

Paragon 421

Chapter 421 - 421: Overpowered (3)

Klaus sighed. Thinking about whether he was once a woman had to be pushed aside for now. He didn't have the time to dive into something like that just yet.

His focus shifted to the Seal of Illusions and Poisons, which was now exuding purple energy—a very potent one at that.

"Senior, I suppose Ohema also has a Poison seal too?" Klaus asked. Since the senior seemed to know more about people, he had to ask.

[Yes... She has a seal called the Million Venoms Seal. It's a rather powerful seal that, if comprehended well, would enable her to cultivate her true poison body into a million true poison bodies. Now, that is something I wish to see one day.]

"How exciting. I guess Ohema is no ordinary person." Klaus was very happy. The stronger she became, the stronger he would also become. Klaus was thinking that far ahead.

"What about Queenie? Any new changes to her seal?" Klaus asked.

[Brat, you do know you can enter their soul seas and check, right? In fact, you should. It will benefit you somehow.]

"Wait, I can do something like that?" Klaus asked.

[Of course. I will teach you a method you can use to get into the soul sea of anyone willing to allow you access. That being said, you will be able to do this as the Paragon Mark grows stronger. But you can't rely on the Paragon Mark for those you don't have connections with.

That being said, here is a method you can use to enter the soul sea of a willing soul. Of course, be careful whose soul sea you enter, as you would be vulnerable there.]

A light flew from the first door and merged with Klaus. He received the technique and now had the ability to access the soul sea of anyone willing.

[For the rest, you'll have to figure it out yourself.]

"Then can you tell me more about the Seal of Lightning in Hanna and the Seal of Blood in Queenie? I feel like I need to know more about them," Klaus asked.

[Of course. The Seal of Lightning is essentially about harnessing the storm and using the lightning to your advantage. You already possess the lightning element, so although you haven't awakened it yet, you can do so by studying the Seal of Lightning.

You already have 6 star cores, so you're as qualified as a Saint. It should be fairly easy for you to comprehend it.

As for the Seal of Blood, you don't have the right Class to wield it. You can still benefit with your weapon Overlord class, but you need a true Class that directly links to the seal.

As for the class that your lady awakened with, the blood seal is perfect for her. After all, like you, she has a forbidden Class and Talent.]

"So the Asura Race is a Forbidden Race, huh... How exciting," Klaus smiled, hearing that.

"So, comparing her to her sister, which of them is stronger?" Klaus wanted to know.

He could tell Queenie was extremely powerful, but he wanted to know how she compared to Ohema.

[The Asura girl is several times stronger than the Poison girl. In fact, except for some beings in your worlds, she is currently the strongest.]

"What other beings, senior?" Klaus asked, startled.

[You'll find out soon enough. I don't want to spoil the fun.] The senior chuckled and grew quiet.

"Tsk, how annoying. First, Number Three said my world would soon awaken, and I should be ready. He added no other context. And now I'm just finding out there are beings stronger than even the strongest person on Earth? Is this for real?"

Klaus didn't know what to think anymore. It was like the stronger he got, the more obstacles appeared. But then again, he was destined to face many challenges, so he could only prepare for them.

"I need to get stronger, fast. Otherwise, I might just lose everything." With that in mind, Klaus moved toward the Tribulation Prison, where thousands of colossal lightning monsters filled the space.

"I need to reserve this for now. Who knows when Number Three or Knox might visit again? I should ask for another refining technique."

The only refining technique he had was the one he used to refine his wings, which allowed him to fly at 12,000 miles per hour.

With his wings, he could fly around the Earth in four hours. But, of course, he wasn't crazy enough to attempt that speed in his current form.

He needed to get stronger before attempting such madness.

He needed a new refining technique to form another overpowered ability. An armor of lightning sounded rather cool at the moment.

"Now that I have awakened the Chaotic Nirvana Flame, it's time to start working toward awakening the other flames," Klaus said with a slight smile.

He had indeed become very powerful.

The dragon within him was now stronger than ever. It wasn't supposed to finish its upgrade yet, but Klaus had used the tribulation runes to accelerate the process, forcing it to awaken fully ahead of schedule.

This also meant that the skills the dragon had bestowed upon him had become far more potent. And now, it had granted him a new skill: [Dragon Slash].

As the name suggested, Klaus could imbue his sword with fire and, with a slash, unleash a raging inferno shaped like a dragon. The move was similar to his [Moon Slash], but this one carried the dragon's essence.

However, [Dragon Slash] went beyond being a simple elemental attack—it fused his Sword Aura and Sword Intent, making it more of a devastating sword technique than a mere fire dragon.

Its power depends entirely on how much energy Klaus poured into the strike.

Since he couldn't yet fully wield the true form of [Asura Crazy Sword Strike], he had to rely on this new skill. The reasoning was simple: the dragon had already gifted him another ability, [Nirvana Flame Dragon Arm Guard].

This ability allows him to summon an armed flame guard around his arm. When activated, it amplified all attacks made with that arm by 120%.

This would only make the [Dragon Slash] even more impressive. He had indeed become much stronger, and he knew that once the dragon unlocked the second Flame, it would make him even more dangerous in the future.

Klaus glanced around for a while, inspecting the Pentaface Bead to check if he had gained any new skills or if the fourth face had awakened. Alas, he was disappointed in that regard, but he knew it was only a matter of time.

For now, he was undeniably overpowered for someone at his cultivation level. After scanning the area a bit more, he left the Soul Sea and quickly checked his status page.

Name: Klaus Hanson

Age: 16

Talent: Celestial Elemental Overlord | Overlord Poison Master

Class: Weapons Overlord | Poison Illusionist Overlord

Bloodline: Dormant

Physique: Nine Reincarnation Divine Body

Realm: Grandmaster

Star Core Formation: 6/9

Strength: 3,930 | Agility: 4,170 | Stamina: 4,140 | Defense: 3,400 | Intelligence: 3,800 | Health: 8,000

Star Qi: 1,200,000,000

Stat Points: 7600

"Looks like I earned 300 points for every core formed, an additional 1,000 points, and a whopping 100 million Star Qi for each core. How awesome is that?"

Klaus smiled at his status page for a few minutes before closing it. Once he was ready, he got dressed to explore the Moon while Ohema rested for a while.

Chapter 422 - 422: A Walking Tourist Attraction

Klaus quickly and easily found his way out of the royal palace of the Moon Race as if he'd been there a million times. With his senses now extending up to 80 kilometers, there was no need for him to ask for directions.

As soon as he stepped outside, he began seeing people—Moon Race citizens. They were strikingly beautiful, with a few handsome faces among them. Naturally, Klaus immediately drew attention.

He noticed some of them discreetly pulling out their phones and devices to snap photos of him.

'So it's the pretty boy situation all over again. If only I had the 7-Star Forbidden Diagram, I could have perfectly disguised myself as one of them. None of this would be happening,' he thought with an inward sigh. With no changing it, he started moving forward.

Under normal circumstances, he should have waited for Ohema to wake up and escort him. But Klaus didn't want to disturb her, so he decided to explore the moon on his own. Not that he was afraid of anyone here, anyway.

"Is that him—the intruder?" a young woman asked her friends from a spot a few meters away.

"Shh! Don't let the Grand Elders hear you say that!" another whispered hastily. "My mom told me that if anyone calls him an intruder and they find out, you'll be in big trouble."

"But he is an intruder..." the same girl muttered under her breath, her expression darkening with a frown.

