

DEMONIC 1141

Chapter 1141 1141. Flaw

Noah knew the differences among stages and ranks far too well. After all, his greatest weakness was his lack of darkness in the sixth rank.

When Noah saw King Elbas bursting with incredible power, he immediately knew what had happened. The Royal had thrown away his "Breath" to make his centers of power run only on higher energy.

The transformation would generally need a long period of seclusion and invasive drugs to take effect, but King Elbas had completed it in a matter of instants.

It was as if his centers of power were ready for that moment. King Elbas only needed to set his mind for his entire being to transform.

The golden flames illuminated the void and spread around King Elbas. They didn't create a fiery sea, but they covered his figure, creating innate protections against any enemy attack.

The experts spread around the battlefield pressed on with their offensive. They didn't care that their centers of power were nearing a critical state. The only thing that mattered was that King Elbas couldn't leave that area alive.

Various attacks flew toward the Royal. Lighting bolts, dense gales, storms of ice-shards, puppets, and wind-slashes flew toward him. Yet, those spells could only burn when they touched the golden flames.

King Elbas' fire had changed. Even his previous golden flames couldn't destroy the enemy spells so quickly. Their overall destructiveness had increased in ways that the experts couldn't understand.

Chasing Demon didn't let King Elbas' new technique scare him. The titan swung his fists toward the Royal and clashed with the fire without showing any hesitation.

King Elbas didn't dodge. A golden flare spread through the void as both massive fists landed on his figure. A shining radiance filled the environment, and the result of that clash shocked everyone once the light dimmed.

The fists had clashed with the flames, but they didn't manage to close on King Elbas. His golden fire was so dense that even a divine item couldn't break through it with its sheer power.

Chasing Demon inspected the scene without revealing any emotion. However, those who knew him well could see the amazement in his eyes.

The Hive's leader had relied on a secret art to push his cultivation level to the liquid stage. That was the only way to unleash more of the titan's power.

Still, King Elbas' new form could block the titan's blow without relying on any particular technique or inscribed item. The golden flames had reached a level that ignored the widespread labels of the cultivation world.

The flames appeared incredibly strong, but their power was still in the solid stage of the sixth rank. The fact that they had blocked the titan's attack didn't make any sense for those who didn't know about the higher energy's unfathomable prowess.

Even Noah felt shocked about that outcome. The higher energy's power was exponential, and it increased by leaps and bounds along with the "Breath" level.

The golden flames had surpassed even his expectations. Stopping the titan's blow with their sheer power was something that no one would ever think to be possible.

Noah felt some helplessness watching that scene, but his ambition surged too. Seeing that the higher energy could have such might pushed him to focus his whole being on completing the last step needed for his breakthrough.

The lines of the Divine Deduction techniques illuminated the insides of Noah's mind as they consumed his mental energy. His dark star began to spin faster as his whole existence focused on overcoming the bottleneck that kept him stuck in the fifth rank.

Noah was flying on the edges of the battlefield when he saw the power of King Elbas' flames. He had continued to absorb any raw law in the environment while watching the main battle, and he had intervened without stopping his looting.

The sight of such prowess made him lose himself inside his ambition. Noah desired power so badly that his entire existence was trying to push his level to the next stage.

He didn't have any clue on how to complete his project with the dark matter. The light element was too distant from his existence, so he even lacked a starting point in that matter.

However, his mind had reached a state that benefited any enlightenment dawning upon him. His existence had become ready to advance. Noah only needed the trigger for the breakthrough now.

King Elbas laughed when he saw his flames stopping the fists. His aura surged as his arrogance reached its peak.

He had managed to stop a divine item without the help of inscribed weapons or secret arts. There were virtually no superior achievements that he could accomplish while in the heroic ranks.

His cultivation level increased on its own. King Elbas' advanced inside the solid stage without absorbing any energy from the environment. His individuality was striving for the status of law right in front of his enemies.

Chasing Demon couldn't let him continue. Allowing King Elbas to improve was foolish, and he didn't have much time left anyway.

The titan roared, and thick shockwaves spread through the battlefield. King Elbas' flames endured them, but Chasing Demon's attack had only begun.

An army of puppets came out of the dark-red massive figure. Chasing Demon spat a mouthful of blood as the clay-like material that made the titan began to morph.

One of the titan's arms transformed into a long hammer that the puppet grabbed with its free limb. Chasing Demon's right arm exploded as the giant ripped off the weapon to swing it toward the Royal.

King Elbas had to suppress his arrogance when he saw the hammer swinging in his direction. The dangerous sensation that he had felt at that sight forced him to focus on the battle.

A series of spears took form among the golden flames that surrounded his body. They shot toward the hammer and exploded into a violent surge of energy that slowed down the weapon.

The hammer continued in its trajectory even if it had lost part of its power, but King Elbas could stop it with its flames at that point.

'Strange,' Noah thought as he watched the battlefield. 'He should be able to push the titan away if he used techniques fueled on his higher energy.'

Noah could see details that others missed due to their lack of knowledge about higher energy.

He had created Snore and Night's body with the dark matter. His runes also used higher energy as their core material, and the same went for the Elemental Forging method.

June had adapted some of her old spells to her black sparks too. She had it easy since her diagrams had already seen heavy modifications to match her Perfect Circuit, but that didn't mean that King Elbas could do the same.

The higher energy was different from the "Breath". Regular diagrams didn't work with it, and even the core ideas behind those techniques couldn't fit the incredible power contained in it.

King Elbas had managed to fuel his centers of power with higher energy, but he had yet to use specific spells or techniques that relied on it. He was only controlling his golden flames with his mental waves, which was similar to what Noah did with his other elements.

'This might be his limit,' Noah thought as coldness filled his mind. His centers of power were full since he continued to absorb raw laws, so he could use the Divine Deduction technique without minding his mental sea.

He suddenly stopped flying around the battlefield, and his hand slashed the void. A black line appeared in front of him and created a portal where he slashed again before pouring dark matter.

King Elbas was using his golden flames to destroy the army of puppets when a black line appeared next to him. A wave of dark fire came out of it, and ice soon followed it.

A series of sharp rocky weapons came after them, and violent gales blew after those attacks. Darkness spread among King Elbas, but his flames barely felt any pressure. They were too strong to suffer from those attacks.

Chapter 1142 1142. Nuisance

The portal didn't close until a series of thick lightning bolts came out of it. They crashed on King Elbas' figure before burning together with any other trace of dark matter.

King Elbas barely noticed Noah's elemental attacks. They weren't any different from the experts' offensive, so he didn't pay much attention to them.

The puppets born from the titan began to detonate right after Noah's offensive. They covered King Elbas with sharp rocky shards and intense surges of energy, but the golden flames blocked everything.

A moment of peace followed the explosions. King Elbas wore an arrogant smile when he saw that his injuries had completely healed, but his expression froze when a new cut appeared on his cheek.

The event surprised everyone on the scene. The flames didn't lose against any attack, but some energy had pierced them anyway. Even King Elbas had to ponder over the matter to explain how that had happened.

"He can't use any spell with his new energy," Noah suddenly conveyed with his consciousness, and everyone on the battlefield heard his message. "His flames still belong to the fire element. They share the same innate flaws of that aptitude."

Cultivators used spells to change the nature of their elements and made them unleash different effects. Water could pierce flames in the form of ice, and the same went for other aptitudes.

Noah had the same problem with his higher energy. The dark matter didn't want to become light no matter how hard he tried. King Elbas had to suffer from the same weakness since he couldn't use spells to make up for the flames' innate flaws.

