

DEMONIC 1061

Chapter 1061 1061. Jelly

Noah felt a sticky membrane enveloping his figure even before the light of the teleportation matrix faded. A female voice reached his ears while his eyes became used to the new scenery.

"We knew someone would have used this method to invade us!" The cultivator exclaimed. "State your name and your organiz-."

The cultivator stopped speaking when the light dispersed, and Noah's figure became visible. Everyone in the world knew his face, so she couldn't help but feel fear when she recognized him.

Noah found himself covered in a green substance that hindered his movements and kept him locked on the ground. The material resembled an elastic and opaque jelly capable of blocking even his mental waves.

The Elbas family didn't forget about the raids in the Utra nation. Its many inscription masters didn't understand the nature of the separate dimension, but they developed measures that could block any ability of that kind.

The woman analyzed the jelly around Noah with a worried expression. The material could stop quasi-rank 6 attacks, but it couldn't hold a powerhouse for long.

According to his centers of power, Noah wouldn't be considered a complete powerhouse, but the battle prowess shown in the other world had demonstrated that he was more than worthy of that title.

The woman began to retreat, knowing that Noah would break free anytime soon. However, she had underestimated how deep inside the sixth rank Noah's power was, and her initial hesitation turned out to be a fatal mistake.

Noah had spent so long immersed in the ancient aura that some of his mind's features had changed already. His mental waves had become sharper, and his existence had returned to express the main characteristic that had accompanied his individuality since the beginning.

He was a blade. His individuality had begun to express other features as he explored his destruction and creation, but his sharpness had always been the first will fueled by his ambition.

Noah could easily break out of the jelly's constraints, but he would lose half an instant to do so, and the woman wearing a golden robe would escape due to that delay.

Yet, his middle finger was free to move since the edges of his hand kept that spot without jelly. Noah only needed to flicker it for a black line to come out of his palm and pierce the green substance.

If his existence was a blade, then every cell of his body could become a sword. Noah had always used weapons to enhance his power output, but the Cut had shown him that he could apply his sharpness to his entire being.

The woman of the Elbas family was only a cultivator at the peak of the fourth rank. The jelly weakened Noah's casual slash, but his enemy's body shattered when the black line touched her back.

Noah stabbed his fingers in the opening and widened his arms. The jelly tried to stop him, but the sheer power contained in his limbs forced stretched it until it snapped.

His consciousness expanded as he tore apart the green substance lingering on his body. His mission was to attract as much attention as possible and see if his target was inside the Royal Academy.

The Royals wouldn't forget about June with him there. They would initially try to take care of both intruders, but Noah had already decided to go all-out.

His mental waves could cover almost all the Academy, but they couldn't seep through many buildings. There were defensive inscriptions everywhere, and many structures had multiple layers of them.

The layout of the Royal Academy became clear in Noah's mind. To his surprise, the Elbas family had arranged that place in the same way as the old Academy.

The Royal Academy resembled a small city that had a shining river dividing it into two parts. One side had various habitations, while the other had large research buildings.

Of course, the value of those structures was on a superior league compared to the old Academy. That wasn't a place where human cultivators could walk, and even beings in the fourth rank would find it hard to endure the pressure accumulated in the area.

Noah could sense the presence of training zones in the peripheral areas of the Academy, but his interest was in the assets that populated the buildings and streets. His focus eventually went on one of them. His mental waves had successfully located Cecil Elbas.

'You were here in the end,' Noah thought as a smile appeared on his face, and black smoke came out of his skin. He couldn't help but feel happy at the idea that he was about to unleash his destruction in that place.

That feeling didn't come only from his enmity with the Elbas family. He was simply happy that he was about to express his individuality.

Countless shining lines lit up around him as soon as he took a step outside of the jelly. Many defenses activated, and runes even appeared on the sky since his corrosive smoke was tainting the air.

Noah felt the power of the sixth rank in some of the lines around him, but his mind sensed no danger. It was as if it knew that he could cross them easily.

The spiked armor formed, and Snore appeared next to him. The Demonic Sword came out of his robe and flew inside his clawed hand, ready to fight alongside him.

Noah didn't worry about his living weapon's integrity anymore. The Cut had shown him movements that could alleviate the pressure on the Demonic Sword even if he used most of his physical strength.

The ground morphed, and fifty armored knights came out of it. A silver metallic layer covered their bodies, and each of them radiated the power of the peak of the fifth rank.

Purple lines appeared in the sky, and a heavy pressure began to focus on Noah's mind. A series of mirrors came out of the buildings nearby, and "Breath" of various elements gathered on their surface.

Three massive humanoid puppets surged from the river in the distance and began to walk in Noah's direction. They exuded power in the sixth rank, and their bodies appeared to lack a core, which meant that there was only water in their structure.

More and more defenses activated in the distance. It was as if the entirety of the Royal Academy had transformed into an army of inscribed items that had to take him down as their only goal.

Noah didn't expect any less from the most advanced organization in the inscription field. Actually, he found those defenses too weak, which told him that there were more of them in deeper parts of the Academy.

A series of cultivators wearing golden armors rose from some buildings in the distance. All of them wielded heavy cannons that had shining lines covering the entirety of its surface.

Everything pointed toward Noah, but he didn't show any fear.

'I guess I can begin,' Noah thought as the fiendish smirk on his helmet enlarged. A human-shaped crack appeared in his position, and a starry sky covered the entire area.

Chapter 1062 1062. Grudge

The world lost its light for a second, and Noah reappeared in the sky with his fiendish mouth still open. Flames spread under him, and the armored knights crumbled under the might of his innate ability.

The aura radiated by the purple lines pressed on his mind and made him deplete more mental energy, but Noah preferred to take care of the other defenses first. Moreover, he would exhaust his solid darkness before emptying his sea of consciousness anyway, so he didn't mind those inscriptions.

Some of the mirrors shattered under the shockwaves released by his attack, but the others followed his figure and launched beams made of different elements. Meanwhile, the cultivators in the distance fired their cannons, which shot large bullets covered in a smelly substance.

Noah tilted his wrist, and hundreds of black lines shot from the Demonic Sword. That simple gesture had been enough to launch slashes in every direction, and all of them had a quasi-rank 6 power!

The Demonic Sword didn't feel any pressure when releasing that attack. The period spent immersed inside the Cut's aura had made him able to control his strength and turn his every move into a slash.

The slashes crashed on the defensive measures. The beams couldn't do anything against them, and the black lines landed on the mirrors. The bullets opposed some resistance, but Noah's attacks pierced them anyway, even if they dispersed a few meters after.

The mirrors shattered, and their buildings began to crumble due to the impact. Corrosive smoke spread on those spots too and seeped inside the cracks that had formed.

The bullets exploded after being cut in half. They released a poisonous cloud that clashed with the Demonic Sword's corrosive smoke. The two corrosive abilities destroyed each other as they fought.

