

Paragon 571

Chapter 571 - 571: Talking About the Past

"Hanna, are you alright?" Anna asked, gazing at the pale, blue-haired beauty sitting on a bed inside the tent.

Surrounding her were Kathy, Nia, Lulu, Aoi, Asha, Lucy, Lily, Klaus's male friends, and Miguel's team. They were on a mission in a Tier 7 Forbidden Zone when Hanna suddenly became unwell.

"I'm fine. It was just a slight dizziness," Hanna replied, looking stronger now. She had been worried for a moment, which caused her paleness, but she seemed to have recovered somehow.

"Then what happened?" Lucy asked, her worry evident. She cast a spell that caused green flowers to bloom around Hanna when she had turned pale. Luckily, it helped speed up the healing process.

"I don't really know... Maybe it has something to do with my element. It has become much more powerful over the past few days as I near the Sage stage," Hanna lied.

She had no choice but to lie. She couldn't explain her connection to Klaus, so she made up an excuse. However, Lucy, who had also felt unwell a few hours earlier, could sense that something wasn't quite right.

Still, nothing else had happened after that, and she, along with Klaus's other three women, could feel their connection with each other intact, so she assumed Klaus was fine.

"Then can you fight?" Lily asked.

"I can... but maybe we should rest for a few hours. We still have a couple of missions to complete, right?" Hanna suggested. Everyone agreed.

Soon, they all retired to their tents to rest, leaving only Hanna and Klaus's women together. Naturally, Klaus's friends were sharing tents with their girlfriends.

They stayed in silence for a few minutes until Lily broke the silence.

"So, do you guys think we'll have a shot at defeating Klaus when he comes back? I mean, we've all become abnormally stronger these past weeks, huh?" Lily smiled, knowing the latter part of her sentence was true.

They had indeed become stronger—every last one of them. Even Miguel's group had grown much stronger thanks to the techniques Klaus had given them.

However... asking whether they could defeat the monster whose fate was uncertain at the moment... was a little—

"NO," Lucy said, shaking his head. "You weren't there when he nearly killed Kate. It was like seeing the Grim Reaper in the flesh. Klaus is terrifying if none of you are aware."

Lucy could only smile. Nia, Asha, Lulu, and Aoi were the same. They had been there when Klaus went berserk, so they knew what they were talking about.

"What type of soul is he made from? I mean, we're all overpowered now, but Klaus is just abnormal. It makes me wonder what kind of monster he'll become at the level of the Overlords," Anna muttered, shaking her head.

"I don't think you should measure him on that level. He managed to hold back a Transcendent Beast while killing two Sovereigns. I'm sure he'll start killing Ascendants when he becomes a Great Sage," Kathy said, but Anna just laughed.

"It seems you all are underestimating him. Little Brother is a monster. Killing Overlord-level beings isn't how we should measure him.

I don't know how I know, but I'm 100% sure he's already started killing Ascendants. Call it a gut feeling, but Little Brother is a monster that can't be measured using our expectations..."

The ladies looked at her with varied expressions, but deep down, they all knew she was right... The Klaus they knew was a monster beyond monsters.

"Hanna is right. When we first met Klaus, it was back in the Everlasting Zombie Forest, where we were caught in a zombie tide," Lily said with a smile.

"Thinking about it now, that was when we all met him. Had it not been for his timely intervention, I'm sure we would all have died."

"True, but we wouldn't have stood on the sidelines and just watched you ladies die like that," Asha said with a guilty expression.

She and Nia had been there but hadn't intervened, even as some were dying. In their defence, those who died were cowards, and as disciples of the strongest academy that fights against cowardice, they despised cowards.

But they had also placed Anna and her team in danger, which, in a way, paved the path for them to meet Klaus.

"Yeah, back then, we were all scared, but thanks to him, we survived and made friends with a generous, shameless bastard," Anna said, and they all laughed.

She hadn't told her friends yet, but when she and Klaus first met, it wasn't pleasant. It was the first time she had seen a human kill another human up close. It freaked her out, but it was also when she became interested in Klaus...

"I guess it all worked out in the end, indeed," Lucy said, knowing that if it hadn't been for her sister, she wouldn't have met Klaus—or fallen in love with him.

"How about you, Hanna? How did you meet him in Ruin City?" Anna asked.

Hanna smiled, recalling the moment she and Klaus first met. It was her final day of hunting, and she planned to sell her loot and finally carry out her suicide revenge. She had made up her mind to die, taking down those who had killed her friend.

"He smiled at me, and I approached him," Hanna said, still maintaining her smile. This caused the ladies to raise an eyebrow.

"She smiled at you?" Lucy raised an eyebrow.

"Indeed. It was when he cleared an entire region of Ruin City, killing thousands. Everyone present at the moment was scared of him, myself included. However, after he smiled at me, it felt like all my fear vanished, so I approached him."

"And what happened next?" Anna asked, shifting closer to her.

"Well, he wanted help with the Warrior Tracker, so I helped him. After that, we went our separate ways, only to meet again when it was time to leave the forbidden Zone. One thing led to another, and he offered me some monster cores and asked me to ride the shuttle back with him."

"That was when I met you guys, and well, here we are now."

Anna supported her chin with both hands, smiling as she stared daggers at Hanna, who was also smiling, recalling her memory with Klaus. Of course, her past memories as Havina in Klaus's 4th incarnation also influenced her mood.

"This is a great romantic backstory, don't you think, Hanna?" she asked, looking at her. Hanna stared back at her and shrugged.

"It's indeed a romantic backstory. You and Klaus are like a match made in heaven," Asha joined in, followed by Lily.

"I know, right? From the moment I saw you and Klaus get down from the shuttle, I could have sworn you guys looked like lovers from a distant past," Lily added, and the three ladies giggled.

Lucy, Nia, Lulu, and Aoi also giggled, knowing exactly what the three vixens were up to. They may have formed the three Vixens, but they want to make it a four.

Hanna smiled but didn't say anything. Instead, she cast her mind back to when she and Klaus, in their past lives, used to dress up and roam around the city, causing trouble for vendors and merchants.

Her smile bloomed, and without her realizing it, she began to blush, making the ladies around her, including Kathy, look at her with countless emotions.

Chapter 572 - 572: Four Months Since...

It has already been four months, or close to four months, since Klaus entered the dungeon. It has also been over a month since he completed the last trial, leaving him deep within the sea with a huge hold through his chest.

However, many things were happening outside while he was submerged in the sea.

Four weeks ago, Lucy led Klaus's friends and her fellow sisters to the Tier 7 Forbidden Realm after spending close to three weeks there.

While it was a major undertaking, they didn't return the same. A few days after their return, Lucy broke through to the Great Sage stage, making her become several times stronger...

She received some skills and made tremendous progress in both her ice and wood elemental cultivation.

If Klaus had been present, he would have associated her wood element with the thick hairs of the alien-looking demon he had killed when Oscar, the half-demon, summoned it using the Seven Deadly Cards.

They are no longer merely wood; they have become more like metal but much more malleable and durable. She has become so deadly that, even at Level 1 Great Sage, handling a Sovereign wouldn't be an issue.

She had also awakened her bloodline, which was locked for no reason. In fact, it wasn't just her; all her friends who became Great Sages and Sovereigns all had their bloodlines awakened but locked.

A day later, Asha also broke through. However, for some reason, just as they never knew her true strength, all that changed about her was her beauty. She became much more beautiful, and that was all.

During the mission, she only summoned three large ant monsters with skin so hard that swords would bounce off it.

Aside from those three ants, she never showed anything, not even to Nia, who had been her sister for many years.

