

Paragon 361

Chapter 361 - 361: Lightning Source Diagram Awakened

The tribulation continued to rage on. The dragon was doing its best, killing monsters as they poured in alongside the lightning chains.

But Klaus was pleased...at first.

He had been so focused on the monsters that he hadn't considered the chains for when the Grand Lightning Source Diagram would disappear once its job was done.

Essentially, the Grand Lightning Source Diagram could only be used once, during the awakening of the Lightning Source Diagram. And right now, that awakening was imminent.

Klaus was running out of time.

"Crap... it's about to start," he muttered, feeling the awakening draw near. He quickly formed a hand seal and took hold of the dark hole, aiming to place it directly in the main path of the chains. The dragon could handle the monsters.

"Just one minute," he muttered as the diagram shrank and flew back toward him. At the same time, he went all out.

The dark hole expanded further, covering more area. The dragon began channeling more energy, and the Ice Pillar continued to unleash a relentless rain of arrows. The dragon now targeted the monsters, shattering them with its Tail Slash Kill skill.

It had grown much stronger after the upgrade, but it wasn't strong enough to hold off the dozens of chains aimed at Klaus.

Thankfully, Klaus still had some skills that could utilize the 30% portion of his remaining Star Qi. The Ice Lotus appeared, followed by the Bell of Harrows.

Klaus expanded the bell, making it large enough to work inside. He sat in a lotus posture and began forming hand seals.

The spirit weapons lay beside him, as he couldn't use them while working on the awakening. However, the other skills only needed an energy source.

The Bell of Harrows was positioned within the Absolute Ice Domain, slowing down all incoming attacks. With each bell ring, they began to shatter, but they could only hold out for so long.

Klaus sat in a lotus posture and began the awakening of the Lightning Source Diagram. The chains and monsters were relentless, but the dragon was holding most of them back, and the dark hole was also doing its part.

However, there were many chains, and, worst of all, some monsters were still making their way toward the bell—Klaus's current source of ultimate protection, his last line of defense.

Five seconds passed, though it felt like thirty.

Ohema, watching from 12 kilometers away, began to panic as she saw hundreds of chains entering the small ice domain, with some even striking the bell.

Her fists clenched, and she tapped her foot on the ground like a worried housewife. The sight before her was terrifying.

Klaus sat there with danger closing in on all sides.

Ten seconds passed, and he remained still, the miniature version of the Grand Lightning Source Diagram hovering before him.

"Come on, Klaus," she muttered.

Twenty seconds later, her worry only grew. He was surrounded by hundreds of monsters, something humans wouldn't be able to easily handle. The dragon was doing its best, but it wasn't enough.

The dark hole was also reaching its maximum capacity, leaving Klaus no choice but to finish as quickly as possible and get to work.

Thirty seconds. Klaus was now crackling with lightning as he sat quietly with his eyes closed, the only thing protecting him now being the bell, which had started to form cracks.

Forty seconds later, Klaus, who hadn't worn a shirt from the beginning due to the Source Diagram destroying it, was now covered in lightning like a second skin.

Up above, the heavens churned and swirled as if struggling to watch something that once belonged to them be taken for good.

The tower shuddered, and more chains and monsters poured out as if to make sure Klaus knew what was coming. But alas, the person they aimed to kill was now deeply immersed in the awakening of one of the Nine Forbidden Ancient Relics, the Lightning Source Diagram.

Back in the Tormented World, Klaus, with Yuying's company, managed to retrieve another of these forbidden relics, the Seven Star Forbidden Diagram, which was meant for the ice element.

Now, however, Klaus had taken back something that Number Three, his past incarnation said belonged to them, so all he could do was trust his past self and focus on claiming it.

To achieve this, he had to compel the heavens to send down their precious Lightning Diagram, said to contain advanced lightning control and manipulation techniques. It wasn't simple to steal something from the heavens.

But Klaus did. His past has come to help him and now, if he somehow manages to fully claim this diagram, his future with the lightning element would be limitless.

Legend has it that those fortunate enough to glimpse the Lightning Diagram are destined to gain stellar mastery over lightning and thunder.

Essentially, one with the diagram becomes akin to lightning itself, and Klaus, having severed the heavens' connection to it, stored it in his soul.

Now, he was awakening it, and once he succeeded, he would have the power to harness the storm as though he were the progenitor of lightning and thunder.

"Come on, Klaus," Ohema muttered, gritting her teeth as she watched him. The only thing stopping her from intervening in the tribulation was the fact that the bell was still holding—and Klaus had told her not to do anything reckless.

Rumble.

Suddenly, the heavens thundered, and instead of ascending to end the tribulation, the Lightning Tower descended another level.

Level four had now descended, piling immense pressure on Klaus, who began bleeding from his nose as his defenses crumbled.

The dragon shrunk in size, a sign that the pressure from the tower was overwhelming, reducing its attack power significantly.

The Nine Star Ice Lotus Bloom was also struggling, littered with cracks. The domain was crumbling, and once it fell, all the pressure would instantly shatter the bell.

"Come on, Klaus," Ohema whispered, tears welling as she watched Klaus's defenses break down one by one.

"Damn it," she muttered, barely holding herself back.

BOOM

Suddenly, the bell shattered, and the monsters poured in like a raging tide. Klaus remains seated with his eyes closed, oblivious to the impending onslaught just inches away. Monsters and chains closed in, aiming hungrily for blood.

However, just as the first monster was about to touch a hair on Klaus's head, a chuckle echoed through the space.

"Tsk, what a bunch of idiots, thinking they could harm me with just this strength," said a voice, eerily similar to Klaus's yet not entirely his.

Surprisingly, it wasn't Number Three or Fruity, either.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Lightning erupted from Klaus's body, blasting the hundreds—if not thousands—of lightning monsters and chains aimed at him into Tribulation Runes.

He slowly opened his eyes, now bathed in lightning. Boom! From his back, a golden metallic circular ring, about three feet in diameter, appeared.

Intricate patterns adorned the ring, and within it, five adult fist-sized orbs of different colors formed a pentagon shape, each crackling with lightning. From all around, Tribulation Runes poured in as if starved. Even the ambient lightning was being sucked in.

"It's been a while; let me stretch my legs for a minute," Klaus said, a slight smile playing on his lips. He slowly stood and, like a deity, began to rise gracefully from the ground.

Chapter 362 - 362: GateKeeper

The moment Klaus opened his eyes, anyone could tell the aura around him looked different. Even his presence felt different.

It was as if he had been possessed by something or someone. But this wasn't the first time it had happened before.

As he ascended, bolts of lightning burst from his body, obliterating all the chains and monsters around him. By the time he reached the dark hole, now flickering as if about to deactivate, all the monsters had been vanquished.

"Tsk, why don't we open the fourth floor?" Klaus muttered. With a wave of his hand, a ball of lightning materialized. Before Ohema could scream for him to stop, the ball struck the base of the tower, shaking it violently.

Rumble.

The heavens responded, and as one might expect, a door opened. But instead of monsters or chains, a single figure appeared. The heavens thundered, almost as if cheering for him, but Klaus knew better; they were furious.

"Your turn now," Klaus murmured, hovering back to the ground, his gaze fixed on the new arrival. The instant his feet touched down, his eyes narrowed, and his demeanor shifted.

"Fuck," Klaus cursed, realizing he had been tricked by someone he never would have expected, he had tricked himself into infuriating the already furious heavens.

His past came back to haunt him.

[Brat, that is a Gatekeeper,] the senior suddenly spoke as Klaus continued to look at the winged figure hovering 200 meters above the ground.

