

DEMONIC 1111

Chapter 1111 1111. Fifth battle

"It's been a while since I last fought cultivators," Skully said when the contenders of the fifth group battle gathered in the sky. She had regained her eyes in those years, and they shone with a yellow radiance.

All the other powerhouses of the Hive had qualified for the mission at the center of the plane, so they couldn't fight anymore.

The terms of the tournament saw some leniency for the organizations in that situation, but King Elbas viewed the lack of other assets as a sign that they shouldn't have too many territories.

Of course, that went against the Hive and the Council, but they couldn't stop King Elbas. Giving a few territories back to the Royals was better than wasting resources and time delaying the inevitable.

Skully opponents were Elder Laura, True Speed, and Third Prince. The tenor of their battle was far less intense compared to the others, but the four of them put up a fantastic spectacle nonetheless.

Having a rank 6 Kesier Ape fighting in the open made it difficult for many weaker cultivators to watch that battle. The runes on Skully's back forced the audience to resort to special methods to watch the fight.

Moreover, seeing that the Hive had such a peculiar powerhouse among its ranks spoke for its variety. The world's forces knew that they were behind the Hive when it came to creating a hybrid army, and they could witness its real power in that fight.

Elder Laura's complexion was a bit pale, but her past injuries didn't seem to affect her battle prowess. She and Skully ganged up on Third Prince before even minding the opponent from the Shandal Empire.

The two powerhouses had decided to kick the Royal out of the battle to eliminate the trickiest threat. Third Prince's inscribed items scared them, and they didn't want to give any territory to the Elbas family.

True Speed could only go with the flow. It felt refreshing for him to express some of his power, but he remained wary of his temporary allies since he knew how the situation would unfold afterward.

Third Prince's battle style was reckless. He couldn't match the three opponents ganging on him with his power, so he relied on many defensive and disposable items to block the attacks coming at him.

Then, he used his spells to attack. The items kept him safe, so he could focus everything he had on launching a mad offensive toward his opponents.

Elder Laura's arrows transformed mid-air and took the shape of huge magical beasts that fought against any fireball or fiery pillars that came in her direction.

True Speed dodged the enemy attacks easily and kicked the air to launch violent lightning bolts that crashed on the Royal's defenses.

Skully had it a bit worse. Noah didn't make her a dantian, and he had yet to even think about that project. She could only rely on the natives' inscription method to launch spells, but their power was quite dull.

However, her defenses were solid. Skully's sea of consciousness had improved a lot since her return to the surface. Her mind was among the strongest in the Hive, and she could even pair her mental waves with the Kesier species' innate ability.

The flames that came in her direction fell apart before they could touch her fur. Skully then condensed them with her consciousness and launched them back at her opponent.

Third Prince initially managed to hold his ground against the three of them, but his stash of inscribed items depleted at high speed due to that relentless offensive.

It only took him an hour to understand that he wouldn't find a way out of that situation no matter how many defenses he used. It was better to invest his resources in easier battles.

The focus of the allied powerhouses moved on True Speed after Third Prince conceded. The expert of the Shandal Empire had to deal with their joint offensive, but he put up a fight at that time.

Elder Laura's arrows struggled to catch True Speed. He was too fast, and his movement technique virtually had no limitations in terms of distance.

True Speed didn't have limits on his stamina either. His lower body had fused with a magical beast, so it carried all the hybrids' fantastic properties.

He could sprint for days without even sweating. He could even launch an endless number of lightning bolts as long as he had "Breath". The audience could finally see that he wasn't weak at all.

Yet, Skully's innate ability countered his high mobility. Thoughts were faster than him, and a Kesier Ape founded its attacks on them.

True Speed continued to dodge the water creatures coming in his direction when he hit an invisible wall. The air around him had condensed so much that it had created a proper cage.

Countless lightning bolts exploded inside the invisible cage as True Speed tried to free himself, but even his element's piercing features weren't enough to penetrate the condensed air.

That was quite normal. Skully was also a hybrid, so the two innate abilities were almost on the same level. True Speed's skills were a bit weaker only due to the lower level of his mental sphere.

True Speed decided to reveal some of his power when he saw a series of bright blue dragons coming in his direction. Elder Laura had exploited the chance created by Skully and had attacked her opponent instantly.

The sky turned yellow as True Speed gathered all the sparks amassed in his fur to execute one of his strongest attacks. Lightning bolts crackled on his whole body as he crouched inside the cage.

Noah was the only one able to understand what True Speed was doing. "Breath" flowed above the expert's skin as he sprinted forward and turned his body into a massive lightning bolt.

That move was similar to Noah's techniques. It fused a spell with a martial art to bring the best qualities of a hybrid body out!

The lightning bolt pierced the condensed air of the cage and flew toward Elder Laura. True Speed didn't want to attack Skully since her physical strength was similar to his.

Elder Laura threw everything she had at the incoming yellow flash. Massive water creatures appeared in front of her and created a tight defense.

'It will fail,' Noah thought when he saw the defensive wall. Cultivators never expected how strong the techniques of a hybrid could be. Simple spells weren't enough to stop it.

As Noah had predicted, the giant lightning bolt pierced the dragon-like creatures that had appeared in Elder Laura's protection. True Speed's figure reappeared with feet aiming at the Elder as the beasts exploded.

The fact that he had become visible again meant that it had lost some speed to pierce the creatures. Skully could intervene in time to entangle her mental waves around True Speed and stop his charge once and for all.

True Speed could only give up when he saw Elder Laura loading her bow while Skully's mental waves restricted him. He had lost again, but no one would underestimate him anymore.

Skully and Elder Laura bowed at each other at that point, and the former conceded to give that territory to the Council. Chasing Demon and Great Elder Diana had already decided on that matter beforehand.

The fifth group battle came to an end, but King Elbas had yet another surprise to show. When he descended to announce the outcome, he assigned the territory to the Council, but he didn't acknowledge Elder Laura's prowess.

In his opinion, the Elder was still too weak. She still needed a few centuries inside the sixth rank to learn how to use her power correctly.

Chapter 1112 1112. Sixth battle

King Elbas' decision angered the other leaders who held a long meeting that delayed the sixth group battle by a few months.

The meeting's outcome disappointed the alliance's leaders since King Elbas didn't want to acknowledge their complaints. It was his mission, so he didn't want to bring anyone he didn't find worthy.

Chasing Demon could quickly get over the matter since it didn't affect the Hive personally, but Great Elder Diana's anger couldn't fade so quickly.

The mission at the center of the plane involved raw laws. They could improve any powerhouse that absorbed them. Refusing one of the Council's experts was akin to putting a limit to her growth.

Still, Great Elder Diana couldn't do much about that situation. King Elbas had been clear about Elder Laura. She wasn't ready in his opinion.

The tournament eventually resumed, and Skully and True Speed rejoined the battlefield. Elder Paul filled the Council's spot, and Second Princess took care of the Elbas family's side.

Elder Paul was the third and last new powerhouse of the Council. He was the youngest member of the higher-ups, and his youthful appearance proved that.

He was short and quite slim. Long black hair fell on his shoulders, and his pair of blue eyes reflected their light on the world. His dark skin had many white marks due to the numerous scars that filled his body.

His cultivation level appeared to be at the bottom of the sixth rank, but his battle style carried some peculiarity.

As soon as the battle began, Elder Paul uncovered his right arm to show a beating mass that covered most of his limb. That pile of superfluous reddish tissues was uneven, and it didn't resemble anything in nature.

Noah's eyes lit up at that sight. He could vaguely understand what that mass was, and he couldn't help but feel interested in the studies behind its creation.

