

DEMONIC 1071

### **Chapter 1071 1071. Tests**

A starry sky spread in the depths of the Dark Gorge, and the few lights let out by Noah's flames illuminated the environment. Shadows formed, and the creature's appearance became more visible even if the black fire had submerged half of it.

Noah had already grasped its form with his consciousness, but looking directly at it gave him more hints about its species.

'Is that a Pterodactyl?' Noah thought as waves of shock filled his mind. That wasn't his first time seeing an ancient or extinct species, especially after the events in the hidden world. However, that specimen's features were so unique that he couldn't help but admire them.

The creature didn't have a proper body. It didn't have any skin or tissues, but it had a fixed form. The only traces of its existence were its aura and the outlines of its shape. It resembled a basic Blood Companion when "Breath" didn't fill its insides.

Nevertheless, those were only its most evident characteristics. The feature that left Noah speechless was the fabric of its body. It wasn't material, and it blended perfectly with the darkness around it. It was as if darkness itself made its few strands of tissues.

Noah's interest surged at that sight. A magical beast purely made of darkness would obviously attract his attention, and he had all the time to test its capabilities.

The Pterodactyl's aura placed it in the lower tier of the sixth rank, but Noah's flames didn't appear able to hurt it. They suppressed the creature, but its structure remained untouched.

Moreover, it seemed that the beast was becoming used to the flames since it began to struggle to come out of the starry sky.

Two hypotheses appeared in Noah's mind, and he promptly shot forward to test them. His figure appeared above the struggling beast, and a punch landed on the black lines that depicted its head.

Noah felt some resistance when his knuckles hit the creature's ethereal edges, but his fist crossed them after that. A grunt came out of the beast, but it didn't seem to have suffered any damage.

'It should have felt this one,' Noah thought as he floated above the beast, 'But the flames can only stop it.'

The Demonic Sword flew in his grasp at that point, and Noah slashed without any hesitation. A black line landed on the creature, but it didn't cross its body like his last attacks. Instead, it exploded into a cloud of corrosive smoke after making a dent in its head's lines.

A loud cry finally came out of its mouth, and its struggles to come out of the fiery sea became more intense. Yet, Noah continued his tests and unleashed a series of violent attacks under him.

Noah gained a general understanding of the Pterodactyl's prowess after he launched all he had on it. The beast appeared resistant to every attack, especially when it came to techniques relying on his darkness and physical strength.

However, it felt the blows enhanced by his sharpness, and his dark matter appeared able to overcome most of its natural defenses.

The Pterodactyl's body was a mess after Noah completed his tests. The lines on its wings and slim torso had missing pieces on multiple spots, and only its head had remained mostly intact.

Noah had done that on purpose. The head generally was the essential part of any creature, so he had focused on other spots to continue his testing and learn more about that species.

Even an unknown creature in the sixth rank couldn't do anything against Noah's might. The more he fought with his new body, the more he could express its power. Suppressing a beast on that level barely took any effort.

'It shouldn't be this weak,' Noah eventually thought. He had a general idea of how strong a creature in the sixth rank should be, and the Pterodactyl didn't even meet the standards of weaker species in his knowledge.

Still, the prison-like structures inside the Gorge hinted that it had been kept captive. The creature's strange body didn't allow him to see any sign of starvation, but Noah found that as the only explanation for its low battle prowess.

There was also the chance that they were a weak species, but Noah didn't believe that his opponent was at its peak. A species on that level would have never survived in any food chain.

'How does it even eat?' Noah pondered while the Pterodactyl cried in pain. Its screeches were deep growls that spread through the Gorge's darkness and made the rocky walls tremble.

The starry sky had dispersed by that point, so the Pterodactyl could touch the Gorge's blackness again. Some of the lines that made its body began to regrow as the creature remained immersed in the darkness.

The process was slow, but it was still faster than natural healing. It seemed that the darkness was the environment that took the best out of its species.

Snore had formed next to Noah when he tested the elemental attacks, but it coiled around the powerless Pterodactyl to perform another test. After the Blood Companion sealed its grip on the creature, Noah flew upward to expose it to the sunlight.

The Pterodactyl began to cry in fear. Noah heard its pleading growls as the sun started to illuminate its peculiar form. However, he ignored them to improve his knowledge of that creature.

The black lines that made the Pterodactyl's body began to fade as light illuminated its shape. The mighty rank 6 beast vanished when exposed to the sunlight, and only a few mental waves remained in its spot.

Noah's consciousness trapped those mental waves before they could disperse, but he saw only darkness when he absorbed them inside his mind. He felt the hunger that they carried, and a faint sharpness accompanied it.

'They can't live during the day,' Noah added pieces of information in his mental bestiary before diving back inside the Gorge.

The fear of dealing with traces left with divine beings disappeared after he confirmed the Pterodactyl's weakness. He had nothing to worry about if that was the species in charge of the Gorge.

Darkness enveloped him once again as he descended past his previous spot and flew toward the bottom of the fissure. His consciousness sensed a series of presences waking up at his passage, and he didn't hesitate to shoot toward them.

Pterodactyls of various levels filled the depths of the Gorge. Noah saw two more specimens in the sixth rank surrounded by an army of beasts in the fourth and fifth rank. There were hundreds of creatures hidden in the darkness, but Noah felt that they were only a tide of ants.

### **Chapter 1072 1072. Cage**

Noah slaughtered his way through the army of Pterodactyls. Their bodies didn't disappear if he killed them inside the darkness, so he stored them as life left them.

Snore did most of the work. Its elemental attack ignored most of those creatures' natural defenses and shattered the frail lines that made their bodies. Noah kept on wondering how such a species had managed to thrive for so long, but he could only use their captivity as an explanation.

He didn't know the Immortal Lands' environment, and there were no existing reports about that place. There was the chance that weaker beasts could survive in the higher plane due to particular areas that featured fewer threats.

Yet, the prison-like structure was artificial, which meant that someone or something had chosen to build it and trap that species before the piece of Immortal Lands fell. That added some value to the Pterodactyls. Still, Noah didn't find the reason for that even after hundreds of specimens had died by his hand.

The two rank six specimens took some more effort to kill since they worked against Noah together. However, that species could only fly and attempt to cut with its strange body, so they posed no threat to Noah.

Hundreds of corpses had accumulated inside Noah's space-ring by the time he defeated the army. Only silence and darkness remained in the depths of the Gorge.

Noah inspected the walls before exploring the depths further. There were more cells there, but no inscriptions at all.

He reviewed his idea of the formations on the surface. They probably had the purpose of preventing those creatures from going out of the fissure at night since the Elbas family had opened all the cells.

Nevertheless, he still didn't understand why the Royals had even decided to preserve that area. After all, those beasts appeared useless for most purposes. The metal of the cells seemed more valuable since it came from the Immortal Lands.

Even Noah's physical strength wasn't enough to bend the bars. The Royals might have met the same problems seizing that metal since most of the cells were still virtually intact.

Another strange aspect of that pack was that all its specimens appeared malnourished. Ordinary magical beasts would resort to cannibalism at that point, but that didn't seem to be the case for the Pterodactyls.

Noah dived toward the bottom of the Gorge full of doubts. There had to be something worthy of spending "Breath" to trap hundreds of creatures, and he had all the intentions to find it.

No more Pterodactyls appeared in the darkness. It was as if that spot had an empty area entirely devoid of life. Yet, there were cells on the walls there too. The decision to live in the fissure's initial parts had come from the beasts.

Noah eventually reached the bottom and landed on a broad valley. The scene resembled what he found in the Granite Abyss, with the only difference being that the darkness there was due to the Gorge's depth.

His consciousness could cover almost the entirety of the place, so Noah could confirm that one of the valley's sides was empty and explore the other one directly.