Noah's eyes sharpened at that sight. He didn't unleash his full power, but the Elbas family had managed to block him without suffering any losses. Also, those were only the first layers of defense.

'I might not be able to seize anything,' Noah realized when he saw more knights rising from the ground. They were different at that time. Their metallic surface had turned black and had a few runes on it.

More mirrors appeared on the intact buildings nearby. They began to accumulate "Breath" again, but Noah felt a sense of disgust when his consciousness analyzed that flow of energy.

He understood what was happening instantly, but he wanted to test how effective that procedure was. The world lost its light again, and more flames covered the ground.

Most of the knights crumbled, but some of them managed to endure the might of the flames. The mirrors launched white beams at that point, and Noah answered with the same slashes.

The cultivator's cannon shot again, but black lines were already flying in their direction, and the clash with the bullets created threatening clouds right next to them.

The slashes fended off the white beams, but they didn't manage to reach the buildings. More black knights surged from the ground, and they appeared as an improved version of those that had survived his flames.

Noah could only watch as the defensive formations adapted themselves at his abilities and element. The new knights had high resistance to flames, while the white beams had used "Breath" of the light element as their fuel.

He had never heard of anything similar. Formations usually had a specific task and set weaknesses. They didn't change their approach according to their opponent unless someone controlled them.

'Can I even reach the core?' Noah wondered, but he knew the answer to that question already. He was in the middle of one of the most advanced places in the world. He had no hope to cross those defenses on his own.

Noah changed approach at that realization. Continuing to fight the defensive formations would only cause him more problems. It was better to aim for his target and unleash as much destruction as he could along the way.

A human-shaped crack appeared in the sky as he shot toward Cecil's presence. The latter was right beyond the three water puppets, and Noah's initial idea was to ignore them.

However, more lines lit up in the sky while he sprinted in his dark dimension. A series of currents came out of the puppets, and they blocked Noah's path in multiple spots as they created a massive wall.

There seemed to be sensors that worked together with the defenses all around the Academy. Puppets at the bottom of the sixth rank could gain an awareness superior to many powerhouses thanks to them.

Noah felt forced to stop. Currents shot out of the wall in front of him, and white beams came after him from behind. The cultivators had pulled the trigger on the cannons, and the knights had begun to fly in his direction.

That situation was dire. Noah wouldn't suffer any injury, but he couldn't let the formations gain the upper hand in that situation. Being suppressed there would mean having to break through the constant assault of protections tuning with his power.

Snore enveloped his figure, and a layer of dark rocks covered its dark skin. Then, Noah threw hundreds of Instabilities as the rocky armor formed.

Explosions echoed in the Royal Academy. The sky became a chaotic place filled with clouds of corrosive smoke and saber-shaped runes.

The many attacks that had adapted to his power fell apart under the Instabilities' might. Noah had taken the defensive formations by surprise when he relied on a different offensive.

Nothing went through the layer of black rocks, and Snore released Noah when the storm of fuming sabers ended.

Devastation unfolded in his eyes. Many buildings of the Academy had crumbled due to the sudden deployment of so many disposable weapons. Only the defenses that surpassed the fifth rank in power had survived that amount of destruction.

Some of the shining lines had also gone dim, which gave Noah hope in defeating the defenses of the Academy. However, a wave of golden light soon spread from the ground, and the destroyed formations began to reform under that halo.

The Elbas family had even created methods to restore inscriptions. Noah wasn't an expert in the formations field, but he knew that such a feature was incredible even for the best masters!

Noah didn't stop his tracks due to his astonishment. Flames came out of his fiendish mouth, and elemental attacks shot from his Blood Companion. Snore even spread its wings as it began to charge its feathers.

His wrist trembled from time to time, and hundreds of black lines shot out of the Demonic Sword. More cultivators rose in the distance, and Noah even saw Cecil through the holes that had formed on the water puppets' wall.

The Elbas family's assets were ganging on him, and his smile couldn't help but become wider at that sight.

Those same cultivators had tried to suppress him in the past, but he was fighting alone against them now. Noah felt as if he was finally solving a grudge that had lingered in his mind for centuries.

Chapter 1063 1063. Intense battle

Noah never stopped launching attacks. Multicolored lights filled the sky above the Royal Academy, and black clouds expanded among them as they tried to consume every defensive method.

No side gained an advantage over the other. The defensive formations wasted a large amount of "Breath" to block the attacks and launch their abilities, while Noah depleted his energies to pressure them with his incessant offensive.

Noah and the defensive measures appeared equally matched, but he was slowly losing ground.

New knights came out of the ground, and they had an additional layer of protection around their armors at that time. A series of metallic shields appeared in front of the mirrors while they gathered energy.

The defensive formations adapted to the Instabilities, his slashes, and Snore's elemental attacks. Noah found it hard to advance in that situation since those inscriptions became more difficult to pierce.

His movement technique allowed him to escape from any encirclement, but he couldn't use it to sprint toward his enemies due to the many sensors filling the Royal Academy. He couldn't even focus on those devices since the ground would fix them in a few minutes.

He could exploit the period between one fix and another to aim for the Royals, but breaking the defenses on his path required more time. The Elbas family had created a perfect array of formations, and that was only the most superficial layer.

'I won't even see the protections meant for stronger powerhouses at this pace,' Noah thought as he disappeared in a human-shaped crack. The formations would force him to retreat soon if he didn't change the trend of that battle.

He wasn't strong enough to overpower the various layers of protection, but there was something that he could do. The formations struggled against his attacks before the adaptation process kicked in, so he had a short opportunity every time he revealed a new ability.

Still, revealing small bits of his power could only give him a minute or two before the formations countered him again. If he wanted to create a good opportunity, he had to show everything at the same time!

The dark star in his chest spun faster when it sensed Noah's determination. Massive amounts of nutrients went on his mind as a sea of saber-shaped runes surrounded his figure.

The Black Hole spell followed the appearance of the fuming sabers. Noah had yet to improve his abilities, but those two skills could grow until they reached the sixth rank even without modifications.

The sky of the Royal Academy reeked of his destruction. Noah had unleashed some of his strongest attacks for a while by then. Primary energy filled every inch of the battlefield.

Most of it converged toward Snore's wings, but some went on the other spells.

Noah didn't let the defensive formations hurt his spells. The black sphere and the runes shot above him and remained still as they absorbed primary energy. Snore did the same, but it continued to launch elemental attacks while it charged its feathers.

Countless white beams and knights shot in Noah's direction while he flew higher in the sky. Purple light pressed on his mental sphere, and water currents followed him to try to block his retreat.

Noah spewed flames and launched black lines. His Demonic Form and attacks filled the entire sky with corrosive smoke that the formations soon felt forced to focus.

