

Paragon 551

Chapter 551 - 551: The Awakening of Monsters (3)

Hanna awakened a lightning element called [Blue Tempest Lightning]. According to the senior, it ranks third on the Absolute Lightning Ranking Chart. This meant it was extremely powerful, and indeed it was.

The colour of the lightning is blue, and from its mere presence, one can sense just how powerful it is. It has two aspects, with one having two abilities and the other none.

The first aspect is called [Storm Archer]. This aspect allows her to harness the storm at will.

Essentially, in a chaotic battlefield, Hanna can unleash a storm of lightning and thunder that will, on its own, cause significant destruction.

Of course, this depends on her mastery of the element, but someone who possesses the 10,000 Divine Lightning Body Constitution is no ordinary person.

The first aspect's ability is called [Call of the Storm]. This essentially harnesses the aspect in a more streamlined manner. Without a doubt, having the ability to summon the storm is incredibly awesome and overwhelmingly powerful.

The second aspect ability is called [Tempest Rain]. The name might sound like it's just about making it rain, and yes, that is the nature of the ability.

This ability allows Hanna to summon rain. While it may seem underwhelming at first, anyone with common sense knows that lightning and rain are no joke.

Essentially, she can create rain infused with lightning. Those caught in this stormy downpour will, without a doubt, experience a few agonizing seconds of pain before meeting their untimely demise.

It's a formidable ability, especially in large-scale battles. With her rain covering a 10-kilometer radius, the battlefield will truly become a sight to behold.

The second aspect is called [One with the Lightning]. This ability is similar to Lily's [One with the Wind]. It allows Hanna to use lightning as a medium to move.

In fact, when she unleashes the storm of lightning and thunder, she can use the bolts as conduits to move effortlessly. It's a powerful skill that, without a shred of doubt, is incredibly potent.

Her presence in battle will be very stormy.

As for the skill she received, it is called [Xploding Arrow]. This is an AOE-type skill that, when unleashed, fills the battlefield with chains of lightning, paralyzing all foes.

It's a must-have skill in her arsenal.

She also entered seclusion with Anna, Lily, and Kathy accompanying her. Of course, they had finally completed their awakenings.

However, three days after Hanna, Kilian, Lily's twin brother, also formed his core and underwent his tribulation.

Of course, it was simple, but after the tribulation, Nari had to move everyone back immediately, right when Kilian awakened his fire element.

In the world of elemental energies, there are three forms.

There are the Pure elements, which, in this regard, are the ones Lily, Hanna, Anna, and Kathy awakened. These are the pure ones.

However, besides the pure ones, there are also the impure or dark ones. These are the counterparts to the pure elements. Nari's Dark Phoenix Flame is in this category.

Then there are the forbidden ones. Klaus's fire elements are in this category. They are neither pure nor impure. They are simply forbidden and can be either.

When Kilian awakened his element, Nari immediately recognized its category and moved everyone back. Kilian awakened an Impure Element. It was shocking, considering that among Klaus's friends, Kilian is the chilliest of them all.

He is neither chaotic nor a troublemaker. If anything, he was supposed to awaken the purest form of the fire element. But no, he awakened a very powerful, impure flame element that, in a way, made him appear sinister—literally.

He awakened a flame element called [Dark Impurity Soul Flame]. First off, the name explains its nature. It's a flame that can be used to corrupt anything on the soul level.

When he awakened, he was bathed in dark flames that made him appear like a demon of flames. His hair turned dark, his eyes became darker, and his fingertips grew even darker.

He literally became a demon. Of course, it was later discovered that it was his second form, called [Flame Form]. All his stats receive a 120% boost when he assumes that form.

But while that is beneficial, there are downsides. In that form, Kilian will know no emotions. He becomes an emotionless killing demon swordsman who kills without reservation.

He awakened three nasty aspects, with the first one having only one ability, yet it was very nasty.

The first aspect is called [Life Eater], and as the name suggests, Kilian can drain life from anything. He can take their life force using his flame.

This was why he received an ability called [Devourer], where he could devour living things' life force with his flame. Anything his flame touches, if he wants, he can take.

The second aspect is called [Soul Corrupt]. This aspect allows him to corrupt anything that has a soul. Basically, if he wants, he can turn the purest thing impure. He can corrupt them and make them his minions.

A very nasty aspect of his flame element.

As for the last one, it's called [Flame Demon]. This aspect, however, links to his flame form. He will transform into a sinister form where his emotions will be sealed, leaving him with only the will to destroy.

This form makes it impossible for Pure Flames to affect him. He will become supreme in the field of carnage and destruction. Basically, he will become a menace.

Then, aside from this, he also received a sword skill called [Impurity Flame Slash]. This skill is perfect for his sword attacks, and, well, he is a swordsman, after all.

However, at the end of the day, the sword he received made things freaky. It was a dark-bladed sword with a series of dark veins exuding his flame aura.

Had Klaus been around and used the [Info] skill of his to appraise it, he would have seen a description like:

"Once, a long time ago, there was a general loved by all his men. He was a good leader and a powerful force on the battlefield.

It was said that whenever this general appeared on the battlefield, all his men would jubilate no matter the odds because they knew he was there with them.

However, while his men worshipped him, the king they served seemed to think this general was after his throne. So, one day, while he was away in battle, he ordered the execution of his family in secret.

When the general returned, he was devastated and broken beyond repair. He couldn't understand who would have done that. He tried to seek answers, but nothing tangible came out of it.

In the end, he chose to end his life. However, in his last moments, a sword that had been buried deep underground in their kingdom was impressed by his pain and sorrow and thus awakened, claiming its champion.

It was said that kingdoms burn and empires crumble when the lone general unleashes his fury. Since then, the once great general, loved by his people, became corrupted by the will to destroy and massacre."

It's a sword that even Klaus would fear. However, with Kilian's flame, he is perfect for this sword, for it was said that the general would rise again one day and lead fury, despair, and destruction into battle.

Chapter 552 - 552: The Awakening of Monsters (4)

After Kilian, Daniel followed. He broke through the next day and faced his tribulation. Like everyone else, he awakened his fire element, a soul weapon, two Aspects, and a powerful skill.

Daniel wields a hammer, so naturally, his fire element reflects his likeness.

He awakened a flame element called [Infernal Forge], a crimson flame that empowers both his body and his weapon. In fact, the two Aspects he awakened are specifically tailored: one for himself and the other for his weapon.

The first Aspect, [Ember Heart], significantly strengthens his body in all the best ways. It came with two exceptionally powerful abilities.

The first ability, [Molten Veins], enables him to channel flame energy to augment his body, boosting his [Strength & Stamina].

The extent of this boost isn't explicitly stated, implying there's no limit to how much he can enhance himself.

Its effectiveness likely depends on his mastery of the fire element, but since there's no maximum threshold, he can only go as far as the skills allow.

The second ability, [Flame Surge], works similarly to the first but focuses on his agility, amplifying it manifold.

Additionally, when he uses this ability, it leaves trails of flames in his wake, creating both a visual spectacle and a potential strategic advantage.

As for the second aspect, [Pyroclastic Fury], it is one of the greatest boons one could gain for their offensive power. Daniel can now use his flame element in a much more hands-on manner.

The first ability, [Eruption Strike], allows him to channel his energy into his hammer and deliver a devastating strike on the ground, creating a massive eruption of molten lava that spreads as far as the shockwave reaches.

It's perfect for combating multiple opponents, making him a menace in large-scale battles. He wouldn't even need to be close to his opponents to unleash the attack.

The second aspect ability, [Blazing Cyclone], allows him to spin a couple of times, creating a vortex of fire and destruction. This is a must-have skill that, without a doubt, will make him a juggernaut on the battlefield.

