

DEMONIC 1021

Chapter 1021 1021. Powerhouse

The world began to tremble even before the explosion of Divine Demon's ring swept those lands. It was as if it had noticed that an earthshattering event was about to spread in the area.

The detonation that followed the silence reduced the entire mountain into ashes, creating a column of fire and smoke that reached the black sky as it spread in the regions nearby.

The metal and the ground didn't resist the explosions' might and fell apart, opening paths for magma that flowed from both above and under the hidden world. However, even those red rivers couldn't survive the self-detonation of Noah's ring.

It was an apocalyptic scene, and cracks that led to the void opened everywhere in the environment. The world was ending, and no one was doing anything to stop that destruction.

Noah flew as quickly as he could, but the shockwave released by the detonation swept him anyway. He had just come out of the mountain when that immense power landed on his body.

The Demonic Form improved as the black branches spread on the Sixth Kesier rune inside his mind, and Snore's body covered him when he sensed the arrival of the shockwave.

Noah's body became tense as the explosion pushed him forward. The mountain, the God's defenses, and the layers of smoke around him absorbed most of the blow, but some energy still landed on his back.

His robe vanished, and the skin on his back became a bloody mess. The shockwave tore his muscles too, but it depleted its energy when it tried to touch his internal organs.

Noah became a burning cloud of dark smoke as he shot uncontrollably through the sky. A sea of flames, gray smoke, and lava followed him and continued to pierce his defensive methods.

'This won't be enough,' Noah thought about the rank 7 Ape as he tried to suppress the pain that was afflicting his mind. His body's injuries were easy to endure, but the cracks on his mental sphere sent sharp painful waves that made his mind go dark from time to time.

Nevertheless, the constant flow of information obtained after his mind reached the sixth rank kept Noah vigilant. Creation and destruction became clear and expanded as the world of the laws unfolded in his eyes.

He suddenly became able to see the laws everywhere. It was as if he had been colorblind through the entirety of his life, and he could finally watch the true appearance of the world now.

The laws were everywhere. The matter didn't function without them. Yet, most living beings would spend their entire lives without ever gazing at them.

Noah couldn't contain his astonishment as his consciousness kept on expanding. The laws that ruled the world appeared as the simplest energy in the entire existence, but they were so profound that no other complex force could match their power.

It wasn't a matter of intensity. The law's power came from the true meaning that they expressed, and it varied according to how generic it was.

However, that wasn't the time to lose himself in the new capabilities of his mind, and Noah knew that well. His plan had to move forward, and he needed to escape the range of the explosion to actuate it.

Cracks spread in the air under his feet as he shot forward to leave the edges of the shockwave. The momentum built during the explosion made him surpass his usual limits, but the injuries in his mind made it harder to endure.

Noah held on, shooting as far as he could while keeping track of the expansion of the raging cloud. The explosion had created an unstoppable force that seemed inclined to devour the entire world.

The shockwave eventually depleted its power, and the cloud stopped its expansion, giving Noah time to catch some breath.

A destroyed world unfolded in his eyes as the gray smoke dispersed. There barely was any living being left in the range of the explosion, and only a few powerful creatures had survived by hiding underground or on the other side of the sky.

A merciless calamity had fallen on that paradise, destroying anything on its path.

Noah stared at the destruction that he had caused and let his mind wander. Divine Demon's ring wasn't part of his power, but he had been the one to trigger it. That destruction belonged to him. It was something that resonated with his existence.

Noah spread his consciousness as much as possible, covering many of the areas affected by his reckless act. His back hurt, and his mind sent waves of pain, but he still lost himself at the sight of what he had unleashed.

'This is what I am,' Noah thought as understanding filled his mind. He felt the need to cultivate and let his existence grow, but he knew that he couldn't stop now.

Skully's aura suddenly touched his consciousness, and Noah turned to see the powerhouse crawling out of a pile of rubbles. Injuries filled her body too, but theirs weren't as severe as Noah's. She had come out of the mountain before him in the end, and she had a rank 6 hybrid body.

Skully glanced at Noah before turning to stare at the destruction behind her. That was her world, but now multiple regions were nothing more than ashes and cracks.

A violent force spread from the spot where there had once been the lair of the God. Mental waves and an invisible power moved through the wasted environment as if searching for someone.

Skully's expression became empty when she saw that energy. She performed a mechanical movement to turn toward Noah and speak in a voice that didn't belong to her. "What have you done?!"

Noah knew that the Ape God was behind that act, but his attention never went on Skully. His eyes stared at the invisible force moving earth, air, and sky, destroying everything on its path.

The force resembled countless thin gales that could move freely through any material. It didn't seem limited by its incorporeal form, and it could affect anything it wanted.

When Skully looked at him, the force moved toward their spot. The God had found them, but Skully freed herself at that moment, making it unable to use her to hurt Noah.

"Get the Seventh Kesier rune and gather all the survivors," Noah said as the black smoke of the Demonic Form spread for hundreds of meters. "Take a few Kesier Apes as captives too."

"What will you do?" Skully asked. There was some hesitation in her eyes. After all, Noah had just killed most of her strongest underlings. She was unclear about their conditions, but only the luckiest of them could have survived the explosion.

She knew that Noah had to choose between slavery and the current outcome, and she didn't blame him. Yet, she needed some time to accept that her life's work was gone.

Noah didn't answer her. His aura became violent as he stared at the incoming force. An intense thought resounded among the pain coming from his body and mind. "Enough with this shit. I'm a powerhouse now."

Chapter 1022 1022. Destruction

Noah's body and dantian were still in the fifth rank, but that didn't change the reality of things. His battle prowess had lingered between the fifth and the sixth rank before his breakthroughs, but now it had finally reached the next stage.

Of course, he wasn't capable of expressing the full power of his mind. Most of his techniques needed modifications and weren't able to use rank 6 mental energy without them. Yet, he had crossed that remaining half-step that separated him from the powerhouses.

Noah sensed the power contained in his mind and felt free from the political restrictions that had hindered his actions. He had joined a world of monsters and gods when he reached the heroic ranks, but now he had finally reached the last stage. He had become one of those monsters.

Skully shot toward the lava lake when she saw that Noah wasn't paying attention to her. She decided to trust him and his resourcefulness. After all, he had already revealed that he had divine items inside his space-ring.

Noah's mind wandered as he watched the invisible force drawing near. He felt the pure anger carried by those mental waves, and the images of the Light-devouring Dragons' Heaven Tribulations appeared in his view.

He had felt the same anger. He had inherited it during the fusion, but it was part of him now. Noah could see himself in that force.

His hand rose in the sky, and the air began to churn as his will spread in the environment. His feelings became words that he shouted as black gales took form around him.

"Enough with the whims of bored gods!" Noah shouted, but his words became articulate roars when they came out of his mouth. "Enough with the limits of politics! Enough with holding back to benefit the weaklings! Let this world crumble!"

