

Paragon 351

Chapter 351 - 351: Heist During the Heavenly Constitution Awakening

"Brother, what is going on?" Hanna asked as soon as she opened her eyes. "Before I lost consciousness, it felt like the heavens were blessing me, but now, all I feel is dread. It's like they want to kill me," she added.

"Well, they're jealous of the Heavenly Constitution you're awakening, so they want to stop you," Klaus replied with a weak smile.

"What?" Hanna's heartbeat slowed. "That's unfair. They can't do that."

"I know, right?" Klaus nodded before adding, "But don't worry. When I'm done with them, they won't dare look at my Big Sister."

"Okay, brother. What do you want me to do?" Hanna immediately trusted Klaus.

"Not much. All you have to do is endure, and I'll take care of the rest," Klaus said, watching the huge diagram as it began to spin slowly.

Although Klaus knew Hanna trusted him, even if he told her he had killed her by destroying her original constitution and transplanting a one-of-a-kind constitution to defy the heavens, she wouldn't be angry.

However, Klaus doesn't want to make her worry, partly because he doesn't want to explain too much. Even if Hanna is one of the Star Lights he's been seeking for many generations, it's still too early for a heart-to-heart.

First, she doesn't know anything yet, and Klaus plans to keep it that way. He won't tell her more than necessary about her constitution. Just as the senior never wanted to reveal too much to him to prevent his Karma from accumulating, he will do the same for Hanna.

Even though she will awaken the 10,000 Divine Lightning Bodies, she won't be able to use them until she becomes a Sage. Constitutions and physiques typically awaken at that stage, although it's more common from the Great Sage level onward.

Once they form a Sage core, they can tap into their unique Constitution and physiques to enhance their strength. Of course, the fortunate ones will even awaken their bloodlines, further amplifying their power.

However, as Klaus began sealing it, most of the effects associated with this constitution remained, and some of those changes began to manifest as Hanna sat before Klaus, who had started chanting something strange.

Her body began emitting powerful lightning fluctuations that seemed to cocoon her. Klaus, on the other hand, continued chanting, not even bothering to look at the enormous diagram now forming lightning balls.

Boom

Suddenly, a powerful fluctuation swept across the area as a lightning ball from the diagram, crackling with electricity, descended toward Klaus and Hanna. They sat motionless, trusting each other completely. Hanna's trust in Klaus was unwavering.

She showed no sign of panicking. Not even the slightest.

Just when the ball was within a few meters, the diagram beneath Klaus and Hanna emitted a faint star qi, rising to meet the lightning ball. The ball instantly dissipated, transforming into a stream of energy that flowed directly into Klaus.

As it entered his body, a powerful surge of energy burst out from him.

"This is going to hurt, sister," Klaus said, and before Hanna could react, he took hold of both her hands. Instantly, a painful cry erupted from her mouth.

"Endure and let the lightning pass through you. It will be over in a minute," Klaus said.

The diagram, sensing that Hanna had begun to awaken the heavenly constitution, decided to send down more lightning, but it was all in vain. Klaus never stopped chanting as each ball fell. For the past five minutes, Hanna continued to endure.

Then, suddenly, something happened that made Klaus smile.

"Finally." He smiled, "The rest is up to your body, sister. Go ahead and undergo your transformation," Klaus said as he pressed his finger to her forehead and muttered something.

Boom

Hanna's body literally exploded into sparks of lightning that flew and entered Klaus's body.

However, instead of panicking, Klaus simply sat there, forming hand seals. Inwardly, though, he was worried.

'I swear, if this doesn't work and my sister dies, I'll kill you, Number Three.' Klaus didn't even know what other threats to make. This was all Number Three's idea, so if Hanna died, it would be his fault.

However, Klaus's worries eased when a miniature version of Hanna started to form. He continued forming the seals, muttering more strange words.

BOOM

Another explosion ignited, blowing the miniature body up. However, in the next second, another form began to take shape, this time immediately cocooned in a large white-blue shell that started exuding powerful divine lightning fluctuations.

"Agis Hsan Mutrox: Divine Body Rebirth," Klaus chanted, and at once, the diagram in the air vibrated, sending powerful shockwaves. Then it happened: the circular diagram began spinning even faster.

Suddenly, a blue lightning energy burst out of it and entered the cocoon. An even more powerful surge of lightning struck Klaus, lifting him into the air until he stopped a few feet below the diagram.

"What belongs to me must never be taken in the first place," Klaus muttered, then resumed chanting. This time, the diagram didn't attack but began retreating back into the clouds.

However, a smile appeared on Klaus's lips as he changed his hand seal, slashed his palm, and brought out blood.

"I didn't do all this so you could run away. Now, be claimed!" Klaus shouted, waving his hand. Instantly, his blood flew and landed on the metallic diagram.

Boom!

Another wave of energy burst out, this time spreading as far as Felin City and pressing down on many who were near the eastern section of the city.

The diagram, though still trying to retreat, now began to shrink. At the same time, Klaus also started showing signs of awakening as lightning flickered across his body.

"Come," Klaus commanded, forming a seal. The diagram seem to be panicking now as if it was alive and knew what was happening. It appeared like it was between two powerful pools, one familiar, and one oppressive.

Obviously, it had to let the familiar feeling take over.

"Don't even think about it. You were mine to begin with," Klaus's eyes suddenly turned red. An oppressive aura burst from his body, sending another shockwave, but this one was bloodthirsty in nature—the kind born from constant slaughter.

The diagram continued to resist, but an hour later, it had shrunk down to the size of a baseball. It crackled with lightning, mirroring the heavens through the clouds. Klaus, now slightly pale, reached out, and despite the intense lightning, grabbed it and immediately slammed it against his chest.

It vanished inside his body.

Boom!

The moment he did that, lightning burst out of his body, his eyes widening as lightning danced across them.

"I did it, I really did it," Klaus said, but then his vision began to blur.

"No more time; I need to awaken it now while it's still ripped," Klaus muttered, forming a hand seal. Suddenly, his shirt burst apart.

On his back, one of the nine-star tattoos began to glow. This continued for a few minutes until, suddenly, something burst out of it.

Klaus was immediately surrounded by lightning. When it dissipated, a huge circular diagram with intricate markings and complex patterns appeared on his back, radiating intense lightning.

"Success," Klaus said, fist-bumping the air, then looking down.

"It's almost done," he smirked. "All thanks to the heavens."

Chapter 352 - 352: Divine Jade Body

Somewhere far away, in a large house suspended in the clouds, inside a lush room radiating both calm and overbearing energy, sat a woman with fluffy fox ears, long black-and-white hair, an incredibly beautiful figure, and nine fluffy tails.

She seemed to be cultivating, exuding a calm yet oppressive aura. Suddenly, her beautiful black-and-white eyes snapped open.

"The first Star Light has been ignited. Master has awakened," she said with a small smile.

"I must locate him quickly before tragedy finds him. Hehe, I hope Master remembers me this time," she murmured before vanishing from the room. The next moment, something shot into the sky, disappearing.

Klaus looked down at the shell of lightning and smiled. He slowly descended the diagram with a diameter of four feet still hovering behind him, exuding potent lightning energy. The cloud had also dissipated.

