

DEMONIC 1201

Chapter 1201 - 1201. Allies

"Need a hand?" Flying Demon said as he reached the battlefield with the ballistae.

Elder Laura had managed to regain some control over her battle after the monster took care of the golden spears, but her situation wasn't ideal. The ballistae were still threatening opponents for someone on her level, and she never managed to damage any of them.

Flying Demon laughed when he saw that the Elder didn't answer him. His hand rose in the air, and countless flowers grew in the sky between the inscribed weapons and the powerhouse.

The bolts shot from the ballistae crushed the flowers, but a layer of ice covered them after the shards of Flying Demon's spell filled the area.

The ice froze the bolts and spread through the sky. Flying Demon used the frozen arrow as the cores of a white net that gave birth to more flowers.

The net continued to expand, and it soon reached the ballistae. Golden runes shone on their surface, and bolts materialized on their strings after their light dimmed.

Those weapons reloaded automatically, and they didn't even need cultivators to control them. The Royals could aim them at their opponents even if they were far away from that region.

The ballistae attacked again, and the bolts pierced part of the net before remaining stuck in its cold structure. Moreover, the ice continued to expand, and the Royal soon felt forced to move those weapons back.

Elder Laura didn't let that chance go to waste. Her arrows were far nimbler than the bolts, so she could shoot them through Flying Demon's net.

Five blue arrows materialized on her inscribed bow and shot in the holes of the net when she released the bowstring. Her attacks transformed into long snake-like creatures that flew through Flying Demon's spell and converged on one of the retreating ballistae.

The snakes crashed on the weapon without managing to inflict any damage. The ballistae weren't as fragile as the bolts. They were inscribed items in the middle tier, so a simple attack from Elder Laura's wasn't enough to destroy them.

However, inscribed weapons generally had specific weaknesses, especially when it came to bows and crossbows.

The snakes continued to move after they landed on the ballista. They slithered over its body until they could stab their fangs on the string. The weapon would be useless if they managed to destroy that piece.

Of course, the Royals had prepared defensive measures. They were aware of the weaknesses of those weapons. The fact that they didn't require cultivators to function left them open to attacks on their structure.

A golden light began to come out of the ballista attacked by Elder Laura. The halo corroded the snakes wrapped around the weapon and made them vanish before they could destroy the string.

The halo continued to shine even after the snakes vanished. The light repaired the damages on the string and restored it to a perfect condition in seconds.

The last attack didn't lead anywhere. Elder Laura appeared unable even to destroy one of those weapons!

Flying Demon's laugh continued to resound in the sky, and Elder Laura turned to shot an angry glance at him. She felt as if the Demon was mocking her, but he pointed at the ballista before she could say anything.

The golden halo vanished after it fixed the damages on the string, but white flowers suddenly started to grow from the spots attacked by the snakes.

The flowers grew until they covered one-third of the weapon, and the golden halo reappeared to stop them. Yet, Flying Demon snapped his fingers and detonated his spell.

The explosion destroyed the string and part of the slider before releasing a storm of ice-shards shot that flew toward the ballistae nearby. Flowers began to grow where the spell hit them, and a golden halo soon started to shine from them too.

Flying Demon continued to detonate his spell whenever the golden halo was about to stop his flowers. Ice-shards flew in every direction and expanded his influence whenever they landed on other weapons.

That cycle continued until the golden light managed to eradicate every trace of Flying Demon's individuality. Still, he had already rendered three ballistae harmless by that time.

More light filled the area and tried to fix the damaged weapons, but the restoration was slow since they lacked essential pieces of their structure. The pressure on Flying Demon and Elder Laura diminished by a lot for the time being.

Even if Flying Demon had managed to damage the ballistae and bring the invaders one step closer to victory, Elder Laura didn't feel happy about that outcome.

Anger surged from inside Elder Laura as she inspected the net before turning toward Flying Demon again.

"You tainted my attack!" Elder Laura shouted in an angry tone, but Flying Demon limited himself to smirk at her.

"We are allies!" Elder Laura continued since she didn't feel satisfied with that answer. "You could have just told me that you were to hide your attacks inside my arrows. There was no need to do it secretly."

Flying Demon had used his net to taint Elder Laura's arrows with part of his individuality, but she didn't like the fact that he had kept that action a secret from her.

