

## Paragon 701

Chapter 701 - 701: Making of the Seven-Star Paragon Force (1)

"Aren't ants supposed to be small and easy to squash?" Danny screamed at the top of his voice, axing away at a Tier 8 Redwing Tyrant Ant.

"I know, right, these bugs are rather large for ants," Kay said, driving his arrow through the head of a Tier 8 Redwing Tyrant Ant.

"Why are these ones bigger and faster if they are ants?" Daniel couldn't help but ask, breaking the carapace of another Tier 8 ant.

They were now inside the Ant Kingdom's forbidden zone, engaged in their first battle against the foes they would be fighting for the next two weeks.

Klaus had told them to do whatever they could to clear a region inside the zone. However, that region alone was packed with thousands of ants, each as formidable as the next.

Danny and Daniel were fighting side by side, considering they complemented each other in brute attacks. However, Klaus, standing atop a tree several meters away, could only shake his head, looking at the two brothers.

"Danny, on my signal, land a powerful attack on the ground. Make sure it's powerful enough to create a shockwave," Daniel said, and Danny nodded.

He rose high into the air and activated his fire element, bathing his hammer in flames. His arms were also engulfed in flames, showing he had activated some form of enhancement skill that granted serious attack power.

"Now," Daniel gave the order, and Danny, who loved destroying things with his axe, smiled and jumped high into the air.

"Here I come." His skin turned gold, and his axe was also bathed in the same golden glow.

"Giant Axe Falling!"

BOOM!

The axe landed on the ground, creating a powerful shockwave that sent close to five dozen Tier 8 Redwing ants flying into the air.

"Flame Lava Burst!"

Daniel shouted as he descended from the air, landing a powerful attack on the ground. His hammer struck the ground creating another shockwave.

At that very moment, the ground shook and cracked.

Then, from the cracks, lava burst out, decimating all the monsters that couldn't escape the powerful attack Danny had landed.

The lava incinerated their forms, leaving their cores behind.

"Not bad. These two have potential. They also have good teamwork," Klaus muttered and looked at another brute punching and kicking away at the ants.

Each punch from her was enough to destroy their carapace and explode their bodies. Even punching the air was enough to send powerful air booms that shatter the bodies of the ants.

"With Vida and Miguel joining them, I can already see some chaos from the four of them,"

Klaus continued to look at the lady who looked very beautiful, yet at the moment, her body was that of a titan, granting her the superhuman strength to destroy things with her fists.

She was a Sovereign stage expert, so the Tier 8 ants were not doing much despite being on the same level as her. Just a punch was enough for her to destroy them.

"The only downside is that brutes have low killing speed. They can create the scene, but they always struggle to keep up with the speed-type warriors when it comes to quick killing."

Klaus looked away from her after noticing a couple of things he would correct about her before their next battle.

His eyes fell on Matt, his sworn brother, who was also the faction leader of the Yin-Yang Palace faction. This guy, in particular, was a monster Klaus hadn't met before.

In his hand was an axe with only one edge. However, unlike the brute-type axe Danny was wielding, his own was small and made from his lightning element.

Klaus, who knew how much went into doing such a thing, smiled slightly, for he knew someone with proficiency in using the element at the level must be a monster.

Matt was using it, and whenever he swung his axe, many smaller forms of the axe appeared and attacked anything he aimed at.

After watching him for a while, Klaus knew what had to be done to help him realize his true potential, for he was a good elemental bender, and using it only for an axe was just wasting his talent.

Jason Bond, one of the faction leaders who had partnered with Hunter Duncan, was also fighting the ants.

He was using the whip infused with the ice element, so his attacks created the chaos required to showcase his power.

And he wasn't the only one among the five who had gotten a second chance from Klaus.

Amelia Grace was also surrounded by a sea of flames as she activated one flame spell after another. She was basically doing everything she could to impress Klaus.

[Looks like there is another phoenix in this small world.] The senior said, making Klaus nod.

"Indeed. I already have plans to make her undergo the transformation right after I ensure there is no turning back for her anymore."

[You really want to do this, huh? You want to give these humans your blood?] The senior's voice echoed in Klaus's mind as he shared his plan to transform his friends and a select few into his personal strike force.

Of course, there was the question of whether they would appreciate he had the authority to influence their free will. However, Klaus planned to talk to them first.

Having his blood running through their veins would make them far more formidable than if they awakened their bloodlines without it.

"I really want to do it, Senior. I can't stop thinking about the recent discovery that a past version of me started placing Death Knights on Earth for the awakening.

This doesn't make sense now, considering this is just a world. If the worst happens, we can evacuate to the moon after taking care of the monsters there.

But I also can't help but feel like I've been preparing for this moment for generations. No matter the danger, it must be faced head-on.

So, if it means angering the heavens by creating monsters, then I will gladly handle the backlash rather than wait and watch everything burn to the ground."

After sending Death Knight away, Klaus couldn't shake the unsettling feeling creeping into his mind. It was as if he was running out of time despite doing everything in his power to prepare.

[This is indeed surprising. For a paragon to foresee a day such as this and start preparing for it ahead of time can only mean one thing.]

"Senior, you don't think this world is..."

[Indeed.]

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"If this world is indeed a forbidden world, then there is going to be a great calamity. The heavens will lose their hold over it if we pass the calamity.

Meaning they wouldn't allow that to happen. A world that doesn't follow the rules of the heavens is not something they will like", Klaus sighed.

[That is indeed a good and sound theory. If this world is indeed a forbidden world, then it can only describe the strangeness. The monsters, the potentials, and even a Paragon being born in this world. I can't shake the feeling that you may be onto something.]

Klaus's sigh deepened as he entered a contemplative state.

"If that is the case, then I have to do more and do it fast. I have a feeling the moment they sense the growing threat from Earth, they will come down hard."

[You do whatever you deem necessary, brat. I will do my best to help you when the time comes. But for now, just focus on doing what you want; after all, that's the only thing you can do.]

The senior decided to bring some form of assurance to Klaus. He came up with the theory that the earth is a forbidden world a few hours ago.

He just couldn't understand how a past version of himself would start making arrangements by bringing forbidden creatures into his world as a form of preparation for the future.

The strangeness and the Urgency only mean the Awakening will be a bad one. A forbidden world is one that doesn't have the rules of the heavens acting on it.

If Earth is indeed a forbidden world, then the moment it awakens, it will become its own entity meaning the heavens wouldn't have a say in what goes on inside.

This also means the beings living in will also be outside the rule of the heavens, at least while they are inside it.

"I must turn these little ones into monsters soon, else... hmm."

His focus moved from Amelia to Jake, who was slashing through the bodies of the monsters at a speed that Klaus nodded at.

He has affinity for the light energy, just like Miriam, but his swordsmanship wasn't at the level of Aoi Hiroshi's. Aoi is a natural born swordsman but Jake is a self taught swordsman.