"Well, true," her friend replied, "but he's also the Princess's husband, so watch what you say unless you want to get in trouble."

"Do you think Lycos will make a move on him? I mean, he practically devoted his whole life to the Princess, only to have his heart broken by some random human. If I were him, I'd be pissed," another girl chimed in.

"Oh, he's pissed, alright. But he's not the only one. I heard Tarn and Dren feel the same. Even Big Sister Vela is angry. This human better watch his back."

Klaus, strolling along and admiring the scenery, smirked. He could hear every word the women were saying, though it didn't bother him. His focus was on exploring Lunarville and sampling some of the Moon Race's dishes.

"Now that I think about it, what currency do they use here?" he mused with a sigh, realizing he might not be able to buy anything without their money.

As he wandered, he passed by massive buildings, towering corporate skyscrapers, and various shops selling all sorts of goods.

He didn't need to enter; his senses gave him a detailed look at everything around him. No one noticed, of course—his abilities were virtually undetectable.

"To think humans have no clue there's an entire race of living beings on the Moon. How absurd is that? And we claim we're on the brink of a golden age of space exploration. Yet we can't even detect life on the closest celestial body to us. What a joke."

He sighed again. "We're truly screwed at this point. Queenie better sort this out; else, we won't stand a chance next time."

"Good thing I managed to get into the pants of the Princess of this race; otherwise, who knows what would have happened to us," Klaus muttered with a sigh, continuing to stroll through Lunarville.

The more he saw, the funnier it got.

"For fuck's sake, companies are polluting the air here too? How the hell did our satellites miss that?" Klaus chuckled, his amusement evident as he smiled to himself.

His easy grin caught the attention of passersby. Some people blushed at the sight of the handsome human walking around with such a carefree expression.

"Is it just me, or is this human, kind of cute?" whispered a worker inside a tall company building. Several women were gathered at the windows, watching Klaus as he passed below.

With only about 500,000 people living on the Moon, word had already spread like wildfire. Klaus's movements were being tracked, with live updates on his location and recordings of every place he'd passed through.

"He is cute. I can see why the Princess chose him. Honestly, I would've done the same," one of the women said, her tone laced with envy.

"Me too! I wouldn't mind finding myself a cute human to play with," another added, giggling.

"Me too. They should allow us to go down there and pick a few humans as playthings."

The Moon Race's interconnected society made it impossible for Klaus to go unnoticed. As he sensed more and more eyes following him, the unease began to creep in.

'Great,' he thought. 'I'm basically a walking tourist attraction now.'

In the palace garden, Ohema, who had been fast asleep when Klaus left moments earlier, was now awake. She sat with her mother, Queen Lunara, and her sister, gazing thoughtfully into the distance.

Of course, she had been faking sleep. Ohema had woken up long before Klaus exited his Soul Sea but, like him, she chose not to disturb his peace.

"You're not going to accompany him?" Queen Lunara asked, her gaze shifting to her daughter.

"No... He wanted to go alone; that's why he didn't wake me up. I'll let him have this moment," Ohema replied calmly, sipping from her drink.

"Are you not worried about what people might do to him?" her sister asked.

"Not at all," Ohema said confidently, a proud smile on her face. "He's more than capable, so there's nothing for me to worry about."

Queen Lunara shook her head at her daughter's prideful tone.

"Tsk. That idiot is heading straight for trouble," Ohema muttered suddenly, her expression darkening as she noticed a young man and a group of others moving in Klaus's direction.

The Moon wasn't that large, and someone with Ohema's cultivation level could monitor nearly everything happening if she chose to.

"Since you said he can handle himself, let him handle it. No need to look so angry," Queen Lunara said with a smile, noting how Ohema's fists had clenched in irritation.

"Fine," Ohema relented, though her tone was sharp. "But if he gets hurt, I'll kill that idiot myself."

Her temper was as quick as ever.

Queenie just smiled, watching her sister's behavior. Although she didn't remember her childhood very well, now that she had recovered some, she could tell she was always that way—quick-tempered and trouble-causing.

Back then, she could only know her for 24 hours before her brain would reset. A nasty curse, but she was healed now.

Somewhere in Lunarville, Klaus moved across a white field, more like a park, with benches and other things that could only be found in places meant for relaxation.

He was headed toward the Green Life restaurant, which he could see in the distance. Of course, there were people around, since it was a park, and they were all staring at him.

Suddenly, five people appeared, and the moment Klaus saw them, he knew he was about to make his first friends on the moon.

"You must be the intruder..." One of them, a handsome fellow, asked. Klaus smiled slightly.

"Who's asking?"

Chapter 423 - 423: Making Friends...The Hard Way

The one who asked the question was a handsome young man with silver-green hair. Beside him stood two other young men with short dark hair.

They looked alike, which suggests they were brothers, but it was hard to tell which one was older. One was shorter than the other, but sometimes height can be deceiving.

With these three was another young man, bald but still handsome. He looked calmer than the first three.

Then, there was a fiery, pale-looking lady among them who locked eyes with Klaus as they walked toward him. Clearly, the five of them meant no friendly intentions as they approached him.

Well, they are sovereigns...

"So, you are the intruder," Lycos, the silver-green-haired guy, said.

"That depends on how you see it," Klaus replied with a smile. "First, I didn't intrude; I was brought here. And second, why the hostility? It's not like I'm some kind of monster here."

"You think this is funny?" Lycos glared at Klaus, making sure his anger was clear through his eyes. He was furious, very furious.

After all, Klaus had stolen his woman. Who wouldn't be mad about that?

"First of all, my name is Klaus, and I'm not an intruder, nor do I care what this is. I'm just a normal human who has visited the moon," Klaus said, still wearing the same smile.

He turned toward Lycos and asked, "Why do you keep staring at me like I've stolen your woman?"

Clearly, Klaus shouldn't have asked that question. The moment he did, Lycos's Sovereign-stage aura burst from his body, and his face turned green with fury. Even those with him felt the pressure and took a few steps back.

"You dare..." Lycos snarled, taking a step toward Klaus. Klaus stood there, expressionless. No one could tell if he was affected by the aura or not, he just stood still.

Onlookers quickly pulled out their phones, recording the moment Lycos and his group approached Klaus. It was clear they were eager to see where this would go. Word had spread quickly that Klaus was seen outside after weeks on the moon.

Since he was unconscious for the past week, nobody has seen him outside.

"A weakling like you dares take my woman?" Lycos said arrogantly as he marched toward Klaus, clearly feeling he had the upper hand.

A Sovereign—of course, he would be this arrogant. In his eyes, Klaus was just a mere Grandmaster bug. He knew his aura alone was enough to teach him a lesson.

However, something unexpected happened. Just when he felt was gaining the upper hand, Klaus moved, locking eyes with him and grinning.

"So that is what all this is about. You're mad because Ohema chose me and not you. How typical..." He shook his head like it was the most normal thing in the world.

"Don't worry, I'm not judging you. I have some of you in my world—jealous fellows with no strength to do anything."

Klaus said it with a casual shake of his head, but inside, he was startled by how quickly his energy had canceled out Lycos's suppression.

Lycos and his friends immediately paled when they saw how casually Klaus spoke under Lycos's suppression.

They were not like Miguel and the others, who didn't know when to stop. On the moon, every one of them had fought monsters in life-and-death battles.

The moon was far more dangerous than Earth, and they knew when to fear something and when to act arrogant. Right now, they were scared of Klaus.

The reason was simple: in the level ranking, Lycos was a Level 3 Sovereign, and they were all Level 2 Sovereigns. However, whenever they battle, Lycos always suppresses them with his aura.