His heavy hair fluttered as the black gales shot forward to meet the invisible force. Their clash created storms that affected entire regions with their destructive might.

Noah's attack halted the Ape God's offensive for a few seconds before falling apart. The black winds were only a shape taken by the dark matter, while the invisible force was the innate ability of the Kesier Species.

Moreover, the Ape God still had some trace of divine power in its existence. Noah's attack had no chance to stop his opponent's blow. It was already astonishing that he had managed to slow it down.

The invisible force found only cracks when it reached Noah's spot. He had sprinted toward the sky as soon as he launched his attack, leaving no chance for the God to hit him.

Noah arrived on the black layer that protected the hidden world transformed. His scaled armor had changed after his mind broke through the sixth rank. Fuming spikes had appeared over his torso, and his fingers had become claws as long as the Demonic Sword.

A pair of long horns grew from his draconic helmet, and a black cloud formed whenever he stopped. The corrosive smoke expanded quickly and covered large patches of the sky in a matter of instants. Also, holes that led toward the void filled the area affected by the spell.

It was as if Noah had become a messenger of destruction. His whole being resembled an existence meant only to destroy in that form.

The black metal of the sky resisted Noah's spell's effects, but its surface began to bend after it passed some seconds in direct contact with the black cloud.

Noah waved his hand, and hundreds of Instabilities at the peak of the fifth rank spread under the sky. The rebels had enlarged the holes in the last period, restoring part of their stash of black metal and allowing Noah to resume his forging.

The Instabilities detonated, enlarging the cracks already in the sky and creating new ones. Meanwhile, Snore formed and launched all the attacks that it was capable of toward those fissures.

Noah's plan was simple. If the Ape God didn't want him to escape its domain, he would destroy the sky and let the sea of magma submerge that world.

He didn't hope for the event to kill the Ape. His goal was to trap it in an environment almost devoid of nutrients, knowing that it didn't have the power to create a new hidden world.

There was the chance that it could make its way to the surface and hunt him down, but that creature was intelligent and capable of complex emotions. Seeing its species dying after so many sacrifices would destroy its will and probably its determination.

That would be fatal for a creature that already struggled to return to the divine ranks. Still, Noah hoped that it survived the fall so that he could hunt it when his body had reached the right level.

Darkness spread under the black sky. A wave of destruction unfolded everywhere, but Noah felt compelled to escape when he saw the invisible force coming for him again.

Noah laughed as he sprinted away only to resume his destructive acts in another spot of the sky. He felt happy from the bottom of his heart. A God tried to catch him, but it could only watch its world falling apart by the hand of a smirking fiend.

The feeling of freedom and power that filled Noah made him unable to hold back his laugh. He knew that he wouldn't have a chance against a proper God, but he was unbeatable at that moment.

He saw a glimpse of the peak in that forgotten world, and he was going to enjoy it to its fullest.

Large blocks of the sky began to fall as Noah continued to run away and unleash attacks. He even had the time to perform his techniques as he went farther away from the lair of the Ape God.

The amount of solid darkness depleted while he used the Demonic Form was immense, but Noah didn't care about anything else at the moment. He only wanted to destroy the world.

Skully eventually contacted him through her consciousness, telling him that she had gathered everything valuable and everyone that had survived the chaotic summoning.

"Follow the trail of smoke and bait those Apes!" Noah replied with his consciousness while he continued to escape in a seemingly casual way.

The truth was that his understanding of the laws connected to the destruction of his individuality was telling him where to attack to cause more damage.

Skully didn't want to follow the black smoke. Her instincts told her to stay away from that corrosive gas, but she knew that Noah was her only hope to come out of that situation alive.

More and more chunks of the sky fell. They pierced the ground and opened a path for the sea of magma under the hidden world. Huge red waterfalls filled the air, and an intense light filled that environment for the first time.

Noah stopped attacking at some point and dispersed his spells. No one could mend the sky anymore. The hidden world was beyond saving.

Chapter 1023 1023. Path

The remaining rebels gathered around Noah as the sky fell all around them and across the hidden world.

They were mostly human cultivators since they had been too slow to reach the regions affected by Divine Demon's ring's detonation. Yet, a few experts had survived thanks to the Ape God's efforts to contain the explosion.

Skully was in their lead. Her mental waves supported the human cultivators in the air, but there was only sorrow in her expression. Even if she had recalled a body-tempering method during the last period, most experts had been too weak to survive the catastrophic event.

Those that managed to save their lives had suffered massive injuries, and they would probably carry them through their entire cultivation journeys. Skully's only hope was on the surface, but there was a difficult path between the hidden world and there.

On the other hand, Noah felt ecstatic. His existence brimmed with power, and his individuality expressed its features through all his energies. It was as if destroying an entire world had renewed his life essence, making him appear livelier than ever.

However, his injuries were there and threatened to control his mental function as soon as he stopped suppressing them. He was in deep need to rest, but the journey was still long.

"What are you waiting for?!" Skully shouted when she saw that Noah didn't move. The sky kept on falling everywhere around them, and massive quantities of lava were turning that world into a crimson hell.

Yet, Noah didn't act. He limited himself to stare at the destruction that he had caused with a dazed expression.

Skully's shout forced him to come back to reality, but his intentions didn't change. It was too early to leave. Many specimens of the Kesier species had survived since they didn't join the summoning, and they couldn't allow them to reach the surface.

The threat of the Ape God had to end there. No one could follow them.

"Give me the goods," Noah said as Snore's body materialized and spread its maw. The rebels didn't bother to find new clothes, but they had gone to gather all the black metal they could find. Skully even had the Seventh Kesier rune and a few human specimens of the Kesier species with her.

"This is my insurance," Skully said as she pointed at the large piece of fur under her arm. "The rest can go with you."

Noah didn't blame her for her lack of trust. He had chosen to sacrifice her people to maintain his freedom. His choice had been unavoidable, but his lack of hesitation spoke for his character.

Snore suddenly shot forward. Its body turned into smoke and covered the heroic cultivators and the beasts. Ten of them were in the fifth rank, and more than forty were in the fourth rank. Still, the Blood Companion could envelop all of them in its gaseous form.

Skully was about to panic when she saw the smoke rising and taking the giant snake's shape around Noah. All the heroic cultivators were fine. Only their pieces of black metal had disappeared and the beasts.

Moreover, Noah had poured some dark matter inside them. His higher energy helped to stabilize their wounded bodies and gave them new vigor right before the long journey through the magma.

"Be ready," Noah said, "We need to stop them before leaving this place forever."

Skully and the others remained speechless. Noah's intense aura, coupled with his recent gesture and his calm in that apocalyptic situation made him appear as a perfect leader.