So while he is less talented compared to someone like Aoi, Klaus gave him a pass for he has come a long way.

His mind was rather sharp, for as he was swinging his sword, he was also calculating multiple scenarios in his head every second before attacking.

Klaus, who was also doing that, could tell Jake was a really good strategist, for he was creating measures to counter the plans he had created in advance, just in case they failed.

'Brilliant. Too bad we didn't meet on good terms. But now that we are here, he can only be molded into a warrior worth being proud of'

After moving away from him, he focused his attention on Choi, the faction leader Asha referred to as 'Can be bought with money.'

He was the leader of the second-ranked faction before Klaus arrived with his troubles.

Many didn't know much about his strength, for he is always secretive, but watching him harness the power of the earth, transmuting it into metal and driving them through the bodies of the ants, Klaus could only smile.

"Another metal elemental user. Him joining Ling and Zing is going to be enough to make them a powerful team."

Klaus turned to the lady who was known as the Fire Dragon Mage, Sofia. She was within a sea of flames as her staff moved through the air, casting flame spells easily as if it were her second nature.

From time to time, flame dragons roar into existence decimating the ranks of the Redwing Ants.

She has a thing for dragons, and her class is basically all about fire dragons, so it wouldn't be surprising if she turned into a dragon one of these days.

After he was done observing them, his focus turned to Lily, who needed no role in battle. She was moving like the wind, destroying every ant that tried to sneak up on her friends and sisters.

As for Anna, she was perhaps lazing around, considering she was standing inside a domain of ice where all the Tier 8 ants couldn't get close to her.

As for Tier 9 ants, those who found themselves entering her domain would be met with a swift end from either Nia, Luna and Nuna.

The three assassins in the team are like illusive shadows.

The moment the threat was taken care of, they would enter the shadows and move to the next place where they could kill more.

Klaus could only see the potential they were packing.

After moving from Anna, he focused on her sister, Lucy, who was also in a similar position as her sister.

Her vines were doing all the killing, and unlike her sister, who was only able to easily kill the Tier 8 monsters, Lucy was killing both Tier 8 and Tier 9 ants.

She is at the peak of the Great Sage realm, so killing Tier 8 ants was easy. But even with that, she was also killing the Tier 9 ants.

Kilian, Mark, and Kay were also doing their best to handle the Tier 8 monsters since handling Tier 9 wasn't something they could do at the moment.

They could perhaps take on Tier 9 monsters, but in this battle, Lucy told them to focus on the Tier 8 monsters, which numbered in the hundreds—far more than the Tier 9s.

Ling, Zing, and the rest of his friends' ladies were also killing the Tier 8 monsters, just like their men were doing.

It wasn't as if they lacked the skills due to the fact that they hadn't been friends with Klaus from the start.

No, they were matching the speed and killing accuracy of their men, and Klaus, who was watching all this, was smiling.

As for Miguel, Klaus's frenemy, he had now grown to a stage where even his friends had started to become jealous of him.

He had never stopped taking on missions, and because of that, he had now mastered the techniques Klaus gave him to the third stage, while his friends had only managed to reach the second level.

He was like the god of lightning, for his axe was bathed in green lightning as he created devastation on the battlefield.

Mason was also doing his fair share of killing. He wasn't using any skills, but the way he was moving and the surprise attacks he was landing on the monsters made the Paragon smile.

"Old habits die hard."

The Mason he knew and the one he was seeing now had something in common, and he was finally seeing it. Axel was deadlier, and now, Mason was about to take after his past self.

Up in the air, Hanna and Lulu were killing the ants that could fly.

They were the only two handling the airborne ants. Hanna had her wings spread behind her as she moved through the air, leaving trails of blue lightning in her wake.

All the Ants caught in those trails become paralyzed and drop to the ground.

As for Lulu, she was surrounded by hundreds of spirit weapons, commanding them to do the killing while she stood in one place up in the air for as long as the battle lasted.

However, standing amidst four dead bodies of Tier 10 beast-type ants and facing two more was Kathy, who was killing the monsters as if they were nothing.

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Miriam, Nadia, and Asha were on the side, watching the battle with calm expressions.

Lucy had set them aside for any unwanted guests that might appear on the battlefield. Her battle plan was indeed solid.

She wasn't taking any chances, even if the first battle was this simple. There are strange variables in battles, so she made plans for them.

Miriam is quick with her sword simply because her speed is on another level. Even before she awakened her bloodline, she was a great swordsman, but now, she had become monstrous.

So, putting her aside for when the unwanted monsters appeared was a good move.

As for Nadia, Lucy had set her aside because she wanted her to study how they fought first and how best to handle the next battle.

Since she would be controlling her puppets, she had to understand their fighting styles so she could integrate with them well in the next battle.

But aside from that, she was also meant to handle any unexpected threats that might arise.

As for Asha, she was basically beyond the scope of this battle.

Just Asha Alpha, her Insect beast companion alone, has 18 children, and they are all Peak Sovereigns.

But that isn't the shocking part: Asha Alpha, her first, is an Obsidian Dark Carapace Ant, one of the most dangerous ants out there. And she has 18 children.

Asha Alpha herself is a Transcendent-level Ant, meaning she is enough to destroy the ranks of the Redwing ants like they were bugs.

But that isn't all.

There is Monix, her second contracted insect beast, who is a Devouring Venom and also has 14 children, all Peak Sovereigns.

If she were to join the battle, it would be bullying her teammates, for they wouldn't have a chance to kill any monsters.

However, in addition to the two Ant Queens, she also has Shadow Spy Ants that she has already deployed to gather intel on the Redwing Tyrant Ant Queen they came for.

Basically, she is doing more than one could brag about, yet she remains calm as she watches her sisters battle the Redwing ants.

The battle had been going on for twenty minutes, but Klaus saw most of what he wanted to see within that twenty minutes.

However, within the twenty minutes, he saw things he never knew could make him excited. He never expected them.

His attention was on Nia, Luna, and Nuna. These three are the assassins in the group.

Nia had shown remarkable skills when she fought him back at the academy, and now, she has displayed some incredible skills that impressed Klaus.

However, he wasn't the only one doing the impressing.

Luna and her twin sister, Nuna, are like shadows, just as Nia is. The two are now Transcendents, but the previous versions of themselves and the new ones are completely different.

Nia was using the shadows to move and her shadow to sneak up on the Tier 9 Ants. However, the twins are using the shadows to trap their foes.

Klaus doesn't know why they are doing that.

But if he did, he would probably take them to a larger battlefield and help them trap more monsters and beasts there.

Basically, the twins that were enslaved by their mother for years are much more monstrous than he thought.

What they were doing was something he didn't see coming, yet it was happening right before his eyes.

The moment a monster is trapped in their shadow domain and is killed, it turns into a shadow, which they can then use to strengthen themselves and a whole lot more.

They can use it to raise their cultivation bases. They can even use it to heal.