But now, standing before them, a mere Grandmaster was acting as if the aura did not affect him.

Subconsciously, they all took a few steps back. They were scared.

Klaus wasn't an idiot; he knew they were scared, but who was Klaus, if not someone who thrived on mischief?

He smirked and decided to have a little fun.

Boom!

His tyrannical slaughter aura burst out, immediately suppressing the five in front of him. He wasn't using it at full capacity—mainly because he didn't know how powerful it had become—but it was enough to overwhelm them completely.

"Why don't we take it from the top again?" He began to take steps forward, leaving frozen steps with every footstep.

"My name is Klaus Hanson. I am a human, and currently, I am the strongest person on Earth," Klaus said with a smile, knowing his lie was already heard by some people, who were now smiling at his mischief.

"And yes, I am just a Grandmaster stage expert, and yes, I do have the power to kill all five of you, and yes, I can kill you five right now without lifting a finger."

He paused for a moment, his smile widening.

"However, I'm kind of a stranger here since my wife decided to fake sleep so she wouldn't have to escort me around this place. Talk about a good wife these days"

"Thankfully, I met you five, and from just a glance, I can tell we're destined to be friends. So, I'm going to withdraw my aura, and then we'll start again, but this time by introducing ourselves."

"How does that sound?" he asked, now standing right next to Lycos, who immediately nodded, his already pale face growing even paler.

"Great. Who would like to start first?" Klaus said, releasing his aura.

The five Moon Borns took a few steps back, distancing themselves from Klaus as they gasped for breath. Clearly, Klaus had left an impact.

"I'll start again. I am Klaus Hanson, human, and I use the sword and Spirit Weapons," Klaus said, looking at Lycos's group.

"I am Lycos Newman, I am Moon Born, and I use the staff and wand," Lycos said, his expression still fearful.

"Oh, a mage, how exciting," Klaus said with a smile. He then turned to the bald fellow.

"I am Zayn. I was also born Moon Born, and I use the gauntlet."

"A brawler, huh? I have some uncles who are basically brawlers through and through. You'd love them," Klaus smiled, picturing Uncle Ziggy and the rest of his wild uncles.

"I am Tarn; I use the sword," the next guy introduced himself.

"Are you the eldest or the tall one?" Klaus asked. Tarn was the shorter one, looking eerily similar to his brother.

"I am the eldest," Tarn answered.

"I knew it," Klaus muttered with a smile.

"I am Dren; I also use the sword," Tarn's little brother introduced himself, looking calmer than the rest. Klaus could tell he wasn't there by choice; his friends had made him come along.

"And you, fairy, what is your name?" Klaus turned to the lady with them.

"I am Vela, I use the spear," she said, but Klaus could tell she was holding back more information. Of course, he didn't care. The mischief would continue.

"Well, Lycos, Zayn, Tarn, Dren, and Vela, nice meeting you. And as I said earlier, I'm a stranger here. Since we're all good friends now, I'd like to trouble you to give me a tour of some of the best places in this amazing world."

Klaus said this with a small smile that said a lot. Of course, the five Sovereigns were in no position to refuse. As Klaus had said, he could kill them before they even knew what happened.

"Great, then we can start at that restaurant. I'm starving," Klaus said, placing his hand on Lycos's shoulder as they began moving toward the Green Life Restaurant.

The onlookers watching were all stunned by the unexpected turn of events.

Chapter 424 - 424: Outing with New Friends

"Brother Klaus, this is the largest and most secure training ground in Lunarville," Tarn said, pointing toward a stadium-like structure.

Klaus nodded, taking in the massive buildings around him. The five who had once tried to suppress him were now his closest friends, leaving everyone stunned.

Everyone was utterly shocked. From those who witnessed the event live to those watching the videos uploaded online from their homes, they were all dumbfounded.

A Grandmaster had no business competing in the realm of those four stages above them. It shouldn't have been possible. It defied logic.

The disbelief was palpable. With 500,000 people living in Lunarville, the world of the Moonborn, information traveled quickly. Everyone had seen how Klaus handled the confrontation with Lycos's group.

Some were shocked, others awed, and a few terrified.

What Klaus accomplished made no sense. A mere Grandmaster shouldn't even be able to suppress a Saint, let alone a Sovereign. It was too much for many to accept.

But the surprises didn't end there. After the five Moonborns took Klaus to the Green Life Restaurant and spoiled him with food, they began giving him a grand tour of Lunarville.

Slowly, the group began to relax around Klaus. Lycos, in particular, started to understand why someone like Ohema would choose Klaus as her man.

It was crystal clear to him now—Klaus was a monster, someone even a Peak Sovereign couldn't hope to suppress.

"I have to say, Lunarville is incredibly beautiful," Kent remarked, his eyes sweeping across the area as they roamed the city.

He had noticed several things. First was the technology. It was clear the Moonborn were decades, if not centuries, ahead of Earth's advancements. They had ships capable of traveling to Earth-like jets, whereas humans relied on cumbersome shuttles.

Of course, one of Earth's leading tech companies, Space Z, had begun developing a jet-like spaceship they estimated could travel to the Moon and Mars. It was still in the prototype stage, but even so, they were far behind.

They could have made greater strides, but as things stood, humans were losing the race for technological superiority.

If the Moonborn ever decided to attack Earth, humanity would be doomed.

Beyond the technology, Kent also noticed the strength of the people. Because of their low birthrate and the inability to have more than one child, most of the children he saw were his age.

Yet, even at such a young age, they were between the Saint and Master stages.

This alone demonstrated that, despite their smaller numbers, the Moonborn were incredibly capable in combat. Even Grandmasters on the moon regularly fought Saint-level moon beasts as part of their daily routine.

Klaus also learned that 60 percent of the moon's surface was covered by monsters—extremely dangerous types.

About 30 percent was occupied by the Moonborn, primarily in Lunarville, where he currently was, while the remaining 10 percent was a neutral area.

Perhaps that neutral zone was where humans had landed years ago. Klaus couldn't help but laugh when he heard how the Moonborn had recorded videos of humanity's first landing on the moon.

It was pitiful, to say the least.

The factories and companies in Lunarville were on another level entirely. However, despite their advancements, the Moonborn were running out of time.

Tarn, being rather talkative, shared quite a few secrets with Klaus. From what Klaus gathered, if the Moonborn didn't find a new home within the next two years, they would be overrun.

This was the main reason they intended to invade Earth and claim it as their own. But with an alliance between the Moonborn and humans now on the horizon, there was hope for their survival.

Of course, Queenie would need to consult with her subordinates and the other leaders on Earth to decide whether to allow them sanctuary.

Still, it was unlikely humans would reject the offer of extra help. Earth wasn't in a position to turn down potential allies.

And humans weren't savages who would abandon a race to extinction just to avoid potential rivals.

"I have to say, guys, this place is stunning. Too bad the moon beast situation is escalating by the day," Klaus said, his gaze lingering on the distant skyline. "But I know for a fact that if your people come to Earth and form an alliance, my people would accept."

And even if they don't, I'll knock some sense into their heads and make them. After all, I am the strongest there," he added with a small smile.

"Are you really the strongest?" Vela asked, her eyes narrowing as she studied Klaus curiously.

"Of course," Klaus replied confidently. "Have you ever met an overpowered Grandmaster like me? I mean, if I get to the level of your Queen, wouldn't I have the strength to destroy planets and stars with my bare fists?"