The mass became redder as Elder Paul summoned a series of fiery lions that formed an offensive array in front of him. The flames that made the creatures reacted to that change of color and became denser.

It was as if the mass was a new organ that interacted directly with Elder Paul's spells. The denser flames also obtained some violent feature, making them quite similar to those of some magical beasts.

Noah had no more doubts at that scene. The mass was an attempt to make a living weapon, even if the Council had pushed the study toward a different field.

Thirty-seven and Noah's living weapons used specific organs to replicate a creature's innate abilities. Their modifications improved the skill and made it a useful tool for cultivators.

Instead, Elder Paul's living weapon appeared fused with his body. That wasn't a proper hybridization. Instead, it resembled what Noah had done with his fourth center of power.

The lions' shape appeared unstable, but they charged at Second Princess without hesitation or falling apart. Skully supported Elder Paul with her mental waves, and True Speed joined them in their ganging on the Royal.

Second Princess did the same as her brother. She relied on her inscribed items to handle the defenses while she went all-out with her spells.

Her inscribed items appeared to be weaker and fewer in number. The lion's flames often pierced her defenses and threatened to burn her only to crash on another protection.

Skully's mental waves managed to pierce her defenses too. They acted as an invisible force that created a path through the golden light and flames protecting the Royal.

Both Elder Paul and True Speed exploited her efforts by sending spells whenever Skully opened a path. Second Princess ended up in a poor position relatively quickly, and a few injuries eventually appeared on her body.

Determination surged in the Royal's expression at some point. Losing in that way would make her the weakest among King Elbas' underlings, and she wanted to avoid that outcome.

Second Princess threw many talismans while the relentless offensive of her opponents continued. They activated attacks and defenses that gave her the time to prepare a stronger spell.

The unstable lions crashed on a series of giant fiery snakes and didn't manage to advance. True Speed's lightning bolts slammed on tall walls that created many defensive layers between him and his opponent.

Skully tried her best to create a path among the flames, but one of the talismans had similar effects to the white halo and made her lose connection with her mental waves.

Second Princess used her fingers to create holes at the centers of her palms. The blood that flowed out of her injuries fused with her flames and transformed them into phoenix-like creatures.

Her primary target was Elder Paul since he was the biggest threat. His flames were too threatening with the enhancement of his horrid additional organ. The Royal would win as long as she managed to defeat him.

Elder Paul's living weapon became redder as he generated a wave of violent flames that took the form of a tall roaring lion. The creature didn't spit flames, but its fangs and claws resembled fiery swords when it bit and scratched at the phoenixes.

Skully used her mental waves to hinder the movements of the phoenixes once her consciousness unfolded again. Second Princess' attacks couldn't hit the Elder with that focus.

However, Second Princess continued to throw fireballs like a madman. The attacks transformed into phoenixes once they consumed her blood, and her complexion paled as she continued to pour more of it in her spells.

True Speed couldn't do much in that situation, and he didn't want to go all-out before his other opponents turned on him. There wasn't any attack coming at him, but he couldn't pierce the thick flames that had appeared in the Royal's defense.

The expert of the Shandal Empire decided to wait for someone to concede since everyone was ignoring him. He preferred to let them waste their energies rather than helping in defeating one of them.

The pressure on him was immense. His performance would decide if the Empire could return to the new continent, which was what every organization outside of it desired.

The mission at the center of the plane was only a bonus to him. Ensuring a future for the Empire while it lacked its God was the best he could do for his organization.

Such loyalty made him wait until Second Princess became exhausted and conceded before turning into a lightning bolt and charging at Skully.

The rank 6 Ape had used most of her focus on protecting Elder Paul, but her consciousness was still around her. The sparks surrounding the expert's body vanished right before he could reach Skully's skin.

True Speed kicked Skully anyway. His feet landed on her arm, and his claws pierced her skin when he curved his fingers.

Another wave of lightning bolts gathered on his legs and entered Skully's body through the claws still stabbed in her skin. That attack was hard to handle, and Skully could only concede since Elder Paul didn't manage to help her sooner.

Only Elder Paul and True Speed remained on the battlefield at that point. The army of lions shot toward Empire's expert, but he dodged everything coming in his way.

Elder Paul could only deploy defensive spells since True Speed launched lightning bolts whenever he stopped. His battle style imitated Great Elder Diana, but he had far less grace and control than her.

The battle continued for a while until smoke started to come out of Elder Paul's living weapon. That was the signal that it had reached its limits, which forced the expert of the Council to rely on normal unenhanced abilities.

True Speed could finally make use of the superior qualities of his partial hybrid body. He launched an endless number of lightning bolts toward his opponent until the latter was out of energy.

Elder Paul had to concede in front of the hybrid's stamina. He had already fought for an entire day, using spells worthy of a powerhouse. He couldn't keep going on anymore.

True Speed could finally claim a victory, and King Elbas acknowledged his prowess. As for the Empire, it gained the old poisonous swamp on the eastern coast.

Chapter 1113 1113. End

The Shandal Empire made its official return to the new continent after True Speed's victory.

The previous pacts sealed with the invaders became null, and King Elbas even helped remove some of the oaths that God's Left Hand couldn't handle independently.

One region wasn't much, but it saved the Empire from its dire condition. Now it could dispel the blue dome, keep its influence in the Papral nation, and build structures for the heroic cultivators on the new continent.

That was a breakthrough for the Empire, and True Speed was a hero for his achievement. His perseverance, patience, and determination had allowed him to seize the right chance at the right moment.

The alliance saw the gains seized during King Elbas' journey vanish. Losing a few territories wasn't a problem, but its influence on the new continent grew thin as its domains shrunk.

The Hive and the Council couldn't lose vital territories, but many of their plans suffered heavy delay now that the four organizations were on the new continent together again.

There were still a few regions involved in the tournament, but King Elbas had already made his mind on the new powerhouses. He only had to review his evaluation once due to Elder Paul's performance in the ninth battle.

Skully and True Speed had continued to fight in every group battle since their organizations couldn't deploy anyone else, and the Council had only deployed Elder Paul on its side.

Instead, Second Princess and Third Prince alternated themselves in the fights. The situation in the battles was against them, but they tried their best to win nonetheless.

Skully, True Speed, and Elder Paul would always gang up on the Royals before focusing on each other. The Elbas family was too dangerous right now, so they had silently decided to keep its expansion in check.

The Hive and the Council always came out as winners of the next battles. True Speed didn't manage to take his opponents by surprise anymore, so he lost due to the numerical disadvantage every time.

Chasing Demon and Great Elder Diana divided their territories according to their past domains and terms of their alliance, so their underlings didn't fight between each other.

That approach made it harder for them to gain King Elbas' acknowledgment, but Skully didn't care, and Elder Paul didn't seem to meet his standards initially.

However, his living weapon changed in the ninth battle. It didn't have the horrid shape of a beating mass anymore. It had transformed into a tense sack-like membrane that covered his arm.

Elder Paul's flames turned into a scarlet liquid capable of scorching the sky when enhanced with the improved living weapon. They weren't lava, but they resembled some of its features in their liquid form.

The new flames burned the Royal's fire and blocked True Speed's lightning bolts. If it weren't for Chasing Demon and Great Elder Diana's agreement, Elder Paul would win every battle with his new weapon.

The Council sent Elder Laura after King Elbas acknowledged Elder Paul. She did her best to gain as much experience as possible, but her efforts didn't amount to anything.

Elder Laura had already planned what she would do after the tournament was over. She had decided to undergo the procedure with the living weapon after seeing True Speed and Elder Paul.