The threat of the Demonic Form wasn't something that they could ignore. The black clouds had rank 6 power even if they weren't at their best due to the level of his dantian.

The formation could focus only on Noah initially because he used the corrosive smoke to block some of the attacks. However, as the battle continued, those defenses had to switch their attention to his spell.

Noah flew even higher in the sky. He was buying as much time as he could for his spells. Yet, he felt forced to act when he saw that the formations were starting to ignore him.

The Black Hole spell and the saber-shaped runes still needed some time to reach power in the sixth rank, so he began his counterattack by throwing his remaining Instabilities downward.

Hundreds of spiked spheres flew toward a dense array of white beams and water currents that surrounded an army of knights. Loud explosions echoed in the sky as the disposable weapons crashed on the attacks of the defensive formations.

A storm made of fuming spikes ravaged the battlefield. They didn't distinguish enemy from foe, and many of them flew toward Noah, who limited himself to glance coldly at the sharp runes.

Metallic sounds resounded as the spikes landed on his metallic skin. Snore was busy charging its attack, so Noah wanted to block the blow to let his Blood Companion focus.

White marks appeared on his skin as the chaotic storm of runes crashed on him. Some of them even tried to fly toward his spells, but Noah moved to act as a human shield.

The white beams couldn't do anything against the Instabilities, but many knights and the water currents survived the explosions. The spikes had ruined their structure, but the defenses continued to fly toward their target.

The water began to disperse once it reached the thick cloud. The rank 6 puppets were the only ones that could deal with Noah's corrosive smoke, so they focused their offensive on it.

The knights waited for the currents to create a path through the cloud before shooting toward Noah.

Black lines clashed on the flying knights, dividing all of them in half. Noah's spiked armor was a mess due to the storms of runes, but he didn't suffer any injury.

Instead, that last exchange had made him gain enough time to launch his counterattack. The defensive formations were still charging their next offensive when they saw a storm of abilities with rank 6 power falling toward the ground.

The Black Hole spell flew downward, absorbing any energy still lingering in the air before slamming directly at the center of the Academy. Snore launched its feathers, aiming for the river among the shining structures. The saber-shaped runes ravaged the sky and destroyed the annoying purple lines, dispersing the mental pressure that was becoming unbearable.

Noah flew downward together with his abilities. Flames and black lines shot from his figure, aiming toward the sensors and attacks of the cultivators coming from the distance.

The chaos on the battlefield intensified. Noah's abilities pushed back all the defensive formations' attacks and suppressed those defenses for a window that he didn't hesitate to exploit.

His figure disappeared, leaving behind a human-shaped crack in the fabric of the sky. The sensors couldn't sense his movements due to the intense shockwaves that filled the battlefield.

The Elbas family's cultivators couldn't notice that most of the defensive formations were offline, but some of them sensed an immense danger while they escaped from the range of the destructive storm.

Cecil Elbas was among them, but the danger that he felt skyrocketed when a scorching hand sealed its grasp around the back of his neck.

Chapter 1064 1064. You win

Noah reappeared behind the escaping Cecil, and his hand squeezed the back of his neck, forcing him to stay still while his companions retreated.

The water puppets had crumbled after Snore's feathers ravaged the river. They didn't have a core inside them, so Noah had guessed that the shining stream fueled those defenses.

His guess had been on point since the puppets, and their abilities lost power once Snore's attack destroyed most of the river. The water directly disintegrated when the feathers crashed on the riverbed, and the cracks spread to ruin the previous orderly shape of the canal.

The Black Hole spell had eradicated the superficial layer of the ground, halting the creation of knights. Most of the buildings had vanished during the explosion, and the mirrors on them suffered from the same fate.

His flames had created a starry sky right above the ground that ravaged anything that had survived the previous spells. The Royal Academy lost entire quarters instantly once his innate ability managed to exploit their defenseless state.

Noah had deactivated the Demonic Form by the time he reached Cecil, but the corrosive smoke still lingered behind him. The cultivators on the other side of the battlefield couldn't help due to the threatening cloud blocking their path.

Moreover, the flames and the corrosive smoke had filled the battlefield so much that the healing light struggled to fix the formations' countless damages.

Noah noticed how that golden light could even reform formations that his attacks had wrecked, but he didn't have time to feel amazed.

His target was in his grasp, and he had crossed the initial defensive layers. He would typically use that situation to spread his destruction even more, but he had to confirm something before pressing forward.

Cecil remained frozen in place under Noah's pressure. He felt as if his life was the frailest thing in the world with the invader's fingers around his neck. Yet, that terror couldn't compare with the fear he felt when Noah's cold words reached his ears.

"Did you kill Ivor?" Noah asked, while his mouth almost touched the Royal's ear. Cecil shuddered, and a tinge of disbelief made its way through his fear when he understood the reasons behind Noah's actions.

"Did you do all of this for that ruined cultivator?" Cecil shouted in anger. He had accepted his death in those short seconds, so he didn't fear to let out his true feelings in the last moments of his life. "Did you kill my son to avenge that walking corpse? Did you declare war to the Elbas family for an inscription master that could barely remember your name?"

Noah didn't even listen to his words. It didn't matter if the reasons that drove his actions were petty. He didn't care that almost five hundred years had passed since Ivor's events.

Noah wanted closure on Ivor's death, so he would fight for it. His opponents could either have the power to stop him or die.

"Did you kill Ivor?" Noah asked again as his fingertips pierced Cecil's skin.

Some of the escaping Royals stopped their retreat and wielded inscribed cannons when they saw that Noah didn't follow them. They prepared a battle formation to block him as soon as he resumed his charge.

The golden light continued to fix the formations while Noah remained still. On the other side of the battlefield, the cultivators began to fly around the corrosive cloud to help their companions.

Noah was wasting precious time, and Cecil knew it. His mind had become clearer than ever when he accepted his death. His only focus was on making sure that the Demon Prince of the Hive lost that battle now.

No answer came from the suppressed Royal, and Noah knew that he didn't have time to torture him. Also, Cecil was different from his son. He had the mindset of a real expert. Even when facing death, he had found a way to help his organization.

Sharp thoughts surged inside Noah's mind. He would have never invaded the Royal Academy only to kill Cecil during normal times, but he wanted to help June, so he had taken that risk.

That whole mission was a ploy meant to make her task easier. Noah and the alliance could gain something out of it, but it wouldn't be wrong to say that he had started a war to help his lover.

"Fine," Noah whispered to Cecil's ear. "I'll play your game."

Cecil felt an even colder chill spreading among his guts. He didn't know what had changed, but he thought that something horrible was about to unfold.

Dark matter covered the Royal's body to create a layer of protection. Cecil was about to question Noah's action, but an immense force pressed on him and made him unable to speak.

Noah had shot forward without using any ability. His speed wasn't as breathtaking as when he performed his technique, but it was still too much to endure for a solid stage cultivator like Cecil.