They lost, so they had to retreat for now.

Klaus placed his hand on the shell and began to mutter some words. After a while, the shell cracked and came undone. Inside was the pale body of an incredibly beautiful lady.

The former Hanna had short, dark hair, striking features, and a slightly athletic build. Although she wasn't as stunning as Anna and Lily, she was far from unattractive.

Now, however, she had transformed, gaining a body that seemed crafted from rare white jade. It looked pale and smooth, very pleasing to the eye. Her hair remained short, but it was now blue.

She now had a slender figure, a well-rounded backside, curvy hips, and moderate chest assets. Her facial features had improved greatly; if she were walking beside Anna and Lily, no one would look down on her.

She might even attract more attention than Anna and Lily. She had become truly stunning. Klaus gazed at her jadelike body, covered only by a thin white fabric, and smiled. His smile had barely bloomed when a splitting headache rocked his brain.

"Brat, you two need to be submerged in ice to solidify the transformation," said the senior, who always seemed to support Klaus in the end. Klaus nodded.

He then looked toward the 10-kilometer distance and spoke.

"Take my sister and me back to the city, and please, tell them to put us in an ice bath. And please, don't resist her, I will..." He hadn't even finished when his body gave out, and he collapsed beside Hanna.

A split second later, Luna and Nuna appeared beside them.

"He wants us to send them back?" Nuna asked with a frown. "But she's staying there. You know how unreasonable she can be." Her frown deepened.

"We have no choice," Luna said, a look of panic appearing on her face.

"So you think she won't kill us on sight?" Nuna asked.

"How should I know? We can only pray she doesn't. Otherwise, we can only obey and not resist. It would make it swift," Luna replied.

"Nice being your sister, Nuna," Luna added.

"You too, Luna."

The two sighed, and then, placing their hands on Klaus and Hanna, shadows consumed them. In the next instant, they were gone.

Inside the mansion where Klaus and his family were staying, his mother and his lovers sat in the living room, likely waiting for Klaus and Hanna to return.

Miriam had already told them they would be running late. At first, they were fine with it, but after a storm started raging in the Far East, their worry began to grow.

Klaus's mother, in particular, was very anxious. If not for the two younger women, Anna and Lily, wrapping themselves around her like a second skin, she would have been pacing by now.

That woman had an unusual attachment to her son—at times, it was even unsettling.

Suddenly, a shadow flickered, and four people appeared. Luna and Nuna immediately raised their hands in surrender before Miriam could even pin them down. They turned pale instantly.

"Klaus!" all the ladies in the room cried, rushing toward Klaus and Hanna, who were sleeping peacefully.

"What did you two do to them?" Miriam demanded, her gentle demeanor turning icy.

"We didn't do anything. He just told us to bring them here so you could put them in an ice bath," Luna said without skipping a word. The look in Miriam's eyes made it clear she was serious.

"Miriam, relax. They're fine, just unconscious for now," Ohema reassured her.

"You two better pray they're fine," Miriam said, following the other ladies into the bathroom, where, with Anna's help, an ice bath was prepared, and the two were submerged.

Even in the hall, Luna and Nuna remained locked in place, their pale faces showing they weren't having an easy time. Minutes passed, then hours. Before long, ten hours had gone by, and still, no one emerged from the bathroom.

"Do you think they'll be okay?" Luna asked her sister.

"I hope so, I really do. But if it comes to it, I'll sacrifice my core so you have a chance to escape," Nuna replied.

"So you would die alone? Not happening, sister. We die together or escape together," Luna said with a determined look.

"You idiot, I'm the older sister here. You must obey me," Nuna insisted.

"Sorry, Sister, but I won't let anything separate us—not even death," Luna said, unwavering. The years they spent as their mother's slaves had been too much for her to bear.

After Klaus broke the seal, the two twin sisters promised each other they would never part again, not even in death. So, no matter what, Luna wouldn't leave her big sister, who had endured most of the torture from their mother.

As the eldest, despite being born on the same day, Nuna saw it as her duty to protect her sister. So, rather than focusing on her training, she continually searched for ways to kill their mother and free them both.

Of course, this brought her more pain, but she continued to endure it for her sister's sake. Even today, she was planning to sacrifice herself to give Luna a chance to escape, no matter how slim that chance might be.

"You..." Nuna wanted to respond, but she stopped as Miriam and Ohema returned to the living room.

"You two should relax. Klaus and his sister are fine. But until they wake up, you're not going anywhere," Ohema said, nudging Miriam to release them—or rather, to reduce the pressure on them. Miriam hesitated for a moment before freeing them.

"Thank you," Nuna said, panting, as did her sister, Luna.

"Drink this," Ohema said, handing them each a bottle of water. They gulped it down as though their lives depended on it.

"Thank you," Nuna repeated.

"Don't worry about it. You two brought them here, so we can do at least this much. But until he wakes up, don't even think about running." Ohema glanced at Miriam and gave her a nod. Miriam looked at the two for another moment before walking away.

"Come, sit down," Ohema gestured for them to sit, and like two obedient children, they walked over and sat down.

Although Ohema didn't have the overbearing nature of Miriam, Luna, and Nuna never even thought of running. They might be sneaky, but they weren't stupid. They knew that the moment they made any attempt to escape, it would mean certain death.

Two days later, Klaus and Hanna woke up, bringing smiles to everyone's faces, including Luna and Nuna.

Chapter 353 - 353: Priorities [Bonus]

Two days later, Klaus and Hanna woke up. As soon as they did, Klaus gazed at the now-stunning Hanna and smiled.

"Are you okay?" he asked, looking deeply into her eyes.

"Uh-huh..." Hanna nodded, also staring at him.

"Klaus, Hanna, are you okay?" their worried mother asked, rushing toward the ice bath.

"We're fine, Mom," Klaus said, turning to the other ladies and giving them a reassuring smile.

"What happened?" their mother asked, looking at Hanna with a curious gaze. Hanna had indeed transformed, her appearance now angelic, stunning everyone. Just looking at her was enough to tell them that her body was no longer ordinary.

After exploding, Hanna had reformed—and from what Number Three said, or rather from the method Klaus used, she had reformed with a divine body. Klaus had not only ensured that she awakened a stronger heavenly constitution, but he had also enabled her to transform into a powerful new form.

Though still human with spiritual qi flowing through her, Hanna's new body was now divine, pure, and untainted.

Although Klaus didn't yet understand much about this "Star Light" concept, he knew deep down that Hanna was important to him. This feeling only solidified when Number Three showed him what truly happened in Ruin City. Klaus, of course, planned to talk to Hanna and see if anything had changed.

He looked at his mom and then smiled.

"Well, we just went for a stroll to bond... and things happened."

"I know you two went to get revenge for Hanna's friend... so stop hiding it," his mom said with a frown. Klaus, of course, turned toward Miriam; she and Ohema were the only ones who knew.

"Traitor..." Klaus said, and Miriam pouted.

"So, what happened?" his mom asked again.

"After taking down those degenerates, Hanna was finally free of her heart demon, which let her awaken her constitution. It was a unique experience, but in the end, she came out as a princess." Klaus smiled, adding, "Congratulations, Mom. You now have a princess for a daughter."