That piece of information wouldn't usually help to defeat King Elbas. The sheer power carried by his flames was enough to fend off any attack that came at him.

However, eight powerhouses were attacking him non-stop, and Noah launched causal blows whenever he found the right opportunity.

Flames didn't have an exceptional defense in their raw form. They were violent and intense, but they couldn't offer much protection unless cultivators used them with a suitable spell or technique.

King Elbas' flames had to deal with different types of attacks, but they never changed form to deal with them most efficiently. Their structure slowly became more unstable during the assault, but the experts' attacks couldn't reveal their flaws due to their lack of power.

Still, Noah had launched a varied offensive. The dark matter that made his elemental attacks weakened the flame's structure and allowed Chasing Demon's puppets to inflict some damage on the Royal.

King Elbas didn't have to worry about that small cut, but Noah's actions had revealed a crucial weakness in his current status.

The Royals' leader had obtained enough power to fend off the titan by giving up on his "Breath", but he had sacrificed his variety in terms of spells by doing that.

Moreover, he had used many inscribed items to defend against the titan in the early stages of the battle. King Elbas was able to unleash more power than ever in his current condition, but he also had more evident disadvantages.

The experts instantly understood the meaning behind Noah's message. Anything that could give them hope was well accepted in that battle, and Noah had just provided them with significant insights into their enemy's power.

All of them had many spells in their arsenal. They rarely used the majority of them since they couldn't express their individuality to their fullest, but that didn't matter in that situation.

Their attacks couldn't defeat the flames anyway. It was better to use specific spells to destabilize King Elbas' higher energy and open a path where Chasing Demon could strike.

King Elbas had to admit that he didn't think about that flaw in the chaos of the battle. Resorting to the higher energy had been the right call, but that had turned him into nothing more than a solid stage powerhouse.

He wasn't a resourceful leader anymore. The higher energy had made him a target that had an evident weakness to exploit.

King Elbas didn't blame himself. That chaotic battle would lead anyone to commit mistakes. Instead, his hatred focused on Noah.

The two of them respected each other, but they were their worst enemy in that situation. Noah's knowledge of the higher energy made him the greatest obstacle in his plan.

The experts changed their approach. They launched spells and attacks that aimed to destabilize the golden flames.

They didn't know how stronger the higher energy was than the average "Breath", so they could only rely on their knowledge of the elements to give Chasing Demon a chance.

True Speed had a limited variety in his battle style, but his companions didn't suffer from his hybrid status' restrictions. They could use everything they had memorized in their life.

Great Elder Diana took out her lenses again, and they arranged themselves in a line. Her lightning bolts lost part of their precision when they passed through the layers of black glass, but their power skyrocketed in the process.

God's Left Hand folded her fan and swung it to launch dense winds at King Elbas. The Demons gave up on spreading Flying Demon's flowers and focused everything they had on creating a storm of ice-shards.

Elder Julia amassed her wind-slashes to create a few dense weapons that contained all her power. Elder Regina did something similar by fusing her puppets to summon three large snakes that flew toward the Royals.

Since flames were weak when it came to defending, the experts condensed their attacks to destabilize a few areas around King Elbas.

The Royals' leader blocked all the attacks without even bothering to look at them, but a few cuts appeared on his body when the remaining puppets sieging him detonated.

The energy released in the explosion managed to pass through those destabilized areas and inflict some superficial wounds. That wasn't much, but it was better than being powerless against King Elbas' power.

King Elbas' flames blocked the titan's fists once again, but the Royal had long since abandoned his smile. His enemies were wounding him. There was nothing to be proud of in that situation.

Another problem appeared as more exchanges followed. King Elbas had to burn himself to create higher energy, so his condition weakened as the battle continued.

The Royal had drugs that could provide an instant regeneration, but that didn't fix the issue. It would be better to rely on the surge of energy generated by the raw laws to heal.

However, when King Elbas focused on the battlefield's edges again, he noticed that almost every trace of white light had disappeared.

A face appeared in his mind at that sight. He knew the culprit behind that event, and his anger surged when he saw him flying toward the few remaining raw laws in the area.

King Elbas almost didn't believe what he was about to do, but he wanted to take care of that nuisance. A wave of golden flames came out of his feet, and the Royal ignored everything coming at him as he flew toward his new target.

Noah had never stopped collecting raw laws during the battle, and his flight was so peaceful that he could always keep his attention on the fight.

His body had improved a lot after absorbing those raw laws. Noah had begun to near the peak of the lower tier when he saw King Elbas flying at high speed toward him.

Noah felt an instinctive fear at that sight. The strongest expert in the world had abandoned his battle to take care of him!

Yet, King Elbas wasn't too fast. His lack of spells made him rely on his bare flames' propulsion to accelerate, and that gave Noah enough time to deploy his movement technique.

King Elbas found nothing more than a human-shaped crack dug inside the void when he reached Noah's previous position, but he didn't give up on catching him just yet.

Chapter 1143 1143. Maker

Noah escaped without even looking at his companions since he knew that they had no hope of catching up with King Elbas. Even his movement technique wasn't enough to match the acceleration created by the golden flames.

Noah's only hope was to reach the titan before the Royal could find him.

That was only a faint hope. King Elbas appeared able to follow Noah's movements while he was inside his dimension, and he didn't stop his chase for even a second.

Violent tongues of flames came out of the Royal's feet as he shot through the void. Noah's senses were far from perfect while he used his movement technique, but he could feel the immense dangerous sensation that his pursuer caused inside his mind.

Chasing Demon and the other experts had reacted to King Elbas' attack quickly. They had all begun to move toward him without giving up on their safe spots.

It would be pointless to save Noah while dying in the task. Chasing Demon was the only one that kept on flying, disregarding his safety.

Chasing Demon was about to lose his centers of power anyway. He would rather die saving the future leader of the Hive than survive as a maimed cultivator.

The fact that King Elbas had left the battlefield to chase Noah worsened the experts' overall situation. Chasing Demon would soon run out of fuel for his secret art, and their hopes would vanish at that moment.

King Elbas couldn't escape from the battle to deploy that tactic before. All his arrogance would be pointless if he couldn't deal with a gaseous stage powerhouse that had relied on a secret art.

Yet, Noah had given King Elbas an excuse to make Chasing Demon waste time. Noah had only himself to blame for that turn of events.

Noah exited from his dimension only to create another human-shaped crack. He couldn't stop for even a second with King Elbas following him, but the situation didn't look good for him.

King Elbas was too fast, and he had to take a long path to gather with the experts without meeting him. Crossing him was also out of the question since Noah knew that he couldn't dodge any of his abilities.

His mind understood that before Noah could even turn those instincts into thoughts. He wasn't fast enough to regroup with the others before King Elbas reached him.

The Divine Deduction technique was still active, and his dark star redirected all his energy toward his mental faculties. Noah was at his mental peak in that situation, but he couldn't think of any way to survive.

'Dammit!' Noah cursed as he continued to fly. 'Is this the end?'

Noah felt doomed. Nothing among his techniques and spells could help him survive that chase. King Elbas would reach him and kill him without any doubt.

The Demonic Sword, Snore, and Night felt his desperation. They were too close to his mind not to sense that intense emotion.

The Blood Companion and the living weapon remained silent. They knew that Noah needed to focus on finding a solution. Yet, Night wasn't as polite as his other assets.

"Why don't you just kill that shiny eyesore?" Night complained as if there was nothing wrong with what it said. "Go and kill him. Shut his light forever."

Noah heard those words inside his mind, and he couldn't believe how delusional the Pterodactyl could be.

"How can I even kill him?" Noah asked. "You are just a talking head in my ring, and I have nothing that can stop him. We are dead."

