

# The Shining Star Above The Heaven - Chapter 591: Believe in Him[ 1,649 words ]

*Chapter 591: Believe in Him*

Yu Ruomei, who had already known that her son was behind her since earlier, opened her eyes and slightly turned her body to him. She smiled when she saw her son in front of her. Since the Yu family was rebuilt, she had truly been busy with many things, and her time with her son had been greatly reduced. Every time she had a spare moment, she would use it to accompany her son.

She felt that she had truly failed as his mother, as he had to experience all those harsh moments when they were still living in the slum area. Because of her condition at that time, he had unknowingly entered the trap of the Skull of Dual Horns group and been exploited by them. He only wanted to help her, yet he had to do all that dirty work.

She was determined not to let her son experience something like that again. To make sure of that, she would rebuild her family, and even make the Yu family grander than it had been in the past. Now that her family had a direct connection with three great sects, she would take full advantage of it, especially now that Aldrian also had a personal connection to both her and her son.

"What is it, son? This isn't like you. You don't usually come to the Hall of Honour just to meet me," she said softly.

Yu Fenglian looked at his mother and sighed.

"To be honest, these past few days I haven't been able to stop thinking about our fate. I've been worried, about our lives. Can this war really be won? Can Young Master Aldrian truly prevent the destruction of the continent? Can we really survive, Mother?" he said.

Still smiling, Yu Ruomei responded gently.

"Do you doubt Young Master Aldrian, Fenglian?" she asked softly.

Yu Fenglian immediately shook his head.

"No, Mother. I still believe he will save this continent, just like he saved us from our unfortunate fate in the past. I still believe he will bring a miracle."

"There you go. If you believe in him, then keep it that way, and hold on to your optimism. Believe that as long as Young Master Aldrian is alive, he will save this continent, just like he saved us in the past," she answered, though she still saw the worry in his eyes.

"But I can't help thinking about the darkness that's quickly consumed the sky. It's truly terrifying... and a small part of my heart can't stop imagining the worst. What if Young Master Aldrian fails, and we all die? We only just escaped our unfortunate fate a few years ago, but now we're facing another unknown future that could lead us all to death."

"It's truly frustrating that we haven't had the chance to enjoy peace for long since rebuilding our family, and now we're forced to face something like this again," he said, which made Yu Ruomei move closer to him.

She then touched his hand and held it a little tighter.

"Fenglian, do you think everything happening on this continent is a coincidence? Do you believe an existence like Young Master Aldrian just happened to appear when the continent is under threat of destruction?" she asked, still wearing her gentle smile.

Yu Fenglian's eyes widened slightly.

"Do you mean... Young Master Aldrian's existence was already prepared for this moment? That he truly knew this was going to happen and has been ready for it all along?" he asked.

She nodded.

"Of course. Do you really think he wasn't prepared for it? He is the chosen one, the one who will save us all. How could someone selected by the Heavenly Demon's Scripture be ordinary? He's the only person who has been able to comprehend the Heavenly Demon's Scripture for a long time now," she said.

"Do you think the Heavenly Demon would choose someone destined to fail after all this time?" she added, turning her head toward the altar of the Heavenly Demon as she gently released his hand.

Yu Fenglian's expression turned solemn.

"Of course not, Mother. Our god would never choose someone who will fail. Our god would never choose someone unworthy," he said with full conviction. There wasn't even a sliver of doubt when it came to their god, the Heavenly Demon. How could he doubt the god of demonic cultivators?

This unwavering belief was a trait shared by many demonic cultivators: a deep, unshakable faith in the Heavenly Demon.

Even though demonic cultivators could have various personalities and were far more volatile compared to the orthodox, they would never dare to completely abandon their faith in the Heavenly Demon.

Even if many betrayed each other, even if some collaborated with devils, none would truly cast the Heavenly Demon out of their hearts.

Many demonic cultivators might interpret their own ways of living according to their beliefs, but they would never entirely forsake their faith in the Heavenly Demon.

It was something already embedded in their hearts, rooted deep within their subconscious.

Yu Fenglian already knew that Aldrian was someone who could comprehend the Heavenly Demon's Scripture, a secret known only to a few among the demonic cultivators. The scripture was said to be the direct inheritance of the Heavenly Demon himself.

He and his mother had learned this truth when one of the Grand Elders of the Piercing Heaven Sect mentioned it during a visit to their city in the past. Because of the Yu family's special connection to Aldrian, Grand Elders from great sects would occasionally visit this place.

When they heard about the existence of such a scripture, and that Aldrian could comprehend it, both mother and son were truly amazed by his achievement. For them, that was the highest honor: to be acknowledged by the Heavenly Demon.

"Then you must not doubt Young Master Aldrian, not even for a moment. To do so would be to doubt our god," Yu Ruomei said, making Yu Fenglian nod firmly.

"Yes, Mother. I was truly a fool to doubt our god," he answered, then turned to face the altar of the Heavenly Demon and prostrated himself. He felt as if he had just committed a blasphemous act, and guilt weighed heavily on his chest. From this moment on, his heart had to be firm. He had to believe in Aldrian.

"I will not doubt that Young Master Aldrian will succeed," he said, his voice filled with conviction.

To believe in Aldrian was to believe in the Heavenly Demon.

Yu Ruomei smiled and nodded, but inwardly she sighed. She had only said those things to restore her son's hope. In truth, she had no idea whether Aldrian was truly prepared or not. She had made it all up, just so Yu Fenglian would believe what she said.

She knew her son's mind had grown far more mature than most children his age because of what he had gone through.

She couldn't simply tell him to "have faith" or "stay optimistic" without giving him a reason. Her son wasn't naïve, and he wouldn't be convinced by empty words.

But unbeknownst to her, the story she told was actually close to the truth. Aldrian was someone already tied to this kind of fate. He was the one whom the leaders of the major territories considered the prophesied one, the one who would bring change and protect the continent.

For Yu Ruomei, the only thing that kept her optimistic was her belief in the story she had told, that the Heavenly Demon had chosen someone who would not fail. She believed that her god would never choose someone with an ordinary destiny. He would choose someone with a great destiny, and Aldrian could be the one to save them all.

She looked at the altar of the Heavenly Demon and closed her eyes, hoping for a brighter future ahead.

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In Dongtian City, the darkness in the sky could already be seen spreading from the horizon, steadily advancing toward the city. Everyone was talking about it, about the growing threat and how they needed to prepare for the worst.

In one part of the city, a mother and daughter stood in front of their home, staring at the dark portal looming in the distance. The mother looked at it with a worried expression, while the daughter hugged her tightly, a hint of fear in her eyes.

They were none other than Vera and Evin.

As the terrifying dark sky continued to expand, Evin sought comfort in her mother's arms. Vera held her close, trying to soothe her, while quietly trying to calm her own fear as well.

"Mother... are we going to die?" Evin asked innocently, Vera could see the fear behind her eyes.

"No, dear. Lord Aldrian will save us all. He will protect this continent. You don't have to worry, right? Lord Aldrian will come back and see you again after this," Vera said, trying to reassure her daughter.

"Don't you believe Lord Aldrian will succeed?" she added gently.

Evin nodded.

"Yes, I believe in him," she answered, which made Vera smile.

"Then just keep believing in him, and everything will be fine. Don't think too much about the dark sky, leave it to Lord Aldrian," she said, and Evin nodded in response.

Vera then looked toward the darkened horizon and silently prayed to the Heavenly Tree of the World, hoping they could survive the coming ordeal.

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Two days later, Aldrian was still moving with his teleportation, steadily drawing closer to the structure at the base of the black pillar. During these days, he hadn't encountered any devils, which left him slightly puzzled.

However, that confusion was about to be answered.

In the next moment, he saw something that truly made him feel "honoured."

Something he had never witnessed before in this lifetime.

## **The Shining Star Above The Heaven - Chapter 592: Battle Against Millions 1[ 1,766 words ]**

*Chapter 592: Battle Against Millions 1*

When Aldrian kept nearing the black pillar and broke through the fog wall, he had already prepared for the possibility that the devil lord would eventually do something to stop him.

However, he did not expect the "greeting" to be this grand.

After passing through a vast dead land with no sign of life in sight after breaking the fog wall, he finally saw living beings. Or rather, too many of them, what appeared before him was a sea of devil troops covering the land as far as he could see.

He had never seen such a gathering of people in his current life.

He guessed there were millions of devils in this place, making him wonder if the devil lord had truly gathered every devil in the entire devil territory here.

He stopped teleporting, now hovering in the sky right in front of these devil troops.

The moment he stopped and the devils could see his figure, all of them instantly released their killing intent toward him. He could even sense a few that were so strong they made all the others feel like a joke.

The combination of their killing intent began to affect the surrounding nature. The energy flow in the area became disturbed, and their overwhelming killing intent created an illusion of massive skulls in the sky, each shouting incomprehensible words. The scene was truly terrifying.

However, despite the killing intent that could shake the souls of anyone who sensed it, Aldrian ignored it as if it were nothing more than a passing breeze. As someone who had already comprehended death laws, he would not be easily affected by killing intent.

They would need far greater killing intent if they hoped to affect him or his soul.

Seeing how eager these people seemed to fight him, he began preparing himself as well. He closed his eyes for a moment, then opened them again, carefully observing the sea of enemies before him.

He finally spotted the individuals he had been searching for. Their killing intent surged like a tidal wave compared to the others. Ever since the invasion began, he had wondered when he would encounter them, and now, they were here.

The rest of the Seven Deadly Sins: Pride, Wrath, Gluttony, and Sloth.

All of them floated at the same height as him.

He then turned his gaze to another part of the army. There, he saw the surviving members of the Seven Devils of Annihilation and also the Seven Devils of Disaster.

All of them were devils with high status in the devil ranks, personally chosen by the devil lord himself. To become part of these groups, a devil had to prove themselves worthy of

carrying such a title. While not all with high cultivation are qualified to enter these groups, having high cultivation is still a necessary requirement.

