

## **Paragon 961**

### Chapter 961: Earth vs The Sea (2)

“Wow.”

Klaus muttered as he used Phantom Step to evade the arrow that arrived all of a sudden. It arrived in an instant, but he managed to dodge.

However, just when he thought he had completely evaded the arrow, it curved and shot back at him with an even greater speed.

Before Klaus could handle the rebound arrow, another one arrived from behind him, forcing him to handle the two arrows at the same time.

“What an impeccable display of bowmanship.”

Klaus was mesmerized not only by the skill used but also by the timing and accuracy with which it was executed. It was something he never expected to see this early in the battle.

However, with his movement technique, he managed to evade all the arrows and even went further, destroying them completely.

From within the sea, Nebula, the one assigned by King Kordax to take out Klaus in the early stages of the battle, arrived wearing a mask.

Her bow was in her firm grip, and judging by the murderous look in her eyes, Klaus knew for sure that she was specifically sent to kill him.

However, no panic appeared on his face, for he was already prepared for this probable outcome.

Nebula unleashed three rapid strikes, each aimed at Klaus’s chest, but every arrow was evaded. Of course, Nebula was just getting started, and so is Klaus.

Meanwhile, on the other side, Arwan, the one sent to handle the Black Panther, also arrived with his innate domain powering his strike.

He looked fiercer, and perhaps due to some hidden rivalry between him and Nebula, he was more involved in the battle, aiming to kill the Black Panther much faster.

However, Prince Challa isn't some ordinary warrior.

Despite only being at the Level 1 Ascension stage, even when facing a Level 4 Ascension stage warrior like Arwan, he was getting pressured. If anything, Arwan was the one to look weary.

The reason is simple.

Unlike the other Bast Race warriors, he had already awakened a bloodline, and that bloodline was something that came from a god.

Now, while that is impressive, the one thing that made him powerful enough to even fight someone three levels ahead of his own was Klaus's blood.

Long ago, Klaus gave his Star Monarch blood to the Panther Goddess Bast, making her become a completely different version of herself.

And now, the same blood that was mutated by the Star Monarch's blood flows through his body. That alone, despite being minute, has given him all he needed to give Arwan a run for his money.

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Klaus evaded another arrow from Nebula, then vanished, appearing behind her. However, before he could land an attack, Nebula split into four copies of herself.

Three were clones, and she could swap places with them, so she did, moving away from Klaus.

However, to her shock, Klaus saw through her skill.

Klaus unleashed a quick attack, destroying the three clones, leaving the real Nebula to fend for herself.

However, she didn't panic; instead, she retreated and unleashed a powerful attack—one that caused thousands of arrows to appear in the air and rain down on Klaus.

“She is good, but too green to face me.”

With a wave of his hand, Klaus raised the water from the ocean, using it to block all the arrows. The moment the arrows touched the water, they dissolved into it.

Nebula frowned behind her mask when her arrows were easily handled.

Now that Klaus had awakened all his elements, using the water element was but a luxury.

The water rose so high that it cast a shadow over Nebula. However, she vanished the next second when Klaus sent the water hurtling at her.

Klaus scanned the surroundings and couldn't find a trace of her.

He merely smiled, and then he used his illusion technique, creating 606 copies of himself in one go, flooding the sea with them.

All around, his illusion clones were moving, doing all kinds of things so that when Nebula appeared again—or was forced to appear—she wouldn't know which one was the real Klaus.

Of course, she hadn't been fighting the true version of Klaus to begin with.

Klaus was currently sitting beside Jane in a spaceship suspended in the clouds.

Before Jane, a map of the battlefield showed the various sides. Her side displayed golden dots, and the enemy had black dots.

At the moment, she was having a field day breaking the enemy's formation.

The moment the battle started, she began moving her team into position.

First, she deployed Klaus's five uncles, positioning them at the center of the monster tide, allowing them to not only break the momentum of the enemy but also enabling Uncle Mark, who had a rather updated version of his shield domain, to enclose about six thousand monsters, giving his friends all the time to handle them.

Safe to say, the only mistake the enemy made was deploying their Void stage monster army first.

With the shield domain up, they couldn't even leave a dent in it, no matter how much they attacked.

However, that wasn't the only thing she did.

Abyss, who had now become the one with the most kills on the battlefield, was locked in combat with a Level 3 Ascension stage monster deployed to destroy the shield.

She moved Abyss into position even before the monster arrived.

The second monster that was deployed also met an obstacle when Uncle Totti, whose defense couldn't even be broken by a Level 5 Ascension stage warrior, blocked the second monster sent.

Then they sent the third, but this one was met by Aoi, who was currently at the Peak of the Chaos stage but had the strength to handle even a Level 3 Ascension stage monster.

By the time all sixteen generals of Darkness were deployed, Jane had created the perfect trap for them, and now, with only seven Ascension stage monsters, King Kordax, and Skroll left to join the battle, the enemy had been boxed in—and the one behind it all was just yawning, waiting for the next phase of the enemy army to arrive.

“They are still not moving,” Jane turned to Klaus.

“Don’t worry, I am still here, and so are the five Overlords of the Sea. The moment they move, you can make the final move. This battle should be over soon enough.” Jane nodded.

“What about the Peak Ascension stage monster hidden within the sea?” she asked again.

Right now, she had everything under control, but when it came to handling someone at the peak, she was unsure if she could do that.

It was one of the many things she was worried about before the battle started.

“Don’t worry about him. He wouldn’t interfere in the battle because I have made sure of that.”

Jane had no choice but to take Klaus at his word, though she was planning for it should things change.

“Why aren’t you facing her?” Jane said, pointing at Nebula, who was having a hard time finding the true Klaus.

Though finding clones is as simple as sensing their soul, the same cannot be said for Klaus’s clones. They aren’t actual clones but merely illusions made tangible.

And as per the law of reality, the moment an illusion is made tangible, it becomes real. So, despite using her innate domain to try and look for the real Klaus, all she saw were hundreds of real Klauses that just wouldn’t die, no matter how many arrows she shot at them.

Klaus smiled and narrowed his eyes. “There is something about her I am trying to figure out.”

## Chapter 962: Earth vs The Sea (3)

It had already been twenty minutes into the battle, but Klaus hadn't made any move himself; instead, he had merely been using his clone to handle the fight.

However, a few seconds after the 20-minute mark, Klaus vanished from the ship and appeared on the battlefield, materializing right in front of Nebula.

He grabbed her bow and yanked it from her grip before using the back of his hand to slap the mask off her face.

Her head turned to the side, but when it finally turned and faced Klaus, a shocked look appeared on his face.

"Dahlia."

Instinctively, Klaus mentioned the first name that came to mind. The face looking at him now is a complete copy of Dahlia, his fifth wife during his life as Magnus.

Nebula froze in place, unsure of what had just happened.

She was doing her best, going as far as killing hundreds of Klaus'es who weren't any weaker than a Peak Chaos stage warrior.

However, out of nowhere, Klaus appeared, took her bow, which for some reason she wasn't able to summon back from him.

It was like the moment the bow entered Klaus's hand, it became his, and as such, she couldn't unsummon it back to her soul sea or summon it straight from Klaus's grip.

Aside from that, she also heard a name she had never heard before; however, for some reason, when she heard the name, her body froze in place, and staring Klaus straight in the face even made her start to forget who she was.

Klaus, on the other hand, turned away from her and looked at the bow in his grip for a few seconds before putting it away.

“You are done for the day.”

With a wave of his hand, he sent Nebula into the Demon Bead, appearing atop the mountain where the Monarch of Despair was currently cultivating.