However, the most important and perhaps the most powerful use for such shadows is using the shadows collected to create something called Shadow Spirits.

They haven't yet created one, but basically, just as Klaus can create perfect warriors using soul spirits and other monsters, and how Asha could also do the same using her forge, they also have the means to hide inside their shadow domain to create Shadow Spirits.

This involves merging the shadows together to form what they are looking for. The more shadows they merge, the more monstrous the results become.

That is an overpowered skill, but Klaus doesn't know the little bits of mechanics about it yet, so all his ideas will be shared at the end of the battle.

But while the dangerous twins are at it, Klaus is paying more attention to his assassin wife, Nia.

Of all the amazing men and women on the battlefield, she was the one Klaus couldn't figure out entirely.

But that was to be expected, considering that just as the twins were transforming the monsters into shadows, she was also doing something similar—stealing their shadows instead.

She was taking the shadows of the monsters he was killing.

"Senior, I don't know if I'm right, but is she taking the shadows to strengthen herself?" Klaus asked, wanting to confirm something first.

If that was the case, then the first battle plan for the force he was creating would be fierce. He planned to create Seven battle plans and named them the seven battle arts.

But in each battle plan, he will have nine different variations. So if what he was after was indeed the case, then his first battle plan with all nine variations is complete.

[Yes and no. She is indeed stealing the shadows, but she is not at the stage to use them on herself directly like the twins are doing.

However, she is using them for something even more monstrous. If you pay close attention to her shadow, you will see it has started to become much more pronounced.

The reason is that the shadows she is taking are going to her shadow, and from what I know about shadow demons, the more shadows they absorb, the more monstrous they become.]

"Wait a minute. Are you saying this is permanent, that her shadow will continue to grow the more shadows she absorbs?" Klaus asked again, almost holding his breath.

[Yes. Some legends even spoke of most shadowless demons having shadows that were even stronger than themselves.

And I don't know if you know this, but killing a shadow of a shadowless demon can only be accomplished by another shadowless demon.

Meaning, if her shadow attacks you, the chances of you killing it is zero. This also means unless you are a shadowless Demon, killing her shadows is not something you can accomplish.

So, in a way, every shadowless demon who takes their profession seriously always turns their shadow into their main strength, for not even gods can know how strong their shadows are.

And because they can take over their shadows, the stronger they become, the better. So if her shadow becomes an immortal while she was at the Ascension stage, the moment she posses the shadow, she will become an immortal]

"Damn. And here I thought I had the ultimate cheats. Looks like I should make sure she grow her strength here before we go to the monsterland."

[Don't look shocked. The fact that you have these three ladies on your team means you have already taken the first step into forming a monstrous team.]

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"Scarlet, do it," Lucy commanded, moving as more monsters entered the battle despite it already reaching its climax.

Before, she was just standing in one spot, but now, she was moving, showing how chaotic the battle had become.

Forty meters from her, Kilian's woman stabbed her staff into the ground, and cracks appeared on the surface. From the cracks, an icy mist began to rise.

It soon filled the space, blocking the vision of the ants within the vicinity.

"Lily, Kilian, and Kay be ready to move. And please, this time, pay attention to Lily. She is fast but also human. Any miss fire will be very bad, and you don't want Klaus breathing down on your necks for hurting his wife."

The three nodded as they continued to kill the ants, waiting for her signal. Like she said, they will be very careful with their attacks.

"Anna, the rest will depend on you. Just be ready when the stage is set." Her sister Anna nodded, killing more and more monsters as if it were the most normal thing to do.

Then it happened. Lucy used her vines to trap 14 Tier 9 and 45 Tier 8 ants by binding their limbs, forcing them to stop.

"Anna, now!" Lucy commanded, and her sister raised her elegant staff.

"Ice World, Reversal of the Ice Domain!"

A Tier 6 spell circle appeared over the monsters, trapping them in a domain that began freezing their limbs and bodies.

"Make it count, you three!"

That was all Lily, her brother Kilian, and Kay needed to hear before they moved into action.

Lily activated her [One with the Wind] skill, becoming a blur as she sped through the battlefield, shattering ice and cutting bodies in half.

She was one with the wind, so her movement was faster for someone at her level. But since she was doing the job, that was all any of them could ask for.

"One has to admit, Lily is really fast," Klaus muttered.

[Indeed. The cultivation technique you gave her is designed for speed, and she seems to be using it well. I can already see her becoming one of the fastest beings in the universe]

She was flashing between scenes, creating a blur in the air.

But while she was moving, Kay was also firing arrow after arrow, doing his best to keep up with Lily. Kay's marksmanship was impeccable, but his speed still lagged behind Lily's.

Of course, Lily was a wind-type user, so it was only natural for her to be faster than him. But that didn't mean he wasn't doing his share of the killing.

Every arrow found its mark, and because Anna was trapping the monsters, it was easy target practice for him.

However, the most dangerous one among the three was Kilian, who stood in one spot and simply stabbed his sword into the ground.

However, within the ice domain that Anna had created, black spell-like circles appeared beneath the monsters, and as if being pulled through a realm, they were sucked in, never to be seen again.

It was like she had a realm somewhere where anyone trapped inside could not see the light of day anymore.

Klaus watched this and could only smile, looking at the dark-eyed swordsman who seemed to be grasping the essence of his impurity flames.

The more Kilian trained inside the illusion, the more control he gained over his power, and from the way things were going, he seemed to have grasped a significant part of his strength now.

At this point, Klaus could tell that Kilian alone could solo a Tier 9 monster or beast. But he also wanted to see him fight a Tier 10 and determine if he could last a few minutes.

That would help him decide how best to assist him in developing a good battle strategy and future techniques he planned on giving him.

The more he remembers his past, the more skills and techniques he recalls. But even at this stage, he had already impressed Klaus.

Though Kilian was at the peak of the Sage stage, he grew more monstrous daily. Among his friends still in the Sage and Great Sage realms, Klaus was certain none could defeat him one-on-one.

There was just something about Kilian that Klaus wanted to see awaken, but he was also hesitant to witness that side of him emerge now.

It was as if a darker force was lurking behind his eyes, waiting to come out. Of course, he wouldn't stop that from coming, but he also wouldn't force it out. It had to happen naturally.

An hour into the battle, the end was in sight, simply because Kathy had killed all 12 Tier 10 Redwing Tyrant ants, which were all between the first and fifth levels.

This made Klaus smile, knowing the monsters and beasts outnumbered them in the thousands rather than the hundreds, yet they managed to pull through.

However, it also meant that if one region inside such a place had twelve Tier 10 monsters, Earth's overlords would be overrun if the entire zone were to invade.

And this was a Tier 8 forbidden zone. What, then, will a Tier 9 forbidden zone look like?

This also meant his idea to rid the Forbidden Zones of all forms of danger was a necessary initiative. He must succeed and use the resources to improve himself.

When the last Tyrant ant was killed, they all began to ponder something that sent a chill through their veins.

