

Paragon 501

Chapter 501 - 501: Danger

Old Lu and Nari smiled happily atop the mountain, watching how Klaus dealt with the two Tier 8 half-beasts. It was so easy that anyone who saw it would think the monsters were Tier 4.

However, from a more experienced perspective, they would see how much Klaus had put into his attacks.

Old Lu was particularly drawn to the bell trapping Rory. For some reason, he felt strongly attracted to it, his mind telling him to remember something, yet he couldn't.

But he chose to toss it to the back of his mind after scrutinizing it for a while. His focus shifted to Klaus.

Nari was also focused on Klaus. Watching how Klaus and his friends dealt with the monsters made her blood boil. She wanted to jump in and have some fun, but alas, that fun would not come today.

Suddenly, both Old Lu and Nari turned toward the west. Both their eyes narrowed as they gazed at the approaching dangers.

"Let me go handle them," Nari said, but Old Lu shook his head.

"Let them come. Klaus will handle them."

"What if he can't?" Nari asked with a frown.

"Then we will step in. For now, let's just wait and see how things go," Old Lu said before turning back to the battlefield.

{Back on the battlefield}

"Kilian, get ready," Anna said before stabbing her staff into the ground. Immediately, her face paled as thick chains made of ice burst out of the ground, wrapping around the legs of the elephant.

"Go."

Kilian charged forward and activated his strongest attack.

"Void Cutter." His sword took a single swing that sent a crescent arc made of pure fire. The arc vanished as it appeared.

Then, out of nowhere, it appeared in front of the elephant, cutting a huge wound into its neck. However, the attack wasn't enough to end it. Kilian and Anna were also drained.

But they didn't want to waste the chance since the elephant was now on the ground. However, they were drained to the point where Kilian couldn't activate any more attacks.

Anna, too, was the same. She used all her energy for that Ice chain, so she is drained now.

Suddenly, a cheerful voice reached their ears just when they were about to panic.

"Here I come again." Danny, who had abandoned his pals dealing with the dark elephant, jumped high into the air with his axe in full swing.

Then, without activating any skill, his hammer fell on the wound Kilian had cut.

"Die, motherf*cker." His axe sank into the neck of the elephant, claiming its life.

"And that's how you kill a Tier 8 monster," Danny laughed, charging back to support Daniel and Kay, the only ones still not making any headway.

"This bastard," Kilian cursed before returning to the ice domain to heal. Although he has fire affinity, the ice domain was speeding up his healing thanks to Klaus' superior Star Qi.

"Thunderbolt Arrow," Hanna's cute voice echoed as a two-meter-long arrow shot out of her bow. The next second, it pierced the neck of the monster before exploding into a clap of thunder, sending shockwaves that blew everyone back.

"Sorry," Hanna said with a guilty smile. Her shockwave tossed them aside; however, it wasn't the bad kind of tossing.

"This is our chance, guys!" Kay shouted, activating his strongest move.

"Hellfire Arrow." A two-meter-long red arrow appeared in his bow. It was his strongest attack, one he could only use once.

Boom!

The arrow shot out from the bow and landed squarely on the neck of the monster, which seemed to still be reeling from the thunder shockwave.

"Giant Axe Form!" Danny unleashed his attack, creating a massive axe in the air that crashed down on the elephant with a thunderous boom.

"My turn!"

"Giant Hammer Falling!" Daniel summoned a giant hammer that struck the beast with yet another thunderous boom, slamming the elephant to the ground.

All the darkness around it dispersed, and its body was battered, blood flowing freely from its wounds.

"Fire Beam!" Kilian arrived with his own attack. By sheer luck—or sly intent—the exp points went to him as the elephant succumbed to the final blow.

"Bastard," Daniel muttered, cursing Kilian's sly nature. But in his weakened state, he was too drained to do anything about it. Kilian took the exp Point, pushing his closer to the fourth stage.

Meanwhile, Lily and Mark managed to take down their opponent, while Kathy singlehandedly subdued another Tier 8.

However, she didn't kill it; instead, she waited for Hanna to finish off her Tier 8, allowing Hanna to claim the kill.

It was Kathy's way of helping Hanna grow stronger so she could also benefit. Kathy was at the peak of the 8th Tier and needed only a small push, which Klaus had promised to give her in the coming weeks.

For now, she is following the plan Klaus had in mind.

Klaus' friends succeeded in killing their targets, but it came at a cost. Most of them were hurt, with only Kay, Anna, and Hanna remaining unscathed.

Meanwhile, Klaus, after killing the two Tier 8 half-beasts, was now clashing with the Tier 9, which was giving him a tough time.

No matter the attack Klaus used, the bastard always countered with a perfect defence. He even used his lightning wings to take the fight to the air, but the bastard defended and attacked like he was toying with a chicken.

"I hate this feeling," Klaus muttered inwardly.

[His teammates are dead, so maybe releasing it from the demon-killing circle will make it run off. From my perspective, you don't have a shot at killing it.]

"Damn it. I hate this law of self thing," Klaus growled.

[It's rather unfortunate you won't be able to kill it. Even using your two strongest attacks won't do anything. Better not waste your last two chances on a fruitless battle.]

"I understand, senior," Klaus replied. He wanted to finish off this bastard and claim the exp point, but because of its ultimate defence ability, all his attacks were being blocked.

Even his soul and mind attacks weren't doing much damage.

"Your friends are dead, and from the way I'm looking at it, you won't be able to do anything about it. So you can leave now. Next time, bring stronger teammates," Klaus said with a smile.

"Reality check."

Suddenly, ten of his illusion clones appeared, and he deactivated the demon-killing circle.

The next second, Rory attacked three of the clones, and the battle continued for ten seconds before all ten were destroyed.

However, when the last clone fell, it realized it was a trick, but it was too late to react.

"Skybound Infinity Strike: Void Piercing Arrow."

A lightning arrow shot through Rory's chest, sending it flying backwards. Blood poured out as it rolled on the ground for a few seconds before rising again.

It glared at Klaus, then at the Phoenix Flamefruit tree, and finally at its fallen companions before vanishing. The arrow had hurt it, and staying any longer would have put it in serious danger.

"Fuck, I thought that would kill him," Klaus cursed as he hovered in the air before flying back down. The bow vanished and returned to Hanna.

Klaus smiled and turned toward the Phoenix Flamefruit tree.

"Finally," he sighed, preparing to speed toward it when he suddenly leapt forward, evading a spear aimed at his chest.

Turning around, Klaus saw 80 Sages, 40 Great Sages, and 4 Sovereigns closing in on their location.

"Klaus Hanson, it's time for you to die." One of the Sovereigns said with a wicked smile.

Chapter 502 - 502: Incinerate Them

A few hours after Klaus and his friends picked up their missions at the missions hall, one of the instructors secretly contacted Hunter Duncan, one of Klaus's enemies, and provided him with details about Klaus's mission.

This made Hunter very happy. He also paid the instructor by sending millions of gold coins into his account. He was one of the many spies the legacies and clans have in the academy.

Talk about their fear of the Overlords.

Hunter then contacted their agents outside, who relayed the information to the head of the Duncan Legacy family. The news was received with great joy.

In turn, the head of the Duncan Legacy family informed his allies, who also enthusiastically welcomed the news. Naturally, things became exciting for them whenever something concerning Klaus came to their attention.

Thus, the Duncan Legacy family, along with the Nabil, Jiwon, and Mason Great Clans, sent their forces to assist in this grand undertaking.

Each group dispatched 20 Sages, 10 Great Sages, and one Sovereign to go after Klaus and his friends who are now outside the protection of the academy.