Nevertheless, the dark matter protected the Royal's body and left him able to see what was happening around him.

Noah had sprinted directly among the enemy lines. The experts wielded heavy cannons and were far weaker than him, so they could barely react when they saw the invader landing among them.

Cecil's eyes widened when he saw hundreds of black lines shooting from the Demonic Sword and killing dozens of Royals in an instant. Peak rank 4 cultivators and various inscription masters in the fifth rank died, divided in half by attacks that they had no hope to block.

"There's more!" Noah shouted as growls accompanied his human voice. The Royals coming from the other side of the battlefield managed to cross the black cloud in time to see Noah landing among them.

Cecil witnessed as Noah destroyed the very elites of the Elbas family. He had already killed many great experts when he returned from the hidden world, but that slaughter was different.

Most of the cultivators fighting above the poisonous swamp had used the Royal Pool, which hurt their potential. Instead, those inside the Academy were valuable inscription masters.

The Elbas family's most significant advantage over other organizations was its superiority in studies that covered every field of the cultivation journey. Those experts were the foundation of its preeminence and killing them hurt its very future.

Noah activated the Black Hole spell and rereleased the saber-shaped runes. His destruction never stopped spreading, so there was plenty of primary energy to fuel his attacks.

Tinges of regret appeared in Cecil's mind, but he remained silent. He wouldn't concede to those threats. He could claim that small victory over Noah, and he had every intention to make that his last act of defiance.

Noah continued to kill until all the cultivators had died. Only Cecil remained alive, but no sound came out of him.

"You win," Noah eventually said when he saw that Cecil had no intention to give in. "I'll just destroy everything."

The dark matter around Cecil compressed, reducing him into a bloody pulp. Noah would never obtain his answer, but he had the entire Royal Academy waiting for him to vent.

Chapter 1065 1065. Powerhouses

The formations of the Royal Academy partially regrew while Noah killed the experts. Some attacks shot toward him, but he dived right into the corrosive cloud to make them lose his tracks.

White beams and knights pierced the cloud, but the corrosive smoke destroyed them before they could even find Noah again. The current power of the defensive formations was still too low to face his abilities.

The destruction accumulated on the battlefield continued to fuel Noah's spells. His offensive would be more vigorous with Snore's feathers, but the Blood Companion had used all its bullets to destroy the river.

Water started to come out from the destroyed riverbed. The ground even fixed itself under the influence of the golden light. However, it was still too early for it to summon the rank 6 puppets again.

Noah remained inside the cloud and inspected the ground. He felt slightly surprised that those in control of the defenses were only trying to restore the previous formations since they had already proved themselves too weak to stop him.

No different patterns appeared on the ground, and the structures only showed the same layout while they regrow.

Noah felt that something was off, but he wouldn't let that scare him. The Black Hole spell and the saber-shaper runes had reached power in the sixth rank while he waited, so he made them fall downward.

A massive black sphere and a torrent of sabers flew toward the ground, and Noah came out of the cloud in his fiendish form to join his abilities.

The ground opened before the attacks even landed. The pressure radiated by Noah's offensive was enough to disperse the golden light and destroy the few shining lines that it had restored.

A loud shockwave spread through the Royal Academy. Entire layers of the ground directly disintegrated as his attacks dug their way into the depths of the area.

The Black Hole spell covered the entirety of the central area with its explosion, but Noah remained in its range, uncaring of the pressure that landed on his body. The shockwave didn't even manage to make him change his trajectory.

The color of the ground changed at some point. Noah saw a smooth black layer appearing on his path and fending off the shockwave that had preceded him.

It seemed that he had reached a restricted area, but a tough material wouldn't be enough to stop his offensive.

The sabers converged in front of him and began to rotate to form a drill-like formation that clashed on the black wall. Screeching sounds spread from that spot, but everything went silent right before Noah landed.

Noah felt the sharpness of the sabers-shaped runes resonating in his mind. He only needed to point the Demonic Sword toward the center of the drill to make all of them stop for a second.

The sabers and the Demonic Swords stopped leaking any aura before exploding with the same sharpness at the same time. The two attacks became a single technique that fused the power of two rank 6 blows into one.

The black wall had metallic properties, and defensive formations were reinforcing its structure on the other side. It could endure a few spells from a powerhouse, but Noah's attack cracked its surface and made a hole that reached the other side.

An eerie aura came out of the hole, but a dangerous sensation appeared in Noah's mind as his consciousness sensed two powerful presences above him.

Noah glanced at the cracked wall while stopping his offensive. The cracks weren't enough to make him go to the other side, so he had to accept that his exploration of the restricted areas was over.

Noah kicked on the wall to jump right back on the surface. Two silver-haired cultivators floated in the sky as they waited for him. Their golden eyes shone with the arrogance proper only of the Elbas family's pure bloodline, and their centers of power expressed their status as powerhouses.

"Second Prince was right again," First Prince said as he smiled toward Noah, "He is the same Demon that has invaded the old Academy."

"Second Prince is usually right," Second Princess said while glancing at Noah with the same smile as her brother. "He might fight us this time."

Noah's fiendish form continued to emit corrosive smoke that covered his figure in a black cloud. Everything quickly became dark in his view, but that didn't stop him from recognizing the two Royals.

They were the silver-haired cultivators that had stopped him and the Demons from raiding the old Academy. Noah had to use Chasing Demon's talisman at that time, but now he was a different existence.

"Does the Patriarch of the Balvan Family like to hide?" First Prince said as fire surrounded his figure. Second Princess looked at the corrosive smoke and plucked a hair from her head to give birth to a giant fiery snake.

She had instantly decided to use her bloodline to fuel her flames. She wasn't using primary energy, but her fire was far more intense than her brother's.

Noah's battle intent surged when he fixed his consciousness on the two Royals.

He had only fought magical beasts and poorly trained hybrids since he had become a powerhouse. Those creatures were far inferior to cultivators in terms of battle prowess, and their only advantage was that they could endure his physical strength.

However, cultivators could rely on spells, defensive items, and their experience in battles at that level. Noah didn't expect to overpower them with a few tricks or by betting everything on his body.

'I wonder what peaks my body will reach against them,' Noah thought as his eyes went on the Demonic Sword in his grasp.

The Cut's aura had enlightened him on many offensive methods that featured swords, but Noah had yet to use those that would express the full might of his body.

He could launch powerful slashes without hurting his living weapon thanks to the expertise gained in the divine inheritance, but those techniques didn't suit him. He knew how to launch gentle attacks, but he remained a creature with physical strength that surpassed even hybrids.

His real power was in slashes that required brute strength other than technique. The only problem was that his Demonic Sword couldn't survive many of them.

'You might get hurt,' Noah thought, and the Demonic Sword answered with a roar that carried pure battle intent when it understood his feelings.