To join the Seven Deadly Sins, a devil had to be at least at the Emperor stage. For the Seven Devils of Annihilation, the minimum requirement was the King stage. As for the Seven Devils of Disaster, they had to be at least at the Grand Duke stage. Each one of them had their own specialty and was powerful in their own right.

Now that all these high ranking devils had gathered here, he was certain, the devil lord had decided to go all out to face him.

Aldrian smiled, as if truly honored that the devil lord had prepared all of this just to greet him.

His gaze continued to sweep across the army, wondering whether the devil lord was hidden somewhere among them. It did no harm to check visually, just as a precaution, in case the devil lord had some way of concealing his presence from his senses.

But it seemed the devil lord wasn't here, so he assumed the devil lord might be near the structure at the base of the black pillar on the horizon. From his position, the structure was much clearer now, and from what he could see, it looked like a massive altar with six towering pillars pointing toward the sky.

He returned his gaze to the devil troops. If he wanted to reach that structure, he would have to pass through them first.

Since his arrival, and ever since the devils saw him come to a stop, no one had spoken. No one had made a move.

As for the devils, especially the Seven Deadly Sins, who had long waited for the chance to face Aldrian, they wanted to test themselves. The man who had become a symbol of the continent, and a beacon of hope for the masses.

Earlier, they had tested him with their powerful killing intent, combining it with that of the other devils. But Aldrian remained unfazed, as if their killing intent were nothing more than a joke.

They were slightly stunned, despite the pressure of millions of killing intents combined, Aldrian didn't seem affected in the slightest. His posture and bearing remained unchanged, showing clearly that it had no effect on him at all.

They truly wondered what kind of killing intent he must possess to remain unmoved by the combined pressure of millions, including their own, the Seven Deadly Sins and the other high-ranking devils.

"I'm truly honored, ladies and gentlemen, that you've all gathered here to greet me. I didn't expect the host to bring so many people, this is truly unexpected," Aldrian said with smile. Though he spoke normally, his voice echoed across the vast land.

Naturally, he directed those words to the devil lord as well, in case he was listening.

"I know all of you are already prepared to die, so—"

Suddenly, he released his aura, softly at first, but then it grew stronger. And stronger. Until the very space around him trembled under the weight of his presence. At this moment, Aldrian was channeling 80% of his domain's power. Though he was only at the middle Grand Duke stage, the aura he released was on par with a peak Emperor.

But his aura was different. Formed from golden energy, it was something unique, something that made the devils' souls shudder the moment they sensed it. It felt as if they were standing before a higher being, one they were not worthy to look upon, one they should bow to in silence.

Golden energy began to radiate from Aldrian's body, further amplifying the pressure. And the moment that energy filled the air, the devils knew, they were facing someone truly dangerous. Dangerous even to their lord.

They could feel it. Aldrian's energy wasn't just powerful, it was fundamentally opposed to theirs. Even the natural flow of energy reacted to it. The negative energy in his surrounding began to purify under the presence of that golden energy.

Even nature itself bowed before it.

The Seven Deadly Sins also saw all of this, and they couldn't help but turn solemn. They could finally sense the energy that made Aldrian so different from the rest. According to the reports, the strange golden energy surrounding him could produce an effect similar to bloodline suppression, making others feel as if they had to revere, or even worship him.

Now they knew the reports were true. They could feel it clearly.

How a cultivator at the Grand Duke stage could possess this kind of power was already beyond their comprehension. But this was not the time to dwell on that.

The Pride devil, who had been staring at Aldrian with intense killing intent and a clear desire for battle, suddenly felt something stir deep within him, something he had long forgotten.

The feeling of weakness.

Yes, in this moment, his instincts were screaming. Aldrian was in a dangerous state. If he fought Aldrian as he had fought others before, he would die before he even realized it.

If he wanted to defeat Aldrian, he would have to give everything he had.

He frowned and couldn't help but feel irritated. The sensation of weakness—that was what could truly weaken him. And as the Pride devil, such a feeling directly threatened his dao heart.

He crushed the weakness within him as quickly as it surfaced, forcing himself to focus on Aldrian and ignore the effects of that golden energy.

The other members of the Seven Deadly Sins felt the same, each looking at Aldrian with a solemn expression. Then, they saw the Pride devil raise his hand—a signal to begin their battle formation.

The moment the devils below recognized the hand sign, enormous avatars began to form, created from the combined power of hundreds of thousands of frontline devils.

The avatars took the shape of massive, three-headed devils with burly bodies. Each face wore a terrifying expression, and from their mouths, long fangs jutted out from beneath their lower lips. Their entire bodies were covered in translucent red skin, revealing the hundreds of thousands of devils beneath that had formed them.

Each giant avatar was formed from the combined power of a hundred thousand devil cultivators. There were ten of them in total, and some wielded their own distinct weapons, four avatars carried bows, three wielded swords, and the remaining three held spears. Every one of them radiated an aura comparable to that of a peak Emperor stage cultivator.

That wasn't surprising, considering these avatars were born from the collective effort of hundreds of thousands of devils.

Aldrian was genuinely impressed by this display of power and the sheer complexity of the battle formation. A battle formation capable of being used by this many troops didn't exist anywhere else on the continent. This kind of coordination required not only precise timing but also deep compatibility between the individual energies of each cultivator in order to unleash the formation's full potential.

For the devils to pull this off, it meant every one of them had been prepared, and thoroughly trained, to execute this kind of formation in unison.

The Pride devil also unsheathed his sword. Its blade was pitch black, radiating a powerful, ominous aura. He looked fully prepared to move the moment Aldrian showed any sign of attacking. He had no intention of letting Aldrian do whatever he pleased.

Meanwhile, the four avatars had already drawn their bows, arrows aimed directly at Aldrian. The power behind each arrow was slightly above peak Emperor stage, and even the space around them trembled under the pressure.

Aldrian calmly observed the scene, then gave a slight nod, acknowledging the power behind the arrows with quiet appreciation.

*Tak! Woong!*

Finally, the avatars released their bowstrings.

The battle had begun.

## **The Shining Star Above The Heaven - Chapter 593: Battle Against Millions 2[ 1,594 words ]**

*Chapter 593: Battle Against Millions 2*

*Woong!*

The four arrows, each carrying power slightly beyond the peak emperor stage, flew toward Aldrian at high speed. The force of their flight stirred up violent winds that tore through everything in their path, but Aldrian's gaze remained unchanged, he simply looked at them calmly, and then—

*Boom!*

The four arrows struck something invisible in front of Aldrian and exploded, instantly tearing open a massive spatial crack. The devils below watched with satisfied expressions, believing that Aldrian had taken the full impact of the four arrows, attacks strong enough to plunge them into despair.

However, those at the emperor stage knew this was far from over. For a split second, they had seen the arrows stopped by something before they could reach their target.

"Sword group, move forward! Attack in that fucker's direction!" the devil commander leading the sword-wielding avatars shouted.

The devils were stunned, but still obeyed their commander's order. The avatars raised their swords in unison and brought down their giant blades in a slashing motion. Each strike unleashed a slash energy with power slightly stronger than the peak emperor stage.

The smoke and debris from the catastrophic impact of the four arrows had not fully dissipated, yet the three incoming sword slashes were already upon Aldrian.

Boom!

At this moment, all the devils finally realized something was wrong. The slash energy exploded within the smoke and debris, as if it had struck something solid, like it had directly clashed with a powerful technique.

The chaotic space caused by the impact of the four arrows had not yet disappeared, and with the addition of the three sword slashes, it created a spatial storm that destroyed everything around Aldrian.

However, some of the devils who had seen the battle between Aldrian and Cardinal Carsius felt that this was still not enough. It was not as chaotic, nor as powerful, as Cardinal Carsius's strike at that time, at least based on what they had seen through the information crystal.

The devil commander intended to follow up with a spear strike, but then—

"Even no words of greeting from you all, huh?"

Aldrian's voice resounded, just before they felt a powerful pressure erupting from the chaotic space within the smoke.

The Pride devil then sensed a powerful sword will. Without a word, he flew upward, as if trying to evade. The other seven deadly sins did the same, each of them sensing the dreadful sword will emerging from within the smoke. The other devil commanders sensed it too and immediately activated their defensive formations without hesitation.

At the commander's shout, the devil troops responded with strict discipline. The avatars changed their weapons and instantly transformed them into giant shields, shielding millions of devil troops behind them.

The devils behind the avatars' protection did not remain idle either. They formed their own defensive formations. Massive shields were raised in front of every group of a hundred thousand, forming layer upon layer of barriers that stretched all the way to the rearmost lines of the army.

But a split second after they finished raising their shields—

*Shiing!*

A soft sound echoed, then a massive pillar of golden light shot out from the chaotic space and smoke, cutting through the smoke and spatial storm. The enormous golden pillar instantly clashed with two avatars standing side by side, their giant shields raised. The result?

Crack! Clang! Clang! Crack! Clang!

The shields did not even hold for a second before they shattered. The two avatars were struck directly, and parts of their upper bodies were obliterated on the spot. The golden pillar continued its path, killing thousands of devils in its way. It pierced straight through the layers of shields behind the avatars, cutting through them all in a single motion!

The golden light, still shooting toward the horizon, suddenly tilted slightly upward, as if it was aiming for the black pillar in the distance!

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At the Devil Lord's palace, the Devil Lord stood silently, gazing in the direction of the battle. Although any normal cultivator wouldn't be able to see anything from this distance, he kept his eyes fixed there as if he could see every moment unfolding.

His eyebrows rose slightly when a golden light suddenly appeared on the horizon. The moment he saw it, he didn't hesitate to activate the palace's defensive formation.

