

Wizard 1971

Chapter 1971: Blood Battle begins, Crimson Emperor ascends!

Ancient Banyan Fairyland.

Levi's eyes widened as he watched Ayak spit out streamers of flowing light.

"Your stomach sure can hold a lot, huh."

As the Traveling Crow, Ayak's body inherently contained a dimensional passageway similar to a storage space.

At first, it was just ordinary materials, like some pretty dried branches, deer antlers, scale armor, or mundane gold and silver treasures from mortals.

Later on, shiny elemental metals started pouring out. Levi noticed quite a few rank-five and level-six elemental metals.

"Not bad, keep going."

Boom!

Suddenly.

A massive shadow descended from the sky, and Levi raised his hand to catch it.

It was a thousand-meter-long, flat-bodied White Scale giant beast emanating a heavy aura of Dragon's Might.

Levi placed it on the ground, examined it carefully, and then his face blossomed with joy.

"It's actually a level-7 complete sub-dragon—Wind-shaped Dragon!"

The Wind-shaped Dragon's scales were naturally born with cloud-like patterns, appearing graceful and soft.

Its overall shape resembled a piece of white cloud scattered by the wind in the sky.

Its abdomen trailed white cloud mist like a streamer, which persisted even after being dead for so long.

Moreover, perhaps due to its wind-element affinity, its weight was much lighter compared to other members of the Dragon Clan.

Levi lamented:

"What a pity it's already dead, and judging by the looks of it, it died of natural old age. This creature lived for at least ten thousand years. To die of old age in this world is, in itself, a kind of fortune."

"Since it's dead, the Wind-riding Dragon's blood can be extracted entirely and refined into bloodline crystals. The scales can be crafted into artificial energy cores and installed on my Doomsday Fist, enabling the Upper Hook Sky-splitting Fist. The bones of the Wind-riding Dragon are also top-grade level-7 materials, perfect for refining some Storm Faction wizard tools. This corpse is truly priceless."

Levi couldn't help but rub Ayak's head affectionately. Just this Wind-shaped Dragon corpse alone was a great merit on Ayak's part.

Not to mention it had also discovered abundant level-6 and higher biological materials.

All of these were the finest raw materials for Holy Infant Refining, saving significant costs and increasing the profit margin for the operation.

"Not bad, take a break, and keep up the good work."

Levi placed Ayak into his mental space and nourished it with his primordial soul, allowing it to recover and recharge.

"The Wind-shaped Dragon is also an endurance-type dragon; its bloodline crystals should serve as excellent materials for advancing the Sky Dragon Breathing Technique."

Initially, Levi hadn't planned for an evolution, but now his thoughts began to stir. Advancing the Sky Dragon Breathing Technique required at least two endurance-type bloodline crystals containing Legendary Bloodline Factors, though elemental attributes were not crucial. When the Golden Snake Breathing Technique evolved into Brilliant Golden Dragon Armor, he had chosen water-element and earth-element crystals purely because dragons adept at defense were more likely to emerge from those elements, similar to how the Ocean and Earth Factions among wizards excel in defense.

Based on Levi's current research,

wind, earth, and water elements have the highest likelihood of spawning endurance-type dragons.

Of course, this doesn't mean other factions can't produce endurance-types. For instance, the Silver Mountain Dragon is endurance-type but possesses thunder-element attributes.

Several days later, through Levi's bloodline testing, it was confirmed that the Wind-shaped Dragon contained traces of the Legendary Dragon Race "Wind Illusion Dragon," making it a sub-dragon species.

This is an exceptionally rare Legendary Dragon Race that predominantly exists in the form of a breeze, endlessly traveling across the Multidimensional Plane, making it the "Traveler" among dragons, much like Maya.

After deciding to advance the Sky Dragon Breathing Technique, Levi delegated the task, ordering all major organizations to intensify efforts to collect any intelligence and information on dragons.

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Starry night.

Above the Flower Hall, amidst the starlit clouds, a wizard tower floated. Ivy and vine-like plants wrapped around it, lush and vibrant, with countless flowers in bloom.

The spire was crowned with a dreamlike Star Ring orbiting it, circling the wizard tower. Dense water elemental power gathered around the tower, creating an ambiance akin to a fairyland.

Two figures leaned against the tower's peak, gazing at the stars.

Hundred Flowers said:

"It's amazing to be able to have a wizard tower."

Levi replied with a smile:

"I didn't expect you'd even incorporate the Star Ring into the wizard tower system—a rather interesting design."

Hundred Flowers gazed at the shimmering Star Ring.

"Doesn't it look beautiful?"

Over the past decade, she had both consolidated her foundations and steadily worked on improving the embryonic form of the wizard tower. The fusion of the Star Ring and the wizard tower was a creative idea she suddenly came up with, integrating the wizard tower as part of the Star Ring into a harmonious and complete whole. This setup eliminated the need to switch out Soul Artifacts. novel.com

Levi said:

"It is indeed beautiful, though this is just the first layer. Achieving the true form of a wizard tower will require more effort."

Hundred Flowers replied:

"No rush. Finishing the entire wizard tower project before advancing to the eighth-circle is already a victory... By the way, how's the progress on your wizard tower?"

Levi responded:

"Mine? Still a long way to go. I haven't even prepared the main structural framework and construction materials yet. If I can finish the primary engineering of my wizard tower before reaching the eighth-circle, that would count as a win."

He hadn't yet finalized the Fossil Wood or Nightmare Wood crafted via Gargamel's methods.

Levi's goal was to create a top-tier wizard tower that, once the foundation was robustly established, could support him even into the legendary realm.

Under the starlight, Levi and Hundred Flowers casually chatted atop the tower.

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Suddenly, Levi received a message and his expression changed.

Hundred Flowers asked:

"What's wrong?"

Levi replied:

"Gandalf sent an internal message. The military is about to issue an announcement. In a few days, the council will establish a [Demon Slaying List]. All wizards and alien races in the Wizard World can sign up. Killing demons will earn points, which can be exchanged for spells, Wizard Tools, medicine, and other cultivation resources."

Hundred Flowers' face lit up with joy.

"Looks like the Wizard Council is making a significant investment this time."

Levi responded:

"Indeed, let's wait for the official announcement."

The surrounding vines and ivy gathered to weave a green boudoir.

...

Several days later.

A bombshell news swept across the Wizard World from the Central Realm.

From the top-level wizard organizations to nomadic wizards, and all the alien races residing in Nora, everyone received this news.

[To promote active resistance against the Abyss by the military, civilians, industries, and fellow races in the Wizard World, starting today, spearheaded by the Qianji Pavilion, a new Demon Slaying List has been established outside the official rankings like the Wizards Ranking and Soul Artifact Ranking. The Demon Slaying List is divided into nine levels, from Apprentice Wizards to eighth-circle wizards, all can sign up for the corresponding list. At the end of each year, those who excel in killing demons within the same realm can receive the 'Battle Points' reward from the Wizard Council. Additionally, slaying demons

can directly earn Battle Points. The reward size is comprehensively evaluated based on the type and level of the demon. Detailed rules are as follows...]

Ancient Dragon Continent.

Levi pondered:

"Seems like this time, it's a true mobilization of everyone for a collective resistance."

He finished reading the detailed rules of this Demon Slaying List.

From now on, all wizards, including Apprentice Wizards, will receive the [Demon Slaying Bracelet] developed by the council for free. The bracelet's terminal is connected to the Heart of Skynet, a Legendary Wizard Tool.