The rebels couldn't help but nod and turn in his same direction even if they felt doubtful. They didn't know how he could be so sure that their opponents would come from that direction.

Yet, they began to see a pattern in the sky as the destruction continued. Massive chunks of black metal fell everywhere randomly, but a path remained intact.

That sight surprised the rebels to no end. After all, how could there be order among that worldwide event? A whole world was falling apart, but Noah had managed to affect his destruction so that only a safe path would remain.

Black shapes appeared in the distance a few minutes after Noah's order. Kesier Apes in the heroic ranks flew right under the patch of intact sky as they tried to find a safe spot.

Those in the human ranks walked on the ground, but their situation was pitiful. Sprays of magma fell on their bodies and burnt them to death. Only those in the third rank managed to survive for longer, but they inevitably ended up submerged too.

Noah's attention was on the specimens in the fifth rank. They were the only ones that could survive through the sea of magma, even if with some struggle. As for Apes in the sixth rank, they had yet to appear.

Noah pointed, and the rebels acted. A series of spells shot from the group of cultivators and landed on the flying pack. Countless specimens died on the spot, and those that survived ended up outside of the safe path, in the middle of the pouring lava.

The rebels didn't stop their offensive, but the safe path eventually broke, falling on the beasts that were still surviving their attacks.

'Where are they?' Noah thought as he inspected the environment. Then, two presences appeared in the range of his consciousness. Noah sensed that two powerful creatures were walking on the other side of what remained of the safe path.

Noah glanced at Skully, and she understood what to do when he pointed at that spot. The two of them launched their best attacks and destroyed that piece of the sky, uncovering the rank 6 Apes hiding above it.

Snore released a loud hiss and launched all its attacks against the two floating beasts. Noah joined it by creating a six-armed dragon that shot in their direction. Skully didn't hesitate and materialized a series of wind slashes that flew toward the Apes.

The impact of those attacks destroyed the remaining safe area and left severe injuries on both creatures. Their lives wouldn't be in danger during normal situations, but the world was ending, and being wounded could make a difference in their survival.

All the magma contained above fell downward at that point. It landed on the remaining charred ground and quickly burnt it to ashes, revealing the crimson sea below.

The two seas mixed, and the temperature in the area rose. The magma coming from below was far hotter than the other, and the area's dangerousness increased as the two of them merged.

Snore protected Noah and the captive beasts from the magma. His body could withstand that heat, but his back had suffered severe injuries, so he wanted to avoid worsening his situation.

Skully protected the human cultivators with her mental waves, while the other experts deployed their defensive methods and supported each other to prepare for the journey.

The group then looked above, toward the fuming figure that had caused such chaos, and waited for his orders.

"Let's return to the surface," Noah said, leading the way through the sea of magma.

Chapter 1024 1024. Battles

Noah had left the Hive for a little less than one hundred and fifty years, but the situation on the surface had changed in ways that he couldn't predict in that period.

Generally speaking, peace after every significant battle would last for a long time. They could even stretch for millennia if the balance of power among the forces didn't change.

Noah had lived through one hundred years of peace before leaving, and a hundred more had to pass before the first sign of conflict appeared on the surface.

It all began with a simple scuffle among human cultivators. Both the Hive and the Council were suppressing the Elbas family's forces on their respective borders, and casualties happened from time to time during those small battles.

The central powers didn't care about them. Human cultivators' death rarely bothered the experts in the heroic ranks, and the forces deployed there didn't hold much value in the political environment.

However, a young member of the Elbas family happened to be among a big battle once. The conflict saw some sects of the Council fighting peripheral forces of the Royals over a new habitable land that had appeared on the eastern side of Divine Market city.

Those kinds of territories had begun to appear before Noah left. The presence of so many cultivators on the piece of Immortal Lands inevitably affected the density of "Breath", causing the creation of areas where even human cultivators could live without any protection.

The higher-ups of each major force didn't care about those lands, but they were a big deal for human assets. That was their chance to colonize the new continent without the help of their superiors.

The battle that happened that day involved many small forces and gave birth to quite a big battlefield in terms of human assets. The young member of the Royals had joined it to gain some merits, but he ended up dying in the middle of the fights.

The matter would have normally ended there. The best the Elbas family could ask for a human asset's death was a few hundreds of thousands of credits. Yet, the father of the young Royal was a heroic cultivator, and he reacted by slaughtering the sects involved in the death of his son.

That started a long series of conflicts that slowly involved even more powerful existences. No one wanted to turn the matter into an official war, but they didn't seem able to stop the hostilities.

Those battles became a matter of face, and the Hive had to join them to support the alliance. The battlefield's width increased and involved more territories, forcing the three organizations to deploy more assets.

Even rank 5 cultivators had to fight to defend the honor of their force. Those experts' battles affected entire regions, and it became impossible to ignore the obvious at that point. Another war had started.

Such a significant event happened due to the past grudges between the alliance and the Elbas family. They weren't fighting for any specific resource or territory. They were enemies, so they killed each other.

The first political act happened fifteen years after the beginning of the hostilities. The Hive and the Council had a sharp advantage over the Royals' forces, so they managed to kick them out of Divine Market city.

The alliance didn't waste that chance to cut the Elbas family off from one of the best training areas on the new continent. That city had even amassed some crucial resources through the years, so the Royals' losses weren't negligible.

However, they had even greater power over the forces of those Mortal Lands. After a few years of meetings and battles, the Dimensional Portal suddenly went silent and stopped absorbing "Breath" from the old continent.

The Royals shut down the connection with the other world, cutting the alliance off from the greatest source of materials and hybrids in that lower plane.

Everything became more severe at that point, and even the three powerhouses had to join the battles to make sure that nothing too valuable went lost forever. Their negotiations went poorly though, and those meetings often ended up with a series of exchanges that lasted for a few minutes.

Each of their exchanges gave birth to battles that involved the higher-ups of every force. Many famous experts had the chance to show the results of their training in them.

Many Elders of the Council had benefitted from the alliance. Faith was one of them, and she often joined the battles, showing her liquid stage cultivation level. Her figure appeared untouchable even when under torrents of attacks. It was as if the world itself wanted to protect her.

The Hive showed all its new assets, revealing even the hybrids that had joined its ranks. Some of the older experts made their appearance too, and Daniel led them most of the time due to his peak liquid stage level.

Nevertheless, the Elbas family's show of force was even above theirs. Countless new experts appeared in its ranks, and most of the old ones achieved battle merits thanks to the breakthroughs obtained in the past years.

The Council couldn't understand how the Royals had gained access to so many powerful assets, but the Hive knew about the Royal pool. It even seemed that the Elbas family had improved its success rate since Noah's report.

June made her appearance in the political scene too. Her cultivation level had reached the liquid stage, but there seemed to be something strange about her centers of power.