With Noah's breakthroughs and Snore, the Demonic Sword had found itself unable to shine during battles. It still was an incredible asset in his arsenal, but it had to wait for his dantian to reach the sixth rank before becoming a crucial part of his offensive.

Noah had never forgotten about his living weapon, and even his idea of forging a rank 6 weapon was only a temporary solution. The Demonic Sword carried his individuality, so he knew that he would never abandon it.

'Fine then,' Noah thought, and the Demonic Sword became smaller in his palm. It became as short as a knife as he raised it above his head and wielded it with both hands.

Chapter 1066 1066. Slashes

The Demonic Sword had a flexible structure. It could compress and divide itself according to Noah's needs, but it needed to return solid during specific actions.

Noah couldn't use the Demonic Sword to cultivate when it wasn't in its original form, and he needed it in specific shapes to perform his martial art in the past.

Yet, the Cut had sharpened his individuality and made him find his original expression of his power. A sword could slash in any form, even if it were nothing more than a short knife.

Noah didn't want the Demonic Sword to suffer due to his physical strength, but there wasn't a way around that issue. He could either hold back while performing different slashes or change the living weapon's shape to increase its density.

In the form of a short knife, the Demonic Sword would be able to endure more pressure without affecting its sharpness. Noah only had to change his slashes slightly to tune it with the new length of the weapon.

Second Princess had taken Noah's seriously since the beginning and had used King Elbas' iconic ability to fuel her flames. Instead, First Prince had limited himself to summon lumps of fire that floated around his figure as they waited for his orders.

Noah would typically escape from that situation. He knew that he couldn't win. Even with his many advantages and absurd body, he couldn't deal with two powerhouses and the Royal Academy's formations at the same time.

Moreover, those two cultivators were King Elbas' direct descendants. Noah wouldn't be able to kill them if they had only a fraction of their father's inscribed items.

However, June was still somewhere inside the Academy. Noah didn't know her status, but he wanted to gather the attention on himself for as long as he could anyway.

His body gave him another reason to fight in that situation. The dark star's best functions were on the hands of his subconscious, and Noah could trick it by putting himself in a tough fight.

Fighting against the two powerhouses could force his body to create new techniques or finish the projects he had started since the end of the chrysalis.

The two powerhouses kept on staring at the enlarging corrosive cloud while they waited for their opponent to come out. Even existences on that level couldn't ignore the power of the Demonic Form. They preferred to remain still until Noah made a move rather than jumping into his dangerous lair.

Small golden circles shone on First Prince's fingertips. The Royal tapped them on the air, and flashy signals spread throughout the Royal Academy at his gestures.

The golden light radiated from the ground began to neglect the destroyed buildings and lines in charge of creating knights to fix the sensors quickly.

It seemed that First Prince was in charge of the defensive formations of the Academy. As the clash against Noah became imminent, he prioritized the restoration of the protections that could hinder Noah's most annoying ability.

There was no countermeasure to Noah's sprints in the end. No one on that level was as fast as him. The Royals could predict and react to his movement technique only if the formations helped them out.

A tremor swept the cloud, and the Royals prepared themselves for Noah's attack. Yet, the sensors shone and began to send pieces of information to their minds that made them dodge immediately.

A large part of the sky disappeared. A tall vertical fissure had suddenly appeared on the powerhouses' previous spot, and they could only stare at it in astonishment.

That crack was thirty meters tall and four large. It wasn't the type of damage that the sky could fix quickly. Its size even created consequences in the environment.

A vortex appeared in front of the crack, and the air went into the void. The fact that laws converged on that spot to fix it gave birth to a traction force that led matter into the darkness.

The traction force didn't affect only the air. Broken pieces of the formations, energy, and even part of the golden light ended up dragged inside the void. Noah had been able to create a natural catastrophe with a single slash!

The Royals had no words to describe that event. They had spells capable of expressing as much power as Noah, but his sharpness made him far more dangerous for the world's structure.

His sharpness was more effective on material defenses, which made him a troublesome existence to face. They didn't feel surprised about the destruction of the defensive formations anymore after that discovery.

The sensors flickered like crazy while the two Royals retreated in opposite directions, and a golden light suddenly covered First Prince's figure.

A shockwave followed the appearance of that defensive measure. Noah had sprinted behind the powerhouse and delivered a punch, but the golden light absorbed most of the power behind his blow.

"Not so fast, My Lord!" First Prince said as flames spread around his figure and engulfed Noah. The latter wanted to retreat, but he found that he couldn't pull his fist out of the golden light even with his immense physical strength.

The sky became red, and Second Princess launched her fiery snake toward her brother's position to help him with the invader.

First Prince's fire had pushed the corrosive smoke away and dispersed part of Noah's Demonic Form, but it vanished when a cry echoed in the battlefield and a starry sky spread in the area.

Noah roared as he spewed black flames on the Royal's defenses. The fiendish armor reformed completely while the golden light flickered under that offensive. Nevertheless, he still found himself unable to pull his fist back.

The sight of First Prince's arrogant smile and the dangerous sensation coming from Second Princess' snake piled in Noah's mind and made his dark star spin faster.

Noah pointed the small Demonic Sword in his free hand toward the smiling Royal. His aura became an orderly tide that flowed toward the sky as it spread its sharpness in the environment.

The fabric of the sky broke as Noah focused. The dark star forced the activation of the Divine Deduction technique to complete the slash that he needed to break free of that situation.

Noah saw laws replacing the matter in front of him, and the world began to slow down. He started to see the various connections that kept the sky's fabric united, and he instinctively learnt how to break them.

His sharpness was a pure expression of his destruction. His existence could sever matter, fate, and even laws, and the fabric of the sky was only another hindrance on his path.

Noah's free hand moved slowly. He waved the tip of the Demonic Sword, separating laws from each other and creating a small cut in front of him.

The Divine Deduction technique went dark at that point, and his vision became normal again. Yet, the scene that he saw was far different from before.

The attack had cut the golden sphere around the Royal in half, and Noah's slash had severed First Prince's left arm too.

Chapter 1067 1067. Grin

Noah's battle prowess had reached the sixth rank even if his dantian was in the previous rank's solid stage. His body gave him immense strength, and it elevated all his abilities to an unthinkable level for the state of his centers of power.

His only weakness was that he had yet to go into seclusion to tune his attacks to the new power he acquired. Still, that wasn't entirely his fault.

Noah had learnt about June's condition right after coming out of the chrysalis. Then, he discovered that there were rebels in the other world when he found her.

He had to take care of the rebellion to save the dimensional tunnel, and the Council traded the Divine Cut for the Kesier Apes once he returned to the main world.

The enlightenment obtained with the Cut's aura had kept him fully occupied for years, which stopped the projects he had started in the previous free months.

Noah didn't even have the time to seize that Divine Inheritance since the time to start the assault on the Elbas family's domain had arrived.