They were aware they would be venturing into uncharted territory, but since it wasn't the Badlands, they knew no external forces would likely interfere.

Their plan relied on the event that only Klaus and his companions would be present.

However, they failed to realize that Klaus and his friends were there on the advice of an Overlord. Fortunately for them, Nari was stopped before she could unleash her fire upon them.

But were they truly lucky?

"Klaus Hanson, it's time for you to die," one of the Sovereigns, a man named Kaden, declared as he appeared at Klaus's location.

"Everyone, move behind me," Klaus instructed calmly. His friends obeyed without hesitation. Klaus neither panicked nor showed any signs of retreating.

"You can't escape; you're already surrounded," another Sovereign said coldly, smiling at Klaus, who remained steadfast.

Klaus, unfazed, moved closer to his friends and had Hanna send Kathy into the beast space.

He made sure his friends stayed close together before turning toward the Sovereigns hovering in the air.

"Let me guess—you losers are from the Duncan Legacy family, right?" Klaus asked, his tone dripping with ridicule.

"Be arrogant all you want. After today, you will cease to exist," Kaden said, laughing slightly.

Klaus chuckled.

"I don't think so, buddy. Naturally, someone of my handsomeness, finesse, and charm wouldn't die to a bunch of weirdos who only know how to bully children. But don't worry, I won't let you guys die for nothing."

He smirked. "Before sending you on your way, I'll tell you a short story. Better pay close attention."

Klaus smiled at the group of undertakers sent by the Legacy and Clans. Watching his smile, they began to sense something was wrong.

The way Klaus was handling the situation felt off—too calm, too deliberate.

But, like in any story, these losers didn't connect the dots. And thus, they remained oblivious to what Klaus was cooking. In their eyes, they outnumbered Klaus and his pals in the dozens.

Naturally, Klaus's friends began to panic. This, of course, was by design. Even the usually composed Hanna seemed unnerved. This display made the enemies believe they still had the upper hand.

Klaus, however, simply looked at the warriors in front of him and smiled.

"Here's the story," he began. "It's about a handsome, charming, sweet, pacifist young man called Fruity. You see, Fruity was born a charmer. Ladies loved him, and mothers wanted him around their daughters.

"Because of this, his charm and name spread far and wide. However, this was received poorly by a bunch of weirdos who thought the world was theirs.

"And so, they started pursuing this handsome fellow who hated violence, by the way. Along the way, he made friends who, though they liked him, secretly wanted to be like him.

"Naturally, they're just daydreaming."

Klaus turned and gave his pals a sidelong glance and a winked.

This almost broke their composure, but they managed to stay in character. Klaus chuckled inwardly.

"I think I left something out. Found it." Klaus smiled and continued, "You see, this charming individual has a pet dragon that loves to burn people alive. However, because this handsome fellow hates violence, he never allows it to come out.

He doesn't want to smell burnt humans.

However, humans seem to hate the idea of losing even for a moment, and thus, they continue to pursue him. One day, they cornered him in a Forbidden Zone with a team of 80 Sages, 40 Great Sages, and 4 Sovereigns.

These weirdos thought that he was done since they outnumbered him in both numbers and strength.

But they failed to notice that the charming, handsome Fruity had just lost a battle against a Peak Transcendent. And while he hated violence, he also hated losing. So he was infuriated.

He had lost a great chunk of Experience Points. That could not be forgiven. I mean, do you think he wouldn't be angry for losing that chunk of Experience Points?

Luckily, the Legacies and Great Clans sent a large sum of experience points disguised as a bunch of weirdos dressed in armour.

They cornered this Fruity, who told his friends to start panicking to make the enemies lower their guards so he could hook on to their souls and steal their energy for his attack.

And now that he has obtained a large sum of soul energy, he can do this."

"Demon Killing Circle," Klaus muttered, immediately turning pale. The four Sovereigns in the air immediately lost their balance and fell to the ground.

Klaus activated the Demon Killing Circle and used it against them.

"Do you want to know what happened next?" Klaus smiled and then rubbed his dragon tattoo, which excitedly glowed red.

"In your next life, remember my name: Klaus Hanson, The Last Paragon."

"Incinerate them," Klaus muttered coldly.

Suddenly, the tattoo on his arm glowed crimson, and then a 140-meter-long fire dragon appeared and roared loudly, unleashing the Dragon Authority, which instantly pressed down on the warriors.

Then, it activated the dragon's breath.

What followed was a chorus of screams filled with pain, anguish, and regret. Klaus immediately activated the [Bell of Harrows], shielding his friends from the heat and the stench of burned flesh.

All around them, the warriors sent to kill them were consumed by flames as the Awakened Flame, the Chaotic Nirvana Flame Dragon, unleashed its fiery wrath.

As instructed, the dragon was incinerating them with merciless precision.

This continued for ten whole minutes until the last of the doomed warriors were burned off the face of the world.

Klaus breathed a sigh of relief as the pain in his soul finally lifted. The Demon Killing Circle had cancelled their skills and prevented them from escaping. Basically, he turned them into dummies.

But it came at a great cost.

[Brat, your soul is in bad shape now. It would be best if you avoided using any soul-type skills for the next few days,] the senior advised, making Klaus sigh.

He had overused his soul strength, even after employing the Soul Hook skill to siphon the warriors' soul strength.

Sighing again, Klaus walked over to the Phoenix Flamefruit tree and plucked 15 ripe fruits before storing the entire tree in his soul space. It joined the other heavenly plants he planned to transplant at the peak of the academy mountain.

With that task handled, Klaus returned to his friends, who were still inside the protective bell. They all looked horrified, though they were faring much better compared to when he committed the massacre back in Union City.

"Let's go, guys," Klaus said, releasing them from the bell.

They moved around, gathering the cores and some of the dead monster bodies before leaving. Their missions were complete, and it was time to return to the academy.

Chapter 503 - 503: I Want a Dragon

Old Lu and Nari, who were overlooking the battlefield and ready to intervene, were left stunned, shocked, and gobsmacked as they watched the 140-meter-long, incredibly huge, and majestic Fire Dragon breathe fire on the 124 losers sent after Klaus.

They were shocked beyond their wits.

Initially, Nari had been ready to intervene when Klaus was sneak-attacked. However, thanks to her enhanced senses, she stopped herself when she saw Klaus was aware of the danger and dodged.

But she remained prepared to jump in and save him. Old Lu was the same.

To their shock, however, after what seemed like two minutes of monologue, a dragon appeared and began burning them alive.

Ten minutes later, the enemies had all turned to ash or cooked meat.

Then Klaus took the Phoenix Flamefruit and the entire plant before leaving with his friends.

"Just who is this child?" Old Lu wondered as he watched Klaus and his companions leave, heading back to the academy.

Their missions were completed, thanks to the monster battle that had taken place there. They'd found the last item they needed for their final mission, so they left.

"Do you think Klaus will teach me how to turn my fire element into a dragon?" Nari asked, clearly fascinated by the idea of having her own dragon.

"You're a phoenix, Nari. What do you want a dragon for?" Old Lu shook his head. "In fact, from what I know, dragons and phoenixes aren't friendly at all."

"Yeah, well, I don't care. I want a dragon," Nari pouted.

'For someone who doesn't know what emotions are, you sure know how to show them,' Old Lu sighed. He was one of the few who knew about Nari's condition.

"Fine. You and Klaus are practically married; it won't hurt to ask him. Maybe he'll teach you," Old Lu said.

"Tsk, who would marry that shameless pervert?" Nari chuckled.

"Apparently, half the academy. You might want to jump on the wagon next," Old Lu laughed before opening a rift. In the next second, he was gone from the Forbidden Zone.