“If you make any sudden moves, they will kill you, so be a good girl and relax there. After the battle is over, I will let you out.” Klaus’s voice entered her head, forcing her to turn and look at the figure sitting in a lotus posture.

When she sensed the Peak Domain stage cultivation of the Monarch of Despair, she went pale and took a couple of steps back, jumping down from the peak even.

Her instincts told her to run away, and she did. She moved far back, praying Klaus would come get her as early as possible.

The Monarch of Despair smiled when he saw this.

Although he was cultivating, as someone who had reached the domain stage, his innate domain had already reached a remarkably powerful level.

Therefore, despite being deeply immersed in his cultivation, he saw everything, and the sight of the lady running out of fear was something he enjoyed. After all, he is the Monarch of Despair.

Back on the battlefield, Klaus looked deep into the fight and smiled.

His side was winning, and now that Nebula had been taken off the board, he could sense the main monster army approaching.

“It is time,” he waved his hand, and the five Overlords of the sea appeared.

“This is your domain; use it to end the battle in the next two hours.”

They nodded and dove into battle.

Klaus examined how his friends were doing, but upon seeing them kick ass, he smiled and turned to the Black Panther.

“How are we doing, Prince Challa?” Klaus asked with a smile.

Prince Challa turned and looked at him before turning back to his opponent. “He is still lacking, but since he is being a good sport, I guess I will play around with him for a bit.”

Klaus laughed. “In that case, have fun. I will be off to go handle the old King and the last remaining members of his army.”

“See you later. And, well, don’t die.”

“Not planning on it, Mr. Panther.”

Klaus used the Void Step to move, and soon, he was deep into the battle.

He ignored all the chaos around him and moved again, appearing beside his uncles and Abyss, who were the closest to the gateway leading to the Abyssal Trench.

With one last step, he entered the gateway and appeared in a waterless world, one where the space seemed like a different world altogether.

Klaus, however, didn't have the time to admire the place since the moment he appeared there, he was greeted by a lineup of thousands of Chaos stage monsters, each a powerhouse on its own.

Standing at the back was King Kordax, looking more terrifying than any of the monsters in the space.

Skroll also appeared from the shadows and locked gazes with Klaus.

"Looks like you were expecting me."

"You are Klaus Hanson," King Kordax said instead of answering the question.

"It appears you also know me. And yes, I am Klaus Hanson."

King Kordax turned and looked at Skroll. "Do it."

Skroll nodded and formed a hand seal. Immediately, the portal leading back to the surface world was closed, locking everyone in.

"Since you are here, you won't be going back again. I know Nebula failed to kill you, not that I was expecting anything from her. But you made one mistake, and that was coming here."

Skroll moved forward and formed another seal, creating a formation in the air. Suddenly, Klaus was encased in a rather powerful formation connected to the life force of the thousands of Chaos stage monsters.

"Oh, you guys really prepared well," Klaus smiled and then turned to his left, meeting the gaze of the same man he had sensed before the start of the battle.

There were no words spoken, but he received the confirmation he needed, so he turned back to Skroll.

“Is this formation meant to kill me?” Klaus asked.

“No, but it will hold you long enough for the true massacre to happen on the surface.”

Klaus raised his brow.

“You think this can hold me, really?”

“I know it can’t hold you because, unlike everyone here, I know more about you, and that was why I made this formation.

It has cut off your teleportation ability, so getting back to save the civilians will be hard.” Skroll smiled evilly.

“Your mother is at Moonville, right? I suppose the massacre will start there, then it will spread to Ross City, Arcadian City, Hiroshi City, and the rest.

When it is done, it will move to the other parts, and trust me, by the time you manage to get back, the deed will already be done.”

Moments like this, Klaus was supposed to panic and think of ways to break the formation and escape. However, instead of doing that, Klaus stepped gently on the ground, and a diamond throne appeared.

He sat down and took out a soft drink.

“I am hungry. Is anyone else hungry?” Klaus said, offering the drink to Skroll and King Kordax with a mocking smile on his face.

“I guess nobody wants to drink. That said, this is the time for you to get back to the surface world because if you really think Hunter Duncan and his group of nobodies have what it takes to carry out your elaborate plan to kill my mother and in-laws, then you have another thing coming.”

Skroll's face turned pale when Klaus named Hunter as the person he was counting on. And indeed, he was counting on Hunter and his cohort, who sided with the darkness

"What, you really think I wouldn't know it was you who hired the Dark Order to try to kill me and even went as far as sending the legacy families and Great Clans after me?"

I have long planned for the day I would meet you, and now that we are face to face, I can kill you in the most agonizing way possible... You too, King Kordax."

Chapter 963: Earth vs The Sea (4)

While Klaus was seated, drinking his fruit juice, the battle outside grew even more chaotic.

With Jane disrupting the enemy's formation, they were not having as good a time as they had hoped.

Meanwhile, somewhere on Earth, a mountain exploded, and eight coffins emerged.

These were the coffins in which Hunter Duncan and his cohort had undergone their transformation over the past months.

They wanted to surpass Klaus so badly that, over the past few months, they had been undergoing an unnatural transformation—one aimed at giving them what they desired.

Of course they wanted one thing and that is to end Klaus's existence.

As the coffins emerged, they opened, and from within, eight people rose to their feet, each surrounded by a rather potent energy.

"We are back," Hunter said, looking around to see where they were. Upon seeing his sisters and brothers, he sighed and then examined himself.

He had reached the peak of the Void stage.

All of them were at the Void stage, but only he was at the peak.

"We are back," they all said, smiling, knowing they had become much stronger.

"Klaus Hanson, soon you will feel what it is like to lose everything." A skull tattoo that had appeared on Hunter's forehead lit up as he spoke.

He clenched his fist feeling the energy wash through his body.

"Don't worry, brother, we will make him bleed," Kate Duncan said. She perhaps wanted Klaus dead more than anyone for tainted or not, the heavens still look favourable upon her.

However, before they could say anything further, the space around them changed.

They were supposed to be standing inside the coffin, plotting how they would kill Klaus's mother just to get back at Klaus, however, now they were inside a large space filled with towering statues.

"Where are we?" Max Duncan asked, taking out his bow. The rest also drew their weapons, ready for battle.

"Ladies and gentlemen, glad to have you all here." Suddenly, a voice filled the space, making them start to look around.

"Who is there?" Hunter asked, looking more intently to see if he could sense the presence.

"No need to look around. Klaus Hanson sent me," the voice spoke again. "He sends his greetings, and he said I should tell you that he is terribly sorry he couldn't make it here in person. He asks me to tell you all to look into your hearts and forgive him for that.

However, he also gave me the authority to do with you eight as I see fit, and since I am someone who loves to play chess, I hereby invite you all into my chess game."

The anger in the eyes of all eight intensified even further upon hearing Klaus's name. However, they all became alert the next second when all 16 statues came to life.

There was one King, one Queen, two Rooks, two Knights, two Bishops, and eight Pawns. Upon closer examination, each was at a different power level.

The Pawns radiated an aura of Peak Tier 10 (Ascendant), and the Bishops and Rooks radiated the aura of level 6 and below Void stage (Tier 11).

However, the Knights were on the same level as Hunter. The King and Queen were already at the Chaos stage, so the moment they came to life, Hunter and his team felt the pressure.

"Welcome to my chess world. The rules are simple: kill my players, and you will live. However, if you die, you will become part of my chess game forever.

Of course, I recommend you die because, at least, you will get to stay in the same place with your brothers and sisters. As I grow older, I believe you will all become stronger in serving me better.