In total, Noah had piled less than a year of actual training and seclusion, which was unthinkable for an entity on his level. The only reason he could express his current prowess was that the Divine Cut had pushed his individuality toward his sharpness.

It was as if Noah had been through a polishing process that had taken out his strongest self. Still, there was a limit to how much power he could express due to the lack of training.

However, his mind worked at an incredible speed when he was under pressure, or the situation required it. Noah had developed the movement technique in a matter of months, and most of the slashes performed during the assault on the Royal Academy were attacks that he had never tested.

The same had happened at that moment. Noah had found himself stuck in a situation that required him to express more power, and his body had activated all his mental methods to create a technique that suited him.

Of course, even his fantastic body had its limits. Noah needed to own the necessary power and expertise already for something on that level to be born.

First Prince's arrogant smile froze when he saw his left arm floating away from him together with the golden light that Noah had severed. Fear filled his mind as he thought about what would have happened if the defensive ability didn't have enough "Breath" to deflect that blow.

The truth was that the golden light had focused everything on restricting Noah, which meant that most of its "Breath" was between him and the Royal. That density of that energy had been enough to make Noah's slash deviate from its original trajectory and cut First Prince's arm instead of his head.

"This is not possible," First Prince said slowly. His words resembled a mumbling proper of a researcher witnessing something that defied the laws of the world.

The golden light came from a defensive item that had power at the peak of the gaseous stage of the sixth rank when it focused its energy on one spot. The "Breath" covered an entire side, so the defensive item didn't reach its peak. Yet, it was still a shield that no newly advanced powerhouse could pierce!

A human-shaped crack replaced Noah's figure right before Second Princess' snake engulfed that area. Her fire dispersed the starry sky and corrosive smoke but left First Prince unaffected. His sister's spell didn't hurt him.

Noah reappeared behind Second Princess, but the sensors had warned her about his arrival. A golden light shone around her too and blocked his punch, locking him in the same situation as before.

Second Princess didn't stop there. She had seen what Noah was capable of, so she didn't limit her defenses to that inscribed item. Wounds opened on her wrists, and blood flowed inside the light to empower its radiance.

Noah executed his new cut again, and the laws in front of him separated. However, his slash found a denser layer of laws once it crashed on the golden light. A curse echoed in his mind when he saw that his new attack wasn't able to pierce the shield.

His Divine Deduction technique activated again as his body pushed his mental capabilities to their limits to solve that issue. Yet, Noah didn't find anything in those fractions of instants.

A conclusion became evident in his mind. His power wasn't enough to pierce that defense.

Second Princess revealed a smile at that sight, but her expression froze when she saw the fiendish figure doing the same. A wave of coldness filled her body as Noah sprinted backward to fly in the direction of the massive crack that the sky was still struggling to close.

The pulling force became stronger as Noah dragged Second Princess and her defensive item toward the crack. His speed increased, and the Royal couldn't help but shout when she saw how reckless her opponent was. "You are going to kill both of us!"

Noah didn't answer. Black smoke continued to come out of his spiked armor, which blocked any available path toward them. First Prince wanted to help her sister, but he had a hard time catching up with them.

The fissure grew closer in Second Princess' eyes. She had to do something to stop her opponent, but the golden light didn't allow her to express her full power.

Nevertheless, lowering her defenses would expose her to Noah. She was in a pickle, and no approach left her unharmed.

Initially, she tried to test Noah's recklessness. She didn't believe that he would charge right into the void to kill her. Yet, the fiendish figure kept on looking at her with an evil grin, and his speed only increased as they neared the fissure.

When they were about to reach the crack, she understood that Noah's threats weren't void. Multiple cuts appeared on her body, and blood covered her skin before she recalled the golden light. Then, her figure exploded into a fiery nova.

Noah slashed as soon as he saw her defenses disappearing, but dense flames quickly pushed him away while dispersing his Demonic Form. A human-shaped crack replaced his figure right before he entered the fissure, and he reappeared above the sky to analyze the state of the battlefield.

First Prince had just opened a path through the corrosive smoke when the flames destroyed every trace of it. A concerned expression appeared on his face when he saw that fire, but he relaxed after a bloodied figure appeared near him.

Noah almost didn't recognize Second Princess. What had appeared next to First Prince was a cultivator without any skin and missing the right part of her lower body.

The last clash had left her badly injured, but she stood next to her brother as if nothing had happened. Even if she was only a cultivator, the resilience of a powerhouse was incredible.

Chapter 1068 1068. Invasion

Noah didn't suffer any injury during the battle, but that didn't mean that he had the upper hand over his enemies.

First Prince had only lost an arm, and Second Princess could suppress her wounds with her mental energy. Instead, Noah had wasted a lot of power, which was a problem that didn't have an immediate solution.

Noah had fought against the defensive formations and the various experts wielding inscribed items. Then the two powerhouses appeared, and he had to resort to even more powerful abilities to win a few exchanges.

Using the movement technique, his spells, and his new slashes stressed his centers of power to no end, but his dantian was the organ that suffered the most from the pace of that battle.

His abilities consumed immense quantities of his darkness since his dantian was still in the fifth rank, and his organ had to endure that fast depletion while he continued to fight.

A dantian in the fifth rank would typically fall apart during a battle at that level. Noah's organ could endure the various shockwaves and fast depletion due to his body, but it became sore nonetheless after being put under such heavy pressure.

Noah could keep up for some more time, but he had no confidence in killing his opponents. The formations on the ground had almost completely reformed too, so he didn't see much hope.

'I need more time,' Noah thought as he stared at the two Royals immersed in the flames released by Second Princess.

The environment was full of primary energy, but his spells couldn't pierce their defensive items. Snore was out of feathers, and its attacks didn't meet the standards for a battle on that level.

Only his physical strength and slashes were adequate, but the Demonic Sword would reach its limits soon. His flames could only support him, and the Demonic Form was too easy to counter for his enemies.

Noah's expression didn't reveal anything, but he had accepted that his only option in that situation was to retreat.

'How much longer?' Noah wondered as he pretended to study his opponents. He knew that the Royals would wait for the formations to reform before resuming their offensive, but he didn't have anything else to launch at them.

June's last words began to resound in his mind. His unwillingness reached its peak as the idea of leaving became more intense inside him.

Every fiber of his existence raged at the thought of leaving her. Still, remaining there would lead to his death. The invasion would become a suicide mission if he allowed his enemies to corner him.

Minutes of silence passed, with the Royals and Noah staring at each other. Second Princess even tested his reactions by drinking a few potions that healed her skin, but Noah didn't react at that sight.

Doubt formed inside the Royals' mind. They believed that Noah had hidden intentions, but they couldn't figure them out.

They respected their opponent too much to think that he had invaded the Royal Academy unprepared. Yet, they couldn't explain why he was purposely giving them time to recover.