"You're absolutely right I do!" his mom said, wrapping her arms around Hanna and lifting her from the bath.

"Go put on some clothes, Hanna; you're scaring me," Klaus said, glancing at her jade-like body, nearly exposed for him to admire. His mother and Hanna gave him an annoyed smile before leaving the room. With them gone, his three women rushed to his side.

"Are you alright?" Miriam asked.

"I'm fine. But who would have thought, with all your amazing qualities, that you'd snitch on me to my mother," Klaus replied with a smile.

"That woman is just too loving; I couldn't resist her," Miriam said, showing no sign of guilt. Clearly, she had no regrets.

"She's the best, isn't she," Klaus murmured, pulling Miriam in for a kiss. Lily followed, then Anna.

"By the way, you haven't killed my assassin friends, have you?" Klaus asked with a smile. Shortly after, he dressed with the help of his three women and returned to the living room, where Luna, Nuna, and Ohema were laughing and giggling together.

"Klaus!" Ohema ran into his arms as soon as he appeared in the hall. They kissed, and then Klaus turned his gaze toward the twins.

"Looks like you two are having a good time," Klaus said, noticing how nicely dressed they were. Clearly, a lot had happened in the two days he was unconscious.

"Sister Ohema was amazing," Luna said, sounding cheerful, unlike her usual dark and shadowy self. Nuna looked just as bright.

"Color me impressed, Ohema," Klaus said, then turned to Miriam, who was watching the two ladies like a hawk. She wasn't taking any chances, despite the twins showing no sign of hostility.

"Relax, Miriam; these two are my friends," Klaus said. "The overly cheerful one is Luna. She was actually sent to kill me by her mother—who was her slave master. Can you believe that? Long story short, she couldn't go through with it. We had tea, a nice chat, and, well, here we are—friends now."

The ladies in the room looked at him with different expressions.

"The more mature one is Nuna, the eldest—she was—"

"We know, Klaus; no need to tell us," Miriam cut him off before Klaus could continue. The past two days hadn't only been spent staring at Klaus and Hanna's sleeping bodies. They got to know the twins, which led to many things, and now they seemed to have settled in.

"Oh, I see," Klaus smiled weakly. They sat down, and a few minutes later, Hanna and his mom came out; Hanna was now dressed to impress.

Anna and Lily immediately ran to her side. Klaus just smiled, knowing for a fact that the two ladies would, somewhere in their hearts, feel a pang of envy.

But he had a fix for that, or more like, when they were ready, they could just come for the fix, which was in the form of Star Juice.

Lucy and Miriam had already received that and were now blooming like colorful flowers. After a while, Hanna looked at Klaus and smiled.

"Thank you, brother, for everything. Because of you, I was finally able to avenge Kehlani," she said with a thankful gaze.

"Don't sweat it. I am your brother, after all; it's my duty to help you kill people," Klaus said, smiling.

"You brat! Don't taint my angel with your bloodlust," Klaus's mother said, but the look on her face said it all. She didn't really care what the son-and-daughter duo did; as long as they were happy, she had no complaints.

"By the way, you should look for more lightning cores—preferably Tier 6 and 7—and absorb them. Although your constitution has been sealed, your body needs the energy. So, breakthrough, and Miriam will help you hunt for them," Klaus said.

"What about you? I don't want to trouble Sister Miriam," Hanna said.

"I still have some levels to climb, you know, so I have to go into seclusion. But don't worry; I'm sure Miriam wouldn't mind helping you," Klaus answered.

"What about us? I thought you said Sister Miriam would be helping us," Anna said with a pout. To hunt lightning monsters, one might have to go to forbidden zones, which have more of those monsters.

There are actually a lot of them. Since Hanna is the only one with lightning in their circle, it was safe to assume she would be going to a different forbidden zone.

"Oh, I did say that..." Klaus realized he had indeed promised Anna and Lily that Miriam would be helping them.

"We can take Sister Hanna to kill lightning-based monsters." Just as Klaus was pondering what to do, Luna spoke. Nuna, her sister, nodded in approval.

"I thought you guys didn't want to work for anyone. Why the change of mind?" Klaus asked with a puzzled expression.

"We have already killed all seven people sent to kill you, so we don't want to feel useless. And since you would be going into seclusion, you wouldn't need our protection anymore," Nuna said.

"Sounds logical enough," Klaus nodded. "Sis, do you want to go hunting with the beautiful twins?" he asked.

Hanna looked at the twins for a few seconds before nodding. "Then I would trouble Sister Luna and Sister Nuna to help."

"Then it's settled. The moment we get back, Miriam will take you two and the guys to a Tier 4 forbidden zone to hunt and breakthrough. Hanna and the twins will also go to their own forbidden zone," Klaus declared.

"What about you..." Ohema asked.

"I would spend three days in seclusion to raise my levels, then you can escort me to break through as well."

Ohema smiled upon hearing that. However, deep within her heart, she was scared. After all, Klaus's tribulation was something she had been witnessing ever since he awakened.

"Then what about me? I would be lonely," Klaus's mom asked with a pout.

"Oh, I forgot you were here for a moment,"

Chapter 354 - 354: Getting Ready For The Long Awaited Tribulation

Klaus teased his mother; however, deep down, he didn't know how to solve her problem. This was the first time she had complained about being lonely. She had never said that before.

"Mother, you can stay with my mom. I know she would love having you around." Just when Klaus was thinking about how to resolve his mother's situation, Lily spoke.

"Good idea, Lily. I will reward you later," Klaus said before turning to his mother. "Mom, what do you think? Want to spend a few weeks with your new best friend?"

"Fine, you guys can go. I will be fine," his mother said with a small smile. Looking at her smile, Klaus knew Grace Felin was in for a ride. Only God could help Lily's mother after she was done with her. Just like Klaus, his mother was also contagious.

They spent two more days in Felin City exploring the area before, on the third day, they left and returned to Ross City. Klaus's male friends had also been busy.

Their newfound fame from topping the rankings in the Union Trial had skyrocketed their popularity, and of course, this fame came with the added bonus—the ladies.

Kilian met up with Scarlet, who had come all the way from Union City just to spend time with him. They were supposed to stay there, but when Klaus received a text about Ohema's return, he dragged them away.

Who knew what might happen if his enemies found out he wasn't there with them? However, to their surprise, the ladies followed them to Ross City.

Mark spent time with the Zhou twins, who seemed obsessed with him. Danny was fortunate to get another brawler—a young lady with a strong physique. As for Daniel, he surprisingly paired up with a rather slim lady, lean enough to raise some eyebrows when seen alongside the sturdy-looking Daniel.

Kay, too, found someone who captured his heart: a fire mage, making the two of them quite the fiery duo. It was a heated few days. Overall, his friends seemed to be doing well, all thanks to Klaus.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say the ladies wanted to be close to Klaus, but since they couldn't have him, the next best choice was his friends...Lol

When they returned, Klaus spent the night with Miriam. The next day, she left with Anna, Lily, and his male friends. They went to a Tier 4 forbidden zone called the Hunting Fields, a zone filled with all types of monsters.