That was the truth. Noah had reviewed everything he had and could wield, but nothing could help him survive.

"Are you giving up?" Night asked, and Noah could only sigh at that question.

He had one last move available, but doing that would remove even luck from his chances. Still, Noah had never relied on luck in his life. His determination and ruthlessness were the only things that had made him reach his current peak.

The experts were flying while keeping an eye on King Elbas' movements, but they felt shocked when they saw Noah coming out of his dimension and stopping in the void.

He didn't escape. Noah turned toward his incoming opponent and released dark matter as he watched the Royal become closer.

Noah knew that his current spells couldn't save him. So, he decided to bet everything on his dark matter and the power it could release once he completed that path.

That was a gamble, but Noah had nothing to lose. He was dead anyway. He would use the danger caused by King Elbas to push his power forward at least.

The dark matter took the shape of the elements that Noah had managed to copy, and he tried to force the creation of light while his eyes remained on King Elbas.

The dark star spun faster than ever, and its rotation speed continued to increase as it tried to push Noah toward his survival.

The dark matter began to flicker, and surges of energy caused small flashes of light that went dim after a few seconds.

Noah couldn't keep the dark matter shining for long, and something told him that he wasn't executing the right approach. Making his higher energy sparkle wasn't the same as recreating the light element.

"What are you even doing?!" Night complained again when it saw the light coming from the dark matter.

The Demonic Sword and Snore roared and hissed at the Pterodactyl through their mental connection. They wanted it to shut up while Noah was in that dire situation.

Yet, Night didn't care about them and continued to complain. "Why are you forcing that wonderful darkness to shine?!"

Noah felt annoyed after his higher energy went dark. All the other elements were in front of him, but the light didn't want to form.

The Pterodactyl then made him even more irritated during those anxious moments, and Noah couldn't help but answer him to vent. "I need light, you stupid creature! The world has light as one of its core elements, and I need it to make my own."

Noah was about to make one last attempt before King Elbas reached him, but Night spoke again and disturbed his concentration. "Aren't you the creator? Can't you make a world without light?"

Noah was about to scold it again, but something inside him broke at its words. It was as if a veil disappeared from his mind and revealed to him the truth behind that matter.

'Have I ever needed the light element?' Noah questioned himself.

It had felt natural to attempt to copy all the elements after he had managed to reproduce the Heaven Tribulation's lightning. Noah wanted to create a world in the end, so he had to imitate the harmony around him.

However, Night was right. He was the maker. He could make any rule and harmony he wanted without limiting himself to the simple imitation.

Heaven and Earth had chosen to use seven elements to create the world, but Noah could make his with six. No one could stop him nor point out flaws in that project.

'Did my ambition blind me?' Noah thought as the dark matter in front of him began to transform.

Noah's ambition was boundless, so he had desired to complete his copy of the elements before attempting anything different in that field. He was so focused on taking everything that he couldn't see how he had never needed the light element in the first place.

King Elbas saw the changes happening in front of Noah while he flew toward him. The dark matter had taken the form of six elements, but they suddenly began to fuse.

The dark matter then expanded and enveloped Noah's figure in a thick cloud made of higher energy. King Elbas didn't hesitate for even a second before shooting right into it.

King Elbas flew through the dark matter before noticing that something was off. The higher energy took peculiar shapes that he recognized, and he even saw a proper building at some point.

The Royal didn't know what Noah was creating, but he could sense him at the center of the cloud, so he never stopped his flight. However, his eyebrows arched when a rank 6 aura spread inside the darkness.

Chapter 1144 1144. Breakthrough

King Elbas flew across the mutating dark matter. The world around him changed as the rank 6 aura spread through it.

Various shapes formed as he moved toward the center of the cloud. Buildings appeared from time to time, and a large landmass formed at some point.

The dark matter inside those shapes was dense. It appeared to have a solid form, but the power that it contained wasn't superior to that inside the gaseous higher energy.

King Elbas understood that Noah was advancing to the sixth rank and that the breakthrough had triggered an evolution in his higher energy.

Noah had been like him just a few exchanges ago. He had used the higher energy only in its raw form or to empower some of his creations. However, he was now fueling a technique with it.

The dark matter never kept its solid form for too long. Intense tremors ran through the cloud and radiated a deep humming sound that echoed inside it.

King Elbas initially thought that the vibrations followed Noah's heartbeat rhythm, but he had to withdraw that hypothesis. The humming sound resembled a rotation of some sort, but the Royal couldn't understand the cause behind it.

The dark matter continued to transform. King Elbas even saw an entire town forming before crumbling into a wave of dense gas. His curiosity had long since peaked, but he didn't stop to study the area.

King Elbas reached the center of the cloud, and he found Noah floating among his dark matter. Dark gales flowed out of his chest and poured higher energy in the area, but Noah didn't seem to suffer from that.

The Royal stopped to analyze Noah. His curiosity eventually had the best of him, and his mental waves spread to study what was happening around him.

Noah released dark matter continuously and in immense quantity. The humming sounds echoed every time the dark star performed a rotation and poured higher energy into the environment.

The process didn't appear to be under Noah's control. He had his eyes closed as he floated among his dark matter, and the shapes that it took came from the depths of his subconscious.

King Elbas couldn't help himself. Noah's higher energy appeared as the perfect tool for a creator, and the Royal had an unstoppable desire to own it.

Still, his attention soon had to focus on something else. Noah's dantian had already reached the sixth rank by then, but its power grew every time he exuded higher energy.

Noah wasn't cultivating, but his dantian improved nonetheless. It was as if his organ had stored so much energy that it didn't need any external resource to grow.

King Elbas saw that the dark matter became unstable as Noah's cultivation level increased. A faint dangerous sensation appeared in his mind, and that forced him to suppress his curiosity.

He had no idea how Noah could threaten him, but he wouldn't ignore his instincts. He had chosen to go after the Demon Prince for a reason in the end. It was better to kill him before he became even more troublesome.

A tongue of golden flames gathered in his hand and took the shape of a long spear. King Elbas was about to launch it toward Noah, but the fire lost its form while he threw them.

King Elbas felt shocked. He had yet to create spells meant only for his higher energy, but that was a simple manipulation!

Flames gathered in his palm again, and another spear formed. However, the same thing happened. The weapon fell apart as he was about to throw it, and the golden fire dispersed inside the dark cloud.

King Elbas' curiosity returned at that sight. The best inscription master in the world couldn't condense his higher energy anymore, and he had to know the reason behind that shocking event.

"You might want to leave," Noah said as he opened his eyes. His focus went on his dark star, and he completely ignored the Royal as he studied the changes inside him.

His dantian had advanced in the sixth rank, and all the raw laws that he had absorbed showed themselves. They had always been inside his organ, waiting for it to accept their power.

Noah had overcome the bottleneck. All the power that he had accumulated during the journey through the void was now showing its effects.

Rank 6 darkness accumulated inside his dantian even if he didn't cultivate. Gaseous sword-like amass of energy took form inside his organ and enlarged it.

His dantian didn't even try to oppose some resistance. It enlarged at the faintest internal pressure, and it continued to grow as more darkness accumulated in its insides.

Noah surpassed the halfway mark of the gaseous stage in a matter of minutes, and his growth didn't stop there. His dantian continued to advance, and it soon surpassed the level of his body.

Part of the darkness flowed inside the dark star and gathered in its core. The higher energy that made his fourth center of power became denser and poured all the superfluous dark matter into the outside world.

Noah had started creating his world to trigger his breakthrough, but his dark star had continued to fuel it on its own. All the superfluous dark matter became part of the cloud.