Nothing made no sound in that environment, and he floated right above the ground to avoid making sounds with his steps. He didn't feel any danger in front of him, but something told him to be careful anyway.

That sensation was unusual for a being like him. Magical beasts' instincts would either differentiate between dangerous and safe, without nothing in the middle.

However, he felt something different there. It was as if something mysterious was at the end of the valley, but nothing that he should be afraid of.

Noah reached the end but found nothing unusual. There was only the rocky wall in front of him. Still, the eerie feeling remained, so he continued to investigate the area with his consciousness.

Something began to appear in his mind as he continued to look for clues. The laws' layout started to feel unnatural, and a peculiar detail became visible in the ground's structure.

It wasn't anything flashy. Noah sensed all of that in the form of faint instincts that told him that something was off.

He suddenly realized that the ground should feel differently, and a pattern appeared in his mind at that understanding. There were inscriptions that he couldn't see there, and even his consciousness struggled to give them a form.

Noah retracted his senses as he pondered over the matter for an instant. He didn't have any method to unlock formations, and his expertise in the field was inadequate. He could only opt for one approach, and his fist landed on the ground right after he accepted that.

The whole valley trembled, and even the walls shook to no end. Yet, no cracks appeared on their surface, and the rocks under Noah showed no sign of breaking either.

Noah had found his confirmation that something was there. The only problem now was whether he could reach it.

A torrent of punches landed on the ground. Noah attacked relentlessly, using all the strength contained in his body. Intense earthquakes spread through the whole Gorge, but the rocks didn't give in to his assault.

The ground held on even after his assault continued for an hour. The protections in place weren't something that his physical strength alone could handle.

Noah stopped his assault before heaving a helpless sigh. The Royals had probably uncovered what laid underground, and they had decided to preserve the Gorge because of that.

He couldn't imagine the Royals spending resources on something useless, and King Elbas wasn't the type of powerhouse to accept defeat in front of a barrier.

Yet, King Elbas had most likely breached the barrier due to his expertise in the inscription field. Noah had to rely on his abilities if he wanted to do the same.

The Demonic Sword landed on his palm and its shape condensed. The weapon became even smaller than a knife. It resembled nothing more than a shard of a dark metal when it reached its highest density.

Noah's dark star sensed his feelings and empowered his understanding of the world. Arrays of laws appeared in his eyes, and the minute differences in their layout became more evident.

Mental energy went on the lines of the Divine Deduction technique to improve Noah's understanding. Faint ideas on how to destroy that array became more transparent as his mind's capabilities surpassed their normal limits.

When he felt ready, Noah let the destruction of his individuality guide him. Both his hands wielded the shard-like Demonic Sword and pushed it toward the ground in a slow motion.

Noah saw the fabric of the world breaking as his weapon reached the ground. The pressure that fell on it was so great that a crack appeared on its surface.

When the Demonic Sword's tip touched the ground, a series of white lines lit up and covered the entire area. Yet, Noah's sharpness spread through them and made the whole shining structure crumble.

The ground became transparent, and the bars of a large cage appeared right under him. Noah only needed a glance to understand what he was seeing.

There was another strange Pterodactyl inside that cage, but its aura was immense. Noah could only remain speechless when he realized that he was in front of a proper rank 7 magical beast.

### **Chapter 1073 1073. Predator**

Noah had interacted with divine beings in his life, but they always had something that stopped them from expressing the seventh rank's real power.

Divine Demon was a will, Shandal was the same, the winged beasts' leader was only half-step into the divine ranks, and the Ape God had lost most of its power to create the black sky.

They were never at their full power, and they could barely consider themselves as beings in the divine ranks. Only Divine Demon was an exception since his true self was somewhere in the Immortal Lands.

What he had found at the bottom of the Dark Gorge was different. Noah was in front of a proper divine beast. Something that shouldn't exist in a lower plane.

Moreover, the rank 7 Pterodactyl didn't seem to suffer from the same malnutrition as the specimens. Noah had seen the Ape God unleashing its anger on the world, but his instincts told him that the caged creature was more dangerous.

Noah felt safe on top of those bars, but his mind had automatically compared the Ape and the Pterodactyl. The intensity of their auras wasn't comparable. The caged creature was on another league according to his instincts.

The Pterodactyl's body was long, it stretched for twenty meters, and its unfolded wings covered more than thirty meters. The lines that made its shape were thick, and the darkness in their structure appeared denser compared to the blackness of the Gorge.

Noah couldn't diagnose if the beast's condition due to its peculiar body, but its aura was enough to confirm that the Pterodactyls weren't the weakest species that he had ever seen.

A problem quickly became evident. The cage of the divine creature was intact, and its lines didn't have missing pieces. The Pterodactyl continued to sleep even after Noah's attack, which indicated how used it was to disturbances of that kind.

Not even King Elbas might have managed to do anything to that creature, and Noah couldn't help but feel helpless at that thought. He didn't believe for even a second that he could succeed where King Elbas had failed.

'What can I even do with you?' Noah thought as he continued to stare at the Pterodactyl. He had many ideas in mind, but he felt confident that King Elbas had already tested them all.

'Should I just move the cage?' Noah acted as soon as he thought that.

His fists landed on the ground while he walked away from the cage. Noah tried to find the spot where his strength became able to pierce the rocks, but he didn't find anything even after he reached the other end of the valley.

It was as if the bottom of the Gorge was part of the prison. That explained why Noah didn't find any sign of digging in the valley, but it left him without any viable approach to seize the divine beast.

Noah walked back to the cage only to discover that the aura leaking from it had become colder. The laws inside the area's darkness had become still as if waiting for something or someone's order.

Noah's mind felt a faint pressure coming from under him. That was a feeling that he knew well. It was the sensation usually experienced when a predator looked at him as if he was a prey.

His eyes went downward and fixed themselves on the upper part of the Pterodactyl's head. Noah didn't know where its eyes were, but he was quite sure that the creature was looking at him.

His stare continued for long minutes. He felt completely safe on the outside of the cage, but something told him that he would be already dead if those metal bars didn't protect him.

The silence in the depths of the Gorge was oppressing, but human words broke it and made Noah widen his eyes in surprise. "You are different from the others."

Noah had kept his eyes on the Pterodactyl for the whole time, but the creature didn't move. Yet, he was sure that those human words had come from the beast.

'Can all divine beasts speak?' Noah wondered, but he promptly put that doubt in the back of his mind. A creature that had lived in the Immortal Lands could speak fluently, so his curiosity had moved toward other topics.

"I come from a different organization," Noah said, but the Pterodactyl suddenly slammed its head on the bars right under him.

Noah didn't flinch at that attack, but the whole Gorge trembled. According to Noah's understanding of the species, the beast's physical strength was off the charts, and that wasn't even its best ability.

"Trying to scare me away?" Noah asked as roars mixed with his human voice. He had managed to maintain his calm, but his mind had entered a battle mode when it saw that sudden action.

The Pterodactyl retracted its head before moving it right and left. Noah felt as if the beast inspected him from every angle, but there was a limit to how much it could sense from inside the cage.

The metal bars didn't only restrict the Pterodactyl as a whole. They even blocked its investigative methods.

"You smell like those arrogant beasts," The Pterodactyl said in its slightly high-pitched voice, "But you appear different from them too."

Noah crouched on the bars before giving voice to a question. "What do you mean by arrogant beasts?"

The Pterodactyl ignored the question and continued to inspect Noah. Its head would slam on the bars from time to time, but he guessed that it used the vibrations of the Gorge to analyze how his body reacted.

Noah tried to ask more questions concerning the Immortal Lands, but the Pterodactyl never answered him. It would only speak to underline the peculiarity of his body.