"I could have," Flying Demon said as a cold smile appeared on his face, "But now you are aware of the difference between our power."

A chill ran down Elder Laura's spine when she heard those words. Flying Demon wasn't threatening her, but his actions had a motive that went beyond alliances and enmities.

Flying Demon had shown her that he could hide his attacks inside hers freely. Elder Laura didn't even notice that until he revealed what he had done.

That was a proper show of force that the Demon had done without any apparent reason. He only wanted Elder Laura to know that they were worlds apart in terms of battle prowess.

"Why?" Elder Laura couldn't help but ask. She didn't believe that Flying Demon's only motivation was to show off.

"It was easy to follow the Hive when it gave you a home," Flying Demon answered without withdrawing his coldness. "I don't want anything bad to happen now that we are outside again."

Understanding dawned upon Elder Laura at that point. The Demon wasn't looking at the invasion. His eyes were already gazing on the future of the alliance after it reclaimed the new continent.

His demonstration was a reminder that the Hive and the Council weren't equals anymore. They were allies, but Noah's words had more importance than others.

"Now," Flying Demon continued after he saw that Elder Laura had understood his message, "Can I use your arrows to reach the ballistae? I think working together is the best option in this situation."

Flying Demon winked at Elder Laura after he finished his line, and she felt even angrier about the whole situation. Yet, she wasn't a hotheaded cultivator who would fall prey to her feelings when there were many political issues at stake.

Elder Laura suppressed her anger and nodded at Flying Demon. Five arrows appeared on the string of her bow as she drew it.

She was ready to resume her offensive. As for her feelings, she couldn't vent them in front of a powerhouse far stronger than her.

Chapter 1202 - 1202. Help

Faith was against puppets that released golden flames wherever they flew. They had various sizes, but the biggest one wasn't even ten meters tall.

Yet, their size indicated how many flames they released during their flight. The bigger ones left wide trails that filled the sky with the iconic fire of the Elbas family.

An azure sphere covered Faith and protected her from the puppets' offensive. They could only throw punches at her and slash with their silver swords, but those attacks couldn't even pierce the external layers of Faith's defenses.

Her only problem was the fire. Her influence on the environment suppressed the puppets' flames, but there were too many of them flying around her.

The situation would become problematic if she lost control of the battlefield for even a second, but her casual attacks weren't enough to destroy the puppets.

She eventually decided to prepare a strong spell while she kept her defenses active, but that shrunk her influence on the battlefield and let some of the flames run wild.

Faith had predicted that outcome, but she didn't mind it. She wasn't scared about those puppets. She had felt more fear during some of her sparring sessions with June.

A white light soon shone on the battlefield, and Daniel surpassed the encirclement of puppets to enter inside Faith's sphere. His attack destroyed the fire accumulated in the area, but it didn't manage to touch the golems since they retreated as soon as they sensed his individuality.

"How long do you need?" Daniel asked. He had known Faith long enough to understand what she was doing.

"Not much," Faith replied. "It should be enough to take care of most of them."

"Do you need help?" Daniel continued. Faith wasn't the last powerhouse who had been unable to keep the golden spears in check. He would fly toward Skully if there were no need for his presence there.

"I don't really need it," Faith replied, "But it doesn't feel bad to fight together. We can finish them quickly if you remain here."

Daniel glanced at her without revealing any expression, and Faith turned toward him while wearing a similar face. None of them said anything when their eyes met.

Faith continued to gather energy for her spell, and light accumulated on Daniel's palms as they remained in that position. They both wanted to add something, but they felt that there was no need for words.

They had grown closer through the years, and both of their individualities had improved since they first met. Now they stood at the peak of the heroic rank, and they had both become beacons of hope for the weaker cultivators.

Their roles in their organizations were similar, which made them spend a lot of time together inside the separate dimension. Faith's peace and Daniel's purity were quite suitable for each other, and they had even discovered that cultivating together brought them benefits.

Daniel and Faith had never gone past their friendly relationship. It wasn't something that they could do easily. Both of them had issues in that aspect of their lives to overcome before they could even understand what they wanted.

Still, they both liked spending time together, so they didn't mind using situations to their advantage. That battle was only the last of the many experiences they had decided to share after a silent understanding.

Daniel joined his hands, and a long rapier made of light formed in front of him as he separated them. He then wielded the weapon and thrust it at one of the bigger puppets that flew around Faith's protection.