The dark hole had also been deactivated. The dragon was gone, as were the Ice Lotus and the Bell of Harrows. The only thing left was Klaus, now standing bare-chested with a golden ring behind him crackling with electricity.

"Gatekeeper? Who is he, then?" Klaus asked.

[The Lightning Tower has nine levels. The first three are known as the Infinite Expanse. They just measure your capabilities and send lightning monsters to test you—in your case, to kill you. However, from the fourth level onward, things are a little different.

The fourth level is called Tempest Crucible. It has a dangerous kind of monster called Tempest Hounds. Killing them won't only award you more potent runes, but it will also affect your mind. If you manage to withstand them as you fight, your body and mind will become several times stronger.

There are others aside from the hounds. However, to unlock that space, you first have to defeat the Gatekeeper. They are like the wardens of the remaining levels.]

"Easy enough. I can feel it's just Tier 7, though very powerful. But I'm no pushover either. Let me just kick his ass," Klaus said, summoning his sword.

[You don't fight the Gatekeeper one-on-one, brat. The heavens won't allow it,] the senior said.

"What do you mean?" he asked.

[The Gatekeepers use only one sword technique called Heavenly Judgment. It has nine levels, just like the tower, and from the look of things, you'll have to defend against the first four levels before this tribulation ends.

In your case, you should prepare for the worst, since the karma around you is too much to wash away with just a few sword attacks. I look favorably on you, brat.]

"Fuck. What the hell is wrong with these heavens?" Klaus cursed, watching the Gatekeeper.

Suddenly, the 2-meter-tall winged man raised his long sword, and as one might expect, Klaus felt his movements restricted.

The clouds parted, making way for a divine light to descend from the heavens. Klaus immediately felt insignificant in front of it, like an ant before an elephant. Yet, despite that, he looked determined rather than fearful.

"One mistake, and I'm dead." Klaus wasn't panicking; no, he held a crazed smile as he watched the Gatekeeper closely. Suddenly, a giant sword appeared in the air, about 40 meters long with a pointed tip.

With just a gesture, the sword shot toward Klaus, aiming for a devastating stab.

"Absolute Ice Domain."

"Bell of Harrows: Divine Bell."

"Eye of Despair: Void Eyes."

Klaus instantly activated three of his best defenses.

Boom.

The sword struck the three defenses, instantly destroying the Ice Lotus and the Void Eyes before colliding with the bell, which resounded with a loud ring. Thankfully, the sonic attack from the bell shattered the sword.

"That was close," Klaus muttered.

[That was the first form, Divine Judgment Sword,] the senior said.

[Now, get ready for the second form.]

The Gatekeeper raised his sword again, but this time, instead of a sword, a white lightning lion, about 20 meters tall, bathed in lightning, appeared in the sky and immediately lunged at Klaus on the ground.

Klaus's arm glowed, and the Nirvana Dragon appeared. It roared and then moved to meet the lion. The dragon looked massive and powerful; however, the power difference was just too great.

Klaus could sense the danger radiating from the lion. The senior had warned him that although the Chaotic Nirvana Flame had awakened, it still wasn't at its peak.

He would need more than just a few fire cores to strengthen it. Fortunately for him, the dragon seemed to have found a liking for the golden energy inside his soul sea. However, it still wasn't enough.

Klaus knew that much, yet instead of underestimating the dragon, he wanted to see how it would first handle the lion. The bell was still standing strong.

BOOM

The dragon moved, and when it was just a few meters from the lion, it activated [Dragon's Authority], exerting its influence, though it was barely felt by the lion.

But that wasn't all; it also followed up with a [Tail Slash Kill]. A powerful 12-meter-wide crescent arc of flame slashed at the lion, landing squarely on its head.

Roar

The two clashed in the air creating an explosion that destroyed the 8km radius. Even Ohema 12km away felt the powerful shockwave. Both the dragon and the lion were destroyed making Klaus cough a mouthful of blood.

"Klaus..." Ohema shouted feeling her heart crash watching the blood tickling down Klaus's mouth. Her fist was clenched but she knew there was nothing she could do.

She was in even more pain than Klaus, who was taking on the attacks. Her pain ran deep. Although Klaus didn't care, as a lady, she felt envious of many things.

Out of curiosity, she had asked Miriam about her time with Klaus. After hearing all about it, she felt a pang in her heart for not having the body to experience something like that. Miriam hadn't held back, which was the sole reason Ohema was now feeling this way.

She wouldn't be able to enter the tribulation, nor could she help release his stress afterward. The pain was coming from multiple directions, and, for once, she couldn't take it anymore.

She broke down, watching Klaus fight for his life against odds that even Sovereigns would struggle against. The heavens are indeed cruel.

[That was the Divine Lion of Judgment,] the senior said. Klaus just remained quiet, doing his best not to lose focus.

[The third form superimposes the second form. This means the third form will be the second form times two, so be ready,] he warned, and Klaus nodded.

He deactivated the bell, and his sword appeared in his grip.

Chapter 363 - 363: Asura Crazy Sword Strike

Klaus held the Celestial Requiem, his soul weapon.

Since its awakening, he hadn't really used it. He hadn't been on any recent hunts, so despite possessing a sword that came with many added buffs, Klaus hadn't had time to explore its full potential.

But that didn't mean he was unaware of the amazing perks that came with the soul weapon awakening. They were linked at the soul level, so of course he knew them. Now, facing a 30-meter-tall lion with powers multiplied by two, Klaus had to go all out.

"Chaotic Nirvana Flame: Dragon Arm Guard."

Klaus activated the first skill granted by the dragon. A scaly, flame-imbued guard appeared around his right arm, filling his sword with power.

"Celestial Requiem: Superimpose."

He also activated one of the sword's amplification skills. He hadn't needed to use it before, but now, the danger was overwhelming.

Suddenly, the orbs in the Lightning Source Diagram glowed, and lightning began channeling into his body giving him all the energy he needed for the next attack.

The Gatekeeper raised his sword, and, as before, a lion appeared. However, the moment it manifested, Klaus felt it.

The danger level had risen, and he could already feel the weight of the approaching threat. The lion moved, and like a tidal force, it began pressing forward, bearing down on Klaus.

Fire essence poured into the sword, draining a large portion of his Star Qi. Klaus began to turn pale, but he held on as the lion drew closer.

"One with the Sword: Moon Epic Slash."

Klaus unleashed one of the many skills he had learned from his past memories. His sword slashed forward, sending a 20-meter-wide crimson fire arc toward the lion.

The two attacks collided, and for a moment, time seemed to slow down. Then, with a blinding flash, the two forces exploded, sending a shockwave that blasted Klaus back several kilometers.

Ohema, many kilometers away, was forced to retreat another 4 kilometers.

Cough, cough.

Klaus, lying on the ground, coughed up two mouthfuls of blood, his body covered with cuts. Yet in his gaze, only determination could be seen.

"That was a close call," Klaus muttered, using the sword as support to stand up. The Gatekeeper was still in the air, holding the long sword in his hands.

Klaus looked back at the figure. He could tell it wasn't really a person—more like a divine manifestation of a person. The aura around it felt celestial, and Klaus wanted nothing more than to sever its head from its neck.

Cough.

Klaus coughed up another mouthful of blood, his body aching like hell. While his attack had neutralized the lion, the backlash was punishing. He had channeled too much fire energy, and the result was agonizing.

His body was torn in several places, leaving him barely able to raise his arm, let alone make any moves with his sword.

[Brat, just one more strike, and the tribulation will be over,] the senior said. Klaus merely smiled, feeling he barely had the energy to lift his sword.