'I might as well try something,' Noah thought, and a starry sky filled the cage as he roared downward. The Pterodactyl stopped moving while the black flames raged around it, but it didn't seem bothered by their presence. It even resumed its previous behavior when it deemed that fire boring.

Noah flew higher in the air and took out the stuffed winged beast at that point. The Pterodactyl stopped its inspection again as a second divine aura spread in the environment.

"I'll give you a piece if you start answering," Noah said in an attempt to gain something out of that encounter. He would give away part of the winged beast, but he was ready to say anything needed to give some value to that exploration.

"Why would I even want it?" The Pterodactyl answered. "My species eats darkness."

Noah's eyes widened once again, but that didn't come from his surprise. He had guessed that the Pterodactyl's food was peculiar already since their bodies were unique. Yet, he didn't expect it to reveal such information by itself.

"Your companions didn't eat enough of it," Noah said as he tapped his space-ring. "I have all of them here."

Something had triggered an honest answer from the creature, and Noah tried to find what topic achieved that. The first thing that came to his mind was its pride toward its species.

"They were a malnourished bunch of weaklings," The Pterodactyl said in disdain. "They have spent so much time in their cages that they have forgotten how to live in the darkness."

"You seem to have forgotten too," Noah said, storing the stuffed winged beast and descending to knock at the metal bars.

The Pterodactyl began to roar in anger at that point, and only a few human words appeared among its cries. However, Noah could understand the true meaning contained in them. "Don't you dare underestimate my kind! I am the strongest predator inside the darkness! I've reached godhood undefeated!"

"And now you are in a cage in a lower plane," Noah said before heaving a sigh. "So much for the strongest predator."

The Pterodactyl raged inside the cage, and his cries expressed more angry words. "The sky has forced me to hide underground, and the humans have trapped me in these cages! My kind has never lost to creatures. We have lost to the world!"

### **Chapter 1074 1074. Negotiation**

Noah remembered the environment in Shandal's separate dimension. The God of the Empire had tried to recreate the Immortal Lands there, and the oppressing white sky was a natural opponent of the Pterodactyls.

It was as if Heaven and Earth had declared their species unfitting of the higher plane. Noah could only feel surprised that the rank 7 specimen had even managed to build a pack up there.

Still, there was a limit to how much that information interested him. Noah wanted to understand if he could exploit that encounter to his advantage, but the situation appeared helpless.

He couldn't open the cage and breaking it was out of the question. Letting the rank 7 Pterodactyl free wasn't ideal either since he would die if he succeeded.

'Should I just leave it here?' Noah thought as he watched the beast raging inside the cage. He would generally kill it to remove the creature from King Elbas' clutches, but he wasn't sure that he could even leave a scratch on its divine body.

"You better come up with something, or I'll leave you here," Noah said at some point.

His knowledge had limits due to the lower plane, but that creature had lived in the Immortal Lands. Moreover, it was a divine beast, so its abilities had to surpass ordinary beasts' limits.

The Pterodactyl continued to rage for a few seconds before calming down and pondering over the matter. Noah felt its stare on him as human words resounded in the darkness. "What can you even offer? Your darkness is so pitiful."

Noah's eyebrows arched. He didn't think the creature would consider his words, but it seemed to be a way out of that situation. The only problem was whether he should trust the Pterodactyl.

Snore formed next to him before unleashing a wave of black flames. The dark matter that made its elemental attack spread in the cage and engulfed the divine beast.

The Pterodactyl shook when the higher energy touched its lines. It didn't suffer any damage, but it was its first time seeing darkness that it couldn't fuse with.

The dark matter appeared far better than the normal "Breath" of the darkness element. Noah's darkness was on the same level as that energy, but the dark matter was far more powerful.

The beast remained silent as it watched the flames disperse. The dark matter left the cage and vanished in the blackness of the Gorge.

The Pterodactyl appeared stunned, but Noah wasn't sure that he understood the creature's behavior correctly. His senses couldn't comprehend much when it came to divine beings. He was mostly using his knowledge in the magical beasts' field to help his mind.

"You have some interesting stuff," The beast eventually said. "Why don't you feed me with that energy until I'm strong enough to break the cage?"

"Is that what your species eats? Darkness?" Noah asked.

"Yes, only darkness can fuel beings made of darkness, and yours is quite pure," The Pterodactyl replied. "Now, hurry up. Give me that, but don't transform it into flames or anything. It disrupts its purity."

"That's not going to happen," Noah said, and the beast began to rage again under him.

Noah's smiled while the Pterodactyl slammed its head on the metal bars. He couldn't help but enjoy that situation even if he didn't trap the divine beast himself.

"Get me out already!" The Pterodactyl cried, but Noah shook his head. If he was going to cooperate with the creature, it had to be at his conditions.

"You can speak quite fluently," Noah said after the Pterodactyl calmed down. "Are all divine beasts like you?"

The Pterodactyl hesitated for a few seconds. It didn't want to reply to Noah's questions, but he appeared different from the other humans who studied it during the last period.

There was a different type of interest in Noah's eyes. King Elbas could only see a material and a peculiar creature when looking at the Pterodactyl, while Noah saw an asset that could increase his power.

"All divine beasts can use human words," The Pterodactyl said. "The fluency depends on our innate intelligence."

Noah's smile widened when he heard that. The divine beast had finally started to cooperate, and a single answer had managed to improve his knowledge of his field of expertise.

Having an ally who knew so much about the higher plane could help him reach the divine ranks. It could even increase his chances of survival during the divine Tribulations.

The only problem was that the Pterodactyl's knowledge could go against him during the negotiations since he didn't know the limits of divine creatures.

"I have an offer," Noah said after he pondered about the matter for a bit. "Become my slave."

Noah directly started to ignore the beast after his words. He didn't need to look at it to know that it would rage inside the cage again.

He had no idea of how he could submit a divine creature. His power wasn't enough to control it, and he was too weak to use the superiority of his species against it.

The only one that could give him answers was inside the cage, and it would say anything to get out. Still, Noah wanted to gain something out of that encounter. He would leave he couldn't find any solution.

The Pterodactyl recovered its calm after a while and stared at Noah. It knew that it didn't have any other chance to come out of there, so it had to find a way to exploit it.

"I'll never be a slave," The Pterodactyl eventually said.

"What do you want then?" Noah asked. His previous offer had been only a ploy to force the beast to accept an unfavorable outcome. He didn't expect it to play along.

The Pterodactyl tilted its head to point toward Snore. Its lines followed the Blood Companion floating lazily behind Noah. Yet, it didn't speak. The Pterodactyl remained silent as it continued to stare at a being entirely made of higher energy.

"I can make a similar body for you," Noah said when he confirmed how deep its interest in the dark matter was. "I'll even solve your problem with the sunlight. You only have to submit to me."

"That's not going to happen," The Pterodactyl replied, but Noah's answer arrived before it could even think about something else to say.

"Then you'll remain here forever," Noah said, and those words appeared to hurt the creature deeply. He didn't know for how long it had remained locked there, but it had to be quite desperate even to consider his words.

A few minutes of silence had to pass before the Pterodactyl spoke again. "I accept to submit. Keep your darkness in the cage for a while so that I can fuse with it."

"That's not going to happen either," Noah turned down that offer. He wouldn't let a foreign substance fuse with his energy. He would probably lose his life if a creature in the divine ranks tried to become part of him.

"This is the only way," The Pterodactyl replied in a calm tone, but Noah could see the lies under its human voice. The beast had turned violent whenever something didn't go according to its plans so that peaceful behavior was a pondered act.

"You said that all divine beasts can speak," Noah said. "But you seem pretty above the average in terms of intelligence. What about your consciousness? Can you move it?"

The Pterodactyl didn't initially understand what Noah's words meant, but a low growl spread through the valley when it did.