Her aura often experienced power surges that made her appear as a cultivator in the solid stage during her battles! Still, she managed to suppress those spikes almost immediately, even if she retreated as soon as she calmed herself.

Her energies' strange behavior didn't go unnoticed, but most higher-ups linked that to her individuality going out of control. That wasn't too unusual, especially when it came to violent existences.

Faith's decision to be her opponent was even stranger. The world saw the two of them as friends after the matters with Noah's training area. Yet, everyone witnessed how the two didn't hold back in the slightest when they fought.

None of the higher-ups could imagine that Faith was helping June venting off some of her energy. She was the only one in the entire world that knew how complicated her situation was.

"The Council struck first," King Elbas said as the three powerhouses floated in the sky above a peripheral region to hold their usual meeting. "It's only right that you restore my past domains and compensate my family."

King Elbas spoke with an uncaring tone. He had gone through those negotiations countless times already, and it had become apparent since the beginning that they would never reach an agreement.

"Your family messed up over an insignificant matter," Great Elder Diana said. "I admit that you are resourceful, but you can't fight both of us at the same time."

King Elbas laughed at her words and glanced toward Chasing Demon before replying. "You let that little demon escape too, didn't you?"

Chapter 1025 1025. Surface

Noah's disappearance didn't go unnoticed, especially after decades of battles. Missing a war wasn't something that he usually did, and his eating habits made it even stranger since many experts had joined the fray.

Chasing Demon pretended not to hear King Elbas and created a series of small puppets that shot toward him and detonated right before touching his chest.

A massive gray cloud formed, but flames burnt the smoke and revealed King Elbas, who stared at the Demon with an irritated expression.

"I thought we were over with the usual pretense," Chasing Demon said as he shrugged his shoulders. He had seen that conversation happening so many times that he had grown tired of it.

The Hive had joined the war only because of the Council. Chasing Demon would have never chosen to start a long battle now that the Hive's growth was peaking. Yet, the terms of the alliance forced him to deploy some forces, so he took it as a chance to seize more resources.

"Yes," King Elbas said as the flames condensed into a dozen giant fiery snakes that covered his body. "We are done talking."

The three powerhouses entangled themselves in a series of exchanges, but they soon returned to their domains to leave some space to their underlings. They had no intention to go all-out for those petty battles. The other cultivators could defend the honor of their organizations on their own.

Chasing Demon returned to the Hive with a pensive expression. King Elbas had spoken the truth. Noah had disappeared, and the higher-ups only knew where he had gone.

The Hive didn't send any search team. The Elders trusted Noah and his resourcefulness, and they respected his desire to venture in that journey alone. Still, they couldn't help but feel worried about his well-being, especially now that the pride of the Hive was at stake.

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While the new continent saw large-scale battles happening every month, Noah and the group of rebels were traveling through the sea of magma.

Snore carried the black metal and the Ape specimens as it kept Noah's protected, while Skully handled the thousands of human cultivators' defenses. The other heroic experts helped each other during the journey back to the surface, but it was evident that they reached their limits after months spent in that state.

Noah munched pieces of magical beasts all the time to suppress his pain. The injuries on his back had mostly healed, but his mind's situation had remained the same.

The magma's constant pressure pressed on his mental sphere and enlarged its cracks, while his mental energy washed them often to mend them.

Noah felt stuck in a cycle of pain and refreshing feelings that had continued since the beginning of their journey through the red sea. The only thing that he could do to alleviate his situation was to satisfy his hunger.

No one spoke as they explored the rocky ceiling at the end of the sea of magma. The giant lizard had destroyed the previous entry point, so the group had kilometers of rocks that had endured unthinkable temperatures for millennia to cross now.

Even Noah's and Skully's physical strength weren't enough to pierce it. Their only option was to continue exploring until they found another opening toward the surface.

Noah had memorized God's Left Hand's map, but there were no other exits on it. He could only float blindly, hoping that something had formed since the last time that Shandal explored the seabed.

He didn't even need a complete passage. Just a hole deep enough to cross the initial rocky layer would be enough to make them reach the surface.

The group of rebels struggled to continue after more months through the magma piled on the previous ones.

The human cultivators were relatively fine since Skully's protection blocked everything. They were only hungry due to the complete lack of food for them. Instead, the heroic experts were about to exhaust their energy.

Skully was beginning to consider the idea of letting the human cultivators die and focus her mental energy on the stronger assets when a narrow crack appeared on their path and gave them hope.

Noah shot toward the crack and explored its insides. The fissure wasn't too deep, but it crossed the sturdiest part of the seabed, leaving only a small layer of hard rocks in his path.

Skully reached Noah and showed an ecstatic expression at that sight. That was the best path to the surface that they had found along their journey. They had to try to pierce it.

"Get back," Noah transmitted through his consciousness. Black smoke began to come out of his body and destroy the magma around him as Skully retreated.

Waves of pain spread from Noah's mind as he used mental energy, but he held on and summoned all his strength to launch his best attacks. The second form of his martial art landed on the fissure's ceiling, and Snore's elemental offensive followed it.

Skully returned to her underlings and deployed her mental waves to protect them. Pieces of the seabed fell as the red sea trembled, but Noah didn't come out of the fissure when everything settled.

Another tremor ran through the area. Noah had attacked again, but even that didn't seem enough to pierce the sturdy layer since more impacts made the whole region shake.

Noah was going all out to pierce the seabed, and the rocky stratum eventually crumbled under his relentless offensive.

"Open!" Noah shouted through his consciousness, and Skully quickly mobilized the rebels. The group entered the narrow crack and saw Noah punching his way through the softer rocks.

He had dispersed his Demonic Form, so the heroic cultivators and Skully swam forward to help him out.

The group had to dig the seabed for kilometers for the first drops of water to land on their faces. The event made them even more determined to reach the real sea, and the last rocks that separated them from it soon fell apart.

Noah closed his eyes when the cold water fell on his face. He had grown tired of the constant heat of the hidden world, and that refreshing sensation made him feel home.

He had finally returned to the surface. He was back among the old monsters!

The rebels saw the sea for the first time and remained speechless. They had only heard about it from Skully's stories, but they had started to wonder if something like that existed long ago.

A cold sea was unthinkable for them. The magma was everything the rebels had ever seen. Even the few rivers in the hidden world only had hot water that usually burnt their tongues.

Skully couldn't contain her emotions. Her expression showed disbelief, sorrow, and joy in sequence. She was the one who had suffered from in the hidden world more than anyone else, but she had finally returned now.

As for Noah, he thought only about returning to the Hive and isolate himself to fix his sea of consciousness. However, he suddenly felt a dangerous sensation coming toward him.

When he turned, he saw the giant lizard that had destroyed the tunnel again.

Chapter 1026 1026. Die

'Why is it here?' Noah cursed in his mind. The journey through the magma had been uneventful due to the scary feeling that his group leaked in the environment. Yet, the sea was different.