Still, the Royals didn't act for fear of an eventual trap. Their respect for Noah was too great for them to think that he was buying time.

The defensive formations eventually reformed, and the Royals exchanged a few glances before preparing massive spells. Both Second Princess and First Prince cut off long strands of their hair to give birth to six fiery snakes coiled around their figures.

Blood came out of their wrists, and a series of humanoid giants made of fire appeared in front of them. The duo even plucked some of their fingernails to create long spears that pointed their fiery tips at Noah.

The Royals had prepared their best offensive, and the defensive formations on the ground started to shine to announce their support to their owners. Noah saw an entire city and two powerhouses pointing all their firepower toward him.

Noah didn't even need to rely on his mind's enhanced capabilities to understand that he wouldn't be able to block the next attack. He would probably survive in a badly injured state, but his best option remained to retreat.

His instincts fought inside him. His unwillingness to leave June and his desire to survive struggled to win Noah's mind over, but he remained calm.

Nothing could touch him when he relied on his movement techniques, especially if he flew upward, outside of the Royal Academy's range. He could escape easily, so he had no reason to panic.

As the Royals showed signs of impatience, Noah felt forced to act. He broke the silence to ask questions that could buy him even more time. "How did you reach the sixth rank? You are a copy of King Elbas' individuality in the end."

June had told him that the restricted areas of the Academy worked differently from the structures on the surface. They answered to different defensive layouts, which were mostly automatic.

That gave her an advantage if her accomplice on the outside attracted enough attention. The forces of the Elbas family would take longer to notice her if Noah triggered every defense on the surface.

The reward from Shandal's separate dimension had taught her method to hide her presence in front of formations, but that was only a temporary measure. The defenses of the restricted areas would notice her during the second or third scan of the environment.

Noah felt confident that she was safe. His only problem was how long she needed to get her hands on her drug.

"Did you just realize how wrong your actions were?" First Prince shouted, and his laugh echoed in the battlefield.

Second Princess still had some doubts, but she joined her brother in his laugh when she saw that Noah continued to wait for an answer. She began to think that her opponent had overestimated himself after the events in the other world.

"King Elbas' ways are mysterious and profound," Second Princess said, and her tone expressed all the reverence that she had for her father. "You can't apply normal standards to him nor his family. You know only one aspect of the cultivation-."

Second Princess interrupted her phrase since she saw Noah losing focus on their conversation and looking at some point in the distance. She didn't understand what had changed until her inscribed notebook sent a mental message describing the other regions' situation.

Countless reports appeared in her mind and described how a full-scale invasion had started. The alliance was fighting on the borders of the Elbas family's domain, taking one peripheral region after another.

Then, First Prince whispered something in her ear. Something had disappeared from a restricted area, and the formations had noticed that only now.

Anger surged inside her when she understood that Noah had acted as a distraction, but she couldn't vent her feeling since she only saw a human-shaped crack when she glanced toward her opponent.

Chapter 1069 1069. Pain

Noah had received two crucial mental messages while the Royals prepared their offensive.

The first one came from Elder Julia and spoke about the alliance. The assets of both Council and Hive had started their assault while Noah fought in the Academy.

The second one came from June. She had successfully seized the potion that would improve her centers of power and had returned inside the separate dimension through the exit that Thirty-seven had kept open.

Everything had gone according to his plan, and Noah didn't find any reason to remain there after those messages.

Nothing could stop him if he used his movement technique to fly higher in the sky, and he only had to escape from the range of the Royal Academy's formations to be safe.

The sounds of countless battles echoed through the sky as he flew. The alliance had started a full-scale invasion on its enemy's domains, and it didn't spare any border.

Noah flew toward the region's borders and found armies of the Hive venturing through a wide array of Spiked Roots.

The Elbas family had eradicated most magical plants and turned those on the borders into a defensive formation. The Hive had sent only a few heroic cultivators there, so the invasion proceeded slowly.

Noah recognized Bruce and Sarah among the Elders in charge of the army of human troops. Bruce was still in the lower tier of the fifth rank, while Sarah had reached the peak of the fourth rank in that period.

The two of them fought together with other Elders in the fourth rank to eradicate the magical plants and charge toward the region's insides. Still, those were defenses that even peak rank 5 cultivators would take time to breach.

The army stopped when it saw Noah flying in its direction. The Elders and the human troops cheered at the sight of the Demonic Prince. They knew that he had kept the Royals busy, so they couldn't help but feel in awe in his presence.

"Back down," Noah ordered, and everyone followed his commands without raising any complaint. The world lost its light for a second, and a starry sky filled the ground after the troops retreated.

Every Spiked Root burned until only ashes remained. Even the shining lines that empowered and controlled those magical plants disappeared without leaving any trace after Noah's flames filled the area.

The Elders stared at the power radiated by his casual attack in wonder, but more cheers soon resounded on the battlefield. The Demon Prince had taken care of that hindrance for them. Their invasion could finally begin!

Bruce and the others performed polite bows as Noah crossed them to fly toward the separate dimension's nearest entrance. Their battle resumed as soon as he became nothing more than a black dot in the distant sky.

Noah returned inside the separate dimension and used a series of teleportation matrices to arrive in his mansion. He found the two Demons guarding his inner quarters' entrance, and Thirty-seven inspecting a suffering June inside them.

An empty bottle laid next to June, who was sitting cross-legged at the center of the room. Sweat and a smelly black liquid came out of her pores, and her expression revealed how painful that process was for her.

Noah's dark sphere spun faster as he focused on suppressing his sharpness. Soft mental waves came out of his mind and inspected his lover's centers of power.

June's dantian was shaking. The walls of her organ contracted and relaxed as the muscles around it became thicker. The connections with the rest of the body became sturdier too as the transformation continued.

"There is nothing we can do for her at this point," Thirty-seven said as Noah retracted his mental waves. He had reached that same conclusion. It had only taken him one glance to recognize the hybrid transformation.

Noah had to admit that the experts of the Elbas family were terrific once again. They didn't know how to trigger the transformation, but they had managed to replicate its effects on the centers of power.

Of course, the potion was still in the testing phase. Every Royal would have centers of power carrying the sturdiness proper of a hybrid otherwise. There was a chance of failure in that procedure, and they had yet to perfect it.

Thirty-seven didn't understand the potion's composition, so he couldn't do anything to facilitate or improve the procedure for fear of making it worse. June was on her own.

"You can leave," Noah said as he sat right next to June. The Demonic Sword flew in his grasp, and he began to cultivate while his lover fought for her life.

Being next to her was the best he could do. If she died, she would do it with him by her side, doing what they had done countless times before during their short cohabitations.

Minutes passed, but nothing changed. Hours had to go by before the pain became too intense for June to remain in her position. She laid on the floor, and Noah promptly moved to put his lap under her head. He then resumed cultivating while she struggled over him.