"Bell of Harrows." He had to prepare, somehow. Even if he managed to withstand the attack and survive, the tribulation would be deemed a success. But if he failed, the heavens would reclaim what was theirs.

Shattered

Immediately, the Gatekeeper raised his sword, and the bell shattered. Klaus felt his body lock in place; he couldn't even move his fingers. The pressure coming from the sword was too much for him to bear.

Suddenly, the tower moved back, clearing the clouds. A blue sky appeared, replacing the previous stormy dark clouds.

However, in place of the tower, a huge sword appeared from the now-blue sky, piercing the clouds. Klaus felt his knees grow weak, but for some reason, he felt energized. Like he wasn't about to bend the knee to the heavens.

His spirit wouldn't allow it, yet the heavens were forcing him. Perhaps, if he bent the knee, it would be their win somehow. So Klaus wasn't about to relent...His will wouldn't allow it. His nature wasn't breaking despite the force he was under...

Boom!

Suddenly, a dense red energy burst out of Klaus's body, instantly turning his calm golden eyes red. Then, like a possession, intense hatred appeared in Klaus's eyes.

Inside his soul sea, the Seal of Slaughter started leaking intense blood energy, the kind that immediately filled Klaus's body with all the energy he could hope for.

On the outside, Klaus gazed at the sword coming for him with eyes full of hatred.

[That is the Retribution Judgment Sword], the senior said, making Klaus, now leaking bloodthirsty energy, nod.

At least he wasn't possessed again. This meant the seal inside his soul sea had started filling him with energy.

"Senior, what happens when I defend against this attack?" Klaus asked.

[The Gatekeeper would vanish, meaning you have passed the tribulation.]

"Oh really? How interesting," a smirk appeared on Klaus's lips as he looked at the Gatekeeper pointing his sword up toward the heavens.

"Time for revenge," Klaus muttered, and then, under the pressure coming from the sword, he began moving forward.

It was as if the force restricting him was never there. Although he knew he was on borrowed time, Klaus never let go of the chance for some payback.

After moving forward a few meters, he raised his sword, and like a mist, a huge red skull radiating intense bloodlust appeared in the sky.

The moment it appeared, Klaus's side of the battleground turned dark red, while the Gatekeeper's side was illuminated in a white glow.

"They said you can't be killed because of the restrictions you placed on me. Now, I will show you what I'm made of," Klaus muttered coldly.

The skull turned into a mist and entered the sword. At once, Klaus's eyes shone red, and an intense energy burst from his body.

"Asura Crazy Sword Strike!"

Klaus swung the sword at the Gatekeeper. Immediately, a dark red arc of unknown energy cut out from Klaus's sword, flashing toward the Gatekeeper.

It took just a moment to reach the Gatekeeper. But despite its attempt to defend with the sword in its hand, the blood arc sliced him in half before he had the chance.

Rumble

The heavens let out a powerful cry when the Gatekeeper was killed with a single strike. Just like that, what wasn't supposed to happen happened, and it was their miscalculation.

The Gatekeeper dissipated into runes that flew and merged into Klaus's body. The sword in his hand also dissipated and entered the sword in Klaus's hand.

Up ahead, the Retribution Judgment Sword also dissipated into runes and merged with Klaus's body.

Cough

Klaus coughed up blood, forcing him to drop to his knees. He quickly sat in a lotus posture, the sword vanishing into his soul sea.

On the outside, a mixture of red and golden mist began to envelop him as he sat. Soon, the mist covered him, creating a cocoon around him.

Ohema appeared beside him a few seconds later. She waved her hand, creating a shield around them. She gazed at the cocoon with complicated emotions, but alas, she could only sigh and stand watch.

A day quickly passed, but Klaus still remained in the cocoon with no sign of coming out. Ohema never left his side. She didn't even let her focus shift from the cocoon.

Just like that, a week passed with no changes. Two weeks... three weeks went by, but still no signs. Finally, exactly a month after the tribulation, the cocoon cracked and soon disintegrated.

Inside, Ohema's eyes landed on an even more handsome Klaus, whose face immediately made her little sister tingle in excitement... she wet her pants before she knew it.

Chapter 364 - 364: Attending to a Damsel Right After The Tribulation

Klaus slowly opened his golden eyes, which now seemed to have an added layer of charm. He looked toward the lady sitting before him and smiled.

"Thanks for guarding me," Klaus said, his handsome smile lighting up his face.

Ohema looked at him with a charmed expression. Klaus didn't bother saying anything; he had already experienced something similar when he charmed Miriam after the Slaughter Aura awakened.

"You've grown more handsome," Ohema said.

"And stronger too," Klaus replied with a smile.

"Let's find a better place to relax. I still have things to do, but they can wait for now. I want to spend some time with you," Klaus said, reaching for Ohema's hand.

"By the way, how long has it been?" he asked calmly as he stood up.

"It's been about a month since the tribulation," Ohema said with a small smile. Klaus's hands were around her waist as they moved in a certain direction.

"That long?" Klaus was taken aback. "I wonder how the others are faring," he said.

"Actually, they came back two weeks ago. They've all become Grandmasters and are now in the process of stabilizing their foundations," Ohema replied.

"That's great, then. I guess it's up to me now to see how much I've grown after that hectic tribulation," Klaus muttered.

Ohema turned and looked at him curiously as they walked closer to a small clearing with a large tree creating a canopy above. She wanted to say something but couldn't bring herself to, so she pressed her body closer to Klaus.

"You don't have to worry, Ohema. The heavens and I are like siblings—we're always trying to kill each other over something small," Klaus said with a smile.

"Siblings don't try to kill each other, Klaus; only enemies do," Ohema said with a thoughtful look.

"Well, then I think the heavens and I need to have a sit-down. But something tells me they're just getting started," Klaus grinned. "I'd better prepare for the next heist... err... tribulation." His smile widened.

A short while later, they climbed the small mountain. Beneath the tree, the ground was soft and inviting, covered in countless yellow leaves that littered the forest floor. Sunlight filtered through the gaps in the leaves, casting a warm glow and creating a romantic setting.

Klaus quickly grabbed Ohema by the waist, lifting her so she wrapped her legs around him. Their lips met in a fierce kiss that lasted several minutes. They moved around under the tree, locked in each other's embrace, their kisses stretching on as time seemed to stand still.

"You missed me, huh," Klaus said, now sitting under the tree with Ohema on his lap. She looked into his eyes for a whole minute before tears began to roll down her cheeks.

"Hey... hey, what's the problem?" Klaus asked, now realizing something was wrong.

Ohema seemed so absorbed in her tears that she couldn't say anything for a full ten minutes. Klaus, of course, was doing his best to get her to stop crying.

He failed spectacularly, by the way.

"Tell me the truth, Klaus. Am I useless? I mean, as your woman, don't you think I'm useless?" she asked in a shaky tone. "I just watched you nearly die, and all I can do is kiss you and hold you. As your woman, I should be doing more, but this stupid body is just... too stupid."

Her emotions were in turmoil. Klaus didn't really know how to comfort a woman. His usual approach was to flirt and charm, but when it came to truly comforting someone, he had zero experience. Still, he tried.

"Look at me, Ohema. In my eyes, you're amazing—the best. I don't care whether or not we can have sex; I'd just love to keep holding you and kissing you. That's enough for me," Klaus said, genuinely meaning every word.

But his words did little to ease her tears. Klaus sighed, feeling out of his depth, and decided to ask for assistance.