The bracelet can record the type, strength, and number of demons killed and upload it to the Heart of Skynet according to the wizard's ID. All calculations and ranking work are completed by the Heart of Skynet.

If a team or collaborators kill a demon, there will be a different calculation method to ensure fairness and justice.

Through Battle Points, one can exchange for needed resources at specialized institutions established by the council at various schools.

Wizards above the sixth-circle can directly go to the Central Realm to exchange rewards at the Merit Shop set up at the military headquarters.

Even rare items like Truth Oddities can be exchanged, but at a huge cost in War Merit.

Of course, besides fighting demons directly, if one excels in Pharmacy, Weapon Refinement, or other specific skills, they can also contribute to the Blood Battle in these ways. The Wizard Council has also established a comprehensive wartime incentive plan.

Furthermore, all wizards should be prepared for potential temporary military drafts, as the uncertainties of the Blood Battle are too many, and reinforcements might be needed anytime.

In summary, it's:

Utilize the full strength of the Wizard World to kill as many demons as possible.

Additionally, the Demon Slaying List does not include Grand Wizards and Legendary Wizards.

Their enemies are level 9 and level 10 Abyss Lords, which involve top-level confrontations where War Merit becomes irrelevant.

They need to ensure that Abyss demons above level 9 cannot wreak havoc in the Wizard World and must be killed immediately if they appear. The Abyss will certainly send numerous powerful demons to restrain these Legendary Wizards.

Once the Blood Battle ends, the council will comprehensively calculate the points of each registrant on the Demon Slaying List; the current realm's top-ranked can earn the title of 'Blood Battle King' and receive substantial rewards.

If a wizard advances during the Blood Battle, the points earned in the previous realm can be accumulated into the next realm to earn higher Demon Slaying List rewards, preventing some wizards from deliberately staying at a lower level for the 'Blood Battle King' title.

Of course, normally, no wizard would deliberately refrain from advancing for this title, as it would be like picking up a sesame while losing a watermelon, not worth it.

After the release of the Demon Slaying List, the Wizard World was in an uproar.

Those who were excited, nervous, uneasy, and fearful all exist.

Some want to take this opportunity to carve out a path through slaughter.

Others only wish to stay out of it, seeking methods to avoid the situation.

For Levi, fleeing without a fight is impossible.

As Roger said, even Legendary Wizards cannot completely exist apart from wizard civilization.

The achievements of the wizard civilization today are partly due to Sauron and the Legendary Wizards, but more importantly, it is because of the massive number of ordinary wizards who, with their wisdom, built a complex system of wizard civilization knowledge and theoretical systems, gradually stacking it up. For a long time in the future, he needs to continue climbing and cultivating within this civilization pyramid until he attains legendary status.

"Blood Battle King? Interesting."

No one understands the loneliness of being undefeated within the same realm more than Levi.

...

Time passed quickly.

Under the shadow of the Blood Battle, the Wizard World peacefully passed another ten years.

Ancient Dragon Continent.

Levi worked hard, aiming to advance the Crimson Emperor Dragon Breathing Technique to Level 7 before the Blood Battle.

Through his subordinates' efforts, he had gathered all the materials for the advancement secret medicine, and now only the breathing technique's Maximum remains.

For Levi, aside from a wizard's promotion, the Crimson Emperor Dragon can directly enhance strength the most.

Once it reaches Level 7, his strength will undergo a qualitative transformation.

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Levi's spiritual force level had reached 5880.

Only 149 points away from the maximum—he could achieve it within 20 years.

After reaching the spiritual force limit, he could fully dedicate himself to studying other primordial soul spells, level up his 27 Witch Marks to Perfection, and then prepare for the seven-circle ascension.

To ascend to the seven-circle, it was imperative to hunt and slay at least one Level 7 Flame Demon to refine alchemical medicines. Flame Demons were famously powerful among demons.

Therefore, if Levi could level up to the Crimson Emperor Dragon's seventh tier, he would approach the ascension with greater confidence, ensuring everything went smoothly.

As was his usual practice, Levi temporarily shelved all less important projects and devoted himself entirely to mastering the Crimson Emperor Dragon!

One year later.

Levi finally pushed the Crimson Emperor Dragon Breathing Technique to its maximum.

He opened the proficiency panel.

Crimson Emperor Dragon Breathing Technique: Eighteenth-tier (Maximum), Special Effect: Red Emperor Dragon Body·???? (Level 6 Peak).

...

Levi did some calculations.

There were still over six years remaining until the Dark Ancient Tower opened.

Normally, Levi would never choose to enter closed-door training at this juncture, as prolonged seclusion risked missing the once-in-a-century opportunity to explore the Dark Ancient Tower.

But the current times were extraordinary. The looming Blood Battle and the sheer strength of the Abyss Demons demanded urgency—achieving Level 7 strength as early as possible would boost his confidence.

"It's decided. Begin the seclusion! At worst, I'll wait another 200 years for the next chance. Besides, my primary motive is to settle scores with that Old Dragon King... Plus, if I ascend to Level 7, I can take advantage of the opportunity to undergo the Level 7 Law Enforcer authorization exam. Once I pass, I'll gain direct access to the seventh layer next time."

The resources on the sixth layer couldn't compare to those on the seventh layer. Just the multitude of black beast lords found there would be immensely valuable to Levi.

Levi held a bottle filled with scorching hot blood emanating intense heat.

This blood came from a Level 7 Fire Breathing Dragon—a sub-dragon species also known formally by the simplistic name "Fire Breathing Dragon."

Its ancestor was the Fire King Dragon, one of the most common fire-element strength-type legendary giant dragons, which made sub-dragon species relatively abundant.

This Fire Breathing Dragon served as the Guardian of a wizard organization in the Midland Continent, and rarely sold its bloodline essence to outsiders. Fortunately, Gandaph was acquainted with Soraya Witch, a senior official of the Sorren Holy Tower.

With just a word from Soraya, the organization delivered the essence to their door. Of course, Gandaph still paid double the price to show sincerity. Bloodline essence, being a renewable resource, wasn't overly costly; even at double pricing, it amounted to only tens of thousands of Aether Stones.

Levi directly infused the medicine into his body. Under the intense heat of his powerful blood, the container rapidly disintegrated, leaving only the medicine itself to be transported to his limbs and bones through his bloodstream.

"Level 7, here I come!"

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Midland Continent.

Fire Dragon Shop.

Inside the secret room.

The Holy Infant opened its eyes, a glimmer of Divine Light flickering and vanishing instantly.

He examined his mind through inner vision; his primordial soul miniature had grown to three feet tall.

"4000 points of spiritual force, plus six Witch Marks—finally achieving the Sixth Circle Perfect Realm. After acquiring the Ice and Fire Holy Body, my cultivation speed has indeed surpassed prior expectations. Of course, the improvement also stems from the two Morning Star-level oddities providing direct spiritual force boosts, combined with long-term consumption of precious Fire Dates."

Now, the Holy Infant was only 1000 points away from his spiritual force limit and halfway from possessing 12 Witch Marks, but he was confident he would achieve both within 200 years. Considering it had been less than 300 years since he advanced to the six environments realm, his pace was undeniably worthy of his top-tier genius status.

His previous ascent to claim the top spot on the ancient tower leaderboard and thereby stand among the ranks of top-tier geniuses was largely attributable to external aids like Wizard Tools.