However, the best skill currently in his arsenal, aside from the techniques Klaus gave him, is the one he received called [Hammerfall]. True to its name, it revolves around the hammer falling and creating massive destruction on the battlefield.

The skill allows him to channel his strength into the hammer, and depending on how much his stamina can handle, his strength will receive a 2x, 5x, 10x, 20x, or even 50x boost, enhancing the damage output significantly.

Of course, if he can handle a tenfold boost, he can regulate it however he wishes. This means he can choose to enhance the output by 3x, 5x, or any level he can manage.

He will grow into this skill, as he is currently nowhere close to handling a fiftyfold boost of his total strength.

A true brute skill.

Just imagine multiplying a strength stat of 12,000 by 50. While it's nothing close to Klaus's own boons, what makes this unique is the soul weapon Daniel awakened.

It's called [Hell Forging Hammer], and, true to its name, it's a terrifying-looking hammer capable of shattering anything it strikes.

The hammer is massive, with a heavy, ominous design. Crimson molten veins run along the handle and metal head, making it a fearsome appearance. Just seeing it can send shivers down the spine of anyone who sees it.

In fact, the hammer has a passive skill called [Intimidate]. This ability makes the hammer exude an aura of fear, intimidating anyone with weaker willpower.

It's the perfect weapon to send opponents down the road of doom before the battle even begins. Daniel has become stronger and ready to ensure whatever training Klaus has in store for him when he returns.

After Daniel, Mark, the spearman in the group, followed the very next day. He has a wind affinity, so after becoming a saint, he awakened a powerful wind element that doesn't pale compared to Lily's.

He awakened a wind element called [Whispering Breeze]. It's a powerful element that works hand in hand with his cultivation technique.

Unlike Lily, who prioritizes speed, Mark focuses on both speed and strength. Well, he uses a spear, and he is a dude, so he must have some brute force in him, unlike the delicate Lily, who uses her speed to her advantage.

This wind element allows him to harness the power of the winds to boost his speed and attacks.

He awakened an aspect and two abilities. Additionally, he received two powerful skills and awakened a soul weapon. It seemed like everyone connected to Klaus had suddenly started growing stronger.

His aspect, [Gale Force], allows him to harness the wind more easily and beneficially. He is basically one with the wind, like Lily.

The first ability, [Feather Step], allows him to harness the wind to boost his speed by any amount he can handle. There is no cap on how much he can harness; it all depends on him.

The second ability, [Echo Strike], allows him to create echoes of his spear strikes. Basically, within a certain distance, he doesn't need to attack up close to land a blow.

Instead, he can use the wind to echo the attack from a few meters away and land it on his target. It's similar to Kilian's [Void Cutter], but this doesn't use the void. Instead, it uses a vacuum created by the wind.

It's a powerful ability with many possibilities if he masters the wind element to a certain extent. The more mastery he garners, the more powerful the echo he can create.

As for the two skills, one is called [Zephyr Edge]. This skill creates a mini tornado at the edge of the spear that explodes upon contact with the opponent. It's undoubtedly very powerful.

The tornado's strength is determined by his mastery over the wind element.

The second skill, [Airborne Reign], activates whenever Mark is fighting in the air. Every movement of his body and weapon creates wind blades that deal devastating damage to the target.

It is the kind of skill where you don't have to do much but can deal great damage to your opponent. It's like he was gifted a powerful skill simply for being a friend of a paragon.

Without a doubt, the heavens must be pretty pissed at the moment.

As for the soul weapon, it's a silver-green spear with intricate patterns resembling air currents etched into it.

The spear can slightly shift its form, elongating or curving based on Mark's intent. It has three skills that activate at will if Mark commands them.

It's the kind of weapon that has its own skills and consumes less essence to wield. In fact, if Mark wants to, he can rely solely on the three skills within the spear to battle stronger foes.

Of course, like the soul weapons of the others, both Daniel's and Mark's soul weapons have seals on them. This means that, despite their current powerful damage-dealing capabilities, they will become even greater forces to reckon with in the future.

Naturally, this has something to do with Klaus. When the last member of his cohort became a saint, it all became clear that they were no ordinary beings.

Kay was next to become a Saint.

Chapter 553 - 553: The Awakening of Monsters (5)

Kay's awakening was just like everyone else's—eye-catching.

Every one of Klaus's friends had become some of the most powerful saints in the world at the moment. They not only awakened powerful elements but also gained aspects, aspect abilities, powerful skills, and formidable soul weapons.

Basically, everything about them defied logic. Queenie and Nari, who had been accompanying them for the past few days, began to think that maybe these young individuals were just like Klaus.

That was especially true for Queenie, who, in a way, already knew Klaus was an incarnation from her past life. Of course, she wasn't entirely sure, but she had no idea Klaus was, in fact, more than that.

However, now she seemed convinced that perhaps Klaus's friends were also reincarnators, just like her.

When Kay became a saint, he naturally awakened the fire element since he had an affinity for it. He also gained a single aspect with two abilities, a skill, and a soul weapon, just like his friends.

However, these weren't the most shocking things that happened to him. No, aside from all these incredible developments, Kay also awakened two pairs of wings from a bloodline of phoenixes known as the Azureflame Phoenix.

This, of course, means he has the potential to awaken the bloodline of the Azureflame Phoenix fully. However, since that is a story for another day, we can only focus on what we know.

He awakened a flame element called [Infernal Azure Ember]. From the name alone, one could tell it relates to the wings he awakened, which also links to his potential lineage as a phoenix.

The aspect he awakened is called [Blazing Precision]. This aspect allows him to wield his bow and flame arrows with both devastating might and lethal precision.

The first ability, [Inferno Precision], allows him to achieve unparalleled accuracy using flame particles. In this form, no matter the distance, as long as there are fire particles in the air, he will never miss.

Of course, this depends on the presence of flame particles in the air. But that wouldn't be a problem, considering the second ability takes care of this.

The second ability is called [Molten Trail]. This ability leaves a fiery trail in his wake whenever he fires an arrow.

This will, of course, generate fire particles that he can use to harness the first ability.

It's as though the two abilities were designed to complement each other perfectly.

As for the skill he received, it is, without a shred of doubt, destined to be his most powerful skill forever.

It's called [Incendiary Shot]. Unlike typical arrow-molding skills like [Hellfire Arrow], this one is an augmentation-type skill.

When used, it enhances his bow and arrow, making them several times more powerful. The most notable aspect of this skill is that the moment it is activated, it grants the arrow an incredible boost in explosive power.

In fact, as its name suggests, the skill ensures that every augmented arrow carries an incinerating effect. This means each arrow enhanced with [Incendiary Shot] becomes a potential trump card against any opponent.

This means if he uses the [Hellfire Arrow Tempering Art] to temper a hundred arrows with [Incendiary Shot], he will have a hundred potential trump cards.

As for his soul weapon, it's a sleek obsidian bow with fiery veins running through its frame. It appears majestic, especially with the blue flames dancing across its body. It is called [Ignis Arc].

Kay's flame is extraordinarily beautiful—a radiant blue flame.

[Sub-title: Awakening of the Viking Warmonger]

Of course, Kathy awakened a powerful lightning element, and Hanna did the same with her own formidable lightning.

Anna manifested her overpowered ice and water element, Lily followed with her wind element, then Kilian with his fire, Daniel with his fire, Mark with his wind, and Kay with her fire as well.

However, there was one person who, so far, stands out as the most badass among Klaus's friends—Danny.

Danny doesn't possess any flashy offensive element like the rest of his friends. No, Danny has only the light element, something he seemingly couldn't use actively in combat—or so they thought.

When Danny awakened, it was as if an angel had descended from the heavens and bestowed upon him the title of the Divine Warrior.