That said, I will make my move now."

Outside, Nas, Anna, and Lucy's scholar brother moved his pawns on his chessboard. Inside the chess world, the eight pawns moved, and a battle that Hunter and his cohort had never planned for had started.

"Show off."

Cynthia Ross smirked, looking at her son, who, after absorbing Klaus's blood, had become something akin to an ancient Chinese sage.

He wore a pair of robes, and the way he started talking after his transformation was sage-like. However, that wasn't the best thing that had happened to him.

While his brothers, Max and Luke, had become powerful warriors, Nas, who nobody gave much attention to, awakened a class that made him a dangerous individual.

Even Klaus was taken aback when he heard the class Nas had awakened.

However, he was impressed and very happy to have yet another Chess Master on his side. With the ability to trap up to two realms above him inside his chessboard, he was the right man for the job.

It was Cynthia who learned about the mysterious man who wanted Klaus dead. So before going on the mission, Klaus deployed Nas and Cynthia to come handle Hunter's team.

Of course, he knew that with Nas alone, trapping even a Chaos Stage being wouldn't be a problem. However, for the sake of safety, the mother and son arrived and waited patiently for Hunter and his team to emerge.

Skroll had planned well, but he was still several steps behind.

Having 68 working brains isn't for show. Klaus had already calculated many dangers that could emerge from anywhere.

Therefore, he established several layers of safety protocols to manage them all.

His mother was perfectly safe.

With Pickle Berry's mother currently at the Ascension stage and Asha's four Ant Queens all at the peak of the Chaos stage, not even a team of three Ascension stage warriors could get to her.

Now, all hopes of the Ancient Sea race reaching Klaus's mother were lost for good.

After fifteen minutes of intense battle inside the chess world, all eight tainted humans. They simply weren't prepared for the odd Nas presented, and so they succumbed and became part of his chess world.

"I suppose we are done here," Nas said, looking at his mother.

"I guess so. It's just too bad Klaus didn't want us on the main battlefield," Cynthia smiled weakly.

"Let's go home, mother. Sometimes you just have to be content with what you are given and let nature run its course. Klaus saw our potential, which is why he assigned us these missions. We have to respect that."

"Tch, no need to give me one of your teachings, Nas. I am the mother here."

Nas just smiled and started walking away. The coffins had already been taken to Cynthia's shadow domain, so whatever trick Skroll might have had up his sleeve was cut off.

Naturally, Skroll sensed what had happened the moment the last of his backup plan died.

"Hahahaha..." Klaus laughed. "You should see your face at the moment. It looks like someone who just realized he is fucked."

"Naturally, you are fucked. You see, one of the biggest mistakes a person can ever make in this life is locking both me and themselves inside and allowing me to relax for two minutes."

Klaus snapped his fingers, and a formation opened, rising to the sky. "Now, we are both perfectly sealed in this place, and the only way out for either of us is if you kill me, or I kill you."

Klaus stood up and smiled. "But let's both be frank—killing me is not an option, and you all aren't going to drop dead either, so there is only one fix, and that is to fight it out.

However, that will be very hard to accomplish because, well, I just realized I am much stronger than I expected. So I have an offer."

Klaus flew up and stopped right below the formation...

## Chapter 964: Earth vs The Sea (5)

Before the battle, Klaus was expecting an intense fight—one where his side would have to do everything they could to win. However, he was shocked when that didn't happen.

In fact, it was after observing the first ten minutes of the battle that he finally understood something the senior had always been telling him.

He told Klaus his strength alone wasn't enough. The strength of his friends, loved ones, and team was the only way he could win all the battles that would befall the earth.

Now, Klaus saw what he meant, and that alone gave him the freedom to casually walk into the Abyssal Trench to face an Ancient King and his right-hand man without worrying about his team on the outside.

"The offer is simple: Hand over the trident, and I will make sure your death isn't as painful as I initially planned. Refuse, and I will ensure you go through a world of pain."

Klaus gently tapped the formation with his index finger, and like glass, it shattered, pushing the chaos-stage monster powering it back. Some even died from the backlash.

"So what do you say, King Kordax?"

"Kill him."

The order was absolute as all chaos-stage monsters lunged at Klaus, ready to break him into several parts.

"Futile."

Klaus smiled and then waved his hand, unleashing thousands of spirit weapons. The monsters came to a halt when the weapons appeared, casting a dark shadow over the sky.

"Told ya."

With a gesture, the weapons moved at a speed that most monsters noticed only while their bodies were shutting down.

It all happened in an instant, but all thousand-plus Chaos-stage beings died.

But Klaus didn't allow them to rest in peace. He waved his hand, and his Devouring Ice consumed them, devouring their bodies and sending the energy into his cores.

Now that his cores had turned into stars, the moment the energies entered them, Klaus felt his strength soaring.

'After devouring the thousands of sea beasts I killed during my hunt and these losers, my 5th core has formed. I am sure after devouring the bodies on the outside, I will be close to the void stage.'

Klaus smiled and put the spirit weapons away.

Both King Kordax and Skroll took several steps back, looking at Klaus as if he were some form of demon. Killing thousands of chaos-stage monsters in under a second, most certainly wasn't something they saw coming.

It scared hell out of them.

"Hahahahaha..." Suddenly, laughter filled the space as a figure emerged from the trident in King Atlan's hand and flew toward Klaus.

'A soul body,' Klaus thought, feeling his body grow tense as he saw King Atlan move toward him. However, he made no sudden moves, for he could sense something that none of the people around could sense.

'A Domain Lord,' Klaus thought to himself as King Atlan's soul body stopped before him.

With his past life experiences, he recognised the danger standing before him, so he placed all his focus on King Atlan, ready to make his move.

However, that didn't happen.

"Lord Paragon, your humble servant pays his respect." Klaus, who wasn't expecting King Atlan to go on his knees, was left stunned.

He didn't even know what to do.

The person before him was a Domain Lord, someone who had reached the Domain stage and possessed an active domain—something every warrior would kill to possess.

So, for a Domain Lord to be kneeling before him, he was simply not ready for that.

However, he knew he had to do something. So, Klaus gestured for him to stand up.

King Atlan smiled. "The Lord may not recall me yet, but many years ago, you gave me a mission to seal this place. I did, and now that the Lord is awake, I can finally rest."

"So you are not actually alive?" Klaus asked, and King Atlan nodded in response.

"Yes. I am not alive with this soul body. This is my secondary soul; the Lord helped me form it just for this mission. My true body and true soul are currently asleep somewhere in the universe.

So until this one dies, I can't wake up in my true body."

"I see," Klaus understood the situation he was in. But then he turned and looked at King Kordax. "How about him? I don't suppose, with your Domain stage strength, you kept him alive because you couldn't kill him."

"As expected of the Lord, he can even see through me," King Atlan laughed. "Kordax is just a pawn in the reason why I am here."

King Atlan waved his hand, and a path opened on one side of the space they were in. Then, from the path that opened, a box flew out and hovered before him.

"The formation requires active life to remain active, so I sealed him and his followers here to keep the contents of this box safe. My mission is to protect the box, and that is what I did. Kordax is just a greedy idiot who couldn't even realize when he was being manipulated."

"So the war that happened many years ago was all part of the plan," Klaus asked, unsure if he liked using innocent people to protect just a box.

King Atlan, however, laughed.

'He seemed to do a lot of laughing,' Klaus said to himself, but chose not to voice his thoughts.

"That battle indeed happened, but it wasn't against real people. In fact, the main Sea Race had long left this world thanks to the Lord.