"I don't know much about ants, but from what I do know, they have a queen, which we will be facing soon.

But I was told every queen has twelve of their best soldiers guarding them. Doesn't this mean before getting to her, we will have to face those twelve?"

Danny asked, causing his friends to look at him disdainfully.

They were all tired, yet Danny, who looked nothing like he had fought hundreds of monsters simply because of the effect of his light element, chose to ask a stupid question.

"Where did you hear such a ridiculous thing from?" Lucy raised an eyebrow at him. "Insect queens, in general, are caring beings.

They birth every last insect under them, so while they surround themselves with the best of the best, their soldiers only grow furious when their queen is in danger.

This means if and when we face the queen, the soldiers will confront us with their fury, and there will be more than twelve of them.

In fact, expect the Tier 10 level ants to be in the dozens, for our reports are all useless now. The ants are much more dangerous and stronger than we anticipated."

"Lucy is right," Klaus said, hovering in the air above them. "You all survived today simply because Kathy handled all the Tier 10 ants.

Had she not been on the team, I'm afraid you all would have felt the true power of Tier 10 monsters."

"But you all have done well. I am impressed, but this only means I will intensify the next battle."

"Bring it on, Klaus!" Danny beat his chest, being the brute he was.

"Oh, I will. You'll be fighting a Tier 9 monster alone in the next battle." The smile on Danny's face vanished, showing he was not happy to hear that.

"No need to frown. You won't be the only one doing that. Mark and Kay will also do the same, and let me tell you, nobody will come to your rescue.

Why don't I tell you everything I think about your performance before going into your next battle"

## Chapter 705 - 705: Making of the Seven-Star Paragon Force (5)

Every good team starts from somewhere.

Klaus, who saw how his friends and lovers fought, knew what had to be done: to let them know their errors and how to fix them.

In his eyes, every last one of them could have done something better instead of what they displayed in the first battle.

His hive mind has expanded to a network of 30 minds mining his thing abilities has now expanded 30 times.

This gave him the ability to analyse every last attack and skill used, and he saw many errors that needed fixing.

His analysis was mostly about their individual combat prowess since most focused on that. However, they are building a team, so in the early stages, they should know what a team is and how best to become one.

"Danny, I will start with you," Klaus said, looking at his friend, who still held his axe in his hands despite the battle being over.

"You have the light energy that strengthens you and your friends. However, during the battle, I didn't see you sharing your immortality. Can you tell me why?" Klaus asked.

He had studied their skills and elements, so he knew what he was asking about.

"I didn't know they needed it, considering this wasn't a big battle," Danny answered, making Klaus smile.

"That is not a good reason. Your light element basically makes you immortal in combat, and when shared, the chances of your friends getting tired are next to none.

So why not share what you have with them all, regardless of the scope of combat? You could have just activated it, considering the more intense the battle becomes, the more powerful your light element becomes.

Basically, you will never run out of stamina. So, with or without their consent, you could have shared it with them," Danny nodded.

"I will do better next time."

Klaus smiled and turned to Anna.

"And you, Anna, you have the same issue. I was looking to see if your ice mark would appear on anyone's forehead, but you still haven't branded them.

This meant that although Nia, Luna, and Nunu helped you kill the Tier 9 monsters trapped inside your domain, they still felt restricted when entering it.

So tell me, don't you know that a single delay in combat can be disastrous?" Anna lowered her head, knowing what Klaus said was indeed true.

She could have made it so all her teammates are immune to ice by branding them.

But because she didn't, even though Nia, Luna and Nuna weren't trapped when they entered her domain, they still felt the restriction.

If it were to be a chaotic battle that requires every small second to count, this restriction would have caused some damage.

"Don't look down. It was an oversight, so correct that before the next battle."

Klaus turned to Lucy next...

"Lucy, dear, all you had to do was grow a few flowers on the ground that would spray spores, and from the spores, your teammates would have yet another layer of support.

However, I saw nothing like that. You only focused on giving instructions, and that was all. I expect better from you next time, or else I will give you a special punishment. Trust me, you don't want that."

He smiled and then focused his attention on Kilian.

"And you, Kilian, your flame is for offense. You don't have any healing nature to it, so why didn't you coordinate with Lucy more? She has a wood element that can easily trap the monsters.

This means that in this battle, all you had to do was kill and stay by Lucy's side. Although you coordinated an attack with her, it was just once, and while it was effective, you could have done more than you did.

Also, you have mastered your element to a certain stage already, so why hold back when you now have the strength to control your attacks without affecting your friends?"

Klaus shook his head. "You are all teammates in the making, so hiding your strength will hurt the team. Do better in the next battle."

"Then there is you, Mason. You have the same role as Lily. You both are fast and thanks to your speed, your job is to protect your friends from all sides.

However, you chose your own battlefield, and while that was effective—considering it made you stay in your element—it also made you isolated, and helping you has been tedious.

You were supposed to be part of a team now. Of course, the battle styles I will create will have you riding solo sometimes, but in most cases, it will be a team battle style for the enemies you will be facing, and it won't be as simple as you think.

So do better. For this team to work, you all must learn to coordinate and trust your backs to your teammates. I say do better, you all."

Klaus was disappointed; he pointed out where they could have done better, but deep down, he had expected much better from them.

Lucy was the controller of the battle, so in most cases, she shouldn't have even gone for the kill. She had to coordinate with her sister to trap the monsters and let her friends handle the killing.

But that didn't happen, or it wasn't the centrepiece of the battle they had just finished. This meant they were not at the stage Klaus had expected.

It may be their first battle, but they should have done better than they did. Klaus turned to Yasmin Next.

"Yasmin, do you know the main reason why I gave you that support technique?" Klaus asked Danny's girlfriend.

She was a support-type warrior; however, her support wasn't just about healing.

Klaus had given her two techniques: one to help with healing and the other to focus on supporting her friends efficiently by enhancing their skills.

"The technique I gave you was meant to help your friends use their skills to their maximum potential.

So, in the battle, had you supported Lucy and Anna, the chances of them spreading their influence on the battlefield would have been significant.

Essentially, you could have made it so they didn't feel as tired using their skills and, more importantly, helped them harness their skills on a much larger scale.

Anna has a domain-type skill. If you had applied your absolute support skills to her, the chances of her expanding her domain would have been the best thing in the battle that just ended.

The same could have happened for Lucy. So why didn't you?"

Klaus stared at the faces of all his friends, who began to realize they had made mistakes and that if they had paid more attention to their teamwork, the battle would have been much easier and more effective.

"I will point out all your mistakes, and then I will give you another chance to see if you can come up with a solution on your own.

Of course, I will create seven solutions for you all, but that will be after you figure things out on your own.

You will be battle buddies for years, so learn to fix your issues. Lucy, handle that because your next battle will happen soon."

Lucy nodded.