The brute became a force so overwhelming that when he appeared in battle, the ripple effects would, without a doubt, be mind-numbing.

Danny awakened a powerful light energy called [Radiant Valor]. This golden light strengthened and enhanced his appearance, making him strikingly handsome.

In fact, the once bulky brute has become more refined. His previously dark hair now gleams with a golden hue, further adding to his charm and making him even more attractive.

His physique has also transformed, becoming far more polished—outshining even Daniel, who was literally tempered in flame.

Danny now exudes an aura of power and elegance, surpassing his friend in refinement and appearance.

But it's not just the color of his light element that sets him apart; it's the unique capabilities of [Radiant Valor] in combat.

Like Anna's water element, Danny's light element possesses both passive and active healing properties, making him a vital presence on the battlefield.

Strangely, he awakened two aspects, neither of which had any specific aspect ability. However, considering the descriptions of these aspects, asking for additional abilities would be overkill.

The first aspect, [Aurora Vitalis], focuses on healing himself and his allies. During the battle, those within a 4 km radius, if deemed allies, will receive a 30% increase in stamina regeneration.

But that's not all— their health also gains a 40% regeneration boost. Additionally, the rate at which they accumulate fatigue is halved.

For himself, it's even more potent. He gains an instant 50% boost in regeneration across all stats, lasting as long as he has the mental capacity to continue or remains alive.

With mental fatigue halved, this means he can endure far longer before reaching his limits.

The second aspect, [Solar Might], amplifies strength, increasing his allies' power by 50% and his own by 80%. This boost is more than anyone could ask for, especially in situations where they face stronger opponents.

Aside from the strength boost, his light element nullifies 98% of all status debuffs. Essentially, any form of status debuff won't affect him or his allies.

Furthermore, this aspect allows him to purify or resist dark powers. While foes are being purified, allies with dark powers gain a 10% boost in their abilities.

It's like taking from the devil and giving to the demons. This aspect is undeniably powerful and dope as fuck.

But the most impressive aspect of him is his voice. Whenever he gives a war cry, his allies' morale on the battlefield receives a huge boost, instantly raising their attack power based on their collective determination.

Basically, Danny came with all the right buffs that everyone could benefit from, making him the most valuable asset Klaus could have on his side.

His soul weapon is also a powerful one. It is called [Luminaxe, the Dawn Reaper], a massive two-handed axe with an edge that glows like molten gold. It's both imposing and adorned with a large blade bathed in golden elegance.

As for the skill he received, it's called [Shimmering Sweep.] It allows him to spin the axe in a wide circle, releasing blinding arcs of light that cut through multiple enemies.

It's not fancy, but it holds great potential.

The moment Danny became a saint and solidified his realm. All eight of Klaus's friends participated in their inner disciple trials, and within a week, they climbed the stairs and became inner disciples.

But it wasn't just them who created miracles; some of the people closer to Klaus also awakened powerful elements skills, and a few even were fortunate enough to awaken soul weapons.

Though few, it was still a boon for the academy and the Yin-Yang Faction.

This is especially true of the techniques Klaus provided.

Miguel has now become a menace. He awakened a lightning element with a single aspect that makes every attack from his axe ignore 70% of the enemy's defense.

He became an inner disciple along with his team. Soon, all members of the Yin-Yang Palace faction climbed the stairs, leaving the outer disciple rank behind.

Right now, Klaus is the only member in the outer section of the Yin-Yang Palace, as he still hasn't become an inner disciple yet.

But while friends are growing, foes are also emerging. As they say, good and evil walk hand in hand.

Chapter 554 - 554: Klaus Transformation

It has been a month since Klaus became a cocoon after ascending to Sagehood. This means he has been inside the dungeon for almost two months already.

Life on the outside was bustling with countless activities. The academy, which Klaus had transformed into a hub for serious cultivators, had completely evolved into a new place.

A lot has happened.

First, all 199 disciples in the Yin-Yang Palace's outer section have become inner disciples, leaving the outer section empty. But it wasn't just them...

Most of the other outer disciples from the other factions have also ascended to inner disciple status.

Thankfully, Klaus has tamed the inner section, so there were no conflicts aside from the normal challenges of determining rankings. Everyone has become more focused and disciplined.

Second, the Saint rankings in the inner section have undergone a major transformation. Hanna was ranked first, mainly because Klaus wasn't there yet.

Strangely, the second rank wasn't Anna. Instead, it was Kilian who had become a force to be reckoned with thanks to the impurity flame he awakened. In fact, Hanna might lose if they were to face each other.

Kilian has grown powerful and fast. His sword attacks are lethal, and his demeanour has become much colder in battle.

When he was ranked fifth, and his sister was fourth, their battle was so intense and fierce that it lasted for two hours straight. They never used any advanced skills or techniques; instead, they relied entirely on their sword qi throughout.

The emergence of this powerful flame swordsman began to draw more attention, making Kilian one of the most formidable Saints in the academy.

In fact, the entire Saint list has changed.

Hanna was first, Kilain second, Anna third, Lily fourth, Miguel fifth, Danny sixth, and Daniel, Mark, and Kay took the seventh, eighth, and ninth positions.

It was a shocking arrangement that took the academy by surprise. Finally, the arrogant legacies started to see the disparity between them and Klaus's friends.

Speaking of the legacies, Mason Cole took Klaus's advice, broke up with Madison, and joined one of the two neutral factions. He also announced that from now on, he had nothing to do with the legacies.

But that wasn't the only shocking thing.

Both the first- and second-ranked factions in the academy announced they were backing out of the alliance with Hunter Duncan and the great clans.

They even went ahead and expelled Hunter and Kate, making them factionless, as nobody in their right mind would want them in their faction.

Angering Klaus was the last thing they wanted. First, it was angering the Legacies...But after seeing what Klaus is capable of, they flipped the script...

Additionally, Lucy, Nia, and Asha had also become Great Sages thanks to being sisters of the leader of the Overlords.

Queenie was literally spoiling them to the point that she sometimes sneaked into Lulu's room to spend time with them. They mostly talk about lady things.

At first, it was shocking to be in such close proximity to the leader of the overlords, but thanks to Lucy talking to Queenie more often, the other ladies began to adapt.

This soon turned into a good relationship, making the Overlord of Blood and Carnage much more relaxed and free with the ladies.

She even secretly followed them on their faction mission.

Of course, for some reason, every now and then, when she slept, she would dream of her past life as the Asura Queen.

Strangely, whenever she woke up, she noticed changes in her strength, aura, and overall experience.

It was as if her dreams were affecting her in both good and bad ways. Her knack for being more daring and facing tougher opponents seemed to have awakened. Thankfully, she was holding back until her man was out of the dungeon.

As for Nari, she had been sleeping quite a lot lately. She claimed she did not miss Klaus, but low-key, it was obvious she did. Because of that, she chose to sleep in his bed every night.

Strangely, a week ago, she had yet to wake up after going to bed.

Meanwhile, back inside the dungeon, Klaus, who had been inside the cocoon for an entire month, finally emerged as the cocoon dispersed into a smoke of energy.

However, when he was revealed, his appearance had changed significantly. His handsomeness had been enhanced, and his physique had been fine-tuned, making him appear strikingly attractive for a man.

Then there was his hair, which had grown longer, forcing him to tie it into a ponytail. His mom would surely give him a nice haircut once he left the dungeon.

His height had also increased slightly, standing at an impressive 6'3". However, while his physical appearance changed thanks to his becoming a Sage, the main transformations were mostly internal.

However, some of these inward changes have manifested externally.

One of these is the dragon tattoo on his arm, which now bears a second pattern—a white pattern.