"I want a dragon," Nari said with a glint in her eyes. The next moment, she also disappeared into the rift she created.

The next few days were going to be hard for Klaus, who would be forced to compromise on spending time with his lovers just to pacify an emotionless calamity who didn't take no for an answer.

"Klaus, do you think this bastard will ever stop sending men to kill you?" Danny asked, clenching his fist.

"I know they will," Klaus replied. "And knowing them, you guys are in danger now too. It'll be best if we take on our next missions together." His words made his friends nod in approval.

Though they had fought and battled Tier 8 half-beasts, humans were a different matter. Humans were intelligent and cunning, making them far more dangerous than the monsters they had faced.

"Klaus, we want to be strong. Please make us strong like you," Mark said, clenching his fist as well. The battles they had just fought, coupled with the one-sided massacre the dragon had committed, served as a harsh wake-up call.

They were still too weak. They all wanted to become monsters, a thought that made Klaus secretly laugh in his head. He already had plans for all of them.

"Don't worry, guys. All I want now is for you to become Saints within the next two months. You're all at the third stage, so it's only a matter of time before you step into the fourth stage.

Once you're Saints, I'll ensure you grow into terrifying monsters. But be ready—girlfriend or not, I won't show any kindness during the training sessions. So prepare yourselves for anything," Klaus said with a cute but deadly smile.

All his friends shuddered at the sight of his adorable yet menacing expression. Klaus just laughed and laid his head on Anna's lap. He was tired, and they had a one-hour ride back to the academy.

A few seconds later, he fell asleep like a baby. His friends continue to discuss their recent battles and how they can train to help Klaus when he needs it.

However, back in the academy, on a rather large field arena, Miguel, Omari, Lucas, and Klaus's friends—ladies—stood in front of a crowd that numbered in the thousands.

Opposite them stood Mason, Madison, Ella, Ethan, Max, and a few more faces that seemed to glare at Miguel's group.

"Miguel, are you sure you want to be on that side? The losing side," Ella said, looking at Miguel, who stood in front of the Yin-Yang Palace faction in what seemed to be a faction battle.

"Don't sugarcoat it, Ella. I know the losing side when I see it. However, I don't mind being on the losing side; at least I won't associate myself with scheming losers like you guys," Miguel spat on the ground, showing disdain for Ella's side.

"How adorable. Don't worry, Klaus isn't here to save your ass now. It would be best if you don't fight it." Ella's eyes scanned the 1,500 members behind Miguel.

They were the members of the Yin-Yang Palace, the last-ranked faction in the academy. Naturally, they were considered the weakest of the bunch.

However, things were different now.

During the faction selection stage, Klaus, the top ranker in the academy, joined them. This caused chaos in the academy. However, after Hanna and the rest started joining, everyone understood why.

Naturally, Klaus had disrespected the top three factions in the academy when he and Asha openly insulted them for everyone to see.

Because of this, none of the top three factions would take him into their sects.

Also, since the top three were against him, the rest avoided him as well, fearing they might invoke their wrath. Because of this, he was left with only one choice: to join the last-ranking faction.

Of course, being on the losing side means you can't fall any further.

But that was until three days ago when news of Klaus leaving the academy reached everyone. Since he was gone on a mission, they could challenge his faction in his absence.

This also meant they could poach his faction members and steal them away. It also allowed them to bankrupt his faction.

"Listen, everyone. The Fire Dragon Sect, the Celestial Wind Pavilion, the Sky Phoenix Sanctuary, the Thunder Blaze Sect, and the Earth Shadow Guild are willing to accept you into their factions.

All you have to do is step out and swear your allegiance to these factions, and you will forever be rid of the losing faction in the academy.

And before you start thinking about loyalty and a sense of belonging, know this: these five factions have already challenged your side to a faction battle.

Yes, a faction battle where, if you lose, you will owe us 10 million Celestial points each. This means you'll be throwing in your monthly points just to keep your faction afloat.

So, better jump ship while we're offering in peace," Ella spoke with a sense of contempt, her gaze fixed on the members of the Yin-Yang faction, who immediately felt a bad premonition.

Chapter 504 - 504: Your Saviour Is Here

In the academy, when one faction challenges another, the penalty for the losing side is ten million Celestial points.

Naturally, the top-ranking factions have accumulated hundreds of millions of points over years of victories. This also means that these factions usually prefer to challenge each other for points.

Unfortunately, the Yin-Yang Palace faction is poor, both in the inner and outer sections.

In fact, at this very moment, the same situation is unfolding in the inner section.

The first, second, third, fourth, and seventh factions have banded together to teach the faction that dared to take Klaus as a member a lesson.

Only the fifth and sixth factions chose not to take up Hunter's offer, opting to remain neutral.

Taking Klaus into their faction was seen as a bold move, but these factions wanted to teach the Yin-Yang Palace that it was a mistake.

Of course, the odds are stacked against them, and if they lose all five battles, they will fall into serious debt. They would all have to work extra hard just to fill the gap and pay off the debt to avoid becoming servants of these factions.

It's the rules, and clearly, the rules favor the strong.

"I will count to ten. All those who want to join my side should step forward," Ella declared.

Recognized by the faction leaders in the inner section as a master schemer, she had been allowed to take charge of the outer section campaign.

Naturally, Madison, Mason, and the other high-rankers disliked the idea of being her subordinates, but they had no choice but to comply with their faction leaders' orders.

Miguel clenched his fist and turned to the members behind him.

"Don't fall for her words. I know for a fact she is just trying to divide us. So let's not fall for her schemes. We are the Yin-Yang Palace, so let's stand together and fight back. Even if we lose, we will still maintain our dignity," Miguel voiced his resolve, which seemed to have shaken a few people.

"Tsk, dignity is only needed when you don't have to be in 50 million debt. Trust me, the moment you guys can't pay, you will be forced to become our servants.

It will be best if you join as a member fast before you become a servant who won't hold any value in my eyes," Ella said.

"ONE."

The members of the Yin-Yang Palace began to rethink their loyalty.

"I don't want to become a servant. I want to become strong, and the only way is to join the strong. I am out of here," a member said, running off to join Ella's side.

"Me too. I came here to become strong, not to become a worker whose purpose is to pay debt," another person jumped ship.

"When all the factions rejected me, the Yin-Yang faction took me in. Because of this, I will stay to the bitter end," a young man said, standing his ground.

"Tsk, I don't want to become a worker. I am out of here."

"I knew this faction was done for the moment I joined. Glad I get to leave while I still can."

"Traitors. This faction was your home all this time, yet because of some loser legacy stating terms, you chose to jump ship," a young lady wielding an axe cursed at the members running from the Yin-Yang Palace faction.

"Pray I don't get my hands on you. I will cut you all into chunks."

Naturally, most people walked away from her. Just like Klaus, she had also joined the faction to rid herself of the authoritarian nature of the top factions.

Nobody knows why she never climbed the ranks or stairs even after becoming a Saint.

"I am out of here," another member said.

Soon, hundreds began to move. They all wanted to be on the winning side, so they left. Even if Klaus were around, they would have made the same decision.

Why?

Because this year, the Yin-Yang Palace had the fewest members joining. In fact, after Klaus and his pals joined, the other factions made sure nobody joined them again.

Now, they had only 1,700 members, and within one minute, 1,500 jumped ship, leaving only 200, Klaus and his pals included.

"Looks like some people are actually reasonable and chose to jump ship while it was being offered kindly," Mason commented on the side, smiling at the 191 members standing opposite them.

With Klaus and his pals not around, the Yin-Yang Palace could boast only 191 members. But they could also boast 191 true and loyal members who wouldn't budge despite the odds stacked against them.