Losing the possibility to seize raw laws annoyed her. Still, she had to admit that King Elbas was right. Her prowess was inferior to the other powerhouses.

Going into the mission at the center of the plane could cost her life. Seizing every opportunity to advance was the right approach to the cultivation journey, but she had to be alive to do that.

The tournament eventually ended and left the political borders of the new continent almost unchanged. The only difference was in the few regions that had fallen under the Shandal Empire and the Elbas family.

First Prince and True Speed's victories had given one new territory to their organizations. They were even neighbors now that Empire shared the northern border with the Elbas family.

The Council had theoretically lost more in the tournament, but its alliance with the Hive allowed it to retain most of its former power. That kept the two organizations as the overlords of the new continent.

The chaos and excitement created for the tournament quickly dispersed as the battles ended. The fourteen for King Elbas' mission gathered to settle the last agreements before departing toward their respective habitations.

Both new and old assets had to prepare for the journey. Obtaining clothes and defensive items that could work well in the sea of magma was the least they could do before the mission.

Noah returned to his regular training, but Thirty-seven gave him good news soon. It took the automaton only a few years to complete his assignment, and Noah didn't hesitate to claim it.

"Come here," Noah shouted as he floated among the pure darkness of Night's underground area.

"I'm not going inside a cage again!" Night shouted as it hid among the darkness that it had created.

The Pterodactyl had yet to succeed on its task, but Noah guessed that it was close. He had sensed that as soon as he entered the underground area. There was life in that darkness.

"You can come out whenever you want, " Noah said, "But the sea of magma is quite shining. I can't let you swim freely there."

"You want to cage me and prevent me from destroying the light!" Night replied. "Dismantle me already since you are at it."

"Our journey will bring us at the center of the plane," Noah said with a teasing tone. "The core should have the most shining materials in the world. Are you sure you want to miss this chance to see one of your greatest enemies?"

Silence fell in the underground area, but faint steps soon echoed in through the darkness. The edges of a Pterodactyl became visible, and Noah descended toward it to check its condition.

Night's new body carried most of its species' features. Noah had replicated many of those unique creatures' mysterious characteristics, but he had made it far smaller than the original.

Night had the shape of a Pterodactyl now, but it was only two meters tall and four wide when it spread its wings. Noah had yet to make proper modifications, but the dark matter already improved its body by a lot.

"Here," Noah said as he raised his hand toward the creature. Night could see three space-rings on his fingers, but one of them was dark-purple and didn't block the Pterodactyl.

The tip of Night's head touched the dark-purple ring, and its figure slowly disappeared from the underground area.

'How is it inside?' Noah asked through his mental connection with the creature.

Night snorted a few times before returning to the outside world and answering. "It's small, but it's dark, at least. I can even see the outside while I'm there."

Thirty-seven had ideated the new space-ring according to Noah's requests. Since he knew how picky the Pterodactyl was, he had asked the automaton to make the insides without light.

The automaton had been impeccable, and he had even explained to Noah how that inscribed item worked.

The new space-ring didn't work as a regular storage item. It wasn't a mini separate dimension. Thirty-seven had to steal actual space from the outside world and compress it through an unusual formation that covered the metal.

Night wouldn't enter a different dimension. It would teleport to that different space inside the ring. The difference between the two procedures appeared slight with words, but Noah could understand how hard it had been for the automaton.

The Demonic Sword flew inside the new ring and remained there. Night snorted again before following its example and sharing the separate space with the weapon.

Noah was almost ready to leave, and he had already requested the materials that he needed to use before departing from the surface. Still, he had a few years, so he could avoid neglecting his training.

Chapter 1114: 1114

Black trails followed the slash . They appeared to come out of it, but an expert eye would see that they formed right after the attack crossed that space .

Sword Saint curved his finger to launch a similar slash, and the two attacks collided mid-air . Noah's blow lost, but it held its ground for a few seconds before splitting into two parts .

"I can't help but regret showing you this path," Sword Saint said after his slash crossed Noah's ethereal figure and dispersed before reaching the mental walls .

Noah shot a questioning look at him as he analyzed the outcome of that clash . He could feel that he was getting close to perfecting that attack . Only a few more decades would be enough to complete it, according to his calculations .

"Your graceless efforts to keep using blades for the centuries have made you suitable for my path," Sword Saint announced . "Your training would be already over if you had given up on the other aspects of your individuality . "

Noah shook his head at that remark . A more straightforward road made a cultivator grow faster, but it also gave less power . He would probably make the same decision even if his ambition allowed him to cut away part of himself .

"I just need to train more," Noah said as he shrugged his shoulders .

Noah's status had changed a lot during his cultivation journey . In the past, he would have modified any part of himself to seize power faster .

However, he wasn't in a hurry now . He would still prioritize the projects that could increase his power in the short-term, but he wouldn't waste his potential to quicken his training .

'Now that I think about it,' Noah thought before telling Sword Saint about his mission at the center of the plane . The expert was a divine being in the end . He could know something about that environment even if he was only a will .

"I see," Sword Saint said after Noah finished his story . "Hunting for the raw laws . Quite ambitious . "

Noah's ethereal eyes widened at that answer . The fact that Sword Saint knew about the purpose of the mission surprised him, but there was a detail that left him confused .

"What do you mean by hunting?" Noah asked . According to King Elbas and God's Left Hand's description, the raw laws didn't sound like something he had to catch .

"Did you expect them to come willingly in your arms?" Sword Saint answered with a tinge of sarcasm in his voice . "They come from the world to fuse with the world . Did you think Heaven and Earth made them for you?"

Sword Saint's words made sense . Noah had initially thought that the addiction and instabilities caused by the raw laws were enough as drawbacks to make them fair .

God's Left Hand was also there, and she had confirmed the Royal's version of the story . Those two organizations couldn't possibly have secrets deals because the Hive had already taken care of that part .

Still, Noah was aware that there were many blind spots in his knowledge of that topic, and the same was true for God's Left Hand . She had probably learnt about the raw laws from Shandal, but she might only know what they were .

That would have given King Elbas the chance to hide crucial parts of his journey in the sea of magma . Noah didn't believe that he had lied, but he was sure that he had kept many details a secret .

Sword Saint lowered his hand and sighed seeing Noah's going over his memories of the meeting . The expert inside his mind was nothing more than a will, but that didn't prevent him from changing his approach when needed .

"The world is a system," Sword Saint began to explain as a sphere of light formed in front of him . "Heaven and Earth can't bother to refill all the laws and "Breath" lost because of the lifeforms in their planes, so they put a generator at their center . "

A darker sphere appeared at the center of the whiter one . Gray trails came out of it and dispersed in the outer layers .

"I thought raw laws didn't have any true meaning yet," Noah questioned Sword Saint on the matter . He would take any piece of the expert's knowledge before the mission .

"They don't," Sword Saint answered as countless black dots appeared around the darker sphere, "But the rest of the world still has Heaven and Earth's will . I don't know the structure of this plane, but I'm sure that the path toward the raw laws won't be easy . "

Noah nodded before sitting on his mental sea . He had already guessed that there would be magical beasts, but the expert's words hinted that the world might be his enemy in that environment .

"When are you leaving?" Sword Saint suddenly asked . Noah felt surprised about his interest in that matter, but he replied honestly anyway .

"One year," Noah answered, "We have yet to decide the day . "

Sword Saint scratched his beard while murmuring inaudible words . He began to walk in circles, and his attention went on Noah from time to time .

"You aren't a bad heir," Sword Saint eventually said without stopping his tracks . He kept on walking in circles even as he talked to Noah .