Asha was an orphan who Nia's family had adopted, so they had been like sisters long before the awakening. However, despite their bond, Asha never revealed her class nor shared her secrets with Nia.

She is dangerous, but nobody knows just how dangerous she is. That is why the academy made her a disciple without ranking. They didn't allow her to enter the ranking charts.

After her, Anna broke through to the Sage stage, making her the third to break through. After the tribulation, she became like a fairy who descended from the immortal realm.

Her ice and water elements had also become very powerful to the extent that she could tell her offensive spells would be much more lethal now. As for the water, its healing nature had become much more potent.

Hanna followed next, also becoming a powerful beauty with the bow. In fact, the next time Klaus set his sights on her, he would undoubtedly double his efforts to seduce her.

Her lightning element has also become very powerful, and more importantly, she could feel the seal on her Heavenly Body constitution weakening. Of course, Klaus planned to remove it when she became a Great Sage.

But from the way it looks, it seems to be heading toward the stage where it will awaken or unseal the moment she becomes a Great Sage.

Lily followed next, becoming a force to reckon with. Her wind took a much greater leap, making her very fast now.

Nia and Lulu broke through on the same day. Nia became a Great Sage. She awakened a pair of daggers that were soul items. Like the twins back in Ross City, she finally gained access to the shadow realm.

Nia is an assassin, so her breakthrough brought her much more than she could have asked for.

As for Lulu, she awakened a spirit weapon that Klaus would, without a doubt, be jealous of. It's a needle about 12 inches long and three inches thick. However, it's made of metal that could easily pierce the metal body of the Eight-headed Hydra Demon snake he killed.

Next to follow was Aoi, who awakened a soul item, too. It's a sword that came with a powerful technique and an unknown origin. She and Lulu have become sovereigns.

Klaus' male friends followed.

Danny got a boost in his light element, making him move toward the lineage of a Viking. As for Daniel, he was now leaning toward the ranks of titans. His Soul Hammer has now unlocked its first seal.

The hammer has now become very powerful.

Kay has also become terrifying with his bow, while Mark has made a huge stride in raising both his strength and speed.

Now, he can start mastering the second form of the technique Klaus gave him while perfecting the true form of the first one.

His friends and women had all started training even harder.

Kilian became a terror now. His impure fire element has grown much more potent, and even now, Hanna would have to put in some effort if she wanted to keep her position as the top ranker now that they had started to conquer the Sage chart.

Miguel also became powerful.

He was fortunate to receive Klaus's blessing, so he was now basking in Klaus's techniques. He and his friends are now like monsters in the Inner section of the academy.

Three days after the last of them broke through, they picked yet another mission and ventured into another Tier 7 forbidden zone, this time choosing a very high-risk mission.

They are now going after Sovereign-grade monsters and even Transcendents. They didn't want to fall behind too much when Klaus returned.

This time, most of the disciples in the Yin-Yang Palace went with them. Thanks to Klaus, they are now the top-ranked faction in the academy.

Some people even tried to join, but Asha took Klaus's place and insulted them, making them regret their life choices.

After the incident with Klaus in both the outer and inner realms, a lot of people changed their minds about how they wanted to spend their time at the academy.

In fact, some retainers of the Legacy families abandoned their roles and chose to become their own person, and because of this, they are all growing now.

Ruby challenged Anna again, but it ended within three minutes, which was Anna's way of being merciful. After she received the [Ice Princess Manifestation], she became very powerful with her ice element.

In the end, Ruby gave up on the idea of challenging Anna ever again. It was a wake-up call for her; thus, Anna now holds the 'Ice Princess' title in the academy.

On the other side, Nari was still sleeping. It had already been over a month, but she had never woken up. Queenie checked on her to see if she was still breathing, and indeed, she was alive.

However, she never woke up.

This, of course, put Queenie and Old LU on high alert. They knew what she was capable of, and since Klaus told them to keep an eye on her, they were indeed doing that.

They wouldn't just sit idle and watch her cause mayhem in case this sudden slumber was something catastrophic.

As for interference from the Legacies and the three great clans, nothing else had happened ever since the incident with the warriors when Klaus was on the mission with his friends.

However, while nothing happened on the surface, it doesn't mean things aren't happening in the dark. In fact, darkness is looming over the horizon.

Klaus was still not back, but his enemies were also not sitting idle.

Chapter 573 - 573: Hidden Danger

Months ago, when word reached the Duncan Legacy family and its allies that Klaus and his pals were out of the academy, they immediately dispatched 4 Sovereigns, 40 Great Sages, and 80 Sages to erase him and his pals from existence.

Hours later, news of the death of every last one of their warriors reached back to them, making them finally understand the danger they were facing. In fact, it was a wake-up call for them.

They all panicked and despaired after hearing the news, but it was just for a moment. In their despair state, a cold voice suddenly entered their meeting room, bringing dark light to their hearts.

Back then, they were all Sovereign stage warriors. However, even with their cultivation base, they couldn't figure out who was talking to them or even where the voice was coming from.

When they couldn't figure it out, they allowed the voice to speak.

It was then that the voice made its desire to help them in killing Klaus Hanson and his friends.

Naturally, they accepted the offer with the promise that he would help them and three others from their families become transcendent.

They were then instructed to stop pursuing Klaus and his pals for the time being.

Months passed, and they did as they were told. Even when news reached them that Klaus had nearly killed Kate Duncan, they did nothing in retaliation.

They were biding their time, and finally, the moment they had been waiting for had come. Just a few days ago, the same voice that spoke to them came to visit again... Only this time, it was a dark-clad person.

He took them to a distant place where, within days, the Heads of the Duncan Legacy Family, Jiwon, Mason, and Nabil of the Great Clans were turned into Transcendents through some strange ritual.

If Klaus had been present, he would have found an eerie similarity between this ritual and the one performed by the Demon Zombies in the Demon's Abode Forbidden Zone.

It was without a doubt that the same dark-robed person was behind that ritual.

But alongside the heads of these prestigious families, three more from each family were turned into Transcendents. Naturally, the figure helped the heads place a hex, or perhaps a seal, on them.

This seal had once been removed by Klaus when the senior helped him free the twins who had been sent to kill him by their mother, a high ranker in the Dark Order.

Once again, this dark-robed figure had his fingerprints all over it.

If all this evidence were dissected, one could finally figure out the mystery of who placed the bounty on Klaus through the Dark Order. Klaus could only stay in the dark for now...

"This is a soul-attacking weapon. All you have to do is throw your strength at your target. The moment they defend against it, it will detonate and attack the soul.

I will give each of you two. Find a way to bring Klaus Hanson away from the sect. I don't care how you do it; I only ask for results, so don't fail me.

If you succeed, I will make each of you an Ascendent-stage expert, bringing you to the level of the Overlords. Also, be sure to never get close to where the weapon detonates; it has enough force to end even an Overlord."

Immediately, the dark-robed figure handed out the weapons, then vanished, leaving the family heads and their subordinates.

Duncan immediately took out a communicator from his space ring and called a number.

"Maco, gather six Great Sages and use the method to spy on Klaus Hanson's family. Do it from a safe distance and report any movements that happen outside of that house."

After giving the order, he turned to the other heads beside him.

"He didn't give us a time frame, so we can take our time and do this right. My wards reported that Klaus hasn't been seen in a while, which means he is on a mission somewhere only the Sect Elders know about.

We can only attack someone close to him if we want to get his attention. I say those in his household will do," Duncan said, making the three Great Clan heads nod.

"I already have a team spying on his home. Since my good-for-nothing daughter, pretending to be a War Goddess, wouldn't come peacefully, I can only use force or kill her before Klaus uses her against us."