Klaus went ahead and pointed out their mistakes one by one. When he was done, he moved away to allow Lucy to fix her team.

However, he called Nia, Luna, and Nunu with him. The three had shown him something he wanted to understand more.

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"Can you two tell me how your skills work?" Klaus asked Luna and Nuna, who nodded. They are now a part of his inner circle, so he wanted to know more about them.

"After we became Transcendents, we unlocked a hidden skill that allows us to turn monsters into shadows if we drag them into our shadow domain.

The shadows can then be used to heal ourselves, strengthen our bodies and weapons, and even raise our cultivation by absorbing them.

However, there is another use, and that is to create something called Shadow Spirits. They can be created by merging more shadows together," Luna explained.

Klaus nodded.

"What about you, Nia? How does yours work?" he asked, and Nia smiled.

"Unlike them, I don't need to trap the monsters; I can just take their shadow after I kill them. Then, using the shadows, I can strengthen my own shadow.

I can't use it on myself, but I can use it on my shadow."

"I see. These are both powerful skills you all have. If you two were to have more shadows, you would soon have a powerful Shadow Spirit fighting for you, and you, Nia, would have a powerful shadow that could level the playing field for you.

However, are there limitations to these skills?" Klaus asked.

"Yes. For now, we can only create random Shadow Spirits. Meaning we have no say in how they will look or what abilities they will possess. All we can do is keep merging shadows," Luna replied.

"Mine also has a limitation; I can only upgrade my shadow to be two stages stronger than me. This means that since I am a great sage, my shadow can grow as far as the transcendent stage.

It's currently at the same stage as mine, but if I add more shadows, it will become a Sovereign soon," Nia added.

"Also, the moment my shadow becomes a Sovereign, whenever I possess her body, I will automatically become a Sovereign."

Klaus nodded, having already been made aware of her overpowered shadow. The shadow of hers is basically a cheat.

Say she becomes an Ascendent and manages to raise the rank of her shadow to the Void or Chaos stage; she can become a Chaos stage expert without having to undergo the tribulation.

Of course, there is more to this skill, but her shadow is a cheat anybody would be weary against.

"This means you three are going to benefit quite well in this expedition, for inside this Ant Kingdom, there are thousands of ants to be killed.

But I suppose there is also a requirement for what stage of monsters or humans you can absorb the shadows from?"

"I don't have such restrictions. So long as it is a creature with a shadow, even if it's just tier one, I can absorb it. The only downside is, I won't gain much from it," Nia replied, and the twins nodded.

"That is awesome," Klaus said. His mind started racing as he formulated a good plan to help them gain more.

[Brat, you should consider awakening their bloodlines much faster. I can already see their potential oozing.

And if you want to create the team you envisioned, these three will be the centrepiece, for they are some of the best assassins a paragon could have on his side.

Just have them keep absorbing; if they can start creating a shadow spirit, that will be the best. Studying it will help you help them well.]

"In the next battle, do what you did in the first battle and just keep absorbing the shadows for now. I will see if I can figure out a more advanced skill for you three."

Since the senior knew more about the shadowless demons, Klaus knew getting a skill or two from him wouldn't be bad.

"You two should also start forming a Shadow Spirit before we leave for the Monsterland, for there, you will need all the help you can get.

I wanted to awaken your bloodlines during your training there, so get ready and prepare adequately. If you can stockpile the shadows, do that, and be sure to have them in the thousands.

This means you must increase your killing speed in the next battle."

"We will," they nodded, and Klaus nodded in return.

Lucy spent two hours creating their next battle plan to the best of her abilities while they waited for Asha to give them a report on the situation in the Forbidden Zone.

After eight hours, Asha returned with a report.

"My spy ants found the location of the Redwing Tyrant Ant queen, but it's not looking good. According to their reports, there are two blockages filled with thousands of ants.

The first blockage has Tier 8 and Tier 9 ants, along with over three dozen Tier 10 ants, ranging from level 1 to 6.

This group is commanded by a level 7 Tier 10 Redwing Tyrant Ant that has evolved and become more monstrous than the ones Kathy killed.

As for the last blockage before reaching the Queen, it has a similar setup, but the number of Tier 9 ants is several times higher than the first blockage.

But while that can be salvaged, the main danger lies in the three evolved level 8 Tier 10 ants acting as the primary force there.

Regarding the Queen, she is guarded by 50 evolved level 8 Tier 10 ants, 12 evolved level 9 Tier 10 ants, and the Queen herself, who, according to the report, has a humanoid form of some kind and is also at the peak of the Tier 10 stage.

Basically, the next place we will be attacking has thousands of Tier 8 ants, hundreds of Tier 9 ants, and over 30 Tier 10 ants.

There may be hidden dangers we are unaware of, so we can only plan well and hope we don't fail Klaus and his expectations for us."

Asha ended her report, causing her friends and teammates to turn and look at Klaus, who was smiling at Lucy.

"No need to frown, you all. Asha's report is almost accurate. The Queen has another guardian on the same level as her, and from my reports, she is as deadly as the Queen.

Yes, it is a she—a true beast who has a humanoid form and can talk like us. In fact, she saw your last battle and has already reported to her Queen.

So, get ready; if you manage to win and don't retreat, the next three battles will be deadly and very dangerous."

"We should rest for now and come up with a more comprehensive plan tomorrow. I promise we will win this and shame this brat," Lucy said, causing Klaus to laugh.

"Jake, you should help her. You are a strategist just like her, so with you two working together, I am sure you won't suffer too much."

His laughter continued to ring out as he erected several majestic-looking ice domes.

"Pick your domes and rest for now. You need your rest, and don't worry, it's not freezing inside. It will actually help you heal."

The domes were made from his Immortal Ice element, so they are in good hands.

They nodded, picked their domes, and began to recover while Klaus stood guard. Since he wanted them in good form, he could at least stand guard for them while they healed.

Chapter 707 - 707: Making of the Seven-Star Paragon Force (7)

"I have a more concrete report from my Shadow Ant spies. According to their count, there are 2,300 Tier 8 Ants and 270 Tier 9 Ants, adding up to the 30 Tier 10s."

Asha said to her teammates as they prepared for the next battle. Since there were two more blockages before reaching the Queen, they must face them in order.

They can't skip the first blockage and go to the second. The first must be handled before the second and, finally, the third.

Now, they know the number of monsters and beasts they are going against, so they must first prepare for them. But this is a battle, so anything can happen.

"Thank you, Asha," Lucy said, turning her attention to the rest of her teammates. They all knew the stakes had just risen.

"You all heard her. The next battle will be a difficult one, so we all should follow what Klaus said. This is a team, and we must act like one. To be able to defeat these odds, we must work as a team." They nodded.

"Good. Now, since we know the odds we are going against, I will now share the teams. We will be fighting as one big team, but for the premises of the battle, these are the teams we must coordinate with.

Miriam, Aoi, Nia, Luna, Nuna, and Kathy will handle the thirty Tier 10 Ants.