"Senior, you wouldn't happen to be a player, would you? Because right now, I need some smooth advice to calm this fairy down," Klaus asked.

[That is one exquisite body your lady has,] the senior responded, catching Klaus completely off guard.

"Hold it right there, old man! You're not having any weird fantasies, are you?" Klaus asked, clearly taken aback.

[What are you talking about, brat? I was just admiring her constitution. A Virgin Poison Body... you're one lucky brat,] the senior said, hinting at something significant.

"What are you hinting at, Senior?" Klaus asked.

[Nothing serious, actually, but if you want a chance at attaining poison immunity, then you've found the right source,] the senior replied, making Klaus frown. Ohema was lost in her sorrow, so she didn't notice the look on his face.

"Senior, the Paragon Mark only works if I... well, if I have sex with her. But since she has such a dangerous body, I can't, unless I want to die from pleasure," Klaus said.

From what he knew, if he were to be with Ohema, her constitution would awaken, transforming her Virgin Poison Body into a True Poison Body. This meant that the moment he crossed that line, he'd be poisoned.

Although the idea of intimacy was enticing, it wasn't worth the risk.

But from the senior's tone, Klaus could tell he might know a way to circumvent Ohema's situation.

"Senior, do you have a way to fix her situation?" Klaus asked, sounding hopeful.

[Of course, I have a way, but that would depend on whether you're willing to risk it.]

"What do you have, Senior?" Klaus wanted nothing more than to help the woman on his lap. After all, he had other things to take care of; a lot had happened within his own body that he needed to examine.

[I have a technique that will allow her to take control of her Poison Body before it fully awakens. This means that, to some extent, she could control her body enough for you to help her awaken the constitution. However, you'd be taking a risk.

In her heightened state of pleasure, she might lose control and accidentally poison you. But I will also give you a cultivation technique that will allow you to suppress the poison, though the pain will be... very agonizing.]

[And when I said I would give you a technique to suppress the poison, I meant it would allow you to absorb it. If you succeed, you'll gain a poison resistance attribute, and as time goes by, you can start developing it toward poison immunity.]

"So, something like poison cultivation?" Klaus asked, intrigued by the way the conversation was going.

If he risked it, he would gain some poison resistance, but if he waited until she fully awakened her body, that chance would be lost forever.

"Let's do it, Senior," Klaus decided to risk it.

[Good. I will transfer the techniques to you now. But make sure your lady is ready before you take any risky steps. You might die smiling.]

"Thanks for the vivid and graphic warning, Senior," Klaus said with a smile as the techniques appeared in his mind.

He looked at Ohema for a few seconds and said, "If you stop crying, I'll teach you a technique that, if you master it, we can have sex without me dying."

Ohema's mood shifted instantly.

Chapter 365 - 365: Nine Qi Sea's [Bonus]

Klaus looked back at the beautiful Ohema and smiled. "I may have a way to solve our problem," he said calmly.

"Really?" Ohema asked, her emotions flaring. Klaus held her in place, making sure she didn't start crying again.

"Really. But before I transfer it to you, we must first go back home. So wait for me until I'm done with my business here, and then we can go," Klaus said, and Ohema pouted.

"What, you want to start now?" Klaus asked, not expecting such a reaction. Ohema nodded with a flustered expression.

"The earlier, the better," she added.

"Very well, but be sure not to rush into hurting yourself. A Poison Body is delicate, and injuring yourself can happen easily," Klaus said before pressing his thumb on her forehead.

Using the senior's teaching method, he transferred the 10,000 Poison Control Art technique to Ohema.

"I will start right now," Ohema smiled before moving to sit and began accessing the technique.

'What a weird woman,' Klaus thought with a smile.

A while later, he also decided to get down to business. Although Ohema was learning the technique, she was wide awake, so he didn't fear any monsters coming close.

But even if they did, the aura around Klaus would be enough to scare them away. He had just broken through, so his aura was a little chaotic.

He would first have to stabilize his foundation. For many, this is when they drink the Celestial Qi Expanding Elixir, but for him, he first had to use the second Star Diagram to stabilize his Qi Sea.

After that, he could use the Mountain Dew he had stockpiled to strengthen himself even more. His only worry was the effect; he wasn't sure if the Celestial Qi Expanding Elixir would help him expand his Qi Sea as Instructor Constance had stated.

The Mountain Dew hadn't had any tangible effect on him so far. However, it was of the common grade, so he hadn't given it much thought. Now, however, he wanted to see if the higher grades would have more effect.

He wasn't like everyone else. He cultivates the Paragon Star Diagram, so most minor treasures wouldn't have much effect on him. But still, he was determined to try and see if it would work. Thus, he entered his Soul Sea to see how things were progressing.

But the moment he appeared there, he was gobsmacked.

"What the fuck happened here?" Klaus screamed, staring at the vast seas in his Soul Sea. He stood there, dazed. The entire space was different from how he remembered it.

Now, instead of the Nine Doors being in the same place, they were scattered across the Qi Sea. And, speaking of the Qi Sea—there were nine of them now. Klaus looked around, and to confirm it, he scanned his entire Soul Sea, and sure enough, he now had nine Qi Seas.

The Seal of Slaughter resided in one Qi Sea, while the Bell of Harrows was in another, each with a door present in every Qi Sea.

But if that wasn't enough, there was something else he immediately recognized as the Dragon. A massive egg sat in yet another Qi Sea, with golden energy from the bead being absorbed by it.

[You are finally here, brat,] the senior spoke.

"Senior, what is going on here? Since when did I get nine seas inside my Soul Sea?" Klaus asked, a little panic in his voice.

He'd seen something similar once, with Fruity when he was breaking through to the Saint stage. Back then, Fruity's Soul Sea had split into various chunks, and it took him over a year to link them back together.

If the same thing was happening here, Klaus was going to lose it. He hadn't survived a harrowing tribulation just for the heavens to mess with his Qi Sea.

[Relax, kid. This is actually something great. You're something else, brat,] the senior said, his tone full of admiration.

"It would be great if the senior explained what is happening to me, or more precisely, what is happening to my Soul Sea," Klaus replied.

[What's happening here is due to your physique—the Nine Reincarnation Divine Body. I know I said I don't know much about your physique, but after this tribulation, it seems some things are becoming clear.]

Klaus listened carefully, beginning to formulate his own theories. From his Talent to his Class and Physique, it seemed they were all unique.

Even Fruity, his past self, had awakened as an Ice Mage. For him to awaken a completely different Class, Klaus started to suspect it might not have been a coincidence, as he had once thought.

[I'm not going to complicate things for you, kid, so listen carefully. You now have nine Qi Seas, which means you have nine energy sources you can draw power from.

This also means you have to work nine times harder, and ultimately, you'll need to form nine cores. If you manage to pull it off, kid, your combat power will become several times stronger than you can imagine,] the senior explained.

"I'd say that sounds too good to be true, but then again, I literally reincarnated multiple times, so this makes sense," Klaus replied.

The senior already knew Klaus had memories from his past self, but he had told him they shouldn't talk about it—more like Klaus shouldn't talk about it with him.

Klaus understood the reason, having experienced the wrath of the heavens firsthand before when Fruity pressured Yuying into revealing something she shouldn't have.

He wouldn't want to put anyone through that, so his past self would remain in the past for everyone while he kept it to himself. Klaus was at peace with that—until the senior's next words made him question just what kind of existence he was.

[What this means, brat, is that you can bring back your past selves by forming Spirit Bodies. Now, before you ask, spirit bodies are your consciousness giving birth to an astral form of yourself—in your case, your past selves.