The one they fought against was my domain, and the Trident of Darkness was something I planted to make things look convincing.

I learned all this from the Lord."

Klaus smiled, knowing the plan King Atlan used was indeed ruthless to King Kordax, but then again, he understood why.

"You protected the water people all these years, right? You went through all this for them, right?"

"Yes, I did. However, they weren't in danger to begin with, so I merely took care of their future problem. The primary mission was to safeguard the contents of this box.

Kordax was always greedy from the start, so when I had the chance, I used him and his followers as the energy source."

"I guess you did a rather good job, and knowing your main body is out there, I will be sure to reward you when we meet."

King Atlan smiled. "I will be happy to receive the Lord's reward."

Klaus nodded and turned to King Kordax and Skroll.

Klaus smirked and said, "I suppose you guys are now boring." He had lost the enthusiasm he had come with. Now, all he wanted was to wait for the battle to end, devour the bodies, and check what was hidden in the box.

"They are all yours," Klaus said, turning to his left. A second later, an invisible force wrapped around King Kordax and Skroll and pulled them away.

"You can keep the trident. When you are done devouring them, come see me."

Klaus turned to King Atlan. "Let's talk more when we get back." Klaus summoned his bow and unleashed a powerful strike, shattering the void. He and King Atlan moved, and soon they were back on the surface.

The first thing he saw was Prince Challa sinking his panther claws into Arwan's chest.

On one side, Abyss was firing bullets like his life depended on it. Every last bullet fired found its mark. Then there was Lulu, who had tens of thousands of swords hovering in the air.

The formation was only 8% done, but even so, she already had thousands of swords in the air, which shows she was growing much stronger.

"Looks like your team is much more capable than most," King Atlan said. Klaus smiled.

"They are indeed capable. At this rate, they will be done in the next thirty minutes. Let's go." Klaus and King Atlan flew through the clouds and soon were inside the spaceship.

Chapter 965: First Success

A few minutes after Klaus returned to the surface, the black panther killed Arwan by clawing his heart out.

It was brutal, but he got the job done, which was the most important thing.

Though it took some time before he killed Arwan, in the end, he managed to bring down a major threat.

The main reason he wasted that much time before killing Arwan was due to the fact that he wanted to test his strength after the bloodline awakening.

Having the blood of a goddess flowing through his veins made him feel invincible. So he went against a level 4 Ascension stage warrior to test his strength, and he prevailed, sustaining only minor injuries.

He turned and looked at the large, chaotic battle still raging on, and a smile formed on his lips.

As he looked at the teams from the Bast Race handling their own, he felt a surge of pride.

Of course, he also saw what Klaus's side of the team was doing, and the only logical explanation whatsoever was to just ask later.

He couldn't understand how his people ever thought the humans were weak and that they could suppress them. It was an eye-opener, and as such he saw a much brighter future for everyone.

He jumped back into the fray and started slaughtering the monsters like everyone was doing. Twenty-six minutes later, the last beast was dead, turning the sea red.

Cheers rang out as everyone started celebrating.

Even the injured were all celebrating, making Klaus, who was inside the spaceship, smile.

"Jane, how many casualties have we sustained?" Klaus asked, but Jane just smiled and answered,

"None, big brother."

"What?"

Even King Atlan was taken aback, hearing that no casualties had occurred in such a chaotic battle.

The battle was a big one, and while they had the advantage, Klaus knew that in a battle like this, there would be casualties.

He was prepared for that, for he knew it was inevitable.

However, he was now shocked by hearing the opposite of what he had expected.

"How?" Klaus asked, and Jane only continued to smile as she pointed to a mark on the Star Map.

"Big sister Lucy was the reason. Many came close to death, but with her standing, they were all saved. Her healing abilities had skyrocketed after the Plant Race acknowledged her as their queen."

Jane waved her hand, and the scene of the battlefield appeared for Klaus and King Atlan to see.

"Who are these green people?" Klaus asked, looking at green-skinned humanoids.

"They are the Plant Race. While you were busy hunting the sea creatures, Big sister Lucy went to the Amazon, where the Plant Race kingdom is.

They welcomed her and performed some weird ceremony, officially crowning her as their queen. The moment they recognized her, she gained many abilities she planned on showing off to you.

Too bad you didn't pay attention during the battle," Jane stuck out her tongue, teasing Klaus.

"The green-skinned people are the best healers in the world, and there are thousands of them. Big sister Lucy just brought this hundred for this battle, while the rest wait for her back in the Plant Kingdom."

Klaus raised his brow.

"I feel like I am dropping spoilers here, Big Brother. Maybe big sister Lucy should tell you the rest." Jane laughed and brought the scene back to the spaceship.

"This is crazy. To think she had this much strength under her," Klaus was so impressed and shocked that he failed to pay attention to King Atlan.

But when he did, he saw he was pale. Of course, as a soul body, paleness is part of them, but he could tell the king was in shock.

"Everything okay?" Klaus asked, snapping King Atlan out of his daze.

"I am fine, my lord. It was just that I realized something, and if my theory is right, you should probably pay more attention to this, Big sister Lucy."

King Atlan sighed and then waved his hand, projecting a battlefield.

'Having a domain is the best. The deeper your understanding of conceptualization, the more powerful your domain becomes.'

Klaus focused on the battlefield that appeared thanks to King Atlan's domain.

He saw green people with red eyes slaughtering masses. The moment the bodies hit the floor, they were drained of energy. It was brutal to watch.

In less than an hour or so, Klaus saw a pile of drained bodies littered on the battlefield, with the green people looking even hungrier than ever.

"This is the Sylvan race, and if I am not wrong, the lady this young girl spoke about is also a Sylvan. I know what I am about to say will haunt me when I wake up in my main body, but you must know something very critical, my lord.

Many years ago, there was the Asura race that dominated every other race, including the Dragons and the Angels.

They were heralded as the strongest race in existence back then. However, after they vanished, everyone forgot about them. Those who still do branded them as evil.

However, another race emerged years after the Asura. They were known as the Sylvanians. They are natural healers. However, they can be killers too.

I don't know the technicalities that go into that, but I know that how the Sylvan turns out will all depend on their queen.

However, the moment they pick a side, they can never return to their true self again.

What had just happened was a show of their healing side, and just as they saved all these people, they can just as easily kill them.

Now, as to what this means.

The Sylvan are the enemies of the universe. They were hunted down before, and they will be hunted down again.

So it is up to your lady to decide whether to make them healers or killers. If you make them healers, then be prepared to become a killer, my lord, for when their enemies come, you will be the one doing the killing.

But if you make them killers, then your peaceful days will be over, and while I don't want to put karma back on this world, the moment they become killers, their enemies will know.

But if they grow, then you will know peace, for they will become terrifying killers."

Klaus smiled, hearing something he never knew he had in his world.

Just a few Sylvans managed to save thousands of warriors. What then would happen if thousands of them appeared on the battlefield?

Klaus could already see a window open for them, and soon, he could see a big door open up for them.

But then again, there was the killing part of them that, as a warrior with powerful enemies, he knew could benefit from them.

He saw what they did on the battlefield in the projection, and that alone gave him all he had to know about the dark side of Lucy and her people.

If he made them killers, he would have to be prepared to face not only the heavens, but a universe full of billions of races.

It would be like inviting more trouble when there was already more than enough trouble yet to be handled.

"Thanks for telling me this. I will have a good conversation with Lucy when all this is over." Klaus vanished and appeared over the battlefield.

"Do it, Jeje." The Ascendant stage seahorse he brought from the cube nodded and transformed into his true beast form.