King Elbas couldn't understand what he meant with that warning, but the dangerous sensation intensified as Noah's level increased. It had only been a faint feeling initially, but now it had become something far more serious.

The Royals' leader knew that he would suffer some injuries if he remained there. The sole thought that something like that was possible shocked him, but he didn't leave the cloud anyway.

King Elbas was a researcher. There was a gaseous stage powerhouse with the ability to scare him, and his curiosity needed to know how that could happen.

Deep humming sounds spread through the cloud, and a peculiar scenery took shape as the dark matter transformed again. Buildings and defensive walls appeared around Noah, and their forms were quite detailed, even if part of their fabric remained in a gaseous state.

King Elbas didn't recognize that place, but a cold expression appeared on Noah's face.

Noah didn't choose to create that. The dark matter had done everything on its own, and it had built a place that he knew far too well.

'Balvan Mansion,' Noah thought as an intense tremor originated from the dark star and spread in the dark matter around him. The buildings fell apart before the entire cloud stopped moving.

"What is happening?" King Elbas asked. "Why can't I command my higher energy as I wish?"

King Elbas wore a severe expression, but his eyes sparkled with intense curiosity as he inspected the changes in the dark matter. Everything around him was unknown, and Noah held all the answers.

The dark star released another tremor, and the dark matter in the area began to converge toward Noah.

The process was slow initially, but the dark star released an even more intense tremor that made the dark matter speed up. A third vibration followed it, and the higher energy formed proper gales that flowed back into Noah's chest.

Noah released a grunt as he felt that surge of energy. Having so much dark matter condensing inside his dark star gave birth to immense pressure, and he even crouched to endure it.

King Elbas watched as the cloud disappeared to take place in the void. Noah had reabsorbed all his higher energy at that point, but his level didn't stop increasing.

The darkness continued to flow inside the dark star and increase its density. Noah felt as if he was about to explode, but he couldn't suppress the process no matter what he did.

He couldn't contain that power, and his instincts advised him otherwise. Noah could only give in to that pressure and let the dark star handle the rest.

King Elbas was still mesmerized by that event that he almost didn't react in time to avoid the flares of dark matter that suddenly came out of Noah's chest.

A rotating dark sphere enlarged from the center of his torso then, and Noah's figure soon disappeared inside his higher energy.

Chapter 1145 1145. Summi

The dark star expanded violently and engulfed Noah in its raging rotations. An intense gravitational pull spread in the void and attracted every lingering speck of energy. The raw laws didn't escape that, but they moved slowly.

King Elbas retreated as the star expanded. Its surface was still gaseous, but its density slowly increased as more darkness came out of Noah's dantian to fuse with the fourth center of power.

Flares shot out of the rotating sphere. Power surges happened as the dark matter became denser after every rotation.

There were different layers at the beginning. The dark matter was almost solid in the center of the sphere but looser toward its edges. However, everything slowly collapsed.

The dark star stopped expanding and condensed. Power surges caused flares that shot through the void, but the dark matter always returned to the rotating sphere even if it went far away.

The sphere stopped shrinking when it reached a radius of five meters, but a second collapse happened in its core. Its edges had become solid, but its insides transformed into a rotating whirlpool that exuded an even stronger gravitational pull.

It was as if the edges had turned into a container for the black hole at its center!

The fabric of the void began to shatter under the pressure released by that strange object. The void didn't have any matter, but it still belonged to a set dimension. The black hole's pulling force wasn't strong enough to affect the world, but its dense radiations appeared able to influence that reality.

The black sphere resumed its shrinking process and dragged the shards of broken void with it. Noah slowly became visible again, and he kept his mouth open as his head looked upward.

Those who knew him could guess what he was doing even if no sound spread through the void. Noah was roaring at the sky to announce his breakthrough!

A large patch of liquid blackness formed around Noah as the black hole shrunk until it disappeared inside his chest. His body shook as the fourth center of power resumed its normal functions, and an intense wave of energy filled all his tissues.

His body soon reached the peak of the lower tier under the nurturing of the black hole, and his dantian did the same by reaching the peak of the gaseous stage.

His consciousness expanded, and his mental waves became heavy thoughts capable of covering the entire battlefield.

Snore came out of Noah's body on its own and began to hiss at the sky. Its structure trembled as the new dark matter replaced the old one, and its size grew to reach the rank 7 titan.

The Blood Companion unfolded its giant wings, covering a six hundred meters area with their size. Its feathers trembled as the new dark matter improved their structure.

Noah had undergone a complete breakthrough right in front of everyone. The evolution of his dark star had shocked all the experts on the scene.

The dark star had become a black hole contained in a layer of solid dark matter. The darkness that flowed inside it became denser and purer before the center of power redirected that energy back to Noah's tissues.

Noah felt as if his body was about to explode with all that energy filling him. He had never thought that he could be that powerful, but his path had finally become clear now.

There were no more foggy areas nor doubts. Noah had completed his absorption of external laws to step on the path that would lead his existence to become something equally strong.

Noah was finally walking the path to transform into a law. A faint true meaning formed inside him, but it was still too weak to match the divine entities.

King Elbas had tried to analyze the dark matter's qualities during Noah's breakthrough, but his calculations could only make him more amazed.

The dark star's power was immense. It contained so much energy that even a few powerhouses would find it hard to match.

Learning that such a dangerous and incredible object was part of his body explained why he had expressed so much power while being in the fifth rank.

The dark star appeared as the best power core in the world. It could sustain Noah's body for centuries without ever depleting its energy, and it had now evolved into a black hole capable of condensing even more fuel.

The experts of the other organizations took note too. They had initially believed that the dark star was part of a cultivation technique connected to Noah's dantian.

However, they soon understood that it was something entirely different. The dark star had singular energy that was outside of the dantians' realm.

It resembled King Elbas' golden flames, but it was also entirely different and unique to Noah. Moreover, it was part of his existence, which gave him something that the experts found hard to believe.

The dark star absorbed and released energy. It had advanced together with Noah's dantian, so it had a strict connection to his individuality. Only centers of power behaved like that, but the dark star didn't match any known organ in the magical beasts and cultivators' fields.

There was only one possible explanation. Noah had created a fourth center of power!

That realization shocked everyone. Noah didn't only turn into a hybrid when he was a human cultivator. His existence needed more, so he had evolved his status further.

His incredible prowess had an explanation now. His body had long since surpassed the hybrids' realm, and the reason for that was the dark star.

The experts didn't let that event stun them. They had continued to advance toward King Elbas while Noah completed the breakthrough, but the Royal acted before they could reach him.

King Elbas gathered his flames in his palm again and threw the fiery spear that formed toward Noah.

The power of his higher energy filled the void and radiated a heavy pressure. The flames appeared to touch on the absolute limit of the sixth rank. Nothing could be stronger than them without stepping on the divine stage.

Noah had yet to understand how strong he was after the breakthrough, but the fiery spear flying toward him didn't give him any time to analyze his new power.

The black hole rotated inside the solid dark sphere, and large quantities of dark matter came out of him. A vast cloud formed in less than an instant and enveloped both Noah and King Elbas.

The spear flew through the dark matter undisturbed. Noah's higher energy had evolved, but it wasn't strong enough to oppose King Elbas.

However, the flames that made the weapon slowly lost their detailed shape and dispersed inside the cloud. The spear disappeared before it could even reach Noah.

"What trick are you using?!" King Elbas shouted, and the sound of his voice echoed inside the dark environment.

The sound was another clue connected to Noah's new technique's true nature, but that didn't help King Elbas. He still couldn't understand how the dark matter worked.