This is undoubtedly a sign of his second fire element awakening. The patterns reveal everything: it will be a white flame.

As for its name, he will receive it the moment the fire manifests. This also means that, in addition to the orange flame dragon, he will gain a white dragon as well.

Additionally, he feels a strong connection to four tattoos on his back. One is a half-moon tattoo, which appeared when he had sex with Lucy.

It was also when he first discovered the Paragon Mark. This connection made him feel a powerful bond with the moon, as if he could draw energy from it.

The second is a strange and strong connection to light. He has an affinity for the light element thanks to his Elemental Overlord talent.

However, he has yet to awaken his light element, which means he does not have access to it yet. Still, he feels an intense attraction to it, which, of course, stems from Miriam, who possesses a light affinity.

The third is a connection to poison. This is undoubtedly linked to Ohema, the poisonous lady in his harem.

Klaus also has a poison affinity, but the connection now feels much stronger. In fact, he can use it more effectively thanks to this mysterious bond.

For the last connection, it was to blood.

Even with Oscar, the owner of the cards, now dead, the small amount of blood that had dripped from his orifices had become more pungent to Klaus.

He could almost feel a very powerful force hidden within the blood, which, if he wanted to, he could harness and use in battle.

However, he could tell that he couldn't harness it just yet. It felt as if he was lacking something essential that would allow him to do so.

For now, he could only relax and study it further when he was out of this place. Thankfully, whenever he killed a Hell Demon, he wasn't transported to the next trial right away. This gave him the time to do other things.

After checking his entire body and making sure he wasn't missing anything, he dove into his soul sea, where all the major changes were happening.

He knew that if things were to change, they would occur more prominently inside his soul sea. This was because of his soul-housing everything about him.

As expected, the moment he appeared inside his soul sea, he was greeted by the sight of many significant changes that took him by surprise.

In fact, everything about his soul sea had changed, and now he had to observe all these changes and figure out how they would help him in the battles to come.

Chapter 555 - 555: Core Evolution (1)

"Damn, that was a lot of changes," Klaus muttered, looking at the transformations that had occurred in his soul sea—or, more specifically, his cores.

After absorbing the tons tribulation runes, seven out of the nine cores were now fully formed, which meant he was comparable to seven Great Sages and two Sages in one body.

Having nine cores was truly something to be happy and proud of.

The cores had expanded, with the great cores stretching a whopping 400 kilometres wide. This demonstrated just how powerful he had become. Someone with cores this large should be a Sovereign or even a Transcendent.

A Sage who, in a way, was now a seven-part Great Sage had no business possessing seven massive cores like these. Moreover, just one core is now filled with loads of Star qi from which he can channel.

And he would be channelling energy from nine cores. That alone is unbelievable.

He only needed his body to grow to the stage where it could handle the immense energy whenever he began channelling it into his attacks.

"They have changed somehow."

Klaus appeared outside all nine cores, resembling a god gazing down at nine stars.

Each core had rings around it, but seven had somehow evolved, making them appear distinctly different. They now resembled worlds more than stars. However, Klaus could sense there was more to them than what he could see at a glance.

He quickly entered the first core, and lo and behold, it was as he expected—it had indeed evolved. The new evolution allowed Klaus to grasp the true nature of the cores immediately.

The first core, now housing one of the opened doors, revealed countless soul weapons suspended in the air. The entire core glowed red. The space exuded an aura that was both ominous and foreboding.

The atmosphere, the presence, and the overwhelming sensation made it clear: this was a space of slaughter, death, and destruction.

All the soul weapons in his possession were suspended in the space. Without a doubt, this was the space of slaughter—his current incarnation.

The weapons symbolized his status as a weapons overlord, and the aura reflected his nature as the Slaughter Overlord.

Somehow, his slaughter aura had influenced the essence of the first core, making it his first core. This suggested that the doors were, in some way, connected to reincarnation.

This explanation seemed all the more plausible when he stepped into the second core, finding himself in a world of lightning and thunder.

He had already met Knox, his second incarnation, and saw who he had been back in that incarnation. It all made sense—the lightning and thunder aligned with Knox's nature as an archer with a lightning affinity.

The place was a realm of storms and lightning, and Klaus felt an immediate, intimate connection to it. He knew instinctively it was tied to his own lightning affinity.

"Does this mean the doors are based on the sequence of reincarnation?" Klaus wondered.

"But that doesn't make any sense. If I am the ninth incarnation, then shouldn't the ninth door be here instead of the first?" He began pondering.

The sequence he had just seen suggested that the cores were based on the order of his reincarnations. This meant the first core corresponded to the first incarnation.

But that shouldn't be possible, as the first incarnation was his original self. If that made sense, the second was Knox, the archer.

So, if he was the ninth incarnation, shouldn't he have the ninth door in the first core?

"This could only mean one thing... the cores are assigned based on the nature of the incarnations, not the order of the first incarnation." In a way, he had swapped places with the first incarnation, which meant, in a sense, nothing made sense.

The second core now also had a large Seal of Lightning inside. He could tell it was a forbidden item within his soul sea.

Aside from the core, the Lightning Source Diagram was also suspended. Lightning danced around it, along with something else he couldn't understand or identify yet.

The senior would answer that once their connection was restored.

"I'll just go with the flow, then," Klaus smirked and stepped into the third core.

As expected, it was one filled with the aura of blood. It was no exaggeration to say it was the core of the Asura God, his third incarnation.

If he were to see inside Queenie's soul sea, he would have realized that perhaps all Asura-borns share the same type of soul space.

It was vast and reeked of blood. Suspended in the air was the Seal of Slaughter, which once again contradicted the sequence he was trying to piece together.

"Maybe they're just random cores that align with certain aspects of me. I don't have to look too deeply into it. I can just accept it like how they are meant to be."

The sequence was already abnormal to begin with.

The Seal of Slaughter hung within the soul space, radiating a potent aura that reeked of danger. Yet Klaus felt entirely at home, making him realize that his Nine Reincarnation Divine Body Physique wasn't just for show.

He then moved to the fourth core, which immediately revealed its nature. Of course, he had expected as much, so when he saw the illusions, he knew he was within the Realm of Illusion belonging to his fourth incarnation—Fruity.

Nothing in this core was real. Everything was an illusion, and without a strong mind and soul, detecting it would be extremely difficult. In fact, even looking at it gave him a headache he would have to adapt to.

The core was entirely made of illusion, causing him to grin happily.

"If my theory is right—which it is because I'm the best—then these cores will grow with my class. Or perhaps my classes will grow with the cores instead."

Klaus grinned, knowing that if the latter were true, then as he ascended to higher realms, so too would his classes.

At the moment, his Weapons Overlord Class had already shown great promise by awakening the Weapons Domain. When he was in the first core, he could tell that the domain had grown much wider and significantly stronger.

This could only mean, in a way, the latter was the true path. The higher he ascended, the stronger his class became. This meant he was already a monster, considering how much more developed his cores were now.

He gazed at the Seal of Illusions and Poison, and his grin widened.

He walked around the space, moving to see if things were different somehow. He did indeed see some changes, making him understand that, somehow, the poisons and the illusions had now merged.

He observed places filled with poison and places only housing illusions. It was as if the core had been segmented yet merged together, forming a separate yet whole core.

It was confusing, yet it somehow made sense. Klaus knew that, so he didn't linger there much.

He didn't know how far the realm of illusion would grow, but at that very moment, he knew that if he somehow managed to acquire a powerful skill that could utilize his illusion on a much larger scale, he would become a menace.

He went ahead and stepped into the fifth core. However, what greeted him was a world of darkness, death, and eeriness.

He was plunged into perpetual darkness.