Nabil said, looking smug...

Now that he had become a Transcendent, he felt all high and mighty, thinking he wouldn't have an equal among the Overlords.

"But we have a problem here, in case any of you think otherwise," Jiwon said, looking at his criminal accomplices.

"What is it?" Duncan asked.

"It's about Klaus. From the reports we have received, it seems the Overlords like Klaus. So, who is to say they wouldn't intervene if something happened to his family or, ultimately, to him?"

With him and Fire Queenie Nari practically friends now, I don't think I need to tell you how dangerous that would be. Even though we have this weapon now, we only have six, and there are eight Overlords."

Jiwon's words made the alliance take a step back. Indeed, Klaus was not simple, so things wouldn't be smooth sailing for them.

"I have a fix," Mason spoke up. "Since the Overlords refused to intervene when he killed in Union City, then after we make our move, we can use that to stop them. With Klaus practically declaring war on us months ago, we can use it to our advantage.

We can make it a war between Klaus and us. This way, the Overlords can't intervene, meaning we can easily kill Klaus and get away with it."

Mason's words were indeed true. Klaus had declared war on them, and they could only respond to his declaration. This way, the Overlords wouldn't be able to interfere.

By going to war with Klaus, even though it sounded strange, the Overlords could only stand aside and watch. They would only interfere if things escalated and began to affect outsiders.

Klaus wouldn't be able to count on the Overlords, and they also wouldn't be able to call on the Overlords for aid. It would be a battle solely between Klaus and them.

"Then, since there is a fix, we shouldn't fail. I, for one, would love to become an Ascendant so I can finally stop putting up with the crap these Overlords are all about," Duncan said.

"I will let you all know immediately when I receive word from my spies. You should do the same, considering this is the only chance we have to rise above the Overlords finally," Duncan added before leading his three Transcendents away.

"He's become bossy, hasn't he?" Nabil, Miriam's father, sneered. "Let's just put up with his farce for now. When the brat is taken care of, we'll turn our fangs on him."

The three great clan heads smirked at Duncan's antics and soon left, heading back to their territories. Soon, they would have their chance, but whether they could seize it would depend on their capabilities.

A week later, Nadia, who had been in seclusion for months all this while, had finally rebuilt her foundation from the Awakened stage and reached the bottleneck of the Grandmaster stage.

She is finally ready to become a Saint...

" "

Chapter 574 - 574: Birth of the Obsidian Strings Demon Puppeteer (1)

Before leaving for the academy, Klaus gave Nadia a cultivation technique that was given to him by the senior.

It was a technique that would allow her to rebuild her cultivation base from the Awakened stage to the Grandmaster stage she had previously achieved.

Naturally, this should have taken her years, considering she would have to level up again using cores. Thankfully, she had good and wealthy sisters who helped her with the cores.

During this time, Nadia remained in seclusion, working tirelessly to rebuild her foundation so that she, too, could finally step into the ranks of powerful warriors like the other women around Klaus.

After many months in seclusion, she had finally reached the bottleneck of the Grandmaster stage and was poised to break through to the Saint stage.

This, of course, involved undergoing the baptism of the heavenly tribulation.

"Sister Nadia, you are out," Luna said, sitting beside Klaus's mother, while Nuna sat obediently as Klaus's mom worked on her hair.

"Nadia, dear, you're finally out," Klaus's mom said, momentarily pausing her work to greet her son's fashion designer girlfriend.

"Has Klaus returned?" Nadia asked, sitting beside Klaus's mom.

"No..." Klaus's mom replied with a sigh. She missed her son and daughter as though her life depended on their presence.

It has been months already since Klaus and his pals left for the academy.

After spending two months, Lily and Anna's mom had finally managed to leave. The woman had guilt-tripped them into staying for nearly three months. But they are now gone...

"I see," Nadia sighed, clearly disappointed. Klaus promised her he would be there when she became a Saint, but as it stand, she would be having the tribulation without her.

"Dont worry, we received words from the academy that Klaus was on a special mission given by the leader of the overlords...I think he hadn't returned yet, but with Miriam around, we can escort you on this tribulation."

Klaus's mom said, making Nadia smile slightly.

Since the son is not around, the mother will make up for it. She went to freshen up and take a nap since she was tired and had to prepare for her tribulation.

Klaus also gave her a few defensive techniques so she was somehow ready but not ready at the same time. It was her first time, so she had to prepare for the wrath of the heavens.

After a day, Miriam, who was in seclusion, came out.

Ohema was in a critical stage of her poison body cultivation, so she wouldn't be escorting them.

After breaking through a week ago, Kofi, who was now a Sovereign, took them to a grassy land that Klaus had reserved for her tribulation. It was far from the city, so the chances of anyone disturbing her were next to none.

Meanwhile, as Nadia and her supporters headed toward the tribulation ground, a few spies hiding in the shadows far from Klaus's house began contacting their employers.

They were tasked with reporting everything that occurred in and around Klaus's home. In the past few months, nothing significant had happened.

Of course, since Klaus was away, there truly hadn't been much activity. However, that didn't mean nothing was happening behind the scenes. Their purpose was simply to ensure that whatever they observed was promptly reported to their employers.

As expected, when news reached the Jiwom, Mason, and Nabil great families, they convened in their secret meeting space in Union City, where they strategized alongside the Duncan great family.

After finalizing their plans, they moved to execute the first phase: flushing Klaus out of the academy so they could kill him.

"Sister Nadia, you don't have to worry. Becoming a Saint is not that dangerous; you just have to defend against three lightning tribulations, and you will become a Saint," Luna said with a supportive smile.

Klaus's mom, Miriam, and Nuna also wore the same smile. Kofi, who was tasked with guarding the car a couple of kilometres away, was actively observing the surroundings with eagle eyes.

Nadia seemed scared, so the ladies gave her all the support they could muster.

"You got this, Nadia. Just think of it this way: by the time that shameless bastard comes, you'll have the strength to beat the crap out of him," Klaus's mom said, planting a kiss on her forehead.

This seemed to lighten the mood a little. She was indeed scared. She didn't have any combat experience, so she could only depend on the defensive skills Klaus gave her and the unique armor she had spent most of her time making.

"Go on, we will be here when you come out," Miriam said, giving her the final push.

Nadia went ahead as she was told. When she was far enough away, she sat down and began using the technique to absorb more cores.

Fifteen minutes later, the heavens began to darken, signaling the arrival of the heavenly tribulation. Nadia stood up and began forming a few hand seals.

It was complex at first, but after practicing in seclusion for months, she seemed to have grasped it somehow. After forming a couple of seals, an umbrella appeared, and she held it firmly in her right grip.

Standing a couple of kilometers away, Klaus's mom and the ladies had to move back again due to the intense reflection bathing the tribulation ground.

The umbrella in her hand was made of a mirror that reflected the surroundings like a disco show.

"I am sure Klaus was the one who gave her this skill," Klaus's mom said, looking smug. Her expression showed pride, but the ladies around her knew she was just being shameless.

She didn't give Nadia the skill anyway, so why did she look like she was the one who gave her the skill? She was clearly just shameless by design.

Nadia held the umbrella over her head and stood confidently as the clouds churned and roared like the grim reaper was about to descend from the heavens... Lol.

"I got this..." Nadia thought, ready for the lightning baptism.

She seeks strength like Lily and the others, so since her chance had come, it was only natural for her to grab it.

She may not have been weak when she knew nothing about her class, but now that she had taken her time to rebuild her foundation, she finally had the opportunity to unlock her potential.

It didn't take long for the first lightning bolt to descend. It was thick, about the size of a walking stick. The bolt struck squarely on the mirrored umbrella.