But after refining the Flame King's Arm and Cold King's Eye and reconstructing his Ice and Fire Holy Body, he had unquestionably earned the title of top genius.

After several decades of closed-door cultivation, the Holy Infant, who hadn't refined weapons in a long time, took out the materials delivered by his true self.

Without refinement, he felt an itch in his hands and a restless yearning—it was pure passion.

"This Heart of Jealousy can be combined with my true self's Purple Holy Crucible for re-refinement. Once an enemy is trapped within the crucible, releasing the Jealous Poison Water from the heart will

plunge them into a boundless nightmare of envy, causing their gradual dissolution without even realizing it."

"This Fury Liver can be merged with the Bag of Gluttony. By combining the gluttony-induced oils with the raging flames of the liver, an unleashed strike will hurl the enemy into a blazing inferno of wrath, reducing them to ashes amidst uncontrollable self-immolation!"

The Holy Infant wielded unparalleled expertise in weapon refinement, instantly discerning the optimal uses for the refinement materials.

Inside the Weapon Refinement room.

Alexandra and Elsie were attentively listening to Silverbeard and Copper Teeth's lectures.

Suddenly.

Alexandra's communication device rang.

After reading the message, she asked:

"Elsie, Senior Golden Dragon is asking if we want to return to the Sleeping Dragon Realm."

Elsie pondered for a moment and then said:

"You make the call. I'll stay with you no matter what... But personally, I think there's no need to go back. With our current Sixth Ring Senior strength, we're capable of self-defense and don't need to return."

Alexandra grinned and replied:

"Then we won't go back. The Sleeping Dragon Realm is just a small place; it's nowhere near as interesting as the Midland Continent. The rewards on the Demon Slaying List are something we, sisters, are determined to claim!"

Of course, she understood that Senior Golden Dragon was primarily concerned for their safety.

But this was Gondor City—the heart of Midland.

The city was full of powerful figures, making it more secure than the Sleeping Dragon Realm.

More importantly, after spending two centuries together, they no longer wished to leave the Fire Dragon Shop.

If they left, wouldn't Master Fire Dragon—the stoic weapon-refinement enthusiast—be unbearably lonely?

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Before the blood battle begins, in the final quiet moments, everyone is striving to grow stronger, making their last preparations.

The Dawn Tower.

Lord Victor had just completed cultivating the seventh primordial soul spell. His spiritual force had long surpassed the maximum, and he spent most of his time studying and researching spells, so his progress was naturally swift.

"Now, I can be considered a proper Sixth-Circle Perfect Wizard. After branding eight Witch Marks and cultivating to perfection, I'll be able to ascend to the seventh circle."

The standard set by his true self was twelve marks, but Victor believed a man should be harsh on himself—he planned to brand fifteen.

After all, aside from learning spells and arrays, he had nothing else to do.

As for the path of the Energy Sect?

One only needed to practice their Absolute Skill, complete their daily exercises, and gain enlightenment occasionally. Cultivation progresses easily and quickly—it's really not difficult. With a Spiritual Fetus Physique and the legacy of the White Emperor's Son, it's that straightforward.

In fact,

Cultivating the Energy Sect is all about letting things flow naturally, or in other words, maintaining a carefree mindset—it's not about forcing results.

If one's mental state and timing are not aligned, even diligent cultivation won't lead to progress. On the contrary, it may lead to obsession, falling into ruin.

This is something that even those official Wizard Council members who've studied the path of the Energy Sect for years have come to recognize. The Energy Sect doesn't follow the same predictable patterns as wizardry; its cultivation and enlightenment rely entirely on individual intuition.

"Tower Master, someone is looking for you."

A subordinate sent word.

Victor extended his perception and, smiling faintly, replied:

"Understood."

On the street.

A young wizard in a black robe, surrounded by eight secret swords, called out loudly:

"Greetings, Lord Victor."

Victor responded:

"Why have you come again?"

Link spoke with determination and confidence:

"I still wish for a rematch with you in the art of secret sword mastery."

Victor chuckled.

"Very well."

He suppressed his own realm, matching Link's Fifth-Circle Perfection Realm, then casually took out a fourth-circle secret wizard tool.

In the training ground.

Link clapped his hands, and the eight secret swords under his control shot into the sky, transforming into beams of sword light that formed an Octagonal Star Formation.

"Eight-direction Sword Rain!"

With a wave of his hand, thousands of Gold Element Sword Qi beams surged down from the sky, their might terrifying.

Victor nodded lightly.

With a flick of his finger, thirteen fourth-circle secret swords soared into the heavens!

"Heavenly Star Sword Formation!"

Rumble!

Sword Qi collided with Sword Qi, sparking an endless cascade of fiery explosions.

In an instant,

[Sword Falling in All Directions] was obliterated. High above, thirteen faintly glowing Heavenly Stars shimmered.

Victor smiled faintly.

"If you can withstand a single sword from me, I will gift you a fifth-circle top-grade secret sword."

Link asked:

"Are you serious, Lord Victor?"

Victor confirmed:

"Indeed."

Link, filled with bravado, transformed his sword array once again. The Octagonal Star formation glowed brightly as eight secret swords embedded themselves into the ground. Sword Qi formed an array barrier, shielding him at its center.

"Bring it on, Lord Victor!"

Victor gently pointed with his finger.

Above the Sky Dome, thirteen Heavenly Stars intertwined, finally taking the shape of a greatsword.

"Shattering Star!"

Boom!

A massive greatsword phantom, hundreds of meters long, appeared instantly above Link's head!

Link's expression grew tense. Feeling the overwhelming force pressing down on him, he began to doubt himself.

"I trust in my sword!"

With all his strength, he pushed his sword formation barrier to its limit!

In the next moment,

The greatsword shattered, never landing on the barrier.

Victor spoke:

"Not bad, you've passed."

He was joking—the boy could never truly withstand his sword array attack. Even with Victor deliberately suppressing his realm to the fifth circle, it was impossible.

Link felt as if awakening from a dream; that strike was undeniably awe-inspiring.

"In comparison to such a sword array, my Octagonal Star is still far inferior."

Victor asked:

"Let me ask you again—do you want to become my student?"

The Dawn Tower had recruited many pupils, yet none had been taken as Victor's personal disciples.

Link was the only person Victor had admired in recent years. However, the boy had his own ideas—Victor had asked him before, and he had declined.

Link replied:

"Thank you for the kind offer, Lord Victor. However, I fear that becoming someone's student might constrain my own sword skill style. I'd prefer to explore it on my own."

Victor handed a top-grade secret sword to Link, saying:

"Very well, then stick to your path. You will become a Secret Sword Master. By the way, I suggest you visit the Ancient Dragon Continent sometime and take the Energy Sect's heart-testing challenge—it might open up a whole new realm for you."

Link responded:

"Thank you, Lord Victor. From now on, I won't trouble you further—I've already signed up for the Demon Slaying List."

Victor said:

"Good. Growth is quickest amidst slaughter, but remember, be mindful—stubbornness can lead to ruin, and safety comes first."

Link felt warmth in his heart.

Though he didn't wish to be Victor's student, he held deep respect for him.

With a deep bow, Link merged with his secret sword and vanished into the void.

"Lord Victor, the next time we meet, I'll have reached the sixth circle—and I'll challenge you officially."

Victor smiled and said:

"Be my guest."

Through his Spiritual Fetus intuition, Victor had a hunch that Link might possess the [Golden Stone Heart]. This boy's future was limitless.