"So you're not the strongest yet, but you have the makings of the strongest?" Lycos asked, raising an eyebrow.

"You see? Lycos knows me better," Klaus said with a grin, wrapping his arm around Lycos's shoulder playfully.

"You guys should come to Earth," he continued. "Sure, the spiritual qi there isn't as strong or dense as it is here—mainly because of our population—but it's safe and well-regulated.

"I'm certain that if humans and Moonborn work together, we could eradicate the lunar beasts and give you back your home within a few years."

Klaus truly wanted the Moonborns to come to Earth. For some unknown reason, he began to feel uneasy, as though doom was about to descend upon the planet. To prepare, he sought more firepower.

The Moonborns and humans working together could create a meaningful impact in the long run.

Klaus and his companions explored the area, trying to see as much of the Moonborn realm as possible. Though he couldn't see everything, he managed to visit some of the most remarkable places.

With his new "friends" acting as guides, he learned a few secrets that would help him present an appealing picture of their world to his allies back on Earth.

However, Klaus had to return soon. There were pressing matters to handle before he left for the academy. With only ten days remaining, he needed to ensure everything was in order.

"Thank you all for the tour. I really enjoyed it. If you ever come to Earth, I'll take you around and show you all the amazing places my world has to offer," Klaus said to his companions.

"Of course, Earth is many times bigger than your world, so there are plenty of places to choose from. I truly hope you all visit someday."

With that, Klaus returned to the palace, leaving his companions behind. Once he was gone, Lycos and the others heaved a sigh of relief.

"This human is very dangerous," Vela remarked, sinking into a comfortable bench. It was the same spot where they had first met Klaus.

"But he's also friendly," Zayn, the bald one, added.

"At least things ended on a lighter note. It could've been worse," Tarn said, and his brother, Dren, nodded in agreement.

"Let's go. The fact that we've seen what humans are capable of means we may have underestimated them. We need to get stronger," Lycos said with a sigh.

"Does that mean we're going on another hunt?" Vela asked as she stood up.

"Yes."

With that, they left as well. Klaus had opened their eyes. Just as Miguel and his group back on Earth had chosen to train to surpass him, these five Moonborns had also resolved to walk the same path.

The Paragon aura is too contagious.

Chapter 425 - 425: Leaving the Moon

"You really are something else, Klaus..." Queen Lunara said, her face etched with shock. Like everyone else, she had witnessed how easily Klaus suppressed the five Sovereigns.

It had been a walk in the park for him.

"Well, I had to leave an impression. Those five just happened to show up at the perfect time," Klaus replied with a grin. He wasn't overly concerned about their feelings; in his heart, they were his friends now.

Queenie and Ohema were staring at him with equally stunned expressions. Yet, knowing Klaus and the heaven-defying feats he had accomplished on Earth even when he was weaker, they could only sigh in exasperation.

"So, when are we leaving?" Queenie asked, giving Klaus a strange look.

"We can leave now, but I doubt Mother-in-law would be too happy about that," he said teasingly.

"You damn right! You three will only leave after dinner," Queen Lunara declared with a pout.

Later, they all gathered for dinner. Klaus and the Lunarville royal family exchanged jokes and shared laughter, enjoying a lively and warm meal together. During the conversation, Klaus took the opportunity to ask a question that had been nagging at him.

"So, are the Moonborns part human, or are you completely different? I mean, you look human, but I can tell there's something unique about you. Or maybe you're not human at all," he said curiously.

Queen Lunara smiled softly. "While we are not completely human, we also don't know who our ancestors were. The only thing we do know is that we've been on the Moon for thousands of years. Our unique method of birth makes our population growth quite slow," she explained.

"So, in some regard, we are human, but in most cases, we are aliens of some kind."

Klaus nodded thoughtfully, filing the information away. So much about the Moonborns remained a mystery, but they were clearly more extraordinary than they appeared.

Ohema said, "We are like the Ice and Water people that appeared on Earth. Although we look human, we are not truly human, at least not on the inside."

"I see... That makes sense," Klaus replied. He wasn't concerned with their identity; he was more interested in where they came from. But from what he could tell, it seemed they didn't know that themselves.

"What about the lunar beasts?" he asked.

"They're similar to what happened in your world. They mutated when the apocalypse descended. However, unlike Earth—where the beast mutation mostly begins at the Tier 8 stage, with full transformation at Tier 9—here, the process starts at Tier 6. By Tier 7 and Tier 8, they become extremely dangerous.

"Of course, Earth has already started seeing monsters evolving into beast form from Tier 7, but it would take years for them to achieve a true beast stage.

"For the lunar beasts, their strength increases noticeably from Tier 6. Right now, they number in the millions, while we are only half a million. Even though we have powerful warriors, that alone isn't enough.

"We have a few Tier 8, 9, and 10 beasts among us. But that's not the worst of it. There are three Tier 11 beasts—one is in the same tier as me—and two of them are at Peak Tier 11. It's only a matter of time before those two cross into the next stage."

"When that happens, it will spell our doom."

"That bad, huh?" Klaus said, running a hand through his hair.

"Yes. The monsters in my world are no joke, and from the way things are going, their numbers will keep growing while we remain stagnant because of our unique condition," Ohema replied.

"Then it's a good thing your daughter is a big shot in the human world. We have enough space to accommodate all of you, so I don't think you need to worry much," Klaus said, glancing at Queenie.

"Yes, Mother, don't worry," Queenie reassured. "I'll talk to the humans. I'm sure they won't object to your alliance request."

"And even if they prove stubborn," Klaus added with a confident grin, "I'll visit them individually and make sure they see reason. After all, while your daughter may be the face of the humans, I am, in fact, the strongest. I just let her have the title." He smiled.

Both mother and daughter smiled in return. Queenie then said, "Klaus, do you remember what I told you back in Stone Valley the first time we met on the roof?"

"What does that have to do with anything?" Klaus asked, instantly recalling her threat to push him off the building.

"Do you know it's a long way to fall from the moon down to Earth?" Queenie said with a wicked grin.

"The joke's on you... I have wings now. How can I fall when I can fly?" Klaus laughed.

"Wanna put that to the test?" Queenie said, her eyes glinting dangerously as she stared at him.

"You two look cute together," Ohema said, watching Klaus and Queenie, who were staring dangerously close at each other.

In some strange way, it looked endearing. However, Klaus's thoughts were heading in a completely different direction.

'For some reason, I feel like this lady is going to make me suffer. Maybe I should have just let the heavens kill her. Damn, that would've set me back another generation... Damn it,' he thought, smiling inwardly.

Meanwhile, Queenie's thoughts ran along a much lighter path.

'He looks even more handsome up close. I wonder what he's thinking about. Maybe he's thinking about me,' she mused, caught up in childish fantasies.

Clearly, she needed the Star Juice.

"Alright. If you two want to fight, go do it in your own world. I don't want to deal with another commotion here," Queen Lunara said sharply, snapping them out of their mutual gaze.

They laughed it off and returned to small talk for the next few hours. Eventually, goodbyes were exchanged.

Though Klaus still couldn't navigate the air effortlessly without his lightning wings, he lifted himself easily. Queenie opened a rift, and they both disappeared into it.

Queen Lunara sighed softly, her serene expression shifting as she turned toward a specific direction.

"Come out," she commanded.

Moments later, the seven Grand Elders entered the meeting room, standing silently alongside their queen.