"You are wasting my expertise by making this training only one aspect of his power," Sword Saint continued, "But you aren't bad at all . "

Noah watched the expert . He didn't know what was happening, but something told him that he shouldn't interrupt the hairy figure .

"A dangerous journey right in the middle of our training," Sword Saint said to himself before releasing a snort and stopping his tracks to face Noah . "Well, you would ask for this if you knew what I have in mind anyway . "

Noah began to understand something, but he remained silent . He limited himself to stand up to be ready if the expert asked him to perform some slashes .

"You have learnt countless sword arts before reaching my will," Sword Saint announced . "They cover almost every possible form created by swordsmen, but they are nothing more than variations . "

An ethereal sword formed in the will's hand . Noah's interest reached its peak during the explanation, and his dark star began to push his mental capabilities beyond their normal limits .

Noah even activated the Divine Deduction technique . The insides of his mental sphere became brighter as the inscriptions on its walls consumed mental energy to bring his mind to a superior level .

That was the same state in which he had created his movement technique . Noah couldn't be more focused even if he relied on inscribed items or drugs .

Sword Saint continued once he sensed that he had his heir's full attention . "Once you break down every sword art to their simplest core, you will see that a sword can only execute two forms: A slash and a lunge . "

Sword Saint performed a simple slash and lunge as he spoke . No sharpness came out of those forms, but Noah could sense something profound in those smooth movements .

He didn't know why, but he felt sure that Sword Saint had focused on those forms for so long that they had become the main feature of his individuality .

He felt that the expert had finally decided to show his law!

Chapter 1115: 1115

Sword Saint's sword descended when he concluded his line, and Noah marveled at the spectacle that such a simple gesture originated .

The sword multiplied during its descent . Countless ethereal blades appeared next to it and performed slashes alongside the expert's movement .

The blades didn't have an end . Noah recognized some of the forms expressed during that attack, but there were others that he had never seen before .

Still, he felt that Sword Saint's attack covered every possible slash . The ethereal swords went upward, downward, diagonally, and at different lengths .

One attack contained every slash in the world . Noah was too weak to sense it clearly, but he understood that Sword Saint's form carried part of the infinite .

Noah couldn't imagine what that attack would cause inside his sea of consciousness if the expert decided to pour his sharpness in the attack . Luckily for him, Sword Saint slash didn't radiate any power in the area . It was a simple demonstration meant to show part of his law .

"You can say that the lunge is the opposite," Sword Saint said once he returned in his original position . "It's the simplest sword attack . It only has one form, but there are countless variations in its speed and rhythm . "

Sword Saint half-crouched as he pulled his blade backward before concluding . "This makes its power limitless . "

The expert pushed his sword forward, and Noah sensed as if an unstoppable force was about to pierce his mental sphere and spread its influence in the outside world .

Sword Saint didn't add his power to the attack, but Noah feared for his life at the simple sight of that form . Once again, he found himself forced to accept that he couldn't understand the true power of those blows .

"Two attacks hide countless forms," Sword Saint said after he straightened his position . "Two attacks carry unlimited power . "

Noah's full attention was on the expert . Both his attacks and words carried a true meaning that Noah failed to understand completely . Yet, he felt that something had entered inside of him after seeing them .

It was as if his subconscious had registered something that his mind still couldn't process . Sword Saint's forms and words had already become part of him, but he couldn't call upon those true meanings with his current power .

"Is there a peak to this path?" Sword Saint questioned himself as he moved his gaze upward . "Is there a set limit? I still don't know, but it's my lifelong purpose to learn the truth about this . "

"You can't trail my path," Sword Saint said after moving his attention back at Noah . "But seeing my path might help you . I strive to fuse the two attacks into one, and this is the highest purity I can express . "

Sword Saint lowered his weapon before revealing a helpless smile and warning Noah . "I can't hold back my aura when I perform this . Your next task is to spend the time before your mission meditating on what you saw in this training session . "

Noah nodded, and his mental energy surged from his mental sea to cover the walls of his sphere . Sword Saint then waited for Noah's signal before proceeding with his technique .

There was a flash of light followed by an intense surge of sharpness . Noah saw the technique, but the scenery of his mental sphere suddenly disappeared . He found himself in the outside world with a trembling mind .

The Divine Deduction technique had deactivated autonomously, and the dark star put all its efforts into stopping the tremors that kept Noah unable to focus .

The sharpness lingering inside his sea of consciousness kept the tremors going for an entire day . His situation was different from when he had exhausted his mental energy, which alarmed June and Night .

Noah was in a constant state of pain . The walls of his mental sphere continued to shake, and he couldn't make them stop no matter how hard he tried .

His condition improved slowly . His mental sea absorbed small bits of that sharpness as that process continued, and that foreign feeling eventually vanished .

Noah reopened his tired eyes only to see that he was on June's lap . His lover had continued to cultivate, but she didn't want to leave him alone during that struggle .

Night had arrived too, and it flew around the tower's roof as if it was making sure that no threat neared its Master . Still, it promptly flew back to its underground area once it sensed that Noah had awakened .

"How come you always end up like this?" June asked as she opened her eyes when she sensed that Noah's struggle was over .

She knew how her lover behaved, but she wanted to tease him a bit before his departure . However, Noah wasn't in the mood for sweet talks now .

Noah stood up and kissed the confused June before moving toward the edge of the roof . He raised his hand to the sky, and the Demonic Sword reacted to his needs, coming out of his new space-ring to land in his palm .

June couldn't understand what was happening, and she felt even more confused when she saw Noah's slashing with his blade without releasing any power .

No black line came out of the Demonic Sword, and Noah didn't even rely on his physical strength during that movement . He lowered the blade before half crouching and performing a lunge .

That last attack was the same as the slash . Nothing came out of the Demonic Sword, and no aura spread in the environment .

Noah behaved as if he was a commoner . His blows resembled those of mortals that had yet to gain access to their first Body-nourishing methods .

In the end, Noah lowered his weapon and remained still . He didn't move, and his eyes didn't focus on sunset even if they looked in that direction .

June could only sigh at that sight . She didn't know what the Divine Cut's aura had shown to Noah, but she was aware that nothing could startle him now that his workaholic attitude had taken possession of his mental faculties .

Noah stared at a fixed spot in the distant sky as he tried to recall everything that he had witnessed in the last training session with Sword Saint .

His mental energy was almost gone, but his sea of consciousness produced new one at high speed . Noah would recover completely in less than a day, but his focus was elsewhere .

'Why can't I see it?' Noah thought as he fell backward to lie on the roof .

He had seen Sword Saint's last attack, and he had memorized it too . That series of images was somewhere in his mind, and Noah could even gain access to it quickly .

However, he couldn't see anything even when the memory appeared in his vision . It was as if his mind couldn't replicate those images due to its low level .

'That was the peak of a god,' Noah repeated in his mind in disbelief . 'The current peak of Sword Saint's path, a slash capable of fusing every sword art . '

His ambition soon filled every inch of his body, and determination replaced the disbelief . Sword Saint had decided to give him something important since the mission at the center of the plane would be difficult, and Noah intended to learn that lesson .

Noah stood up and returned to the edges of the roof to repeat Sword Saint's forms . He didn't manage to recall the final slash, so he only performed slashes and lunges without releasing any energy .

There was a true meaning behind those forms . Noah had seen it with his mind, and he could sense it inside him somewhere .

Chapter 1116 1116. Guardian

The day of the departure eventually arrived. King Elbas had sent a letter to every party member two months before, and everyone had confirmed their presence.

Chasing Demon, Elder Julia, Flying Demon, Dreaming Demon, and Noah set off from different regions in the Hive's domain. They gathered in the designed spot above the sea between the two continents.