Lifeforms were rare in the magma, and the species that lived there usually hunted solitary prey or resorted to cannibalism to survive. However, the sea was vast, and its depths hid dangers that even some powerhouses preferred to avoid.

Still, Noah didn't believe that they had been so unlucky to find a rank 6 beast as soon as they resurfaced, especially when their situation was far from ideal.

Noah was injured, and Skully was busy protecting the human cultivators from the pressure of the depths. The heroic experts were even exhausted after the long journey. The battle prowess of the group was basically at its lowest.

'Did it track me after so many years?' Noah eventually considered that option, but he felt forced to suppress his thoughts because the lizard turned and began to charge toward them.

"Bring them where they can survive and come down to help me!" Noah conveyed through his consciousness as he shot toward the lizard. His mind sent waves of pain when he activated the Demonic Form, but he didn't dare to face a rank 6 beast without it.

Skully shot upward after Noah's order. She swam through the sea without even admiring the environment that she had missed for countless years.

The human cultivators carried by her mental energy either puked or fainted due to her speed, but she managed to reach waters where they could survive in less than a minute thanks to that.

Skully quickly let go of her underlings and returned toward the depth. She was a bit faster at that time, but she could only feel speechless when she sensed how the situation had changed in that short period.

Snore had immobilized the lizard with its tall body. The rank 6 beast found it hard to get rid of the Blood Companion's dark matter since it became gaseous whenever it was about to endure a heavy blow.

Noah attacked the creature with the second form of his martial art. Due to Snore's efforts, he could stay still and launch as many slashes as he wanted toward the head of his opponent.

Skully didn't even know why she had been in such a hurry in the first place. Noah seemed to have everything under control. Actually, it appeared as if the lizard didn't stand a chance!

Yet, she noticed how Noah slowed down his attacks after a while, which was strange for a hybrid. Skully would understand that if he had depleted his "Breath". Yet, that didn't seem to be the case for him.

Skully understood that there was something wrong with Noah. She had seen him acting strangely during the travel through the magma, but she didn't give the matter too much thought because he had always been quite peculiar.

However, it was only natural that his reckless actions in the hidden world had led to repercussions. No one walked away from a god without suffering any injury.

The water around Skully churned as her mental energy forced it to take the form of thick spears that shot toward the immobilized lizard. Her innate ability even went to help Snore suppressing the creature.

The lizard had many long wounds on its head due to Noah's attacks, and Snore used them as the target for its elemental offensive. The beast roared in pain and struggled with more intensity whenever the Blood Companion attacked, but the dark matter was difficult to fend off.

Snore's body turned gaseous only to solidify after the lizard lost its momentum. The creature never freed itself entirely from the Blood Companion, and there wasn't anything that it could do in a short time.

Noah had noticed since his last meeting with the lizard that it didn't use any specific ability. It appeared to be a beast that relied only on its body to fight.

That hypothesis became certainty during that battle. The lizard didn't resort to any ability even after being trapped for so long. Moreover, Noah's attacks never managed to pierce its tissues too profoundly, which confirmed that it was a species that focused only on the body.

That went to the advantage of cultivators since they had access to various battle styles. Noah could keep it still and launch a relentless offensive without even risking his life.

Skully's return made the situation even more one-sided. There were a rank 6 hybrid and a rank 6 mage fighting a magical beast in the lower tier of the sixth rank. Even with Noah injured, the two were more than enough to take care of the threat.

Killing such a strong creature took time, especially when it came to a species that focused only on the body. Noah, Skully, and Snore had to resort to countless attacks to kill it.

Skully used her mental energy to suppress it and deal blows in sensitive spots like the eyes and wounds. Snore would launch flames, lightning bolts, and a chilling breath on its injuries.

Meanwhile, Noah slashed, creating fissures in the sea as they landed on the creature's head.

In the end, Noah's corrosive smoke had the better over the beast. His Demonic Form could use mental energy in the sixth rank, so its power had benefitted a lot from his breakthrough.

The smoke seeped into the injuries and filled the insides of the lizard, hurting it over time and eventually putting an end to its life.

Noah quickly dispersed the Demonic Form when the battle ended. The cracks on his mental sphere had spread due to the effort, and using spells only worsened his situation.

That was the reason why he didn't rely on all his techniques during the battle. Most of them still needed the proper modifications to express his new power, and his mind couldn't endure too many of them at the same time.

Noah felt the need to rest now more than ever. Every second that he spent in that state would make his recovery longer. Yet, he didn't forget to grab the corpse of the lizard before returning moving to resurface.

Skully paid attention as Noah grabbed the lizard by its tail before dragging it upward. Her expression revealed the hunger that she felt in seeing such a large and nutrient meal going away right in front of her eyes.

Noah noticed that, but he had other plans for the corpse. His mind had advanced, so he felt finally confident in approaching the breakthrough of his body. The best way to prepare for the chrysalis was to directly take the required energy from a creature that had reached the next rank.

"You are on a diet," Noah conveyed through his consciousness before crossing the drooling Skully and swimming toward the surface, unaware that battles were filling the new continent.

Chapter 1027 1027. Battlefield

Daniel stood in front of an army of heroic cultivators above what had once been a poisonous swamp. Faith was at some distance from him, and hundreds of Elders floated behind her.

The alliance had deployed both armies after the usual scuffle among the powerhouses, and the experts of the Elbas family had flown out to face them.

Daniel and Faith looked at the massive army of the Royals before exchanging a worried glance. As leaders of their respective troops, their mission was to contain the losses and come out victorious from the conflict. Yet, the Elbas family had deployed more heroic cultivators than their groups put together.

That strange phenomenon had happened for a while by then. The Royals would progressively increase the number of heroic assets deployed in each battle, making it seem as if there was no limit to their power.

Faith cracked a quick smile before moving her eyes on her designed opponent. June stood among the Royals wearing her usual orange robes, but a large hat on her head hid her expression.

June had started to wear that inscribed item a few years after the beginning of the battles. Her power surges had become rarer since she had started using it, but she still experienced them every once in a while.

Faith couldn't help but feel sorry for her friend. Since the events with Ravaging Demon, all the heroic forces of the Elbas family had remained inside its domains, unable to join political meetings and compelled to become stronger.

June had never met her friends in those years, and the enmity between the Royals and the alliance stopped any negotiation or neutral event. She had been alone for almost two hundred and fifty years.

'This wouldn't have lasted for so long if you were here,' Daniel thought as he saw Faith's actions and turned his head toward the enemy army. Noah's figure appeared in his mind, and he could almost imagine him coming up with a reckless plan that allowed the Hive to win instantly and seize some benefits.

Daniel's mindset had changed after Ravaging Demon's sudden attack killed Amos Udye. He had understood the reason why Noah craved power with such intensity, and he had begun to desire it too.