"Do you want me to abandon my body?" The creature said, and Noah answered with a simple but universal nod.

More silence filled the area as the creature pondered over the offer.

Noah had guessed correctly. The core of that species was in a few mental waves that kept the lines together. However, the Pterodactyls were nothing more than thoughts that had taken control of darkness.

They could separate their minds from their bodies if they wanted. What Noah didn't know was that they would have to abandon their bodies forever if they did.

### **Chapter 1075 1075. Strategy**

That wasn't an easy decision for the Pterodactyl. Giving up on a divine body wasn't something that any intelligent creature would do. However, freedom was too appealing for a being that had spent a long time in captivity and didn't see any hope of escaping without external help.

Noah didn't know about those drawbacks, but he had his share of worries too. Magical beasts' seas of consciousness were imperfect, but he was still dealing with a divine being.

He didn't know how advanced its mental sphere was nor how powerful it would be. There was a chance that he could suppress it due to his many assets and innate advantages over the Pterodactyl's kind, but some risks existed nonetheless.

"You are a peculiar human," The Pterodactyl said without adding anything else. The creature and Noah had reached a silent understanding during their negotiations. They knew that they would both try to trick their opponent.

"I'm not a human," Noah answered. He didn't need to say anything else. He had completed his part when he had accepted to take that risk.

The divine beast and Noah exchanged stares even if the creature didn't have eyes. Their minds were enough to tell them that they were keeping their full attention on each other.

"You have a deal, peculiar creature," The Pterodactyl broke the silence and the lines that made its strange body began to waver after it spoke.

Nevertheless, Noah promptly backed off and returned toward the superior parts of the Gorge before announcing his intentions. "I'll come back soon. Our agreement still stands."

The Pterodactyl's roars resounded in the Gorge as Noah left to make the necessary preparations for that procedure. As for the creature's eagerness, he couldn't care less.

Noah dug a cave in one of the soft walls of the Gorge and quickly activated the Divine Deduction technique. He had to prepare every kind of protection before approaching the cage again.

A plan soon formed in his mind, and strategies followed. Noah began to build a series of prison-like structures and large barriers with his dark matter.

The Will-consuming runes' theories and innate greed were enough to create lasting restrictions, but Noah wanted more. He needed multiple layers of protection so that his mental sphere didn't suffer if the creature managed to break free.

Noah would never let the Pterodactyl fuse directly with his darkness. He wanted to suppress it inside his mental sphere and restrict it inside a body made of dark matter.

The procedure would be similar to what Snore had experienced, with the only difference that he had to force a divine mind inside a heroic body.

'I need weapons,' Noah thought, and saber-shaped runes accumulated inside his mind.

He had to use his darkness to create them, so the internal pressure inside his mind increased. Yet, he would use them to suppress the Pterodactyl's will, so he didn't hold back on the production.

The only problem was whether his mind could contain the imminent battle. Still, he could only rely on his mental energy's remarkable properties as a form of protection.

Waves surged from the mental sea. Shining brown water covered the walls of his sea of consciousness, leaving only one spot open.

Noah repeated the process multiple times and even waited for his mental sea to reform before resuming that procedure.

His mind became a brown sphere that only had one small part devoid of water. The Kesier runes, his saber-shaped runes, and Snore's ethereal figure were there, waiting for their opponent to arrive.

Noah's ghostly figure swam through the brown water as he prepared the battlefield. Lumps of dark matter assembled to create a tunnel and various traps meant to restrict the beast's will. He even made a net to reinforce the entire structure.

It took him two weeks to prepare everything, double-check the defenses, and cultivate until he returned to his peak. If he had time, he would spend a few years with the Seventh Kesier rune to maximize his mind's condition.

Yet, a war was raging outside, and he didn't know how much the alliance would manage to conquer. He felt lucky enough that no one had come inside the Gorge during that period. That was his only opportunity to get the divine beast.

Noah's mind felt heavy when he descended toward the valley again. There was so much higher energy inside it that he could barely suppress his headache.

The Pterodactyl lifted its head at his return. It wanted to complain, but it felt too eager to bother about that wait.

That creature was a divine beast. Two weeks weren't even enough for a nap. Months would go by wherever it lost focus.

'What do you need?' Noah asked as he landed on the cage. He needed that information to make the last adjustment.

'Any darkness,' The Pterodactyl replied. 'I need to take control of it and fuse my mind.'

Noah hesitated for a few seconds before a small whiff of dark matter came out of his forefinger. The creature would be far weaker if Noah made it fuse with his darkness. However, that would worsen its potential as a puppet.

Noah was willing to increase the risk of that procedure to obtain an asset that could improve his power properly.

The drop of dark matter fell downward, leaving a black trail connected to Noah's hand. It crossed the metal bars, but it didn't reach the center of the cave. It hovered right under Noah's foot.

The Pterodactyl showed no fear, and it started the procedure immediately. The lines that made its body began to tremble and the darkness inside them wavered as its consciousness slid outward.

The creature's head touched the part of dark matter that crossed the metal bars, and Noah felt a foreign presence trying to take control of its energy.

The presence was intense, and its power breathtaking. It created shocks that spread until Noah's hand only to disperse through his body.

Some dark matter came out of Noah's mind. The beast's imperfect mind was stronger than he had expected, so he had to release some pressure. His mental sphere wouldn't be able to contain it otherwise.

Noah lowered the defenses of the dark matter inside the cage at that point. The Pterodactyl invaded his higher energy once nothing blocked its way, and its body crumbled when it completed the process.

The rank 7 body was no more. The divine creature had officially reached the non-return point.

Noah lost control of the dark matter inside the cage, but nothing spread outside the bars. Their material targeted the Pterodactyl, so even its consciousness suffered from their restrictions.

Noah could still turn back. Cutting his connection with the dark matter would leave the Pterodactyl in that wretched state. The dark matter might even explode once it became unable to contain its imperfect mind. Noah was in the position to kill a divine beast!

Nevertheless, his goal wasn't pure destruction. He wanted a new weapon, a unique asset that would increase his power.

Noah lifted his hand to connect the trail of dark matter to his mind. The higher energy fused with the tunnel inside his sphere, and the mechanisms prepared in the previous weeks activated.

A pulling force began to attract the Pterodactyl's invaded dark matter toward his mind. The creature screamed in pain as it clashed with the cage, but Noah pulled without minding the beast's safety.

It took more than one hour, but, eventually, a small part of the dark matter invaded by the Pterodactyl crossed the cage and entered the strand of higher energy.

### **Chapter 1076 1076. Master**

Noah didn't have the power to pull the entire Pterodactyl outside of the cage, and he found it hard to do even with the creature's new form.

The metal bars hurt the Pterodactyl's mind inside the dark matter, but the fact that a trail of higher energy connected it to the outside created a minute path where it could pass.

Noah's pulling force didn't rely on bare strength. His mind didn't have such capabilities. The higher energy's unique properties confused the cage's restricting ability, allowing him to retrieve the invaded part of dark matter if he went all-out.

The procedure for him was relatively easy when compared to what the Pterodactyl was going through. The mysterious inscription method used on the bars ripped its mind apart whenever part of it escaped the imprisonment.

Noah felt delighted at that sight. His worries eased when he saw how badly the cage hurt it.

Small bits of invaded dark matter accumulated on the other side of the metal bars as the process continued. The Pterodactyl cried in pain, but its roars didn't have any meaning.

The divine beast had taken control of the higher energy, but it couldn't use it properly. That was a completely new body made of something superior to the "Breath" of the darkness element. The creature didn't have any experience with that material.

It would have been different if Noah had let it fuse with his darkness. The Pterodactyl didn't have experience with that material either, but it was more similar to the "Breath".