King Elbas had opened a path when he resurfaced. He had reinforced it with some inscriptions since he had every intention of using it again. He had already decided that he would hunt the raw laws.

The forces of the Council soon joined the group. Great Elder Diana, Elder Regina, and Elder Paul reached the same spot and exchanged polite greetings with the powerhouses of the Hive.

Elder Regina still felt resentful against Flying Demon due to his actions in the group battles, but she had to respect him nonetheless. The Demon didn't have any honor, but he had proven himself as a capable ally.

The Shandal Empire joined the group too. The alliance's forces had to suppress their annoyance in seeing God's Left Hand and True Speed flying from the new continent.

The two powerhouses performed polite bows to the other experts, but it was clear that they didn't have a friendly relationship with them. The air among the group became tense due to the awkwardness created after their arrival.

The group of powerhouses had to wait for an entire hour before the forces of the Elbas family decided to appear in the sky. King Elbas, First Prince, First Princess, and Second Prince flew toward them and performed simple bows.

Almost all the powerhouses of the world had gathered there on that day. The fourteen of them would leave the surface soon, and they didn't have any worry about their territories' safety.

Generally speaking, their departure would be the best chance for rebellious organizations and other forces to perform coups and claims for independence.

However, the four forces had sealed a temporary peace. That allowed the assets remaining on the surface to focus on the threats outside of them.

Moreover, the leaders didn't fear the other rank 6 cultivators from other organizations who remained on the surface. Each of their regions had defenses capable of stalling powerhouses for decades, so no force had enough manpower to invade enemy lands.

"Let's go," King Elbas said a few minutes after all those chosen for that mission gave their consent to start the journey.

The Royal didn't make any grand speech or explanation about the environment under the seabed. It seemed that he wanted to keep his companions in the blind for now.

The group descended toward the bottom of the sea without encountering any magical beasts. Every creature on their path ran away before they could even think about hunting them.

That event didn't surprise Noah. A creature's instincts would rage madly if a rank 6 magical beast were too near it. There were fourteen powerhouses in the group, so every creature would see the area around them as the most dangerous place in the world.

Noah didn't speak at all during the descent. He had been silent since the various experts had gathered above the sea. His mind was far away. He was still thinking about Sword Saint's last attack even if the mission had already started.

He couldn't help it. Any heroic cultivator would remain mesmerized at the sight of a god's law. That wasn't something that simple inhabitants of a lower world could witness.

His focus on the environment didn't waver because of his current mental state, but everyone could see that something important occupied his thoughts.

King Elbas quickly found the tunnel he had reinforced in the past and led the group through it. Noah soon saw a familiar scarlet halo illuminating his face and trying to affect his mental sphere.

The magma couldn't do anything against his sea of consciousness. He had grown too much since his last visit there, and those natural hindrances couldn't stop him from going deeper in the magma.

No magical beast appeared as the group swam across the scorching current to shorten their path toward their destination.

They couldn't just go straight for the center of the plane. The destruction of the hidden world had spread many pieces of the black sky in the sea, and some giant boulders often fell from the seabed.

There were walls and floors, even in the sea of magma. They didn't hide the cultivators too much, but King Elbas made deviations anyway.

Noah tried his best to remain focused even if Sword Saint's attack and Night's endless complaints took a lot of his attention.

The Pterodactyl had begun to shout curses at the sea's scarlet magma due to the light in the environment. Noah had to hear its plans to destroy the plane's core. Some of them even involved the destruction of the entire world.

Of course, an annoying Companion and a reoccurring thought couldn't make him distracted. He only had to deplete more mental energy to do everything together.

King Elbas remained silent for the entire journey, and the group could only follow him. The heat didn't faze them since they had come prepared for that type of mission, but the complete lack of information became oppressing after an entire year spent swimming in that red environment.

"How long until we reach our destination, Father?" First Prince asked at some point. It seemed that King Elbas didn't even instruct his sons and daughter about that topic, so they were swimming blindly too.

"Six years at this pace," King Elbas conveyed while spreading his consciousness so that everyone could hear his answer. "We can take less, but I want to use my old road, which is quite hard to find in this everchanging environment."

The powerhouses didn't feel discouraged. Instead, having an idea of the time required to reach the core allowed them to organize themselves.

There were some experts capable of cultivating while moving. Others had unique martial arts to practice, and all of them had training sessions on hold due to the mission.

The invitation had changed their priorities, but they knew what to expect now, so they could resume part of their abandoned projects.

Every powerhouse in the mission had robes featuring powerful inscriptions that blocked the magma's properties. They couldn't stop the high temperatures completely, but they offered a good defense against that environment.

The Royals were a bit better off in terms of defensive inscribed items. Second Prince carried an orb capable of releasing a cold halo that balanced the temperature of those illuminated by it.

Noah was among the firsts to start cultivating while swimming through the red sea. He had gained a lot of experience with his cultivation method by then, so he could train by using the dark matter as a cover for the Demonic Sword.

The six years went by in a blink. The group eventually reached a massive wall in one of the hottest areas so far. The structure was black, and metal made most of its fabric. Yet, that material was different from the black sky in the hidden world.

Noah began to analyze it only to see traces of blood vessels and other organs inside that massive structure. They were impossible to miss due to their size, but Noah still struggled to believe that something so big could be alive.

After all, the wall stretched for a few kilometers. Noah had never heard of a creature so big in his years as an expert in the magical beasts' field!

Nevertheless, a more in-depth analysis revealed how those body tissues didn't belong to a single lifeform. The wall was similar to the Purple Corals under the Coral Archipelago.

"Here," King Elbas pointed at a cavity inside the black wall and crossed it before anyone could follow him. His underlings quickly went after him, and the rest of the group did the same.

The insides of that tunnel were a nice change to the blinding red environment, but Noah's interest rose when he saw a completely different light coming from the end of that passage.

The other experts felt confused too, but King Elbas quickly explained the situation. "This is one of the entrances to the center of the world. The illusion around the core is the first guardian."

Chapter 1117: 1117

The word "guardian" hinted that their destination was a protected area . Sword Saint had said something similar to Noah, but only King Elbas knew the specific defenses about that plane .

As for the other cultivators in the group, only God's Left Hand knew a bit more about the matter, but even she was ignorant about the dangers around the generator of raw laws .

First Prince asked more about the topic, and King Elbas explained without revealing too much . "You can't simply swim toward the plane's core . You'll only lose yourself among currents capable of affecting your sea of consciousness . Even my mind can't escape them . "

King Elbas had expanded his consciousness before giving that explanation, so all the powerhouses learnt about that . However, he didn't say anything about the number of guardians that they would have to face in the journey .

Doubts began to appear in the powerhouses' minds . They started to wonder if King Elbas had even reached the raw laws in the first place .

Noah had different thoughts . He couldn't understand why Heaven and Earth would create defenses that even peak heroic cultivators couldn't cross only to make paths among them .

'Are these more trials meant to nurture promising paths?' Noah questioned himself . He knew that Heaven and Earth lacked something to reach the tenth rank, but that approach would also benefit cultivators outside of their system .

Actually, existences that trailed on paths outside of Heaven and Earth's system were more likely to end up finding those remote and hidden training areas!

'They can't even blame their sloppiness,' Noah continued to ponder . 'The creation of the planes should have happened when they were at their peak . Unless they took it and added guardians . '

Noah couldn't find an answer . Most of the knowledge about Heaven and Earth was obscure and lost in time . Even the gods living in the Immortal Lands would probably know only a part of their history .

The magma on the other side of the tunnel radiated a blinding yellow light that forced some cultivators to close their eyes and rely on their consciousness to inspect the environment .