Miguel, who was acting as leader while Klaus was away, turned and looked at those who chose to remain behind.

"You guys can go, and nobody will blame you. Looking at the situation, we don't have a shot at winning," Miguel said, shaking his head.

"Don't worry, Brother Miguel, we choose to stay because we believe in this faction. No amount of scheming will ever change our minds," a young lady said, smiling.

"Yes, Brother Miguel, I choose to stay because this is where I can call home. Don't worry, if those traitors come after us, we won't treat them as friends at all."

"Indeed. I naturally wanted to chop some people up with my axe; this will give me the chance to do it."

"Too bad death isn't permanent, or I'd love to send a few to the afterlife," a young lady dressed in black, with a black death scythe in her grip, said coldly.

Her remark brought a chill to the area, making some people step away from her.

"Don't worry, guys, we're all on the same team. I won't claim your lives," she said with a smile and then turned to the other five factions standing opposite them.

"The same cannot be said for you guys, though."

Her words sent chilling shockwaves in their direction, subconsciously making many move back.

"Hazel, stop playing around. We have to get serious here," another young lady stepped forward, standing in front of the one called Hazel.

"Fine, Nyx, but don't blame me when I go on a killing spree," Hazel said before storing her scythe away.

Miguel shook his head, taking in the faces of these two, along with the one with the axe, before turning toward Ella.

"Just because you have more members doesn't necessarily mean you can win. So, as to the challenge, the Yin-Yang Palace accepts. Now let's fight."

Miguel's axe appeared, and lightning started dancing around his arm and weapon.

Scarlet, Lin, Zing, Linda, Vida, and Lynn also took fighting stances. Omari, Lucas, and the rest of the members followed suit.

"Hahaha. To think you guys would be stupid enough. Fine," Ella said, turning to her members along with the others in her alliance.

"Everyone, gang up on them and beat some sense into them!"

Immediately after she said those words, everyone charged toward Miguel's group. They were numbered in the thousands, so naturally, there was only so much the smaller group could do.

However, just when the two teams were 10 meters apart, the temperature around them began to spike. Soon, the entire place turned hot.

Then, from a distance, a large fire dragon appeared, and standing atop its head was Klaus, who smiled, amused at the happenings on the ground.

"Your savior is here."

Chapter 505 - 505: Kneel to The New Overlord

Every disciple halted in their advance and turned toward the danger that had appeared on the horizon. Naturally, fear gripped them all.

But when they saw Klaus standing atop the head of the dragon, hands clasped behind his back, the Yin-Yang faction members felt a flicker of hope and lightened up a bit.

Klaus remained poised on the dragon as it approached the arena.

"Your savior is here," Klaus announced, mimicking a certain god notorious for showing off and playing tricks on others.

The dragon came to a halt above the Yin-Yang faction members. Despite being directly beneath the fire dragon, they felt neither heat nor fear, standing perfectly fine and unbothered.

Suddenly, another creature appeared on the horizon. Hanna, Anna, Lily, Kilian, Mark, Kay, Danny, and Daniel were atop its back.

Kathy had 'volunteered' to carry them after they arrived at the academy and learned their faction was in danger of collapsing.

Naturally, it was Hanna who suggested Kathy make their arrival as dramatic as possible. With lightning crackling across its 5-meter-long wings, Kathy soared through the air, making the group's entrance dope.

As they arrived, they jumped down in turn, and Kathy shifted back into her demi-human form, leaving everyone stunned.

Klaus smiled, giving Kathy a thumbs-up for making his friends look cool.

He then turned toward Ella, who was already sweating from the heat the fire dragon was directing toward her side.

"Ladies and gentlemen," Klaus declared from atop the dragon's head, "I have now arrived, and I think we should resume the battles, don't you agree?"

Be it Ella, Ethan, Madison, Max, or Mason, all of them are terrified. They have faced many challenges, and so they recognized that the one before them wasn't a challenge they could face.

The pressure emanating from Klaus's dragon had already caused a few people to lose consciousness. In fact, 90% of them were barely holding on.

"I initially wanted to subdue you all and make you servants of my Yin-Yang Palace, but I had to hold onto that thought after a certain vixen told me we first have to weed out the traitors.

Naturally, I preferred the idea, and so I went for it. Who would have thought that out of the 1,700 members, 1,500 would be traitors? Ah, well, it's human nature.

But now that the traitors have been weeded out, I guess it's time for me to put my plan in motion." Klaus stepped down from the head of the dragon and glided to the ground.

The moment his foot touched the ground, an ice throne burst forth. It seemed to have been made of bones yet appeared majestic.

Klaus walked over and sat on it.

Anna, Hanna, and Lily rolled their eyes at Klaus's antics.

Klaus remained quiet on the throne, saying nothing as if he were waiting for something to happen first. But after a minute, nothing happened, leaving many wondering what he was doing.

Suddenly, Klaus turned to Daniel. "Buddy, do the thing we talked about," Klaus said to him before sitting back up.

Daniel smiled and stepped forward.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I know you all are wondering who this is. Well, allow me to enlighten you," Daniel said as he walked forward like a hype man.

"He is the only child, born to the most beautiful woman in the universe and a handsome father—well, not 'that' handsome, but he tried his best.

Raised by his incredible mother, who ensured he would awaken his destiny, he not only awakened but began a journey that legends are written about.

Folks, this ridiculously handsome young man has slain Zombies, shattered monsters, and tamed beasts with nothing but his charm and a flick of his hand.

This is the same man who rose from the dead, laughed in the face of the underworld, and told Death, 'Not today.'

This is the man who faced an entire race of zombies and walked out without so much as a scratch, his hair still perfect.

This is the man who battled a Tier 9 beast and not only lived but made it look easy.

Let's not forget—this is the man who stole the moonlight itself, made the stars jealous, and caused the sun to shine brighter just to compete with his glow.

They say he's arrogant, prideful, and downright insufferable. But we know the truth. He's so handsome it hurts, so cute it's unfair, and so adorable even babies cry in envy.

Ladies swoon just hearing his name. Boys grind their teeth and dream of being him. Mothers want him as a son-in-law, while fathers sharpen their swords in vain.

He's the undefeated, the unstoppable, the slayer of dragons, the breaker of rules, and the very definition of perfection.

Folks, I present to you the one, the only, the most shamelessly handsome man alive—Klaus Hanson!"

BOOM BOOM BOOM

The dragon up ahead shot fire from its mouth, erupting in a wave of explosions like a fiery fireworks display.

Anna, Lily, and Hanna couldn't keep their composure any longer. They dashed to the back, praying for the earth to swallow them whole, hoping to escape the spectacle of Klaus's antics.

His shamelessness had finally transcended, and from the way Daniel sang his praises, Klaus was practically glowing at this point.

"Thank you, Daniel, for capturing my image perfectly in words. Take this as a reward." Klaus retrieved a Tier 9 Fire-type core the size of a basketball and tossed it to Daniel, who happily caught it.

Klaus spoke to him about becoming his right-hand man, the one who would sing his praises to others a few days ago.

Naturally, Daniel accepted. The reason? He wanted a front-row seat to whatever antics Klaus would pull. Also, just like Klaus, he enjoys chaos.

Klaus cleared his throat and began to address the five factions before him. The two other factions that chose not to participate were watching from the side.

Even the instructors, almost all of them, were also watching from the side.

"I won't waste any of your time, so I will go straight to the point." Klaus began. "I will offer you all two choices.

First, we can fight, in which none of you will be able to do anything to change the outcome of this battle. That means each of you will lose ten million points.

Or second, you each will bend the knee and accept your roles as servants of the Yin-Yang Palace. This will cut the penalty in half, and since we can challenge you every month, you will have to keep paying five million points each month until I say otherwise." Klaus gave a cold laugh.