Instead, the dark matter followed different laws and had an intrinsic power far superior to the "Breath". Noah had given the creature the best material in the world for its species, but the Pterodactyl couldn't understand that just yet.

Noah kept control of the integrity of the creature's mind as the process continued. He could see its instincts and experience reaching the outside of the cave, but its knowledge appeared to be heavier.

Some of the beast's memories could easily cross the cage, but others fought against the pulling force. It was as if they didn't want to reach the outer world.

That wasn't the Pterodactyl's fault. Noah could immediately guess that those memories had formed in the Immortal Lands and contained pieces of information that a lower plane shouldn't have.

Noah did his best to pull as much knowledge as possible, but it became evident that he would have to exhaust himself if he wanted to seize it. He would typically make that trade, but that situation was too dangerous. He needed to remain at his peak to face the incoming battle.

As soon as he encountered his first significant hindrance, Noah cut off the connection with the cage. The trail of higher energy separated from the metal bars, removing the safe passage to the outside world.

The Pterodactyl screamed as it struggled to keep the dark matter that it had invaded in one piece. Yet, the cage obstructed it, and Noah continued to apply his pulling force.

Its new body eventually separated. Part of the invaded dark matter proceeded through the tunnel of higher energy while the other remained inside the cage.

Noah didn't know how much the Pterodactyl had lost, but only its knowledge wasn't enough to keep the dark matter in one part. The higher energy left behind in the cage soon dispersed, and the pieces of information inside it vanished forever.

Only the Pterodactyl's confused scream remained in the area, and Noah heard them becoming louder as its dark matter neared his head. The pressure inside his mind saw a sudden increase in intensity when that higher energy entered his sea of consciousness.

The trail of higher energy followed the Pterodactyl's mind and sealed the empty spot inside Noah's mind, blocking every path for retreat. The traps inside the layers of mental energy activated and pushed the invaded dark matter toward the sphere's center.

The Pterodactyl had become violent as soon as it entered Noah's mind. Its control over its new body was awful, but the sheer intensity of its divine consciousness could force the dark matter to release power surges.

The creature was so angry that its feelings had forced themselves on its new body, giving it some offensive power.

Noah didn't expect anything less from a divine beast, and his preparations showed that he had judged its power correctly.

Flares of dark matter shot from the beast's body as it flew toward the center of Noah's mental sphere. A thick net made of dark matter became visible whenever they tried to destroy the defensive layers of mental energy.

However, Noah's protections held tightly. That offensive wasn't enough to break them. The defenses didn't only restrict the Pterodactyl. Their main purpose was to reinforce the walls of his mental sphere and absorb eventual shockwaves.

The last offensive proved that they served their primary purpose, but Noah had to make his mind reach its limits to contain all that energy. Yet, the area was about to become emptier.

The Pterodactyl's continued to rage even when it reached the center of Noah's mental sphere, and some layers of mental energy fell apart. Still, the net of dark matter held most of the structure in place.

Meanwhile, Noah's ghostly figure, the saber-shaped runes, and Snore's ghostly shape shot toward the lump of dark matter. The six Kesier runes floating above his mental sea started to release a humming sound that suppressed the foreign presence too.

Noah's attacks broke the dark matter, but they couldn't hurt the divine consciousness. The ethereal figure of the strange Pterodactyl soon replaced the previous formless higher energy.

The Pterodactyl could survive in its form made of mental energy inside Noah's sea of consciousness. That new shape even gave it access to its accumulated experience now.

The beast shot at high speed toward the brown mental energy, but the trajectory of his flight was odd. It appeared that it couldn't go straight, making it easier for Noah's weapons to land on it.

Snore pounced at it directly and restricted its movements, while Noah turned his entire ethereal figure into a blade that slashed at the Pterodactyl. The saber-shaped runes flew through its ghostly body multiple times in a cyclic motion.

Initially, the attacks didn't do anything against the Pterodactyl's figure. Still, Noah's destruction made him find the injuries left by the bars and those from the forces severing of its knowledge.

The Pterodactyl seemed incapable of controlling its body. It would go in a straight line only to fall toward the sea one instant after.

Losing part of its mind had left the beast in a poor state, and it needed some time to become used to its new condition. Of course, Noah exploited that situation by using everything he had.

His attacks created cracks on its ethereal body after some time, and the traps previously set inside the cover of mental energy came out to help to seize the beast.

A series of spherical runes surrounded the broken figure and absorbed the shattered parts of its soft-red shape. The Pterodactyl became thinner, and Noah found it easier to break part of its body as the process continued.

The Pterodactyl could only fall apart under that incessant assault. The spherical runes gathered every red particle that came out of its body before diving into the mental sea.

Noah's pride surged at that point, and currents made of mental energy and dark matter invaded the red particles to alter their structure.

The consciousness of the Pterodactyl would usually vanish if left in that condition, but the spherical runes preserved it and gave Noah time to apply essential modifications.

The red particles darkened under that refinement. Their color became a brown similar to Noah's mental energy before the spherical runes fused to amass the creature's mind in one place.

The figure of the Pterodactyl reformed once all the pieces become one again, and the runes opened to let the mental sea touch it directly.

A shining brown figure rose to stare at Noah then, and human words resounded inside his mind. "Hello, Master. I hate you."

### **Chapter 1077 1077. Bird**

Noah had used part of the theory behind the Body-inscription spell to submit the Pterodactyl's mind. He had fused his thoughts with its consciousness to limit its behavior and create a connection with his mind.

Since it was a divine beast, Noah had decided to add dark matter during the process too. The ghostly figure inside his mind would be heavier because of that, but Noah didn't want to risk any rebellion.

The limitations on its behavior and its submission had worked perfectly. The Pterodactyl was Noah's puppet and had to follow his orders as well as prioritizing his interests.

However, Noah couldn't change its personality nor alter its mindset. The Pterodactyl was still the same creature as before, but Noah was its pack leader now.

"I have truly fallen," The Pterodactyl shouted as it flew in Noah's mental sphere. "A mere mortal being has managed to suppress me. I must be the unluckiest being in Heaven and Earth's domain."

Noah ignored it as he relieved his mind of some pressure. The mental energy and dark matter amassed for the procedure came out of his sphere and dispersed in the Gorge. The same went for his saber-shaped runes that vanished when they touched the air.

A sense of relief spread once most of the useless energies left his mind. Noah had felt heavy until that moment, but he could experience some clarity again now.

The Pterodactyl continued to complain and curse him, but Noah was too busy evaluating his condition to care about it.

His mind felt sore after the battle, but it didn't suffer any damage. The internal pressure was heavier than before due to the addition of the divine beast's will, but he could endure it quite easily.

The Pterodactyl had lost a considerable chunk of its mind when Noah pulled it out of the cage. It was still heavier than Snore, but a rank 6 sea of consciousness could contain it without repercussions.

Noah knew that the internal pressure would intensify as Snore and the divine creature grew, but the Seventh Kesier rune appeased his worries. His body would then help contain such creatures, so he could focus on other aspects of his cultivation level.

"Fate is against beings of darkness!" The Pterodactyl kept on shouting, and Noah moved his focus back to it.

Its current state limited the divine creature's growth. It was only a consciousness contained inside his mind. Noah needed to give it a body and transform it into a different life form if he wanted to keep it through the entirety of his cultivation journey.

However, Snore's body was one of his masterpieces, and Noah didn't want to go through the same process for a creature that had yet to prove its value.

Reports of the invasion on the Elbas family's domain had accumulated in his inscribed notebook in that period. Noah went through them only to discover that the assault had slowed down once all the peripheral territories had fallen.

Moreover, the Elbas family had revealed five new powerhouses during the battles. They were King Elbas' direct descendants, and the defensive formations of their domain managed to fend off the invaders under their lead.