Chasing Demon and the other experts eventually entered the cloud too. The Hive's Patriarch was in an awful state, and he had turned into nothing more than a corpse who could barely stand up.

Noah came out of a gale of dark matter flowing next to the Patriarch. King Elbas had temporarily lost track of him, so he had some time to prepare a plan.

"This technique won't suppress him for long," Noah said, and Chasing Demon appeared surprised that sound could fly there. "He will soon understand how to overcome the limitations that I've applied to him."

"What do you suggest?" Chasing Demon replied weakly.

"I've created an opening in the void during my breakthrough," Noah answered as a cold smile appeared on his face. "Let's throw him there."

Chasing Demon's eyes lit up for a second, but his expression soon turned grim. He didn't have much power left. He could control the titan for one last exchange before his entire existence turned into dust.

Noah understood what he had in mind, and a structure rose from under him. It resembled the underground mountain where Chasing Demon used to cultivate, but it had raw laws on its summit.

Chapter 1146 1146. Blackness

Noah had gathered and absorbed raw laws while his dark star transformed into a black hole, but he didn't forget about his Patriarch.

Chasing Demon was the only one in possession of a weapon capable of dealing with King Elbas. Losing him would mean the death of all the experts in the area, so he had to live no matter what.

Noah had saved some raw laws for him. He didn't know how gone Chasing Demon was, but that resource had brought him directly to the peak of the gaseous stage.

His individuality had been ready for that level of power, but the raw laws still managed to provide the energy necessary for the growth of his dantian. There was a chance that they could fix Chasing Demon's centers of power too.

Chasing Demon and the titan had lost their right arm during the last exchange with King Elbas. His condition had weakened further while he followed him to save Noah. He was on the brink of collapse, so Noah's gift could reveal itself as a lifesaver.

"What is this technique?" Chasing Demon asked as he stepped off the titan to land on the mountain. The raw laws gathered toward his maimed body and fused with his centers of power to fill him with energy.

"This is my world," Noah replied without hiding anything. That answer alone couldn't explain the depths of his technique anyway.

"It's a bit dark," Chasing Demon answered as some color returned to his skin. The wound on his arm also healed, and he couldn't help but reveal a smile when he realized how powerful his successor had become.

"It fits my tastes," Noah smiled back before leaving the Demon to his absorption. He still needed to warn the other experts about his plan.

King Elbas tested different types of attacks while inside the dark cloud, and he was getting near the answer that he sought. None of his golden flames ever managed to fly longer than an instant, but he slowly understood what held them back.

Noah reappeared at some distance from him, with Snore standing proudly behind his back. The other experts did the same as they prepared spells from different areas of the battlefield.

King Elbas wasn't close to the liquid blackness that Noah had unintentionally created, but it was the experts' job to take care of that matter.

"This area doesn't follow the normal laws of the world," King Elbas announced when he saw his enemies appearing around him. "Let me guess. You set the rules so that they can benefit you. This is your domain where you can pretend to be a god."

Noah had no words to say to King Elbas. He felt surprised that the Royal had understood so much about his techniques in only a few minutes, but that wasn't the time for admiration or respect.

The experts had to deal with King Elbas, or he would deal with them. There wasn't any other possible outcome in that situation.

Snore spread its mouth as it prepared its elemental attacks. The dark world trembled as the Blood Companion launched a series of blows toward King Elbas.

God's Left Hand and the others followed the same tactic as before. They relied on attacks that the fire element would typically struggle to block in its raw form.

A series of spells and techniques flew toward King Elbas, who could only deploy his golden flames around his figure to block them. The fire clashed with the attacks, but its structure soon wavered due to the dark world's limitations.

King Elbas was right. Noah's world didn't belong to anyone but himself. He set its rules and decided how foreign energy would behave.

Since his target was King Elbas, Noah had applied limitations to his flames. The air in the dark world was nothing more than thin dark matter, so no one could escape its restrictions.

King Elbas took out an inscribed item when he saw his flames dispersing. A large golden shield formed around him and fended off the attacks. Yet, it broke after it completed its task.

The Royal had begun to run short of inscribed items for a while by then. Chasing Demon had forced him to use almost everything he had to stop the giant. King Elbas only had a few disposable items now. They would generally save him in normal situations, but everything was more difficult for him inside the dark world.

Moreover, the disposable items would break after one use. It didn't matter how powerful they were. King Elbas couldn't rely on them to block his enemy's offensive forever.

The experts and Noah began to assault him with a never-ending offensive. They had long since stopped caring about the condition of their centers of power, and they were focusing everything they had on dealing with the Royals' leader.

King Elbas couldn't remain unscathed for too long. He didn't rely on his inscribed items at times, so the enemy's attacks managed to land on his body after his flames dispersed.

Long wounds appeared on his body. The golden robe turned into a mess of rags and destroyed tissues as the experts pressured him to no end. That seemed to be the end for King Elbas, but he could still hide surprises.

King Elbas' flames slowly began to resist Noah's limitations. The dark world used Noah's will to apply its restrictions, and his higher energy empowered those qualities.

Yet, King Elbas was amazing. He had understood how the dark world worked, and he had already learnt how to deal with it.

His flames became more intense as time passed. The might that they carried was so fierce that the dark matter couldn't limit their effects anymore. King Elbas would waste more energy in that way, but everything would be worth it if he managed to escape from that siege.

Noah didn't show any fear when he saw that King Elbas could stop their offensive without relying on disposable items. They weren't the main force anyway.

King Elbas began to advance when he felt that he had become used to the amount of higher energy he had to release to overcome his limitations. He had only needed to make his flames denser and more powerful.

Nevertheless, a giant figure suddenly came out from the thick dark matter under him and grabbed his fiery figure.

Chasing Demon and the titan reappeared on the battlefield without revealing any trace of their presence. Noah had used his dark world to hide them and create that opportunity for a surprise attack.

The Demon looked far better after he absorbed the raw laws. His cultivation level radiated the aura of a liquid stage powerhouse, but some of his injuries had remained in place.

The hole in his low-waist was still there, and his right arm didn't regrow in those minutes. Yet, his skin regained some color, and he didn't appear as a corpse anymore.

King Elbas radiated flames that stopped the titan from squeezing him to death. Its massive fingers even suffered from the power released by the fire, and large boulders fell from them.

Still, Chasing Demon didn't want to kill him. Noah's plan had higher chances of success, so he controlled the titan to fly in the direction of the ruptured void.

The titan flew at high speed. The dark matter around it helped its movements and allowed it to go faster.

Noah followed the Patriarch as he adjusted the dark world to his needs, and the experts chased after him while they kept their spells ready.

The large patch of liquid blackness eventually appeared in their eyes. The void had already begun to fix itself, but there was enough space where they could fit King Elbas.

Chasing Demon controlled the titan to accelerate. Its remaining arm rose to clash with that portal to another dimension.

Its fist slammed into the liquid blackness that opposed some resistance before allowing it inside. King Elbas tried to unleash as many flames as possible, but he couldn't avoid reaching the other side of the crack.

Chapter 1147 1147. Defying

The crack in the void continued to heal while the titan kept King Elbas trapped on the other side of the liquid blackness. Tongues of golden flames came out of it from time to time, but the divine item held strong.

Chasing Demon's skin began to turn gray again. It seemed that the effort was reverting the effects of the raw laws, but he didn't dare to diminish his output of energy.

He had understood that Noah's technique had limits and that King Elbas had already begun to overcome them. There wouldn't be another chance to defeat him if he failed to keep the Royal in the other dimension.