"We have to make preparations for when my daughter returns with the humans' decision," Queen Lunara declared, causing the Grand Elders to nod in agreement.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the moon, now within Earth's atmosphere, another rift opened. Klaus, along with Queenie and Ohema, emerged through it.

Klaus struggled for a moment to stay airborne, but in the end, Ohema had to steady him until he could find his balance and move his legs. He knew everything would be easier once he became a Saint.

"I'll be leaving for now, Sister. I need to meet with the other Overlords and the Earth leaders to discuss how the alliance with the Moonborns will work," Queenie said.

"Alright, Sister, I'll see you later," Ohema replied.

"Then, see you later," Queenie said as she began to open another rift, but before she could step through, a hand grabbed her.

"You surely didn't think I'd let you go without a kiss," Klaus said with a playful smile. Queenie felt her power drain instantly, and before she could respond, his lips were on hers.

Five seconds later, Klaus's wings unfurled, and he shot into the sky, leaving a trail of lightning behind him.

"See you later, Sister," Ohema giggled, watching the Overlord with pink cheeks and a thoughtful expression stay frozen in the air.

Twenty minutes later, still blushing, Queenie opened a rift and left.

The Paragon struck again—leaving even an Overlord vulnerable to his aura.

Chapter 426 - 426: Back to Earth

"How was your time on the moon, honey?" Klaus's mother asked, holding his hand. It had been four whole weeks since he left, and she had been worried the entire time.

"It was great, Mom. I had fun and made some friends. That place is very beautiful," Klaus replied with a smile.

"Glad you had fun."

"I can't believe there are people on the moon. How come we haven't known about this all these years?" Anna asked, looking rather shocked.

Ohema had already revealed her true identity to them, so they knew she was a moon-born. What shocked them, however, was the revelation that people were living on Earth's closest celestial body, yet humanity had no idea they existed.

"We are advanced in technology—very advanced—so unless we want to reveal ourselves to someone, you wouldn't know we exist," Ohema said with a small smile.

"I can't believe you're not human, Sister Ohema. You look so human to me."

"Scratch that. I can't believe you're an Ascendant and a sister to the leader of the Overlords at that. You're awesome!" Miriam said, practically glowing like a fangirl.

"Relax, my War Goddess. Your big sister will be coming to visit soon enough," Klaus said with a grin. Miriam and Queenie were sworn sisters, and seeing Ohema, who bore the same face as Queenie, only made her happier.

"So, what is the moon like?" Danny asked.

"From what I've seen, it's very beautiful. The place isn't that big, but it's charming enough to make you want to stay there forever. Of course, with your current strength, you'd stand out."

"The weakest person I met there was a Grandmaster, and they're about to break through to the Saint stage," Klaus said, shaking his head.

After witnessing the strength of the Moonborn, Klaus began to question whether Earth truly had a hopeful future. The number of Sovereigns he saw on the moon easily numbered in the hundreds if not thousands.

That alone made it clear how far behind humans were. Humanity might have the advantage in numbers, but would that be enough?

"Good thing they're reaching an agreement with us now. Otherwise, who knows how many lives would've been lost?" Kilian said, shaking his head.

"By the way, how was your training?" Klaus asked.

"We've learned the cultivation techniques, so now we can start forming the star core whenever you give the order," Anna replied, sounding rather happy.

"Good. Since you've all come this far, why not push yourselves to grow even stronger? That said, you'll need to form your cores using the monster cores that match your elemental affinity." Klaus paused before adding, "Everyone except Danny."

"Why not me?" Danny asked, frowning.

"You have the light element, which is quite rare," Klaus explained. "Until we find monsters with that affinity, you'll have to rely on treasures and regular cores. Of course, I'll do my best to get you some Light-elemental cores when we find them."

Klaus had researched and discovered that Light-elemental monsters were exceedingly rare. Danny would have to make do with ordinary cores for now since there simply weren't many Light-Elemental monster cores available.

Well, at least not on Earth...

"I can get him as many Light-elemental cores as he needs," Ohema said casually. "Most of the Lunar Beasts have Light affinities."

Danny's face lit up instantly. "You're the best, Sister Ohema!" he exclaimed, beaming with excitement.

Klaus didn't mind where the cores came from; he just wanted his friends to grow stronger. Meeting Lycos and the others on the moon had been a sobering experience.

It made him realize that even though his friends were among the strongest of their generation on Earth, they were still far behind the Moonborn elites.

"What about the news? Anything interesting going on these days?" Klaus asked. It had been four weeks since he wiped out every assassin in the Northern Union, so there was bound to be some buzz by now.

"Yes, a lot has been happening since you've been away," Miriam began. "First, the Three Legacies issued a statement. They declared that as long as you're alive, there will never be peace between you and the Duncan Legacy family."

Klaus's expression darkened slightly, but he remained silent as Miriam continued.

"Their father supported their statement. A few days after you left, he issued his own declaration, demanding that you appear before a tribunal to stand trial for killing and injuring 'innocent' people. He even sent warriors here but, well..." Miriam scratched her head awkwardly.

"But what?" Klaus asked, raising an eyebrow.

"Your rowdy uncles killed them all," Miriam said, shaking her head in exasperation.

"Good. I guess they're indeed qualified to be my uncles," Klaus said with a grin, clearly approving of their actions. He would have done the same if he'd been there.

"Unbelievable..." Miriam muttered, shaking her head, knowing Klaus meant every word.

"That incident made things worse," she continued. "The Three Legacies issued another statement, this time with the Duncan Legacy family fully supporting it. Strangely, three of the Five Great Clans, including my family, stepped forward to back them." Miriam sighed heavily, her voice filled with bitterness.

"I see..." Klaus sighed, too, his mood somber. He wasn't sure how to approach this. It was her family they were talking about, and even though they'd disowned her, she was still a Nabil.

"Don't think too much about it, Klaus," Miriam said, reassuringly touching his arm.

"They've disowned me, which means we share no bond whatsoever anymore. You can do whatever you want to them; I don't mind. Just one thing—don't kill the servants, especially the women. They're innocent. Of course, if they raise their weapons against you, do whatever you must."

"Don't worry. I'll know my limits when the time comes," Klaus said, holding her hand firmly.

"That aside, the Dark Order seems to be on edge," Miriam said. "They haven't issued any statements, but my sources tell me they've been making underground moves recently. It's clear they're starting to notice the disappearance of their operatives in the Northern Union."

"Oh, them?" Klaus chuckled darkly. "I'll make sure they understand the tiger they've provoked. After all, it wouldn't be any fun if I didn't get under their skin, force them to reveal themselves, and take them out once and for all."

"So, are you going to show yourself as the one killing their people?" Ohema asked, her tone curious.

"No," Klaus replied, shaking his head. "But my name will be known. I plan to keep it that way until I can show myself confidently—without anyone having the strength to hurt me or those close to me."

With him leaving for the academy in ten days, Klaus couldn't afford to leave his mother and wives exposed to potential retaliation in his absence. It was too risky.

"You know you don't have to worry about our safety, right?" Ohema said. "Sister Miriam and I can ensure Mother is protected. By showing what you're capable of, you'll make anyone with strange ideas think twice before acting."

Miriam nodded in agreement.

"I know," Klaus said, his voice softening, "but I still wouldn't put you all through that. You need the time to cultivate, not stand guard, because I chose to make a name for myself. That's not the burden I want to place on you both."

He paused, his gaze hardening. "Plus, I want to keep my enemies on edge, never knowing where or how I'll strike. I want them desperate—unable to find a target—until I come for their heads myself."