Noah's centers of power eventually returned to their peak, and he could only let go of the Demonic Sword to stare at the suffering lover on his lap.

June's veins bulged, and black liquid came out of her pores. Noah's robe became dirty and smelly as she clenched and convulsed on it, but he didn't mind that in the slightest.

Noah was scared even to touch her. He didn't know if the heat radiated by his skin would negatively affect the procedure, so he limited himself to stare at her.

Even with all the dirt on her face, Noah couldn't imagine being with anyone else. Looks didn't interest him, but her existence had been able to make both his emotions and instincts react.

It was as if Noah's individuality had chosen her as his partner for life, and seeing her in that condition made his mind devoid of any thoughts and sensations.

June's convulsions became more intense at some point, and she crouched as she crawled over Noah's lap. Her fingers tried to pierce his skin, but her fingernails released screeching sounds when they slid over it.

Then, she went limp, threatening to slam her head on the floor. June would barely feel the impact, but Noah grabbed her anyway. His hand supported the back of her neck while his thumb caressed her dirty cheek.

"H-hey," June exhaled in a weak voice. Noah smiled at her while his soft mental waves inspected her body to check her condition.

Her dantian had reached the solid stage during the procedure, and the overall structure of her body had improved. More connections among her centers of power had appeared, and her insides' sturdiness had surpassed the human limits.

A black spark crackled inside her dantian, and higher energy flowed freely inside her body without causing any damage.

June was stable. The potion had worked!

Chapter 1070 1070. Gorge

"Is everything ok?" Noah asked to check on June's condition. He didn't understand how the Perfect Circuit worked, so only his lover could confirm that the procedure had gone well.

June stretched while on his lap before snuggling closer to his chest and replying with her mouth pressing on his exposed waist. "I only need to rest. Give me a bit, and I'll let you go."

Noah caressed his lover's hair while she fell asleep. It was rare for cultivators on that level to sleep, but June's body had suffered too much to heal naturally. She needed complete rest to become used to her improved organs.

June didn't speak casually. She knew that Noah had other plans in mind. There were many resourceful regions inside the Elbas family's domain, and he could gain access to all of them due to his power.

Yet, she wanted the two of them to remain in that position for a moment, and Noah could only agree to her request. They had been anxious until then, and they wanted to savor that instant of peace before the world forced problems on them.

Noah stared at his lover and listened to her breathing. Seeing June asleep was a rare occasion, and he wanted to memorize her before returning to the battlefields.

His consciousness expanded at some point, and Thirty-seven reappeared in the room without making any sound. Noah only needed to glance at the automaton to make him nod and summon a pillow out of nowhere.

Noah carefully replaced his lap with the pillow and moved toward the exit of the room. June needed to rest, but he had returned to his peak, and he couldn't let go of that chance.

There was a place that he needed to visit before seeing if the Hive needed help or there were resources that might interest him. His training would have to wait for a little longer.

"Check her condition all the time," Noah ordered the automaton before facing the two Demons sitting next to the exit. "You two have fun."

The Demons revealed a cold smile at his words and shot toward the nearest teleportation matrix to join the invasion. Noah flew toward a teleportation matrix too, but his destination was the forest of spiked roots once again.

The Hive had always known that the other organizations had taken control of traces left by divine beings during the colonization of the piece of Immortal Lands.

The Council had obtained the Divine Cut, the Empire the Stele, the Hive the lava lake, and the Elbas family the Dark Gorge.

Noah had eventually interacted with all of them during his rise to power. Now, he had the chance and the cultivation level to explore the Dark Gorge.

The memories of the roars of the Gorge reappeared in his mind as he flew toward his target. The creatures trapped inside it had taught him a drive for freedom that time and chains couldn't stop.

Noah had been too weak to explore the Gorge back then, but his battle prowess was on par with powerhouses now, and he believed that he could even surpass some of them. There was no better time to dive into the darkness and uncover the secrets of that place.

The armies of the Hive reappeared again in his sight. Bruce led the troops across the region and made them pillage anything valuable as they advanced toward the coast.

Their strategy saw them avoiding the Royal Academy. That place was something that only a group of powerhouses could hope to breach completely.

A series of polite bows followed Noah's passage. He didn't look in their direction, but all of them performed formal salutations when they noticed him crossing the sky and disappearing in the distance.

The Elbas family had eradicated most of the Spiked Roots in the region, so the Dark Gorge appeared as a plain fissure placed in the middle of a barren area. Only a few inscriptions shone around it, but there wasn't any lifeform on the surface.

Noah landed at the edges of the Gorge, stomping directly over a formation and destroying its lines in the impact. Metallic sounds resounded from inside the darkness, but nothing happened on the surface.

Formations weren't Noah's field of expertise, but he could understand that the shining lines around the edges were new. They weren't part of the Gorge, which meant that the Elbas family had put them there for a reason.

Noah hesitated for a second before deciding to destroy all of them. The Gorge had resisted the fall from the Immortal Lands on its own, so it was unlikely that the formations served to improve its structure. There was a higher chance that they were defenses.

The formations quickly fell apart as Noah circled the edges of the Gorge, launching punches whenever he saw a shining line. A long metallic sound followed their destruction, and something began to move among the darkness.

Noah didn't know what he had done, but he didn't fear the darkness. He jumped right inside the Gorge and floated as his mind inspected the environment.

A series of old and inactive lines covered the rocky walls, but nothing special happened even when the sunlight became unable to reach those depths.

Noah continued to descend, and cage-like structures appeared in his view. They resembled prison cells dug inside the rocky walls, with black metal bars made of a material that he didn't recognize.

They had large doors, but they were open. There were signs of forced entry on the black metal, which hinted that the Royals couldn't open them through usual methods.

The bars had missing chunks on their upper-parts, and the cuts were clean as if a blade had made them.

Noah's senses didn't alert him, but the air became tense as he descended into the darkness. He had yet to find what had caused the movements before, and all he saw were open cells that had missing chunks of bars.

The darkness behind him moved at some point. It was impossible to see that event due to sunlight's absence, but Noah sensed something shifting in the laws familiar to him.

He was a cultivator with a darkness aptitude that had learnt how to replicate the "Breath" of his element. He was sensitive to anything happening inside the darkness, and he didn't fail to notice a creature rising among the complete blackness.

Noah had to use his sea of consciousness to make out the creature's appearance, but he struggled to have a complete image even at that point. It seemed that his mind couldn't comprehend where the beast ended and the darkness began.

'What are these?' Noah questioned himself as he stared at the creature. It had the shape of an ancient bird-like beast, but it didn't have any solid form. It was nothing more than a silhouette too, and the insides of its body were empty.

An aura with power in the sixth rank spread among the depths, but Noah spewed flames before the creature could even try to attack him.