"Naturally, I chose this offer for you since this means the ten million points your faction receives every month won't all be spent as collateral for going against the Overlord of this academy.

This is why, after today, you will all report to me. You will also transfer five million points every month until I say otherwise.

Now, before things go any further, why don't you all kneel?" Klaus smiled, then, in a cold tone, he commanded, "Kneel to the new Overlord."

ROAR

The dragon up ahead activated the Dragon Authority, bringing everyone to their knees. Well, 98% of them collapsed.

Chapter 506 - 506: How Pitiful

The instructors watching from the side, as well as those observing from afar, all wore expressions of shock as Klaus used the dragon's Authority to force everyone to their knees.

In fact, witnessing the scene even stirred pity in them for the five factions.

"Isn't this akin to bullying? I know he's monstrous, but this level of monstrosity should belong in the inner section, not here," one instructor remarked.

"The academy is all about strength, Instructor Park; the rules ensure that. So while he may be going overboard by making the faction wars meaningless, it's within the rules. The weak serve the strong," another instructor replied.

"And honestly, this isn't something to complain about. It's not like those five didn't deserve it. They ganged up on a single faction, the weakest one at that, and not only stole their members but also planned to plunge them into debt for who knows how long.

From my perspective, this is a better outcome. At least they get to keep 50% of their monthly faction points."

"I suppose you're right, but I still don't understand how a single person can be that strong," Instructor Park mused.

"That's true," another agreed. "How can one person be this monstrous?"

"Maybe we should throw him a special mission. This will take him away for a month or two. I believe sending him to that dungeon will keep him there for a while," an instructor said.

"I think so too. In fact, I think we should do that. After all, with his level of strength, he will be able to open the portal," another instructor chimed in.

Suddenly, Head Instructor Victor appeared and gave the two a glare.

"Do you want the crazy lady to burn you all to ashes? That dungeon is something the Overlords discovered. We can't casually toss the kid in.

We first have to inform the Dean and see if he can talk to them about it for us. After all, it's not just the only dungeon in the world but also the most important thing to all of Mother Earth; doing something this reckless will cost us."

"We will listen to you, Head Instructor." The instructors who suggested Klaus be tossed into a dungeon nodded.

The instructors all continued to look at Klaus in horror. The sheer power he displayed was beyond normal comprehension.

Far from them, Old Lu and Nari gazed at the battlefield with varied expressions.

"This kid is dangerous to the outer section. Maybe I should promote him to the inner section where the playing field would level out a little," Old Lu said.

Inside the outer section, he could tell that even if all the disciples went after Klaus simultaneously, the outcome would remain the same. There wouldn't be any change.

In fact, after witnessing Klaus's display during their missions, he could tell that even in the inner section, only a few could hold him back.

Klaus was simply too powerful for his age and cultivation base, and because of this, Old Lu didn't want to keep him there anymore.

"Just leave him in the outer section. I believe his actions are also good. With this outcome, the others will finally see they are nothing in the grand scheme of things," Nari said, her gaze fixed dangerously close on the dragon.

"I guess that's true. Let's keep an eye on him for a few weeks and see how he handles things afterward."

Klaus gazed at the kneeling disciples with a calm expression.

"I know what you're all thinking. You wouldn't listen to my warnings and would even try to resist or challenge us once my friends and I weren't around.

That can indeed be arranged, but tell me—how good would that be for you when I return? You see, I do not like to play games with my enemies. No, I kill them and be done with it for good.

So, while you may think there's a way out for you, stop thinking. After today, you five factions are my enemies, and until I say otherwise, you will never be able to do anything.

But be thankful—I'm letting you keep 50% of your points, excluding the faction missions you might earn.

Now that your numbers are much larger, picking dozens of faction missions will make up for the losses you'll incur every month.

It's not my fault. You brought this on yourselves, and for that, you should all blame your own foolishness."

Klaus sighed.

"Just a few months ago, you were all hoping to come to this academy to grow stronger and become powerful warriors, but look at you now.

In order to suck up to some idiots who call themselves Legacies and Great Clans, you chose to become puppets." Klaus directed his gaze at Mason, who was sweating profusely.

"You chose to put bitterness in your heart and follow those idiots who only care about their status. Let me tell you, I can, at any moment, stand up, march to your so-called families, and destroy them.

Trust me. I have the strength to do just that. So, instead of thinking you are invincible because you are associated with those idiots, focus more on your strength.

That is especially true for you, Mason. I can tell you have potential, but instead of training to become your own person, you choose to suck up to that bitch. Look where you are now.

How pitiful." Klaus shook his head.

Mason was probably blaming himself now. He was the top ranker from the Southern Union, yet his potential was going down the drain because he let the Legacies dictate his actions.

Klaus knew this because, when he fought him, he could tell he had great potential. But while he pitied him, he also didn't care about what Mason did with his life.

He could keep on following their orders and fall even deeper or snap out of it and take his destiny into his own hands.

Klaus didn't hate him; he just pitied him.

He then turned toward the 1,500 who had jumped ship. Most of them had collapsed, but the few left held guilty looks in their eyes. Clearly, they regretted their actions.

"One thing I hate is traitors. You lot are now my most hateful enemies. Had it not been for the no-killing policy, I would have killed all of you by now.

People like you cannot be trusted to have one's back on the battlefield. You are the worst kind of warrior, and from this day onwards, make sure I don't see you in the Yin-Yang Palace faction anymore."

Klaus stood up. He had already accomplished what he came to do. Whether they listened to him or not, he didn't care. If it came down to it, he would just beat the shit out of every last one of them.

"They say dreams are the best way to rethink one's life choices, so before I leave, why don't I send you all to the dreamlands?"

Klaus smiled and unleashed his Slaughter Aura, which immediately knocked unconscious those still holding on.

"Rethink your life choices well, and when you're ready, you'll know what to do next."

After saying that, he walked away with the remaining 199 members of the Yin-Yang Palace and Kathy following behind.

Chapter 507 - 507: Your Target Is a Monster

[Union City]

Back in Union City, the capital of the Northern Union, the Duncan Legacy family and the three Great Clans allied with them were actively discussing the missions they had sent their men on.

At the moment, they were all expecting good news, as they never anticipated Klaus and his friends would venture outside the academy so soon.

In fact, they had no plans to act for the next three months, as that was the ideal time for disciples to undertake missions. But now that Klaus and his friends were out of the academy, their petty plan to kill him was set in motion.

"This will be the end for all those trying to copy that brat and defy the legacies and the Clans," Duncan, the head of the Duncan Royal family, declared.

He had attempted to contact the Dark Order to join their enterprise, but to their disappointment, they refused, stating they had their own matters to attend to.

In truth, the Dark Order didn't want to act just yet, as they understood that targeting Klaus in the forbidden zones was a bad idea.

Most of the forbidden zones were closer to the academy, increasing the likelihood of walking into a trap set by the academy.

However, the situation would change once Klaus and his friends entered the inner section. Missions in that region would be farther from the academy, providing a better opportunity to kill him.

They continued discussing and meticulously planning for what they assumed would follow Klaus's death. However, their enthusiasm was abruptly cut short when they received shocking news just five hours after Klaus and his friends returned to the academy.

"How can this be possible? H-how?" the head of the Mason Great Clan stammered, glancing at the others in the room.

They had just received the devastating news that Klaus was still alive, and the mission had failed miserably. Every soldier they sent was reduced to ashes, leaving no survivors.

Adding insult to injury, they were sent a video capturing the aftermath of the massacre.