Hanna didn't join them because what she needed right now were lightning cores, so under the cover of night, the twins left with her and headed to a Tier 4 forbidden zone called Lightning Forest.

Klaus, on the other hand, entered seclusion with Ohema, who insisted on watching him cultivate. Perhaps she shouldn't have, as what she saw was baffling.

At first, Klaus simply crushed the cores and absorbed the energy. Now, however, he was both crushing and eating them. It was too shocking, but she had asked for it. Klaus was already halfway to level 10, so it took him only a day to level up.

Two days later, he had reached level 11, but with more cores still available, Klaus didn't stop. Being a good wife, Ohema gave him a towel bath every day. After another four days, he reached the bottleneck to step into level 12.

But he stopped just before he could level up. With only two more Tier 6 cores, he would reach the next level, and then the lightning would descend.

"Are you done already?" Ohema asked, looking at him as if she were watching a monster.

"Yup," Klaus nodded with a smile. Seeing the shocked expression on her face, he couldn't help but chuckle.

'Wait until the Devouring Ice awakens. All of this would have been achieved within seconds.'

"Then are we going now? Where will we be going?" she asked after calming down.

"I've reserved a Tier 2 forbidden zone. It'll be quiet there since the strongest monster is just Tier 5."
Klaus stood and walked out of the training room with Ohema.

With Ohema unable to go the extra mile with him, they slept peacefully like a couple. The next day, they left for the forbidden zone. Klaus had now awakened the lightning element, but he needed the tribulation to temper it.

His current lightning was just a bud; he needed to borrow energy from the heavens to make it bloom. Upon arrival, Klaus unleashed his ice flower, freezing a 10km radius solid. Unfortunately for the monsters in the area, they didn't survive, which was an error on Klaus's part.

Killing the monsters earned him the remaining experience points to level up.

[You have leveled up. Current Level: Level 12 Master.]

[Get Ready for your Tribulation. The Lightning descends in 5 Minutes.]

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"Ohema dear, give me some sugar, and then retreat to a very safe distance—20km should be fine," Klaus said, leaning in for a kiss. "And don't try to enter the tribulation, even if I'm dying."

"Be safe," Ohema replied before running off.

Klaus immediately sat in a lotus posture as dark, looming clouds began to form overhead.

"Brat, are you ready?" the senior asked as Klaus settled down.

"I am, Senior. Please expand the Tribulation Prison. You can use 50% of my soul," Klaus instructed.

"Are you sure?" the senior asked.

"Of course." The senior didn't say much. He went ahead and expanded the Tribulation Prison, giving Klaus all the space he needed to catch as much lightning as he could.

'I just hope this mysterious Lightning Source Diagram lives up to its reputation,' Klaus sighed. He had already gained all he could from Number Three; now, it was up to him to make a move toward claiming something grand.

'After today, Tier 6 and 7 will be small fries. Tier 8 is the next target, Imma dominates that Realm. As for Tier 9, I'll save that for later. I can't let what happened in the Tormented World happen again.

Klaus smiled, remembering the incident when Fruity got his ass kicked by a Tier 9 Rhino Demon.

'Yuying isn't here to save me,' he thought with a sigh. 'I wish you were here, Yuying; this would have been easy.'

As he reminisced, the heavens roared, as if declaring that today would be his last.

Klaus had stolen three things from them: a divine body, something cultivators would kill for; a heavenly constitution, cherished by the heavens; and, if that weren't enough, he had taken something every lightning user would die for, especially those who sought to comprehend the Laws of Lightning and Thunder, the Lightning Source Diagram.

It was safe to say Klaus had taken what even the heavens dared not play with—and now, they were coming for their revenge.

But Klaus, who had only recently begun to understand what it meant to be a paragon thanks to Number Three, knew opportunities wouldn't come to him. He would have to seize—no, steal—every one of them.

Now, he sat there, watching the clouds churn ominously.

Far from where Klaus was, Ohema stood, gazing at the clouds with a calm expression.

"What kind of existence are you, Klaus? Even my sister doesn't call down this much wrath from the heavens, despite her special situation."

She sighed, and like a caring wife, her heart began to pound anxiously for the small figure sitting calmly beneath the storming skies.

"Be safe, Klaus. I can't afford to lose you to the heavens."

Chapter 355 - 355: Colossal Lightning Pythons

Rumble

Five minutes after Klaus leveled up, the heavens made their presence known. In an instant, he felt a powerful force bearing down on him, as though a will was being exerted over him.

However, Klaus just smirked, and just like how any defiant person would, he gave the heavens the middle finger, as if to say he wasn't a pushover and they should get things over with.

As expected, the heavens responded immediately.

The clouds churned, and from the dark, lightning-infested sky, a colossal python's head appeared.

"Hmm, looks like the heavens upped their game this time," Klaus muttered.

"You're growing stronger, Klaus, so it's only natural for the heavens to get desperate," the senior spoke from within his soul sea.

"Oh, so there's more to come, huh?" Klaus asked.

"If I'm not mistaken, there will be between four to six stages in this tribulation. If the first one is already this intense, imagine the ones yet to come," the senior said. "Plus, you've really offended them this time, brat—this might just be your make-or-break moment."

"Relax, senior. Just be on standby and follow my lead," Klaus replied. "My soul sea is yours to command this time around."

"May the Paragon stars have mercy on you, brat." The senior couldn't understand where Klaus's arrogance was coming from. The tribulation was starting off intensely after all.

From within the clouds, more colossal heads began to appear. Soon, large python bodies charged toward Klaus, who sat calmly on the ground, gazing back at them.

"And we're off," Klaus said, as a thick, pointed 64-inch needle appeared. But that wasn't all—a crescent moon-shaped, razor-sharp disc about 2 feet in diameter appeared and began spinning immediately.

The two spirit weapons shot forward, and before long, lightning runes filled the air. Klaus sat there, controlling the spirit weapons to slay the 70-meter-long pythons charging from the dark clouds.

The runes moved and began entering his body. He sat there, controlling the Void Piercing Needle as it traveled and killed one python after another. It was both shocking and mesmerizing.

As for the second spirit weapon, it was something Dharma, the Overlord had given him—one of the rewards he received after completing the quest set by the overlords.

It had a razor-sharp edge, much like the Razor Disc that Lucil integrated into the Mecha Zombie's weapon arsenal during his time at Stone Valley.

It's called Crescent Disc/Arc and just like its name, its shape is like a half-moon and incredibly sharp, very sharp in fact. Just a single slice was enough to kill a monster.

And thanks to Klaus's superior...

Now up in the air, it started slicing through the not-so-strong lightning pythons. Although they appeared somewhat real when killed, no blood flowed out; instead, they transformed into sparks of runes which get sucked into Klaus's body.

This, of course, had begun tempering his body. Klaus wasn't in a hurry, so instead of using the Tribulation's Prison to easily deal with them, he wanted to wait for the bigger threats. One might even say his appetite was rather large.

"The first stage is not having much effect compared to last time," Klaus said calmly, sitting as the monsters were slain by the Void Piercing Needle and the Crescent Disc.

Sometime later, the heavens churned, and more lightning pythons poured out, startling Klaus slightly, though he looked on with amusement.