The Hive's higher-ups believed that those assets had relied on the Royal Pool to advance to the sixth rank. After all, no organization had ever owned so many powerhouses at the same time.

Yet, Noah didn't smell the Pool's scent when he fought them. He wasn't sure about the other three powerhouses, but he knew that First Prince and Second Princess had advanced without external help.

King Elbas' figure appeared in Noah's mind as he transmitted that information to the Elders. His respect for the Royals' leader had increased once again.

The Elbas family had managed to produce five powerhouses under his lead. No other organization had achieved the same, and even the Empire was inferior in that field. King Elbas' achievements surpassed Shandal's. The organization of a mere powerhouse in the liquid stage had grown more than a force led by a god.

"My only weakness is my kind!" The Pterodactyl shouted. "I've reached the peak in darkness only to face the merciless light."

Noah grew annoyed with the divine creature's will flying and shouting inside his mental sphere. He didn't mind eccentric personalities as long as they benefited him, but the Pterodactyl had yet to prove its value.

A war raged in the new continent. He couldn't go into seclusion just yet, which meant that he could gather more experience before isolating himself for a long time.

The Divine Deduction technique activated while Noah kept his focus on the Pterodactyl. He was going to fight again soon, so he could test the prowess of the annoying creature.

A blueprint quickly formed in his mind. Noah had become more experienced in creating new life forms, and his creation helped whenever he had some doubts.

Noah didn't want to do anything special. He only needed a small puppet in the sixth rank where to put the Pterodactyl's will. Its achievements in the next battles would then decide whether it was worthy of a proper body.

"How much do you remember of the Immortal Lands?" Noah asked through his ghostly figure while his material hands began to work with some small strands of dark matter.

"You cut away most of my knowledge, you damned Master," The Pterodactyl replied. "I remember the blinding light of the sky, humans walking inside my domain, and the metal of my cage. I remember that they gave me a hateful name to classify my peculiar kind."

"Tell me that name," Noah ordered. The Pterodactyl had to reply due to the modifications applied during the suppression, so he took the chance to gather information about the Immortal Lands while he built a body.

"Night-blade Pterodactyl," The beast said. "I hate that name."

"What about Night?" Noah asked.

The Pterodactyl snorted, and its loud words followed its gesture. "Magical beasts don't need human names. Power is the only label that we recognize."

Noah couldn't help but like that line. A smile appeared on his ghostly figure as he replied. "You are my Companion now. You will become much more than a magical beast as long as you prove yourself useful."

The Pterodactyl stopped flying at his words. Its strange head turned toward Noah and inspected him as if trying to understand how honest his words were.

"What is your goal, Master?" The Pterodactyl asked, and some growls fused with its human voice. It seemed that its true nature came out whenever it found something that interested it.

"I want the stars," Noah replied. "According to what you are telling me, the white sky is on the way. I guess that makes it my enemy too."

The beast remained still. It analyzed Noah without putting its arrogance as a divine creature in the middle of its judgment.

Noah had managed to free and suppress it. He had to be extraordinary to achieve that result without having centers of power in the divine rank.

Magical beasts were innately diffident, but the Pterodactyl's connection with Noah's mind made it understand how genuine his feelings were. Noah was ready to destroy the sky to reach his goal, and he didn't lie about elevating the creature's existence.

A peculiar thought began to form in the Pterodactyl's consciousness. It would prefer freedom over anything, but it couldn't think too badly about its current situation.

Noah continued to use his inscription methods to forge a new body for the Pterodactyl. He would take a different approach at that time. Part of his dark matter would recreate a material sea of consciousness that the creature could use to control itself once outside of his mind.

"Night is fine," The Pterodactyl said after two months spent in complete silence. Its attention had been on Noah for the whole time, and it had decided that trusting him wasn't its worst option.

"Night," Noah called his Companion a few weeks later. "I'm done."

A lump of dark matter entered his mind, and the Pterodactyl's consciousness fused with it before coming out of the mental sphere and floating toward a small puppet in his hands.

"I hate you," Night said in a helpless tone when it saw the bird-like shape in Noah's palm.

### **Chapter 1078 1078. Invasion**

"I almost believed you!" Night chirped while it flew around Noah's head. "You dared to deceive a divine beast! This fate is even worse than death! Just put me back in my cage!"

Night's new body had the shape of a small bird that didn't seem to have any unique feature. Noah had built it following the characteristics of the Night-blade Pterodactyl's species. He had left the insides empty, creating only its edges.

That was only an approximation of the Pterodactyls' bodies. He would take his time to study the corpses in his ring in the future, but Night would have to use that small puppet until then.

"Shut up," Noah said as he flew toward the exit of the Gorge. "I'll give you a new one once I see how useful you are. Most importantly, do you remember how to fight?"

Night went silent while it gave a proper inspection of its new body. It kept on mumbling some complaints from time to time, but it also sprinted at a speed that surprised even Noah.

The beast became almost invisible in the darkness of the Gorge. It flew through the entirety of the valley in a matter of seconds. Noah had to stop his ascent to keep track of its movements.

'It wasn't joking about its prowess,' Noah thought as he inspected the small bird.

Night's new body was a puppet in the lower tier of the sixth rank. It could potentially surpass Snore's power when it came to raw strength, but it lacked the features that made the Blood Companion a threatening asset.

Nevertheless, Noah had to reevaluate the Pterodactyl's claims. The beast had fused with the new body less than an hour ago, but it could already express a speed that surpassed Noah's wildest predictions. It even reached the structural limits of the puppet!

Noah felt lucky that the Royals didn't feed the weaker specimens. Clearing the Gorge would have been troublesome if he had to fight the three rank 6 Pterodactyls at their peak.

"Awful, awful!" Night shouted as it returned near Noah. "This thing is about to break already! How do you expect me to fight inside this trash?"

"You won't get a new one until you achieve something in the next battles," Noah's answer was firm, but he felt slightly excited.

Night had been able to express spectacular power already. A tingling feeling spread through his fingers when he imagined what it could do with a proper body.

The Pterodactyl chirped angrily, but it didn't try to rebel. It continued to circle Noah as he resumed his ascent toward the surface. However, it abruptly stopped at the sight of the sunlight.

"The sunlight isn't deadly for you anymore," Noah said, but Night didn't move. It appeared paralyzed in fear, and even his mental orders weren't enough to make it step into the light.

'I guess it carried most of its instincts out of the cage,' Noah thought. Night had lost most of its memories, but it had kept the abilities gained in its countless experiences.

It didn't remember what it could do or how it used to fight. Still, its instincts allowed it to perform the attacks and movements that it had honed throughout its life.

Night's instincts gave it the ability to fight even if it didn't remember how. Noah could feel its annoyance through their mental connection, but he knew it would eventually become used to its new condition.

That was another reason why Noah didn't make Night a proper body. The Pterodactyl's mind would eventually adapt and grow again, which could potentially lead to a rebellion.

Night was different from Snore. The Pterodactyl didn't go through the Body-inscription spell, so its mind was a separated existence. It could live without Noah as long as it had a body.

That gave it more freedom. Night didn't need a trail of higher energy attached to Noah to survive. It was more similar to the Demonic Sword when it came to the type of existence.

Noah feared that Night's mind could outgrow its restrictions, which was why he wanted to keep its growth in check for a while. He wanted to be sure that it harmonized with its new condition before improving.

Night remained stuck among the darkness, but Noah promptly grabbed it and threw it toward the edges of the Gorge. Curses chirped out of its mouth, but Noah ignored them as he followed its new asset.

When Noah resurfaced, he found Night staring at the sun. There was no cultivator in sight, so he let the creature experience that moment of peace.

"The light doesn't seem so bad," Night said, and Noah cast some corrosive smoke while the beast admired what it had been unable to see for all its life.