A cracking sound was heard when the bolt landed on it, but it didn't shatter, meaning it was still holding. She stood her ground and waited for the next lightning bolt to descend.

Meanwhile, under the umbrella, Nadia was channeling her Spiritual Qi into the umbrella, knowing it would and could break. If it broke now, she would be in some serious trouble.

As expected, more cracks appeared in the mirrored umbrella when the next bolt descended. Knowing it was her last chance this time, she began pouring all her energy into it.

Meanwhile, up above, the clouds had grown thicker, making the ladies around Klaus's mom frown. They were all above the Saint stage, so they knew how dangerous the Saint Tribulation could be.

However, they had never seen one this perilous.

Then it happened.

The clouds churned, and after brewing up a piercing lightning bolt, it descended on Nadia, shattering the umbrella and bathing her in crackling electricity.

The four ladies watching gasp. The sudden piercing bolt was unexpected, but their jaws lowered when a sudden darkness descended on Nadia.

The tribulation was over... it was time for her to awaken.

Chapter 575 - 575: Birth of the Obsidian Strings Demon Puppeteer (2)

Two minutes before the tribulation started, 4 km away from the tribulation ground, four Transcendent-level warriors waited in silence, observing the people they had come to hurt.

"Why are we waiting again? We are Transcendents, and those bitches are no match for us, so why are we waiting?" one of them, named Hundo, asked.

Until a few weeks ago, he had been one of the loyal retainers of the Duncan Legacy family, whose dream of becoming a Transcendent had seemed impossible then.

However, he was now a Transcendent, thanks to the mysterious figure.

"Are you forgetting or just as arrogant as your master? I mean, haven't you seen what that War Goddess can do? Before that bastard Klaus came, she was one of the most feared warriors on Earth.

We may be Transcendents, but we still pale in comparison to her," Atticus, the Transcendent from the Mason Great Clan, said. He might be arrogant sometimes, but he had a good head on his shoulders.

While the others couldn't see reality, blinded by their newfound status as Transcendents, he could.

And he knew the War Goddess couldn't be underestimated despite her still at the Sovereign stage.

Of course, the others sneered, but they couldn't act recklessly, considering this was an important mission that couldn't afford failure.

"So, what's the plan?" the retainer from the Nabil Great Clan asked.

"The mission is to ensure at least one of them dies today, and it should be in a way that, when the video reaches Klaus, he will become angry and act recklessly. From where I stand, the only ones who can provoke such a reaction from him are his mother and the one about to face the tribulation.

They are also the ones we have the highest chance of killing. We will target his mother right after we attack the one undergoing the tribulation.

If we fail to kill the one undergoing the tribulation—since the moment we attack, the War Goddess will intervene—we can kill the mother, considering she will be left with just those two twins. So, for now, let's wait until she becomes a Saint or is on the verge of becoming one before we strike," Atticus explained.

"Then what about that other Sovereign looking after their vehicle?" Kleen, the retainer from the Jiwon Great Clan, asked.

"He won't be able to intervene; there's a surprise waiting for him," Hundo replied smugly.

They waited, and as the tribulation descended, they continued to watch. The first wave came, and they didn't move. The second followed, and they remained still.

Then the third, which was the final wave, struck, and they stayed put—mainly because of what happened next.

Darkness descended upon Nadia after her Mirror Umbrella was shattered, and she was bathed in lightning. Nobody, not even the four of them, could see through the dark veil or discern what was happening.

"What now?" Elwood, the retainer from the Nabil Great Clan, asked.

"We wait. Be sure to have the camera ready. We wouldn't want to deny Klaus Hanson a front-row seat to watching his friend and mother die in the most agonizing way possible." Hundo responded.

"Also, remember, the moment we attack, we must leave, as the weapon is not something we can underestimate."

Nadia was now covered in darkness, with no sign of what was happening to her. None of them had any luck seeing through the darkness.

"Even though we have a strong affinity with the darkness element, we can't see past even a single inch of the veil of darkness covering her," Luna said, looking at the bizarre darkness surrounding Nadia.

"Strange, it seems to be getting absorbed. At first, it was just the darkness expanding, but now it seems to be getting sucked in... and it's moving quite fast," Nuna, showing herself as more perceptive, noticed this.

They stood and continued to watch as the darkness slowly got absorbed until it was just a thin layer left. But even then, nobody was able to see past it.

However, after a few seconds, something changed.

A powerful explosion filled the area, and a formidable presence descended upon the tribulation ground. From within the presence, a dark silhouette of Nadia, now in a more regal form, emerged.

The dark silhouette stood tall behind Nadia, who was absorbing the last traces of darkness around her.

The figure raised her hand, and dark strings could be seen latching onto her fingers, appearing to merge with Nadia. When Nadia finally reappeared, she now had short, dark hair.

However, that was a minor change compared to the transformation in Nadia, who now looked entirely different from the person who had been standing moments earlier.

She looked the same but now even more beautiful. Her body had undergone some changes, and if Klaus were present, he would probably say something like, "That's my long-eared girlfriend."

Yes, Nadia had become an elf. For the first time on Earth, someone had awakened their bloodline without it being locked, unlike how Lucy and the others had their own locked right after they awakened it.

Nadia had awakened her Class, a Dark Lightning element with several powerful aspects, but the true significance lay in her bloodline awakening.

She now had short, dark hair—just the way Klaus liked it—but she was no longer human. She had become an Elvin saint. And, as anyone would expect of an elf, she had become incredibly beautiful.

She was now clad in dark cloth that covered perhaps only 70% of her body, making her very seductive.

However, while this was noticeable, her bloodline awakening changed everything. The dark figure behind her hovered in the air with a powerful presence for a few seconds before merging with Nadia.

The moment they merged, Nadia opened her eyes, and powerful energy again burst from her body. Then she sat down and began forming seals.

Klaus's mom, who was watching her newly improved daughter-in-law, smiled and retrieved a gown from her space ring with an expression that said, 'My son is the only one allowed to see those sensitive parts of her body.'

Miriam gave her a sidelong glance but couldn't agree more. Nadia had developed in all the right places, so she, as her sister, wouldn't allow any man to cast lustful looks at her.

She smirked and went back to watching Nadia. Ten minutes later, Nadia opened her eyes and stood up. She waved at the ladies, letting them know she was done.

The ladies waved back, but then Miriam moved at a terrifying speed.

"Nadia, get down!" she shouted, moving past Nadia with such speed that 400 meters separated them instantly.

Her sword appeared, and she swung it forward, cutting a ball in half. But then her body stiffened, and blood seeped from her mouth, eyes, ears, and nose.

The ball exploded, releasing a wave of soul energy that struck her at close range.

On Klaus's mom's side, the twins, who also sensed the attack, dragged her into the shadow realm just a split second before the attack landed on them.

Meanwhile, Kofi was stabbed in the chest by another Transcendent, who took a picture and vanished, just as they had with Miriam and Klaus's mom.

The attack didn't go as planned, but the assailants had succeeded nonetheless.

Nadia stood frozen, lost at what had just happened and unsure of what to do.

Just like that, a war goddess fell, and Klaus's trusted driver and friend was at death's door, blood oozing from his mouth as he struggled to get up.

One could say the mission was a success...

Chapter 576 - 576: 25th Cycles of Death

A day before Nadia's tribulation, back in the dungeon, beneath the raging sea where Klaus had fought his last battle, his body remained submerged with a gaping hole in his chest that showed no sign of healing.

He wasn't breathing...

Well, with a hole through his chest, breathing was no longer an option. However, he wasn't decaying under the sea either, and surprisingly, just like the other places where he faced trials, no vicious animals surrounded him.