Chapter 556 - 556: Core Evolution (2)

Klaus had often wondered how and what life he had led in his past lives. He had asked himself this question many times and kept asking to this day.

However, as he started meeting a few of his incarnations, he saw that perhaps knowing too much wouldn't end well for him.

From the first to the fourth core he had been inside so far, he tried to sense love, peace and harmony, but he sensed none. It was like his life had none of those.

This only meant that he hadn't lived a peaceful life or even tried leading a peaceful one. His entire incarnation has been that of death and destruction. He never knew peace...or so he sensed.

But he was still hopeful that he would have a life in which he was happy and peaceful... Well, at least to say, the fifth core was even worse.

He went ahead and stepped into the fifth core. However, what greeted him was a world of darkness, death, and eeriness.

He was plunged into perpetual darkness. He looked around but saw nothing. It was pure darkness through and through...

"I am out of here." With that, Klaus left the space and headed to the sixth core, where he was plunged into a literal world of music.

Yes.

Klaus appeared in a space where everything was in rhythm, yet his heart skipped a beat. Despite being filled with music, the space he appeared in had every note reeking of death.

But that wasn't all... While he felt a deep connection with the other cores, this one was, in a way, affecting him in all the bad ways.

He felt the need to kill... to kill in all the destructive ways. It was as if his soul was being remoulded in the image of death.

He liked it.

In fact, a wicked smile played on his lips as he stood inside the domain of music and death. The feeling was euphoric.

"I like this feeling. It's like I'm finally in a place I should be... a paragon should be. The feeling is heavenly."

Without even realizing it, he sat in a lotus posture and began absorbing the musical notes. He remained still, taking in the danger. The euphoria is palpable on his face.

A day passed, yet he remained seated.

Meanwhile, his body outside now bore runic markings of musical notes dancing around him. There were golden runes, dark runes, and red runes.

The feeling emanating from the golden runes was one of calm. It was so calming that if anyone were present, their soul, mind, and body would be enveloped in a state of tranquillity.

Their chances of gaining enlightenment would skyrocket.

However, the dark runes reeked of death. It was as if they were made purely for killing. The death qi exuding from them was pure death. There was no other feeling but that.

Then there were the red runes, which were all about destruction. Klaus could feel it—a single note made of red runes could destroy an entire landscape. Everything about it was pure destruction in its simplest form.

Seven days later, Klaus finally opened his eyes inside his soul sea. The moment he did, a dark red aura burst out of his body on the outside, filling the space.

The aura was so harrowing that, as it appeared, all the greenery within a 200-meter radius lost its colour, turning dry as husks instantly.

On the last floor of the dungeon, Lissa looked at Alida, and the two smiled.

"Master has finally reached the second stage of Aura Cultivation," Lissa said, her expression a blend of pride and happiness.

"Indeed... Aura Manifestation isn't something that can be achieved easily, yet Master made it appear effortless. As expected of him," Alida added, making the two cats smile.

"However, the question remains: will Master be able to handle the backlashes he will start receiving? He is practicing the Slaughter Aura. The last time it appeared was during the Blood Era..."

Both Alida and Lissa fell into a thoughtful silence.

The aura Klaus was cultivating was the Slaughter Aura. The name alone spoke volumes, but in reality, it was much more complex than it seemed.

The Slaughter Aura had many methods of cultivation; however, the last time it surfaced, it was cultivated through the easiest path: the Path of Slaughter.

This was during the Era of Blood when the Asura God rose and cleaved through the universe, raining down blood. This era instilled fear in many and birthed the hate and fear of Paragons.

It was also the era when the Slaughter Aura was branded forbidden.

For Klaus to begin walking that path could only mean one thing: slaughter. But the question was, would he be able to handle the backlashes that came with it?

In fact, if he was discovered practising the Slaughter Aura, many would come after him—even gods and immortals.

"He is Master. When has he ever shown fear in front of his enemies? No matter what, this is the path he has chosen. We can only help him from the sidelines as he walks in," Alida said, clenching her fist.

"Indeed, Master can walk the path. We must ensure he succeeds," Lissa echoed, mirroring her sister's determined gesture. The two women continued to watch Klaus's body exude the Aura of Slaughter for a few minutes until it finally subsided.

Inside the core of Music and Death, Klaus stood up, and like the wind carrying away cotton, he began to sway, dancing across the domain filled with the notes of death.

"I need a musical instrument as a weapon. I need to utilize my Weapons Overlord class and whatever this is to the fullest. This music has great potential," Klaus said before moving to the seventh core.

"What the fuck?" Klaus, who had just landed in the seventh core, screamed his heart out when his eyes fell on the nature of the domain he had appeared in.

Without a shred of doubt, he had entered a domain of battles, destruction, blood, and an eeriness that spoke more toward the realm of the undead.

Basically, the place was a battlefield. Nothing was enticing to the eyes there. Everything reeked of battle, and looking at it, Klaus knew that one of his incarnations had perhaps never had a good life.

He could feel it—hatred.

The overwhelming feeling of hate and resentment made him understand that in the lives he had lived. This one was where he may have lost something so dear that his hatred became absolute.

It was the only feeling inside the core, and for a moment, tears streamed down his face.

The feelings he was receiving were just too heartbreaking. Tears fell uncontrollably, making him leave the place a few seconds later. He couldn't take it.

After leaving the space, he exited the soul space first. After calming himself down, he went back in. He didn't bother to check the eighth and ninth cores, mainly because they had yet to evolve.

But so far, all seven were filled with nothing good. Every life he had led was filled with torment and heartbreak.

At that moment, he made a vow in his heart that he would never feel like that in this life.

During this lifetime, he planned to become very strong—so strong that the feelings he received from the seventh core would become a thing of the past.

This vow was made deep in his soul, and without him even knowing it, far away in the cosmos, nine stars shone brightly for a few seconds before eight dimmed.

One, however, started to brighten with each passing day.

Chapter 557 - 557: Gains (3)

Klaus noticed some major changes.

The first was the core evolutions. They were now linked in a way that immediately made his mind drift to the tattoo on his back. In fact, he could see the channels created between the nine cores.

Though not very visible in the eighth and ninth cores, he could see them faintly, and they resembled the tattoo he had received from Uncle Ziggy. The tattoos on his back are similar to the ones in his soul sea.

Klaus finally started to connect the dots and saw that perhaps his dad knew more than he did. This only fueled his determination to find him.

He wasn't an idiot.

He knew his dad wasn't on Earth. Call it a gut feeling, but somehow, he just knew the man wasn't there. If he were on earth, he would know. But he can feel it, the bastard is not dead but also not on earth.

That wouldn't stop him from looking, though.

The only question, however, was how much his mom knew.

It wouldn't be shocking if his mom knew something about his dad, so Klaus planned to talk with her when he was out of the dungeon.

But aside from the channels, a lot had happened.

The Tribulation Prison was now inside the second core, along with the Seal of Lightning. Klaus didn't know where the seal came from, but he wasn't complaining.

The second thing was the demon bead. It had now moved inside the third core, which was filled with blood and carnage.

Klaus immediately moved and touched it. The moment he did, the last face—the face of Discord—awakened, granting him a skill.

However, as soon as the last face awakened, five golden runes appeared from it and merged with Klaus's forehead.

Suddenly, his body outside shuddered, and a powerful energy erupted from him. But that wasn't all; his body started emitting faint golden glows that slowly began to darken.

Soon, his body was enveloped in a dark mist.

Inside his soul space, the Bead began spinning as a ring of runes revolved around it. It was mesmerizing yet sinister in its own way.

"It's finally opening," Klaus smiled, knowing that soon—perhaps within the next few weeks—the Bead would fully open. The dark mist has dissipated...

For now, he only checked the technique he had received. After going through it, he realized he had finally found something worth dying for.