Of course, you are not required to kill them all if you can't. All you have to do is handle them and keep them back for at least thirty minutes.

That is the maximum time you will have to endure. I am sure by then, if nothing else arises from the unknown, some of us will come and help you."

The six ladies nodded.

"Danny, Mark, and Kay, your job is to handle a Tier 9, and when done, you join the others to take care of the Tier 8s. Klaus wanted you three to fight Tier 9s, so be ready."

The three friends looked at each other with determination in their eyes.

"Amelia, Linda, Sofia, Kilian, Vida, and Daniel, you six will fight on a separate battlefield as a team. You all have the fire element, which complements each other greatly, so you will fight as a team.

You will face the Tier 9 monsters along with Danny, Mark, and Kay. But they will leave after they are done with their task.

Jake, Scarlet, Jason, and Hanna, you will also become a team and fight on your own side of the battlefield. You will be handling the Tier 8s.

Choi, you and Ling will coordinate your metal attacks in the offense while Zing acts as your defense.

This means Choi, you leave your defense to Zing and focus only on the offense. You three will also handle the Tier 8s.

Nadia, Asha, and Miguel, you three will be the main strike force against the Tier 8s. I expect this battle to end within 20 minutes, so give it your all.

Of course, Miguel, you will be their guard, but you can also fight if you have an opening. Your teammates are not combat-type warriors, so protect them well.

As for you, Vira, your job is very simple. You are to protect Yasmin at all costs.

Now, before you frown, thinking your job is not up to your skill set, know that Klaus will be paying attention to you, so be sure to do a good job and impress him."

Vira, Daniel's woman, was initially thought to be an assassin by everyone. But Klaus saw something different when he reviewed her status page and assessed her soul.

She is a huntress, someone with the skill set to hunt down people. However, she has the makings of an assassin, so Klaus wants to pay attention to her.

If what he saw was indeed accurate, then she would become something like his disciple for now—until the Paragon Guards arrive or he finds them.

Of course, it is a big if, but if his thinking is in line with what he knew, then she will awaken a class called [Shadow Huntress] when she awakens her bloodline.

Klaus knew of this class when he met one of his Paragon guards back in his fourth incarnation.

He saw how dangerous it was, and as such, he knew she was someone worth paying attention to. After the battle, if his suspicions are validated, he will give her a new technique and help her master at least three levels.

Then, when that particular guard arrives, he will let her train Vira and hopefully impart her knowledge to her.

"As for Mason, Lily, Yasmin, Anna, and me, we will ensure you all have a good fight and control over the battle. If any of you have a question, feel free to ask before we move out."

Danny, of course, raised his hand.

"Go ahead," Lucy said.

"Since all 28 of us will be fighting, who is going to handle the unexpected welcomes?" His question was surprisingly sound, meaning he was learning. He usually asks stupid questions.

"I will step in. Although this is a long shot, I have measures to handle that, so I will be ready for when that time comes."

He nodded.

"Then why don't we start? I know you all are afraid of the odds, but fear not. We are a team, so we should work as a whole, and in no time, we will handle them all."

They started moving toward the direction where they would be fighting.

Meanwhile, Klaus, who was atop a tree overlooking this, smiled.

"It's a nice pair-up, but can they hold when they finally find out the dangers of facing Tier 10 beasts?" His smile spread cheekily as he snapped his fingers, making small golden runes fly out and enter their bodies.

"At least, this will help you hold on for a few minutes when the odds turn dire."

"Why pretend to be cold when you are still giving them a boost?"

Queenie's voice sounded behind Klaus, causing him to turn only to meet the gaze of Queenie and Nari, who chose to come and look at their sisters' training.

Klaus didn't answer. Instead, he snapped his finger again, sending runes toward the foreheads of the two ladies. After they merged with them, the presence vanished.

"What was that for?" Nari asked.

"We wouldn't want to scare the residents in this zone off, right? They are here to train, so scaring the ants away with your presence wouldn't be ideal," Klaus explained, and the two ladies nodded.

Though they weren't planning on showing their presence, the chances of the Tier 10 ants noticing them are very high.

"They are starting," Nari said, ready to watch some action.

Chapter 708 - 708: Making of the Seven-Star Paragon Force (8)

"Oh shit, why are these ones much bigger and uglier than the ones we fought yesterday?"

Danny said, his body glowing golden as he held his axe.

He was now standing opposite a three-meter-tall ant whose legs were made of a metallic substance, jagged on the edges, showing just how deadly they were.

"Staring at it won't kill it, Danny. You have to attack and pray you don't get pierced by one of those metallic legs," Daniel teased, causing the axe-wielding brute to roar and charge into battle.

The battle had just started, and as Klaus intended, Danny, Kay, and Mark were now each facing Tier 9 ants.

The odds were stacked against them, and Danny, who saw how monstrous the ants were, couldn't help but leave a comment before attacking his opponent.

In truth, Asha had failed to tell them one important detail, and Klaus also didn't say anything, for he knew this was a learning curve for them, so they would learn as they went.

However, had Asha paid more attention to the ants they were facing now, she would have realized these ones were different.

They were the same Redwing Tyrant Ants, but these had another name: Stone.

The ones they are facing now are the Redwing Stone Tyrant Ants. Their skin appeared metallic, but in reality, it was made of stone, and because of that, their defense was incredibly tough.

Danny charged forward and, with a powerful leap, swung his axe, aiming for one of the six legs on the ant.

The ant stabbed one of its legs forward, but Danny was faster with his attack, so his axe connected first.

**BANG!**

However, instead of his axe cutting through the leg of the ant, it landed on it, creating a loud bang as he was pushed back. It was like using metal to hit stone.

"Damn, that is some thick skin you have there, master," Danny muttered as he moved back, using the force from the push.

The moment he landed on the ground, he charged forward again, but his axe was coated in a much deeper shade of gold this time.

He swung again.

The attack connected, and this time, he managed to create a cracking sound, but he didn't come out unscathed.

The ant attacked, and Danny was forced to move back, but he was too slow. The pointed leg stabbed into his arm, drawing blood as he was thrown aside. He was back on his feet the next second and activated a skill.

The wound on his arm healed thanks to his light element. Getting hurt wasn't something he would worry about.

On the other hand, Mark was moving with the wind, unleashing wind arc after wind arc at the Tier 9 he was fighting.

Normally, the magnitude of the attacks he was unleashing should have killed the ant, but this one had a stronger defense, so his attacks weren't dealing much damage.

Obviously, Mark wasn't happy with that outcome, yet he knew doing anything reckless would land him in hot water.

So, he was doing his best to handle the fight with care in order not to get overwhelmed.

"Flaming Exploding Arrows," Kay muttered as he unleashed a single arrow, but it split into hundreds and exploded in the ant's face despite its attempt to dodge.

The explosion caused it to move back.

