**Essence of eternity**

**Chapter 1: Ideals of change**

The underworld, a cruel and dark place inhabited by demons, beings full of hate, resentment and suffering. His great lord Bill ruled the underworld since long before the existence of humans or so it was known.

Those demons that served him enjoyed inflicting pain and suffering on the human souls that came to his realm, but there were demons that sought to steal his knowledge. Medusa before part of the demonic royalty was imprisoned and sentenced to exile for stealing knowledge from Bill, since then she has sought to escape, because the knowledge she stole spoke of the elemental kingdom, an ancient kingdom held as a myth possessor of great secrets that Medusa was willing to get

One of the royal devils felt pity for her, although he knew that he could not convince Bill of her to free her from her, he decided to act on her on her own and free her from her without anyone knowing about her. Upon being released she was surprised to see that this mysterious demon helped her escape, without saying a word they ran to a discreet place where the demon created a portal to the human world, without hesitation Medusa entered while the demon felt a guardian approaching, immediately it vanished leaving the portal open.

On the other side Medusa had ended up on a rocky cliff, she managed to climb to the top, but the guardian went through the portal in search of Medusa. She could not fight because the bracelets in her hands contained her power, seeing herself cornered she just backs away while a stranger passed by on the road, Medusa turning around sees a being with a black tunic covering her limbs that were bones without any meat .This was a necromancer, he did not seem to have any intention of helping Medusa so he continued on his way without looking to the left.

Medusa, looking back in front of her, is hit hard by the guardian, hitting the rock wall very close to the necromancer, who points her oz against an injured Medusa. After looking at it carefully, he sees that the guardian intends to invest both of them, so the necromancer raises his oz and walks towards the guardian to face him directly, almost having contact, the necromancer opens a portal on the ground in which he enters and opens another by above the guardian, descending quickly, he makes a fatal cut to the guardian in the back, the badly wounded guardian tries to crush him, but the necromancer cuts off his hand and then concentrates his energy and cuts his body in half.

After killing the guardian, he makes a tired movement, reflecting that this use of energy exhausted him notably, he continued walking without looking at Medusa who was still injured, but he could walk. She told the stranger that she should not go, she needed her help, the stranger replied that he had already helped her and that she no longer needed him, Medusa was insistent and the stranger answered saying that her name was Crenox.

Medusa calling him by her name asked him for help, she just wanted him to free her from the bracelets that contained her power, once he freed her she would leave him alone. Crenox looked at the bracelets and said that they were made of dark titanium, a highly resistant metal that can only be shaped by a demon, he could take them off, but he had to offer him a payment in exchange for his release, Medusa thought about it and had no choice. to offer him the knowledge he had stolen from Bill. Medusa took out a scroll and showed it to Crenox, who looked at the scroll carefully and noticed that this map belonged to Bill because of the symbol it had. He stared at Medusa, he turned his eyes and told her to follow him.

They walked until they reached the kingdom of Alkmar, Crenox offered Medusa her black tunic so that she would hide from the eyes of others until they reached the interior. Upon entering Medusa I observe the kingdom of Alkmar and her lifestyle. Most of the human inhabitants came from other kingdoms, mostly from the kingdom of Gibraltar. Their worship of their demon masters was enough to keep them sane, their different ranks were increasingly abominable, Crenox being the strangest of them all, after a while they walked until they reached the building where the king lived, they both entered and greeted them. welcome, it was then that Medusa deduced that Crenox was the maximum leader of the necromancers. They entered and Crenox offered Medusa if he wanted to sit down, she refused so he sat down and began to manipulate her oz a bit. Medusa impatiently asked Crenox to release her from the bracelets to which she replied that she wished to see the scroll again, Medusa agreed and Crenox analyzed this paper further.

While analyzing the parchment Medusa exclaimed "Then you are the king of the necromancers", Crenox replied "Something like that", she tried to understand with a confused face and could not help but ask. Crenox explained that she had long ago led an army to attack the kingdom of Gibraltar, but a group of mages and adepts prevented the attack from happening, failing in their attempt to conquer that territory and losing many soldiers along the way. She is now dedicated to trying to prosper with her kingdom and not be annihilated by the kingdom of Gibraltar, when Crenox finishes explaining, he exclaims “Well, you know who I am, now tell me. Who are you?".