His body glowed, then with a sudden jump, the wave pushed the water back, revealing thousands of monster bodies and cores.

Klaus extended his hand and gently muttered, "Devour."

His devouring ice spread across the battlefield, and within minutes, every last monster was devoured, leaving no trace behind.

Everyone was left stunned, but Klaus just smiled, "Good job, everyone. Let's go back and celebrate this win."

Chapter 966: Learning About The Universe

The moment Klaus absorbed the bodies of the monsters, his cultivation shot up from level 4 to level 8, Ascendant stage, leaving him only a step from becoming a Void stage warrior.

"This feels good, but I am still lacking. I must become a Void stage warrior before the awakening."

Klaus sighed before staring at everyone.

"Good job, everyone. Let's go back and celebrate this win."

They could only nod and then started to retreat to the mainland.

Klaus waited for all of them to move away before flying back to the cloud. He entered the spaceship and soon left the sea behind.

When he was gone, the lady who had visited the five overlords of the sea appeared again. She looked at the blood-soaked red, and a smile formed on her lips.

"It is almost time. Are you ready?" she muttered, looking into the distance where Klaus and his team had retreated.

She stayed behind for a couple of seconds before she vanished.

Klaus and his team returned to Dream City, a new city that Ohema's company was constructing. It used to belong to the Savage zombies, but now that they were no more, Ohema saw it best to build a city there.

The mood in the city was one filled with cheers and happiness.

Both the humans and the Bast race started celebrating their win.

Jane even joined them in the celebration, for this was her first big celebration with humans after growing up around zombies that wanted to eat her at any moment.

Meanwhile, far away from Earth, Klaus was speeding away with King Atlan in the spaceship.

With the new upgrades in place, the speed had increased tremendously. Also, the void drive was now recharging every 30 minutes, with a 350,000-mile jump every time.

"So, where is your body currently?" Klaus asked after checking with the AI agent that everything was normal.

"I will be somewhere in the Sea Universe." King Atlan replied, and Klaus nodded.

"And how strong were you before forming the secondary soul?"

"Before this mission, I was nearing the Immortal King stage. But after many years asleep, I am sure I would have already regressed to the Early Immortal stage."

"I see." Klaus nodded again with a thoughtful expression.

The same thing happened to Nyxthar and the doom guards. They were powerful beings before the Eternal Sleep. But after thousands, perhaps millions, of years passed, they all regressed.

So it wasn't too weird to hear King Atlan had long regressed and might not even be an immortal anymore when he wakes up.

"My Lord, if you have anything you want done, you can let me know. Even if I don't have the means to get it done, I will probably have many immortals running to help if they knew it was an order from you."

Klaus smiled. Being called lord felt weird, but after many failed attempts to make King Atlan call him by his name, he could only accept it.

"It is just that some very important people dear to me will be making their way to the human universe soon. I would appreciate it if you could look for them and point them in the right direction.

They are heading toward Earth, but they don't actually know its location. I managed to get them a general idea, but having a more narrow direction will go a long way."

Klaus sighed, "I don't know when they will get there, but I know they are on their way here."

"If you don't mind me asking, are they related to you by blood?"

"Yes."

"Then don't worry, my lord. Finding them will be easy... I happen to know someone for the job."

Yet again, Klaus raised his brow, "You do?"

"Yes. Long ago, a scholar who enjoys history became fascinated by the concept of paragons, so he began researching them. One thing led to another, and he found me.

I asked how he managed to locate me, and he said he can track those who have blood affiliation to a paragon.

I nearly killed him, but I later found out he was also related to you. I don't know how, but he shared your blood, and so I know if he is still out there, which I know he will be, I will find him, and knowing him, he will be more than happy to help."

Klaus didn't know what to think. The idea of sharing blood relations with someone out there he wasn't even aware of was just too much to take in.

But he had his suspicions, and one of them was that this mysterious person must be related to the Star Monarch bloodline.

He knew for a fact he had not given birth in any of the lives he had lived, so having descendants wasn't one of them.

The second theory was that, in a way, the Asura race he created and thought extinct still live. Though it was less likely, he didn't want to wipe that idea from his mind.

So for now, he could only hope.

"The one that will be arriving is a dragon. She is very arrogant, and knowing her, she is probably angry at the moment, so I apologize for her arrogance in advance," Klaus laughed.

Thyra, his dragon Paragon guard, was the true definition of arrogance, so he knew she would cause trouble when she started having trouble finding what she was looking for now that Yuying was asleep.

"I will keep that in mind." King Atlan also laughed.

"Now, tell me more about the universe."

King smiled and began to tell Klaus what he knew from before he came on this mission. The ship was zipping through space like a beam.

"The universe is vast. Before my mission, I had visited the human part of the universe frequently. Of course, we call it the human universe because the several galaxies in it are regarded as one big universe.

There are many powerful people hidden within them, with the most impressive of them all being the Supreme Humans.

In fact, the Supreme Court is among the powerful royal families in the universe. I have met a few of them, but while I can claim to be powerful, they are on another level.

The Celestial Emperor is the strongest in the human universe, and on the other side of the universe. There are other Celestial Emperors in the other universes.

However, among all Celestial Emperors, it is the Angel Celestial Emperor who is the strongest. Naturally, the strongest race before I came on the mission was the Angel race.

I also know of the dragons, but they are too arrogant, so I never dare go there for fear that they will crush me to pulp." King Atlan laughed.

"The universe is chaotic, and the only way to survive is to grow stronger. One day you will find your way there, and you will see firsthand how dangerous the universe can be and what you must do to survive."

"So, who is the strongest?" Klaus asked.

"The Supreme Celestial, leader of the Heavens Cult and the true enemy of any paragon who has ever lived. It would be best if you could ignore him for as long as you can.

Trust me, the Heaven's Cult is no enemy you are prepared for.

Also, the Devil Faction is one of your enemies. But they are manageable since they don't have anything that can put you down for good, or so they make everyone believe.

That said, it will be best if you don't reveal your true self immediately upon appearing in the universe."

"Don't worry, King Atlan, I have lived long enough to know how to play ball with those idiots."

King Atlan nodded and continued to share more about the universe with Klaus, drawing on memories from several years ago.

Ten hours later, the ship arrived on Mars.

Chapter 967: Goodbyes

The spaceship landed on the red planet, Mars, ending the dust flying into the air.

Klaus and King Atlan stepped out.

"This place never gets old," King Atlan said, looking around. "Looks like you have already discovered the minerals here, my Lord."

Klaus nodded. "I will be using them for weapons for the upcoming awakening."

King Atlan nodded. "Knowing you, I should pity the heavens."

They both laughed.

Klaus was happy to be talking to someone from his past. He was always this happy when talking with the doom guards. They always knew something to say from his past life, just to cheer him up, or when Klaus was planning something.

At most, they always said the good things, which, to Klaus, was enough to tell him he was happy, like he knew he was back in his 4th incarnation.

The only thing he missed sometimes was the fact that he hadn't done anything yet that he could say would be forever remembered in the years to come.

Of course, he had created an army of dangerous humans and beasts, but he hadn't done something impressive yet.

Perhaps this was what they called an inferiority complex, because to Klaus, his first incarnation had created the Asura race, the strongest race to have ever walked the face of the universe.

That was an impressive feat.

He knew that, and even the heavens acknowledged the Asura race as dangerous.

Then, from what he knew, his 7th incarnation was able to make the heavens cry blood. He had already met Magnus and saw firsthand the kind of person he was.

Then there was his 8th incarnation, who defied the heavens and thwarted their plan that had been in motion for billions of years.