The dark-red surface of the titan began to burn under the effects of King Elbas' flames. The golden fire moved in an orderly manner and according to precise lines to unleash a strange aura that appeared to be quite effective against the divine item.

King Elbas had understood how the titan worked by then. Its structure was still mostly a secret, but he had learnt enough to target its innate flaws.

The experts gasped at that sight. King Elbas was in an unknown environment and inside a divine item's grasp, but he still managed to attack at full power.

Their eyes went on the expanding void. They wished that they could do something to quicken the fixing of the crack, but they could only wait and hope that Chasing Demon would hold strong.

The crack was inside Noah's dark world, but he didn't have any power over the other side. Even the titan had to struggle to pierce the liquid blackness. His strength alone wasn't enough to affect the situation.

Silence spread among the group. The experts could only hold their breath as the golden flames began to cover the titan's arm. The fire even reached the giant's shoulder as it continued to unleash its destructive properties.

Noah tried his best to suppress the golden flames, but they were too dense for his dark world. His will couldn't apply any restriction on them when they were so dense.

Even with his recent breakthrough, Noah remained a gaseous stage powerhouse. He couldn't surpass King Elbas when it came to raw power.

Chasing Demon couldn't move. His whole focus was on pouring the entirety of his cultivation level on the titan to fuel its incredible strength. Part of it also went on keeping its structure intact, so he couldn't break his concentration for even a second.

The flames eventually reached him before continuing to spread on the rest of the titan. Chasing Demon burned, but his concentration didn't waver.

His eyes remained on the shrinking crack. His mind had cut away any other input and made him focus only on his task. His organization and friends' future was at stake, so he didn't care if his body crumbled in the process.

Flying Demon's aura surged at that sight. Flowers grew from his figure as his mental waves became violent and messy. His eyes remained fixed on Chasing Demon. He wanted to memorize that moment without interfering with his Patriarch's heroic sacrifice.

Dreaming Demon was in a similar condition. She wore an ugly expression as she clasped her hand around Flying Demon's arm.

Her gesture didn't aim to hold her lover's back. Her fingers stabbed in his skin as she did her best to restrain herself.

The two Demons suffered the most intense emotional blow, but Elder Julia and Noah weren't too better off.

Elder Julia had known Chasing Demon since the Coral Archipelago. The Hive had yet to be born at that time, and there were only separate sects ruling the underground world in the islands.

She had seen the rise of the Hive under Chasing Demon's leadership. They had started from a small and isolated area in the sea, but now they belonged to one of the world's greatest organizations.

Noah still recalled the few conversations that he had with Chasing Demon. The Patriarch had never complained about his behavior. It didn't matter how many forces he offended. Chasing Demon would always deploy the assets of the Hive to back Noah up.

Chasing Demon had never tried to suppress Noah. Instead, he had done his best to push him further on the cultivation journey. The Patriarch had even provided Noah with pieces of information that only powerhouses could know only to help him in his path.

Noah had always known that he lacked something. He could never sacrifice himself for the sake of his organization. However, he couldn't help but feel pure respect toward Chasing Demon's action.

The Patriarch had lost the love of his life after Ravaging Demon's betrayal, but he had continued to train to exact his vengeance. His efforts to benefit the Hive didn't stop after he killed his mortal enemy.

Chasing Demon had devoted his entire existence to spreading his Master's teachings, and the Hive now was an organization full of entities who were proud of the label "Demon".

Divine Demon might have preferred him to abandon everything and focus on his path, but Chasing Demon was different.

Noah had felt something during his long period of training. The Patriarch had reached his limits. His potential and will didn't allow him to advance further.

The thought that someone with such a grim future could still focus everything on his organization made him respect Chasing Demon even more. He was a true leader, and the Hive wouldn't be the same without him.

"Tisha," Chasing Demon suddenly said while his figure burned. His words echoed through the dark matter, and Dreaming Demon's attention focused on him.

"You have always had more foresight than any of us," Chasing Demon continued. "I know that you will do your best to build a future for the Hive."

Dreaming Demon couldn't muster the strength to answer him, but she performed a deep bow before focusing on his figure again. She wouldn't dare to miss his death.

"Arthur," Chasing Demon spoke again, and Flying Demon's aura became peaceful as he focused on his words. "You've suffered more than any of us, but you didn't let your pain destroy your future. I leave Master's inscriptions and the defenses of the Hive to you. Be sure to discipline that stubborn automaton."

A tear ran down Flying Demon's left eye before performing a deep bow and resumed to watch his old friend.

"Julia," Chasing Demon continued, "You have handled every political matter while I spent my time cultivating. I can't think of anyone else who could manage the Hive better than you."

Elder Julia nodded before bowing. Chasing Demon had basically named her the new leader of the Hive, preferring her to his old friends. She couldn't feel more honored.

The golden flames covered the whole titan and threatened to burn the dark world. Yet, they remained on the divine item as they focused all their power on it.

The crack had almost closed by then. Chasing Demon only needed to hold on for a bit more to defeat King Elbas once and for all. Still, his goodbyes weren't over yet.

"Noah Balvan," Chasing Demon said as his figure crumbled and the giant started to speak with his voice, "Demon Prince of the Hive, Divine Demon's heir."

Noah's attention spiked as Chasing Demon listed his titles, and his eyes remained fixed on the giant as it continued to speak with the Patriarch's voice.

"You have defeated opponents far stronger than you since you were only a human cultivator," The giant said as its arm broke and it used its body to block the opening in the void. "You have surpassed every expectation, and your potential knows no limits. You are the best cultivator that the world has ever seen, and your power doesn't follow any common sense or label."

The giant began to crumble, and only ashes came out of the golden flames. Nevertheless, Chasing Demon's voice continued to echo through the dark world. "I know you don't want to be a leader, but you still deserve a title worthy of your achievements. From now on, you will be Defying Demon. May the Immortal Lands tremble when they hear your name."

Chapter 1148 1148. Price

The titan slowly disappeared, consumed by the golden flames. King Elbas had achieved something incredible by destroying a divine item while being in the heroic ranks, but Chasing Demon had the last say in the matter.

The flames dispersed and the ashes spread in the dark world to reveal a perfectly intact void. The crack had disappeared. The structure of that separate reality had reformed, and King Elbas didn't manage to cross the liquid blackness before it was too late.

"Quickly!" Elder Julia suddenly shouted as she looked toward Flying Demon. "Freeze his ashes. We might be able to bring him back!"

Her statement didn't reveal that the Hive had secured spots in the Second-life Formation, but the experts from the other organizations still shot suspicious glances at her.

The Hive members didn't answer, and God's Left Hand lowered her head to avoid revealing any clue about their secret cooperation.

The fact that Flying Demon didn't act made Elder Julia understand that her idea wasn't feasible. His reaction forced her to review the situation, and she eventually reached the same conclusion as her companions.

The group was in a separate reality where laws worked differently. The Second-life formation required the connection with the cultivators to be active when they died, and Chasing Demon had turned into ashes while part of his consciousness had fused with the titan.

The journey back to the surface would take them years, especially now that they didn't have a guide. That period was enough to make any connection dissipate unless someone had access to particular methods.

Moreover, Chasing Demon had poured his entire existence in the titan to fuel its abilities. Even if his connection with the formation were still active when they returned to the surface, it would find no cultivator to resurrect.

Chasing Demon was gone, and there was nothing that his companions could do to resurrect him.

Dreaming Demon and Flying Demon neared Elder Julia and placed a hand on her shoulders. They knew her pain far too well. They had both felt the same unwillingness that had filled her mind.

"You know his story," Dreaming Demon said. "Don't you think that he deserves some rest?"