However, he was different from Noah. He couldn't see himself as a lone existence. His light was a pure beacon that could show the path to those that chose to follow him.

That was one of the reasons why Elder Julia had put him in charge of the army. Daniel had exceptional leadership skills, and he could take the best out of his troops. Moreover, he valued their lives, which made him a better captain than Noah.

Still, he lacked the sheer power that Noah could express, but that wasn't his fault. Noah was the best cultivator in history. Any comparison would be unfair.

"Attack!" Daniel shouted, and Faith echoed his order. The alliance's armies shot toward the troops of the Royals and engaged in a fierce battle as multicolored lights filled the sky.

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Some weeks before, in an area north of the new continent, Noah's group came out of the sea, and the rebels remained speechless when they saw the sun.

Noah wasn't in the mood to waste time. His mind hurt too much, and he was barely stopping the cracks on his sphere from expanding.

Skully's moved her attention between the environment and the lizard carried by Noah. Her hunger and happiness for her return fought inside her to take the spot of predominant feeling.

Noah became aware of his position in a few seconds and pointed toward the new continent's northern coast before flying in that direction. The rebels wanted to stare at the blue sky, but they promptly followed him for fear of remaining alone in that foreign world.

No one spoke during the flight, but surprised gasps resounded among the group as the coastline became visible. Noah quickly adjusted his direction to avoid the Elbas family's domain and fly over the mountain chain to return to the Hive.

The Elders of the Council couldn't miss his return. Noah and Skully's auras were enough to warn everyone in the nearby territories that powerful existences were flying above them.

Yet, no one dared to interrupt them. The Elders recognized Noah, but any desire to greet him vanished when they saw the huge lizard hanging from his grasp by its tail.

Noah's space-ring was full and couldn't contain anything else. He had even left most of the black sky behind because of that issue.

He could only carry the rank 6 creature with his hands. The effort didn't affect him, but those who witnessed that event remained speechless and grabbed their inscribed notebooks after he went away.

The news spread quickly, but its details sounded unrealistic. The Demon Prince of the Hive had returned, carrying the corpse of a rank 6 magical beasts with him, and followed by an army that featured a being in the sixth rank!

Those who heard the news from their notebooks thought that the witnesses had suffered from some unorthodox technique's after-effects. However, as more and more Elders began to report the same event, the higher-ups felt forced to investigate the situation.

It was needless to say that their reaction was the same and the others. Noah's uncaring attitude as he carried the lizard left them so astonished that they almost overlooked the powerhouse flying together with him.

Noah mostly ignored the glances in his direction, but the rebels began to feel uneasy. They had never witnessed such incredible scenery, and it felt unreal to see so many cultivators shooting in the sky to stare at them.

'Why are there so few of them?' Noah thought as he proceeded forward. He felt glad that no one was interrupting his return, but he understood that something was off.

He had crossed most of the Council's domain by then, but no welcoming party had arrived, and the Hive had yet to contact him. The only conclusion he could reach was that everyone was busy with something else.

Then, his innate awareness perceived the shockwaves released in the battle above the eastern coast. Noah sensed the sheer amount of power deployed on that battlefield, and he changed direction after giving a few orders to the rebels.

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A blinding white halo shone around Daniel as he floated across the battlefield. His light turned every spell aimed at him into "Breath", and purified the tissues of any cultivator in its range until only their bones remained.

He appeared invincible in that form, but the other Elders struggled due to the high number of cultivators on the enemy side. All their opponents even had a series of luxurious inscribed items that made them hard to kill.

'We might have to retreat,' Daniel thought as he inspected the battlefield, but a violent aura suddenly covered the entire region and forced the fights to a stop.

When the cultivators turned toward the source of that pressure, they saw a young man with furrowed brows carrying a giant lizard.

Chapter 1028 1028. Old acquaintance

"What's the occasion?" Noah asked as he massaged his temples. The hand holding the giant lizard rose as if it wasn't carrying anything, giving birth to a peculiar scene.

The three armies stared at Noah in disbelief. The experts' eyes went up and down as they followed the movements of the beast's corpse. Something told them that Noah had forgotten that he was carrying such a large creature.

Noah had come there in a hurry thinking that some significant event had caused the gathering of so many experts, but he couldn't see anything valuable in the region.

What had once been a poisonous swamp had now turned into a smelly region with brown ground that gave off purple shades. Peculiar and strange plants grew there, and a research structure stood in the distance. Yet, Noah didn't sense anything worthy of such a massive battle.

"It was a strange succession of events," Daniel spoke calmly, even if his expression showed his astonishment toward what he was seeing. "We are at war now."

"What's the loot?" Noah asked. He couldn't believe that organizations at the peak of the world would have deployed some of their best assets over "strange events".

Of course, Noah was one of the few existences that would find it hard to understand the reasons behind the war. He had always thought as a lone cultivator, so topics like honor and face had never crossed his mind.

Daniel showed a complicated expression at that question. He knew Noah, and he was sure that he wouldn't get what was going on. If he had to be completely honest, he would have never predicted that such small matters could have led to something so big either.

However, no one inside the Hive could deny Noah an honest answer.

"We are fighting for the honor of the Hive," Daniel eventually said.

Noah thought that he had misheard his words, but Daniel's stern expression confirmed his previous statement. That left Noah speechless. He couldn't believe that he had delayed his rest over such a meaningless matter.

'Well, I'm here now,' Noah thought as he swept the enemy army with his consciousness. He had some unfinished business with the Royals, and putting an end to that façade could only benefit his imminent seclusion.

The cultivators of the Royals' faction shuddered when Noah's mental waves went over them. They had begun to realize something when they saw the giant lizard, but the direct contact with his consciousness made them sure of his breakthrough.

Noah was a rank 6 mage now. He wasn't a complete powerhouse, but the level of his mind put him far beyond what they could handle.

"Wait!" Daniel shouted when he understood what Noah wanted to do. "There is a silent agreement to limit the battles to the liquid stage!"

Noah wasn't in the mood for pointless discussions, and his restraints had vanished when his mind stepped in the sixth rank. He had finally reached the point where he could stop caring about politics and act as he wished.

"Who cares," Noah said as he swung the arm carrying the beast. The battle had already started when he arrived in that region, so the armies had mixed. Still, groups of experts on each side handled the long-range attacks, and Noah threw the lizard at them.

"Retreat," Noah said in a cold voice as he shot after the lizard. He needed the battlefield to be empty of allied troops to unleash his power.

Daniel and Faith's eyes widened when they saw his sudden action and ordered a full retreat. They knew Noah, so they could understand what was about to happen.

The long-range experts of the Royals dodged the massive beast, but Noah suddenly arrived on the spot and grabbed its tail. Then, he swung it in a circular motion so that it would hit the retreating enemies.