He simply lay there, peacefully sleeping beneath the waves.

Yet, while he may appear to be peacefully sleeping, the world around him was far from tranquil.

Hovering around him were 25 cards floating eerily in the water. These cards had appeared when he defeated the final challenger over a month ago.

The cards were unrecognizable at first glance, but if one were to inspect or appraise them closely, one would discover that these were the Cards of Death—the very same cards the Goddess of Death and Music had used to master the art of Death millions of years ago.

It was once said that one who masters the art of death will rise and walk the universe as the Grim Reaper, Death incarnate, and the harbinger of destruction—Death's Chosen.

Many years ago, a girl who, from the moment she was born, knew only joy and happiness one day faced the harsh reality of life when her entire beautiful world was plunged into darkness.

Just like that, the most cheerful soul lost everything, including her happiness. It was a devastating moment for her; however, it didn't last forever.

Because when she was about to give up, she received the calling... the calling of death and was presented with 24 cards.

It was said that these 24 cards were the Cards of Death.

Legend has it that when the heavens were born, they despised Death, for it was a powerful foe they could not defeat. In an attempt to bring some semblance of order, they banished Death to the Land of the Forbidden, where it was sealed for eternity.

It may still have its hands on everyone and would one day come to claim their souls when they arrived at its doorstep. But the power to wield supremacy over death was never allowed to bloom...

Or so they thought.

Death... that sneaky bastard had other plans when it sensed the betrayal of its siblings...

Before its banishment, it left a souvenir, knowing that one day, when the heavens turned their cruelty on people, these cards could be their way out. If they were worthy, they would inherit the power of death.

It appeared many times but never found a worthy person—until it met this girl.

It was said that Death left 25 cards behind, but this girl only received the first 24 cards.

The 25th card never appeared, but even with the 24, she rose and created the most famous song the entire universe has ever heard—the Song of Death.

It was said that when Death picked its heir, that was when the heavens knew fear. Many called her the one the heavens feared, for when she played her song, even the heavens trembled in fear.

Perhaps many never knew who she was, but to those who did, they called her the Paragon of Death, for she brought the era of death, where even the three Great Calamities never stood a chance.

Now, hovering around Klaus were 25 cards—all 25 cards of death. His body was still and unmoving, but the cards were imprinting their power in him, and for weeks, they never stopped until 15 hours before Nadia's tribulation, when the sea suddenly began to churn.

Waves rose and crashed, creating a stormy sea where everything turned chaotic.

Slowly, Klaus's body rose from the ground and lifted out of the water, making him hover a few meters above the water's surface.

It was nothing unusual, but the fact that when he finally rose, the 25 cards began entering his body one by one.

When Klaus entered the trial, he received three life points. They were meant to make him respawn after he died. However, aside from using two for the tribulation, he never used them to revive himself.

She saw no reason to die, considering he managed to kill his opponents.

Ultimately, after killing all his targets, he received 25 points.

He got one point for each target he killed. He was supposed to have only 10 after killing the last figure; however, he received a point from each target when he killed the seven summons in his 4th trial.

The same was true for the Eight-Headed Hydra demon snake. It produced 8 points, considering it had 8 heads.

He never revived himself, but now, he was benefiting from it. Had he perhaps used the points, he wouldn't be inheriting all the 25th marks of death left by Death itself.

The cards, one by one, entered his body, healing his wounds in the process. Whenever a card entered his body, Klaus would undergo a cycle of death where he would awaken a mark of death.

They appear like runes inside his soul sea, bringing with them the Aura of death. Klaus had no idea something like this was happening, but the changes happening within him said it all.

He is becoming much more powerful now.

After 2 hours, the last death card entered his body immediately, causing the aura of death to descend on the entire space, making Klaus's body surrounded by the aura of death.

It dispersed ten minutes later, and Klaus was revealed, still hovering in the air.

However, from the dead body of the Eight-Headed Hydra demon snake, eight cores, eight soul crystals, and eight blood essences emerged and started getting absorbed into Klaus's body.

Just like that, his ninth core began forming rapidly. However, that wasn't the only thing getting absorbed.

The hard metallic armor covering the colossal body of the snake was also being absorbed. Everything was happening so fast that eight hours later, Klaus was done. Then the heavens opened, and he started receiving the tribulation runes.

He broke through and was now becoming a Great Sage.

Meanwhile, atop the last floor of the dungeon, Alida and Lissa sighed when they saw Klaus breaking through. They had been on edge the past month while he was submerged underwater.

In fact, they had to put in extra effort to keep the trial going for as long as their master's life was in danger. Just looking at their pale expressions showed they had worked hard.

In fact, they did work hard, considering their cultivation base fell from the Chaos stage, then to the Void, Ascendent, and now level 5 Transcendent.

"So, this is it, huh? We have to go back to sleep again," Alida sighed.

"We have to... The master will enter the ruin soon enough. He must discover us naturally like it was meant to happen," Lissa said to her sister. "But even if we couldn't come out now, we helped Master."

She extended her small hands, and a multidimensional cube appeared in them.

"Do you think Master will be able to discover the other Void Stage monsters hiding in his world?" Alida asked.

"That will be up to fate, I guess... But it's Master. We shouldn't worry too much about him."

They stayed there for hours until Klaus finally broke through to the Great Stage. Lissa let go of the orb when the tribulation ended, making it fly toward the true owner.

The moment it touched Klaus's chest, the entire dungeon shuddered... and seven different ice elements burst out of his body.

Chapter 577 - 577: World of Ice, Illusions and Poison, The Re-Awakening

Many years ago, Fruity entered the Tormented Tower of Bloodline Awakening, and it was then that the people of the Tormented world experienced the unknown awakening.

Back then, when Fruity awakened his bloodline and became the Overlord of Ice and Illusion, the entire Tormented world felt it.

It was chilling and bizarre.

In Klaus's past life as Fruity, he was an ice mage with seven forbidden ice elements. However, after interacting with his past self this past month, he discovered that while Fruity was an ice mage, he was something else entirely.

He was an illusionist, and this was only made known when he awakened his bloodline... the bloodline of the Unknown.

It was a pivotal moment in history, and today, Klaus was making such history, too...

The seven forbidden ice elements had finally awakened, and along with their awakening was the awakening of the Primordial Blood of the Unknown (763.7).

The dark red Abyssal Ice element awakened and now began to exude from Klaus's body as he hovered, still passing out in the air.

The white healing ice (Immortal) has also awakened and started healing his body. The Death cards healed the hole in his heart, but the Immortal healing ice is now healing everything else.

The smoky Soul Ice has also awakened, and Klaus's soul is undergoing some qualitative changes that will soon turn his soul into a force with which to reckon.

The Black Annihilation Ice has also awakened. For this one, Klaus will have to first wake up to wield it since the Annihilation Ice and the Abyssal Ice are two of his most powerful attacking ice types.

But aside from these two, the Chaos Ice, with its crimson red hue, has also awakened, and while its name does call it Chaos Ice, it still has to find a battlefield where it can become chaotic.

Klaus, back when he was Fruity, had used the chaotic ice many times just to cause chaos on the battlefield.

In fact, he never thought of finding a way to add more skills to it; instead, he only focused on making it grow chaotic and bring chaos along with it.

Then, the Dark Gold Devouring Ice also awakened. That was the ice he would need if he wanted to always remain strong in battle.

With its incredibly powerful devouring power, Klaus only needs things with soul energy or any energy to devour.

This means the more he kills, the more he can devour. Of course, he only knew up to a certain stage of devouring, but he knew that aside from devouring just energies, he could devour other things, too.

