news channels? Controversial News? Really? But since none of them wanted those cold eyes on them, they kept quiet, just watching as the image of the five Fire Devils appeared on the screen along with Klaus's rather unusual caption.

It read: "Okay, they're dead. And guess who killed them? This young master. Never doubt me."

"Those words are pretty arrogant, yet... oddly touching. This kid's awesome. I need to meet him," the pink-eyed man said with a grin.

"He's strong but also dangerous," said a blue-haired young man with a calm yet twisted expression. Looking into his eyes, one could almost see the vast expanse of an ocean.

"Water boy, are you intimidated?" the pink-eyed man teased with a smile.

"Why would I be intimidated? And stop calling me Water Boy," the blue-haired man replied coldly.

"Tsk, what a rigid guy." The pink-eyed man chuckled in response.

"This little brother is quite interesting. I want to meet him too. He looks... delicious." Suddenly, the third woman in the room, with red hair and fiery red eyes, spoke while licking her lips. She had the aura of a fire queen, with a flame tattoo on her forehead.

The cold lady at the head of the table glanced at her with an unreadable expression. "You shouldn't spoil him. He's still young." Nobody knew why she said that, but it was clear she didn't like the way the red-haired lady was eyeing Klaus.

"Hehe, big sister, don't tell me you've finally fallen for someone! I mean, I wouldn't blame you if you have—he's perfect for you. I bet his arrogance could melt that cold demeanor of yours. I can already picture you blushing. Oh, what a sight that would be!" the redhead teased.

The cold lady narrowed her eyes but didn't reply. Instead, she glanced at Klaus's image again and spoke.

"Dharma, I'll leave the reward to you. Since he's in your union, do as you see fit." The pink-eyed man smiled.

"Brother Dharma, take me with you when you go," the red-haired woman said.

"To do what?" the cold lady asked.

"To be your wingwoman, of course! With your rigid, frosty looks, I don't trust you to pull this off on your own," the redhead said with a playful smile.

"You—" The cold lady started to retort but stopped herself, realizing the redhead was the only doing that to make her look miserable. And now, she'd gotten under her skin, cracking her cold exterior.

"By the way," the blue-haired man, who Dharma referred to as 'Water Boy,' spoke up again, his earlier expression now melting slightly. "It seems Klaus won't have it easy during the Union Trial. I've heard the Duncan Legacy family has banned him from entering Union City where the Union Trial will take place."

"Don't worry, I'll handle it," Dharma said with a smirk.

"No, don't. Let him deal with it himself," the cold lady replied, surprising everyone with her unusual response.

"Big sister, you're not planning to use the Duncan family to kill him before he manages to break through that ice-cold heart of yours, are you?" the redhead teased, making the cold lady narrow her eyes in warning.

"Fine, fine. Klaus will handle his issues without interference from the Overlords. Jeez, you scare me sometimes. Just make sure you don't look at him that way—you might frighten him off, and then you'll die lonely!" Before the cold lady could respond, the redhead vanished from the room, leaving her cheeky laughter echoing behind.

"Annoying b*tch," the cold lady muttered, sighing. The others exchanged glances before vanishing as well, signaling the premature end of the meeting.

She glanced at the image of Klaus again, her expression softening briefly. "He really is handsome..." she muttered, but immediately regretted it.

"I knew it!" the redhead suddenly reappeared, grinning as she walked closer, placing a hand on her shoulder.

"Don't worry, big sister. This brat will be yours soon enough."