"I've nearly grasped the knowledge points of the Heavenly Star Sword Formation already. I just need to ascend to the seventh circle to refine a true sword array."

...

Two years later.

Nora Year 213.

Endless Sea.

Hundred-Eyed Demon Territory.

Once, this place gave birth to the Abyss Well and suffered devastating destruction from a legendary forbidden spell.

Lava Sea.

In the past, Levi discovered a wild sub-dimensional portal here, which was later destroyed by the Wizard Council after its discovery.

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This day.

Under the Lava Sea, bubbles began to rise incessantly, with wisps of faint black gas drifting in the air.

"Screech!"

Accompanied by the sound of something being torn apart, a pitch-black crack expanded rapidly, ultimately turning into a massive abyssal well with a diameter spanning a hundred miles.

"Hehehe, Endless Sea, I, Tidus, the Thousand-Eyed Demon King, have returned! Tremble, insects!"

A demon god exuding a terrifying level 9 aura appeared.

It stood ten thousand meters tall, its body covered with 1,024 blood-red, menacing eyes that shimmered with eerie light.

Behind it came the roars and howls of countless demons.

Tidus, the Thousand-Eyed Demon King, once known as the Hundred-Eyed Demon Lord, was sealed by Gargamel. After the seal was broken by the Hundred Beast Berserk Witch, it ascended to level 9 through a stroke of fortune. However, it was later defeated by the Grand Wizard. Through the Abyss Well, it escaped back into the Abyss, after which the well was destroyed by a Legendary Wizard.

Hundreds of years later, it returned as a king once more, its aura now even stronger than before. Undoubtedly, its power had also grown.

The Thousand-Eyed Demon King proclaimed:

"Minions! Charge forth and use your demon blood to corrupt this world! Let the Abyss Will spread across Nora!"

Tens of thousands of demons poured out of the Abyss Well.

A wizard who happened to be cultivating nearby was instantly torn apart and devoured.

"Hahaha!"

The Thousand-Eyed Demon King's laughter echoed through the heavens and earth. Compared to the Abyss, it still preferred the sweet air of the Wizard World.

Above the sky.

A towering figure clad in a black robe appeared, his expression stern as he stood with his hands behind his back. He was none other than the Black Abyss Walker.

"Wasted Death Black Prison!"

A colossal black city spanning thousands of miles emerged out of thin air.

The city seemed to stand atop a black ocean, with towering black waves crashing against its walls!

Within the city, 66 brilliant Witch Marks shimmered, each emitting a vast and profound aura!

Boom!

The city descended with a thunderous crash.

The Thousand-Eyed Demon King exclaimed in shock:

"Perfect Great Wizard?"

Without hesitation, it unleashed its full power. Eyes all over its body opened wide, firing countless pitch-black beams of light, each capable of instantly killing a Sixth-Circle Wizard. The beams merged together into a massive, ink-black pillar piercing the heavens!

Boom boom boom!

The city clashed with the pillar.

Crack!

The pillar shattered inch by inch, while the city descended unstopably, engulfing the Thousand-Eyed Demon King.

The Thousand-Eyed Demon King's enormous body collided within the city's structure. Walls thundered under its impact, yet remained unshaken.

Black water surged forth from all corners of the city, drowning the Thousand-Eyed Demon King.

The 66 Witch Marks radiated dazzling light, connecting like an array to form an overwhelming suppressive force!

"You are too weak to forge my [Seven Sins Blade]... Return to the Abyss, Tidus!"

The Thousand-Eyed Demon King's body exploded, transforming into an endless fog of blood and demonic aura. A deeply resentful true soul fled into the Abyss Well and vanished.

"I will be back!"

The Black Abyss Walker casually swatted away the minor demon fodder and sent a message:

"Lehger, esteemed senior, you may now destroy this well."

His figure departed.

Tidus could not truly be killed, as its true soul was shielded by the Abyss Will. Even the Underworld could not hold it.

That is why Gargamel had expended so much effort to seal Tidus. Killing it only led to resurrection, so sealing it was a preferable approach. However, sealing it came with its own instability and risks, making it easy to invite disaster. Thus, the Black Abyss Walker decided to simply send it back to be reborn.

After all, for Tidus to grow back to level 9 could take an immeasurable amount of time, making it unlikely to affect the Blood Battle.

After the Black Abyss Walker left.

Above the sky, a pair of colossal, spectral dragon eyes opened, each as wide as a hundred miles, appearing like twin stars dominating the horizon.

A gigantic face, part human and part dragon, covered the heavens and the earth. It uttered two syllables gently.

"Dragon Flames!"

Boom!

A crimson pillar of fire surged skyward, connecting the heavens and earth of the Endless Sea!

If one were in the Land of Darkness, they could witness it.

A lance of fire seemingly emerging from the void struck the surface of Nora, creating invisible ripples that swept through the cloud layers of the Endless Sea, spreading outward!

Days later.

The wizards of the Endless Sea felt the intense wave of energy.

Witch's Family.

The Old Witch extended her hand, her hair standing on end and leaning to one side.

"The Legendary has taken action... The Blood Battle has begun."

Meanwhile, at the site of the Abyss Well, the Lava Sea had been broadened and deepened.

The well itself had vanished.

Lehger, the Dragon Flame God.

He was one of the two Legends of the Burning School of Thought, commanding immensely potent Dragon Flame Magic. He had once participated in the Five Sector Expedition.

His Legendary Profession was [Fire Dragon Venerable], his demiplane was [Extreme Hot Hell], and his Legendary titles were [Overlord of All Flames, Incinerator of Evil Dragon Flames]!

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Midland Continent.

Fire Dragon Shop.

During a pause in weapon refinement, the Holy Infant surveyed the newspaper brought by Alexandra.

[Sorren Daily: Blood Battle Begins, Entire Plane Enters Wartime Status!]

[Blood Battle Daily: Recently, the Dragon Flame God destroyed an Abyss Well in the Endless Sea. The Black Abyss Walker vanquished Tidus, heralding the start of the Blood Battle's First Year...]

Alexandra said eagerly:

"The Blood Battle has begun!"

The Holy Infant replied:

"Indeed, everyone, are you prepared?"

Elsie declared:

"Master, in this early phase of the Blood Battle, the Sixth-level Demon Slaying List will undoubtedly feature our Fire Dragon Shop among the names!"

The Holy Infant cautioned:

"War merit is important, but safety comes first."

During seclusion.

Gandaph and Lord Victor also received news of the Blood Battle's commencement and made their way to the Fire Dragon Shop.

"Of all times, this Blood Battle decides to begin during my seclusion," Gandaph remarked.

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"With Flower Knight acting as the protector, my true form should be safe."

"From now on, Gandaph, make sure to gather information from Soraya and Laplace regarding the whereabouts of Flame Demons. If we come across a Level 7 Early Stage Flame Demon, the three of us working together should be able to take it down. We need to hunt at least four Level 7 Flame Demons to gather enough materials for the breakthrough potion."

"Leave this to me. If the military has any Flame Demon corpses, we can purchase them as well."

A mature duplication had already learned to proactively prepare the materials for a breakthrough potion.

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Land of Darkness.

The deep space surrounding the Nora plane, within a certain meteorite wasteland.

In the void, a pitch-black rift emerged, and a massive Abyss Well with a diameter of ten thousand miles became visible.

Four towering black Demon Mountains, each over a thousand miles high, emerged from within.

On the Demon Mountains, four majestic figures stood entrenched. Their overwhelming auras twisted the surrounding space, and the demonic aura leaking from them raged across a radius of ten thousand miles.