Having a spirit body is a powerful asset. Nearly all cultivators form soul bodies when they reach the Sovereign stage and beyond.

These spirit bodies can be used in many ways, some of which are Enhanced Power Sources, Transformation or Evolution to a higher dimension, Dual Existence, and even as an additional combat force.

A spirit body holds immense advantages for a cultivator. Even a single spirit body is extremely valuable, so with the potential to birth nine spirit bodies, I have to say, kid, if you aren't a monster, then I don't know what you are.]

Klaus smiled slightly upon hearing the subtle compliment. He was shocked, yes, but more than that, he was a bit startled by the realization of what he had to do to move forward.

"This is all great, senior, but when you say I have to work extra hard, how much harder are we talking here?" Klaus didn't need to ask to know what had to be done.

[Nine times harder, or at least that's how it should go. But then again, you're not a normal cultivator, so who knows...]

"What do you mean, senior...?" Klaus raised an eyebrow.

Chapter 366 - 366: The Second Paragon Star Diagram [Bonus]

Klaus stood there with a curious expression, hoping the senior wouldn't say anything along the lines of "Karma won't allow it."

Luckily for him, things seemed to have changed recently. Maybe it was because of his daring actions, but the senior seemed to have softened a bit about the karma thing.

[The reason why you are stronger than most is because of your Star Qi, right?]

"Right..."

[This means it was thanks to the first Paragon Star Diagram that you managed to temper both your essence and body to this point. Even now, the first Paragon Star Diagram is still tempering your body, making it so you always have the strength to wield the Star Qi...]

"What are you hinting at, Senior?" Klaus asked, curious.

[What I am trying to say is we never expected your spiritual Qi to transform while cultivating the first Paragon Star Diagram, so who knew what would happen when you start using the second volume?]

"Are you saying that because I have Star Qi, things might be different?" Klaus asked.

In actuality, he should still be using Spiritual Qi. However, because of his reckless action of transforming his Spiritual Qi into Star Qi, he had to turn his entire energy source into Star Qi, and because of that, instead of manually cultivating the Star Diagram, it was automated.

Now, all he had to do was level up, and he would get several times stronger due to the Star Diagram now ingrained in him.

So if that theory were to be followed, the second diagram would also follow the same trend. Klaus was both excited and terrified at the same time.

If things worked out that well, then he would have to hunt for more cores and resources for the cores.

"Senior, can you transfer the second diagram to me?" Klaus asked.

[Of course, you need it to start forming your cores. Until all nine have been formed, you won't be able to become a Saint.

In your case, it's even worse. Forming a core is very hard; it requires a lot of resources. So to form nine before breaking through, I have to say, kid, you are in for a hard one.]

"We'll never know until I try," Klaus said.

Deep down, he knew he wouldn't have to worry much about anything. There was just something in the back of his mind urging him.

A light flew from the first door that had now opened halfway. Klaus planned to examine it next. The light merged with Klaus, and the next second, the second Star Diagram appeared in his mind.

"I will try using it now and see," Klaus said and was about to exit his soul sea when the senior spoke.

[You do know cultivating here is the same as on the outside. It's even better in here since there are no disturbances and it's even closer to your soul.]

"Oh, I never knew. It seems the breakthrough this time brought more than I hoped for," Klaus smiled.

[It wasn't the breakthrough; you could always cultivate here,] the senior said in a casual tone.

"What the hell, Senior... You knew and never said anything." Klaus snapped. The senior was lucky he wasn't around physically; he would have received a beating.

[You never asked, brat,] the senior laughed.

"Unbelievable... I am still young, but I've never met a shameless old man like you before," Klaus said with a sigh.

[Technically, you and I never met, so there's no telling you wouldn't meet an even more shameless old man.] The senior laughed again.

"Don't worry, I will look for you one day, old man. I know you are alive and out there somewhere. You just wait." Klaus didn't say much.

He exited his soul sea to check things on the outside before he started cultivating the Second Star Diagram.

Inside his soul sea, the senior let out a sigh and muttered, [You and me both, kid. One day, I will find my way to you.]

Klaus opened his eyes to the outside. Ohema was still in her meditative state, learning the technique like her life depended on it.

Well, her pleasures depended on it.

Klaus stood and distanced himself from her and then sat down. He closed his eyes and accessed the diagram. Suddenly, it appeared clear in his mind, allowing him to see all there was to know about the cultivation method.

'What a complex diagram. I wonder who created it,' Klaus said inwardly. He let out a deep sigh, and then he began to follow the diagram.

It had complex patterns that seemed to be linked by 606 stars. Klaus began following the patterns, linking the stars, and making sure he didn't make any mistakes.

The process was time-consuming, but after two days of navigating the complex anagram, the stars linked, and the pattern to form the cores appeared in his mind.

'Nine patterns, all linked together. If I didn't know better, I would say this was made for exactly this moment,' Klaus sighed, knowing this was linked to one of his past selves. Which of them, though, he never knew for now.

'Learn now and ask questions later.' Klaus immediately accessed the diagram. However, as soon as he did, something shifted within him.

It was so sudden that before he could react, a powerful burst of energy erupted from both within his soul sea and on the outside, even startling Ohema awake.

Klaus was shocked for a moment, but before he could complain to the senior, he sensed the surrounding energies pouring into his body like crazy.

"Klaus, what is happening?" Ohema asked, startled.

"Don't worry, Ohema. I don't think I am in trouble... yet." Klaus then entered his soul sea, and the first sight that greeted him was that of a torrent of red energy pouring out of the first door and being channeled into the nine qi seas.

[As expected, there is nothing simple about you,] the senior sighed.

"Senior, what is happening?" Klaus asked.

[Nothing bad, brat. It's just that your qi sea is expanding before it stabilizes. So all you have to do now is consume as many treasures as you can and let the process continue until the qi seas stabilize. Only then can you start forming your star cores.]

"Okay, senior," Klaus said before exiting his soul sea.

"Nothing bad is happening, Ohema; it's just my qi sea expanding and stabilizing," Klaus reassured her before taking out the hundreds of cores left in his possession. The moment they came out, they started getting absorbed, which made Ohema raise an eyebrow.

Klaus quickly retrieved the Mountain Dewes he had in his possession and the Celestial Qi Expanding Elixir. Without wasting time, he began consuming them.

In under ten minutes, every core and consumable treasure in his possession had been consumed. Klaus felt his body grow stronger as he consumed the Mountain Dew; however, the Celestial Qi Expanding Elixir, had only a small effect.

"You seem to require a lot of this. Why don't you have some?" Klaus, who was sighing in disappointment, suddenly heard Ohema speak. When he turned, he saw Ohema taking out hundreds of vials of Mountain Dew and Celestial Qi Expanding Elixir.

"Best wife in the entire universe!" Klaus smiled, watching Ohema show her riches. She also smiled clearly pleased she could be of help

'Just who are you, Ohema?' inwardly though, Klaus thought. But without holding back, he began consuming the treasures.

Three days later, the nine qi seas had stabilized, filling him with overflowing energy.

Chapter 367 - 367: Shocking changes

After three whole days of absorbing an abnormal sum of Mountain Dew, Celestial Qi Expanding Elixir, and thousands of monster cores, Klaus finally seemed to have neared the limit of his qi sea expansion.

He had absorbed so much energy that even Ohema had run out of Mountain Dew and Celestial Qi Expanding Elixir. Even her reserve cores had been devoured by her white-haired husband of hers. But instead of being angry, she was rather shocked.

Klaus was greedily absorbing the energy in the air to the point that she could feel the spiritual qi thinning around them. If only she knew Klaus was drawing energy from both the outside and from within his soul sea.