"Just how is this possible? We sent four Sovereigns, for fuck's sake!" Jiwon, another clan leader, shouted in frustration.

Duncan stared at the video with a mixture of shock and disbelief. "Did we underestimate him?" he muttered, unable to tear his eyes away from the grisly footage.

The video showed nothing but ashes and the charred remains of the warriors they had sent to eliminate Klaus and his friends. The brutality of the scene left the room heavy with silence.

"We can't let this stand. Maybe we should have gone with the plan to kidnap his mother. That would have made things easier," Nabil, Miriam's biological father and the head of the Nabil Great Clan, suggested coldly.

"This is disastrous. We've not only lost four Sovereigns but also forty Great Sages and eighty Sages. This is unacceptable," Duncan said, maintaining an outwardly composed yet clearly shaken demeanour.

"We underestimated him, and now that he knows we're after him, he'll be even more vigilant. We need to tread carefully next time," Mason said. Despite his words, fear gripped him internally.

The four men sat in silence, watching the video on repeat for twenty agonizing minutes. None of them could comprehend how things had spiralled so out of control.

"How pitiful. To think a Legacy Family and three Great Clans could be reduced to this state simply because they failed to understand the force they were dealing with. How disappointing," an unfamiliar voice suddenly echoed through the room, breaking the tense silence.

Startled, they all turned to locate the source of the voice, but no one was there. The room was empty.

"Who is there?" Mason asked.

"You don't need to know. What I would ask, though, is this: do you four regret taking offense when that boy came against your families?" the voice asked.

The four didn't immediately answer. They all thought hard about it. While the Clans had no valid reason aside from some petty desires to go against Klaus, Duncan had a legitimate grievance.

"The Legacy Family is a pillar of this world. We ensured the unions held strong and protected the needy. So, to have our name dragged through the mud by a no-name? I don't regret making him my enemy and target to eliminate," Duncan said.

"Very noble of you to say. But I think you just needed someone to make a name out of. The nobody you talk about has claimed the City, Regional, and Union charts while still below the Saint stage. He is a big figure from where I stand, don't you think?"

Duncan couldn't deny what the voice said. They were indeed in the wrong.

Perhaps they had sought to gain fame, much like the Dark Order did when they tried to kill Klaus. But now, having reached this point, they could only blame themselves for being petty.

"What do you want from us?" Duncan asked.

They had no idea how the person was speaking to them. They only knew the speaker was far stronger. Despite recently stepping into the Sovereign stage, none of them could sense the voice's direction.

"I want you losers to succeed in killing Klaus Hanson. Don't get me wrong—I'm someone who could easily do it. But at the moment, I lack the means. That's where you four come in. Though it sucks to say it, I need your help," the voice said.

Duncan and the other three family heads exchanged glances.

"Why should we help you?" Duncan asked.

The voice didn't respond immediately. It let the silence linger for a few minutes before speaking again.

"I know what each of you desires. Duncan, I know you want to kill Klaus no matter what. Mason, I know you and your useless sons only want his women and mother.

"Jiwon, you're after his secrets. And Nabil, I know you want to enslave your banished daughter. I know all of this because I know everything about you four.

"Now, while it disgusts me to seek help from the likes of you, I know this is the only way. So, here's my offer. I'll tell you what I can do for you, and in return, you'll help me take care of Klaus, his sister, and his friends."

The four family heads fell silent, their attention fixed on the voice.

"For starters, I'll help all four of you become Transcendents within two months. I'll also help three people from each of your families ascend to Transcendence. To ensure loyalty, I'll even help you enslave them so they don't grow cocky.

"I will provide you with weapons to guarantee success in your task. All I ask is that, once you kill them, you bring their bodies to me."

"Now, do we have a deal?" The voice's offer left the four in stunned silence. The prospect of becoming Transcendent—and elevating three from each of their families—left them dumbstruck.

"You have a deal," they said in unison, accepting the offer.

"Good. I'll contact you soon. For now, relax. Don't go after him yet. We'll use a different method to lure him out of the academy.

"Soon, Klaus Hanson will be yours to kill. For now, as I said—relax. Your target is a monster."

Chapter 508 - 508: Climbing the Stairway to Heaven

After the one-sided humiliation of the Fire Dragon Sect, Celestial Wind Pavilion, Sky Phoenix Sanctuary, Thunder Blaze Sect, and the Earth Shadow Factions, Klaus led his faction members back to their designated meeting space.

The space, originally designed to accommodate thousands, now felt vast and empty, with their numbers reduced to just 200.

But none of them cared. In the past, the faction's overwhelming size meant that some members couldn't even attend meetings. Now, they had enough room to spare for thousands more.

"I know you're all wondering what's next. I promise to tell you, but before that, everyone should gather around and register their names, classes, Tracker ID and elemental affinities," Klaus said, retrieving a glass tablet from his space ring.

It was the registry tablet for the Yin-Yang Palace Faction. Before today, Klaus had erased all the names from it in preparation for this very moment.

He had anticipated that the wolves would bear their fangs sooner or later, forcing the traitorous rats to reveal themselves.

'I expected more than this number, but I guess I can make do with this. It will make things much easier,' Klaus thought to himself.

Klaus already had inside information about the challenges awaiting them. With this in mind, he resolved to create an elite unit that would dominate the battlefield with style and precision.

The senior once told him that he couldn't do everything alone, so Klaus began to assemble a team of individuals he could march into battle with.

Naturally, he wouldn't pick just anyone. But human nature was as it always is—there were both good and bad among them, and there was no change.

However, people could be moulded, and Klaus had already decided to transform them into fearless soldiers who would fight like tigers on the battlefield.

'When Lycos and my other pals descend from the moon, our numbers will increase,' he mused. As someone with an intimate connection to the strongest person on Earth, Klaus knew far more than most.

After a few minutes, all 200 members registered, and Klaus took back the tablet.

"I will review your records over the next few days and determine the best way to handle your training. But for now, this is what we're going to do," Klaus said, pulling a record from his tracker.

"According to the academy, things will be different this year. Initially, in six months, another trial will determine who gets to stay and who leaves.

Of course, there will still be this trial in six months, but as per the record here, those who manage to climb the Stairway to Heaven and pass all Inner Disciple trials will be exempt from the trial in six months.

This means if we don't want to face that trial, we have six months to prepare. Now, I don't know about you, but I plan on becoming an Inner Disciple within two to three months." Klaus paused for a few seconds.

"This also means you all have three months to become Saints and pass the Inner Disciple trials. Of course, those of you who are already Saints have two months to become Inner Disciples.

You all must follow this rule because, after three months, the Yin-Yang Palace in the outer section won't have any members left. We all have to get to the inner section.

That's where the real challenges are.

"But don't worry; we now have enough points to buy whatever we need to enter seclusion and form the rest of our core. I will distribute the points soon.

However, you should all pay attention to this one rule and this one alone: under no circumstances should any of you let me catch you betraying this faction. Trust me, you wouldn't want that."

Klaus spoke those words with a touch of his killing intent, making everyone, including his friends, break into a cold sweat.

"That will be all. Each of you will receive 175,000 points. Use them to buy the items on the list I'll attach and enter seclusion. Only come out when you're ready to face the tribulation and breakthrough.

Once you've made your breakthrough, we will meet again to decide the best approach for the next phase. For those of you who are already Saints, I'll also attach a list of what you'll need to handle the Stairway to Heaven."

"See you all later."

The group dispersed, leaving Klaus with his friends.

"What now?" Hanna asked.

"You guys should go to the Mission Hall, redeem your missions, and then buy all the resources you'll need before entering seclusion. I'll be gone for a week," Klaus replied as he stood up.

"Where are you going?" Anna asked.