"It seems that directly clearing the Abyss Well to connect to Nora won't work. It looks like the Wizard Council has mastered some powerful monitoring techniques. Tidus has already been annihilated."

"The advancement of the wizard civilization is indeed visible to the naked eye. During the last blood battle, they didn't have such capabilities."

"The more they grow, the more exciting this becomes, don't you think? A weak wizard civilization couldn't even spark my interest."

"Shall we strike now?"

"No rush. The Wizard World still has twelve legendary wizards. Even if we band together, we might not be a match for the Blazing Sun God Wizard alone. Let's wait until the deeper Demon Kings awaken. For now, let's exhaust the wizards by using cannon fodder, allowing Demon Blood to fully soak every inch of Nora's land and oceans, turning it into true Demon Land!"

"True. If we directly step into Nora, the plane's will would reject us, greatly limiting our power. It would put us at a severe disadvantage."

"Take it slow. Savor the feast. After all, this is Sauron's homeland. That guy must have left behind some contingencies in Nora. Those blood battles from earlier were mere probes into the Wizard World's actual strength. This time, maybe we'll uncover their true depths."

...

Three years later.

Nora Year 216.

The fourth year of the blood battle.

There was one year left before the Dark Ancient Tower would open. This year, Levi turned 640 years old.

Over the past three years, small and medium-sized Abyss Wells continued to emerge across the Wizard World. The Endless Sea had the highest concentration, but they were quickly demolished by Legendary Wizards.

Even so, a considerable number of demons broke through.

Like scurrying rats, they spread across the Wizard World.

The demons themselves weren't the biggest problem. The most troublesome part was the demonic aura.

Using demonic aura and secret techniques, demons influenced local humans and creatures, creating demonic creatures and Demon-Possessed Humans that caused chaos in mortal settlements.

While the stationed wizards swiftly eliminated them, they still brought minor to moderate calamities.

The worst-hit areas were the human realm, the Endless Sea, and the Midland Continent—three vast regions.

And this was merely the Abyss testing the waters of the Wizard World.

The wizards were well aware that the true horrors were still watching from the sidelines, waiting for their turn to take the stage.

The release of the Demon Slaying List, coupled with extensive pre-campaign efforts, greatly mobilized the wizards' enthusiasm for resistance.

One by one, wizards embarked on their demon-hunting journeys. Organizations such as the Demon Hunters, the Demon Hunting Union, the Demon Hunting Market, and the Demon Hunting Wizard Team sprang up like mushrooms after a rainstorm.

Although demons were deadly, many of their body parts became premium alchemy and weapon-making materials. The Wizard World, equipped with a well-established purification system for demonic aura, developed demons for use to a much higher degree compared to black beasts.

In the Midland Continent, some larger Wizard Cities had yet to experience demon calamities.

Demons weren't stupid. Approaching well-guarded areas would be akin to courting death.

Instead, they mainly chose the outer sea regions, remote areas, or even mortal territories to sow destruction.

Ancient Dragon Continent.

Outer Sea.

Hundreds of streaks of black smoke darted across the sea's surface, within which were demonic figures resembling bats of varying strength.

These were Pig-nosed Bat Demons, among the most ordinary lower demons in the Abyss. Rarely possessed of great strength, most were low-level, with few reaching middle-level power. However, their numbers made up for their weakness, as even a small colony consisted of hundreds.

Having just arrived at the Ancient Dragon Continent, these demons sensed a dense life force and followed their instinct for slaughter toward the nearest settlement.

High in the sky.

Miniature reconnaissance constructs detected the demonic aura, locked onto the coordinates, and relayed the information to combat-type mechanical creatures and the central cluster system. The central system then passed it along to various battle groups.

In front of the Holy Temple Square.

The Blood Knight gathered the knights for a meeting, his tone serious:

"Everyone, as of today, the Ancient Dragon Continent has also been invaded by demons. Currently, the Dark Moon Knight has already led a team to deal with the situation. From this moment on, be ready for battle at all times. Unless under special circumstances, such as approved seclusion for breakthroughs, all of you must maintain constant communication during your routine cultivation. Additionally, everyone must register for the official Demon Slaying List. Our organization will provide extra rewards, such as resources and combat techniques, on top of the official incentives for those who perform well."

While the Blood Knight delivered his speech, leaders from the Valkyrie Temple, Tower of Dawn, Ancient Dragon Empire, and Giant Beast Paradise also used various means to inspire their members to resist the demons, protect their homes, and bolster morale.

At the edge of the Continent.

Boom!

Amid mechanical roars, a volley of artillery wiped out the majority of the Pig-nosed Bat Demons.

Leading his team with decisive blows, the Dark Moon Knight swiftly dealt with the remaining demons. The battle ended shortly after.

His expression was grim. This was merely an initial probe by the demons, not even an appetizer.

Soon, demon calamities became more frequent across the Wizard World.

The Ancient Dragon Continent was no exception. Fortunately, due to the well-prepared and disciplined battle groups, the casualties were minimal, and the enemies were eradicated. Compared to other regions, the demons invading the Ancient Dragon Continent were fewer in number. As of now, no one from the local organizations ranked on the Demon Slaying List.

Six months later.

Ancient Dragon Continent.

A certain overseas island.

The Tower of Summer Flowers stood tall, and atop the spire, Flower Knight cultivated while overseeing the surroundings.

Suddenly.

She gazed toward the island's center, the area where Levi was in seclusion.

Within a radius of nearly thirty miles, the power of the fire element surged, creating an endless Red Flame Sea.

Amid the roaring of dragons, a lifelike red giant dragon with a wingspan exceeding a thousand meters emerged.

Flower Knight's expression shifted slightly.

"A knight's promotion to Level 7 also requires enduring the Blood Tribulation?"

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Ancient Dragon Continent.

Outer Sea.

Levi opened his eyes.

Within his inner world, the Red Emperor Palace was undergoing earth-shattering transformations. It continued to grow and expand. The Seed of the Crimson Emperor Dragon remained dormant within a massive Red Flame Giant Egg.

Levi's strength surged continuously. The vitality within his body roared, collided, overflowed, and erupted, transforming into crimson flames that were swept into the sky by the sea winds!

Levi oscillated between his human form and his Crimson Emperor Dragon Form, flickering as if flashing through a lantern slide.

His body swelled like an inflating balloon, reaching hundreds of meters tall, standing like a mountain on the small island.

"Just after promotion, I can't fully control this power yet. For now, I must focus on overcoming this tribulation. Advancing to Level 7 still requires enduring the calamity. Creating such a heaven-defying breathing technique comes at a price."

Just as with wizards advancing to the seven-circle rank, ordinary knights would not face such a tribulation upon reaching Level 7. Only someone like Levi, who created his own path, must bear this burden.

He raised his head and looked toward the heavens. The thousand-meter wingspan of the Red Giant Dragon hung above, its gaze profound, locking eyes with Levi.

"Come, Red Lotus Dragon!"

Gigantic Levi's leg muscles erupted with power, launching him skyward with surging energy waves that spread across the island and beyond.

In the distance, the protective shield around the Tower of Summer Flowers lit up, gently blocking the shockwave. Hundred Flowers watched Levi with unavoidable concern in her heart.

If Levi were advancing to the seventh circle as a wizard, she wouldn't worry at all. The wizard's path was well established. But Levi was an unparalleled anomaly, an Infinite Primordial Soul.