He had yet to remember the other parts of his memories from his fourth incarnation.

The last is the awakening of the Green Hypnotic Ice, the ice that became the centerpiece of his Illusion class.

As expected, Klaus's bloodline also awakened the moment it did, and his next set of memories came with it.

His body was surrounded by waves of ice that coated him in a fortress of some kind. The entire space around him had become frozen, with the sea below freezing far and wide.

As far as the eye could see, its entire surface was frozen.

Nothing in sight was left uncovered by ice. Klaus hovered in the ice fortress in the air for 3 hours until it shattered, revealing Klaus now with blue hair and two blue horns on his forehead.

He awakened a bloodline with a complicated backstory — the Primordial Blood of the Unknown (763.7).

Legend had it that the Lightning, Sea, and Death came into being when everything was created from the unknown. They became the pivotal aspects until they weren't.

Death was banished, and the Sea picked its own dwelling below while the Lightning stayed in the heavens. That was what they called the [Parting].

However, while these three were separated, it was rumored that there was a fourth that was never recognized or perhaps wasn't known...

So they called it [763.7], making it the primordial blood of the unknown. Well, that was the digit they knew in a strange kind of way...

Many theorize about the nature of this fourth existence, but they came up empty until, during the Era of Ice and Illusion, some of the theories were validated.

Many say the fourth existence is [Reality].

Yes... The illusion was made possible because there is reality.

Without reality, nothing can exist. It is the reality that visualizes everything in a way, so Klaus's awakening to the Primordial Blood makes him someone with a strong attachment to reality.

But is that true? The answer to that is unknown, for nobody knew the true nature of this unknown entity, and that was why it never had a name.

And thus, when Fruity awakened it, he became powerful, but he never changed as Klaus did.

His eyes were also blue, and he had blue horns. His skin was pale, but it had a golden hue to it. He didn't increase in size, but his physique underwent some changes.

His strength, just by sensing his aura, had also become very monstrous.

If Klaus were to check the system screen now, he would see that he had awakened a bloodline and, as a result, received a unique skill along with a huge boost to his stats.

However, even if that wasn't enough, he would also see that, aside from the bloodline awakening, he had also awakened—or perhaps received—some powerful soul weapons now hovering inside his soul sea.

But his identity would have to be put into question. The current appearance he had taken on had no origin. It was an unknown race of a kind.

So, in a way, he had become the first of his kind.

True, there are races with horns, but there aren't any with blue, almost translucent horns like his. His are unique, and while the bloodline he awakened may raise many questions, the appearance it brought was also questionable.

The current Klaus doesn't have a background or lineage he can refer to. He can only brag about his handsomeness, which has taken on a unique turn.

Ladies would, without a doubt, blink a few times when they saw him...especially those horns.

But aside from the good looks, he has undoubtedly become very powerful. He is now extremely powerful.

He received a bloodline ability called [World of Illusion].

This ability essentially uses Klaus's mental strength to visualize how his illusion should turn out. He doesn't have to depend on other illusion techniques to cast illusions.

If he wants to create tangible illusion clones of himself, he can just use his mind.

And with his [Hivemind], which was currently working in overdrive and even adding more to the hive, and his [Hypnotic Ice] now awakened, who is to say what he would be capable of?

If the rumors and theories about the true nature of the Primordial Blood of the Unknown (763.7) are true, then the current Klaus has become what they call a true monster that only appears once every generation.

He can easily destroy anyone with mental strength lower than the requirement to see an illusion. Klaus has now awakened one bloodline, making him part paragon.

As for the poison, it was currently contained for some reason, as if something was preventing it from coming out. Perhaps that was for the best...for now.

However, while that would have been enough, the multi-dimensional cube in his soul sea revolved, and then a powerful soul energy burst out of his body...

...Another bloodline is awakening...

Chapter 578 - 578: Star Monarch

A long time ago, a kid was banished merely for bearing the mark of the forbidden. He bore the forbidden mark...The mark was said to carry great calamity to those affiliated with him.

He also could not be killed by an ordinary hand, mainly because of the mark of the Forbidden.

He was cast out because he could not be killed without invoking a great calamity. But before his banishment, he was forced to watch as everything he loved and cherished was burned to the ground.

He had no hope of escape; he was meant to die in the wilderness, filled with horror and terror. He was destined never to return.

But he encountered something that brought him out of despair.

When everything seemed lost, this boy discovered the Star Dimension Cube, which granted him the Star Monarch bloodline, making him a one-of-a-kind Divine Beast Tamer.

It was said that when he awakened the Star Monarch bloodline, all beasts and monsters came running to him—not to kill him, but to submit to him.

Every beast wanted to become his companion, and every monster longed to taste his blood.

For it was said that the blood of the Star Monarch possessed the power to transform even a monster into the most powerful and unique beast.

His blood turned beasts into powerhouses; it tamed calamities and subdued vicious creatures like the two immortal phantom cats. His supremacy over beasts, monsters, and perhaps even people was unmatched.

When he returned for revenge, it was said that his army consisted of beasts of varying power levels.

His blood and words carried immense authority, and his lifestyle was deeply relatable to the beasts under his command.

Years have passed since the Star Monarch reigned supreme, and now, he has returned once more.

The Ninth Paragon has finally awakened, and Klaus, who has taken on a new race and appearance, has finally opened his eyes.

His hair has turned a striking silver hue, and his ears have elongated, marking him as an elf. However, on his forehead lies a broken bone tattoo, a symbol of his forbidden birth.

If an elf were present at that moment and knew the legend of the forbidden-borns, they might have drawn their weapons and attacked Klaus on sight to capture him.

Forbidden borns are the people born with the destiny to create great calamity for those around them. Basically, they can cause doom to fall on those he finds himself around.

Because of this, the elves despise them. Yet, they cannot kill a forbidden-born, as doing so would unleash a great calamity upon them.

Instead, they usually banish them, leaving nature to seal their fate.

Fruity was no different, and for this reason, his mother and Haniva were forced to flee. The mark of the forbidden, as they call it, is known as the "Doom Mark."

Of course, no one realized that this was merely a mechanism for the heavens to eliminate paragons or beings destined to oppose them.

Klaus had been marked in every past life—except for the current one he was living—due to something he had yet to uncover.

However, now that he had awakened a second bloodline, this misfortune had followed him again, meaning his life was about to get freaky.

But the Paragon of the Nine Stars had awakened two bloodlines, granting him the strength to wield the power of the Nine Stars. He is now a Paragon through and through.

He is an elf with long silver hair, pointed ears, silver eyes, and a finely sculpted physique. He is so astonishingly handsome that no one can maintain their composure around him—not even married women.

However, while he may be a Paragon, the current aura around Klaus is very calm and approachable, unlike the slaughter aura, the aura of death, or the previous aura of poison and illusions.

The current Klaus, in his Star Monarch form, is very different. In fact, inside his soul sea, in the ninth core, greenery has appeared, radiating an air of tranquility—the kind only those with joy and happiness in their lives would possess.

"What a refreshing feeling," Klaus muttered, hovering naked in the air. His body was filled with life, and he could tell he was truly brimming with vitality.

[Congratulations on your awakening, Star Legend. May your benevolence pave the way for peace for all that exists and is yet to come... and may your fury know no bounds.

But you might want to put on some clothes and cover those ears. No need to show off your handsomeness, brat. It's already too much as a human—why become an elf?]

The senior chuckled, and Klaus could tell he harbored a certain disdain for elves.

"Did an elf steal your woman before?" Klaus asked with a teasing smile. Of course, the senior didn't mind, making Klaus laugh at his rather amusing reaction.