"Are you finally done, mister?" Ohema asked the moment Klaus opened his eyes. The look on her face said it all. Klaus needs some making up to do.

"Sorry, dear, I'll make it up to you later," Klaus replied with a guilty expression. He had expected that look, especially since he had emptied her space ring.

"I was actually impressed by how you were able to absorb all that energy without exploding. What... exactly is within you? Where did all that energy go?" Ohema asked.

"You know, I have a lot of ladies in my life, so I needed all that energy to handle all of you," Klaus said with a smile.

"Pervert." Ohema blushed at his shameless remark. But while she was blushing outwardly, she was inwardly wondering just what kind of monster Klaus truly was.

"So, any changes?" she asked.

"Aside from the fact that I can now start forming my core just by breathing, a lot has happened, actually."

"What?" Ohema looked at him with wide eyes. "What do you mean by you can form your core just by breathing? Cores aren't formed that way."

"Well, my cultivation method is different, I guess," Klaus shrugged, standing up. He walked closer to the edge of the mountain, leaving the shocked Ohema to process what he said.

"You know, it's not really that shocking for someone with a heaven-defying constitution like yours. You're practically immune to poison here; that's OP in my eyes," Klaus turned and said with a smile.

"Well, it's true, but since I don't have control over it, it can only take me so far," Ohema replied.

"Say, how far exactly?" Klaus asked.

"At best, I can only go as far as an Ascendant," Ohema replied, curious about where Klaus was going with this.

"Don't worry, just focus on mastering the technique I gave you. The moment I pop your cherry, you will know what it really means to have a True Poison Body," Klaus said with a teasing smile.

"You..." Ohema's cheeks turned beet red as she looked away from Klaus. She went and sat down to calm her beating heart.

Klaus just smiled. 'At least I'll get to use the Lava Crystal to advance my fire control even more,' he thought. He sighed and sat down at the edge of the mountain, entering his soul sea again to see how much he had grown.

The moment he appeared inside his soul sea, the changes were visible. The nine qi seas were now stretching several kilometers each. Although he could feel the energy coursing through him, seeing each 10-km-wide qi sea was just so shocking.

[Congratulations, brat. Each qi sea is about 10 km wide, so currently, you have a 90-km-wide soul sea. This is more than a Grandmaster should have. You should be happy,] the senior said to him.

"I am happy, Senior. I can already sense it. With this much, I can at least use my skills without worrying about running out of qi easily," Klaus smiled.

[Well, that is true, but you've already realized that the first core has started forming right? You'll need to complete all nine before you can advance, but that doesn't mean you have to do all nine at once.

I can tell the second Paragon star diagram has already merged with your physique, so the first star has already begun forming. This is great...]

"Senior, at this pace, despite actively absorbing spiritual qi and transforming it to Star qi, how long do you think it would take for the first core to form?"

[Without doing anything and just lying there, it would take between 7-9 months for the first core to form. However, if you actively absorb energy from monster cores, kills, and other treasures, you could form it within the next 3 months.

Also, with the first door open, the amount of Star Qi entering your soul sea is more than enough to keep you going until you can go for another hunt.

Personally, I suggest you kill more monsters, as just by killing, your qi sea will gain more energy to form the cores. The exp points earned from kills would go a long way during this process]

"That is delightful. I guess I'll have to up my game and go for another hunt," Klaus said with a pleased smile. The changes this time were just too shocking.

[Also, I think you've noticed how much your aura has changed. It has now become 10% more potent. This means you're now tapping into true Star qi.]

"Senior, this is incredible. I can feel my qi sea growing stronger," Klaus said, his excitement barely contained.

[Yes, you're progressing well. Each of your nine qi seas is vast, much larger than others at your level.]

"So, does this mean I can hold more Star Qi than most people?"

[Exactly. Your capacity is immense, which means you can use your skills for longer periods without running out of qi.]

"That sounds perfect. But will I need to balance each qi sea evenly, or can I focus on one at a time?"

[You can focus on one, but balancing them gradually will make you more stable. If one qi sea is much stronger, it could throw off your control. So when using it, you focus on all. But I think it's natural now considering the Second Paragon Star Diagram has now merged with your physique]

"Understood. I'll work on making each qi sea grow together, even if it takes longer."

[Smart choice. It will make your energy flow smoother and prevent strain on your body when using intense skills.]

"Does this mean my Star Qi will get denser as each Qi sea grows?" He asked the Senior.

[Yes, as each qi sea expands, your Star Qi will become more refined and potent, which will amplify your skills without extra energy use.]

"Perfect. I want my power to be solid, not just flashy. When I unleash my strength, I want people to feel the danger even before the attack is activated," Klaus said with a determined look.

[And you're getting there. With nine qi seas, your potential is almost endless if you stay disciplined.]

"Will the size keep increasing every time I push my limits?" Although he now had a large qi sea—nine of them—Klaus still wanted more. Just 10 km wide for each qi sea didn't feel like enough. He wanted the freedom to go wild without worrying about running out of qi.

[Yes, each breakthrough expands it a bit more. However, you should focus now on forming Star cores, or rather, condensing your qi seas.]

Chapter 368 - 368: Forbidden Knowledge

When Klaus first saw Fruity form his Star Core, he figured it would be a literal core, like an egg or something. However, he was mistaken.

The core that formed was just like his soul sea, only stronger and wider. It was as if a small river had suddenly become a vast sea.

So, when the senior told him he'd have to form each core one at a time, Klaus knew he was in for a challenge. But for now, he could only relax and focus on other things. He'd be going to the academy in under two months.

From what he knew, the academy had no shortage of resources, so Klaus knew he would get the support he needed, even if his nine qi seas threatened to drain him. At least he wouldn't be handling it alone.

"Anyway, Senior, what can you tell me about the sword skill I used to kill the gatekeeper? Also, what happens now that I killed it?" Klaus asked, wanting to switch topics.

[First of all, I don't know what happens now that you've killed a gatekeeper. I've never heard of anyone doing that before. And to make things stranger, it's rare for a gatekeeper to even appear.

I told you that to unlock the fourth level of the tower, you'd need to defend against the gatekeeper's attacks. In reality, it was supposed to be just a single attack. However... your situation is different.]

"Because I am a Paragon?" Klaus asked.

[Yes. Normally, you shouldn't exist, yet here you are. But beyond that, the Karma around you is immense. I mentioned that your Karma is due to you learning too much you shouldn't have, but that wasn't entirely true.

Simply existing as you are, creates massive Karma for you. In other words, your very life is a huge debt. But here's where it gets complicated.

Normally, everyone who defies the rules would bear their own Karma. But in your case, those around you seem to pass their Karma to you. In simple terms, the Karma of those you care for is being added to yours.

It's good news for them, but bad for you. A Paragon shouldn't have connections with heaven's favored ones, as their Karma will weigh on you in ways that might make you suffer.]

"I'm that unlucky?" Klaus asked.

[Indeed. I'd say, in the entire universe, you're both the unluckiest and the luckiest man. Unlucky because the heavens won't grant you anything easily, but lucky because whatever's forbidden seems drawn to you.

And anything forbidden poses a danger to the heavens.]

"So, the Chaotic Nirvana Flame is forbidden too?" Klaus asked.

[Yes. I know I've been going on about Karma these past months, but it seems you're somewhat immune. So, let me add a small one to your next tribulation by telling you something.]

"Out with it, Senior. The heavens can go... uh, take a seat somewhere," Klaus said, trying to hide a guilty grin.