However, a knight's Level 7 was an uncharted road, shrouded in uncertainty. No one could predict what would happen next.

"Good luck," she murmured.

High in the heavens, the gigantic Levi threw a thunderous punch. A white shockwave, mixed with blazing flames, surged forth like an unstoppable path!

The Red Lotus Dragon's wings swept through the air, conjuring lotus-shaped flames that appeared to emerge slowly from the void—only to instantly materialize before Levi!

Boom!

The Red Lotus exploded, transforming into a mushroom cloud of Hellfire!

Everything within the explosion's radius was instantly obliterated!

Even with Levi's Level 6 Peak physical defense reinforced by the Brilliant Golden Dragon Armor, he was left charred, bloody, and mutilated!

Hundred Flowers' gaze turned anxious.

"Why does this calamity for advancing to Level 7 feel even harder compared to the relative difficulty of advancing from Level 5 to Level 6?"

In the next moment.

The Death Ember Dragon's formidable healing powers began to restore Levi's body.

The Red Lotus Dragon, struck by Levi's fist wind, didn't fare much better. It tumbled through the air, shedding scales like falling rain, and only managed to steady itself with great difficulty.

The clash between these two titans was raw and unyielding—evident displays of strength clashing head-on without dodging or evasion.

At this level of combat, ordinary dodging was meaningless.

One could not evade such blows, and attempting to do so might even miss the opportunity to counterattack.

Levi realized that this Level 7 tribulation was even harder than he'd anticipated.

The growth of a heaven-defying existence only became more arduous the further one progressed. A single misstep could lead to an abyss of no return, eternal damnation!

As a mythical-level being that once truly existed, how could the Red Lotus Dragon possibly be weak?

Even though it descended across the aeons through some projection, one could not afford to underestimate it.

Boom!

Once again, an earth-shaking collision erupted. The Crimson Dragon Slash pierced through the Crimson Emperor Dragon's chest like an unstoppable lance!

Lava-like blood gushed forth, transforming into flames as it spilled freely.

Roar!

A more violent Solar Wind swept across the Red Lotus Dragon's body!

Levi's form was rapidly carbonized, crumbling into ashes as his flesh and bones were exposed to the open air.

"With my lifetime of insights, my six hundred years of effort, *Warlord Catalog*! *Uncontainable Fury*!"

Courage, Dominance, Wrath—the three human auras!

Sun, Moon, Stars—the three celestial auras!

The six auras merged into one, transforming into the Warlord Aura—a force of unparalleled dominance that surged forward with an unstoppable momentum, defying all of creation!

Roar!

A ferocious badger-like beast materialized behind Levi, exuding killing intent and fearless resolve as its phantom let out a furious howl!

This was the ninth level of the Warlord Catalog, *Uncontainable Fury*, the ultimate Profound Meaning of the combat technique!

For a long time, Levi had been just shy of fully mastering *Uncontainable Fury*.

At last, in this peak battle against the Red Lotus Dragon, he had grasped it completely and reached its pinnacle!

His body rapidly regenerated, restoring his flesh to its prime condition, as an overpowering aura burst forth!

Screech!

A crimson pillar of light tore through the heavens and the earth, slicing the Red Lotus Dragon in half from top to bottom.

The calm, indifferent gaze in the Red Lotus Dragon's eyes dimmed, and its form dissolved into a sea of fire elemental power, disappearing without a trace.

One by one, the other Blood Tribulation Masters appeared, only to be shattered under Levi's domineering sword light.

After dealing with them, Levi panted heavily and regenerated his stamina swiftly.

One more Dark Tribulation remained for him to overcome. The form of this tribulation was completely random; no one could predict its manifestation. He could only embrace the unknown and respond to it in kind.

"To create something from nothing, to forge a new and powerful bloodline, the intensity of tribulations ahead will only grow stronger. If I hadn't cultivated the other five dimensions of breathing techniques simultaneously, even the Crimson Emperor Dragon could face annihilation in the Land of Darkness."

The stronger the Crimson Emperor Dragon became, the more formidable the power of the Blood Tribulation Masters conjured by this world would also grow.

It was, after all, deliberately designed to target Levi.

Seeing Levi overcome the Blood Tribulation safely, Hundred Flowers finally breathed a sigh of relief.

If it had been her, she might have needed to exhaust all her strength—wizard tools, rare treasures, and all—just to defeat that terrifying crimson dragon's projection.

But Levi had triumphed with nothing but his divine weapon, combat techniques, and physical prowess. He was still that monstrous genius prodigy!

Before Levi could catch his breath, the elemental power of fire began converging toward the sky dome once more.

A massive eye, spanning a diameter of nearly one mile, manifested in the void. As the eye opened a fissure, it revealed a pupil utterly devoid of emotion!

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Boom! Boom! Boom!

Flames within a hundred-mile radius began to stir and churn.

The entire island, under the intense heat, instantly turned into magma, engulfing Levi.

Even with Levi's Red Emperor Dragon Body and its fire element resistance, the scorching heat was almost unbearable.

"So... this is the Dark Tribulation?"

Blood qi surged around him, forging a crimson armor, as the Crimson Dragon Slash rested in his palm, his gaze brimming with fighting intent.

"Just perfect, I wasn't done having fun. Come on, let me see what kind of tricks you've got this time!"

This Dark Tribulation brought Levi a sense of peril far beyond the petty dangers of earlier encounters, even surpassing the threat posed by the appearance of the Red Lotus Dragon just moments ago.

Scarlet eyes stared directly at Levi.

Goosebumps crawled down Levi's back!

Boom!

A sudden blow sent him hurtling backward across the sea, flying a hundred miles!

Looking down at the gaping hole punched through his chest, Levi's gaze remained calm.

Standing silently at the spot where he had been moments ago was a fiery figure, its features indistinct but bearing a striking resemblance to Levi.

"This tribulation... is my mirror image?"

Levi reached an understanding.

The figure was composed entirely of fire, without flesh or blood—an incarnation of pure flame.

The hole in Levi's chest healed instantly; for someone with an Undying Body, it was a mere trivial wound.

Boom!

Levi gripped the Crimson Dragon Slash firmly.

The fiery figure brandished a longsword forged of flames!

The clash of sword light rang out, steel against steel!

"Interesting, this flaming figure seems to have mastered combat techniques as well."

Levi contemplated, leaping suddenly as the fiery figure struck again!

"Uncontainable Fury!"

The overpowering greatsword cleaved downward!

The fiery figure's longsword shattered. Its body was sent flying, sliced in two, split down the middle.

In the next moment.

The fiery figure silently snapped its fingers, reforming back to its original state.

Levi's expression grew somber as he turned his gaze toward the emotionless scarlet eye in the sky. Embedded within the hundred-mile Sea of Fire, it loomed, exuding divine presence.

Levi slashed apart another attacking flame figure, then rocketed upward, unleashing terrifying Sword Qi that transformed into a scarlet beam, piercing through the heavens!

With this strike, he aimed to destroy the eye!

Levi knew that the key to the battle lay here!

The scarlet eye calmly observed Levi's incoming strike, then released an invisible, blistering wave of heat!

Before the scarlet beam could reach its target, it shattered inch by inch, eventually dissipating into nothingness like a clay ox sinking into the sea.

Levi's expression shifted slightly.

Behind him, the flaming figure struck once more, driving its fiery longsword into Levi's heart. With a sharp twist, Levi's body was torn in two!

Amid the blood fog, Levi's figure reappeared once again.