Elder Julia struggled to accept that outcome, but she ultimately nodded and lifted her head to look toward Noah.

"Did you really see death?" Elder Julia asked, and Noah could only show her a sad smile as an answer.

"Where is he now?" Elder Julia still asked.

Noah looked toward the void above him as if searching for the rulers of the world. He knew the answer, and he didn't mind giving it to her. "Heaven and Earth collect dead souls from countless worlds. They dismantle and purify them before creating new ones to insert in living beings."

Elder Julia lowered her eyes, but her expression soon relaxed. She accepted that there was nothing in their power to revert that outcome. Chasing Demon's soul had probably left that world already.

The other experts didn't investigate the topic discussed at that moment out of respect for the Hive's loss. Still, they didn't forget where they were, and awkward expressions appeared on their faces as they looked around them.

Noah retracted his dark matter as soon as he noticed their gestures. He had kept the dark world active until then, but the fight was over now.

The experts began to look for raw laws when the entirety of the void reappeared in their eyes, but they felt disappointed when they saw only darkness around them.

Noah had absorbed every raw law in the area. He had given the only ones that he had spared to Chasing Demon, so the experts could only venture through the void again if they wanted to find more of them.

During their inspection, they noticed that something was off. The experts had seen Noah killing First Prince and First Princess, but Second Prince was still alive.

Yet, he wasn't anywhere near them, and he didn't even leave a trace to follow. Second Prince had abandoned the battlefield, and his destination was unknown.

Noah and the other cultivators from the Hive remained silent as they reviewed Chasing Demon's last moments in their minds. They didn't seem interested in the void anymore, so the other experts could only exchange glances to understand each other's intentions.

Truth be told, Noah, the Demons, and even Elder Julia had already understood that they couldn't remain inside the void any longer.

The battle against King Elbas had depleted most of their "Breath", and they couldn't refill their dantian inside the void. The only source of energy there were the raw laws, but there weren't any of them in the area.

The group could advance deeper in the separate reality and hope to find raw laws soon. However, dealing with their addictive properties in their weakened state wasn't optimal.

Moreover, Second Prince was still out there, and King Elbas' defeat had left them without a guide. The group had to find a solution to that issue before deciding to move again.

Noah stared at the spot where King Elbas had disappeared. That mighty expert had managed to spread his flames across dimensions without any training. He couldn't believe that the Royal would die so easily.

No one knew what the other dimension had to offer. The group felt satisfied with locking King Elbas away for now, but the best inscription master in the world didn't obtain that title by mere luck.

There was a high chance that he managed to return. After all, King Elbas already had experience in interdimensional travels. He had created the tunnel for the other world.

"We should retreat," Noah conveyed through his consciousness, breaking the deafening silence that had descended on the group.

The Demons and Elder Julia nodded at his words, but God's Left Hand unfolded her mind to give voice to a few complaints. "Why should we leave now? I didn't spend the entire battle looting raw laws while we drained our centers of power!"

Noah wasn't in the mood for political talks, especially right after Chasing Demon's death. He knew what God's Left Hand wanted to do. She aimed to receive compensation for her services in the battle.

Yet, Noah shut her up with a message that left everyone speechless. "Because I'm the only one who won't lose himself in the yellow sea. I'm the only guide you have, so you'll do as I say."

Of course, Noah didn't want to save God's Left Hand, but he couldn't show any weakness now that the Hive had lost its Patriarch. He had to make sure that the other organizations didn't think about exploiting that temporary weakness.

As for fighting God's Left Hand and leaving the Shandal Empire's forces inside the void, Noah didn't see that decision in a good light.

The Shandal Empire wasn't an ally, but the alliance could gain valuable resources and studies if it let it leave. An organization that held details concerning the divine ranks wasn't a force that he could ignore.

The centers of power of most experts were almost empty too. Noah knew that he had some advantage in that sense, but he didn't want to waste his energy to fight against cultivators who had many inscribed items.

"You can remain here if you want," Noah continued without showing any shame, "But don't think that you can follow me without paying an adequate price."

Chapter 1149 1149. Funeral

Remaining in the void with little to no "Breath" was a gamble that the experts weren't willing to take. God's Left Hand could only back off and accept Noah's conditions.

Her only hope was that the alliance wouldn't be too harsh on the Shandal Empire. They had fought together, so the Matriarch believed that she wouldn't have to pay a lot for Noah's services.

Great Elder Diana agreed to Noah's directives without complaining. She felt lucky enough that she had survived that harsh situation. Betting on her self-restraint and fortune wasn't ideal when their return would bring great benefit already.

King Elbas was far away, and Second Prince had escaped somewhere. The Shandal Empire wasn't a threat, so the only enemies of the alliance left on the surface were Third Prince and Second Princess.

The two Royals weren't much of a threat. Noah had defeated their older brother and sister on his own. However, the territories in the Elbas family's domain had a wide array of protections that would take years to overcome.

Still, with King Elbas gone, the alliance now had years to invest in that siege. Great Elder Diana knew that the battles would be hard, but she didn't mind that after what she had experienced in the separate reality.

Elder Julia gathered Chasing Demon's ashes, and Flying Demon froze them before storing them inside his space-ring. The experts of the Hive didn't intend to attempt reviving Chasing Demon. They only wanted to make a funeral worthy of the leader of one of the strongest organizations in the world.

There wasn't much to prepare. The experts couldn't cultivate, so none of them had to waste time refilling their centers of power. They could begin their return to the surface almost immediately.

The group began to move only a few days after the battle. Chasing Demon's death was still palpable in their minds, but they had other priorities. Returning to a safe place was the least they could do after such hardships.

Another long journey through the void started. All the experts knew where to go since stars shone in the distance. They only had to go in the opposite direction.

The march to return to the yellow sea took longer even if they didn't make any stop. Most of the experts had to save "Breath" to fly, so they couldn't go too fast.

The void never changed, and the lack of a proper exit weighed on the cultivators' minds. The experts couldn't understand how far they were from the edges of the separate reality, so they felt they were flying most of the time aimlessly.

When they first reached the separate reality, the group was too interested in finding raw laws, so that distance appeared easier to cross. They even had the stars as a target and the sparse raw laws that they could absorb.

No angry outburst came out of the experts' mouths. There was no point in complaining there. The void wouldn't change just because they were bored.

The group eventually reached the separate dimension's edges that didn't oppose any resistance at their passage. They were a simple membrane that allowed everyone to enter and exit.

Noah was the first to cross the separate reality's edges, and the yellow world reappeared in his vision for the first time in years. Nothing had changed there. The tempting black platform had remained the same, even after their long journey in the void.

The rest of the group soon exited the separate reality, and they showed dubious expressions when Noah's moment arrived.

They had learnt how to deal with raw laws and resist their captivating properties inside the void. Still, the yellow magma offered a different type of difficulty, which they couldn't overcome independently.

It wasn't a matter of personal power or strength that they could wield. The yellow magma's radiations targeted their minds, and no experts wanted to get lost inside it.

No puppet appeared on their path as they walked or flowed through the black landmass. All experts had chosen to take some time to cultivate as soon as they exited the separate reality, and their condition immediately improved.

Noah didn't want to waste any time walking on the landmass, but he wanted to make sure that he traced King Elbas' steps correctly. He didn't want to take the short path only to discover that he was lost.

The group relied on a series of inscribed threads to avoid losing any of their members. Noah walked in the lead and held a long cord connected to the other experts.

The item became quite useful once they reached the end of the landmass and swam through the sea. It was the time for the scorching sensation again, but even that environment didn't scare the experts.