"Up there," he said, pointing up the mountain. "I just want to have a quick look at how things are going on."

His friends followed him until they reached the foot of the Stairway to Heaven.

"Disciple Klaus would like to use the stairway to enter the inner section," Klaus said to an instructor.

"Go ahead, and good luck," the instructor replied with a hint of ridicule, clearly looking down on him.

"See you guys later."

With that, Klaus walked forward. The instructor's jaw dropped as he watched Klaus casually ascend the stairs. His steps were so effortless it was almost surreal.

Anna and the others just shook their heads, watching him climb up. Soon, he stepped into the inner section

Meanwhile, the fate that befell the Yin-Yang Palace in the outer section also struck its faction in the inner section.

Their previous membership of 1,900 was reduced to just 120. Their situation was even more severe because they couldn't replicate the strength Klaus had displayed in the outer section.

In fact, they are now burdened with a staggering 40 million Celestial Points debt, having lost all five challenges and only managing to pay 10 million.

The 10 million was their monthly deposit from the academy.

"Oh, Matt, all you had to do was kick that brat from your faction, and none of this would have happened. But well, you know what they say: you reap what you sow," Hunter Duncan said, looking smugly at Matt, the leader of the Yin-Yang Palace.

Matt gritted his teeth, but that was all he could do. Behind him stood Aoi Hiroshi, Nia, Lucy, Lulu, and Asha. The three ladies had left their factions to support Klaus's faction, but in the end, they still lost.

"You know, Hunter, you used to be a good warrior—someone passionate about becoming a powerful warrior. But looking at you now, I must say, you are a disgrace to all warriors."

"Just because a newcomer overshadowed you, you decided to hold a grudge. Where is your sense of camaraderie?"

Matt spat on the ground, looking back at Hunter with disdain.

Hunter acted this way because Klaus had managed to break his record of killing a Tier 6 monster while still just a Master Stage expert.

Of course, the fact that Klaus appeared on three warrior charts only fueled his bitterness and resentment.

Hunter sneered at Matt, his expression mocking.

Turning to face the former members of his faction, Matt uttered just one word: "Traitors."

That single word struck like an arrow. The ex-members looked at their former leader with guilt written all over their faces. Some wanted to respond, but before they could open their mouths, a voice everyone immediately recognized by everyone cut through the tension.

"Well said, faction leader. These losers are indeed traitors."

Chapter 509 - 509: Big Daddy Klaus

When Klaus's words spread through the battle arena, all eyes turned in his direction. There, they saw a handsome white-haired youngster casually strolling forward, chewing on something.

Of course, it was the red poison illusion pea fruits.

While poisonous to everyone else, Klaus chewed on them casually as if they were candy.

"Klaus!"

Asha called out before running toward him with her arms spread wide. She leapt into his arms, burying her face in his chest. Klaus effortlessly lifted her by wrapping an arm below her butt. The sight made several people visibly angry.

This reaction wasn't surprising, given that Asha was the one lady in the academy no man dared even think of asking out. The mysteries surrounding her were far too daunting for anyone to risk taking their chances.

"Klaus, what are you doing here?" Lucy asked, giving him a curious look.

Klaus smiled and replied, "A little birdie told me some idiots are causing trouble for my faction, so I came to cause trouble for them."

Klaus walked toward the four heavenly-defying beauties and gently set Asha down. He then moved and kissed all four ladies passionately before turning toward Hunter's side.

"Kate, I see you didn't take my advice and still insist on using your makeup. Ah, well, your ugliness might be your strength one day. Perhaps, with a smile, you could drive away armies and bring down giants," Klaus laughed, taunting the woman he hated for reasons he didn't yet understand.

Kate glared at him but didn't say a word. She knew her brother, Hunter, would speak for her.

"Klaus, what business do you hav—"

"Shut up, Hunter. Nobody's talking to you. Also, feel free to call your family and let them know the men they sent after me and my friends are dead. Make sure they understand I'm asking for more exp points next time," Klaus said, flashing a teasing smile.

Everyone gasped at the blatant accusation Klaus had just thrown. It sounded as if he was openly declaring that the Legacies had broken the rules by sending men into the academy's territory.

That was bad. A very bad thing.

Hunter's heartbeat quickened at Klaus's words. He knew exactly what Klaus was talking about, and for some reason, he was certain Klaus wasn't bluffing.

It was through him that his family had learned of Klaus's mission schedule. He glanced sideways nervously before turning back to face Klaus.

At the back of the thousands of members of the five factions, a young man used a device to send a message outside the academy.

But while all this was happening, Klaus was minding his own business.

He then turned to the leader of the Yin-Yang Palace faction, a young man who had held his ground against the five factions for as long as he could, though even he couldn't do everything alone.

"Good-looking, though not quite at my level, pretty strong, and damn, your lightning element is impressive," Klaus muttered, eyeing Matt, his faction leader.

"What do you say, leader? Wanna become my sworn brother? From the moment I saw you, I could tell we shared a destiny," Klaus said, extending his hand for a handshake.

Matt hesitated for a moment before taking Klaus's hand. A small smile appeared on his face. Just as Klaus said, he, too, felt a sense of shared destiny.

"Wise choice. Stick with me for a few months, and your handsomeness will rise to my level. Ladies will follow you like you've started a church." Klaus grinned before retrieving three items from his space ring.

He pulled out a Tier 9 Lightning Beast Core, a ThunderBerry Fruit, and a Lightning Apple.

"Take these, and within a month, you'll become a Great Sage." Klaus handed the items to Matt, whose expression shifted to one of shock.

In fact, he wasn't the only one. Everyone present—both allies and foes—wore the same stunned expression.

Klaus just smiled and pushed the items into his hands. The senior had already told him Matt's situation long before he approached him.

According to him, Matt's element had mutated, requiring him to awaken his lightning element before breaking through to the Great Sage stage.

So, while he could have long since become a Sovereign, for two years, he had been stuck at the Sage stage.

However, everyone knew that at the Sage level, nobody in the academy could contend with him. He was one terrifying bastard who played with lightning like it was a normal thing to do.

Klaus didn't particularly have any reservations about giving him something he had in abundance. He knew he had to do something to calm the danger he kept sensing over his life.

'I hope one day I understand why I sense this strong connection to him,' he thought. After washing away his thoughts, he turned back to Hunter.

"Where was I?" Kent asked.

"You were saying something about the warriors sent after you and your friends," Asha answered. She is trouble, and Klaus loves her for that.

"Ah, that. Well, they're all dead—no need to thank me." Klaus smiled.

"But now that they're dead, why don't we talk about us? From the way things look here, it seems you losers coordinated with the outer section to destroy the Yin-Yang Palace.

Too bad it didn't work. Right now, in the outer section, your members are servants to the Yin-Yang Palace."

Everyone gasped at Klaus's words. For a faction to become servants, something terrible must have happened. Of course, they could tell Klaus wasn't lying, which only meant he had defeated thousands of disciples if they were now his servants.

"Don't worry, they got what they wanted. They managed to reduce our numbers to 200 before I arrived. But that's exactly what we wanted.

Now that you losers have handled our traitor problem, we can become a united faction and grow stronger."

"Tsk, what money are you going to use to grow stronger?" Hunter sneered, looking at Klaus like a puppet getting its strings pulled.

"That is true—we are indeed poor. However, that won't be for long." Klaus flashed them a mischievous smile and retrieved the faction registry tablet.

"You see, I was going through the guidelines and rules of the factions, and something caught my eye. Per this particular rule, I saw something rather intriguing.

Did you know there's a part of the rules called 1 vs 3?" Klaus chuckled as he said it.