Then came Efad, who wielded the Star Monarch Bloodline and had created thousands of Supreme Beasts, each a power to have on the battlefield.

All he had done so far was ride on the fame of his past incarnations.

Klaus wanted to do something impressive, and so hearing all about his past was making him start to see that there was something different he could do, and as someone who wanted to defeat the heavens this time, he was already making plans, and he knew one of these days his plans would bear fruit.

But for now, he could only listen to his impressive past.

"So, what was my name back when I made you my subordinate?" Klaus asked, and King Atlan smiled.

"They called you the Star Monarch. Some also called you the Overlord of Beasts. But your known title was Paragon of Beasts and Monsters.

You were loved by all monsters and beasts."

"I see. I suppose that only makes sense since my bloodline was made to help beasts reach the best versions of themselves."

King Atlan nodded.

"The lord also has to know that one of these days, when you appear in the beast universe, they will all take you as their leader. However, the lord must also know that not all beasts will take kindly to you.

After all, you are a paragon."

"Let's not think that far. For now, just tell me all there is to know before you leave."

They found a place and sat down.

Hours later, King Atlan had exhausted all he had to say, so it was time for him to leave.

"The method is simple. Instead of dying and allowing my soul to drift into the unknown, I will grant my lord access to my soul so you can absorb my soul energy.

It should be enough to give you the push you need to break through and even improve your soul to some degree.

And my lord, you shouldn't worry. This soul is just a secondary one, so I won't be affected in my true body."

"I will be sure to reward you one of these days," Klaus said, knowing this was indeed the fastest way for him to break through.

King Atlan sat down and gestured for Klaus to do the same. He did, and soon they were facing each other.

"I will start now." King Atlan formed a hand seal, and a diagram appeared on the ground. The moment it appeared, Klaus felt his soul form a connection to a much more powerful one.

"This—" Inside Klaus's soul sea, the nine doors glowed, and then a projection of stars appeared in them. On Klaus's back, too, all nine star tattoos lit up, making him feel nine connections formed.

"I am a domain stage cultivator, but my soul is actually much stronger than that, so this will take at least an hour or more." King Atlan formed another seal.

This time, Klaus felt a foreign energy start entering his body.

All of a sudden, his strength surged.

"Looks like it will end much faster than I expected," King Atlan smiled. Klaus's absorption rate is much faster than that of ordinary folk.

With just a few minutes, King Atlan started to fade...

"Looks like I will be gone soon enough. But don't worry, my lord, the heavens will do what they can to make you give up, but if you manage to overcome them, your legacy will become one they will fear yet again."

A smile appeared on his face.

"If you don't make it to the universe 10 years from now, I will come looking for you. That said, you must remember this. The heavens will play dirty, so don't hesitate to make them wish they never met you."

"I will take that to heart, King Atlan. That said, I will come to you in less than five years, so prepare a good buffet for me. I am a heavy eater, you see."

"I will be sure to welcome the lord with open arms. Until then, see you later, Lord Paragon." With a smile on his face, the last of his energy was absorbed by Klaus.

"See you later, King Atlan." The heavens shuddered, and the clouds started forming, signaling the arrival of the heavenly tribulation.

Klaus looked up and smirked. "Looks like they brought the big guns this time."

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[Sea Universe - Planet Atlantis - Thal'Aquor - Grand Immortal Cave]

Planet Atlantis is a water planet, with 90% of its surface covered by water. Thal'Aquor is their capital city and home to Sea Beasts and sea humans.

The 10% land is where trade happens, and most sea people who choose to live on land reside there.

Deep under the ocean, inside a lush palace where even the guards are early-stage immortals, alarms started blaring, causing more immortals and even demigods to rush toward the location of the alarm.

**BOOM**

A sudden explosion of energy blasted out of an immortal cave, causing everyone to halt. Standing at the front was a demigod who looked human but was perfectly breathing in the water, showing he was also an Atlantean.

Behind him were thousands of warriors, each ready for battle.

Suddenly, King Atlan, clad in a royal robe, walked out of the cave exuding the aura of royalty.

Every last general went down on their knees when they saw him.

"Long live the King, Master of the Ocean," they chanted, filling the sea with energy. King Atlan, who had regressed to the Early Immortal stage, nodded with a smile.

"Glad to see you all again." He was indeed happy to be back.

"Send orders to all sea kingdoms in the Aqua Star system. They are to convene here a year from today for an urgent meeting."

With nothing else, he walked back to his cave. The soldiers began sending messages as the demigod moved into the immortal cave to have a talk with King Atlan.

Chapter 968: Heaven's Descent

Klaus stood tall, looking at the cloud formation.

This time, even without appearing, he could feel the danger building.

"I guess they don't want me to reach the Void stage," Klaus laughed, activating his living armor. It wrapped around his body, becoming a red and black leather armor.

It extended into a partial helmet that only covered his neck and some parts of his head before forming two horns that appeared on his forehead.

"Too bad I prepared for this," Klaus said, taking out his saber and allowing the Lightning Source Diagram to appear behind him.

A few minutes into the formation process, Klaus saw something move within the cloud.

[Brat, listen to me very well. This tribulation is called Heaven's Descent. It has just three forms; however, each form is made up of challenges aimed at breaking you.

You must protect your mind, soul, and body, and under no circumstances should you spare anything that comes against you.

Trust me, you will face some weird stuff, but don't hold back.]

The senior who had been quiet for weeks now spoke, and Klaus nodded. "Don't worry, senior, I am prepared for them this time too."

Klaus kept staring at the clouds for the next few minutes before the first level appeared.

Klaus, who was standing on the red soil, suddenly found himself standing on a grassy field surrounded by thousands of knights riding battle horses.

[This is the first level called "The Never Ending Battle." You are required to kill and keep killing till the heavens deem it enough.]

Without Klaus even having a moment to adjust, the knights moved.

"Sages," Klaus smirked and stamped hard on the ground, causing a lightning field to burst from under his foot, spreading everywhere.

The advancing knights were all turned into tribulation runes and absorbed into the body by Klaus. However, things didn't end there.

The next batch of knights charged at Klaus, but using the same method, he killed them all. Then came the third, fourth, and fifth waves. Eventually, Ascendant stage knights came, but using the same process, he killed them all.

"Losers, they never learn," Klaus scoffed, looking at the Void stage knights appear. This time, he raised his sword, and the Lightning Source Diagram flew into the air.

The source diagram expanded, and soon, it created a diameter of 12 km, filling the space Klaus was in. With a snap of his finger, the lightning surge from within the large ring devoured all the knights.

'After reaching the Ascendant stage, I was able to awaken the first form of the Lightning Source Diagram. Now, I can devour anyone I want using the lightning stored inside the diagram.'

Klaus smiled, knowing the situation he found himself in now was perfect for the diagram. Instead of using the lightning stored inside it to devour the knights, he was storing more.

It was as if he was invited to add more lightning essence to the Lightning Source Diagram in preparation for the upcoming awakening.

More knights came, but they were all devoured, strengthening the diagram further.

Eventually, Chaos stage knights started appearing. Klaus merely stood there and allowed the diagram to devour them while, with casual swings of his sword, he killed those who managed to get within 10 feet of him.

This process continued for many minutes before suddenly, the space shuddered, and Klaus, who was standing still, suddenly moved to his left, evading a lightning blast.

Turning around, his eyes met a man clad in golden armor holding two swords.

"An Ascension stage," Klaus smiled, "Still weak."

With a smug smile on his face, he moved and appeared 3 feet behind the man.

A second later, the man fell apart, cut vertically.