"I knew a day like this would come, so I prepared thousands of these just in case," Kay said with a smile.

After using the [Flaming Exploding Arrows] skill, he retrieved a two-meter-long arrow with three runes on it.

It was one of the thousands of arrows he had tempered using the [Hellfire Arrow tempering Art] technique.

Kay has mastered the first level, so using that, he tempered thousands of Arrows made using bones from powerful beasts.

He placed it in his bow and pulled the string. Just as the ant recovered from the explosion, an arrow arrived in front of it.

With no time to dodge, it crossed two legs to defend itself, but the arrow pierced through, snapping both legs and going through its small head, killing it instantly.

"One down... more to kill." Kay killed the Tier 9 monster in just two attacks, causing Nari and Queenie to raise their eyebrows.

"Since when does a Sage need only two attacks to kill a Tier 9 existence?" Nari asked, and Klaus simply smiled.

"They are my friends, so automatically, they are meant to do something this cool. Just look at what Mark is about to do," Klaus said as the ladies focused their attention on Mark right when he made his move.

He moved, and three versions of him appeared, making four.

Then, one vanished, and the remaining three moved toward the ant in three different directions. The ant reacted by stabbing its leg into the ground.

Pointed shards made of bone shot from the ground and started shooting at the three Marks running toward it.

The bone shards managed to land on one and pierced through his chest, turning into sparkles, but the other two closed in and unleashed their attacks.

However, the ant was a step ahead and defended using its forelegs. Still mid-attack, its body shuddered, and bone shards shot at the two Marks, killing them.

However, the fourth Mark appeared mid-air, and without the ant even sensing him, he stabbed his spear into its head, killing it with ease.

"It's not about how strong you are; it's about how good you are at using your skills. As a warrior, you must master your skills well.

The skill Mark used just now wasn't that fancy, yet he managed to kill such a being. The reason is simple: he mastered it and could use it flawlessly. Of course, he can do better."

"Danny is next," Queenie said, looking toward the direction where a giant axe appeared in the sky and solidified.

Klaus smiled and shook his head, knowing just what he needed to fix about his friend to make him less reckless and more considerate when using his skills.

The second form of the [World Breaking Axe] activated, and Danny struck his axe toward the ground.

"Giant Axe Descent!"

The huge axe fell, and the ant, restricted by the force behind the axe, mustered its strength to defend.

But it was turned to meat paste when the axe fell, killing it instantly.

"So killing Tier 9s isn't that hard," Danny said, beating his chest. "In that case, why not kill more?" He charged forward and, as Lucy advised, started killing the Tier 8s quickly so as to get the chance to fight another Tier 9.

Klaus smiled, knowing the first training for Kay, Mark, and Danny was a success. He turned his attention to Miguel, Nadia, and Asha.

Chapter 709 - 709: Making of the Seven-Star Paragon Force (9)

Whoever said brutes only know how to use their fists and hammers probably should be thrown off a speeding train. That was a plain insult to most brutes, for not all of them are brutes at heart.

Danny is a brute at heart, and so is his brother Daniel. They only know how to create devastation on the battlefield.

However, Miguel O'Hara, the brat who was aiming to close the gap between him and Klaus, has just proven that not all brutes are indeed about punching.

Back when Klaus was away on his mission inside the dungeon, he entered the wild, and for months, he remained there training.

In one of his many battles against monsters and beasts far beyond his rank, he faced a lightning-type beast called the Storm Serpent.

This particular snake was a very agile beast that accurately handled lightning like it was her it's second nature.

During the battle, Miguel nearly fell into a trap set by the snake. He was trapped, and had he not been careful a little, things would have ended poorly for him.

The trap involved a skill that used the concept of formation.

It was used to trap him, and when he escaped and killed it, Miguel entered seclusion. Since then, he has been learning to create a similar skill, and he succeeded.

Today, while he was supposed to stand guard and protect Nadia and Asha, he used it, and as such, he was now bathed in lightning and killing the ants without caring for the safety of the two he was meant to be protecting.

He wasn't just standing ideal. He was on his feet killing the monsters without caring about the ants sneaking up on Nadia and Asha.

While he was aiming for the skill the snake used against him, something better happened.

He called it [Lightning Bolt Dancer].

Asha and Nadia are standing within a circle of lightning, perfectly fine.

However, whenever a monster comes within a meter of them, a powerful lightning bolt as thick as an adult hand shoots out, and there is no dodging it.

He was aiming for the confinement skill the snake used, but in the end, he had created something monstrous.

"Ladies, in this life, there are geniuses and prodigies. I have seen a lot of geniuses, but today I am seeing a prodigy." Klaus smiled, looking at his frenemy.

Queenie and Nari focused their attention on Miguel, but they didn't see anything fancy enough to warrant Klaus's words.

"Don't focus on his brute actions; pay attention to the lightning circle around Asha and Nadia."

They looked at the two girls, and, as if by coincidence, a monster snuck up behind them. But before it could get within a meter of them, a lightning bolt pierced through its body, turning it to dried bones.

"Wow, that is one powerful skill. It can even kill a Tier 9 that easily..." Even Queenie was taken aback. The lightning bolt possesses enough power to wound even a Tier 10 beast.

"Like I said, Miguel is a prodigy who managed to create a skill of his own. This means that in the future, he can keep upgrading it until he deems it perfect." Klaus's proud smile was just too contagious.

Though Miguel and he are not the best of friends, he is proud of him for creating such a skill. He even had some ideas he planned to share with him after the battle.

Since he already has the foundation of the skill, adding and changing things is much more practical.

"Asha Alpha, take Numbers 1 to 7 and go after the Tier 9s in that area. Show them the might of the Obsidian Dark Carapace Ants,"

Asha commanded, and her insect queen companion moved with seven of her children as they began decimating the ranks of the ants.

The Obsidian Dark Carapace Ants are not on good terms with the Redwing Tyrant Ants, as both are insects that pride themselves on the thickness of their bodies.

The redwings are of the notion that they are the ones with the strongest hide while the obsidian dark carapace ants also want that title.

However, the most shocking part was, when the jungle was to be measured, these two wouldn't be the strongest, for there are other races of ants with much tougher defenses than these two.

But in this regard, she was using them to handle the Tyrant Ants, which was just too devastating. Asha's plan to turn the majority of her companions into warriors has proven rather effective.

Asha Alpha, her first companion, was proving her right.

But she wasn't the only one; Monix, her second companion, was also doing her fair share of killing with her children.

They are facing the majority of the Tier 8s, and the speed of their killing was dropping the number of the Tyrant Ants by the second.

However, Nadia, who was seated in a lotus posture and moving her fingers in the air, was doing much more killing than any of her sisters.

She has five puppets out and a pot-like item that those with spirit eyes could tell was stealing the souls of the kills.

The five puppets are all at the sovereign stage, but killing the Tier 8s was but child's play for them. Nadia needed the souls to summon demon spirits for her puppets so she could only kill more and do it faster.