Klaus's cold smile sent a chill through the room, making his friends shudder involuntarily.

Even his mother felt an uneasy knot tighten in her chest.

Chapter 427 - 427: You Can Call Me, The Renegade

Earth was calm.

People went about their daily lives. Sellers peddled their goods while buyers browsed and haggled. Warriors hunted in the wilds, and others trained diligently at home.

The atmosphere was peaceful until a post surfaced on the dark web. It quickly spread to the surface web, shattering the serenity.

The post contained images—hundreds of people, lifeless and scattered. On the dark web, such gruesome displays were not unusual; cruelty and depravity thrived there.

But this time, it was different. The accompanying text struck a nerve, sending chills down the spines of many who read it.

It reads:

"There can never be peace. Many crave it, but are they prepared to face the storm when chaos inevitably strikes? No. Humans cling to the illusion of peace, even when violence brews all around them.

"That's just how people are. But while true peace may never exist, it can be forced into being—earned through blood and fire. And I am willing to be the one to pay that price.

"I will wade through rivers of blood, my hands drenched in it if it means I can bring peace. Call me a maniac, call me deranged, but I won't flinch. Not from the screams. Not from the carnage.

"I've already begun. The blood has started to flow, and I won't stop until the world is quiet. If I must kill every last soul standing in the way of peace, so be it. I will not hesitate.

"The Dark Order has been an obstacle to this peace for years, spreading chaos like a disease. I stayed silent, but no longer. Now, with the Northern Union's assassins lying dead at my feet, my path is clear. I will erase the Dark Order—every single one of them.

"And when they are gone, I will hunt down those who fund their madness, those who profit from the chaos. I'll cut them down, one by one, until no one is left to stand against peace.

"This is the road I've chosen. The path of blood, the path to true peace. And I will walk it to the end, no matter what lies ahead.

"You can call me... The Renegade."

Everyone broke into a cold sweat when this post appeared online. The name "Renegade" instantly dominated search histories, conversations, and even people's deepest fears.

No one knew who they were—man or woman—but the chilling fact remained: they had annihilated every last assassin in the Dark Order's Northern Union faction. The revelation sent shivers through everyone.

Discussions erupted across media platforms and the internet. But that wasn't the most shocking part. Moments after the post appeared on the dark web, two events plunged the online world into chaos.

Klaus made a single post that lit the fuse:

"Looks like somebody is doing my job for me... How exciting."

His words amplified the unease gripping the public. Yet, the real shock came when the Renegade followed up with another post on the dark web:

"Up next, the Southern Union... Prepare your necks."

The post ended with a laughing emoji—a sinister touch that sent chills down everyone's spine. Only a cold-blooded killer would punctuate such a deadly promise with humor.

Klaus had chosen his words carefully. He wanted them to feel the weight of impending doom, to live in fear of the hunter who was coming for their heads.

Even once things calmed down, those connected to the order wouldn't know peace. They would be trapped in a state of constant vigilance, never sure when the reckoning would come.

Several meetings were quickly organized in response to the chaos. Some called on the Overlords to intervene and stop the killer, while others pushed for peace and unity.

Meanwhile, everyone's favorite gossip channel had a different take on the situation.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is KKKickinIt with Controversial News! Folks, as you've seen and heard, there is indeed a killer in town going by the name of The Renegade. Spooky, huh?"

Well, if that's not scary enough, I received an anonymous email just minutes ago with what might be the creepiest content ever.

Ladies and gents, I now have the identities of the assassins who've been living among us, hiding in plain sight. That's right. I've crossed paths with some of these people without knowing who they were.

It's terrifying, y'all. Imagine your friendly neighbor or the waitress serving your coffee could actually be the person sent to end you if your name landed on their list. Truly chilling.

And now, for a limited time, I'll be sharing this list with you... for just 999.9 gold coins.

Thanks in advance for your generous donations, folks!

Once again, this is KKKickinIt with Controversial News. I'm out!"

Klaus put down his phone, a smirk tugging at his lips. "Tsk. To think this lady would be shameless enough to sell something I gave her for free," he muttered.

Beside him, Ohema chuckled softly, resting her hand on his chest. "Well, she has to make a living somehow. And honestly, putting a price on something everyone will want? Smart move," she said with a small smile.

Miriam, seated on his other side, chimed in with a nod. The two women had decided to keep him company before he left for the academy in a few days.

"I suppose it was the right choice. She'll make a fortune from this," Klaus admitted with a grin. His plan was working perfectly.

By creating this new persona, Klaus had successfully stirred up the Dark Order, getting under their skin and leaving them scrambling. It was only the beginning.

The Dark Order had already begun assembling to address the crisis, but they weren't the only ones. Families and individuals tied to the organization also started gathering, desperate to form a plan.

A rogue killer was on the loose, relentless in pursuit of his goal. Worse yet, no one knew his identity or when he would strike next. The uncertainty was overwhelming, leaving them all on edge.

"So, what are you going to do in the next five days before you leave?" Miriam asked.

"Spend as much time with you two as I can," Klaus replied, his tone warm.

"What about Sister Nadia?" Ohema asked. Though Nadia hadn't made any moves toward Klaus—nor he toward her—the ladies had spent plenty of time scheming.

Ohema, in particular, had grown fond of Nadia. After Klaus's near-death experience, Ohema stepped in and saved her company when investors turned their backs on her.

Through that, she'd become something of a fangirl, admiring Nadia's dedication and creativity.

"I'll see her tomorrow," Klaus said thoughtfully. "She just completed a project I gave her months ago, and I want to collect it personally. While I'm there, I'll judge for myself if she's worthy to be one of your sisters."

"You should," Miriam said with a smile. "Sister Nadia is a wonderful person and a great friend."

"I'll keep an open mind then," Klaus replied, his eyes glinting mischievously. "But for now, I have you both to myself."

The next few hours were spent in each other's company, a moment of intimacy and peace before the storm.

The following day, Klaus made his way to visit Nadia—a woman who unknowingly held a piece of his destiny. But neither of them realized it just yet.

Chapter 428 - 428: A storm is coming... End of Volume I

Somewhere, many light years away from Earth, inside a sleek spaceship speeding through quantum bubbles, a fox lady with nine tails sat in a meditation posture.

Her eyes are closed, and her fluffy tails emit faint black and white glows.

Beside her was another lady who looked human at first glance, but it was clear she wasn't. A golden horn on her forehead marked her as belonging to the dragon race. She had a voluptuous body that could make any man drool.

Her golden hair seemed to have a life of its own, as they fell down her back. She was, without a doubt, gorgeous.

Suddenly, the fox lady's eyes snapped open, radiating a profound energy.

"Well, how was it? Were you able to find Master's position using the second Star Light?" the dragon lady asked.

"I did. But I couldn't see his world. However, he is somewhere in the human universe, in a distant galaxy of some kind," the fox lady replied.

"Were you able to find anything about this galaxy?" The dragon lady looked impatient.

"No. However, from the feeling I got, it seems to be a rather peaceful galaxy," the fox lady answered.

"How useless... I was hoping you'd find something more tangible, Yuying," the dragon lady sighed.

"Shut up, Thyra. We'll know more once we enter the human universe. That being said, are you sure Unity is in the human universe?" Yuying asked, addressing the dragon lady as Thyra.

"I am. Although I don't know why she awakened a human this time around, I know she will be somewhere there. Hopefully, she hasn't become a maniac by the time we get to her," Thyra said.

"I hope so too. We'll need her to get through to this distant galaxy," Yuying sighed.