Noah spewed some flames too, and Snore's head formed to launch some of its elemental attacks. The peaceful environment above the Gorge became a dangerous battlefield filled with powerful abilities.

"Can you fight through them?" Noah asked, and Night didn't hesitate to shoot inside the various attacks.

Noah kept track of the creature's movements and felt satisfied when it returned to fly around him. Night was even faster when he moved through the darkness that he produced. It was already an asset that he could deploy in battle.

"I think I'm hungry," Night said. It didn't completely understand its new body's sensations, but Noah grabbed it before sprinting in the distance.

Night's body was a disposable inscribed item. Noah could fix it with his dark matter, but he didn't intend to make it last. The beast would have to endure any sensation for now.

The reports concerning the battlefields stated that a few crucial regions stopped the advance of the allied forces. The Elbas family couldn't defend the peripheral territories of its domain, so it had focused its defenses on important areas.

The snowy regions on the southeastern coast had fallen, but the Hive couldn't seize the entirety of the Dark Gorge territory due to the Royal Academy.

The forest of Siver-yellow woods had become part of a powerful formation that could fend off powerhouses, and the Royals still owned it after months of battle.

They had kept their share of Divine Market city too. The Elbas family had prepared countermeasures after losing access to the Divine Stele in the past, and the allied forces had yet to break its defensive formations.

Most of the areas featuring obelisks had survived the invasion, and only those that had seen powerhouses directly attacking them had fallen. The alliance's gains were small, but that was understandable since their opponent had five rank 6 cultivators in its ranks.

Noah didn't go toward the Royal Academy. That place was almost impenetrable, and the alliance only had three powerhouses on its side. June had managed to seize the potion only due to her knowledge of the place, expertise, and Noah's help.

Divine Market city was the same. Noah preferred to isolate it before starting a long siege. That was the best approach when against defenses that could fend off rank 6 cultivators.

His targets were the territories around important areas that had yet to fall due to their many defenses. His goal wasn't to take away as much as he could from King Elbas. He wanted the alliance to have territories that it could defend once the Royals' leader returned.

Noah used a series of teleportation matrices to reach the northern side of the eastern coast. A series of obelisks were there, and many cities had appeared in that region in the past centuries.

Two of the five enemy powerhouses defended that area, and a series of defensive formations created a powerful array of protections.

Chasing Demon and Great Elder Diana had gathered there after giving up on the Royal Academy and Divine Market city. The forest of Silver-yellow woods was too dangerous to approach without a plan, so that was the only viable target for them.

When Noah arrived, he found the armies of the alliance fighting the assets of the Royals. The battle looked harsh, and multicolored lights shone behind the enemy forces.

### **Chapter 1079 1079. Chirp**

A tight array of shining lines stood behind the enemy army and engulfed it with a golden light. Both heroic and human assets of the Royal family saw their injuries healing at high speed as their battles continued.

A series of blinding beams came out of the formations' cores, and many Elders had to use defensive items to fend them off.

Two large ballistae floated behind the array of formations. Peak rank 4 cultivators loaded massive inscribed arrows that crossed the entirety of the battlefield once launched.

Only Chasing Demon and Great Elder Diana could stop those arrows since they were disposable items with quasi-rank 6 power. When the Royals paired them with the rank 6 ballistae at the peak of the lower tier, they became attacks capable of killing powerhouses.

The two leaders of the alliance could take care of those attacks and have enough time to charge at the ballistae. Still, Third Prince and First Princess floated behind the enemy lines and controlled the defenses to hinder their movements.

'How can they still have so many heroic assets?' Noah thought. The Elbas family had deployed fewer troops on that battlefield, but its sheer number of powerful cultivators surprised him nonetheless.

There were more than twenty rank 5 cultivators on the Royals' side, and many of them were in the solid stage. Noah had already accepted that the Royal Pool was a miraculous item, but that rate of growth was simply unbelievable!

The Hive had been at its prime for a while. Its best assets were the many talented cultivators gathered over the years. The other world's rebellion had made it suffer some losses, but it had still produced more than forty rank 5 experts in the last centuries.

However, the numbers of the Elbas family were off the scale. Noah had killed tens of powerful assets after returning to the surface, but there didn't seem to be an end to them.

Noah felt even surer that King Elbas had managed to improve the effects of the Pool. Such grooming properties were nowhere near the fairness imposed by Heaven and Earth.

A single miraculous item wouldn't be too troublesome if it were the only amazing asset of the Elbas family. The Hive had the Copying Technique in the end, and that was equally annoying to deal with.

Yet, the Royals had their incredible expertise in the inscription fields, which made having so many powerful assets even more troublesome.

The alliance had deployed more troops, but the many defenses in place made advancing impossible. The experts of both Hive and Council had the upper hand over their enemies, but they never managed to land a deadly blow.

Noah saw Flying Demon and Dreaming Demon fighting in one corner of the battlefield against three experts in the solid stage. They appeared unstoppable with their battle prowess that surpassed the fifth rank's limits, but their attacks barely crossed the golden armors worn by their opponents.

Slowly exhausting the Royals didn't work either since the formations' healing light made every injury pointless. Instead, the enemy army could work together with the beaming cores and wound the allied forces over time.

There were also a series of massive shields between the Royal army and the formations. Noah saw how the enemy cultivators could cross them easily to return to a safe spot.

'Shields, ballistae, and the two powerhouses,' Noah listed in his mind the assets that could threaten rank 6 cultivators. He didn't know if his arrival could turn the trend of that battle, but he had the chance to test his new weapon at least.

'I hate shining things,' Night said through its connection with Noah's mind. The bird-like Companion stood on Noah's shoulder as he inspected the battlefield with him.

'That's good,' Noah answered with his mind. 'They are your targets.'

'How should I even destroy them with this awful body?' Night snorted, but Noah shot forward while replying in an uncaring manner. 'That's your problem. Weren't you the strongest predator?'

"The strongest predator in darkness!" Night shouted, and some cultivators turned in Noah's direction when they heard the bird's chirping cry.

'I'll give you darkness then,' Noah answered. His Demonic Sword flew in his palm as he neared the allied powerhouses, and Snore materialized next to him.

The two older living assets stared at the bird on Noah's shoulder in disdain. They knew how Night treated Noah, so they couldn't help but find it annoying.

Yet, Night barely deigned those weapons of a glance. It had been a divine beast in the end. Those two heroic assents weren't worthy of its attention.

Night's indifference made the Demonic Sword and Snore even angrier. Noah could feel their intense feelings trying to interfere with the Pterodactyl, but they stopped when he reached Chasing Demon and Great Elder Diana.

The two powerhouses flew close to each other as they launched attacks whenever they didn't have to defend against the threatening arrows. Armies of tall puppets self-detonated on the golden shields, and an array of orange spheres cast small lightning bolts that targeted the formations' cores.

Their offensive stopped whenever the two ballistae shot arrows. Metallic puppets and orange spheres would fall apart as the massive bolts crossed the golden shields and flung every cultivator in their range back.

The arrows injured even the Elbas family's assets, but they had the golden light healing them continuously, so they didn't mind that strategy.

Instead, the allied forces had to dodge those attacks every time and expose themselves to their enemies during the evasive maneuvers. Only Chasing Demon and Great Elder Diana could remain still and cast spells capable of blocking the arrows.

Chasing Demon saw the bolt curving to aim for his chest and was about to summon a few metallic creatures when he saw a familiar figure stepping in front of him.

The emblem of the Hive on his back reflected the many lights filling the battlefield, and his aura resembled a violent torrent of swords capable of flying in an orderly manner.

A smile appeared on the old powerhouse's face. Now that Noah was there, the alliance could finally attempt to overwhelm the Royal family's annoying defenses.