"This isn't a solution... If my Death Ember Dragon's strength runs out, even true immortality won't save me. This time, the Land of Darkness is playing for real."

The flaming figure attacked once more, Levi countering with his shark-tooth-shaped sword. Summoning explosive force, his body swelled under the Whale Emperor Power Book!

Boom!

The flaming figure was sent flying.

Instantly flashing behind it, Levi launched a devastating punch!

Fist wind exploded!

The flaming figure disintegrated into scattered flames, crushed under Levi's overwhelming might.

But it reassembled once again, though Levi could sense its momentum had weakened somewhat.

"It seems its immortality has limits."

Levi unleashed his full strength. He needed to eliminate this apparent mirror image first. f

If the mirror disappeared but the scarlet eye remained unresolved, he would need to devise another strategy.

Outside the battlefield, Hundred Flowers' eyes remained fixed, unblinking, on the unfolding situation.

"What is this scarlet eye? Is it the embodiment of some rule or will?"

She pondered.

From her knowledge, advancing to Grand Wizard status meant that each wizard faced distinct tribulations. Among them, one type involved facing monsters embodying elemental laws of their sect, known as "Elemental Tribulation Masters."

Levi's current predicament seemed vaguely similar, though there were fundamental differences.

Boom!

After yet another thunderous sword strike, the flaming figure was once again shattered, its sword destroyed, its body annihilated. Its raw power was still no match for Levi.

Even if it could replicate Levi's Red Emperor Dragon abilities, it was futile against Levi's Brilliant Golden Dragon Armor's defense, Sky Dragon's endurance, and Death Ember Dragon's physique...

After this collapse, the flaming figure could no longer regenerate and reassemble.

High in the heavens.

The scarlet eye was now riddled with cracks, from which trails of fire seeped out.

Levi recognized that the tribulation had reached its breaking point.

Pointing his longsword at the eye, another burst of Red Flame Sword Energy surged forth!

Boom!

This time, the eye offered no resistance. Under the onslaught of sword energy, it disintegrated into ashes. The sense of dread vanished utterly.

"The Dark Tribulation... is over."

Levi exhaled deeply; exhaustion washed over him as he gently descended.

Hundred Flowers asked:

"Is it over?"

Levi nodded.

Hundred Flowers rushed forward, supporting Levi as they left the fiery sea region and returned to the Ancient Dragon Continent.

The secluded island of retreat had long since vanished, swallowed by the sea.

...

The Emperor's Palace.

Levi consumed several doses of medicine and high-energy food to restore his strength, though the weariness of his mind would take time to recuperate.

Within him, the surging Red Emperor Dragon Blood Qi was several times more potent than before his ascension, its quality also elevated further.

Under the relentless flow of this blood qi, the Crimson Emperor Divine Palace was dissipating at an imperceptible pace, disintegrating into numerous micro god palaces that merged into Levi's cells. Upon closer inspection, each tiny cell contained a world of its own, within which a god palace stood.

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The surface of the divine palace was layered with bricks and tiles of six distinct colors.

On each brick, intricate red flame runes resembling flickering fire were carved.

"The Meat Divine Palace and Flame True Symbol—these are the two fundamental elements of Crimson Emperor Dragon power!"

After reaching Level 7, Levi had begun to analyze and comprehend the true essence of the Crimson Emperor Dragon.

"The pinnacle of strength—the Flame Dragon of World Annihilation!"

"The Crimson Emperor Dragon I created is essentially a manifestation of fire and strength! No matter how its abilities evolve, they ultimately revolve around these two core elements—they are inseparable."

"Strength, physique, endurance, perception, speed, and defense—these are the six fundamental forces of physical cultivation, and their foundational unit is the [Meat Divine Palace]!"

"As for fire, thunder, hurricanes, oceans, and other supernatural elemental powers, their foundational unit is the [Blood True Rune], specifically the [Flame True Symbol]!"

"The Meat Divine Palace forms the foundation, while the Blood True Rune serves as an augmentation. The combination of these two foundational units creates the Dragon Clan's immeasurable physical might and spell-like abilities. This is also the deeper principle behind Knights' Practice and their Talent Brand."

"And the bricks and tiles serve as the building blocks of the [Meat Divine Palace]."

Levi focused his mind and gazed intently.

On these bricks and tiles were intricate and mysterious patterns. f

He carefully examined them and discovered that these patterns could be categorized into six distinct types.

Among them, the most prevalent were the bricks representing [Strength].

They formed the main structure of the Crimson Emperor Dragon's [Meat Divine Palace].

Of course, the other five types of bricks were also present in substantial numbers.

However, compared to strength, their quantity was far less.

Levi murmured to himself:

"This is precisely why the Crimson Emperor Dragon can be classified as a strength-type Dragon Clan. By observing the divine palace, one can discern the dimensional discrepancies of living creatures across the six fundamental forces."

He projected his consciousness into one of the Meat Divine Palaces.

An imposing figure clad in a crimson imperial robe, its face obscured, sat high on a throne, exuding regal grandeur and majesty!

In Levi's mind, as if in a moment of enlightenment, the name of this crimson-robed figure emerged.

"Red Emperor True Form."

The True Form serves as the core that governs both the Meat Divine Palace and the Blood True Rune, embodying Levi's will itself!

Ancient wisdom from Levi's past life echoed in his thoughts:

"Thirty-six thousand gods reside in the human body!"

The Red Emperor True Form is the embryonic shape of these gods!

The so-called gods are, in essence, manifestations of one's own will!

In an instant, Levi willed it.

Within his body, countless cells and the myriad Red Emperor True Forms within their individual divine palaces collectively stood tall!

At that moment, he felt as though he possessed God's power—the sensation of nuclear bombs igniting and detonating in his body, leaving him yearning to unleash this energy.

"Through my will, I command billions of gods within my body. These gods reside in the [Meat Divine Palace] constructed from [Strength], their surfaces adorned with countless Flame True Symbols. This is the essence of how Crimson Emperor Dragon power functions after reaching Level 7!"

To put it simply:

If one disregards the other dimensional bricks constituting the Meat Divine Palace,

Crimson Emperor Dragon = Meat Divine Palace + Flame True Symbol.

All abilities and variations stem from the arrangements and combinations of these two fundamental elements.

It's akin to the binary code of [0] and [1].

In an instant:

Levi's mind sharpened, as though he experienced profound enlightenment.

At the core of his body,

The Crimson Emperor Divine Palace stood like a reef in the ocean, continuously battered by relentless waves of blood qi. Each impact sent countless microscopic divine palace particles into Levi's body cells.

After reaching Level 7, the cultivation of the Crimson Emperor Dragon focused on decomposing the divine palace from a macroscopic structure to a microscopic one, granting every single cell its own divine palace. This marked an extremely prolonged process, which Levi termed "Physical Divine Palace Transformation," converting the abstract concept of [Strength] into its concrete embodiment—divine palaces.

Despite the innumerable divine palaces already within his body, Levi knew he was far from achieving complete physical divine palace transformation.

The body of just a mortal contains tens of trillions of cells.

For Levi, whose structure was far more intricate as a transcendent being, the numbers were beyond estimation.

If there ever came a day when Levi accomplished complete physical divine palace transformation,

Every drop of blood coursing through his veins would contain billions of divine palaces.

These blood droplets would harbor countless manifestations of Levi's Red Emperor True Form and such immense power that a single drop could annihilate a primordial soul cultivator.