The skill was called [Whisper of Discord], and as its name implied, it used sound waves and soul energy that were nearly impossible to block, creating discord in battle.

When Klaus activates this technique, he will gain the ability to use sound waves as if they were an extension of himself.

It had seven effects, but three stood out to him. For a moment, Klaus wanted nothing to do with the other four and just focused on these three.

The first effect was called [Emotional Corruption].

When used, allies and enemies alike will begin to mistrust each other, perceiving even harmless actions as threats. Strong bonds between comrades will weaken, and fragile alliances will be shattered.

All Klaus had to do was unleash the skill, and the rest would depend on how he wanted it to work. With just a whisper, he could shatter alliances and break bonds in a large-scale battle.

The second effect was called [Illusory Manipulation]. This worked similarly to the first, but in this case, the whispers create illusions of betrayal, such as a trusted ally attacking or a loved one turning away.

These visions pushed individuals into a paranoid frenzy.

As for this particular effect of the technique, Klaus knew his illusion class would play a huge role in it. In fact, he could already see a plan forming in his mind, and soon, this plan would be put to good use.

As for the third and most mind-blowing effect, it was called [Chaos Amplification]. The name said it all—it had everything to do with chaos.

When used, those affected would be compelled to act on their darkest impulses, causing fights to break out even among the closest allies.

Enemies find coordinating nearly impossible, as everyone prioritises their survival over the group.

This was a skill nobody in their right mind would dare to face. In fact, if Klaus wanted, he could simply use it on weaker-minded foes, forcing chaos to erupt from there.

It was like having the ability to do anything, provided there were individuals with mental capacities below his.

With this skill, he only needed to target specific people, and the chaos would spread from there. Without a doubt, this skill left no room for the weak-minded.

Aside from these three, there was another equally destructive effect. It was called [Mirrored Voices], and Klaus could alter how his enemies sounded when used.

In a large-scale battle, he could use this to command the enemy army and give false orders through their own voices. This would, without a doubt, make things significantly easier for him.

"I guess this only means I won't have to worry about large-scale battles... My enemies will do the killing for me," Klaus laughed.

The other effects, though not as powerful, are still good enough to unleash the power of the Pentaface Bead (Demon Bead).

Strangely, aside from the skill from the Demon Bead, he didn't receive any new skills after becoming a Sage. However, he didn't complain.

This is because he could tell that, with or without any additional skills, he was now a menace with nearly unlimited Star Qi.

He could use more powerful skills in his arsenal without worrying about running out of energy.

Later, he went to check on the dragon that was hibernating again. Klaus knew it would awaken another flame this time, so he wasn't worried about the dragon being out of commission for a while.

After checking on the dragon, he immediately emerged from the soul sea. He then finished absorbing whatever he needed to.

It was quite a shame that the seven summons he killed disappeared with their weapons. He had wanted to get his hands on the Odachi the alien used.

The long sword was just perfect for him. As a Weapons Overlord, all kinds of weapons were attractive to him. He wanted to have them all, and when he saw the long, curved-bladed sword, he drooled.

Aside from that, he was also aiming for the dagger the Shadow Assassin used. In fact, he had wanted to get his hands on it ever since it dealt most of the injuries he had received.

He wanted it badly.

As for the other weapons, he didn't really need them. He currently has three weapons and would be receiving seven more after forming contracts with the Seven Deadly Cards.

In fact, that was his ultimate goal. The seven cards were what gave him the strength to endure the pain and fight the seven Ascendants.

It was that drive that made him know that no matter what, he couldn't die. He had to win and claim the cards.

Thus, after checking everything inside his soul sea and absorbing what needed to be absorbed, he reached for the seven cards that had now become smaller.

They now looked like a deck of cards, but Klaus, holding them, knew they were no ordinary cards.

He examined them for thirty whole minutes, trying to figure out something unique about them. Perhaps he wanted to know how best to use them.

But after his thorough inspection, he could only resolve himself to form contracts with the cards. However, when his blood touched the first card, his eyes widened.

Chapter 558 - 558: The Seven Great Demon Lords

In the Era of the Demon, seven demons who shouldn't have been were born on dates that shouldn't have existed.

These seven demons were named by the great demon immortal, Munufie, as the Seven Great Demon Lords.

It was said their birth was an anomaly, but when the reigning Demon Kings discovered them, they banded together to banish them to purgatory.

Purgatory became their new home—though it was also their prison. However, it was said that the universe intervened before they were sent away, creating a way out for them.

The Seven Deadly Cards were crafted for their sake.

The first card is known as the [Abyssal Spire].

It is Maldrak's summoning card, the Abysswalker. He was Voidborn, a being whose true appearance remains unknown today—even to his parents.

He is one with the shadows, born from them. He carries the shadows with him whenever he moves, overpowering light and darkness.

The second card is known as the [Infernal Pyre]. This card would one day summon Valgros, the Blazing Titan.

Valgros is an apocalyptic being—a giant from the Infernal Giant Demon race, renowned for commanding the destructive power of fire in battle.

Before his banishment, he was known as the "One-Man Army," for whenever he appeared on the battlefield, he wielded the devastating power of the flame.

The third card is [Chained Torment]. It belongs to Zyraxael, the Iron Tyrant, the most menacing demon lord of all the seven great demon lords.

He was unique, born of an unknown race that had never existed before—the Abyssal Warlords.

His nature is utterly destructive, and with his chained body, no obstacle could make him falter. It is said that in battle, whenever his chains touch an opponent, their life force is drained and consumed by him.

He knows no fear and never retreats from a fight.

The fourth card, [Plague Dominion], is the card of Avirax, the Pestilent Monarch. He was renowned for his unique mastery over plagues and diseases.

Little is known about him, but he was considered the most dangerous of them all. It is said that his plagues brought about the end of the Demon Era.

The fifth card, [Frozen Dread], belongs to Kyriath, the Frost Revenant. Known as the Undead Demon, he was born undead, meaning he was never truly alive or dead. He is also referred to as the Walker of Ice and Dread.

From his birth, every place he visited was left a frozen wasteland. This ice demon buried entire races under glaciers and walked away laughing.

He turned five Demon Kings into ice statues and left without a second thought. He even ventured into the forbidden grounds of the Death Demon King race, transforming the entire land into his own ice fortress.

Kyriath's actions were the primary reason the banishment ritual was performed.

The sixth card, [Shattered Eternity], is the card of Relkaine, the Timebreaker.

It is said that when he was born, a temporal portal opened, and an adult version of himself stepped out, killing everyone in sight except his mother.

Like a madman, the adult Relkaine took the infant version of himself and vanished. This event reportedly occurred twice more at different points in time, and in the end, he became the sole progenitor of the Chronodemon race.

Relkaine manipulates time and creates paradoxes to counter anyone he chooses. His powers are boundless, but one certainty remains: he never uses time to kill directly.

Instead, he manipulates time to create anomalies that destroy his enemies. To this very day, no one knows whether the Chronodemon is an adult, a teenager, or just an infant.

The seventh card, [Abyssal Crown], is the card of Nerythar, the Mindshaper. He is known as the Mind Dominator.

Before he was banished, he was the only Demon Lord that everybody loved. It was said that everyone worshipped him not because they liked him but mainly because he made everyone like him.

He played with minds as if it were the easiest thing. It was said that on a normal day, his mind would be connected to thousands of people, using them to commit all kinds of crimes.

He was never truly known until he was banished. His tale of destruction is sung to this day, for it is said that nobody knew what they were doing when the Mind Dominator reigned until it was too late.

Klaus looked at the seven cards hovering and shaking in front of him and wiped the sweat from his forehead.