"Oh, they seem pissed," Klaus smirked. "What do you expect, you weaklings? This young master is not easily bullied."

The monsters kept pouring in, but even without much effort, the spirit weapons continued the killing. At one point, Klaus rubbed his arm.

"Don't worry, little fellow, you'll get your chance to dominate the skies." The dragon tattoo on his right arm glowed as if responding to his words. It had become several times stronger now.

After using the golden energy to upgrade it, Klaus could feel the Chaotic Nirvana Flame growing stronger. At first, it was powerful, but now it had become even stronger. When it transformed, it seemed to have a much denser appearance.

"Brat, why aren't you capturing the lightning?" the senior asked.

"Relax, old man. There's better prey on the way—the appetizers just aren't worth fighting for." Klaus didn't even want to bother with them. He wanted the good stuff, which, if his calculations were right, would arrive in the third stage.

Rumble!

The heavens shook again, and the dark clouds stirred ominously. The pressure they exerted was potent now, bringing with it an even more terrifying will. The second stage was about to descend, meaning the heavens had upped their game.

Suddenly, 5-meter-long spears appeared, shooting toward Klaus.

"Looks like their aim isn't that bad," Klaus smirked, muttering under his breath. Suddenly, a bell appeared, and within a second, it grew to a height of 4 meters with a diameter of about 2 meters.

It moved and then dropped down on Klaus, enclosing him. At the same time, the spears collided with the bell, causing it to ring and send out sonic waves.

This time, only sonic waves, no soul attacks.

Thanks to Fruity's efforts, Klaus had learned how to fine-tune the bell to focus on only one of its attacks. The bell could deliver both soul and sonic attacks. Initially, when he activated it, both types of attacks were sent—both soul and sonic.

However, he had now learned how to concentrate on just one at a time, and he could also adjust it to maximize the output of either. Despite this, Klaus wasn't attacking the souls now; he simply wanted to shatter the spears.

The spears, like the pythons, had no hearts, so using soul attacks against them would be a foolish move.

Sonic attacks were doing the killing now, and from the looks of it, the Spears stood no chance. The bell showed no signs of cracking.

Every time a spear struck it, the sonic wave would shoot out, shattering the spear into runes. The runes then traveled and merged with his body inside the bell. It was just as Klaus had observed in Fruity's memory.

Back then, he had been very jealous of how Fruity was clearing the tribulations, and now that he was experiencing the same thing, he couldn't believe how comfortable it felt.

'That bastard sure had it good, hadn't he?' Klaus sighed.

Ohema continued to watch the tribulation with a mesmerized look.

"He is making it look simple, but this stage is already enough to overwhelm a Sage. Just what kind of monster have I entangled myself with?" she smiled faintly.

The last time, her heart was a step away from being crushed when Klaus struggled to face the final lightning. So now, seeing him just sitting there, doing nothing yet still handling the tribulation, she couldn't be any happier.

"If not for my special situation, I would have rewarded him with a pleasurable night after this tribulation," she sighed.

Just like Hanna, she also had a heaven-defying constitution, but she couldn't use it just yet. It was dormant for now. Once she reached a certain stage but wasn't able to awaken it, it would cause problems for her.

But that wasn't her main worry. Her pain lay in the fact that she couldn't fully serve her man like her other sisters could. She could only sigh and look forward to good news when Klaus asked his Overlord friend.

Rumble.

The heavens roared again, signaling that the third stage of the tribulation would be coming in the next second.

"Finally, they are here," Klaus muttered, looking up at the ominous clouds ahead.

Chapter 356 - 356: Killing Past Kills

The heavens roared, and Klaus, seated in a lotus posture, smiled. The first stage was the Lightning Pythons, which he dealt with using the Void Piercing Needles and the Crescent Disc.

The second stage brought the spears, which Klaus handled easily with the Bell of Harrows. It wasn't particularly challenging, especially considering that the last time, the spears had been the second-to-last stage of his tribulation.

However, the moment the spears stopped, Klaus knew the real fun was about to begin.

"After this stage, I'm sure my body will be strong enough to start the awakening of the Lightning Source Diagram," he muttered, still seated calmly.

His spirit weapons hovered before him just outside the Bell of Harrows. Thunder rumbled through the clouds, and from the ominous dark dimension, the first monster appeared. It was a Tier 5 Earth Lizard, one of the many creatures Klaus had slain before.

'Looks like they didn't want to gift me more lightning energy, so they started with Tier 5 monsters,' Klaus thought, eyeing the hundreds of creatures emerging from the dark clouds.

"Ah, what a headache," Klaus muttered as he directed his spirit weapons forward.

Soon enough, the monsters began exploding. He wasn't exerting much effort; while the heavens had indeed amplified the monsters' strength, he had also grown even stronger, compared to his last tribulation.

Under normal circumstances, any cultivator would have panicked in the face of such overwhelming odds. But Klaus was different.

Not only did he possess memories from his past, but he also held techniques from that time—techniques so grand and powerful that powerhouses would literally go to war over.

The more he killed, the more the heavens sent in. However, Klaus noticed a pattern; the heavens weren't sending in all the monsters he had killed. Although he didn't recognize all the monsters, Klaus still had some way of referencing them.

So he wasn't exactly concerned with how many they sent—his only concern was what they were planning to do with the ones they were omitting.

A while later, Tier 5 monsters ceased coming, and Tier 6 monsters poured in. Klaus wasted no time overwhelming them as well. Some managed to get past the spirit weapons, but they didn't survive the sonic attacks from the Bell Of Harrows.

'Senior, does it mean that every time I face my tribulations, the heavens will send down the beings I've killed in the past?' Klaus suddenly asked while controlling the Void Piercing Needle and the Crescent Disc.

"Indeed," the senior replied. "It's a type of tribulation called the Trial of the Past. However, under normal circumstances, it would have been less harsh. Your situation is quite different, which is why they're making it harder for you."

"So what's the purpose for those who go through this type of tribulation?" Klaus asked again. He was absorbing enough lightning energy to strengthen his body, but that was all—no other benefits.

In his case, it felt more like a trap the heavens were using to kill him. The tribulation was meant to temper a person's will, but in Klaus's case, they wanted him dead, so they were making it especially difficult for him.

"The Trial of the Past is usually meant to test one's strength and resolve. For most, it helps them grow stronger. But for you, the heavens want something else." The senior said.

Klaus could only sigh.

He didn't really quarrel with the heavens. If they wanted him dead, they could at least send down a challenger in human form. Using a tribulation felt like a low blow.

"Stupid heavens."

"Oh, they've supercharged that brat and sent him again," Klaus muttered, watching Matin Guan approach. Matin was the first human he'd killed.

It was when he had just awakened and it was to save Anna.

At this point, the zombies started pouring in. From the white zombies, he'd killed back in the Zombie Forest to the Volttox zombies from the Arcadian Mine Invasion. Then came those from Ruin City, and finally, his latest kills from the Demon's Abode.

"At this rate, I'll soon be fighting an army of Tier 8 zombies and monsters in my next tribulation," Klaus thought to himself.

"How exciting."

Despite the overwhelming numbers, he was having fun. His mind processed hundreds of decisions every second, and with each one, hundreds of monsters and zombies fell.