"You guys are dumb, so why don't I explain? In the 1 vs 3, my faction will challenge three people from your faction to a duel, with the wager being 30 million points.

This means if your side wins a single battle against my side—which, by the way, only one person will participate—you will get 30 million points."

Klaus looked at Hunter, whose frown deepened.

"This means that since we currently owe 40 million in debt, we can challenge you five factions. And if we win... let me see... 30 million times five. Woohoo, that's 150 million!

Then you losers will take your 40 million, leaving us with 110 million.

I say this is a win. So, since I, Big Daddy Klaus, am here, I hereby challenge the Fire Dragon Sect, Celestial Wind Pavilion, Sky Phoenix Sanctuary, Thunder Blaze Sect, and the Earth Shadow Faction to a 1 vs 3 duel!"

Chapter 510 - 510: 1 vs 3 (1)

[Brat, you do know you can't use your Spirit Master abilities or any soul-type abilities, right?] the senior said.

"I know, Senior. I won't use any," Klaus replied.

All around him, everyone was silent. In fact, the instructors present were also speechless after hearing Klaus's challenge.

They had just heard him declare a challenge against five of the most powerful factions in the inner section of the academy. Klaus had challenged them all to a 1-vs-3 battle.

"Are you insane, Klaus?" Lucy said, walking to his side. "Challenging the five top factions to a duel is the last thing you want. Let me tell you, there are powerful individuals here that even I wouldn't challenge them."

Lucy was visibly panicking. She may be a powerful Sage, but even there are Sages in the inner section of the academy she wouldn't dare challenge.

Klaus just challenged them all.

Lucy looked at Klaus like he was some reckless child who didn't know what he wanted, choosing instead to make himself everyone's enemy.

Klaus is indeed a monster—they all knew that.

But the disciples in the academy were some of the most terrifying warriors on Earth. In fact, if Earth ever faced a threat, these disciples would be the ones facing the tide head-on.

So, should a mere Grandmaster-stage warrior challenge them to a duel? That was just asking for it.

"Klaus, it would be best if you withdrew your challenge," Lucy added.

"Yeah, listen to your bitch and withdraw your challenge. You'll just be disgracing yourself," Kate Duncan sneered, eyeing Lucy jealously.

Lucy looked back at Kate for a few seconds and then turn to Klaus.

"On second thought, you can beat the crap out of them." Just like that, Lucy backed away with a smile. Klaus smiled back, stunning everyone.

They had all just heard her complain, only for her to make a complete 180 with a grin. Nobody, including Nia, Asha, Lulu, and Aoi, could understand what had just happened.

This made them jealous. They could tell something was happening between Lucy and Klaus, but they just didn't know what it was.

Meanwhile, Lucy looked back at Klaus.

'If you win all 15 battles, I'll spend two days straight with you doing only one thing.' Her cheeks turned red.

'Oh my, then I better kick some ass,' Klaus thought, smiling as he turned back to face the five factions.

"Losers, as you all heard, I challenge all five factions to a 1-vs-3 battle. Now, before you think this is me being stupid, know that, in my eyes, you're all just small fries," Klaus said, chuckling as he eyed the angry faces before him.

"The academy promised to make you the most powerful on Earth, but have you ever stopped to consider what that really means? You're all here thinking you're at the apex of the pyramid.

"Well, think again because, in my eyes, you losers are just plain greenhouse losers. You'll never amount to anything until you drop your egos and choose to embrace the heart of a warrior. To me, you're nothing."

He smirked, pausing just long enough for his words to sink in.

"Now, I know this may anger some of you—if not all of you—but remember these words and seal them forever: you're all losers." Klaus burst into resounding laughter.

"Now, can we fight?" His expression shifted from mocking to deadly serious as he stepped into the arena. An icy aura surrounded him as his classic ice throne materialized behind him.

Sitting down, he casually began eating Red Poison Peas.

"Go ahead, take your time, and select your best. I've got all day."

The faces of the faction leaders turned green with rage.

For reasons they couldn't comprehend, none of them could summon the will to counter him whenever Klaus spoke. It was as if his words carried a binding authority that stifled their voices.

All they could do was seethe in silence.

"Brother, let me go first and shut this bastard up," Kate said, her eyes burning with hatred as she glared at Klaus. She was beyond furious.

Every word Klaus had said hit her like a bullseye, cutting deep. Yet, she could only blame herself for being spiteful and hated for no reason.

"Relax, Kate," Hunter said, holding her back. "We need to think this through. That bastard may be insufferable, but he's strong. We can't underestimate him."

The five faction leaders huddled for a quick discussion, debating who would represent them in the battle.

Naturally, they selected Sovereigns and a few Great Sages as their champions. Both Hunter and Kate were included as representatives for their respective factions.

Lucy, on the other hand, should have been a Great Sage by now, but her mentor and sister, Miriam, had deliberately slowed her progression. Miriam insisted on Lucy maintaining a firm foundation before breaking through to the Great Sage stage.

As a result, Lucy was currently at the peak of the Sage stage. Once she finished mastering the techniques Klaus had given her, she would break through, becoming an even more powerful Great Sage.

Klaus patiently waited, glancing at the former members of his faction standing silently on one side, completely ignored.

He chuckled, knowing they all regretted their decisions by now. Soon, they would come begging, only for Klaus to deliver his iconic line:

"I hate traitors."

After twenty minutes, the five factions finally selected their members. Each team boasted Sovereigns, with only Hunter and Kate being Great Sages.

Klaus surveyed the lineup and chuckled.

"I don't know about you losers, but I don't have all day. It'd be best if you sent your members forward quickly so I can send them on their way," Klaus said.

"You can keep being arrogant. When I'm done with you, not even your bitch mother will recognize you," Hunter snarled, pointing his spear at Klaus.

"I've changed my mind. You all will suffer," Klaus declared, standing as he retrieved his sword.

"We'll see who suffers. Clark, teach this bastard a lesson," Jason Bond, leader of the Earth Shadow Guild faction, sneered.

"Tsk," Clark, a Sovereign, stepped forward. "Brat, you'd do well to remember my name. I'm Clark, the one who's going to teach you a lesson."

"Quit yapping and prepare to suffer," Klaus said disdainfully, turning to the instructor, who immediately understood what needed to be done.

"Begin."

The moment the word was spoken, Klaus vanished, and an illusion enveloped the Arena.

The next second, a bloodcurdling scream tore through the air, sending chills down everyone's spine. The horrifying sound echoed, forcing the crowd to step back instinctively.

The screams continued, each more harrowing than the last, while trails of blood painted the arena.

No one could comprehend what was happening. Flashes darted across the space, too fast to follow. They couldn't discern who, what, or how it was happening.

But one thing was certain: Clark was the one screaming, and his agony was beyond physical—it tore into his very soul. Even the instructors turned pale at the sound.

Four minutes later, Clark's final scream faded into silence, and the arena fell still.

A moment later, Klaus stood in the centre, his bloody sword in hand, his right foot planted on Clark's unconscious, battered head.

Gasps rippled through the crowd, their horror reflected in their wide eyes as they took in the chilling scene.

"Ladies and gentlemen, why don't I reintroduce myself again?" Klaus began, his voice cutting through the silence like a blade.

"I am Klaus Hanson—a Grandmaster stage warrior, a swordsman, a spearman, basically, a weapons expert, an illusionist, a Silent Mage, a poison expert, and, as you can see, a master of an art the heavens frown upon."

He let the words hang in the air before adding with a sinister grin, "I am also an expert in the art of torture. You all are screwed."

Sinister laughter escaped his lips, freezing the blood of everyone present, including his lovers.

"Once again, my name is Klaus. Klaus Hanson. Your worst nightmares."