Noah could keep his eyes open because his body was far beyond the human limits, but he couldn't say that seeing gave him any advantage .

There was nothing to see . The yellow light filled Noah's vision and hid anything that was farther than a few hundred meters . It was as if the world itself didn't want anyone to witness that scene .

The "Breath" in the area was dense, denser than it was now on the new continent . Also, it had a certain purity that Noah couldn't exactly describe .

"This way," King Elbas said, and his words awakened the cultivators who were still in a daze due to their first contact with the plane's core .

It was impossible to replicate a similar environment . The place's temperature wasn't a problem, but no expert could recreate such pure "Breath" .

The group began to move again, and inscriptions lit up on the robes of the experts . Their light wasn't able to seep into the blinding environment, but that radiance was a statement of how the temperature had risen in that new area .

Noah had an inscribed robe too, but he relied on his dark matter to cover the Demonic Sword whenever he felt like cultivating .

The blinding magma had been interesting at first, but even that environment had become dull after a few months spent swimming through it .

The powerhouses had started to cultivate there, and they had immediately noticed that the purity of the "Breath" benefitted them .

The absorption of the "Breath" inside the matter was faster and smoother there . They didn't feel any lack of energy even when they all cultivated at the same time .

That was unthinkable for a lower plane . After all, there were thirteen rank 6 cultivators of various stages there!

Noah felt the same benefits . His dantian reached the limits of the fifth rank and continued to accumulate darkness during his cultivation sessions .

His breakthrough would usually start once he reached that stage, but Noah's dantian didn't advance . It wanted something more than a large amount of energy to move to the next rank .

"This way," King Elbas said again at some point . The heat had become more intense as they proceeded toward the plane's center, and the radiations of the magma had started to affect even the powerhouses' minds .

The weaker among them lost their tracks from time to time . They became unable to sense those around them and wandered away from the group .

King Elbas had to use his mental waves to reclaim their attention, and he didn't care if those about to lose themselves belonged to an enemy organization .

The phenomenon affected mostly True Speed and Elder Paul since their minds were the weakest of the group . God's Left Hand and Great Elder Diana weren't in the position to pay attention to them, but King Elbas took care of the issue .

Noah felt strangely unaffected by those radiations . He could sense the pressure trying to force his consciousness backward, but his mental waves appeared able to cut right through it .

He had initially thought that his mental waves' sharp features countered the yellow magma's natural pressure . Still, that hypothesis lost any sense when even Great Elder Diana was about to stray away from the group .

A simple feature couldn't compare with raw power . Great Elder Diana's consciousness was far stronger than Noah's, so his resistance to the radiations had to come from something else .

The only remaining possibility was that his superior species didn't suffer from the restrictions of that place . His mental waves were different in the end, and they didn't belong to any type of creature .

'Am I alone in this species?' Noah questioned himself .

He had thought the same with his hybrid state before the events in the other world . Yet, he felt that there had to be someone similar to him in the planes blessed with the "Breath" .

However, it seemed that the world wasn't ready for his kind . He didn't know if it was the same for Heaven and Earth, but he had no way to verify it .

Noah didn't reveal his advantage to anyone, but he didn't pretend to lose his tracks either . The other experts were too busy minding their safety to pay attention to him anyway .

The only one who could notice that was King Elbas, but Noah made sure to remain at the end of the group even if everyone tried to stay close .

"This way," King Elbas said again . The group had swum in the yellow magma for more than a year, but nothing had changed there .

They had to advance slowly due to the restrictions on their mental waves, but they had still traveled for a long time already . The pure "Breath" was a pleasant discovery, but they had yet to find something that justified such a long mobilization .

Impatience inevitably built inside the various experts, but no one dared to give voice to that feeling . Even if they didn't want to admit it, none of them could return to the red magma without King Elbas .

The yellow environment finally showed a change . Noah and those who could keep their eyes open saw a dark spot in the distance that disrupted the scene's uniformity .

King Elbas moved toward it while using his consciousness to send signals to the others, and the group quickly became able to inspect that strange entity .

The dark spot was a land that floated among the yellow magma . It had an uneven shape, and it appeared quite vast . Noah guessed that it was as large as a region, but he couldn't be sure since the pressure had begun to affect him too there .

A black metal made its ground . That material enhanced the natural radiations of the magma and created an environment where thoughts couldn't survive .

Chapter 1118: 1118

"What is this land?" Great Elder Diana asked . "How many more guardians do we have to face?"

Her patience had reached its limits after swimming through the magma for years . The last part had been even worse since she hadn't been able to use her power as she wished .

Noah could feel part of that annoyance now that he floated next to that black metal . Having the range of his consciousness restricted made him virtually blind in that foreign environment .

He guessed that the suppression would be even stronger once deep inside the region . For the first time since the beginning of the mission, Noah thought that his level wasn't suitable for that journey .

King Elbas glanced at the group still floating in the magma . Runes shone in his eyes, and his expression didn't carry his usual arrogance .

The Royal heaved a sigh before replying . "Nothing can live here, and the same matter tries to force you away . There are only three more guardians, but there are no words to describe the last two . "

Both the Royal and the Matriarch had boosted their voice with their "Breath" to speak . Their mental waves couldn't reach their companion, so they had to spread vibrations through the magma to speak .

"The third guardian is the land itself," King Elbas said as he tapped his foot on the metal . "We must walk in these conditions until we reach the very center of the plane . The journey will be rather peculiar . "

No sound came out of the metal when King Elbas tapped on it, and no mark appeared on its surface . Still, there was something off with that material . It lacked any aura .

It would typically be impossible for anything to survive in that environment to be devoid of aura or halo . Yet, the metal appeared empty of any quality .

'It's not the metal,' Noah thought after seeing that . The magma's radiations became more intense when they touched the region, but the land didn't do anything to make that happen .

Noah's curiosity eventually made him separate from the group and reached King Elbas on the landmass . His mind trembled slightly when his feet touched the metal, and the environment appeared different there .

It was a strange feeling to describe . Noah felt as if his existence spread through the ground and expanded . The sensation was extremely addicting since his growth lost any limit once in contact with the metal .

Noah's survival instincts kicked in at that point . His dark star spun faster than ever to restore his focus and make him jump to leave the ground .

Once his connection with the metal broke, Noah found himself inside the yellow magma again . He was far above the landmass, and the group of experts stared at him with a curious expression .

On the other hand, Noah found his dantian partially drained . His cultivation level didn't regress, but a chunk of his darkness had disappeared .

'What was that?' Noah thought before slowly descending again toward the landmass .

The feeling that had invaded his mind was as captivating as an illusion, but he knew that it had been real . His existence had really spread, but he wasn't in control of the process .

Noah hesitated a bit before placing his foot back on the metal . The strange feeling returned, and his focus wavered in the incredible sensation of his expanding existence .

However, he forced his mind to remain focused, and the feeling slowly disappeared as he kept his individuality in check . If he didn't lose himself, the ground didn't absorb his darkness .

"You sure are full of surprises," King Elbas said under the attentive gaze of the rest of the group . His praise toward Noah was honest, and it even carried a trace of admiration .

Then, a smile appeared on his face as he questioned Noah . "They are quite captivating, aren't they?"

Noah was still quite confused about everything that had happened, but the Royal's words confirmed one of the many hypotheses that had appeared in his mind .

"Are these raw laws?" Noah asked . The metal behaved in line with what he knew about that resource . The process only appeared to happen in reverse .

According to what he knew, the raw laws had to flow inside cultivators and fuse with their existence . Instead, the ground applied the opposite effect . It absorbed individualities to fuse them with its fabric .