Snore took form from the black smoke that hung behind his back and began to launch lightning bolts toward any isolated enemy that it found.

There were only rank 4 and 5 cultivators on the battlefield. The ground was deadly for those in the human ranks, and the silent agreement didn't allow anyone above the liquid stage to join the battle.

Noah was leagues above them now. A slaughter began as soon as he entered the battlefield, and his enemies could do nothing to stop him.

Many of those experts wore defensive inscribed items, but Snore's attacks pierced them as if they were butter. Even the protections at the peak of the fifth rank could only crumble when the lightning bolts exploded next to them.

Noah's blows had the same effects. He swung the lizard as he flew through the battlefield, and someone would either die or end up gravely injured in the impacts.

As the allied forces retreated, Noah gained room to launch more destructive attacks. He didn't resort to his techniques and spells due to his wounded mental sphere, but he let Snore go all out.

A sea of black flames spread in the sky, lightning bolts flew everywhere, and chilling gales froze large chunks of air. The Blood Companion was enough to take control of the entire area.

Noah stopped swinging the lizard when he saw that Snore could handle the rest by himself. His mental energy spread and gathered the intact corpses and space-rings near him.

The effort hurt him a bit, and his control over the corpses and items wasn't as stable as Skully's. Yet, it did the job, and it gave him the chance to seize all the dantians and resources that he found. Moreover, he even found a ring that could contain the lizard.

Noah ate the dantians that didn't go through the waters of the Royal pool as he wore the new ring and stored the beast. There weren't many of them that he could devour, but he still found a couple of edible ones.

Snore continued to unleash attacks, but its offensive wasn't casual. The Blood Companion smartly avoided June's area and the part of the sky occupied by an old acquaintance.

Noah turned toward Thaddeus Elbas when he finished his meal. He strolled on the air as he crossed the sea of flames that separated the two of them.

Thaddeus appeared frozen in fear. He had managed to reach the last phases of the liquid stage thanks to the pool, which made him one of the Royal family's core members. However, he was nothing more than an ant in front of who had once been only a promising disciple.

"It has been a long time," Noah said in a cold tone as he came out of the black flames. Thaddeus couldn't even muster the strength to nod when those vertical pupils stared deep into his mind.

"I know that some of you did it," Noah continued as he arrived right in front of him. "But I've never heard a name."

Thaddeus couldn't even imagine what was going through his mind. He hadn't seen Noah for centuries in the end. How could he understand what he was talking about?

Noah placed a hand over his shoulder and spoke in a calm tone. "Who killed Ivor?"

Chapter 1029 1029. Questioning

Out of all the people that had died after helping him, Ivor was the last one that he had yet to avenge. He even held a peculiar place in his mind compared to the other important figures in his life.

Ivor had taught him the inscription method on which Noah still based most of his creations. It wouldn't be wrong to say that his teachings had been what had allowed Noah to reach his current level.

The two of them had never been too close. Noah could barely think about anything but himself back then, and Ivor only wanted to keep his inscription method alive.

Their relationship wasn't about affection. Noah and Ivor had their plans, and they had never let their feelings hinder them. Also, both their situation and their mental state weren't ideal for that.

However, even if Ivor was practically a walking corpse, he had unlocked Noah's potential and was worthy of a good end.

Thaddeus shuddered when Noah's hand landed on his shoulder. He felt as if the slightest pressure could reduce his entire body into ashes. Still, those words reminded him of the smelly ruined cultivator that had taught Noah that reckless inscription method.

The Elbas family had researched the Elemental Forging method after Noah's hybrid status became renowned. The Royals thought that the secret of the fusion was behind that unorthodox practice, but they soon discovered that it was more than that.

The Elemental Forging method wasn't just about storing "Breath" inside the sea of consciousness. The real talent was in bending that energy to a will, which only exceptional cultivators could achieve.

A massive organization like the Elbas family had assets that met both requirements, but no positive results came from the experiments. Each expert lacked something that only Noah had, and that wasn't about his mental sphere being stronger than his dantian.

The Royals couldn't possibly know that Noah used his boundless ambition as the foundation for his wills. If they did, they would have never tried to cage him into the criminal army.

Moreover, it wasn't only a matter of ambition. Instead, it was the intensity of that feeling that made Noah's miraculous creations possible.

Thaddeus slowly began to accept his death as Noah's reptilian eyes kept on piercing his mind. He knew that he wouldn't leave that spot alive, but that realization made him calm.

Once abandoned every hope to survive, Thaddeus could focus on protecting his loved ones, and one of them happened to be the culprit behind Ivor's killing.

"I did it," Thaddeus said in a calm tone, but a sharp pain spread from his shoulder as soon as he finished his line.

Thaddeus turned only to see that everything under his right shoulder had disappeared. Noah had taken out even a piece of his neck with his move, but he was far from done.

Noah placed his other hand on Thaddeus' remaining shoulder and neared his ear. The Royal felt relieved that the reptilian eyes had left his mind, but the chilling voice that followed made him long for those vertical pupils.

"You have always been nothing more than a lapdog," Noah said as growls echoed at the bottom of his throat. "You have never made any real decision in your life. Now, give me a name before I bring you home to play."

Fear invaded Thaddeus once again when he heard those words. Noah didn't care about the silent agreement at all, so he believed him.

There were fates worse than death, especially in the cultivation world. Thinking about what Noah could do with him made Thaddeus shudder even more. He began to see the end as a reward at that point.

"I-I can't," Thaddeus stuttered, but that was only the beginning.

Noah closed his hand, and Thaddeus' left shoulder turned into a bloody pulp. His arm fell into the sea of fire below, becoming nothing more than ashes.

The Royal didn't feel any pain. His body was nothing more than an unresponsive block of ice, frozen in fear of the things that Noah would do if he took him to the Hive.

Part of him wanted to give up his father. He would be dead anyway, so he wouldn't feel the shame of betraying the man that had given him his current power and position.

Yet, an oppressive aura soon spread in the environment, and all the surviving members of the Elbas family recognized it. Even Noah could understand its source. Only a powerhouse could make him feel in danger at his level.

'Time is up,' Noah thought as he waved his hand. Thaddeus' head vanished, and his body fell into the sea of flames. Noah didn't even try to grab it since he had smelled the scent of the Royal pool when he neared him.

Moreover, he had gained a general idea about Ivor's killer. Thaddeus would be willing to resist so much only to defend someone close to him, which put a target on Cecil Elbas.

"What is this?" King Elbas said when he arrived on the battlefield. His voice spread through the entire region, and the mental waves that it carried hurt Noah's injured mind.

"What are you even doing?" King Elbas spoke again, but his voice aimed directly for Noah at that time. Snore though coiled itself around him and absorbed part of the pressure, saving his mind from further pain.