Klaus waved his hand, and a mirror made of ice appeared. He looked at his new appearance, a smile spreading across his face. He even turned around, admiring himself in the mirror like a model—well, he is a model, after all.

"I really should put on some clothes," Klaus said as he quickly put on a robe. He then attempted to contact his ladies, but it seemed he was still being blocked.

He swiftly examined his body, and a smile appeared on his face. Returning to his human appearance, he unleashed his Slaughter Aura.

It materialized as a dark red mist, spreading throughout the space. The frozen river began to melt as his aura expanded.

It was as if he had gained an omnipresent awareness, and within the area his aura occupied, he was akin to a god.

"So, this is the Paragon's Might," Klaus said with a smile.

This was the reason he came here in the first place. When Fruity informs him that he is being targeted by the heavens through their favored children, preventing him from killing them...

He advises him to awaken something called the Paragon's Might.

This was a partial cure for the curse.

Previously, if he had killed one of the heavens' favorites before awakening this aura, the heavens would have sent down a punishment so powerful that not even a Void Stage expert wouldn't be able to withstand it.

To kill them, he needed a counter, which was the Paragon's Might. Klaus was now secure and ready to go berserk.

Of course, the heavens didn't know it yet, but Klaus had finally attained Aura Manifestation.

Because of this, if he unleashed the Aura of Slaughter, the Aura of Poisons and Illusions, and the Aura of Death simultaneously, he could kill the heavens' favorite without facing any retaliation from the heavens.

This meant that the next time Kate Duncan crossed his path, he would, without a doubt, deal with her by severing her head from her shoulders.

"I will review the details of my breakthrough later. For now, I need to head back, considering I don't even know how long I've been away," Klaus said to himself.

"Please, I am done with the trial; how can I leave?" Klaus asked. Immediately after asking, his mind reminded him that he now possessed and understood everything about the dungeon.

Klaus was momentarily shocked, though he had expected it, considering he had completed the trial. It was only natural for him to know everything about it.

It was as if, in addition to the memories of his past as Fruity and those of the Star Monarch now in his head, he had also gained knowledge of how the dungeon worked.

However, he must dive deeply into his new memories to assimilate them into his brain. The knowledge of the dungeon is, however, now in his mind...

"So they were right. This is indeed a doorway into the ruin I left behind," Klaus said with a smile as he teleported to the last floor of the dungeon.

However, the moment he appeared, his connection with his ladies reformed, and a teary voice suddenly entered his mind, making his heart skip a couple of beats.

"K-Klaus, please come... Sister Miriam is dying."

Chapter 579 - 579: Power of the Paragon Mark

[A few seconds before Nadia and Klaus's mom were attacked]

Queenie had just woken up from a dream about her past self as the Asura Queenie. She looked beside her, as she did every morning, but Klaus wasn't there. Feeling restless, she decided to go for a swim.

In the inner section, Lucy had just finished her practice session and entered a hot tub. Like her sisters, she was missing Klaus terribly.

Meanwhile, in Ross City, inside Klaus's training room, Oheme was immersed in her cultivation. Klaus had instructed her to reach Level 2 before his return, so she was diligently working to achieve that goal.

Suddenly, a painful scream from Miriam pierced their minds, causing all three ladies to cough up mouthfuls of blood.

In that instant, their souls were struck by an attack so powerful it left them pale. A few seconds later, they heard Miriam's voice in their heads...

"S-Sisters..."

That was all they needed to hear before they immediately used teleportation to appear at the tribulation ground.

When they arrived, Miriam lay on the ground, dying.

Nadia stood frozen in place while the twins, alongside Klaus's mother, remained in the Shadow Realm. They were carefully moving her through the shadows, sensing the danger that lingered outside.

"What happened?" Queenie asked, her divine sense sweeping across the entire area. Unfortunately, the four Transcendents who had attacked were already gone.

The one who had attacked Kofi had vanished as well.

Miriam couldn't talk, but they could tell what had happened from the powerful soul energy in the space. Lucy went to support Nadia, who was also bleeding from her nose.

She had also been struck, but it was just a small shockwave...

Queenie picked up Miriam in a princess carry, and the next second, she vanished. A moment later, the twins appeared with Klaus's mom beside the dying butler.

Klaus's mom, though just a master stage expert, quickly went to check on him. She wasn't an idiot; she knew what had happened, so she didn't ask any foolish questions.

"Sister Ohema, please take Nadia back. I have to attend to Kofi," Ohema nodded and took Nadia, who had finally passed out.

She opened a space rift, and soon, she was in Ross City, where Queenie set Miriam down and began channeling her energy into her.

The three ladies said nothing out loud most of the time, but they were talking and panicking through the telepathic connection between them.

Back on the tribulation ground, Lucy used the healing factor of her wood element to create a miniature garden around Kofi and then coated him in ice.

"Mother, what happened?" she finally asked, looking at her teary mother-in-law, Klaus's mother...

"Will they be alright?" Instead of answering, Klaus's mom asked her own question, clenching her fists. If one didn't know better, they might think she was an angel of death, judging by the bloodthirsty look in her eyes.

"I don't know, but Kofi won't die. I am using my soul strength and all my energy to heal him, and from the attack, his heart hasn't sustained much damage, so he will live. But for Sister Miriam..." Lucy wiped a tear from her face.

"I—I don't know."

She could feel it—the Paragon Mark was sapping her soul strength, and through the connection, she could tell it was going to Miriam.

If only she knew the Paragon Mark was the only thing keeping Miriam alive at the moment. The moment all of the three ladies ran out of soul strength, she would die.

Klaus's mom hugged Lucy, who started shedding tears as she felt the pain Miriam was going through, even in her unconscious state.

The pain wasn't from the flesh; it came deep from the soul.

And it wasn't just her who was crying—the twins were the same. To them, Miriam and everyone in Klaus's family were their family, so they were deeply saddened at the moment.

A minute later, Ohema appeared and transported Kofi away using the power of the void. She was not yet a Void Stage expert, but as a Level 8 Ascendant, she could use it to a certain extent.

They left and returned to the house, where everyone gathered to support Miriam in her final moments. Lucy was already trying to link up with Klaus, but as had been the case for months now, she received no reply.

Meanwhile, back in the sect, Hanna, who was cultivating in her room, suddenly opened her eyes and ran out heading toward Anna's apartment.

"Anna, we have to leave! Something bad happened back home," Hanna said before running off to Lily's place and repeating everything to all of them.

While this was happening, Old Lu, who was keeping an eye on Nari, noticed something was wrong and approached them.

Hanna told him that something bad had happened back home. She gave no explanation, and Old Lu asked for none. Surprisingly, he led them to his private jet, which took them back to Ross City in under two hours.

When they arrived, they saw Miriam nearly at death's door, Kofi in a comatose state, and Nadia pale and unconscious.

The sight filled everyone with sadness, even Old Lu, who immediately began using a certain Monk healing technique to support Queenie in recovering her soul strength much faster so she could keep giving it back to Miriam.

Everyone was furious, but they stayed close, knowing anything could happen.

And something did.

Exactly three hours after the attack, the Duncan Legacy Family and the three great clans allied with them made a statement on the internet that immediately got everyone talking.

Danny was the first to discover the posts, which were quickly made known to everyone. Ohema, who was supporting her sister, became so angry that she wanted to go after them.

Thankfully, the weakest among them, Klaus's mom, calmed her down, as she was doing so for every last one of them, currently ensuring Miriam wasn't left alone.

The Paragon Mark was working, and after five hours, Lucy, Queenie, and Ohema became pale.