"Sort of," King Elbas replied . "I think they are close to their pure form . These are raw laws to obtain meanings . They don't have a clear state yet, but the world has already tasked them to become something . "

Noah nodded as he crouched to study the ground . The surface was uneven, and there were various cracks across it . Yet, he couldn't rip a piece of that metal even with his physical strength .

"I guess they are still in this form because the world doesn't need more yellow magma now," Noah said, and King Elbas nodded in agreement .

The land acted as a reserve of laws ready to refill the yellow magma, and Noah even guessed that it could turn into other materials . Everything depended on the true meaning that it absorbed .

'Such a ductile material,' Noah thought as disappointment surged inside his mind . 'This can turn into anything, but I can't even seize a small piece . '

"I call it Royal Metal," King Elbas continued . "I wonder what will happen if it manages to absorb an entire individuality . It's regretful that no slave can ever reach this place . "

The Royal wanted to study the various features of the landmass, but its peculiar environment made any research impossible . Mental waves couldn't survive outside of mental spheres there . It was needless even to consider the functioning of inscribed items needed for the study .

The other cultivators slowly gathered their courage and approached the landmass . The Demons were the first to step forward, and the rest followed right after them .

The same backlash that had hit Noah struck them, but their protective inscribed items activated and preserved their individualities . The only ones to struggle even after that were True Speed and Elder Paul .

King Elbas looked at the two young powerhouses with a blank expression . He didn't want to reveal his thoughts, but the other experts could vaguely understand them since they felt in the same way .

True Speed and Elder Paul appeared too weak for that environment . Their battle prowess was above average, but their individualities seemed too frail to reach the end of the mission .

Still, they couldn't go back now . Only King Elbas and Noah could move freely inside the yellow magma, but none of them would ever decide to escort them back to the red sea .

God's Left Hand and Great Elder Diana intervened when they noticed how bad their underlings' situation was . Inscribed items came out, and some of their "Breath" seeped inside them to protect their centers of power .

True Speed and Elder Paul's condition stabilized after that . They even became able to see, but they couldn't express their true prowess due to their leaders' restrictions .

"What's the fourth guardian?" Noah asked while he waited for everyone to become used to the landmass .

"We will need to fight," King Elbas answered and didn't reveal much more . Still, that piece of information was enough to bring some tension among the group .

Noah was relatively okay, but the other experts were only cultivators . Fighting without spreading their minds would be hard, and spells might even not work at all because of the restrictions .

The group eventually started to move again . The experts walked, but they only took a few months to find what King Elbas had said .

The ground began to morph in front of them, and strange metallic shapes rose to stop their path . They didn't seem intentioned to charge at the group, but they didn't feel harmless either .

Chapter 1119: 1119

He didn't recognize some meanings, and the most complicated shapes even had more than one of them . Still, they all felt incomplete .

Moreover, all the shapes shared a faint hunger . That was the representation of what King Elbas had said before . Those were raw laws with the purpose of finding a meaning .

"Will they attack?" Chasing Demon asked as he blinked his heavy eyes . A thin rocky layer covered his eyelids to protect them, but the continuous use of that ability made them tired .

"Only once they feel your individualities," King Elbas answered . "We can't avoid them . I've tried and failed already . "

The battle was mandatory, but the experts quickly overcame their hesitation . That was better than spending more years swimming aimlessly through the magma .

King Elbas waited for everyone to prepare proper offensive methods before walking toward the shapes together with the rest of the group .

Noah was the only one who didn't take any inscribed item or special protection, but he probably was the most at ease in that situation .

Since mental waves could barely exist in the open, Noah was the only one who could express most of his battle prowess without relying on inscribed items .

The same went for True Speed, even if he had other issues . His mind was too weak for that land, and he had to keep part of his attention on not losing his individuality .

Of course, the Royals wouldn't have any problem there either since their creations covered every field of the cultivation journey . As for the others, Noah couldn't be sure .

The group didn't fight together . Powerhouses were usually independent, and those there represented four different organizations .

Many would like to see some of their allies fail to move past the army of strange shapes . The only one who was remotely crucial in everyone's eyes was King Elbas, but his companions only worried about not losing his tracks .

Noah felt at home in that situation . The smell of betrayal lingered among them, and everyone watched their back in fear of a sudden backstab .

That was his environment . His time as a human cultivator wasn't any different from that situation . The stakes and his power had only increased in ways that very few could define .

King Elbas was the first to clash with one of the shapes . The others had to be close to witness his battle, but they remained a bit behind to see how those types of fights unfolded .

The Royal wielded a yellow spear that disappeared inside the magma as he waved it at a construct that was half humanoid and half spiked mass .

The figure destabilized as King Elbas' individuality affected its internal structure . The laws exuded by the Royal made the shape grow until it became too unstable to remain in one piece .

King Elbas' opponent crumbled right after becoming seven meters tall . The pieces of black metal fused with the landmass when they landed on the ground, and no more shapes formed in that spot .

The two Princes and one Princess decided to imitate their Father . They picked three different shapes and waved fire-resistant inscribed weapons at them .

Their weapons couldn't pierce their metal, but their arrogance surged when they established that contact, and the forms grew before crumbling a few seconds later .

King Elbas inspected his underling's battles . Second Prince's opponent had become six meters tall before falling apart, while the other two Royals had only managed to push the shape's height to five meters before they crumbled .

Noah felt that he understood something watching their battles . The meanings carried by the three's individualities were complete, but their intensity determined the height that the shapes would reach .

King Elbas nodded at Second Prince before choosing another opponent . He completely ignored First Prince and First Princess, who could only reveal ugly expressions before throwing themselves into another battle .

The other experts gained some confidence after seeing the trio succeeding in defeating those beings at their first try, and they picked opponents to test themselves .

Everyone obtained different results according to the meaning that they poured into the shapes .

Chasing Demon's opponents multiplied and gained humanoid features before falling lifeless on the ground and fusing back with the landmass . Great Elder Diana's meaning made them shrink until they were nothing more than small puppets .

Elder Julia turned them invisible, Flying Demon's influence stopped their movements, and Dreaming Demon's shapes transformed into copies of her before crumbling .

Elder Regina's opponents transformed into different creatures before falling apart . Everyone was quite successful at the task, but some struggled at that .

Elder Paul's puppet didn't fuse back to the landmass even if it absorbed his meaning . Bulging masses appeared on its already strange body, but it remained intact as it chased after the Elder .

True Speed was the same, but he had quickly found a solution to the issue . His meaning made the shape tremble and blur without succeeding in killing it . Still, he kicked it repeatedly until he could go past it .

Instead, Elder Paul felt troubled . The ugly shape followed him, and he had no real way to fend it off . The construct eventually touched him, and his complexion paled as he felt his individuality slipping away to fuse with the form .

The Elder screamed, but there was a limit to how much his companions could hear in that situation . Moreover, they had their battles to handle, so they ignored the vibrations spreading through the magma .

Only Noah saw the scene and decided to test himself on that horrid thing . He reappeared on the side of the shape and placed his hand on it as he poured his ambition .

What followed startled everyone on the scene and gathered the attention on him .

Noah wanted to test himself . Saving Elder Paul was a favor that Council would surely repay once returned to the surface . Yet, he didn't expect the shape to have a violent reaction .

The construct didn't change form when Noah poured his ambition . It directly exploded with violence that created an area devoid of yellow magma for a few seconds!

Even the radiations suppressing the mental waves went away in those instants . It seemed that Noah's ambition was too much for those shapes to handle!