He turned into tribulation runes, entering Klaus's body.

"Challenge me, losers. Even if you don't have something, at least make me feel something," Klaus taunted the heavens, but this time they didn't fall for it.

After the last of the knights were devoured, he was sent to the next stage of the tribulation.

"Fuck."

Klaus swung his sword to meet a powerful swing from a club coming from a 9-foot-tall giant demon.

"Shameless bastards, they never even allow me to completely appear before attacking," Klaus said as his eyes turned golden. A lightning beam shot from them, drawing two holes in the head of the bulky demon.

The tribulation runes flew into his body, but instead of entering his core, Klaus felt his soul grow stronger.

[This is the Realm of the Soul. Every attack here is backed by a soul attack, so be sure not to be cut, for every cut is a cut on your soul, and more cuts mean more soul wounds.]

Klaus nodded just as a shadow moved, and a panther man appeared, stabbing two daggers at him.

"An illusion."

Klaus exploded lightning from his body, creating a net that blasted apart the panther man who stabbed him with daggers, but caught a second shadow.

"Just die." His body was reduced to tribulation runes the next second.

However, Klaus hadn't had a moment's rest since right after killing the panther; a lightning arrow had arrived before him.

But Klaus activated the Void step, and instead of moving, he allowed the arrow to land on his body. However, the arrow went through him instead of piercing him.

He pointed his sword at the archer, and a beam of ice shot from it, turning the archer into an ice statue.

"This is rather engaging, but I need Ascension stage warriors." Klaus vanished, and like the angel of death, he started killing the warriors challenging him.

After an hour, he had killed over 50,000 warriors, but they kept coming, including the occasional Ascension stage warrior.

After three more hours and over 200,000 kills, they stopped coming.

[Hmm. There is something wrong with this level. From what I know, it was supposed to be only 9,999 warriors and, in some cases, even fewer. So why hundreds of thousands for you?]

'I suppose we both know they are idiots, so they allowed me to get what I wanted before they stopped.'  
Klaus laughed.

[I don't think so, brat. Be prepared, the next level is coming.]

Klaus nodded, then looked up. "Make it fun."

He wasn't done when a palm appeared from the clouds, threatening to force him onto his knees.

[Oh shit, that is the Palm of Judgment. Brat, no matter what, don't go down on your knees. Doing so will mean you failed the tribulation and you will die.]

Klaus's eyes turned red even before the senior spoke. Without the senior's words, Klaus already knew what the heavens wanted.

To Klaus, that was a big insult, one he never expected the heavens to make. However, they did, and so his anger burst out, causing him to look coldly at the descending palm.

"I was planning to go easy on you when I become a god, but due to today's provocation, I will make sure everything you love, down to the last foundation, is destroyed."

The heavens shuddered when Klaus spoke. Then his sword glowed red, and with a powerful swing, a thin arc flashed out from his sword, cleaving through the palm.

"Next time, we shall see who is the one to be on their knees."

The sky cleared, and Klaus sat down. His body was encased in a cocoon formed around him.

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Somewhere far away, a pair of golden eyes opened, radiating immense power. A few seconds after the eyes opened, blood fell from them.

"I have done all I could to help you, brother. The next will depend on whether you are indeed the Paragon of the Nine Stars."

The eyes closed, unsure when they would open again.

Chapter 969: Odyssey Of The Hated One (7)

[Caelmir - Magnus Vs The Great White Shark Monarch - 18 Hours To The Awakening]

"Master, what should we do?" Eryx asked. "Even if we somehow manage to kill the six remaining Monarchs, there are still tens of thousands of Monsters and Beasts. There are even a couple of hundred, perhaps thousands, of beasts already at the Ascension stage."

Magnus sighed, riding on the back of a bone dragon that Asmodeus had summoned. "Let's handle one issue at a time."

Eryx nodded.

On the back of the bone dragon are all three of his undead.

Asmodeus is at the Level 7 Ascension stage and is also a necromancer who is handy with both his spells and sword.

Eryx is at the Level 8 Ascension stage with impeccable combat prowess using his saber. Aside from that, he also has Void Eyes, and that alone makes him someone Magnus was counting on in the upcoming battles.

Alesi is at Level 9, making her the strongest of them all. Her sword skills make her a terrifying opponent, and with the ability to act as both an assassin and a swordsman, she is perfect for close combat and deadly when she is near.

"Asmodeus, you will handle the Unicorn Monarch. Eryx, yours is the Mountain Lightning Panther Monarch, and Alesi, you will take on the Lava Dragon Monarch.

I will go after the Great White Shark Monarch, and hopefully, we will all be able to handle our targets before the 18 hours are over."

"What about us?" Suddenly, Evelyne, Magnus's first wife, asked, riding on the back of a hawk with her four sisters.

"What are you all doing here?" Magnus asked, looking at his five women with a frown.

They just smiled at him, guilt written all over their faces. "We are here to support you, Magnus. You can't just sideline us on such a critical mission."

"But these are the Monarchs—"

Magnus wasn't done with his statement, and all five ladies glared at him with crazy eyes.

"Are you saying we are weak, that we can't handle mere Monarchs?"

Magnus scratched the back of his head, unsure of how to answer that. That answer, of course, was yes. His ladies are not as strong as he is, so the idea of them going against Level 9 Ascension stage beasts who are also Monarchs in the world of Caelmir is just too ridiculous.

"I think the master should allow them," Alesi said, making Magnus sigh.

"Fine. But you all must follow my arrangement and, should you find yourselves unable to handle your target, run. Don't risk your lives."

"We won't risk our lives, Magnus."

"Very well. Evelyne, you and Lene should team up and go after the Blue Beetle Monarch. Ria, Clara, and Dahlia, your target is the Alabaster Goat Monarch. That beast is strange, so be sure to receive a kill confirmation before you lower your guard."

They nodded, and soon, each went their separate ways.

Magnus was the first to reach his target, who is the monarch of the sea.

Far before he even reached the location of the beast, he felt the Great White Shark gaze on him.

The moment he arrived, the sea surged, and a 400-meter-long white shark covered in some metal plates emerged from the bottom of the sea, sending waves of water everywhere.

Magnus took a big swing with his scythe, cutting the water in half, only to be met with a powerful swing of the shark's tail.

Magnus used a movement technique to evade, but was pushed back by the wave that followed the tail swing.

"You are the one who killed one of us two years ago?" the Great White Shark asked, looking back at Magnus.

"I think we both know the answer, so what do you say we go back to me coming here to kill you?" Magnus's eyes turned red, smoky red mist emitting from them.

"You think you have what it takes to kill me?" the shark asked, laughing in the end.

Magnus waited for it to finish laughing, then he replied, "Actually, I have a 90% chance of killing you within a few hours, so why don't we put that to the test?"

His body was covered by a red mist for a few seconds.

When it cleared, Magnus was now clad in red and black leather armor that extended and formed a pair of horns on his forehead. His face also turned pale, but not because he was under pressure or drained of energy.

He had just taken his Vampire form, allowing him to tap into his true power and finally become the Vampire Monarch. The moment the shark sensed his energy, a wave of unease washed through its body.

Magnus moved with his saber, taking a big swing. This time, the space shuddered, and the void cracked open when his attack landed on the shark's tail.

Within five seconds, thousands of attacks filled the sea as Magnus had started a great battle with the shark, who, against all odds, was now trying not to die, for it knew with the emergence of the one true Monarch of Caelmir, its status as a Monarch was shaken.

Away from Magnus's battle, his undead and his wives had also locked in with the other Monarchs, each fighting against time to end the battle and have enough rest before the awakening arrived.