*Zuum!*

A defensive barrier instantly rose. It was strong enough to withstand attacks from peak emperor stage cultivators, and even capable of blocking strikes with power beyond that level.

Then, two seconds later—

*Boom! Bzzz! Rumble!*

The pillar of golden light struck the barrier directly, causing it to tremble and emit a sharp buzzing sound. The ground shook violently as the barrier absorbed the full force of the attack, and the earth around the palace began to crack and split. The entire foundation of the palace was being pushed back!

It showed just how powerful both the barrier and the golden pillar were.

The Devil Lord looked at the golden pillar, and in a rare display of emotion, he frowned. At that moment, he recognized one of the well-known techniques Aldrian had used against his enemies.

But something about the golden pillar made his frown deepen, even a jolt of shock stirred within him as he sensed it more closely.

*"Why is there divine energy in this technique? No—wait, is it even divine energy?"*

What he sensed shocked him, but it also left him deeply confused. How could Aldrian possess divine energy, or whatever this energy was, in his technique? How was that even possible? Divine energy could only be wielded by higher beings who had reached a certain cultivation stage.

That was a rule set in stone, one that applied to all beings across the cosmos. A mortal simply could not wield something only divine beings were meant to control.

But what was this in front of him? He could clearly sense something akin to divine energy within Aldrian's technique.

What he sensed was—yes—divine energy, or at least a type of energy that felt incredibly close to it. He had sensed divine energy before, and he knew exactly how it felt.

But what radiated from this energy was slightly different. It felt heavier? More overbearing?

He did not think any further, as the barrier suddenly cracked, an outcome that genuinely surprised him. Two seconds later—

*Crank!*

The barrier shattered, and the golden pillar surged forward toward the black pillar.

However, just before it could strike the black pillar directly, which was still in the process of opening the portal, it collided with an invisible barrier. The impact created a spatial ripple at the point of contact, but the barrier held firm.

This invisible barrier appeared far more durable, managing to withstand the direct hit as the golden pillar gradually shrank and then faded from view.

The Devil Lord watched the scene with a smile, but behind that smile also filled with surprise. Not only had the barrier protecting his palace, one reinforced with his knowledge of higher realms, been broken, but the barrier surrounding the black pillar had also reacted.

Even more shocking was the ripple effect caused by the impact.

Normally, not even a powerful strike beyond the emperor stage would create the slightest ripple on the barrier surrounding the black pillar.

That barrier, and the black pillar itself was powered by Tarius' divine energy from the crystal of divinity. It was not something that could be affected in any way by a mortal's attack.

*"Then it's confirmed. Aldrian possesses something akin to divine energy... something capable of affecting a god's divine power,"* the Devil Lord thought.

His expression turned solemn. Aldrian was far more dangerous than he had expected.

*"It looks like things will get ugly when I finally face him."*

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At Aldrian's battlefield, the millions of devils who witnessed what had just happened felt their hearts turn cold. Sweat ran down their faces, as the scene they had just seen was beyond their understanding, and far beyond their power. Helplessness and despair settled over them the moment the golden pillar vanished.

How were they supposed to defend against something like that?

Their eyes turned toward the spatial crack, which was now nearly closed, and the smoke that had mostly cleared. Finally, they saw Aldrian with his sword—the Eternal Spirit, pointed toward the black pillar on the horizon.

The land before the blade was full of destruction, scarred by the overwhelming traces of sword will. The ground had split apart under the force of the attack. The sword strike had not only torn through the terrain, but also divided the devil troops into two sides, creating a clear, open path from where Aldrian float to the black pillar.

Hundreds of thousands of devils had lost their lives in that single attack—a truly terrifying thought.

And that was only one technique!

When the devils looked at Aldrian again, they saw no signs of exhaustion. It was as if he hadn't just unleashed a technique of mass destruction.

Could a being like Aldrian really exist? Was he even human?

"As I thought, this role really isn't suited for me," Pride's voice suddenly echoed.

The other devils turned to look. The Pride Devil then returned to his position, now floating at the same height as Aldrian.

"You are exactly what I need right now, the one who will prove the power of my sword technique!" he declared, pointing his blade at Aldrian with a crazed expression.

The devil troops were stunned by what they heard.

What?

## **The Shining Star Above The Heaven - Chapter 594: Battle Against Millions 3[ 1,594 words ]**

*Chapter 594: Battle Against Millions 3*

Hearing the Pride devil, many devils were stunned, shocked by what he had just said. What did he mean by that? They knew that their strongest devil under the Devil Lord—the Pride devil, had an eccentric character, with his obsession with the sword.

But to say that Aldrian is needed to prove his sword technique?

Did the Lord Pride devil want to fight that monster one-on-one?

That was the thought on the minds of most devil troops who heard him. However, after seeing how powerful Aldrian was, wouldn't it be much better if they used everything in their arsenal to attack him?

Why would he need to fight him alone when they could just barrage him with everything they had? Don't let Aldrian breathe, even if they knew many of them would die because of it. This wasn't the time to be drowned in their own interests.

Yet the Pride devil still seemed to have his own mind, even after witnessing Aldrian's strength.

They didn't dare warn or speak to Pride, knowing how volatile he was. None of them wanted to be instantly killed for obstructing his interest. His pride was too high, and he wouldn't take anyone's advice easily.

The other seven deadly sins, who were also watching the Pride devil, were not particularly surprised by his sudden action. They understood how Pride's mind worked, how even after witnessing the strength of a powerful cultivator, he would still want to challenge him, just to prove his sword. For him, the way of the sword mattered as much as his life.

As for Pride himself, he wasn't thinking about anything else besides fighting Aldrian one-on-one. Even after witnessing Aldrian's strength, he knew Aldrian was the one who could push him to unleash his full potential, the one worthy of receiving his full power. At last, he could prove that his swordsmanship was the strongest.

He never liked the role of leading an entire army; he preferred to move alone. However, his lord had appointed him as the army's commander, a decision that irritated him deeply.

To be honest, the plan to gang up on Aldrian with millions of troops had never sat well with him. He wanted a one-on-one battle, with his pride blazing, with the pride of a swordsman determined to prove his blade, not with the cowardice of overwhelming one man with numbers.

Now, he thought of nothing else but fighting Aldrian. The role of a leader and all their plans could go to hell. He wanted to fight!

Aldrian, who could sense the Pride devil's battle intent and how he thought, showed no change in his expression. He didn't care about pride or anything related to proving a sword. If this were a normal time, he might enjoy to fight the strongest among the devils under the Devil Lord. But now?

"Prove your sword, huh? I see. But this is not a good time for me to indulge your desire. So—"

Aldrian suddenly swung his sword in a powerful sweep, unleashing the Slash of Vanguard. He channeled 70% of his strength into the attack. The sudden burst of power made many devils shudder, as the attack carried strength beyond the peak of the Emperor stage.

However, the Pride devil already seemed prepared. With his sword, he used his sword technique as a means of defense. He instantly unleashed his full strength without entering his devil form, as he slashed multiple times in rapid succession. Each strike carried powerful slash energy that collided with the incoming energy of the Slash of Vanguard.

The Slash of Vanguard was struck repeatedly by Pride's slash energy before it finally broke. The remaining slash energy from Pride's attacks then surged forward, flying toward Aldrian.

Aldrian, still wearing a calm expression, blocked Pride's attack with his spatial shield, the same shield that had blocked the avatar's attacks.

Dum! Dum! Dum!

Booming sounds echoed as Pride's strikes landed against the spatial shield, yet the shield held firm. It didn't break.

Aldrian looked at the Pride devil and couldn't help but think that his title as the strongest devil under the Devil Lord was not just for show. This guy was truly strong in his own way.

But then, he smiled and suddenly sheathed his sword, which made the Pride devil frown.

"What are you doing?" he asked.

"Nothing. After receiving your attack, I just thought you're not worthy of me using my sword," Aldrian replied. His tone was calm, not contemptuous, contrary to the meaning of his words.

The Pride devil, upon hearing that, was momentarily stunned before suddenly laughing. He covered his face with his one hand. Hearing Aldrian's answer, he felt his pride had been trampled. Aldrian thought he wasn't worthy of making him draw his sword? He, the Pride devil? The strongest sword cultivator on the continent?

Suddenly, the aura around Pride grew stronger and denser. The space around him trembled and warped under the pressure of his overwhelming energy. His peak Emperor-stage aura intensified, surging beyond its limit, as if he were trying to break through to the next stage by force.

His body grew slightly larger and more muscular. His long black hair, swaying in the wind, also lengthened. His skin turned a deep red, and when his laughter stopped, he lowered his hand.

His eyes locked onto Aldrian. His crimson irises became even more intimidating as he glared with a face twisted in fury.

Aldrian finally smiled. He had easily provoked the man whose pride stood above all else. Want to make him lose his calm? Just strike the thing he guards most, his pride. Underestimate him, and he would lose himself, even resorting to using his devil form.

At this point, the Pride devil might as well be called the Wrath devil.

Without a word, the figure of the Pride devil suddenly vanished, only to appear right in front of Aldrian, slashing at him with his sword.

The black-bladed sword was no ordinary sword. It was a middle divine grade sword known as the Incoming Calamity, for anyone who wielded it would bring disaster. Every time it was unsheathed from its scabbard, it caused devastation and left many victims in its wake.

*Tack!*

The sword struck something invisible, creating a dull sound, but the effect of the impact was anything but simple. Wind blasted outward, and space itself tore open, without forming spatial storm around them.

The air behind Aldrian split open as the slash reached beyond him, striking the land far below. A wave of destruction followed as a stretch of land behind Aldrian, spanning thirty kilometers was obliterated.

Rocks, smoke, and debris erupted into the air behind him. The spatial shield in front of Aldrian cracked, the blade had managed to cut through and come close to Aldrian before it was finally stopped.

However, Aldrian, who had channeled sixty percent of his power into defense, didn't react at all, as if he were merely watching a performance.