"You're lucky I'm in the middle of something extremely important; otherwise, I'd take my time with you," Klaus said, casting a glance at Matin speeding toward him. "But for now, you can die. Next time, I'll do it fist-to-fist."

The Crescent Disc flashed, and before Matin could react, his head hit the ground. Last time, Klaus had suffered at the hands of Matin and the Mutated Zombie. Now, he'd managed to kill the brat, but since they hadn't sent the zombie, he'd save that fight for a real battle later.

Rumble

The heavens quaked as more monsters and zombies continued to pour in. Suddenly, humans started flooding out as well.

"The Dark Order assassins, the mercenaries I killed in Union City, and oh, the other Dark Order assassins I took down with Anna's mom," Klaus thought.

"About her, I never checked up on how she was faring after our intimate moment. I guess I'll visit her after I break through," he said with a smile.

Would he make a move after her? Probably not. But would he tease her? Definitely. Their time together had been rather intimate for a mere distraction. Even to this day, Klaus found himself having flashbacks of their moments together.

"I hope she is alright."

With that resolve, the humans—regardless of their strength—started dying for the second time. Klaus was also gaining the runes he needed before the big guns appeared.

"Just a few more, then I can unleash the Diagram for the awakening," Klaus said, watching the lightning dance around his arm. He had unlocked the lightning element and was now strengthening it.

He would need it for when he was out of the Bell of Harrows.

Twenty minutes passed, but the monsters never stopped pouring in.

One could say Klaus had indeed killed his fair share of monsters. They were now pouring in like a tide. Suddenly, five fiery monsters emerged from the clouds, lighting up the area.

"What the hell? Senior, why are there fire-type monsters in a lightning tribulation?" Klaus asked.

"It's normal if the tribulation contains 100% destructive will. In other words, a day will come when all types of monsters, regardless of element, will show up. However, just like you were able to use lightning to enhance the Ice Lotus Bloom, you will still receive the same runes."

"And these runes are called...?"

"Tribulation Runes," the senior replied, causing Klaus to nod.

"Oh, they're finally here!" Klaus almost shouted as he watched seven powerful zombies appear. The moment they emerged, he looked beyond them and saw her—the Zombie that had come close to killing him.

Ding.

The bell rang loudly, so much so that Ohema, who was many kilometers away, felt it. This, of course, meant the weaker monsters under the tribulation cloud felt it too.

The Needle shot forward, and before anyone could blink a couple of times, thousands of monsters burst into Tribulation Runes.

The bell vanished, and Klaus stood up. Lightning flashed in his eyes.

"What a nice feeling," Klaus said, turning his hand to watch the lightning dance around his arm. He smiled and then gazed at the seven figures making their way toward him.

"Looks like my past came calling just when I needed it."

His sword appeared in his hand for the first time since becoming a soul weapon, lightning dancing around it.

"That's more like it." With that, Klaus lunged at the six Blood Princes and the Blood Queen. The same abominations he had killed in the Demon's Abode forbidden Zone.

Chapter 357 - 357: Fighting The Blood Queen Again

The last time they fought, Klaus had been under the enhancement of the Blood Moon Transformation. This transformation gave him a sixfold power upgrade, which gave him an edge temporarily in that battle.

Klaus had wanted nothing more than to use his own strength alone to defeat them. But alas, you can't always get what you want—or, more accurately, you can't always fight what's already dead.

Yet, if you're someone the heavens despise so much that they dig into your past and summon the enemies you've already slain, then there's no telling what might come your way.

Klaus, in a twisted sense, was fortunate. What had nearly been his ultimate defeat had now reappeared in his tribulation like some kind of heart demon—seven of them. They charged at him and before long...

The fight was underway.

Ohema kept watching the tribulation, her expressions shifting from shock to awe. She just couldn't wrap her mind around it. In her perspective, Klaus was simply too abnormal.

He had gone from killing a swarm of lightning pythons to defending against and destroying countless spears. And just when it seemed things might settle down, monsters and zombies began popping up.

But when humans started appearing, she was taken aback.

"Are these the people who've tried to kill him at some point?" she wondered. Then her heartbeat slowed, a new anger simmering within.

"How dare they? Why can't they just leave him alone?"

Her rage began to build as she watched the humans come back a second time, determined to finish what they'd started. Yet, as she continued watching, she could see that Klaus didn't even acknowledge them.

Instead, he sat calmly, as if he owned the place, controlling his spirit weapons with his mind to do the killing.

"What are those?" Her eyes narrowed as she saw the seven dangerous-looking zombies appear. She quickly looked toward Klaus, who had finally stepped up and retrieved his sword. Soon, the battle was underway.

Klaus clashed with the zombies, relying solely on his strength this time. He had been amplified before, but not anymore. However, he showed no signs of fear.

A blood prince attacked from behind, but Klaus moved, leaving a lightning trail as he weaved between the attacks. The lightning awakening made his speed much faster. However, that wasn't what Klaus was focusing on; he was after the offensive power of the element.

He slashed his lightning-infused sword, releasing an arc of lightning that immediately struck the target. Before the blood prince could defend itself, the arc burst apart, sending bolts of lightning through its body.

"How sinister," Klaus muttered, watching as the holed blood prince dissipated into lightning runes that flowed into his body.

"Senior, am I close to awakening the true form of lightning?" Klaus asked, deflecting a club attack from one of the blood princes.

[No, brat. However, if you manage to awaken that thing you borrowed from the heavens, your chances would be very high,] the senior replied.

"That is reassuring. But I didn't borrow it; I just took back what belonged to me in the first place." Although Number Three never told him how he created it or why it was with the heavens, Klaus knew for a fact that it belonged to him.

[Just be careful, brat. Whether it was yours in the first place or not, some things are meant to belong to the heavens. You cannot just use it as easily as you took it,] the senior warned.

"I know that, but with what I have in mind, the heavens will have to brace themselves for a heartbreak," Klaus replied with a smile.

[Brat, what are you planning?] The senior sensed a bad premonition.

"You'll have to wait and see, senior; it'll be spectacular," Klaus said, just as he landed a kick on the Blood Queen, sending her flying.

Klaus wasn't using any active skills yet since the zombies weren't posing much of a threat.

"Looks like my sword has become quite lethal," he murmured, slashing at the claw of one of the Blood Princes.

"Phantom Steps," Klaus invoked one of the many movement techniques Yuying had acquired for him. The fox lady had showered Fruity with so many gifts that even Klaus didn't fully understand why.

After joining the Witch Temple in the Tormented World, Yuying often disappeared for days, weeks, or even months at a time. However, whenever she returned, Fruity always received exceptional treatment.

The [Phantom Steps] is just the first form of a movement technique called [Ghostly Nine Ultimate Steps]. It has nine levels, and Phantom Steps is the first form, the only one he could master at his current level.

Perhaps he could move on to the second step, [Vanishing Steps], after breaking through to the Grandmaster stage.

His steps appeared ghostly as he closed the gap between himself and the zombie. Before it could react, sparks of runes flew into the air, entering Klaus's body.