[During the Primordial Era, which was the first era in this universe, nine stars fell from the heavens. From these stars, many powerful things were born. One of those things is the Lightning Source Diagram.

Another is the Pentaface Bead, also known as the Demon Bead, and another is the Nine-Headed Azure Dragon.

I know you may wonder why such a powerful dragon would be forbidden. The answer is simple: everything from those nine stars is forbidden. The Dragon with Nine Distinct Flames was also forbidden, making its flames forbidden as well.]

"I see... This explains a lot. It was like the heavens were afraid of the Dragon when it was unleashed during the tribulation," Klaus said.

[Yes. So although you're the unluckiest, you're also the luckiest. It means you and the heavens can never be friendly.]

The senior seemed to be opening up more, and Klaus began to wonder about his identity. At first, he thought he might be one of the Paragon Guards, but after Yuying told him all nine Paragon Guards were women, he let go of that idea.

Now, he was forming a new theory. But he had indeed learned something valuable. He'd already claimed three items from the nine stars that had fallen.

"Senior, do you know anything about the Seven Star Forbidden Diagram?" Klaus decided to ask before the senior fell back into silence.

[I do. It was one of the forbidden items that plagued the world many years ago. There are records of it. If you want, I can transfer what I know to you, but it must be done in stages, as knowing all I know now would feel like facing your next tribulation unprepared.]

"I'll follow your arrangement, Senior." Klaus was cautious.

The heavens were too unpredictable, and now that he had offended them by killing a Gatekeeper, they would surely have their eyes on him more than ever.

The senior transferred the memory to Klaus, who immediately knew all there was to know about the Star Diagram his past incarnation, Fruity, had used. Back then, he wanted to use the diagram to recreate his Forbidden Ice elements into the seven divine beasts.

However, to do that, he had to at least find something that belonged to the divine beasts before he could recreate them. This meant that if he had succeeded, he would have had seven divine beasts with seven distinct Ice elements flowing through them.

Had Fruity managed to unleash the beasts, the world would have turned to ice in a short time.

During the Primordial Era, the Seven Divine Beasts were some of the most powerful creatures to ever walk the universe. Their legend was widely known, so resurrecting them in order to form an Ice from it—that was just too overpowering.

Of course, Fruity and Yuying never managed to learn anything about the divine beasts when they visited the Collector back in the Tormented World.

But they did learn something. They heard there was knowledge about the divine beasts many years before the witch temples were formed. From the little information they got from the Collector, it led them back to the Dark Flame Chaos Dragon.

Obviously, Fruity was no match for the Dragon King, who was furious when it was discovered that the horn belonging to his brother had appeared in the Dark Star Witch Temple.

Fruity, of course, wanted the knowledge from the Dark Flame Chaos Dragon King, so he made up his mind to do two things: infiltrate the Chaos Dragons again and steal that knowledge, since stealing back the horn from the Witch Temple was next to impossible.

Unlike the Dark Flame Chaos Dragons, whose strongest was the Dragon King at Tier 11, the Witch Temple had many Tier 11 existences and even Tier 12. Yuying even told him there was a Tier 13 hidden somewhere.

So Fruity wanted nothing more than to infuriate people who could easily crush him. But because he wanted to awaken the Divine Beasts, he started making plans to return to the Chaos Dragon territory.

If he succeeded, his current incarnation as Klaus would become many times stronger. It became clear to him now that his past memories weren't just there for fun; they were meant to guide him.

After going through the memory and learning more about the Star Diagram, he asked his second question...

"What about the Asura Crazy Sword Strike I used, senior... where does it come from?"

Chapter 369 - 369: Asura Number One Sword Technique

Karsha asked the other question that had been on his mind since the tribulation. During the last stages of the tribulation, he had used a skill he hadn't seen or used before, at least not that he could remember. Had it not been for this skill, he would have died or, worse, been injured beyond repair.

However, with the Asura Crazy Sword Strike, he had been able to kill the gatekeeper, which, according to the Senior, could have several implications for him in the future... though he wasn't sure, as he had never witnessed anything like that before.

Now, he just wanted to know about the skill's origin.

[The Asura Crazy Sword Strike is the first form of one of the strongest sword techniques ever created: the Asura God Sword Judgement]

'Asura God Sword Judgement... why does it sound so familiar yet terrifying?' Klaus thought inwardly.

'...Maybe it has something to do with Number Three; he is the crazy one,' Klaus said to himself.

'But then again, who was it that provoked the Lightning Tower into sending down the Gatekeeper?' Klaus wondered again.

The tribulation was supposed to end after the third level, but because he attacked the tower, he had to endure the fourth level, which only sent down the lone Gatekeeper he had killed.

'It wasn't me, and I know it wasn't Fruity, so then who was it? Does it mean Number Three can disguise himself? Because as far as I know, he's the crazy one—crazy enough to do something like that,' Klaus thought to himself.

'But then again, the feeling I got wasn't that of Number Three, so it can only mean one thing: somewhere in the past, I awakened as someone who could even put a maniac like Number Three to shame.'

Klaus could only conclude one thing—a third incarnation had appeared, and instead of leaving him in peace or saving him, it had put him in danger by provoking the already wrathful heavens.

'But something good did come out of it... Asura Crazy Sword Strike, huh... and Asura God Sword Judgement.' Klaus smiled faintly.

"Senior, can you tell me more about it? I want to know more about the Asura God Sword Judgement," Klaus asked the senior.

[There is little I can say, as even I don't know much about it....]

"Go ahead, Senior."

[Many years ago, before the Asura clan was wiped out, there was a powerful swordsman widely known at one point as Blood Sword. It was said he was the son of a very powerful king.

According to legend, he was so fascinated with the sword that he traveled across the starry sky, challenging swordsmen. He fought millions in sword duels simply to feel something.

They said he never lost a sword fight—until one day, he met a certain sword lady who, with a single move, overpowered him. However, instead of killing him, she left him with a single sentence: "Stop wasting your potential."

After that encounter, Blood Sword vanished from the universe, only to reappear thousands of years later. When he returned, he seemed like a completely different person.

It was also at this time that he introduced the universe to the legendary sword technique known only to him—Blood Sword, or as he would later be known, Asura God.

When he unleashed the Asura God Sword Judgement, the entire universe went into a frenzy. As I said, I don't know much, but from what I've learned, the Asura God Sword Judgement has seven forms.

The first was the Asura Crazy Sword Strike.]

"Interesting. This fella seems like an interesting guy..." Klaus said, sounding rather happy for unknown reasons.

[That he was. There are bits of knowledge about him, but from what I gathered, he achieved many great things after becoming the Asura God. However, as you may suspect, no one knew why the Asura Clan had been wiped out, so I can only say this much.]

"Good enough. But I'd like to understand more about this Asura Crazy Sword Strike... It's my strongest move at the moment," Klaus said, recalling how it felt when he used the skill.

"I feel like I haven't even scratched the surface yet, and it's already this powerful."

[It's indeed powerful, but to fully unleash its might, you need to understand something first... The skill isn't something you can use frequently. I know you see it as your strongest move right now, but using it without advancing your sword qi to Enhanced Sword Qi and awakening Sword Intent would do more harm than good.]

"Well, my sword qi is already at the adept stage... but what is Sword Intent?" Klaus asked.

Thanks to his nightly training with Miriam, his sword aura had risen from Common to Adept, just a step away from becoming Enhanced Sword Aura.

But Sword Intent—this was his first time hearing about it.

[Sword Intent is a manifestation of a swordsman's will, spirit, and understanding of the sword. Basically, it has everything to do with your comprehension of the sword itself. Sword Intent differs greatly from Sword Aura.