"I was pursuing a personal matter," Noah said in an uncaring tone. The two of them weren't at the same level, but the leader of the Royals had to respect his power a bit now.

"What personal matter?" King Elbas answered angrily. "You slaughtered my underlings without any reason!"

"I thought this war didn't have a precise reason," Noah answered as he shrugged his shoulders. His consciousness expanded past the region to search for the group of rebels, and he felt relieved sensing that they had entered the wasteland under the Hive's control.

He had given Skully a few indications before shooting toward the battle. Noah didn't mind revealing that a Kesier Ape had joined the ranks of the Hive, but Skully was hiding the Seventh rune.

Her mental waves barely prevented the leakage of the divine aura. Any powerhouse flying near her would sense the rune, so he had to get her inside the Hive.

King Elbas showed an unsightly expression at his remark, and he stretched his hand as flames formed in his palm.

Noah didn't have any fear. His condition was too poor even to hope to survive that attack, but he knew that the powerhouse was already too late.

As if answering to his confidence, two massive auras spread on the battlefield. The alliance's powerhouses arrived on the region, and they shot a surprised look in Noah's direction before wearing stern expressions and facing King Elbas.

The black flames and the smoke dispersed a few seconds after their arrival, showing the destruction that Noah had caused. The number of casualties was immense, and only June and a few Royals had survived.

The Elbas family had lost most of its heroic assets a few minutes after Noah made his official reappearance in the new continent.

Chapter 1030 1030. Deal

The situation of the Elbas family had become tragic in the span of a few minutes. Noah had laid waste of most of its army, and King Elbas had suddenly found himself against three cultivators capable of unleashing a powerhouse's battle prowess.

Noah, Chasing Demon, and Great Elder Diana stared at King Elbas and saw the hesitation in his expression. They didn't know what kind of calculations were happening in his mind, but they were aware that he was considering the possibility of fighting the three of them.

That had happened again during Ravaging Demon's events. No matter how outnumbered King Elbas was, he always appeared to have the resources and power needed to come out as the winner.

That was his scariest aspect. King Elbas was the best inscription master that those Mortal Lands had seen since Divine Architect, and his foundation appeared even superior to hers.

He was even the leader of one of the most potent forces in the entire world. King Elbas had access to any resource he wanted, and nothing stopped him from obtaining what he needed.

However, he was still a rank 6 cultivator at the peak of the liquid stage. His knowledge was immense, and his expertise extraordinary, but his power couldn't express those qualities to their fullest just yet.

Noah could sense the level of the powerhouses now. Great Elder Diana was somewhere in the middle phases of the liquid stage, while Chasing Demon had yet to be halfway through the gaseous stage.

The records of the battle against the quasi-rank 7 winged beast told him that God's Left Hand was stronger than his Patriarch but weaker than the Council's Matriarch. That put her near the peak of the gaseous stage unless she had improved in the last years.

That understanding brought a greater realization to his mind. He was now sure that none of the powerhouses had ever fought for real in their scuffles. They had always held back for fear of each other's assets.

That didn't apply to the fight against Ravaging Demon, but they didn't need to use their real power for a cultivator at the bottom of the sixth rank.

Noah tried to appear in peak condition even if his mind was killing him. He had only stressed it a bit during the battle, but the pain coming from its cracks made him feel like fainting.

King Elbas' expression eventually broke into an arrogant smirk. His gaze became aloof as he swept his opponents before going into the sky. Traces of emotions appeared on his face as his eyes reflected the vastness of the azure firmament, and his aura became eerie.

The Royals' leader had moved his attention away from his opponents, but none of them dared to attack him. Noah even felt that he understood King Elbas' feelings.

Noah could see how King Elbas didn't care about any of those matters. His only goal was the sky, and his individuality grew as long as the world respected his figure.

"Keep what you've conquered," King Elbas said without even lowering his head, "But we restore the neutral territories as they were before the battles."

Great Elder Diana stepped forward and opened her mouth to speak, but Noah shot a glance toward Chasing Demon that hinted him to stop her.

Noah hated to handle political relationships, but he knew how they worked. King Elbas had made a passive move, and Great Elder Diana saw it as an opportunity to seize more resources.

However, Noah wasn't in the condition to join battles on that level. He would have to prepare for weeks, even if he was at his peak!

Chasing Demon understood the meaning behind his glance and shouted before his ally could say anything. "Deal!"

Great Elder Diana shot a confused gaze toward him, but Noah left before he could see how that situation evolved. He had wasted enough time in the open. It was time to go in seclusion and heal before the breakthrough of his body.

Skully and the rebels waited for him in one of the Hive's territories on his path back home. Elder Julia had intercepted them, but she had instantly activated the Copying Technique when she sensed Skully's aura.

The rebels had quickly shouted Noah's name to express their alliance with him, but Elder Julia couldn't let them pass without any confirmation that they were speaking the truth.

Yet, she had chosen not to attack even if the shining lines on the ground had begun to radiate a rank 6 aura. Elder Julia could summon a puppet capable of fighting Skully, but she preferred to avoid battling a powerhouse.

"They are with me!" Noah shouted as soon as he reached the group. "Find them some accommodations and make Thirty-seven go through their techniques. I'll seclude myself for a while. I might not come out for a few decades."

Noah disappeared in the distance before Elder Julia even had the time to congratulate him on the breakthroughs. His flight quickly ended since he descended toward the ground while activating an inscribed item.

A formation appeared, and its light enveloped Noah before transporting him inside the separate dimension. From there, he used a series of teleportation matrices to return to his mansion.

The Hive had kept Noah's habitation in order, and it had even added more formations around and inside its structure. Many features of the mansion had seen improvements, especially the various training areas inside it.

The Hive had even added a garden filled with precious magical plants that released substances meant to heal injuries faster.

Noah only needed a quick scan of his habitation to understand all its new features, and he quickly went for the garden to deal with his most pressing matter.

His mind calmed down when he sat among those magical plants, and his mental energy began to wash the cracks once he was entirely still.

Noah's mental energy turned into a crystal-like substance as it filled the cracks. Only a small part of it remained attached to the walls of his mind, so he had to repeat the process for weeks until all the wounds had a layer of mental energy above it.

The situation of his mind had finally stabilized at that point. Noah could resume his regular training without worrying about worsening his condition. He only had to be careful not to overdo.

Noah found himself forced to hold back his body's breakthrough once again since his mind couldn't endure the period inside the chrysalis just yet. However, he focused on his dantian for the time being and even managed to gain experience in the world of the laws.

His meditations also concerned some of his techniques. There was a lot to do before he could claim to have made his such a life-changing breakthrough. Still, he never explored the matter too deeply because there was a bigger variable in play.

His body was about to evolve, and the process would involve even his new center of power. Noah was barely able to suppress his eagerness to see what he would become after he came out of the chrysalis.