The Pride devil was truly powerful, there was no doubt about that.

But if he wanted to defeat him, Pride devil would need more than that.

Aldrian's body suddenly released heavenly lightning, forcing the Pride devil to retreat. He channeled seventy percent of his domain's power into his body and the heavenly lightning. At the middle Grand Duke stage, the surge of heavenly lightning, boosted by seventy percent of his domain's power, was more than enough to kill the Pride devil.

A thunderclap rang out, and the pressure of heavenly might made the watching devils tremble. How could a human possess the power of heaven within his body?

Countless strands of heavenly lightning relentlessly pursued the Pride devil, but with precise movements, he evaded them using his movement technique. Not only did he dodge the lightning, he even closed the distance between him and Aldrian. Raising his sword into the air, a red glow suddenly appeared along the blade.

While evading the lightning, the Pride devil executed two slashing motions toward Aldrian, unleashing his sword technique. The resulting slash energy formed an X-shaped attack that shot toward Aldrian at high speed, its power already beyond the peak Emperor stage.

However, Aldrian simply watched it. A spatial crack suddenly opened in front of the attack and swallowed it whole. Then, another spatial crack appeared, this time right in front of the devil troops. More precisely, it opened in front of one of the avatars wielding a bow.

The devil troops, caught off guard by the unexpected appearance of another spatial crack, were completely unprepared. And the instant it opened—

*Zoom! Rumble!*

The slash from the Pride devil burst through the spatial crack and struck the devil troops, destroying them. The attack instantly killed thousands, and the avatar was shattered after taking the hit directly. The slash claimed tens of thousands of devil troops before finally fading on its own.

The Pride devil, who sensed all of this, didn't care. He was focused solely on Aldrian, preparing to attack again while continuing to evade the heavenly lightning. But then, he noticed that Aldrian's figure had suddenly vanished.

In the next instant, Aldrian appeared right behind him.

Sensing impending doom, the Pride devil didn't hesitate to unleash his sword shield technique. His body became the sword itself as he released his sword intent. Spinning around, he directed his blade toward the space behind him, but before it could reach Aldrian...

"Did you forget about the lightning?" Aldrian's voice rang out, freezing Pride's expression.

A split second later—

*Bzzzt! Rumble!*

## **The Shining Star Above The Heaven - Chapter 595: Battle Against Millions 4[ 1,754 words ]**

*Chapter 595: Battle Against Millions 4*

The body of the Pride devil was instantly struck by the heavenly lightning. However, Aldrian slightly raised his eyebrows as he noticed something blocking the lightning for a moment before the pride devil's figure disappeared and reappeared a kilometre away from him.

He looked at the pride devil in the distance, who now seemed to be gasping. Burn wounds marked his body, and they were laced with heavenly aura, making them difficult to heal.

The pride devil looked in his direction with a solemn expression. He had actually come close to death! If not for the defensive talisman he had activated by drawing on his own energy in that split second before the lightning struck, he would have already turned to ashes.

Even the defensive talisman, capable of withstanding a peak emperor's attack and given by the Devil Lord, was instantly destroyed. But that brief protection was enough for him to escape using his escape talisman.

The battle between emperor-stage cultivators is like this, even a split second can decide life or death. Speed is one of the most important factors in combat at this level. Even if a cultivator has only a chance that lasts the blink of an eye, they must seize it.

The Pride devil, with his quick thinking, reacted fast enough to do what was necessary to save his life.

Aldrian that amazed by the Pride devil's quick thinking and reflexes, then saw him take another stance, raising his sword and pointing it toward him. The Incoming Calamity sword's blade, coated with the red glow of the Pride devil's energy, grew brighter, and before long, it actually extended in length.

The destructive devil energy, combined with the Pride devil's sword will, was a deadly combination if someone were wounded by it. However, the Pride devil did not seem finished. Suddenly, the surrounding wind was pulled toward him, and the swords held by the devil troops began to tremble.

Thousands of swords in the devil troops' hands began trembling, causing them to glance down at their weapons. Then, one by one, the swords slipped from their grips and flew toward the Pride devil. The sight of tens of thousands of swords soaring through the air toward him was truly a spectacle to behold. All of them hovered around him, and every single blade was pointed at Aldrian.

Each of those swords was coated in the same red glow, and every one of them carried the power of a low emperor-stage attack.

The devil troops stared in shock. None of them had ever seen the Pride devil use this technique before. Even the other members of the Seven Deadly Sins were surprised. There was no one who could provoke the Pride devil to this extent, until now. For the first time, they were witnessing the Pride devil's most powerful form and most powerful attack.

Aldrian watched all of this with his usual calm expression. He had to admit, this attack from the Pride devil was terrifying. The Incoming Calamity sword in the Pride devil's hand carried the power of a peak emperor-stage attack.

When combined with the thousands of swords around him, each carrying the force of a low emperor-stage attack, the overall power might match the final strike of Cardinal Carsius to him at that time, a true display of the Pride devil's might.

Without relying on any support type divine artifact, he could unleash power equal to what Cardinal Carsius had achieved using two divine grade artifacts.

But Aldrian, who observed all of the Pride devil's preparations, was not idle. He had already been in the middle of something since earlier, ever since the Pride devil began to challenge him.

What he was doing now was something he had never attempted before, and he intended to try it here, in this moment, when no time could be more fitting, with millions of hostile troops standing before him.

"You are strong, I'll give you that. But I want to see how you'll deal with this..." Aldrian said to the Pride devil, which made the latter frown.

But then, he sensed something in the sky above and instantly looked upward. At that moment, the millions of devils also felt it, and all of them turned their eyes to the sky.

Unknown to anyone, Aldrian had been gathering a large portion of the earth-element energy from across his domain since earlier. At this moment, every earth-element cultivator across the continent could sense a shift in nature as the earth-element energy suddenly vanished.

This left many cultivators who had comprehended the earth element in shock. What was happening? This had never occurred before, one kind of elemental energy disappearing all at once.

Those near the border of the devil territory, still confused by the sudden change in nature, finally noticed something on the horizon, in the direction of the deeper part of the devil territory. Their eyes narrowed as they tried to make out what exactly they were seeing in the sky above the horizon.

The sky had already darkened because the portal was covering the sun, but they could still see something suddenly appear on the horizon. A massive silhouette slowly took shape, forming in midair beneath the darkened sky. It began from the lower part, as if being constructed or materializing from nothing, and continued upward as more of it emerged.

Even from the border, its sheer size was unmistakable, it was massive.

After a few moments, the people could finally make out what it was as it continued to take form. From their perspective, it resembled a colossal rock?

Those who could see it stared intently. The colossal rock was visible even to those standing in the Doria Empire and Vindas Empire. They gazed at it, bewildered, wondering what it was. Why had something like this appeared in the sky above the devil territory? Was the change in the nature connected to this strange phenomenon?

The colossal rock, visible across a quarter of the continent, was of course seen by the alliance troops, who were steadily approaching Aldrian's position. By this moment, they had finally reached the fog wall and arrived at the section where Aldrian had broken the formation.

The alliance group came to a stop as they found themselves face to face with a group from the World Tree. The World Tree's giant body stood tall like a beacon, which was also why the alliance forces had been moving in that direction, to see for themselves if it was truly the World Tree.

Once the group in charge of creating the teleportation portal completed their task and opened a portal to the nearest visible location near the World Tree, the alliance troops poured through. They immediately began pursuing the World Tree, which was already close by.

They had no idea whether the World Tree was hostile or not, but they could not risk letting it attack Aldrian from behind, especially not while he might be facing millions of devils.

They had just seen a burst of golden light, after all, so they believed the battle might have already broken out at Aldrian's location.

However, confusion arose the moment the two sides met earlier.

The elves confirmed that the tree was indeed the World Tree, but what surprised everyone was that it was followed by thousands of beasts. And the strange part was the nature of those beasts.

The alliance forces were truly shocked by how powerful the beasts were, as they were exuding strong devil energy. The group included many emperor- and king-stage beasts, which immediately put the alliance on alert. A great battle could erupt at any moment, and if it did, it will demand great sacrifice.

But then, Pope Claudius noticed the golden phoenix and the great peng among the group of beasts, which left him confused. The others, who did not know about the golden phoenix and the great peng, were already preparing for battle. However, Vireline, fully aware of the alliance forces' presence, did not attack.

Sensing the misunderstanding, the golden phoenix stepped forward to explain the situation to the alliance forces, about the beasts and the World Tree's affiliation with Aldrian. They were following Aldrian and had come to support him.

Naturally, the alliance forces did not immediately believe the golden phoenix. But Pope Claudius, who recognized both the golden phoenix and the great peng, also stepped forward and explained the golden phoenix's status and connection to Aldrian.

Hearing the pope's explanation, many were naturally shocked. Aldrian had emperor-stage beasts as his mount, and it was even devil beasts? They truly had not expected this and did not know how to process it, as in their minds, all devils were inherently evil.

However, from the explanation given by the peak emperor beast and Pope Claudius, there were cases where devil beasts were not loyal to the Devil Lord nor worshipped the Devil God.

Many still struggled to understand and found it difficult to believe. But before the discussion could continue, their attention shifted as they saw something massive slowly take shape above the horizon.

All the beings present could also sense a sudden shift in their surroundings, the earth-element energy had suddenly vanished. They narrowed their eyes as the giant rock finally completed its formation in the sky.

Its size was truly humongous, perhaps comparable to that of a town. They narrowed their eyes, unable to understand how something that large could be created in the sky. The leaders of the major territories began to suspect that the giant rock was most likely a manifestation of natural energy, which meant it had to be some kind of technique.

The reason they thought this was because they quickly connected it to the sudden disappearance of earth-element energy just moments ago.

But could something like that really be possible? Was that truly a technique?