Unlike sword aura, which is the tangible energy emitted by a skilled swordsman—usually involving the release of qi through their sword—Sword Intent is more like the will of the swordsman. Facing an

opponent with strong Sword Intent means you're already halfway to losing, as their will alone exerts an oppressive force.

And unlike Sword Aura, which is the same for everyone in a similar way, Sword Intent is unique to each individual.]

"How different?" Klaus asked.

[Take the Asura God, for example. They said that when he exerted his Sword Intent, a feeling of death and slaughter overwhelmed his opponents. That was because his understanding of the sword was rooted in slaughter.

An ice swordsman might have an icy type of Sword Intent, while a fire swordsman would emit a fiery Sword Intent. It all depends on how you understand your sword.]

"Interesting... This seems important. I guess this Sword Intent is something I'll need to focus on," Klaus said, appearing intrigued.

[That you should. Luckily for you, that lady of yours seems to have grasped a small understanding of Sword Intent. Although you can't learn her Sword Intent directly, you can still learn something from her,] the senior said.

"Wait, Miriam knew Sword Intent?" Klaus asked, clearly taken aback.

[Why are you shocked? I don't know what you see in them before going near these ladies, but so far, I can tell they all have potential. The one with the light energy and the other with the Wind element are brimming with potential. If nurtured well, they could unleash terrifying prowess with the sword.]

"Interesting... I only saw beauty," Klaus said with a proud smile.

[Then you should look beyond their skirts because even the one called Nadia has one of the most powerful Puppeteer Classes I've ever seen.]

"Say what..." This time, Klaus was truly taken aback. Nadia, the fashion lady, even has powerful potential. Just what happens to having normal friends?

"Senior, do you have a way for me to see the status page of my friends?" Klaus could only ask.

Even though he planned on helping his friends, he didn't want to harm their potential by giving them just any cultivation technique or martial techniques.

[I do.] The senior replied, making Klaus smile happily.

Chapter 370 - 370: How to Open the Pentaface Bead

Klaus received the skill called [Info] from the senior, which was immediately ingrained in his brain. He thanked him and then went about exploring the other things that had changed or appeared inside his soul sea.

The first was the Sword, his soul weapon. After using it to kill the Gatekeeper, some of the runes entered it. Now, staring at it, Klaus could tell it had become much more powerful than before. He didn't know how strong it had become, but he could tell.

For some reason, he decided to use the Info Skill on it. To his shock, it worked.

[Name: Celestial Requiem]

[Type: Soul Weapon]

[Grade: Spiritual]

[Abilities:]

- Superimposition: All attacks unleashed from the sword will have a 200% increase in damage output.

- Unbreakable: As long as the owner of the sword is alive, the sword will never break or get damaged.

- Life Switch: When a powerful soul attack that can kill is dealt to the owner of the sword, 70% of it will be absorbed by the sword.

"This is awesome... The sword is even better than I thought." Klaus smiled, reading the abilities of the sword. He had already used the Superimposition ability of the sword, but even then, he didn't know just how much the sword had amplified his skill.

But now, reading that it's 200%, he couldn't stop himself from feeling a little happy. After all, he had suffered greatly during his rise to the level he was at now.

"As for the third ability, as long as the second one is active, the sword would never get damaged." Klaus smiled, admiring the mischief of the sword.

If a soul attack was aimed at him—one that could kill—his sword would absorb 70%, saving him from death. But while 70% might be enough to destroy the sword, because he wouldn't die from the remaining 30%, the sword wouldn't be damaged.

As long as something didn't kill him, the sword wouldn't be damaged, not even in the slightest.

"This sword is awesome," Klaus said with an excited smile.

[You should feed it more. If you don't understand how to do that, just drop your blood on it, and it will imprint the cultivation technique into your mind. But do that when you're out of your soul sea since you can get hurt in here,] the senior said.

Later, Klaus went to the Seal of Slaughter, now much larger and solid. The aura around it had also become much more powerful.

"Just by staring at it, I can sense my Slaughter Aura growing," Klaus said with a smile.

[Your soul has become several times stronger now, brat, not to mention your crazy mental strength. So naturally, your comprehension abilities have also become very powerful.]

"But with so many things I need to do, I feel like I won't have any free time again to have some fun," Klaus said. He indeed had a lot to accomplish.

So even though his comprehension speed had increased, he would still have to dedicate time to it. And from the looks of things, forming nine cores, learning about sword intent, and comprehending the Aura of Slaughter meant that his days of being free-spirited were over.

[You indeed don't have much free time. If you somehow manage to form a soul body, then your soul body can comprehend the Aura of Slaughter inside your soul sea while you take care of other things.

Of course, I have a method to help you create a clone, but that clone won't be able to access your soul-level abilities. Also, the moment you create a clone, a part of your soul and mental strength will be dedicated to it.

In some ways, it's beneficial, but in other situations, it can be disadvantageous,] the senior's words were like a wake-up call to Klaus.

"I don't know why or how, but I think my Nine Reincarnation Divine Body wouldn't be happy about forming clones. So, I guess I'll just focus more on cultivation and see where this mysterious physique will take me," Klaus said to the senior.

Although he didn't know why he felt that way, a part of him didn't want clones. If his physique was as mysterious as it seemed, then he would see results soon.

[Okay. Just focus more on the Aura of Slaughter and forming your cores. The longer you spend with the Seal of Slaughter, the stronger it grows,] the senior advised.

Klaus proceeded to observe the seal for a few more minutes before moving toward the Pentaface Bead, now called the Demon Bead.

"It seems to have undergone a crazy upgrade. I feel more connected to it," Klaus muttered, looking at the bead. He was careful to maintain some distance since he didn't want a repeat of what happened last time.

However, the more he observed the bead, the closer he wanted to get. Finally, he gave up resisting and approached it. He observed it up close for a few moments, and then as if compelled, he placed his palm on it.

The moment he did, the bead vibrated, releasing a dense golden energy that immediately filled the 2 km around them. Klaus's senses were overwhelmed for a few moments before he regained his composure.

"That was weird," Klaus said, watching the bead. A while later, he felt a new wave of information pour into his mind, making him dizzy for a few seconds.

It felt as if his brain had been pumped full of forbidden knowledge. However, Klaus didn't complain; instead, he took a few minutes to calm his mind before...He decided to get into what had happened to his brain.

"What the hell," Klaus muttered as he accessed the information, seeing something he never expected to find, at least not at this early stage.

He had discovered a way to open the Pentaface Bead. When he first met Number Three, he was told he was weak and hadn't even opened the bead yet. Klaus, of course, thought about it for a while and then decided to forget about it.

The last time he got curious about the bead, he nearly died. So, he had placed the idea of opening it at the back of his mind.

Now, however, a way to open it had appeared, and Klaus could hardly believe it. He knew it wouldn't be that simple, so he reviewed the information. As he suspected, the method was as challenging as he had expected.

"I first have to unlock all five faces before the bead can be opened," Klaus muttered with a frown. He wondered whether Number Three had ever come into contact with this bead and, if so, whether he had ever unlocked all five.

"Wait a minute, there's more information," Klaus said as he began accessing the remaining information he had received from the bead. After a few more minutes, his eyes widened, a smile gracing his lips.

"I have unlocked the third face and a new skill. How wonderful," Klaus said with an excited expression. He now has access to three out of the five faces.

[Congratulations, brat,] the senior congratulated him. Klaus's smile grew as he gazed at the third face of the Bead—the Face of Starvation.