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[12 Hours Later – Battle Status]

It had been 12 hours since the start of the battle between Magnus's team and the six Monarchs; however, none had managed to bring their opponent down.

A little after the 12th hour, Magnus had his big break.

"Sanguine of Blood, Giant Scythe Image."

His scythe turned into a 30-meter-long red scythe that took a big swing, cutting into the colossal body of the shark.

The cut went deep, and before the healing ability of the shark could kick in, Magnus took another swing, this time landing inside the already cut wound, cutting apart some vital organs.

It tried to remain alive, but with three more attacks that followed in succession, the shark fell.

Magnus wasted no time speeding off to his wives. On the way, he received a message from his undead; they had each killed their targets and were also making their way to the ladies.

However, a few minutes away from Evelyne's team, he received a message that they had already taken down their target.

By the 13th hour, every last Monarch was handled, freeing the world of the six great Monarchs. However, the danger was far from over.

Asmodeus summoned a thousand undead beasts, including the Monarchs he had taken as his undead, and they started slaughtering the monsters and beasts in the various forests.

But even so, they both knew it wasn't going to be all, so when it was left with 3 hours before the countdown hit zero, they retreated back to rest.

Magnus used the time to handle a few errands he had in mind, making sure all loose ends were covered.

All over the world, those who thought this awakening was some higher calling were dressed in white, waiting for the countdown to hit zero.

However, when it finally did and the portal opened, fear gripped everyone. But that wasn't all — the forests and seas surged, and all monsters and beasts went berserk for the first time since the start of the apocalypse.

Chapter 970: Odyssey Of The Hated One (8)

[Thirty Minutes Before the Awakening - Magnus and His Team]

Magnus looks at his five ladies and smiles, "You five are to stick together and stay behind Asmodeus. No matter how dangerous the battle gets, never advance."

"Don't worry about us, Magnus, we aren't weak."

"I know that, but just be careful." Magnus then turned to Asmodeus.

"This is your chance to add stronger undead to your legion. Do well to use this chance wisely, and please, don't spare any effort to use your true strength this time.

I want all hands on deck, and with your abilities, I believe we can push back."

Asmodeus smiles and looks at Eryx with a grin, "Hope you heard what the master said. You can now accept that I am better than you."

The one-eyed grim saber just smirked and turned away from Asmodeus. Magnus smiles and focuses on Eryx next.

"Use your bloodline abilities this time, and no matter what, don't let the danger get past you without at least injuring it."

Eryx nodded, then Magnus looked at Alesi.

"I will move with you to the front line."

Alesi was already prepared for battle. She is powerful, and Magnus realizes her strength, so he wants her by his side on the frontlines.

"In the end, we can only do our best, so let's give it our best and hope for the best."

They all nodded and started preparing.

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[Fifteen Minutes Before The Awakening - Magnus's Wives and Magnus's Mom]

"Are you ladies ready?" Magnus's mom asked, already clad in her armor.

"We are, mother. But did Magnus know you would be joining the battle?" Dahlia asked, looking at the beautiful woman now clad in dark armor, wielding a long sword.

She smiled with a chuckle in the end, "Being a seer is just a sub-class, ladies. I may not have shown it, but I am a swordswoman, and battlefields are where I live."

The ladies laughed.

They indeed did not see their mother-in-law as a warrior type. In their eyes, she is too beautiful to be a warrior. However, with her son now going into an unknown battle, she can only take up arms and aid him.

"Are you ladies ready, though?"

The five ladies looked at each other and nodded, "We are ready, mother. Magnus needs our help, so we will do everything in our power to help him."

Magnus's mom smiled, "I am with you ladies, so let's do our best to win this battle at all costs."

They nodded with a smile.

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[Five Minutes Before the Awakening - Magnus vs Klaus]

Magnus left his mansion and flew to a mountain peak, then sat down.

After taking a deep sigh, he spoke, "You can come out."

Klaus, who was observing from a third-person perspective, felt his body move, and then he was seated beside Magnus.

They looked the same. The Magnus Klaus encountered when he first began recalling his memories was more mature. In contrast, this one was of the same generation as Klaus, making them look more like twin brothers.

It was just that Magnus is more handsome and pale.

"Beautiful world," Klaus said, feeling the air around him and looking at the green nature forest spreading far and wide.

"It's indeed a beautiful world. But I hate it," Magnus responded with a sigh. "However, I have to save it because it needs saving."

Klaus chuckled, looking at his seventh incarnation with an amused expression. "If you hate this world, then why didn't you leave? You had the means to leave many years ago, but you stayed. Why was that?"

Magnus didn't respond immediately. He took a few seconds to gather his thoughts. "I suppose I stayed hoping they would come to accept me. However, I suppose I hoped for too much."

Klaus tapped Magnus on the shoulder, squeezing it a little. "You stayed hoping for something that wasn't possible. However, you and I both know that wasn't the reason why you stayed.

So why did you stay?"

As much as Magnus didn't want to say it, he knew he had to because deep within, he knew the reason why he stayed wasn't to hope the world would accept him.

He stayed because of his mother.

The day he awakened his bloodline and class, he saw how his mother's world died, and while he contemplated taking her away, when the world rejected him, he knew his mother wouldn't leave knowing the world she grew up in was dying.

So he stayed to change things. But now, he knew things were much deeper and darker than he had hoped.

Klaus sighed, "You are a Paragon, Magnus. Facing the heavens on a daily basis is what you do. Today is one of those days, so be ready to defy them."

Magnus didn't say anything for a few more minutes before he stood up. He stretched and smiled, "Time to get to work."

At the same moment, the countdown hit zero, and then the world went quiet. Then a large portal opened in the sky, and they started coming out.

Magnus was soon back at his mansion, where his wives and his mother were ready, looking at the portal.

"Looks like it will be a monster battle," Magnus's mother said, and the ladies beside her nodded.

Alarms started blaring as the warriors of Caelmir began assembling. The king may have ignored Magnus's warning to kill the monarchs, but he made sure to at least assemble a part of his army.

Now, facing the onslaught of thousands of monsters, they could only start sounding alarms, alerting the others to take up arms and defend the world.

Magnus observed the portal for a few minutes before turning to his team, "Let's give it our best."

With that order, the battle began.

Magnus and Alesi were the first to reach the battlefield, and so they started killing. Soon, Asmodeus and the others also joined the fray.

It took some more minutes, but the warriors of Caelmir also joined and started defending the world like they should.

The battle quickly took a dangerous turn when the beasts and the monsters in the world started attacking from different directions.

The king and his warriors were quickly reminded of the consequences of not planning before battle.

Thankfully, Asmodeus was a step ahead, so he unleashed the seven Monarchs he had taken as his undead, allowing the warriors to have some breathing room.

However, the portal kept sending more monsters to the point that within three hours, the deaths on both sides were rather staggering.

Magnus was at the front line, his eyes red, armor covering his body, and killing countless monsters every second.

Alesi was also doing her best, but as five hours drew near, the dangers multiplied, and the death toll increased.

By then, Magnus started to sense the danger.

All over the world, the monsters had spilled from the battlefield and started attacking the cities. Many innocents started dying.

Seven hours into the battle, the portal started transporting level 9 Ascension stage monsters over, each a danger beyond one's capabilities. By then, many were growing weary, proving that the impending danger would face little to no resistance.

Magnus knew this, the king and his sages also knew that, and all the warriors on the battlefield also knew that.

However, before all hope was lost, Magnus's mom and his five wives unleashed their power, instantly turning the nature of the battle, tilting the odds in Magnus's favor.