"My name is Medusa and I was a member of the demon order, I was exiled long ago for stealing sacred knowledge from Bill." Crenox looked at her and asked, "If you were imprisoned, who freed you?" She could only answer "A demon, of which I do not know who it is".

The conversation seemed to despair Medusa because she wanted to free herself from her bonds as soon as possible and that necromancer seemed to be her only option to get her release. After spending some time analyzing the map, Crenox was more convinced that this map was authentic and that the mythical kingdom of the elementals was real, he could no longer question Medusa's words, since this map contained the location of the kingdom, but he still had to decipher its exact location which was going to take a considerable amount of time. Medusa knew that she was trying to decipher it so she exclaimed "Don't waste your time deciphering it, I know its exact location, although it took me time to decipher the exact location of the elemental kingdom".

Crenox replied "I am in no hurry and I have no interest in negotiating with you for that information." She glared at him knowing that she was only using her, as she didn't seem to have any intention of helping her to be free of her. Medusa exclaimed "If you don't want information or my help then why don't you release me?". Crenox looked up with a smile and said, “The reason you're still wearing those bracelets is because she trusted what's on paper so much, but she didn't trust you. You were a member of the demonic order, you earned the trust of our great lord Bill just to steal sacred knowledge from him, the consequence was your exile, a punishment that you have not yet finished paying and now, do you demand your release? Despite what was said she didn't seem to care in the least and she said "We made a deal, the scroll for my release". Crenox let her know that she was aware of it, but the real source of her concern was Medusa's hidden intentions, "What exactly do you want?" Crenox said. She just silently thought, knowing that she had no other choice but to obtain her release, "I want a throne, to get back that life that was taken from me in my previous life. "Hearing this Crenox responds with a high-pitched laugh and then says "All women who love to be adored want a throne, all of them want to always look perfect and do not care about the suffering of others, they are dangerous despite their unique beauty and lovely".

Medusa knew that this necromancer was very intelligent and it was not going to be easy to retrieve her parchment and flee, but she could try to reason with him to reach a mutual agreement “You want power, knowledge and control. I want a throne, we both have similar ambitions and although we think differently we can help each other to achieve what is impossible for us”. Crenox thought for a moment and replied "I will not be willing to give you my throne for the knowledge I need." Medusa exclaimed "I don't need your throne, I want you to help me forge a kingdom and a powerful army that we can use to destroy the elemental kingdom". Crenox mentioned to her that forging a kingdom and a powerful army were difficult goals to achieve and required considerable time, they could not be achieved with so few resources to which Medusa replied "The scroll that is in your possession is not the only thing that I steal to the great lord. He also managed to steal a summoning scroll from her.” Crenox, with the intrigue invading him, cannot avoid asking "And who does he summon?" Medusa replies "To the great Mr. Bill."

She briefly mentions that this scroll explains the correct way to summon Bill and ask for anything, payment for a request to Bill was unknown, but Crenox was willing to give anything for power.

Motivated Crenox replies “It's a fair offer, so I'll accept it. However, I will make sure that there are no betrayals between the two. We must make a sacred deal.” A sacred deal between demons is unbreakable, if the other party intends to break it, they will receive a punishment personally executed by Bill. Medusa accepts the deal and they shake hands, pledging allegiance. At the end of the handshake, Crenox demands to see the summoning scroll, thus beginning his quest to build a kingdom and gain the knowledge of the elementals.

Far away in the human territories, conflicts were provoked between the other kingdoms that wanted to progress, the most oppressed kingdom was the one called Eretria. Their king Gregory was tired of the endless conflict and did not want to spill more innocent blood, so he traveled to one of the few kingdoms where he could be received peacefully "Sparta". The Spartans were highly trained soldiers for hard combat, although their ruthlessness was extreme their honor was more important than their lives. King Gregory arrived in Sparta with the hope of making an alliance with the kingdom, Eterios the king of Sparta understood Gregory's concern, because like him, he did not want to shed innocent blood, the kingdoms sought to progress, but the constant conflict was inevitable. Although Eterios understood Gregory's concerns he refused to accept an alliance with Eretria, Eterios said "Sparta cannot make an alliance with an inferior kingdom, if the surrounding kingdoms find out about our actions we could unleash an even worse war, it is better not to." give the enemy reasons to enter into conflict”.