"Puppeteers are the best," Nari commented, watching the five ladies, each unique in their own way, fighting perfectly with the smallest movement of a finger left her stunned.

Now that she has emotions and can feel them, her happiness is overflowing.

"The moment she manages to summon demon spirits into these puppets, they will become much more agile and, perhaps, improve their ranks, for that is what sets the Obsidian String Demon Puppeteer apart from others."

Klaus was perhaps more pumped than even Nadia. He wants to see just what will become of her puppets once demon spirits possess them.

Suddenly, Nari, Queenie, and Klaus looked into the distance, where a figure clad in dark, tattered clothes appeared and stood atop a tree, just like Klaus and the two ladies.

However, while they could see her, she had no idea they were there. She held two daggers in her firm grip, and from the air around her, she was a True beast at the Peak of the Tier Nine stage.

"Is that a true beast who has evolved?" Nari asked, looking at the humanoid lady who has 90% human features with only a few ant traits.

"Indeed. She is a peak Ascendant, and from the way she is holding her bone daggers, she intends to attack." Klaus smiled.

He looked toward the 28 humans fighting and couldn't help but wish for this lady to attack.

"Aren't you scared for their safety? I can tell this lady is on the same level as the Overlords, even in her humanoid form. If she takes her beast form, things will be different," Queenie asked, looking at Klaus's smug expression.

"Her first attack will miss, so don't worry. However, after the first attack, if they can't react before the next, someone will be getting hurt soon... Lol."

Chapter 710 - 710: Making of the Seven-Star Paragon Force (10)

The lady in question is someone who had known about the foreigners from the moment they appeared inside the forbidden zone.

However, instead of attacking them, she waited and kept observing the battle as if she were learning their attack patterns. The more she watched, the more she learned about them.

Then, the second day came, and Asha joined the battle. That was when everything changed.

The moment Asha Alpha and Monix appeared, she concluded that the humans were after her queen and wanted to handle the one who posed the most threat: Asha.

Having two Ant queens under her command was enough to convince her that the humans were after her queen, and she knew that had to be changed before it was too late.

Klaus, Queenie, and Nari kept staring at the lady who was looking for an opportunity to strike. She could see the lightning circle around Asha and Nadia and knew it was dangerous.

She knew before she could attack, she must first die with the lightning circle around them, for she could not afford to get caught within any traps.

So, she was surveying the battle and observing while planning the best move to use.

Meanwhile, the battle was in full swing.

Kathy had taken her demi-beast form, wielding her golden spear as she moved across the battlefield.

It had been less than 10 minutes since the start of the battle, but 16 Tier 10 Redwing Tyrant Stone Ants lay dead.

Miriam alone had killed four, and looking at her facing two more, one could tell she still had fight left in her. Her sword attacks were both lethal and fashionable.

Every swing left a beautiful sword light that made the Tier 10 ants she was facing very angry. They weren't getting a chance to attack her.

But she wasn't the only one making them hate swordsmen; Aoi was also doing the same. She was moving like a blur, weaving sword attacks as if she were a weaver.

Klaus was paying attention to her, and with every swing, he could tell she had a good foundation with the sword.

And it was true; every Hiroshi is a samurai, so it was only natural for her to be that good. Her father is even the infamous Sword King.

It was only natural for her to be also good with her sword.

She had once defeated Klaus himself, so it wasn't an exaggeration. Miriam had killed four and was on track to defeat her fifth, while Aoi had managed to kill two and was now fighting the third.

Kathy had also killed four and was fighting three at the same time, showing that she was indeed Divine. Although she was only in her demi-human form, she fought like a human.

If she were to take her beast form, perhaps she would have killed more. So just her, Miriam, and Aoi had killed 8 out of the 30 Tier 10s, all at the 7th level.

However, that didn't mean they came out unscathed. Miriam had a few scratches, and Aoi also sustained wounds on her left shoulder and side.

As for Kathy, her golden armour had hardened, so it was just scratched on the surface that would heal when she unsummoned it.

However, while these three ladies were showing remarkable prowess, the three shadow beings on the team were also doing their best—and perhaps they were pushing even harder than them.

Luna and her twin Nuna were now covered in shadowy energy. They moved like shadows, and Klaus noticed that some of the attacks coming from the Ants were passing through their bodies.

At some points, they became shadows themselves, so the attacks that could have heavily injured them missed their marks.

However, when that happens, the shadows around them seem to lighten, showing that though the attack missed, it didn't entirely miss its mark. They paid for it using the shadows that had absorbed.

Klaus nodded and knew Lucy had made a mistake in assigning the two to face the Tier 10s directly.

He would correct her after they were done.

But while she made mistakes with the dangerous twins, Nia was a spot-on choice. There was a Nia on the battlefield and a shadow Nia moving from one shadow to the next.

Miriam, Aoi, and Kathy may have killed 8 in total, but Nia alone had killed six, with the twins killing 2. And while the rest may have sustained some damage, whether physical or not, she was as clean as a diamond.

She only moved six times, and all those six movements were to kill a monster. Every last moment was for a kill.

"I think Nia's shadow is even stronger than her," Nari muttered as Nia killed her seventh Tier 10.

Whenever she entered her shadow for a kill, her strength skyrocketed, showing she had indeed gained a boost from it.

"That is the power of her shadow. It has its own cultivation path, so it was only natural for it to be stronger than her, considering the number of shadows she had absorbed and the strength of those shadows."

Every cultivator has the same strength as their shadow, and vice versa. A god has a shadow with the strength of a god.

It was just that most didn't know how to use their shadows. If you can harness your shadow, then it means you will be two gods in the same body.

So, when such a shadow is stolen by someone who knows how to harness it, the chances of them raising their strength by leaps and bounds are secured.

Having already killed six Toer 10 Ants, her shadow, who was at the peak of the Great Sage stage, had finally stepped into the Sovereign stage and began to rise further now that the seventh shadow was added.

"Every last one of them has something unique about them. I can't wait to see them bloom into warriors after you are done with them," Queenie said.

Queenie, a full-on warrior, could already envision a battlefield filled with blood. Just thinking about it made her blood boil, and her fists clenched like a battle maniac.

Klaus already knew her nature as Asura's child, so he wasn't surprised to see her showing such an excited side.

"The battle is about to end," Klaus suddenly said.

From the start of the battle, he had noticed something.

Yasmin, who was using her techniques to expand the effect of Lucy and Anna's control techniques, was also doing her best to heal one person over and over again.

The reason for this was a hidden instruction Lucy had given Kilian. This was a move Kilian, Anna, and she had come up with, and with Yasmin's help, it was about to be realized.

On the battlefield, Anna kept pointing her staff at the monsters for close to 15 minutes until she finally said the words Lucy was waiting to hear.

"That is the last one, big sister," Anna said to Lucy, making her smile as she turned and looked at Klaus with a smug expression on her face.