On Aldrian's battlefield, millions of devils looked up at the sky above them, where the enormous shadow loomed overhead. There was not a single one who wasn't staring upward, even the Pride devil paused and looked to the sky, just as he was about to unleash his technique on Aldrian.

For a moment, everything fell silent. None of them could comprehend how a rock large enough to cover millions of devils had formed out of thin air.

How was that even possible?

Was this also Aldrian's doing? How could he do something like that?

What was he, truly?

What kind of existence were they facing now?

## **The Shining Star Above The Heaven - Chapter 596: Battle Against Millions 5[ 1,739 words ]**

*Chapter 596: Battle Against Millions 5*

The member of the Seven Deadly Sins who looked at the colossal rock above them felt their heart tremble. They were already shocked by Aldrian's existence itself, many things about him were truly beyond their comprehension. In all their years bearing the title of the Seven Deadly Sins, they had never shown as many expressions as they had today.

The appearance of the colossal rock in the sky above them was one more thing that drew shocked reactions from them. Some even showed wry smiles, as if they couldn't believe something like him could exist.

"Is this for real? Did he create that using energy's manifestation? Did he draw energy from across the continent or something?" Gluttony said, his tone filled with disbelief.

However, no one could answer him, because no one knew how such a thing was even possible. Even the Devil Lord, who was watching from a distance, showed yet another astonished expression. He had shown more emotions since Aldrian's arrival than he had in countless years, as Aldrian continued to reveal things beyond his comprehension.

*"Did his god give him that technique? No... Even if his god granted him such a thing, there's no way Aldrian could use it in his current state. The cultivation limitations in this place should prevent any cultivator from unleashing a technique on that scale."*

*"His energy alone shouldn't be enough to create something like that. Heck, he just unleashed an attack that was already incredibly powerful and should have consumed a lot of energy, how can he still do that?"* he thought, narrowing his eyes at the colossal rock.

Aldrian possessed something like divine energy. He could comprehend death laws, which were supposed to be comprehended only by divine beings. And now, he had created something on a scale that should only be possible beyond this place.

*"Is his god not bound by the laws of causality? Did Aldrian not receive heavenly punishment for having and using all of these things here? Does he have a cheat far greater than mine? Just what kind of cheat did he receive to make all of this possible?"*

The moment the Devil Lord reached that conclusion, he felt anxious for the first time.

Yes, the Devil Lord was finally feeling anxious, as Aldrian's existence was flipping everything he thought he knew. In the next few days, he would face him, and he couldn't help but wonder about his chances if he had to fight Aldrian. Could he really win? Did Aldrian still have cards up his sleeve, even after showing that much?

This unknown made him anxious.

But he calmed himself. He took a deep breath and exhaled slowly before turning his eyes to the portal in the sky above. He pushed aside that rising anxiety. No matter how incomprehensible Aldrian's existence was, there was no way he could defend himself against a god.

*"Yes... As long as the portal reaches the threshold—which is just a little more—everything else becomes irrelevant. No matter how irregular his existence is, there is no way that man can stand against a god,"* the Devil Lord reassured himself.

But then, while he was still thinking, he saw the colossal rock begin to ignite, flames erupted across its surface, lighting up the dark surroundings like a lone candle in a vast, shadowed land.

At Aldrian's battlefield, the situation already felt like daytime, bright and hot, with the sun right above their heads. The difference was, this time, the sun was dangerously close. Looking at the scene now, many devils positioned at the edge of the lines of troops finally began to escape.

They were running, flying, doing whatever they could to escape from beneath the colossal rock.

The other members of the Seven Deadly Sins, except for Pride, also tried to escape using their specialized escape talismans. But unfortunately for them, they were within Aldrian's domain.

In fact, all of the high-ranking devils, from the Seven Deadly Sins, the Seven Devils of Annihilation, and the Seven Devils of Disaster, were also caught within his domain. Aldrian had already blocked their escape using a spatial barrier, making their escape talismans useless as long as they attempted to escape beyond his domain.

"What the fuck?! Why isn't the talisman working?!" the Wrath Devil shouted in fury. Even after breaking the talisman, he was still stuck in the same place.

"We must be inside some kind of spatial restriction! It must be Aldrian!" Sloth said. At this moment, there was no laziness in her at all. She actually felt anxious and threatened, the colossal rock, if it fell, would surely be enough to kill all of them.

"Don't let him drop that!" Gluttony shouted. But even without his warning, all the members of the Seven Deadly Sins had already moved on their own. At this point, the most effective way to stop the rock from falling was to kill Aldrian.

That colossal rock was the manifestation of elemental energy controlled by a cultivator—and in this case, Aldrian was the caster of the technique. What they needed to do was kill him or disrupt his focus to make him lose control of the rock, returning it to its original form as natural elemental energy.

But before they could unleash their most powerful attacks, a sudden surge in gravity slammed down on them, forcing them all to collapse to the ground! Even the Pride Devil fell from his floating position, losing control of his technique, though he quickly steadied himself, halting his descent just in time.

He looked in Aldrian's direction again as he regained control of his technique. Tens of thousands of swords were already pointed that way, but he was stunned when he looked toward where Aldrian was supposed to be.

Aldrian had already disappeared!

Then, he, and the millions of devils trying to escape, heard Aldrian's voice echo across the vast land.

"Enjoy my present."

After that...

*Whooooooosh!*

The sound like air being split apart came to them as the colossal rock began to fall. Seeing this, the millions of devils panicked and began escaping more erratically than before.

Fortunately, not all the devils were within Aldrian's domain, allowing many to flee as fast as possible. But for those inside?

Not only could they not escape, they also had to resist the intense gravity, so strong that even King-stage cultivators struggled to move. As for Grand Duke to Duke stage cultivators, they could barely remain standing. And the lower stages?

Forget standing, they kissed the ground and couldn't do anything about it.

The rest of the avatars within Aldrian's domain had already collapsed, as the devils who created them had also fallen. Forget maintaining a battle formation, at this point, they couldn't even keep themselves upright.

As for the King-stage and Emperor-stage devils who could still move, they already took matters into their own hands.

"Destroy that rock! Don't let it fall in its complete form!" the Wrath Devil shouted, pulling his axe from his back. He then flew toward the rock, followed by the Gluttony Devil, while the Sloth Devil summoned all of the strongest beasts in her arsenal.

She summoned two Hydras—one at high Emperor stage and one at peak Emperor stage—three Chimeras at high Emperor stage, and three Flame Falcons—two at high Emperor and one at peak Emperor stage. In addition, she summoned tens of King-stage beasts of various kinds, all in rapid succession.

Once she finished summoning, she collapsed to the ground, completely drained of energy. At this point, even she couldn't stand. Weighed down by the gravity, she could only look up at the sky as the pressure forced her body against the ground.

The Pride Devil also finally unleashed his technique, as the *Incoming Calamity Sword* in his hand suddenly flew forward at high speed, followed by tens of thousands of swords, all aimed at the falling rock.

*Boom! Boom! Boom!*

A wave of destruction followed as thousands of swords struck the colossal rock. The impact was immense, an area spanning tens of kilometers was obliterated by the sword rain. However, it was still not enough to stop the falling rock.

Worse, this had been the Pride Devil's most powerful attack, and he had already spent a great amount of energy executing it.

Combined with his earlier battle against Aldrian, he had only 30% of his energy remaining in his dantian. But he didn't stop. He began summoning thousands more swords, calling them from the immobilized devils below. Once again, he attempted to use the same technique.

While the Pride Devil repeated his technique, the Wrath Devil had already reached the area beneath the falling rock. He resisted the heat radiating from the flames surrounding it as he swung his axe with all his strength, having already activated his devil form. His devil energy flared so powerfully that it distorted the space around him, and his axe glowed with his energy.

*Boom!*

His axe collided with the rock, destroying a large portion of its underside, or at least, from his perspective. In truth, what he shattered was still small compared to the total size of the colossal rock.

Meanwhile, from another part of the rock, the Gluttony Devil activated his absorption laws. Black holes appeared in both of his palms, and he directed them toward the colossal rock as he began attempting to absorb it.

However, he knew he couldn't absorb the entire rock. What he hoped for was to at least weaken its power enough to reduce the destructive impact. If he could do that, it would give them a much higher chance of surviving this catastrophic event.

From below, the beasts summoned by the Sloth Devil also began attacking the rock, along with any devils who could still stand and use their techniques. Those still capable of attacking unleashed their most powerful technique in a desperate effort to stop the falling rock.

The rumbling from each impact gave them a small sliver of hope, maybe, just maybe, they could survive this.

They kept destroying large sections of the rock, but the problem was, destroying this colossal mass wasn't that simple. When they shattered parts of the bottom, the debris, chunks of rock still wrapped in flame, fell in all directions.

The burning fragments crashed to the ground like meteorites. And when they hit...

*Boom! Boom! Boom!*

It felt like the end of the world for them.

## **The Shining Star Above The Heaven - Chapter 597: Battle Against Millions 6[ 1,682 words ]**

*Chapter 597: Battle Against Millions 6*

Fragments of colossal rock, varying in size, fall from the sky as a result of the attacks from many cultivators. The scene is beautiful yet terrifying, as if meteorites are falling from space and striking the world, bringing about the end of days.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The consecutive impacts of the fragments cause tremors throughout the region, crushing and killing many devils beneath them. Each time a fragment hits the ground, flames spread outward, engulfing everything in their path. The devils that able to move but remain near ground zero do not even have time to defend themselves before the fire consumes them entirely.

The destruction caused by the falling fragments is truly immense, instantly claiming tens of thousands of devil troops still attempting to flee.

However, despite the horrifying result of the attack on the colossal rock, those who struck it did not stop. It was as if neither their actions nor the consequences mattered to them. As long as they could destroy the colossal rock piece by piece, all those deaths meant nothing.