Noah saw the arrow coming in slow motion. The Demonic Sword was in his grasp, and Snore was ready to help, but he wanted to see how potent those disposable weapons were.

Before the arrow could hit his chest, Noah threw a punch, giving birth to a silent shockwave when his knuckles and the huge tip connected.

Both Noah and the arrow remained still for an instant before the effects of their clash became visible to everyone.

Cracks appeared on the bolt and covered its surface. A long wound opened on Noah's arm, spreading from his knuckles to his shoulder. The impact also flung him away, but the arrow crumbled at the same time.

Noah felt two powerful pairs of eyes on him when he managed to stop his momentum. Third Prince and First Princess stared at him from behind the shields with an annoyed expression.

A few drops of dark-red blood flowed out of his wound, but corrosive smoke soon came out of his skin and covered his whole figure. Chasing Demon ordered a full retreat of the weaker forces at that sight, and Great Elder Diana imitated him.

Noah was using the Demonic Form while being a rank 6 mage. The battlefield would soon turn into a rank 6 danger zone where only powerhouses could live.

The Prince and Princess shouted similar orders, but the Elbas family's troops only retreated behind the shields. They didn't move to the edges of the region like their enemies.

'Is this darkness enough?' Noah asked, and Night released a long chirping sound that resembled a battle cry.

### **Chapter 1080 1080. Shining thing**

Noah advanced toward the defensive formations without minding his surroundings. The cloud of corrosive smoke spread from his fiendish form and soon landed on the golden shields.

The smoke didn't manage to piece those defenses, but tremors sparked from time to time on their surface as Noah's spell continued to attack it.

It was a constant siege. The Demonic Form forced the golden shields to waste more energy since it remained on top of them.

"We can't avoid the arrows," Chasing Demon said as he neared him. A metallic layer had appeared on top of his skin, and a humming sound came out of it to keep the corrosive smoke away.

"Someone always needs to block them," Great Elder Diana said while reaching Noah too. An array of minute lightning bolts covered her figure and destroyed every particle of corrosive smoke that tried to touch her skin.

Both powerhouses had defensive methods that countered Noah's Demonic Form. The event didn't surprise him since his spell's features had become common knowledge since he escaped the Utra nation.

It was only normal for powerhouses to develop countermeasures to such a threatening spell. Even Chasing Demon had created one in case enemies managed to reproduce it.

"The Royals will probably start to attack now that you have arrived," Great Elder Diana continued. "We can't breach them in only one battle. This is a slow siege."

Great Elder Diana's words made sense, but Noah wanted to see if Night could open a different path. His horned helmet turned toward Chasing Demon as he spoke to his Patriarch. "Let me try something."

On that battlefield, Great Elder Diana was clearly in charge. Her cultivation level in the liquid stage put her one step above both Noah and Chasing Demon.

However, they both came from organizations at the top of those Mortal Lands. The number of powerful items and assets in their possession transcended what a single powerhouse could accomplish.

The alliance didn't have a leader for that exact reason. If the Hive and the Council were to base their prowess purely on items, the Copying Formation would be enough to place the Hive on top.

The problem there was that no one wanted to waste valuable items on a simple battlefield. The alliance didn't want to reveal its cards, but it didn't want to lose troops either, which was why Diana pressed for a slow and safe approach.

Nevertheless, Noah was different.

Chasing Demon nodded, and Noah shot forward. The Patriarch of the Hive followed him across the corrosive smoke, and Great Elder Diana snorted before imitating him.

She didn't care that Noah had ignored her proposal. She had always known how he acted. She was only annoyed that they would have to waste more time because Noah wanted to test himself.

Two arrows flew across the darkness, aiming directly at the three of them. Both attacks went toward Noah, but Great Elder Diana stepped forward to block them.

Diana joined her palms, and crackling sounds spread through the black cloud. It was as if that simple gesture had given birth to a lightning storm even if the two cultivators from the Hive didn't see a single lightning bolt.

The arrows reached her only to find her palms in their trajectory. Both Noah and Chasing Demon thought that her limbs would shatter, but two massive lightning bolts came out of her hands and turned the disposable weapons into ashes.

A series of fiery snakes made their way through the darkness at that point. They had followed the arrows, so they didn't come in contact with the corrosive smoke, which left them virtually intact.

Chasing Demon stepped forward, and rocks began to form on top of his skin. The Patriarch transformed as more "Breath" of the earth element turned his figure into a massive golem that started to fight with the snakes.

Great Elder Diana quickly went to help Chasing Demon. He was alone against the spells of two powerhouses, and she knew that the defensive formations had yet to unleash everything.

Multicolored beams assaulted the corrosive cloud. Without the weaker heroic cultivators as targets, they could focus all their power on the powerhouses.

Noah saw his area of destruction becoming smaller as hundreds of shining beams with power at the peak of the fifth rank assaulted the cloud. Even with three powerhouses against them, the Royals could hold their ground without suffering any loss!

'Are you ready?' Noah asked while he let the two rank 6 cultivators block the attacks for him.

'Just give me a target,' Night conveyed in an annoyed tone. Those types of battles appeared unworthy of its status, but it had to admit that it felt good to fight without worrying about the sunlight.

Noah gave it an order and shot toward the golden shields. A loud shockwave expanded from his landing spot, but the light radiated by the defenses didn't even flicker at his arrival.

That was a formation with rank 6 power. Noah would have to do far more than that only to make a crack appear on its surface. Moreover, there was the chance that those lines could fix themselves like the inscriptions in the Royal Academy.

Being so close to the shields exposed Noah, but his goal was to distract the two Royals from his main offensive.

Snore launched its elemental attacks on the shields while the Demonic Sword became smaller than a knife. Arrays of laws appeared in his vision as Noah focused, and his slow slashes severed them.

An intense tremor spread on the shields, and the light on a large area dimmed. The dark zone had the shape of a massive fissure, and the defensive formations took a few minutes to restore their radiance.

However, no crack appeared on their surface. Even one of Noah's most powerful slashes couldn't do anything against those shields.

Bright beams and spells of the fire element flew toward him right after he launched his attack. His body covered by the spiked armor could endure the cores' blows on its own, but Noah couldn't underestimate the Royals' offensive.

A human-shaped crack appeared in his spot right before the attacks could converge on him. The explosion that their crash caused engulfed Noah when he came out of his dimension and flung him back toward his allies.

Chasing Demon couldn't stop smiling. Noah's prowess was off the scale for an existence that had lived a little more than five hundred years. He could already imagine how Noah would have no rivals in the lower planes once his centers of powers reached the last part of the heroic ranks.

Great Elder Diana had similar thoughts, but she wasn't as optimistic as her ally. The stronger a cultivator was, the harsher Heaven and Earth's restrictions would be.

A broader individuality made the cultivation journey harsher too. Noah's growth inside the fifth rank matched and even slightly surpassed the best geniuses, but it wasn't monster-like for that exact reason.

Moreover, she was still a bit annoyed that Noah didn't listen to her. Even monsters should respect experience and power, especially when they came from allies.

"Can we use my strategy now?" Great Elder Diana asked, and Chasing Demon shrugged his shoulders. Two more arrows were coming, so he had to deploy some defenses.

Great Elder Diana prioritized blocking the arrows too and almost failed to notice how Noah was barely listening to their conversation. She believed that he was disappointed due to the outcome of his attacks, but what she saw after she blocked the bolts made her think otherwise.

Chasing Demon and Diana destroyed the arrows and were about to regroup with Noah to organize themselves when a series of explosions resounded from the defensive formations.

The shining lines' cores began to explode, destabilizing the entire array and removing annoying attacks from the Royals' defenses.

More cores continued to explode. No one except Noah knew how such an event was possible, but even he found it hard to believe it. In his mind, he could hear Night repeat the same line over and over again. 'Die, you shining thing!'