He had just witnessed visions of the seven demon lords who had been banished, and each one of them terrified him. When his blood touched the first card, he saw everything.

He saw the true nature of the demons the cards were meant to summon.

He also understood how the cards worked, and for a moment, he thanked his lucky stars that the dead half-Demon hadn't possessed the means to unlock their true nature.

Of course, the cards were designed to summon the seven great demon lords. However, they could also summon random beings, provided they were fed enough souls.

Their true form, however, would only be unlocked if the owner of the cards managed to nurture them with their own soul strength.

In this regard, Oscar had planned to kill Klaus and take over his body, thereby gaining access to his vast soul strength.

But now that Oscar was dead, Klaus could claim the cards—and he did.

However, he frowned when he sensed the immense amount of soul essence required to unlock the true nature of even one of the cards.

"I am still not strong enough to unleash the true nature of the cards. I can only use the random summons after feeding them some powerful souls. A couple of hundred sovereign-level monsters should suffice," Klaus muttered.

He quickly formed a contract with all seven cards. They vanished and entered his Third Core, beginning their nurturing process—a process that would one day allow him to summon the seven great demon lords back from purgatory.

"Hmm, according to Fruity, I should be receiving the memories and awakening my bloodline the moment I become a Sage," Klaus muttered as he stood up.

"Since that wasn't the case, it seems the heavens did more damage than I thought." He knew things wouldn't be simple, but now he could tell the heavens had truly gone all out this time.

The moment he awakens Fruity's bloodline, he will become a monster with seven forbidden ice abilities at his fingertips. That would, without a doubt, be something to fear.

It seemed the heavens were not giving him a smooth chance this time.

"Tsk... they can do all they want. At the end of the day, a bloodline is just a boost. Without it, I am still a freaking Paragon."

After saying that, Klaus stood up and changed into a new set of clothes. He then willed the exo-armor that was slowly forming. This time, it seemed to start covering his legs and arms.

There was even a strand about the size of a child's finger travelling across the side of his face and wrapping around his forehead like a crown.

"Soon..." Klaus muttered, "just five more to go."

He took some time to eat the food Hanna had arranged for him using her Celestial Points. Then, he asked for his fifth challenge.

When he saw its contents, a smile appeared on his face. He knew he was about to have another chaotic battle and perhaps his first soul Spirit weapon...

His spirit master part of his class is about to receive a boost...

Chapter 559 - 559: Battle Between Spirit Master

Once again, Klaus found himself on an icy battlefield.

Everything around him was made of ice and levelled to resemble a flat battlefield. Thankfully, he had an ice affinity, so he was able to withstand the cold. However, that didn't mean he wasn't feeling anything.

In fact, his focus was being affected, and it was because he had stepped inside the Law of Self of his next challenger.

Standing 300 meters away was a tall being with two noticeable antennae on his forehead. According to the description he received, the 5th hell demon belonged to a demon race called the Silthar.

The Silthar are a race with a stronger mental capacity, and because of this advantage, they are all Spirit Masters. This was why, behind this tall figure, a large, round, razor-sharp disc could be seen spinning.

It was his spirit weapon and the weapon Klaus would be fighting against.

According to the description he received, this disc was called the Thousand-Splitting Demon Cutting Disc, and, like its name, it could split into a thousand different razor-sharp demon-cutting discs, each as powerful as the original form.

Klaus, of course, wanted the disc, but there was one problem: the 5th hell demon possessed a selfish law called distorted Perception.

This Law of self made it extremely difficult for anyone with a weak mental capacity to remain focused within his domain. And his domain was vast, encompassing the entire icy battlefield.

Essentially, Klaus was about to face someone who had stacked the odds against him before the battle had even begun.

"But then again, I have something to change the odds, and that is this," Klaus said, activating the demon-killing circle to ensure his focus remained unaffected.

And just like that, after sacrificing two Sage Cores and two Great Cores, the demon-killing circle took effect, making Klaus smile.

Then his Sword Box appeared, and he jumped onto it. At the same time, the Razor Disc, Crescent Disc, and the two Void Piercing Needles materialized.

Immediately, the 5th hell demon, named Niimo, realized his Law of Self had lost its effect on Klaus, he became enraged.

In that instant, he unleashed the Demon Cutting Disc, aiming to kill Klaus instantly.

However, the attack met resistance as Klaus unleashed the Crescent Disc to counter it, initiating the clash of Spirit Masters.

Niimo used his fingers to control his spirit weapon while his antennae lit up blue. Yet Klaus stood firm, using only his mind to counter every attack.

The Demon Cutting Disc was incredibly fast, but Klaus's powerful mental capacity allowed the Razor Disc to intervene whenever the Demon Cutting Disc came close to evading the Crescent Disc.

Suddenly, the Demon Cutting Disc split into four and launched simultaneous attacks. But Klaus was one step ahead and unleashed the Void Piercing Needles.

The needles were still the fastest and most lethal weapons in his arsenal. In fact, now that Klaus had become a Sage, his enhanced mental capacity allowed him to master the 6th stage of the [Sage Mind] technique.

As for the [Unshakable Mind] Technique, he had mastered the entire technique, so the chances of him losing his grip on his mental capacity or even experiencing mental fatigue were pretty low.

But that wasn't what Klaus was after.

It is true that his current mental capacity could rival an Ascendant's, but his main focus was mastering the Sage Mind to the 7th level. Only then would he begin the main technique Yuying had given him.

For now, he needed to use the six segments of his mind to win against someone with naturally strong mental capacity.

So the battle raged on, and Klaus did his best to counter all the cutting discs.

There were ten of them now, and according to the spirit weapons he was fighting against, the cutting discs could split into a thousand forms.

Right now, he didn't know how much Niimo could handle, but since it was a soul weapon, he knew he held the advantage.

Of course, he could die and try again later, but Klaus didn't want to die. No, he was treating this trial as a real-world battle, where a single death was all it would take.

So, no matter what, he wouldn't die. Thus, he was fighting with his mind. Niimo was using mind attacks, but thanks to his mental techniques, Klaus was doing much better.

'Maybe I should try it on him.'

Klaus thought, then tapped into the final technique he had received from the Face of Discord. He unleashed the [Whisper of Discord] and activated one of its seven effects.

This one wasn't much in Klaus's eyes, but he had never expected to use it this early. The effect was called [Power Disruption], and essentially, the moment he started using it, those affected would find their skills and techniques disrupted.

Some might even lose control or access to their weapons, skills, techniques, elements, and so on.

It was very powerful, but in Klaus's eyes, it wasn't much.

However, when he began using it, something happened that made him push this skill to the top of his list.

Klaus started to whistle as he controlled his weapons. However, the moment the sound of his whistle resonated on the battlefield, the cutting discs began losing balance.

Well, it was more like Niimo started losing control over his own weapon.

Very sinister move on Klaus's part, but he knew it was necessary. Thus, he started gaining the upper hand.

His two Void Piercing Needles were replaced by two sharp, thin swords. Both the Crescent and Razor Disc were in full attack mode, causing Klaus to secretly manoeuvre his Void Piercing Needles closer to Niimo.

At the moment, Klaus felt like gloating, but his lips were occupied as he had to continue whistling in order to maintain the [Power Disruption] skill.

A smile spread across his face, which enraged Niimo. Because of this, Niimo failed to notice he was in some serious shit.

Humans are very scheming...

Klaus wasn't taking any chances now.

He was a sage with seven Great Cores, so he wasn't weak. He could easily kill Transcendents and fight equally against Level 3 and below Ascendants, proving his strength.

Using his power strategically, Klaus ensured that the antenna demon would be dead when his needles entered attack range.

That moment arrived faster than Klaus expected. Niimo, growing impatient, pulled out a spear and dashed forward, attempting to engage Klaus in close combat.