"UWARGH! STOP, YOU FUCKING ROCK!" Wrath shouted, filled with fury, as he swung his axe which was actually a mid-grade divine artifact. He struck again and again, each swing destroying part of the colossal rock.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Rumble!

The Pride Devil also used his ultimate technique for the second time, and this second attack was much weaker than the first due to his lack of energy. At this moment, he had almost drained all the energy from his dantian. He was gasping, and even his body started to fall because of gravity, but he gritted his teeth, held himself up, and kept floating.

He tried to fly again as he stretched out his hand to call the Incoming Calamity Sword, which was embedded in the colossal rock. Once he got the sword, he flew toward the incoming rock, which by now was already much closer to the ground. If they could not destroy this rock in the next few moments, then it would crush all of them under its weight.

As each second passed, the attacks from the devils became more erratic, and eventually much weaker. Besides many draining their energy, many also died from the falling fragments, reducing the number of those still attacking the rock each time.

A few seconds later, only a handful of high-ranking devils at the King and Emperor stage, along with some summoned beasts of the Sloth Devil, were still attacking the rock. The rest were either already dead or too exhausted and drained of energy to continue the assault. The Seven Deadly Sins, except for the Sloth Devil, were still attacking with everything they had, but even their combined effort could not destroy the rock.

In fact, all of their combined strikes, along with those from many other devils, had only managed to destroy roughly ten percent of the rock's total size.

The Sloth Devil, who could only watch as the rock drew closer to the ground while her comrades continued their desperate attacks, finally lost herself and suddenly burst into loud laughter.

"AHAHAHA! FUCK! FUCK!" she shouted as the rock nearly reached the ground. Her expression turned crazy.

"FUCK YOU, ALDRIAN! YOU WILL BE DEAD BEFORE OUR GOD!!!"

Finally—

**BOOM!!! RUMBLE!!!**

The impact could instantly be felt across the continent, even beyond it, as the earthquake it caused spread far and wide. The populace throughout the continent, especially those near the devil territory, felt a tremor. It was not severe enough to knock people off their feet, but the rumbling sound that followed sent chills down their spines. It echoed across the land.

Wild beasts and livestock also cried out in panic as they felt the tremors and heard the thunderous noise.

However, the same could not be said for the alliance troops, especially those near Aldrian's location. The earthquake caused many of them to collapse, while those at the King and Emperor stage immediately floated into the air to avoid its effects.

The leaders of the major territories looked toward the horizon where the rock had struck the ground. What they saw was smoke and rubble rising high into the sky—but then they noticed something moving quickly in their direction.

"Raise your defense!" Emperor Durand roared, activating his defensive technique. He also extended his energy to shield the people around him. All those at the Emperor and King stage activated their own defensive methods, forming a protective line to guard the people nearby. In this way, they could defend one another.

A few moments later—

Whoosh!!

The shockwave from the impact reached them. The wind howled as the Emperors and Kings held their defensive technique firmly. A few seconds later, smoke and debris from the impact swept toward them. Fortunately, it was not flaming fragments, but rather chunks of earth thrown up by the force of the impact.

"Hold on!" Emperor Ladwin shouted as he maintained his defense. The shockwave was incredibly strong, made worse by the smoke and debris carried with it. The World Tree and all the beasts also used their defensive techniques, many of them, even without realizing it, shielded the nearby alliance troops.

The shockwave also reached the border between the devil territory and the Vindas and Doria Empires, though it was much weaker by then. People in the border areas were swept by the remaining gusts of wind and had to shield themselves against its force.

More than fifteen seconds after the impact, the situation finally began to calm. People along the border looked to the horizon and saw that the colossal rock now appeared to have only half its original mass. The impact had been devastating, powerful enough to destroy half of its entire body.

The flames on its surface were still burning, and from its position, it looked like a sun on the horizon. The fire that had spread across the region from the impact also made the entire horizon glow with the colors of a sunset.

The aftermath of the impact was still reflected in the eyes of those who had witnessed it, until they finally saw the rock begin to crumble and disappear. As it fell apart, a deep rumbling echoed across the land, accompanied once more by tremors. But after that, the cultivators across the continent could feel the change in nature again.

"The earth element... it's back," someone said, sensing the return of earth energy in the surrounding nature. He could feel it again. Everyone was truly astonished, and many who understood the intricacies of technique creation immediately connected it to the colossal rock. Earlier, they had doubted whether that rock was some kind of technique, but now it was confirmed.

That colossal rock had indeed been created by a cultivator, and it had actually absorbed earth-element energy from such a distance. This was truly shocking, something beyond the comprehension of most people.

At ground zero, the scenery resembled an apocalypse. A massive crater, five thousand kilometers in diameter and over two kilometers deep, had formed at the point of impact. The crater and the surrounding region were still engulfed in flames, as fire from the colossal rock had spread instantly upon impact.

There was only the sound of crackling flames, and no sign of any living beings. Not even corpses could be seen, any devil caught in the wave of fire had been reduced to ashes.

The flames Aldrian had used to coat the colossal rock were further strengthened by his energy, increasing their heat and destructive power. They were so intense that even Emperor-stage cultivators would be in danger if burned by them.

A few moments later, above ground zero, a small part of the sky began to distort, and from the rippling space, Aldrian emerged. He had used the same trick he had employed in the past: protecting himself within an artificial spatial pocket he created.

In essence, he had formed a miniature secret realm to shield himself. He had already used this method once before during his battle with the Lust Devil.

As he stepped out, he looked around at the scene before him, a landscape like an inferno. Flames and devastation filled the land, with nothing moving except the fire itself.

He touched his temple, feeling a sharp headache. It was the first time he had used this kind of method, and it had placed a heavy burden on his mind. He had to draw almost all of the earth-element energy from across the continent to create a massive rock out of nothing.

To control the earth-element energy on such a scale, while also fighting the Pride Devil at the same time, he had to push beyond his limits. Managing both tasks simultaneously had placed a tremendous strain on his mind.

Yet despite the headache he was experiencing now, he still wore a satisfied smile.

It was worth enduring the pain, because the result was right in front of him.

To be honest, he was slightly surprised by the result, as the impact's effect was truly immense. He had sensed it earlier across the continent through his domain. He felt sorry for anyone who panicked because of the impact, but he was truly satisfied that he could execute a technique of this scale for the first time.

He had successfully created a colossal rock, the size of which could even rival that of a city. With its extremely huge mass, combined with the pull of his gravity laws, the power of the impact it caused could instantly obliterate even peak Emperor-stage existences.

The flames would also spread, creating a wave of fire that traveled at high speed upon impact, incinerating any devils attempting to flee.

After observing the aftermath for a few moments, he took a deep breath and released it.

He was truly grateful for his domain ability, which had made all of this possible.

But then, he sensed a small sign of life amidst the inferno, two kilometers from him. He teleported right beside the life sign and finally saw what it was.

## **The Shining Star Above The Heaven - Chapter 598: Finally Arrived[ 1,738 words ]**

*Chapter 598: Finally Arrived*

What Aldrian saw was the horrific condition of the Pride devil. There was no trace of his once handsome, youthful face. His head was already bald, covered in severe burn wounds, and his face was disfigured in the same way.

As for his body—

He had already lost the lower half, and burn wounds covered his entire skin. Even his flesh looked cooked under the heat of the flame. He had also lost one of his arms from the shoulder.

Seeing the Pride devil's condition, Aldrian knew the man was dying. He would die on his own soon unless he could heal himself, which he doubted.

*"This man truly used everything until the end. He even resorted to his forbidden technique, breaking his limit at the cost of damaging his dantian,"* he thought.

He could sense that the Pride devil's dantian had already been shattered, causing him to lose all of his cultivation. Until the end, he kept destroying that colossal rock, even though he had already used every last bit of his energy.

Just before the impact, he had activated every defensive talisman he possessed by crushing them. Those talismans were the only reason he wasn't instantly obliterated.

The Pride devil's closed eyes began to open, though only one managed to do so. The other had been ruined, disfigured by the burn wounds. His remaining eye gazed at Aldrian, who stood beside him, and with great effort, he opened his mouth to speak.

"Wha... what... ar... are... you?" he asked, his voice soft and hoarse, stripped of all power.

Aldrian did not answer. He simply looked at the Pride devil's eye as it slowly closed—only to stop halfway. He had finally died, his fatal injuries and the loss of his cultivation leaving no chance for survival.

Aldrian stared at the corpse for a few moments before shifting his gaze to the surroundings. The flames that still burned across the area began to fade, gradually dying out before disappearing completely. He had extinguished the fire within his domain, intending to rest here.

His headache still lingered, and he knew he couldn't continue in this condition. He had no idea what tricks the Devil Lord might have, and he would need to face him in his prime state.

He sat not far from the Pride devil's corpse, took a meditative position, and finally began to recuperate.

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At the location of the alliance troops, they had just managed to defend themselves from the shockwave caused by the impact of the colossal rock. When they saw the rock vanish, all of them let out a sigh of relief. It was one of the most unbelievable things they had ever witnessed—a massive rock appearing in the sky and crashing to the ground, causing widespread destruction.

Many began to wonder who could have executed such a technique. But soon, all their thoughts turned to the same person, the only one they believed might be capable of creating something like that.

"Was it Lord Aldrian?" someone from the troops asked.

No one answered, but they all thought the same. For him to unleash a technique powerful enough to affect the entire continent was beyond anything they had ever seen or even heard of. It was different from Aldrian's overwhelming sword will, which could influence swords across the continent, this time was on another level entirely.

This kind of technique had the potential to destroy the entire continent in a single impact. If Aldrian could unleash something on this scale while still at the middle Grand Duke stage, what would happen if he reached the peak Emperor stage?

Just imagining it made them shudder.

The leaders of the major territories thought the same. But they were also relieved, the stronger Aldrian was, the better their chances of survival in the future.

Even so, the scale of what he had done this time was unlike anything from the past. He had absorbed earth energy from such a distance that the surrounding earth element disappeared entirely for a while.