"Killed two in under four minutes. That's too slow. Let's pick up the pace," Klaus murmured, his movement becoming ghostly as he instantly appeared in front of another zombie, which quickly dispersed into runes.

Soon, all six Blood Princes were killed, leaving only the Blood Queen, who charged at Klaus with all the energy she could muster.

Klaus simply dodged her attack, then moved to evade a vine attack from the ground. The heavens sure knew how to contradict themselves; sending a wood cultivator into a fight with a lightning user was just too low.

But Klaus wasn't complaining. Instead, he was more than happy to greet the heavens with all his might.

"You nearly killed me the last time, lady. This time, let me take your head."

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"The sword has become several times stronger. I can even feel it's enhanced my strength and speed slightly," Klaus said, looking at the lightning-infused sword with a smile.

"If I had known lightning would be this powerful, I would have forced myself to awaken it much earlier," Klaus sighed.

Although Ice and Fire were still devastating—especially Fire—he could tell that within the tribulation, the lightning element had a greater effect.

His speed was boosted slightly by the sword, and now the lightning was also making him even faster. The more runes entered his body, the stronger he became.

"Looks like I am nearing the Grandmaster stage," Klaus said, watching the clouds churn for the fourth stage of the tribulation.

His strength continued to rise, and even his Star Qi grew stronger. Klaus knew he was approaching the Grandmaster stage. However, even from a distance, he could feel a powerful energy building up within.

[Brat, the fourth stage is coming; you better be prepared,] the senior warned. Klaus didn't need reminding—his eyes were already fixed on the churning clouds. The lightning within them illuminated the entire area.

Ohema, who was 20 kilometers away, sensed a strange but powerful energy emanating from the clouds. She moved back an additional 2 kilometers to stay safe. Although she wanted to help Klaus, getting hurt was the last thing he wanted.

Klaus would be furious if that happened.

"I know, senior. I've been waiting for this moment. When I give the signal, extend the Tribulation Prison to cover 70% of my soul sea."

[Are you sure?]

"We'll know soon enough," Klaus replied, just as the heavens rumbled. From within the ominous dark clouds, the base of an enormous tower began to emerge.

"It's finally here," Klaus smiled, then began forming a hand seal.

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"It's finally here," Klaus smiled, then began forming a hand seal.

Chapter 359 - 359: Nirvana Flame Dragon Unleashed

The moment the third star glowed, Klaus felt an immediate connection to it—a connection that made his smile widen. He quickly tapped into it, and without delay, two-meter-long, pointy spears of ice began shooting up from the ground.

More precisely, the spears shot up from within the Absolute Ice domain. In this domain, the ground was coated in ice, making it even easier and less energy-consuming for the spears to launch.

"Interesting, so this skill is somehow linked to the Absolute Ice domain," Klaus muttered. With a quick decision, he willed the domain to expand to its maximum range.

This, of course, made it slightly weaker, allowing more of the monsters to enter. But the moment they crossed into it, spears shot up, killing them as they advanced.

"What a useful skill," Klaus muttered, watching the devastation the spears caused around him.

[Congratulations, brat, you have awakened yet another skill in your Nine Star Ice Lotus Bloom Technique], the senior said from within his soul sea.

"Thank you, senior; it was a team effort," Klaus replied, looking at the heavens.

[Now you can name it.]

"I will call it Domain Spears."

Immediately after Klaus named the skill, the heavens rumbled, and it felt as if they were angry—which they were, by the way. The tower immediately descended, revealing the second level.

Without wasting any time, the gates and windows swung open, and monsters began pouring out like a tide. Klaus remained standing there for a few seconds, allowing the monsters to close in.

He smiled, and then the tattoo on his arm glowed. Suddenly, up in the air, a 70-meter-long dragon appeared, large enough to fully cover two long buses. The moment it materialized, a certain authority filled the place, making Klaus's smile widen.

Twelve kilometers away, Ohema stared at the fire dragon with widened eyes. It was a common reaction, considering the dragon was made of crimson-orange fire, radiating intense heat.

But what made it even more striking were the patterns appearing on it now. They seemed to be more than just fire; they were something rather unique. Golden patterns, the kind that made the dragon appear both elegant and dangerous.

Then there were the horns, which had now taken on a slightly golden hue and become longer than before. The Nirvana Dragon, as Klaus decided to call it, appeared, and the entire place was filled with a palpable authority.

This aura immediately caused the monsters to slow down in their advance.

Klaus kept smiling, noticing that the dragon was using one of the two abilities it had unlocked after the upgrade with the golden energy: [Dragon's Authority].

[Chaotic Nirvana Flame: Dragon's Authority - Your Chaotic Nirvana Flame Dragon can exert its authority on others. This authority affects all those with weaker minds and souls.

Note: The stronger your flame grows, the more powerful the authority exerted by the Flame Dragon. Also, as your soul and mental strength grow, the power of this authority increases.]

That was the description of the skill the dragon had unlocked after the upgrade. Now, this authority was bearing down on the monsters. The authority exerted was just too powerful, as expected from such a powerful flame.

Roar!

The dragon let out a powerful roar, and then, like a disaster, it began spraying its fiery breath on the monsters, instantly turning them into runes that flew off and merged with it.

"What a greedy bastard," Klaus muttered, feeling no influence over the runes at all. Unlike the Lotus Flower, which divided the Tribulation's runes between them even after killing monsters, the dragon monopolized the entire Tribulation Runes.

"If only I could make my way back to the Tormented World, I would let you devour the entire race of the Dark Flame Chaos Dragons. Those bastards nearly killed me," Klaus smiled.

Back in the Tormented World, after becoming something of a celebrity for stealing a horn that used to belong to a Tier 10 dragon, the Chaos Dragons found him, and it resulted in a very chaotic battle.

If not for Yuying, who had managed to absorb the bloodline of the Nine-Tailed Fox Demon, Fruity would have died.

That day, Fruity discovered just how dangerous it was to fight more than one Tier 9 monster at a time.

So for Klaus, who was already making plans to go after Tier 8 monsters next and even contemplating facing a Tier 9 monster, only God could have mercy on his soul.

The dragon continued to rampage across the tribulation ground, making everything easy for Klaus. The monsters pouring out from the second level of the tower were endless, but he felt no danger. What could threaten him hadn't emerged...yet.

[Brat, I hope you're seeing how powerful your flame is. This is only a small portion of its true potential.] The senior said, and Klaus could swear he sensed a trace of happiness in his tone.

"I can see that now, Senior. I just have to look for ways to make it even more powerful," Klaus replied.

[You can simply find a lava pool and submerge yourself in it. The more flame energy you absorb, the stronger the dragon becomes.]

"Are you trying to kill me? How on earth would the current me jump into lava?" Klaus exclaimed, beyond shocked.

While the idea of taking a bath in a volcano seemed logical, Klaus knew he was nowhere near that level. Nari might have a chance, but for him, that would be a suicidal move.

[Relax. We don't know what will happen after you finally break through to the Grandmaster stage, so for now, you should relax.]

But even without any changes, the golden energy still seems effective. So, as I said, relax for now until you break through before jumping to any sudden conclusions.]

"You think something good will happen?" Klaus asked, half-expecting something like that. The senior did say he would get a surprise when he broke through, so he could only wait and hope for that.