At that instant, Klaus's mind devised the perfect way to kill him, and he acted on it. With four out of the six segments of his mind active, he directed the remaining two to execute the kill.

Ten swords shot toward Niimo, but he used his spear to deflect them. He was already juggling 30 Cutting Discs, which appeared to be his limit.

The swords' assault caused Niimo to lose focus momentarily, and his antenna dimmed. It also seems he wasn't that talented despite having the advantage...

He lost focus...

...and that was the exact moment Klaus had been waiting for. The two Void Piercing Needles struck, piercing through Niimo's eyes.

The attacks were swift and deadly. The needles moved relentlessly, leaving his head riddled with holes. The attacks were shifted and dead. Klaus raises an eyebrow, seeing the changes in the needles.

He knew there was more to the Needles, but he also knew it may take some time to get there.

Or perhaps he just doesn't have the right Needles for the Void Piercing Needle technique.

And just like that, Klaus killed a Spirit Master who had fallen, thanks to the Demon Killing Circle and the Power Disruption skill.

Chapter 560 - 560: Meeting the First

When Niimo fell, Klaus sighed and began absorbing the three items: the core, the Soul crystal, and the Blood Essence. These three are the only things he was after since it was the only thing the trial was meant to give...

It was as painful as the previous times, so there was no smile on his face. He spent 40 minutes fully absorbing everything.

Like the other four he had killed, he also absorbed Niimo's armor, adding additional layers to his Exo-armor.

However, immediately after completing the absorption, something happened that changed Klaus forever.

He could never have anticipated this moment, but now that it had occurred, he knew his life had been irreversibly altered. It was the turning point nobody would have anticipated...

When he finished absorbing the core, crystal and essence, two beams of light shot out from the antenna atop Niimo's head and entered his eyes.

For a brief moment, his vision darkened. Then he felt it—like a tide surging within him. His mind started to expand far and wide like an endless sea.

His focus was enhanced, and without even doing anything, the final step of the [Sage Mind] technique was mastered. Yet, his mind didn't stop growing.

Slowly, he drifted into a comatose state. Of course, it wasn't the kind he hadn't experienced before; it was the same feeling he got when he met one of his incarnations.

Klaus appeared on a vast sea. It was so vast that he couldn't see its end. The water was calm, and the wind blowing was so quiet that he immediately felt at peace despite standing in the middle of such an immense expanse.

"Comforting, isn't it?" Suddenly, a voice spoke from behind him, forcing him to turn and see the speaker.

Of course, he expected that outcome. However, when he saw the handsome fellow smiling back at him, he cursed out loud.

"Fuck..."

Klaus might be handsome, but the bastard before him was an Elf-level handsome angel. He had silver hair that wasn't as long as Klaus's, and his eyes were also silver in a strange, otherworldly way.

Standing 6'5" and clad in leather armor, he was undeniably good-looking. Yet, Klaus could tell that the bastard was very dangerous. He appeared innocent, but he could tell it was just a facade.

"No need to be jealous. It's always normal for the first to be the most handsome. Though, I have to give it to you—you are much more handsome for someone your age," the figure spoke, announcing his identity as the original.

Klaus didn't seem shocked by this outcome...He had gotten used to it.

"Tsk. In my eyes, there is no first or last. We are all one and the same person. It's just that I'm much more awesome than you, despite you being millions of years old," Klaus said with a smirk that seemed to show his jealous expression.

"True, but when I was your age, I could kill Level 9 Ascendants like flies."

"Maybe they were weak and useless. But even so, I managed to kill them when I was a mere Saint. Can you boast of that?" Klaus curled the corner of his lips upward.

"True, that is indeed awesome. But you are still lacking. The current you should be able to fight three Level 9 Ascendants and kill them in under an hour. It seems you are much too comfortable," the first said, making Klaus want to punch him.

"But don't worry, you are here thanks to Yuying, so I will make sure you leave a changed person."

"Yuying is the best," Klaus smiled, recalling some of the memorable times he spent with her in his fourth incarnation.

"Indeed, she was created from our emotions, so she understood us more than anyone. She is the best... Too bad I couldn't make her feel it during my time."

"No need to look sad, bastard. I will make sure she is happy in this life," Klaus said with a smile. Whenever Yuying appears in his mind, he feels happy for some reason.

"You better. Also, tell me, which incarnation are you?" the first asked. Though Klaus could tell, he knew the answer already.

"Tell me your name first... I am Klaus, by the way." Klaus knew he was about to receive something, but first, he wanted to know his name. It sounded weird, but he had to know.

The bastard is his original self, after all.

"I am Paragon," the first said, making Klaus look at him weirdly. However, he could tell he was telling the truth, which was shocking. Considering their title was Paragon, did it mean this bastard was the Paragon, or...?

'Fuck it... I don't have enough sleep to get into this theory,' Klaus thought as he closed his mind and moved forward.

"So why am I here, Paragon?" Klaus asked, the name feeling strange in his mouth. Paragon smiled at his expression and chose to shrug it off.

"Yuying gave you a technique called [Hivemind]. This technique was for you to begin practicing when you master all 7 levels of the Sage mind, but in truth, it was just the key to bring you here.

Now that you have met the requirement, you appeared here to receive the True Mind cultivation technique of the Paragons.

It is a one-of-a-kind technique that none of our incarnations had the privilege to cultivate—not even me," the Paragon said excitedly.

"Why not? Number Three told me you are the most abnormal of us all, so how come you haven't cultivated it before?" Klaus asked.

If he was the creator of everything their foundation was built on, then it meant he created this technique. But now that he was saying something else, Klaus just didn't understand.

Paragon smiled.

"You have to understand something here, Klaus. We are Paragons. We are the masters of the Nine Paragon Stars. I, alongside the eight others, are like the soul of the Nine Paragon Stars. This means we lived so you could be born.

In a way, you are not an incarnation but the original of us all. You were born from the nine of us, making you the true master of the Nine Paragon Stars.

I know this may sound confusing, but you were there from the beginning. You were there when it all started and were present along the journey up to this point.

So, no matter how you see it, you aren't the 9th, the 10th, or the 1st. You aren't an incarnation—you are the original one.

You are the only one who can carry out the task we set forth from the start. You are the mind of it all... the True Paragon."

Klaus narrowed his eyes, then asked a question that made Paragon laugh.

"If I am the original, does that mean I am the oldest of us all?"

"No. You are not. You don't understand yet because, until you awaken all nine bloodlines, your true nature won't fully emerge."

"Then does that mean the Weapons Overlord isn't my original class and talent?" Klaus asked, sounding disappointed.

"No need to look disappointed. You are me, and I am you. You created everything, ensuring it all followed the path you laid.

I wielded the Weapons Overlord class because, in a twisted way, I was you, and you were me. It's the same for all the incarnations.

"Tell me this: If you are yet another incarnation meant to die so your class, talent, and bloodline could be added to the Nine Reincarnation Divine Body, doesn't that mean you would also have to die for the next to take up the mantle?"

Everything clicked the moment Klaus thought about it. It all made sense now. Since he was the mastermind, it meant he had reincarnated nine times to create the perfect path for the original him—his current self.

"Good. Now that you understand who you are and what you've done, this is what you came here for."

An orb appeared in Paragon's hands, and he handed it to Klaus. Klaus looked at the orb and, as if knowing what to do, pressed it against his forehead, his vision fading as he drifted back to the real world.

However, before leaving, Paragon said something Klaus would only fully understand when he killed the last Hell Demon.

"Use the hivemind well, for you will need it when the Paragon Forge awakens." He ended with a laugh, making Klaus realize then and there that he was a maniac in every life he had lived...even the first.