They could only wonder, what were the limits of Aldrian's absurd ability and strength?

"Is everyone okay?! Is anyone injured?!" Emperor Ladwin called out as he looked behind him, where the troops stood.

"No, Your Majesty, we're okay."

"All of my men are fine too."

"No injuries."

The responses came from the troops, and the emperor gave a nod.

Sylphia, who stood not far from her father, gazed at the horizon. She couldn't help but send a voice transmission.

*"Dear, can you hear me?"* she said to Aldrian.

A response came two seconds later.

*"Ah, yes, I'm okay. I'm just in the middle of recuperating, so you don't have to worry, my love. Those devils really went all out to stop me, but I've already taken care of them."*

Hearing his response, Sylphia let out a sigh of relief, though worry still lingered. She asked again.

*"Recuperating? Were you injured anywhere? Don't push yourself if you're hurt. You can stay there or wait for reinforcements to arrive. We've already reached the fog wall, if we move quickly, we can reach your position soon."*

*"Ah, don't worry. I'm not even slightly injured, just a headache," Aldrian replied. "I just need a bit of rest before I'm back to my prime. Anyway, sorry that what I did affected all of you. It was my first time using a technique like that."*

His words made Sylphia smile.

*"No problem. We're all okay here. I won't disturb you anymore—just focus on resting as much as you need," she said.*

*"Yes, Your Highness."*

With that, the communication ended, but Sylphia continued to smile even after the connection was cut.

"Ah, my daughter must be communicating with my son-in-law. How is he? Is he okay?"

The sudden voice beside her made Sylphia slightly stunned. Since when had her father been standing there?

Emperor Ladwin looked at his daughter with a smile. He already knew that his daughter had a special communication method with Aldrian, she had told him about it before. And there was only one person who could make his daughter show that kind of expression.

Still blushing slightly, she answered him.

"He's okay," Sylphia replied. "He said he's already taken care of all the devils there. It seems they went all out to block him, and he had to use that technique just now to deal with the situation."

Emperor Ladwin raised his eyebrows and nodded. As expected, that technique had been Aldrian's doing. That son-in-law of his never failed to bring surprises.

He then informed the other leaders about Aldrian, which led them to decide to continue moving forward. The World Tree group and the wyvern group, who brought the team

responsible for building the teleportation portal, took the lead, as they were the fastest among them. The main force remained behind to wait for the portal's construction.

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Two days later, the situation on the continent was still tense. The topic of war remained the main focus of conversation for many people. After what happened in the devil territory when the colossal rock fell, many people talked about who could have done something as absurd as that.

Many had agreed that the sudden phenomenon of the disappearance of earth-element energy had something to do with it.

Many also agreed that someone had caused it, and many couldn't help but think of Aldrian. He could have done this, because as far as they knew, he was the only one who had many absurd abilities and techniques all this time, and this might be one of them.

However, besides the talk about the colossal rock, panic among the populace also rose when they saw that the portal in the sky had begun opening much faster after the event.

They did not know if there was any correlation, but ever since the rock fell, the portal had been opening more rapidly. At this point, the skies of both the Doria and Vindas Empires were already engulfed by it.

The portal had also already engulfed parts of the skies above the Atria Empire, the Ivory Empire, and the Everlasting Silent Forest. The chaos it caused had become much more frequent compared to the past few days. Some people even began to believe they should surrender to the devil god, thinking there was no hope left.

No matter how strong Aldrian was, they believed there was no way he could fight a god. This kind of thinking wasn't surprising, as many had already fallen into despair, looking up at the portal that now covered their skies. The sense of hopelessness weighed heavily on them.

These movements were, of course, suppressed by the enforcers, but they had begun to gain more sympathy as time passed.

While the situation across the continent was getting worse, Aldrian was finally nearing his destination, as he could now see a large and vast structure coming into view.

In the middle of the vast land, he saw a massive castle dominated by the color black. The top of the castle was shaped like a colossal altar, with six towering pillars pointing toward the sky. This was the structure he had seen from afar a few days earlier.

The black pillar that had become his target also originated from there, with the terrifying black light at its base, so dark and oppressive, rising from the altar itself. The overwhelming aura and divine energy of Tarius could be felt most strongly in that place.

The castle also appeared to be protected, its defensive formation already activated, as the barrier could be seen clearly from where he was in the air.

As he continued approaching the castle, he noticed that the ground below was scattered with skulls and bones. A large number of them had clearly been dead for a long time, but there were just as many that looked like they had only died recently.

Still, he ignored them and continued drawing closer. He chose to fly rather than teleport, so he could observe his surroundings in more detail and avoid missing anything. It was a precaution, in case the Devil Lord had set a trap for him.

But even as he neared the castle, he found nothing unusual. He stopped flying only when he reached the barrier, hovering just in front of it. He observed it for a moment, when suddenly, a voice called out.

"You finally came."

## **The Shining Star Above The Heaven - Chapter 599: Their Confusion for Each Other[ 1,669 words ]**

*Chapter 599: Their Confusion for Each Other*

Aldrian looked slightly upward, where he could finally see a man with handsome face standing atop the castle. He had a burly, tall build, and his long black hair, tied in a ponytail, swept in the wind. His red irises stared down at Aldrian with a calm gaze. He wore a robe styled like those from the demon territory, which added a certain charm to his appearance.

Even though Aldrian had never seen him before and didn't know who he was, he instinctively guessed the man's identity. After all the chaos he had caused in the devil territory, there was one person who would likely already be waiting for his arrival.

"The devil lord," he murmured.

As he looked at the man, he also tried to see his information using the Eyes of the Heaven. The moment he activated them, the information appeared as usual.

However, before he could read the contents, he froze and couldn't help but slightly widen his eyes in shock as he looked in the devil lord's direction. What shocked him wasn't the information or anything like that, it was what he saw in front of the devil lord.

"*He has something like me?!*" Aldrian thought, genuinely stunned by what appeared before the devil lord.

What he saw was a kind of screen, the same type of transparent screen that had always appeared in front of him. The only difference was that the screen in front of the devil lord was blue, while his had always been green.

That screen had been with him since he was a child. It had always been a constant presence, a sign that he was different from everyone else. It showed him many things and even helped him in certain situations.

And now, he was seeing the same thing, but this time, it was in front of the devil lord.

But then he noticed that the devil lord also showed a shocked expression. To Aldrian, it was clear that the devil lord was just as surprised when he saw him. Was he shocked because he could see his screen? Or was he surprised that he had the same kind of screen as him?

Unbeknown to Aldrian, this was the first time the devil lord had ever shown such a reaction to anyone, though his reason was different. The devil lord carried a secret that no one knew except his god and a few others. It was a secret granted by his god, one that could only be seen by him and a select few.

If he wanted to reveal it to someone else, he could only do so to those who possessed the same thing. It was a power that had guided him throughout his life and helped shape him into who he was today. To him, it was a divine blessing—one that had truly changed his life.

It was a secret that he and the few others who knew of it called a "*System*."

But at this moment, for the first time in his life, the secret he had always depended on was failing him. It could not help him see through Aldrian at all.

He had a habit whenever he encountered someone new. He would use one of the functions of his system, a feature like a cheat to him. It allowed him to look into another person's secrets: their name, age, strength, emotions, desires, and more.

This function was one of the most useful tools he had, and it had played a major role in elevating him to his current status. With it, he could find a person's weakness or any detail he could exploit for his own goals.

Initially, he wanted to look into Aldrian's information, he wanted to know what secrets he held. He wanted to understand how Aldrian was capable of doing all that he had done, how he had achieved so much.

But when he activated one of his system's functions to uncover Aldrian's secrets—

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This was all the system returned. These garbled symbols were the only thing he received, a clear sign that the system could not read anything about Aldrian.

Then, without warning, his screen began to buzz. A monotone voice echoed in his mind, one that only he could hear.

"System error. System error. Cannot read the target's information. System error."

The devil lord truly shocked.

*"How is that possible? I've already met with some of the apostles from various gods, and I was able to see their information because of the agreement between the gods. This was something they all accepted to avoid breaking each other's trust, to show goodwill in their cooperation."*

*"Then how can I not see his information? How did the system fail? Why?"*

The devil lord's thoughts raced, and a deep sense of unease settled in his chest. Although he had not met every apostle from every god, this situation was unlike anything he had ever faced. It was truly confusing, and it only made him more anxious. For the first time, the system granted to him by a god was unable to read someone's information.

And then, his mind arrived at one conclusion.

*"Is he from that side? From those rebellious gods who are challenging our gods' side? Could they really have done something here, even while being besieged by so many gods from our side? Does Aldrian have a system from one of them?"*

That was the only explanation that made sense to him, and he quickly accepted it as the truth. If that was the case, then perhaps those rebellious gods had given Aldrian some kind of protection, something that made it impossible for other systems to read his information.

*"Yes, that must be the truth. That must be it,"* he reassured himself as he took a deep breath.

He parted his lips, about to ask Aldrian a question, but Aldrian's voice came first.

"So your name is Zhang Haoran. I have many questions I want to ask. To think that you also have something similar to me. However, I think yours is broken, since it didn't show anything."

Hearing Aldrian, the devil lord or now revealed as Zhang Haoran, widened his eyes in shock once again. Aldrian knew his real name! He immediately understood that it must have been the work of the system. It seemed Aldrian had already activated one of his system's functions at that moment.

However, he did not see the system's screen active in front of Aldrian! There was nothing there. For system users, it was normal to see the screens of others who shared the same gift.

That was the most basic sign of someone possessing a system, the screen that appeared in front of each user.

But he could not see anything in front of Aldrian. If Aldrian truly was a system user, there should have been a visible screen that he, too, could see. This strange inconsistency made him want to tear his hair out. Aldrian's existence was overturning everything he thought he knew.