[Just pray things don't go sideways. The heavens seem adamant about killing you this time. But I guess it was just a futile attempt considering you came prepared this time.]

"That I did, and it seems my efforts weren't in vain," Klaus said with a smile.

Suddenly, the dragon up in the sky roared, and from the ground, chains made of fire shot out and began wrapping around the monsters on the ground.

The moment they were immobilized, the dragon flew close to the ground, bathing them in scorching flames. If those monsters were real, painful cries would have already filled the air. The heat from the flames was even enough to take out Tier 6 monsters without the fire touching them.

Within seconds, the dragon used the other skill it had unlocked, and the result was devastating. The ground, which was littered with monsters rushing toward the ice domain, was taken care of, and the result spoke volumes.

[Chaotic Nirvana Flame: Blazing Chains – The dragon summons chains of fire that wrap around enemies, immobilizing those with stronger resistance and instantly reducing those with less resistance to ash.]

"Just a few more, and the Source Diagram will awaken, meaning the Grand Lightning Source Diagram will deactivate," Klaus sighed, feeling the weight coming. He looked toward the dragon.

"I would leave my back to you for when the time comes."

With that, the tribulation continued, showing no sign of ending anytime soon.

Chapter 360 - 360: Lightning Shackles

"I wonder just how much danger he had to go through to prepare for this tribulation," Ohema felt a pang in her chest when she thought about that.

She had been watching the tribulation for almost an hour now, and at every turn, Klaus seemed to have something up his sleeve. From the start of the tribulation until now, all she saw was someone who had worked incredibly hard just for this moment.

And she was indeed very much correct. Klaus had been preparing for this moment. The main reason he was studying the Pentaface bead was for this very occasion. He had seen from Fruity's memories the kind of danger that would be coming for him.

Unlike Fruity, who had only experienced the first level of the tower when he was becoming a Sage, Klaus was already at the second level, and he was just heading to the Grandmaster stage.

If what Number Three had said was true, then he would be carrying the karma of many things. Although he didn't know where that karma came from, he knew that at every crossroad, the heavens would come at him.

So while he had initially played it safe, that idea had long washed out of his mind. Now, Klaus wanted nothing more than to stick it to the heavens. This, of course, meant taking on immense danger—something he had already started doing.

If killing Tier 9 monsters would give him the strength he needed, then those were the monsters he would be going after.

"Don't worry, Klaus. As long as we are with you, joy and happiness will never escape you," Ohema said with slightly misty eyes.

The first time she witnessed Klaus's tribulation, it was by accident—or that was how she wanted to think of it. She was so captivated by Klaus's powers that she followed him around the forest.

She never planned to fall in love with the newly awakened; she just wanted to satisfy her curiosity.

But after witnessing his second tribulation, she immediately fell in love with him, and now, watching him fight for his life, she felt a mix of admiration and concern.

Even though he made it look easy, she knew Klaus was in danger, and she was right—the danger was indeed on the horizon.

However, what pained her the most was the fact that she couldn't help him now, not even in bed. Her heart ached, and for that, she hated it.

At the end of the day, it was Klaus who promised to help her. Just like that, the rich lady began to shed tears while the one in danger stared at the sky as if it were the most normal thing to do.

"At this rate, I would be bored to death," Klaus muttered.

As if the heavens heard his provocation, the tower moved down, revealing the third level. Klaus just stood there watching it descend to another level.

Immediately, as the third level appeared, Klaus felt a sense of danger emanating from it.

"I feel the danger now," Klaus muttered with a smile. Talk about who the maniac was between him and his past incarnations.

At the same time, the third level opened, and from within the doors, more monsters started pouring out. However, unlike the monsters from the first two levels, these ones gave Klaus a stronger sense of danger.

"Tier 7, but where is this feeling of danger coming from?" Klaus wondered.

[Brat, although these are just Tier 7 monsters, they have the strength of Tier 8 monsters. You have to be careful,] the senior suddenly said.

Klaus nodded inwardly and then, with a flick, his sword appeared alongside his two spirit weapons. He knew the next phase was going to be as harrowing as it could be; however, he came prepared.

"The Lightning Source Diagram is almost awakened, so I can't use the lightning element too much," Klaus said. "Fire it is."

With that, fire arcs began to fly out. The dragon up in the air was also doing more damage than one could ask for. As for the dark hole, the tribulation Prison was almost full.

If Klaus wanted to continue stealing the lightning, he would have to expand it a bit, which would suppress his soul strength and Star Qi a little. But since it wasn't full yet, Klaus wasn't rushing it.

Rumble!

Suddenly, the heavens shuddered, shaking the tower. From the third level, thick chains made of lightning started shooting out. Klaus stood there watching as the chains came within reach.

"Senior, what are those? I feel like they are very powerful," Klaus asked, looking at the chains entering the dark hole and getting absorbed by the Grand Lightning Source Diagram.

[Those are lightning shackles. Whatever happens, don't let them bind you. You wouldn't want your soul getting injured, trust me.]

"I never planned on that. However, how dangerous are we talking?" Klaus asked.

[Very dangerous.]

"Very dangerous, you say? Senior, you can extend the size of the prison. I would need these dangerous chains after the tribulation," Klaus said with a smile.

[Are you sure? The dragon and the lotus are still active. Using 20% more of your Star Qi would weaken you.]

"Do it, senior. I don't plan on using the lotus flower for long," Klaus said. Soon, he felt his Star Qi consumed by another 20%, leaving him with only 30%.

From the start of the tribulation, he hadn't really been using his Star Qi much. Now that he had leveled up from level 9 to 12, his Star Qi had also increased significantly. He could afford to lose 90% of it and still have enough to power his attacks.

"Maybe I should use that technique; it doesn't require my ice elements to awaken first." Watching the chains getting sucked into the dark hole and the diagram, Klaus decided to eliminate the small fries first.

He saw them as small fries, but to someone like Ohema watching, the sea of monsters looked as terrifying as a monster tide of thousands of Tier 7 monsters.

"Ice Pillar: Dawn of a Thousand Arrows"

Klaus muttered, and as he expected, a tall pillar appeared behind him, and from its towering form, hundreds, if not thousands, of arrows began raining down on the monsters.

It was a go-to technique Fruity used to love. It has seven forms, but for now, with his Star Qi restricted to only 30%, he could only use the first form.

The results were immediate.

Klaus quickly deactivated the Ice Lotus. It had gotten much stronger than the day before. But even if it hadn't gotten stronger, with the number of monsters currently locked away in his prison, he would soon be able to amplify its effect further.

The arrows rained down on the monsters, obliterating them as they came. At the same time, the chains were getting sucked away.

After the senior expanded the tribulation prison to 70 percent, Klaus also enlarged the dark hole to cover a vast area. So the countless chains they were shooting out weren't able to get past its maw or the suction force.

Basically, the heavens made a mockery of themselves by sending something that couldn't even get past a mere defense.

"But then again, in the next few minutes, the Grand Lightning Source Diagram will vanish, and I'll need a minute to fully awaken it. Meaning I would be indisposed for a full minute" Klaus muttered with a frown.

"Now, that is going to be a huge problem."