One drop of blood, capable of obliterating the sun, moon, and stars!

At that stage, every fragment of Levi's flesh and blood would embody the abstract concept of [Strength]—it would signify laws, or perhaps the truth as the wizards describe!

Thus, the first sentence of the proficiency panel's description of the Crimson Emperor Dragon reads:

"The pinnacle of strength!"

With this realization, Levi opened the proficiency panel.

Levi

Crimson Emperor Dragon Breathing Technique: Nineteenth Rank (1/10,000,000), Special Effect: Red Emperor Dragon Body·??? (Level 7 Early Stage); Bloodline Dharma Idol: Heaven Burning Crimson Emperor; Blood Source Armor: Crimson Emperor Dragon Armor; Exclusive Weapon: Crimson Dragon Slash (Level 7); Bloodline Divine Patterns: 0/81.

[Red Emperor Dragon Body·???)

1. You possess the extreme strength of the Crimson Emperor Dragon.

2. You possess exceptionally excellent fire element affinity talents.

3. You have mastered the [Sun's Wind] and can conjure terrifying solar storms, incinerating everything.

4. You have comprehended a 15-kilometer-radius [Red Emperor Domain], filled with Level 7 Crimson Emperor Dragon Flames that burn perpetually. When the domain is activated, your strength attribute increases by 1000%, while other attributes increase by 200%.

5. You exert Dragon's Might dominance over all fire dragons under heaven!

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6. You can transform into the Red Emperor Dragon for a relatively long period of time...]

After this promotion, it signifies the Red Emperor Dragon Breathing Technique reaching the nineteenth rank, which corresponds to the Blood Source Seven Changes and a Seventh-level Knight!

Other abilities such as the Red Emperor Domain need no further elaboration; they are merely enhanced versions of their previous effects.

The most significant change from Level 6 to Level 7 is embarking on the path of Physical Divine Palace transformation.

The Bloodline Divine Patterns serve as the primary benchmark for measuring the degree of Physical Divine Palace transformation.

This is akin to Levi previously condensing the Maximum Soul to create a visual benchmark for the progress of the Infinite Primordial Soul.

The upper limit of Bloodline Divine Patterns is fixed, determined by the inherent quality of the breathing technique itself.

For the Red Emperor Dragon, the upper limit is to condense 81 patterns!

Levi's mind stirred—this number happens to align perfectly with the 81 Infinite Primordial Souls previously devised by Roger!

Since the Red Emperor Dragon is a beyond-Mythical existence,

If universal truths converge, wouldn't that imply... that the upper limit of the Infinite Primordial Soul Method is also Level 11?

This confirms, as Roger stated, that the Infinite Primordial Soul indeed points directly to the realm beyond Legendary.

His path was not mistaken!

Of course, these are just Levi's conjectures, possibly applicable only to bloodline pathways and unrelated to wizards, serving as merely a curious coincidence.

The condensation of Divine Patterns also proceeds in three phases, much like the wizard's Witch Marks.

However, wizards conclude their condensation before the ninth-circle, between the sixth, seventh, and eighth marks, to unify and ascend to the realm of Grand Wizard.

Divine Patterns are condensed between Level 7, Level 8, and Level 9, finishing before Level 10, to unify and ascend to the Mythical realm!

In addition, the number of Witch Marks imprinted at each wizard stage can vary, with a minimum of 9 marks required.

For instance, nine marks at the seventh circle and twelve marks at the eighth circle are theoretically feasible. Yet, since imprinting Witch Marks becomes increasingly difficult, if you only manage nine marks at the seventh circle, how could you possibly imprint twelve marks at the eighth circle? That would be wishful thinking.

For knights, at each stage, they must condense one-third of the maximum number of Divine Patterns. For the Red Emperor Dragon, this means 27 patterns must be imprinted per realm—no less, no more. This quantity is determined by the bloodline itself. To raise the upper limit, one must break through the bloodline shackles, achieve bloodline evolution, and become a new bloodline.

In summary, for knights constrained by bloodline shackles,

A Level 9 Legendary bloodline cannot ascend to Level 10 to complete the unification process of the Divine Palace, resulting in only a half-completed state—hence, they remain "demigods."

Only Mythical-level bloodlines can ascend to Level 10 and fully complete the Physical Divine Palace transformation.

Meanwhile, Level 7 and Level 8 bloodlines cannot even condense complete Divine Patterns, let alone achieve Physical Divine Palace transformation.

Perhaps, this explains why sub-dragons cannot step into Level 9; though they carry Legendary-level and Mythical-level bloodline factors within, they lack the ability to cultivate breathing techniques to break through the bloodline shackles and achieve step-by-step bloodline perfection as knights do.

After the Red Emperor Dragon's promotion, through the proficiency panel, Levi sensed that:

The number 81 should represent the limit of single-dimensional bloodline pathways.

For Mythical-level bloodlines, 66 patterns appear to be the upper limit.

For Legendary-level bloodlines, 45 patterns seem to be the upper limit.

As for bloodlines below Legendary-level, they cannot fully traverse the three phases of the Physical Divine Palace path, making the concept of a "limit" irrelevant.

Suddenly.

Levi thought of a question:

By applying the knight's Divine Pattern standard to wizards, does it imply that if one condenses 45 Witch Marks, the probability of successfully advancing to Grand Wizard is relatively high? If one could condense 66 marks, even the realm of Legendary Wizard might be plausible. Should he truly accomplish the astounding feat of 81 Witch Marks, would he then have a substantial chance to ascend beyond Legendary?

Coupled with Roger's verification of the Infinite Primordial Soul Method's 81 Maximum Souls,

Levi believed this possibility could be very real.

"If this conjecture holds true, the standard I set for the Holy Infant—at least 12 Witch Marks per realm—may be slightly inadequate. Although it's merely a duplication, it still needs to become a Grand Wizard at minimum to match my late-stage power. If it's too weak, it serves no purpose. Of course, the standard can't be set too high either; it is, after all, just a duplication, with talent inferior to mine. Setting it too high would be meaningless. The wizard pathway is more open than the knight pathway; Witch Marks cannot represent everything. Since predecessors established the minimum standard at 9 marks, it means that some achieved Grand Wizard or even Legendary Wizard status with just 27 marks. However, such individuals typically possess extraordinary fortuitous encounters."

After careful consideration,

Levi informed the Holy Infant of this matter, urging it to imprint as many Witch Marks as possible within its capacity.

With its lifespan, it could afford to prolong the process.

As for Lord Victor, he had already planned to imprint 15 marks, which did not require Levi's concern.

Gandaph went without saying. As a body-refining wizard, unlike spell wizards, his path to greater strength lay simply in cultivating a greater number of body-refining runes—but therein also lay the difficulty.

Suddenly,

An inspiration struck Levi's mind.

"If this conjecture proves accurate, then there's a relatively clever way to increase the likelihood of advancing to the ninth-circle. That is to imprint as many Witch Marks as possible during the sixth-circle period. Then, fewer marks can be imprinted during the seventh and eighth circles. Ultimately, as long as the total before reaching the ninth-circle amounts to 45 marks, it should suffice."

"No, this is unwise... Imprinting too many Witch Marks in the sixth-circle may result in low-quality marks lacking sufficient balance. It's better to imprint an equal number across all three stages. Since this is the commonly adopted practice, there must be a reason for it. Otherwise, such shortcuts for advancing to Grand Wizard would have already been discovered by wizards long ago—how would it then fall to me?"