Was this also the work of those gods? Had they developed a way to hide Aldrian's screen, making it invisible to other system users from his side?

Also, with this encounter, a fact gnawed at him. Aldrian could use his system's functions on him, but he could not do the same in return. His own secrets were completely exposed to Aldrian, but Aldrian's remained completely hidden from him.

Zhang Haoran, who was on the verge of losing his composure, looked at Aldrian with a wary expression. But behind his eyes, there was also a flicker of anxiety. He then asked,

"You... are you from the side of the rebellious gods? Did you receive your system from them?"

Hearing Zhang Haoran's question, Aldrian narrowed his eyes. Rebellious gods? Was he referring to his followers? A surge of fury rose in his chest. Did he just call the ones who had done so much for him the rebellious gods? Were those invaders, the ones who brought destruction to this universe, the ones calling his people the rebels?

He could not stop the fury that boiled within him. His aura burst forth, and the space around him trembled under the sheer pressure.

Zhang Haoran, sensing the sudden burst of aura, was truly shaken. For the first time, he felt the unique yet overbearing energy radiating from Aldrian. Just by releasing his aura alone, Aldrian already felt like a higher being, so overwhelming that even his soul trembled, instinctively urging him to prostrate.

He knew that Aldrian possessed a unique energy, but this time, he could feel it directly from the source. It was entirely different from what he had sensed two days ago, when it appeared in the form of a sword technique. This was something that rivaled, or might even surpassed, the energy of his own god that he can sensed from the crystal of divinity.

Aldrian, having lost his composure, quickly withdrew his aura. He calmed himself and looked at Zhang Haoran with narrowed eyes. Although fury still burned in his gaze, he had also caught something from what Zhang Haoran had said.

"Are you calling this transparent screen a system?" he asked.

All this time, he had never known its name. He had simply called it the Eyes of the Heaven, since the screen allowed him to uncover many things.

Zhang Haoran frowned. From the way Aldrian spoke, it was clear he was a system user, and he was actively using it now. But for him not to know what it was called... had his god never told him?

"You didn't know what it was all this time?" Zhang Haoran asked, still frowning. "How could you not know the very thing that made you so powerful? Are you truly that stupid—"

But then, a thought suddenly struck him.

"Wait... you've never communicated with your god?"

## **The Shining Star Above The Heaven - Chapter 600: Impossible to Understand[ 1,609 words ]**

*Chapter 600: Impossible to Understand*

"Wait... you've never communicated with your god?" Zhang Haoran asked with narrowed eyes.

"You didn't even know the name of the thing given by your god, the one helping you become this strong? Has your god never said anything to you? Have you never communicated with him at all?"

Aldrian narrowed his eyes as well. From what Zhang Haoran said, the system was given by gods. So... was the system in him also created by his own followers, meant for him? But then he thought about his own system, what was the first thing that appeared the moment he saw it?

*I'm tied to the universe*

*I'm tied to nature*

*All of this is my own karma*

*Why I am different is also my destiny*

*My domain encompasses all things*

*There is nothing that can escape my view*

*There is nothing that can escape my sense*

*There is nothing that can escape my will*

Those words were the first things that appeared when the system manifested before him for the first time. And if he thought about it carefully, they sounded like something he had created himself, something that only designated for him only.

From what Zhang Haoran had just said, it seemed that system users were able to communicate with the gods they were connected to.

But him? He had never known anything like that. There was no ability, no sign, nothing that allowed him to reach out to the surviving members of his followers.

And he could already imagine it. If his followers had created something like this for him, then they likely would not have left any communication function for him to use. Beings like the Heavenly Demon, Tianlian Buddha, or Seralis would never miss such a thing. They wouldn't leave behind a system that let them speak with him directly.

They had been waiting for him for so many years. If that was the case, then at the very least, there should have been some means of communication built into the system. But there was nothing. No function. No path. They could only communicate with him in more roundabout ways, like through objects that carried strong karma tied to them. Only by connecting himself to those objects through karma could he reach them.

To test his theory, he asked the system in his mind.

*"Do you have a way to contact any of my surviving followers?"*

*"No. I do not have any means to contact any of your followers,"* the system replied in writing on the screen.

Aldrian wasn't surprised. But reading it only made him more certain, this system wasn't something created by his followers. It was likely his own creation. He had been a god in the past, and a powerful one at that. Creating something like this for his future self should not have been difficult for him, right?

Aldrian nodded to himself. Zhang Haoran's words made one thing clear, there was a strong possibility that some people out there also possessed systems like theirs.

Then an idea crossed his mind, he might as well use this chance to mess with the Devil Lord.

"What god? I've never communicated with them. In fact, ever since this system first appeared, I haven't spoken to any being like that. So how would I know?" he said casually.

Zhang Haoran's frown deepened.

"That's impossible. You've lived for so long, yet you've never once communicated with your god? If you've never spoken with them, then how did you receive their blessing? How do you even have the abilities you do?" he asked, clearly baffled.

"Who said I got those abilities from them? I created all of them myself," Aldrian replied.

Zhang Haoran's eyes widened in shock. He created all of them? How was that possible? All those absurd abilities, created by him?

"Also, don't talk like I've already lived for thousands of years. I know your system is broken, so you can't see my information, but here, can't you see it from my screen? Go ahead, I'll let you see it for yourself," Aldrian said, showing his status screen, displaying his name and age for the Devil Lord to read.

However, the moment he tried to show the information, something seemed off about the Devil Lord's gaze. His eyes looked unfocused, almost as if he were searching for something, and not finding it. That reaction made Aldrian pause, his own expression turning puzzled.

The Devil Lord's gaze didn't settle on the screen or the writing on it at all.

Then, a thought struck Aldrian, one that made him smile at the Devil Lord for the first time.

"How old am I?" he asked suddenly. But even after the question, the Devil Lord remained silent.

Watching the subtle changes in his expression after a few moments made Aldrian grin.

"You... you can't see my system, can you?"

The moment those words left his mouth, he noticed a slight shift in the Devil Lord's expression. Although Zhang Haoran quickly masked it with an indifferent expression, trying to cover his confusion and irritation, it didn't escape Aldrian's eyes. He was sharp when it came to reading people, especially the small details in their expressions. And right now, he could see it clearly.

From the look of it, it really did seem like Zhang Haoran couldn't see his system. If that was true, then—

"Hahaha!" He suddenly burst out laughing, finding the situation genuinely amusing. He could already imagine the confusion Zhang Haoran must've felt since earlier.

To think he couldn't see his system, didn't that mean his system was more special than Zhang Haoran's? If that were the case, then maybe even the other system users wouldn't be able to see it either.

Initially, he just wanted to mess with Zhang Haoran by throwing him into confusion. From what he observed, Zhang Haoran clearly didn't understand how his system worked.

Aldrian's plan was simple: answer Zhang Haoran's questions with a mix of truth and lies. He had even intended to show his own information to deepen the confusion, assuming Zhang Haoran could see it already.

By doing this, Aldrian expected Zhang Haoran to let something slip, some detail he didn't mean to reveal in the heat of the moment. And if that happened, Aldrian could gather more valuable information. What Zhang Haoran knew might prove extremely useful in the future.

Even from their conversation just now, Aldrian had already gained some valuable information—details worth hearing despite their situation. In cases like this, a conversation often revealed far more depth and meaning than directly peering into someone's memories.

Hearing Aldrian laugh, Zhang Haoran couldn't help but feel irritated. He couldn't refute what Aldrian said, it was true that he couldn't see Aldrian's system. But he scoffed in response.

So what if he couldn't see it? In the end, what mattered was who came out on top. There was still no decisive winner between them, and if he could kill Aldrian, or if their god successfully descended, then nothing else mattered.

"Whatever. Laugh all you want, but the fate of this heaven is already set. Everything will fall under our god, and you will never live to see that day," he said, his tone edged with mockery.

Aldrian slowly stopped laughing and looked at Zhang Haoran calmly. There was no amusement left in his eyes.

"Is that so?" he said, then closed his eyes for a few seconds before opening them again. A golden glow flickered in his eyes for the briefest moment before fading back to normal. Zhang Haoran didn't know what had just happened, but he could feel it. Aldrian's presence had shifted again. This time, it was far more overbearing than before.

Then, he saw Aldrian rise into the air, unsheathing his sword, the Eternal Spirit and pointing it toward the barrier. No, not just the barrier... toward the black pillar itself.

This time, he didn't hesitate to unleash the full power of his domain. He channeled one hundred percent of it into his body. A golden glow radiated from both his sword and his body.

Zhang Haoran, seeing this, truly couldn't help but tremble as he sensed the most powerful aura and energy he had ever felt on this continent.

*"This aura... it has already reached the low Pseudo Immortal Foundation stage! What is he, really?! Is he truly only at the Grand Duke stage? But I can still sense that he's at the Grand Duke stage!"* he thought, completely losing his composure inside.

After the short conversation he had just shared with Aldrian, he finally came to a conclusion, Aldrian was someone impossible to understand. Nothing worked on him, and all his knowledge was useless in trying to comprehend him. At this moment, he abandoned the idea to understand Aldrian entirely.

A powerful sword will surged across the continent, causing every sword to tremble and instantly float, all pointing in Aldrian's direction.

Everyone knew at once, this was Aldrian's doing. He was the only one capable of something like this. It had happened once before, so while it was overwhelming, they weren't entirely surprised.

Seeing that Aldrian was making the first move, Zhang Haoran didn't wait any longer. If Aldrian had his own cheat, then so did he.

*Netherworld Guardian's Wall.*

He activated one of his techniques, raising his defenses. In an instant, a black substance erupted from the ground, forming a barrier in front of him and the altar.

A second later—

*Shing!*

A golden light pillar burst from the Eternal Spirit, piercing straight through the outer palace barrier and slamming into the black substance.

The battle between them had begun.