A large metallic layer soon appeared in their eyes, and Noah didn't hesitate to swim toward the tunnel in its center. Needless to say, some of the experts tried to seize some of that material, but all of them failed.

The metal was too hard, and nothing appeared able to cut it. It didn't even bend, so the cultivators could only cross the tunnel to return to the sea of red magma.

The area's temperatures remained scorching, but they had diminished now that they had reached the other sea and red magma filled their vision.

Enduring the heat was easy now that everyone could cultivate. Returning to the familiar red sea also gave the group hope that the journey was almost over.

The group swam for a while until they found an opening in the seabed above them. They quickly crossed it, and the azure water of the sea met them.

They had finally returned to the surface!

The experts didn't speak. They separated to return to their respective domains, and Noah soon found himself with the two Demons and Elder Julia next to him.

"Where does he want to be dispersed? Elder Julia asked, but Noah shook his head. The only two who could know more about Chasing Demon were the couple right next to them.

"There is only one place worthy of his ashes," Flying Demon began to say, and Dreaming Demon intervened to give more information. "He had taken a liking in the archipelago. No other place can be his tomb."

The four of them moved toward the Coral Archipelago at that point. Once they were on top of it, Flying Demon took out the frozen ashes and reabsorbed his power.

The ashes dispersed in the winds, and the experts on the scene had different reactions at that sight.

Noah maintained his aloof expression. But his eyes followed the trails of ashes that dispersed on the archipelago.

A few tears came out of the Demons' eyes, and Elder Julia performed a deep bow before remaining in that position until all the ashes had dispersed.

In the trio's mind, Chasing Demon's death had become more comfortable to endure. The old patriarch had done a lot for the Hive. Seeing his ashes dispersing was a painful but relieving process.

The four remained in the sky for an entire day before breaking their contemplation. They decided to focus on the matters concerning the new continent from now on.

"What now, Defying Demon?" Flying Demon asked while wearing his usual smile. Still, no happiness accompanied his gesture.

"There are only two Royals left on the surface," Noah answered. "They don't deserve those territories. It's time to take them."

Chapter 1150 1150. Defenses

The Hive as a whole held Chasing Demon's funeral during the months following the return of the powerhouses.

Months of political silence followed the dispersion of his ashes. The Hive didn't make any move, and even its borders remained peaceful while the higher-ups held their event.

The rank 5 Elders held banquets to recall his moments as a leader. Flying Demon, Dreaming Demon, and Elder Julia joined those events to tell stories that the weaker assets had missed, but Noah didn't go to any of them.

Noah had promised a full-on invasion. It was his first time ordering something on that scale, but the Hive's powerhouses knew that he wasn't joking around.

Chasing Demon's death had to be a signal. His sacrifice had to state that the Elbas family couldn't be part of the new continent, and Noah intended to make that idea real.

Still, he had some projects to finish before approaching the tight defensive formations that surrounded the four regions under the control of the Elbas family.

Noah remained inside his new quarters during the political funeral. The Hive had built an incredible underground mansion for him. It was a proper palace that featured areas meant for all his needs.

The location was also optimal for Noah's training. The mansion was under one of the territories inhabited by hybrids, so he could ignore any restraint when testing some new techniques.

The new mansion had a cultivation area with so many "Breath" blessings that the air in there had surpassed the peaks of the piece of Immortal Lands when it first fell.

It had a training room filled with formations that could replicate various battle sessions. Noah could even use some of his memories to improve their effects.

Another area had many materials capable of releasing heavy pressure. That could help Noah's mind improve, but the Hive knew that he had access to the Seventh Kesier rune, so it focused the training on strengthening the mental walls.

Noah couldn't cultivate just yet. His dantian peaked after the breakthrough, but his cultivation technique required the Demonic Sword.

The living weapon had to evolve before it could enlarge Noah's dantian again. The amount of energy that it could absorb at its current level wasn't enough to train the center of power.

Noah often traveled toward the Divine Cut to exchange blows with Sword Saint. His normal training didn't interfere with his improvements with the sword arts, and his existence continued to rise toward new peaks as he kept on fighting with the will.

Sword Saint had shown him his best attacks, but Noah didn't mind training with someone who could endure his blows. The divine will was the perfect sparring partner.

The Demonic Sword eventually evolved. Noah had invested many of the magical beasts' corpses inside his space-rings to feed the living sword, but his expenses saw good returns in the end.

The blade could endure all his attacks after it reached the sixth rank. It could even perform Sword Saint's core techniques at that point.

However, Noah wasn't satisfied with its current form. The Demonic Sword had to express the entirety of his existence, but it lacked one core material.

The dark sphere had transformed into a black hole after the breakthrough and the dark matter that it released only helped Snore in its basic form.

The dark world used Noah's higher energy as its fuel. He had yet to test that technique's power with experts at his level, but he knew that it contained an incredible value.

Noah had managed to suppress King Elbas' golden flames with his dark world. The restrictions didn't last long, but that period was enough to defeat any opponent near his level. That was the kind of weapon that could defeat stronger cultivators, but Noah didn't accept to have only one of them.

Noah began his experiments with the Demonic Sword almost immediately. It only took a month for his first experiment to fail, but the mansion contained the detonation.

The failures didn't affect Noah's anymore. His body was so strong that even the explosion of rank 5 and 6 materials couldn't hurt him. His companions didn't have to worry about him.

The Demonic Sword accepted every test happily. It felt the pain lingering inside Noah's mind, so it preferred to help him through those stages in the best way that it could. The blade endured every modification, and it even went through countless painful tests.

The experiments took a while, but Noah eventually succeeded. He was attempting to modify a living being, and Noah wouldn't care about its behavior too much. Yet, he wasn't willing to make his living weapon suffer pointlessly.

Noah succeeded in the end. His project consisted of fusing dark matter in the Demonic Sword, and the blade accepted that treatment. Torrents of dark matter had flown inside the Demonic Sword and improved its structure. The living weapon's anatomy was peculiar, but Noah followed the process closely from beginning to end.

Noah ignored any social stimulus in that period. He had too much to do, and any eventual opponent wasn't worth the time wasted when he didn't prioritize his power.

The Demonic Sword became bigger as dark matter fused with its structure. It reached the point when it didn't need to shrink from performing specific attacks anymore.

The living weapon didn't change shape before meeting an enemy, but its internal structure improved in ways that he couldn't describe. It absorbed all the missing pieces of his existence, and it had naturally improved as if it was waiting for that experiment to happen.

Divine Market city appeared in Noah's eyes after he ended his training session for good. The area had so many defensive formations that he didn't even begin to count them, but he cared about them.

Second Princess appeared behind the enemy protections, so Noah had a limited set of actions. Yet, he was ready to fight there for years only to drag her out.

"We can decide on the matter in a far more enjoyable place," Second Princess said when she saw Noah nearing the defensive formations alone.

She had learnt about the events inside the void from the pieces of information concerning the powerhouses' last mission, and she truly feared Noah's mindset at the moment.

Noah wasn't the type to do anything reckless unless it benefitted his cultivation level. Yet, the situation was different now. He didn't want to join negotiations. He only wanted to create a mess to honor Chasing Demon.

"The time for negotiations is over," Noah replied while the Demonic Sword roared while inside his space-ring and landed in his hand. "I want every member of the Elbas family out of the new continent, and I'll use everything in my power to accomplish that."

"Demon Prince of the Hive!" Second Princess complained as the light of the inscriptions in front and behind her lit up. It seemed that she had activated a signal that triggered all the defenses in the area.

A rocky giant appeared behind her, and a building released a fire that compelled anyone in the area to retreat. All the defenses became clear in Noah's mind, but he didn't care about any of them.