"Don't worry. Master is no weakling... He'll be fine. I'm sure of it," Thyra said, looking at the worried Yuying.

"I know, but what if the world Master is in hasn't awakened yet? You already know his situation with the heavens. If they couldn't kill him with the tribulations, they'd surely use the world awakening to kill him—even if it meant killing a few billion along with him.

You know what happened in his seventh incarnation. We have to get there before this awakening, or we might just be too late," Yuying said.

"All the more reason we should have gone for Nyxaria before going to Master," Thyra sighed. Though she was worried, she seemed to be handling it much better than Yuying, who was known among the Paragon Guards as the emotional one.

"No... That demon has a job to do, and it wouldn't do us any good dragging her away from her responsibilities. That being said, at this rate, we'll be in the human universe within the next two years. Hopefully, we can reach Master early," Yuying said.

"No matter what the heavens pull off, I know Master will survive. He is the strongest there is for a reason," Thyra said, clenching her fist.

They were the Paragon Guards—beings created by Klaus's first incarnation to cheat fate and outsmart the heavens. Their purpose was to pave the way for their master to walk on whenever he reincarnated.

Every time he reincarnated, one of them would awaken many years beforehand to set a good path for him, just like Yuying did with Fruity. At each incarnation, one awakened with their memories intact.

However, for some reason, this time, all of them awakened simultaneously with their memories intact. It had never happened before, yet it was happening now.

"Were you able to obtain what I asked for?" Yuying asked.

"Yes, madam, I managed to procure it. And hey, I even managed to get information on the Seven Divine Primordial Beasts, as well as the location of one of the Nine Ancient Forbidden Relics."

"Which one?" Yuying asked.

"The Genesis Flame Diagram," Thyra answered with a smile.

"Where is it?"

"It's with the Dark Flame Chaos Dragons," Thyra said with a small smile.

Yuying smiled as well. "Oh, Master is going to love this. Do you know he and the Dark Flame Chaos Dragons go way back?"

"I know, you told us, remember? That being said, we will have a lot of adventures on our hands once we locate Master. We can only hope the heavens don't do anything out of line for now."

"I also hope so," Yuying said, her expression calm. "Contact Nyxaria and tell her to start looking for the others. All the Paragon Guards must be found by the time we return."

"Okay," Thyra said before walking away.

Yuying sighed. "Master, I hope you are well and prepared for what is to come. I know you are strong, but with two Star Lights found, the storm coming will multiply."

With another sigh, she returned to a meditative state, using her powers to gaze deeper into the universe. The spaceship continued to speed, traveling thousands of miles every second.

They were headed to the Milky Way Galaxy, to a small blue planet where their Master, the Ninth and final Paragon, was preparing to take another leap in his rise to the peak.

Chapter 429 - 429: Sudden Meetings (1)

As soon as the controversial news broke, detailing the deeds of the assassins the Renegade had killed and their hidden presence in society, panic and fear swept through the entire globe.

The list of names contained people many had interacted with daily for years—friends, lovers, and family members. Countless people were left devastated after learning about their secret lives.

Klaus hadn't just stolen Aya Middlestone's memories; he had also taken highly classified data about all the assassins under her control and throughout the Northern Region.

Aya was a major player, and the information she held was extensive. Now, everyone had access to it.

"I can't believe I went on a date with a killer. Good Lord, I even ghosted her on the second date... Damn, I came this close to dying."

"He was my barber! To think I sat in his chair and let an assassin use clippers on my hair... One bad impulse, and he could've slit my throat. Damn, I got lucky."

"He was my personal trainer... Trainer Nathan, an assassin? Unbelievable."

"That's it. I'm done dating. You never know when your next date might be the angel of death. Screw you, Nancy—or whatever your name was..."

Across the internet, reactions poured in from people who had unknowingly interacted with the assassins. The posts quickly went viral, each more shocking than the last.

One man even called off his upcoming wedding after discovering his fiancée was best friends with one of the assassins.

The chaos was palpable. For many, it was a grim reality check. Suddenly, the desire to weed out these hidden threats and reclaim their fragile, apocalyptic peace became stronger than ever.

But while civilians were consumed by panic, the powerhouses of the world were on edge, holding emergency meetings to respond to the unfolding chaos.

In one shadowy corner of the world, the Dark Order convened for the first time in 20 years. They couldn't ignore the devastating blow dealt to their organization.

This time, every leader gathered to determine the way forward—even the elusive true leader of the Dark Order made an appearance.

For the first time, the full might of the Dark Order stood united in a single room—a sight both awe-inspiring and terrifying.

Among them were 32 Sovereigns, their power ranging from early to peak stages. But the undeniable centerpiece of the gathering was the Peak Transcendent, the leader of the Dark Order.

Their presence alone radiated a pressure that would make even seasoned warriors tremble.

Each member wore dark masks that covered their faces from the nose up, concealing their identities while adding to the ominous atmosphere in the room.

"I think we all know why we are here... So speak up. What are your thoughts on this strange, hidden fellow?" the Leader said.

In the Dark Order, he was referred to as the Reaper. Across all of Earth, he was perhaps the most skilled killer. Well, he hadn't met Klaus yet—the Lord of Slaughter.

Nonetheless, the Reaper was terrifying and deadly.

"Leader, I know this isn't the time to point fingers, but everything started when we decided to make our presence known by trying to assassinate that brat in broad daylight," one of the Sovereigns said.

"Dark Lord Nine, what are you hinting at?" another masked assassin asked, narrowing his eyes behind the mask.

"I'm not hinting at anything, Dark Lord Seven. I'm stating facts," Dark Lord Nine replied. "This is all due to our negligence. Just because the Overlords never intervened to subdue us, we became complacent. We acted cocky... and look where that's landed us.

"Dark Lords Four, Six, Seventeen, and Twenty are now dead, along with hundreds of our finest. I say we brought this upon ourselves."

"Dark Lord Nine is right," Dark Lord Ten agreed. "We allowed arrogance to blind us, and in doing so, we fell into the hands of an even more arrogant killer. Now, he's using us to build his fame."

In the Dark Order, aside from the Leader, who was called the Reaper for his unmatched killing talent, the Sovereigns were known as the Dark Lords, while the great sages were referred to as the Dark Elders.

There used to be 36 of them. But with Aya Middlestone, Hong, Red Lady, and Lex now dead, only 32 remained. And now, they were all beginning to blame their rash decision to use the rising star as a stepping stone for their reputation.

It had backfired spectacularly.

"We can't change the past now, Dark Lord Nine. The key figures who proposed that idea are dead. We must focus on ensuring the Renegade doesn't achieve whatever goal he's after," Dark Lord Fourteen said.

"That's true, but there's a question none of you are asking," Dark Lord Two interjected. "Do any of us even know this Renegade? Another question: do we know his or her cultivation base? And lastly, what about their connections?"

"Somehow, this person managed to uncover the identities of four of our finest. Because of that, hundreds of our assassins are now dead. That is deeply troubling to me."

Her words left the room in silence.

Indeed, they all shared the blame, but most of it fell on the late Aya.

In her ambition to rise through the ranks and claim the position of Number One, she proposed the reckless idea of using Klaus to demonstrate their dominance to the world.

It was a foolish and shameless plan that backfired spectacularly in ways no one could have anticipated.

Klaus not only survived but returned more arrogant than ever. He openly threatened them, dragging their name through the mud without hesitation.

But that wasn't the end of their troubles. Just as they began attempting to rebuild their shattered reputation, a new threat emerged: someone who started targeting them.