Gregorio replied "Eretria is not a kingdom inferior to Sparta, each culture has its own". The king of Eretria was not going to allow such an offense, Eterios replied "If they really trust to match us then we should check it out". Disgusted by the proposal, Gregorio immediately refuses saying "I can't allow it, the purpose of my visit is to try an alliance with his kingdom, I don't want to send my men to die just to define who has the greatest military power." Eterios replies “Then let's make a deal. If your men manage to defeat my soldiers in a friendly battle then Sparta will accept an alliance with Eretria, but if your men are defeated, you will never set foot on these lands again.

King Gregory thought for a moment as he surveyed his surroundings and without further hesitation said “My forces will engage in friendly combat with the Spartans. I only ask that there be no deaths in this battle.” Eterios accepted and closed the deal with a strong handshake.

Gregory returned to his kingdom and told his soldiers the deal he had made with the king of Sparta, they were willing to do their best to achieve an alliance with Sparta. The battle was going to take place in four days and the commanders had to put their best soldiers in front. While King Gregory and his soldiers waited for the day of the meeting they met to discuss the high level of combat that the Spartans had, it was clear that the soldiers of Eretria were not as disciplined and skilled as the Spartans, but their skills with the sword could be effective, King Gregory was an experienced swordsman who could easily take on a Spartan and defeat him, but Eterios forbade the commanders to participate in the battle together with their soldiers, as this battle was to test the effectiveness of the soldiers in both kingdoms . After the discussion Gregorio motivates his troops so that they do not see their opponents as superiors but as worthy opponents, Gregorio said “The Spartans are tough, skilled and very lethal opponents. But we swordsmen of Eretria have our strength in our sword and in our numbers, overwhelming the enemy will be the key to this battle and I am very confident that it will be!” With much encouragement, his soldiers raise their swords and raise their voices to honor the wise words of his king.

The next day the soldiers and Gregorio arrive at the meeting point for the battle, in the distance they can notice the presence of the Spartans formed and prepared. King Eterios advances to the center of the field together with his escort to exchange words with Gregorio, being face to face Eterios says "Before starting the battle we must make it clear that our soldiers will not fight to the death, my warriors will try to take out yours and your warriors too. He trusted that they will rise to the occasion.” At the end, Gregorio and Eterios shake hands and then return to their positions and observe the battle.

The Spartans numbered a force of ten men, while Gregory's forces numbered twenty men. The Spartans began slowly advancing towards the swordsmen who still refused to break their formation. After advancing half the field they stop and wait for the response of the swordsmen of which the first row advances while the second row is a little late. Nearly reaching the Spartans, the first row of swordsmen slam their swords into the Spartans' spear formation, knocking them out of position, at which point the swordsmen in the first row kneel and help those in the second row propel themselves forward. and cross the shield wall thus initiating a multiple clash of swords against the shields of the Spartans.

The swordsmen manage to take out several Spartans, but they managed to take out all the swordsmen, wounded they leave the battlefield so that later the next wave of swordsmen advances making a different deployment from the previous one, while the Spartans had only six men willing to put up a better fight than before. They throw their spears at the swordsmen separating them and charging at them, the swordsmen advanced together and faced the onslaught of the Spartans who protected each other, however, the swordsmen charged strongly against them taking them off balance and giving them the opportunity to another swordsman from landing a hit.

In the end, nine Spartans were taken out of action and the swordsmen failed to defeat them. King Gregorio had to accept his bitter defeat, but King Eterios approached the field to exchange words with Gregorio again and tell him “I greatly admire the courage of your soldiers, I was wrong, Eretria is not a kingdom inferior to Sparta. They are worthy opponents to our strength and today they earned our respect. Our warriors have already proven their combat efficiency, it is time for commanders to prove theirs.”