Elder Paul's defensive item had activated to protect him from the explosion, and Noah's robe did the same . His clothes didn't have great overall defenses, but they endured that detonation .

The Elder quickly stood up and remained close to Noah . He had understood that he couldn't deal with those shapes, so he would follow Noah for that part of the mission .

Noah began to charge at every puppet that he found . His simple touch was enough to set off loud explosions that created empty areas .

True Speed eventually joined Noah too . His kicking tactic had worked for some time, but the shapes had surrounded him at some point, and he had luckily escaped that encirclement before it was too late .

Everything went well for a few days . The group made their way through the army without encountering any difficulty, and even King Elbas thought that they would be fine if they continued like that .

The four guardians had never truly threatened the group because King Elbas had taken care of leading the experts and showing them how to deal with each hindrance .

His first voyage cost him countless resources and investigative items invested in uncovering the path through the magma and the forms' weakness .

Nevertheless, that land could still surprise him . On the fifth day of peaceful and safe destruction of the forms, a massive mountain rose from the ground and took the shape of a humanoid giant .

The giant radiated the meaning that King Elbas and the others had poured inside the previous forms, but it didn't contain Noah's ambition .

As if wanting to announce that it was different from its smaller companions, the shape slammed its massive fists on a spot among the surprised group .

Chapter 1120 1120. Meaning

"What now?" Great Elder Diana shouted while she dodged the giant's attack. The other powerhouses jumped away too, but they all turned their heads toward the only expert that could know more about that situation.

King Elbas stared at the giant while he retreated. That sudden event had surprised him, but he couldn't hide his curiosity when inspecting that peculiar shape.

The giant was more than seventy meters tall. It had two long arms and humanoid features, but the meanings brimming inside its structure modified its shape after its attack.

More heads appeared on its large neck, and limbs grew from its torso before becoming invisible. Ice spread from its feet, and a dense aura covered its entire figure.

A snake-like tail came out of its back, and violent winds blew from the creature's horrid mouth. Also, it continued to grow. Its size increased due to the Royal's arrogance.

Sharp spikes sputtered from its hands as the giant took a step forward. The ice that spread under it couldn't go far due to the yellow magma, but it still survived enough to prevent anyone from nearing the creature.

The giant slammed its fists on the ground again and forced the cultivators to retreat further. The invisible limbs widened the impact area, but the experts didn't forget them when performing their evasive maneuvers.

However, they didn't expect a storm of spikes to come out of its hands. Those sharp objects flew toward the cultivators' heads with a precision that forced them to rely on defensive items to block the attack.

The group had split into small teams due to the giant's offensive. Everyone had done their best to remain near King Elbas, but they had separated anyway to dodge.

Noah was with Elder Paul and True Speed when the storm of spikes arrived. The two experts revealed themselves useful since they activated a few talismans, but some sharp metal crossed the defenses anyway.

True Speed saw a spike crossing the barrage of lightning bolts that had come out of his talisman and aiming directly for his left eye. Yet, Noah promptly grabbed it and waved his other hand to take care of the other trespassers.

A thick black slash came out of his hand and fended off every spike that had surpassed the experts' defenses. The two cultivators shot grateful looks at him, but their expression froze when they saw Noah shooting forward to store all the pieces of Royal Metal that had yet to fuse with the ground.

Noah couldn't let go of that chance. The giant had divided the Metal for him, and he would appease his greed until King Elbas' instructions arrived.

'They still explode at my ambition,' Noah thought as one spike detonated when he poured his meaning inside it. He was analyzing the phenomenon too, but he didn't have enough data to find a solution.

Currents began to form as the giant launched attack after attack. Its snake-like tail even joined the offensive and spewed raging winds from its mouth.

Pressure built on the group's mental spheres. Walking in that environment was hard in calm conditions already, but the giant's actions had worsened the situation.

The currents threatened to fling some of the experts away, and that outcome would be fatal for many of them. They couldn't expand their consciousness in that environment, and their vision only had a range of a few hundred meters.

Getting too far away from the group could become a death sentence!

"These raw laws are desperate for meanings!" King Elbas shouted once he managed to suppress his curiosity to focus on taking care of the giant. "We need an intense meaning to fill all this Metal."

King Elbas stepped forward after his explanation ended, and his three underlings placed themselves at his sides in a defensive stance.

A few inscribed items appeared in the Royals' hands. Golden shields featuring fire-resistant runes covered the team from the Elbas family as they prepared the assault.

The other powerhouses immediately understood what they wanted to do. King Elbas wanted to pour his meaning in the giant, but he needed the protection of his underling to complete the task.

The experts shot toward him and deployed their defensive measures too. Puppets, barrages of wind-slashes, and a thick array of lightning bolts appeared around King Elbas as he waited for the giant to act.

Noah, Elder Paul, and True Speed had rejoined the group too. Yet, they limited themselves to stand there since they didn't have powerful defensive items like their companions.

True Speed and Noah could still take care of some direct blow with their bodies, so they waited to see if the situation required their help.

The group organized the counterattack before the giant could launch its next offensive. Everyone in that mission had lived through many dangerous experiences. They had reacted in less than an instant.

The giant slammed its fists again, and the magma raged as its massive body moved. The cultivators could see the yellow sea's wrath from inside the defenses, but no tremor spread on the landmass even after the limbs landed.

The landmass didn't budge at all. There was a battle among beings at the peak of the heroic ranks on its surface, but nothing seemed able to affect its stability.

King Elbas exited the defenses right after the snake-like tail, and the spikes crashed on them. His path toward the chest of the giant was devoid of any danger, and he managed to reach it with a single leap.

The Royal's spear touched the giant's chest, and his arrogance flowed inside the Metal that made its structure. The puppet started to grow, but its form remained stable even after it became more than three hundred meters tall.

King Elbas had to push himself away from the giant since its fists were coming toward him. The expert managed to swim past them and regroup with the others, but his inscribed weapon fell prey to the invisible limbs.

"What have you done?!" Great Elder Diana complained when King Elbas returned inside the protections.

The experts couldn't see the giant's heads anymore since it had become too tall. Their vision could only reach the end of its torso and understand that more attacks were about to fall on them.

"It seems that my meaning can't fill the whole being," King Elbas answered calmly, but the others in the group could only glance at him in disbelief.

The Royal didn't only fail in his task. He had made it far worse!

The group was directly under the puppet, and they would have been able to escape if its size had remained the same. However, now it was too big. They didn't have enough time between one offensive and the other to get out of its range.

"You just killed us!" God's Left Hand shouted, and winds blew from her figure. She wouldn't die without putting up a fight, but she was too angry to remember that King Elbas was her ally right now.

Helplessness spread among the group, but Noah removed any restriction on its aura at that point. The radiations in the area struggled to suppress it, but everyone around him could sense his core meaning.

The group's eyes went on him, and they felt amazed when they came in contact with his ambition. Cultivators would usually have mental protections to hide the true nature of their existence, but Noah was showing everything there.

The experts caught a glimpse of what Noah felt every day. They sensed his boundless ambition and his unshakable resolve in his journey toward the stars.

That emotion couldn't vanish with time. Nothing could suppress it as long as Noah lived. It was a fire that fueled everything inside his individuality and forced him to seize anything that came in his way.

"Is this enough?" Noah asked in a plain tone while looking at King Elbas.

The Royal couldn't hide his surprise when he sensed that ambition, but he didn't answer. Instead, he deployed a massive golden shield that covered a two hundred meters large area.

That was his silent answer to Noah's question. King Elbas would take care of defending him while he swam toward the giant.

The Royal's gesture was a signal that made the others return to their battle position. Everyone deployed more defenses as they opened a path where Noah could pass.