At first, they all believed it was Klaus Hanson. After all, he was their only known adversary. They had tried to kill him, failed, and now he had declared open war against them.

Naturally, they wanted him dead. Yet, they had never truly considered him a serious threat.

To them, Klaus was nothing more than an overambitious nuisance, a small fry who had grown a bit too bold. They believed they could crush him at any time.

But then, this mysterious new figure emerged. Unlike Klaus, this person remained nameless and unknown, yet far deadlier. Without warning, they began killing more of their people, striking fear where arrogance once reigned.

At first, Aya tried to handle it on her own, using her investigative skills. Naturally, she suspected Klaus and was determined to kill him.

But then she died, and the threat of pursuing them became apparent.

Well, it's not completely apparent. The true identity remained hidden, but their moniker sent shockwaves through the group, sparking panic.

It had been decades since the Order was formed, and for the first time, they faced something they couldn't control.

Over the years, they had been ruthless, arrogant, and feared by many. They had killed thousands without a shred of remorse, believing themselves untouchable.

But now, for the first time in decades, they felt fear. And this fear came in the form of a Renegade—a relentless force who vowed to wipe them out to the last. In their eyes, he was a true killer.

Because of this, they were panicking, though they tried to suppress it. The truth was, they had no idea who this Renegade was.

However, the question posed by Dark Lord One made them feel uneasy, forcing them to rethink everything.

"While we don't know the Renegade's identity, we do know someone who started all of this. So, my question is this: what is the Renegade's connection to Klaus Hanson?"

Chapter 430 - 430: Sudden Meetings (2)

"Don't get me wrong, but we all know this whole mess started when we took the hit on Klaus Hanson's head," Dark Lord One said, his tone heavy with suspicion.

"It all began with him, so how sure are we that he's not connected to this Renegade fellow?"

His words sent a ripple through the room, forcing everyone to consider a troubling possibility. Indeed, everything started after they targeted Klaus.

Then Aya, in her ambition, decided to use the attention surrounding Klaus to bolster her name and the reputation of the Dark Order.

But her plans had backfired spectacularly. That was when the Renegade emerged. At first, they had no idea who was behind the killings.

Now, however, the Renegade had made their presence known. What had been a shadowy threat was now an undeniable enemy.

A hidden enemy, but one they could no longer ignore.

"This is turning into quite a headache," Dark Lord Seven muttered, shaking his head. "Even if we try to connect Klaus Hanson to the Renegade, we can't say for certain how they're linked.

"Are they the same person? If not, is there an intimate connection between them? And perhaps most importantly—why now?"

His gaze swept over the others and then continued...

"While the idea of Klaus Hanson, a mere Grandmaster, being the same person who managed to kill four of us and even hundreds of our finest assassins seems ridiculous, we can't dismiss it.

Even so, how are they linked—Klaus and the renegade? That's the mystery. But the most important question is this: who placed the hit on him?

I know we maintain the anonymity of our clients for their safety, but before linking Klaus to this renegade or even identifying who the renegade is, we first need to know who ordered the hit.

We need that information if we want to uncover the motive. And, well, we need to understand what we can do to use that motive to our advantage. After all, everyone has a reason for their actions."

They all nodded.

While linking everything to Klaus Hanson might seem logical, they knew they couldn't do much with that angle.

But someone had placed a high-priority kill order on Klaus, and the instructions left by that person made it clear—they wanted Klaus dead as soon as possible.

At the time, they hadn't paid much attention to it. But now, pieces were starting to fall into place.

First, why would anyone place a kill order on a mere newbie who was just starting to rise?

Second, even if they wanted him dead, why offer such a high price and make it a high-priority target?

Third, why hadn't the client come back to demand a refund after the kill failed? It was standard policy, yet this person never returned.

Instead, when Klaus disrespected them, they chose to make it personal—and that decision had landed them in this mess.

"This is indeed a headache, but let's not point fingers or make rash decisions," the leader began.

"That being said, we need to move quietly now and hold back our retaliation for the time being. However, we have to take care of some variables first.

The client needs to go, and so does Klaus Hanson. I will leave this to you 32, but bear in mind that Klaus Hanson will be heading to the academy in five days.

You all know what to do. After all, we are everywhere."

"We see everything."

The leader stood up and left. The Dark Lords, however, remained seated.

"This is a high-priority task, so I will take pointers," Dark Lord One said, taking charge now that their leader was gone.

"You all should be ready to activate your assets. We have to handle Klaus cautiously since, as the leader said, we can't make rash decisions."

"Let's all think of the best way to go at it," Dark Lord One added.

"I think we don't have to do anything just yet," Dark Lord Two interjected. "Don't get me wrong, we all want Klaus dead, but we can't easily infiltrate the academy. That would be a huge risk even if we could use our assets."

So we have to wait and bide our time. Knowing how serious the academy is about their training, it won't be long before Klaus Hanson appears in the Badlands.

He will also start going on missions. This means that, in most cases, he'll be alone, or the strongest person with him will be a mere Great Sage since the Badlands he'll be sent to all have restrictions.

We can utilize that moment to kill him. I say it's the most ideal time to strike back.

Who knows? Killing him might even stop the renegade."

They all nodded in agreement.

"Then we'll use the Badlands to eliminate him," Dark Lord One said. "But we also need to activate our assets in the academy. If an opportunity arises, they should make a move."

After all, they cannot be tracked back to us. And since the Legacy Families and the Clans are also now making their own moves, perhaps we might even find a chance to take him out.

Though he's heading to a place beyond our immediate reach, we now have even more avenues to kill him. I say we bide our time and strike when the opportunity presents itself."

Dark Lord Three added his voice. "Agreed. The Badlands will provide the perfect stage for this. Timing is critical."

"Then how should we handle the client?" Dark Lord One asked, his tone shifting to a colder edge.

"For now, we only know they're linked to one of the Great Clans, but we don't know which one, since the order was received by Dark Lord Four.

However, we can check the database and retrieve their details from there. After all, while we operate under the anonymity policy, we still have to protect ourselves."

Dark Lord Two leaned back in his seat. "If they're connected to a Great Clan, we tread carefully. The last thing we need is a direct confrontation with powers beyond our preparation. Still, we handle them swiftly and quietly if they become a liability."

Dark Lord One nodded. "We proceed with caution. No mistakes this time."

"Then it's settled. For now, we hold things as they are, and when the time comes, we can make our move and ensure things are done right this time."

With that, the meeting ended. They had made up their minds and would soon make their move. But while they were meeting in secret, other powerhouses were also plotting.

The Three Clans met with the Legacy Family and discussed their plans for handling Klaus. For now, they too were holding back. But soon, they would make their move as well.

Meanwhile, the Overlords were also meeting. When Queenie returned a few days ago, she immediately entered seclusion.

Klaus had yet to provide her with the cultivation technique for the Asura race, but he had told her to put her affairs in order before they met again.

After her seclusion, she called for an immediate meeting with the seven other Overlords. Their discussion centered around the alliance with the Moon Race.

Right now, the Overlords are the strongest authority on Earth. Since each Overlord represented a Union or Continent, only they had the power to decide what would happen next.

Of course, the Overlords would consult their people, but their decision would be final once they made up their minds, regardless of any outside concerns.

But that was their world.

Klaus, whose every move seemed to shape the unfolding events, had just arrived at the Nucci Fashion Trend X headquarters.

It was time for him to meet the future Overpowered Puppeteer, the one who held a key component of his destiny.