Eterios challenges Gregorio to a match, without hesitation Gregorio accepts the challenge drawing his sword and getting into position. Eterios raised his shield and quickly advanced to attack Gregorio, who dodged the attack and then hit his spear and counterattacked. His Fight was brutal and fast, finally Gregorio managed to disarm Eterios who helplessly accepted his defeat. They shook hands thus creating the alliance between the two kingdoms, Eterios said "From today Sparta will have an alliance with Eretria and also today she will have our respect and admiration for her courage".

At the end of these words, Gregorio thanks him and turns around to return with his soldiers to Eretria. Upon arrival and hearing the news, his people start a celebration in honor of their king Gregorio who fulfilled his goal of achieving an alliance with Sparta. But King Gregory did not have time for celebrations, as there was still much to do, his goal of unifying all the kingdoms was far from complete, the alliance with Sparta was just the beginning, but he was willing to continue without delay and without fear.

Meanwhile Crenox was dedicated to getting the resources required for the summoning of Bill and Medusa provided some discipline to some soldiers of Crenox's kingdom, as Medusa had excellent swordsmanship. They already knew about the deal that Medusa made with her king and they agreed that she would help them make her kingdom progress without delay.

The summoning ritual for Bill was complicated for Crenox, since his requirements were high and although they did not require sacrifices of any kind, they were still strange for necromancers, since they had always summoned royal demons with sacrifices or offerings of souls. pure for favors The requirements for Bill's invocation was to gather numerous gold objects, precious stones and place everything in a circle of fire, Bill's invocation began by setting fire to all these objects within the circle, if they were completely consumed then it would close the portal ending the invocation. Crenox had to make sure he had enough time and items to fulfill his request of Bill.

Once the objects are obtained and gathered in a circle, Crenox prepares to start the summoning without the presence of Medusa, setting fire to all the gold and precious stones. While they were consumed, a portal opens under all that incandescent fire, Crenox managed to see how Bill came out of the portal and stood on top of all the fire that continued to consume the objects. Without hesitation Crenox says "Great sir, I want to make a request." Before continuing Bill interrupts him saying “It was Medusa who gave you the scroll to summon me, she still has a punishment to pay in the underworld. But her actions do not affect yours at all, I will be willing to fulfill your request if you are willing to pay for it ”. At the end Crenox asks Bill to grant him control over the stalkers, an ancient army of monstrous beasts that live only in the underworld, Crenox wanted to obtain them because their number was enormous. Bill mentioned to him that the entire stalker army could only be controlled by a being of extraordinary mental strength and seeing that Crenox was in a state of recovery after a battle in the past made it clear to him that he could only possess a portion of this army. , Crenox accepted and gave him control of his minions with the condition that at some point, he should fulfill service in the underworld, moments later the portal began to turn off as the objects were being completely consumed. Bill left and Crenox with control of the stalkers could easily attack kingdoms and cities without worrying about losses as the stalkers upon death could be brought back to life with the energy of a dark sorcerer. In this way Crenox took as an objective to find more resources for a next summoning ritual, because he wanted to obtain more power.

Time after the Crenox ritual occurred, the kingdom of Gibraltar made up of magicians and adepts was informed that several towns and cities were being attacked by wild beasts. The kingdom of Gibraltar was always passive before the other kingdoms, as they always longed for peace, helping the people who needed it most and helping the towns or cities that suffered attacks.

Hearing about the attacks they send a group of adepts and magicians to help the affected people, but they could not see the attackers anywhere. The city was part of the territory of the Abidjan, this was a territory of mercenaries who were engaged in negotiations of all kinds. The affected inhabitants mentioned to the sorcerers that the attack was perpetrated by a necromancer who controlled the beasts, he stole various resources from them, but what they wanted most was gold. After lending their help to the people, they promised them protection until they rebuilt their homes.

Meanwhile Crenox and his warriors returned to the kingdom of Alkmar to organize the stolen resources and plan a next attack, upon entering he is greeted by Medusa who tells him "You are certainly enjoying the power they gave you". Crenox with a smile on his face answers "Not only am I enjoying it, my kingdom will grow abundantly again, but I need more power to control my enemies." Medusa gives a smile and realizes that his ideals match perfectly, his goal of building a powerful army was close to being achieved.