Thankfully, Lulu, who is also a Spirit Master and has powerful soul strength, chipped in and was doing everything she could to save her sister. It was the least she could do for one of Klaus's women—his second, in fact.

Aoi, Lulu, the twins, Anna, and every last one of Klaus's friends were doing everything to keep Miriam alive. Right now, the only person on their mind who could do something was Klaus, but he was nowhere to be found.

He was still away on a mission and hadn't returned yet...

The post spread everywhere, making some people angry and others happy. Surprisingly, one of the upset individuals was KKKickinIt, who was at that moment bashing the Legacy Families and the great clans.

Seven hours later, everyone was exhausted, but they refused to stop. This was especially true for Queenie, who was doing everything possible to save not only her husband's second wife but also her sworn sister.

No matter what, she wouldn't stop.

She was as pale as paper, and anyone could tell that aside from trying to save Miriam, she was dealing with something deeply troubling.

Suddenly, Lucy felt the connection build between her and Klaus, compelling her to speak. Her voice was loud enough for everyone to hear.

"K-Klaus, please come... Sister Miriam is dying."

The next second, Klaus appeared in the room, shocking everyone. His gaze fell on the pale, aging Miriam, and his fist clenched.

[Her soul is Fracture...No Shattered. The only thing keeping her alive is the Paragon Mark] The senior immediately accessed her situation...

Chapter 580 - 580: Uncle Monk, I Will Need Your Help

Many years ago, a tyrant queen ruled over a race of women. She was a cruel and powerful ruler who ruled with an iron fist.

They called her the Tyrant Sword Queen because she was one of the most powerful swordsmen of her time. A true tyrant with the sword.

This tyrant queen did not believe in friendship and would kill anyone who dared to try to befriend her. She is a tyrant...

Once, she killed 200,000 men because she heard a rumor that one of them claimed he could tame her and pin her in his bed... She was a tyrant...

However, one day, this tyrant became obsessed with someone she met only once. Because of this obsession, when the time came, she single-handedly waged war against an entire galaxy.

The tyrant queen ultimately died because of her obsession and was reborn as a war goddess, shunned by her family. Now, this once-tyrannical queen lay unconscious on a bed, with life rapidly slipping from her body.

Klaus gazed at the sleeping Miriam with a clenched fist.

He could tell she was on her last leg, and even with 22 minds, he couldn't come up with a solution. That was because there wasn't a solution for what had happened.

[I am sorry, Klaus. If her soul had fractured, we would have been able to use a technique called Soul Mending to mend it back. Though it would have destroyed her potential, she would live and perhaps heal over time.]

The senior spoke to Klaus, causing a few tears to fall from his eyes.

Klaus walked closer to the bed where Miriam's aging body lay. Because her soul had shattered, her age caught up to her as it would have been had it not been for the apocalypse...

He knelt down and held her hand, sending his star qi into her body, hoping it might help her, but he could tell, without even feeling it, that she couldn't be saved.

Suddenly, Klaus's emotions started to grow unstable as more teardrops fell from his eyes. He was losing his grip, and while he didn't sense it, his seventh core was leaking an aura of intense anger, hatred, and resentment.

It was the kind of emotion one experiences when someone they love is taken from them... only Klaus's own feelings were coming from deep within his soul.

When he recovered his memories of being Fruity and how he lost his mother and Haniva, he was angry—but it wasn't as intense as what he was feeling at that moment.

His anger radiated outward, and soon, his intense aura of hatred filled the room, making everyone turn pale. Klaus wasn't in the right mindset.

His woman was dying right in front of him, and there was nothing he could do. This caused him to lose control, and just like that, Klaus could only shed tears as Queenie, who was also exhausted, slowly started to lose her grip.

Suddenly, Klaus felt someone hug him from behind. He was emotional at the moment, but his instincts were still as sharp as ever

It was just a hug, but it was enough to help him regain control of his emotions. He recalled his aura and turned to look at Hanna.

A star tattoo appeared on her forehead, causing one of the star tattoos on his back to light up.

Far away, inside a certain glowing star with a beautiful ring around it, a monk set his teacup down and sighed.

"It shouldn't be this early," he sighed again. "The heavens are growing uneasy... this could only mean we did something right."

Fruity, who had become one with the nine paragon stars, smiled and formed a hand seal. Suddenly, a projection of his uncle Monk appeared, causing his smile to widen.

"Time for you to wake up, Uncle Monk. Time for your brat to disturb you yet again." He sent the orb flying away before picking up his teacup and taking a sip.

Hanna's image appeared next, making him smirk.

"I told you to add her to the harem; things would have become much easier if she were a part of the harem." He sighed, and then he went back to his meditation, which was drinking tea all day.

What a weird fellow

Back in Ross City, inside Klaus's home, Old Lu, who was recovering his energy to help Queenie, suddenly felt something enter his soul.

His consciousness blacked out for a moment, forcing him to close his eyes.

The next second, his eyes snapped open, but this time, he wasn't the same Old Lu; he was someone entirely different.

It was just a second of change, but one could tell in the second he had changed in many ways that can only be described as impossible.

He stood up and walked closer to Klaus, who was holding Miriam, while Hanna placed her hand on his back. She acted like an emotional regulator. With her presence, Klaus wasn't losing control of his emotions.

"There is a way to save her, F-Fruity."

Klaus, holding Miriam's hand, felt his body stiffen when he heard Old Lu speak. For a moment, his mind went blank, but he quickly recovered.

To everyone else, nothing seemed unusual except for Old Lu addressing Klaus as "Fruity."

But for Klaus, who had heard his Uncle Monk call him Fruity countless times in his past life, he instantly knew that the person speaking was his Uncle Monk—not Old Lu. Not the Dean of the Celestial Mountain Academy.

It's now his Uncle Monk, the one who gave his life so he could live...That same Uncle Monk

Klaus stood up and looked at Old Lu. "Uncle Monk, is that you?"

He asked, tears rolling down his face.

Old Lu smiled at him and walked closer. "It looks like you are much more tamed in this life."

Klaus leaped forward and hugged his Uncle Monk, unable to hold back his emotions.

This caught everyone watching off guard. They could tell something significant was happening, but they didn't know what.

One moment, Klaus and Old Lu were just a dean and his disciple. The next, they seemed more like family—closer, almost like a father and son.

What made it even stranger was that Klaus called him "Uncle Monk," and Old Lu referred to Klaus as "Fruity."

It was unusual, to say the least, but for Anna and Lucy, it stirred something deeper. They felt lost... as if they were forgetting something important.

The two exchanged looks, but neither could pinpoint what was happening to them or fully grasp the significance of the scene unfolding before their eyes.

"Do you really have a way to save her?" Klaus asked, looking back at Old Lu with eyes filled with expectancy.

"Do you remember what I told you about Soul Worlds, specifically Soul World Building?" Old Lu asked, and Klaus nodded.

He not only knew about how to rebuild one's Soul World, but he had also learned how to reshape it. "But the method you showed me only builds and reshapes; it doesn't reconstruct a destroyed Soul World," Klaus said.

"True, but that applies if you're using just soul energy. To recreate a Soul World—in this case, to recreate a soul—you must sacrifice a soul multiple times. In plain words, to create a soul, you must sacrifice your cultivation," Old Lu explained.

Klaus nodded. With his big brain, he could tell something like this was plausible, but even without his intellect, the senior's words rang true.

[What he said is indeed true. By sacrificing your cultivation, you can create a soul for her. But it's dangerous since you would have to enter her destroyed soul, where you will be completely exposed. A little mistake, and you will die.]

Klaus gulped and then looked at Old Lu. "Uncle Monk, I will need your help."