The rapier released a flash after Daniel's sharp movement, but nothing flew through the air. Yet, the puppet flew backward and shot in the distance after he completed the attack.

Daniel continued to thrust his rapier, and other puppets shot in the distance. It was as if something had managed to fling them away, but they couldn't understand the nature of that attack.

The puppets flung in the distance returned in Faith's position to cover the area with their golden flames, but small marks had appeared on their torso after the last clash.

The marks were as big as a thumb and released a trail of smoke. Some of them were deep enough to pierce through the other side of the puppets, while others only managed to reach the center of their bodies.

The smaller puppets had suffered the worst injuries, but they didn't appear too threatening. Small holes weren't dangerous for those beings.

However, Daniel kept on thrusting his rapier and launch his invisible attacks. The puppets couldn't do anything to avoid them, and holes appeared even on their flames when they tried to use them as shields.

Faith didn't have to worry about the puppets at all with Daniel weakening them. She already had the advantage in that battle, but his arrival made her even more certain about her victory.

The water shield began to tremble once Faith accumulated enough "Breath". A humming sound echoed from her defensive spell, and the puppets began to slow down when those soundwaves reached them.

Third Prince and Second Princess could control the puppets and rearrange them into various battle formations, but those golems began to ignore their orders after Faith's spell released that sound.

Some of the puppets even flew toward Faith and remained in front of her protection. It seemed that the humming sound could affect their behavior and make them attracted to her energy.

Then, Faith's sphere exploded, and her water burst outward. Most of the puppets found themselves engulfed by the waves created right in the middle of the sky, but the impact was easy to endure.

The puppets didn't reveal any injury after Faith's water swept them, but they had stopped releasing golden flames. They didn't even charge at the two powerhouses anymore. Faith had rendered them unable to do any harm.

"They are all yours," Faith said as she lost interest on that battlefield. She could destroy those puppets herself, but Daniel had an offensive spell at hand already.

Daniel thrust his rapier until all the light that it contained vanished. Then, he joined his hand against to create a long spear that he threw toward a crowded area.

The spear detonated when it reached its destination, and a white halo covered the area around it. Daniel's individuality began to affect that chunk of the sky, and the puppets inside it started to lose pieces of their bodies under its effects.

His thrusts had opened small holes in the puppets that destabilized the puppets' structure, and his light returned their bodies to their original form. Raw materials appeared in the sky as Daniel's individuality turned those defenses into nothing more than metals and other items.

The puppets' army lost almost all its members in only one joint attack, and the two powerhouses wanted to pressure their opponents until all of them became nothing more than dust. Yet, the Royals called their defense back and left that region unprotected.

Third Prince and Second Princess knew that they were losing a lot during that invasion. The best they could do in that situation was to preserve as many assets and resource that they could. It was pointless to invest them into territories that they couldn't defend.

Faith and Daniel watched the puppets leaving the battlefield and exchanged a glance. They stared at each other for a while before Daniel broke the silence with a question. "Do you want to help Skully?"

"Sure," Faith replied, and the two of them set off to reach the region where Skully was fighting.

Chapter 1203 - 1203. Conquest

The new defenses deployed by the Elbas family began to fall. One by one, the invaders managed to overcome the challenges in the regions near them.

Great Elder Diana slowly destroyed the giants that tried to catch her with their spears. The healing light of the formations tried to fix their injuries, but the Matriarch's offensive was relentless and never gave them time to breathe.

Moreover, she was too fast for those giants. Their number didn't help them since the Matriarch only viewed them as targets to destroy.

God's Left Hand was in a similar situation. The wall of runes against her could only crumble when it faced her storms and dense gales.

Each of her spells inflicted heavy damages on those inscriptions, and the golden light coming from the ground never manage to fix them entirely before the next wave of attacks arrived.

Elder Julia eventually crushed the army of hybrids. The Poisonous Giant Frog was a resilient opponent, but the powerhouses assaulted it with attacks that it couldn't even see.

The other hybrids in the army tried to shield their leader from her spells, but their effort was pointless since Elder Julia always managed to make some wind-slash slip past the blockage.

Elder Julia's battle style was also flawless, and she left openings in her offensive only when she wanted to lure the hybrids into a trap. The Royals felt forced to make the army retreat at some point to salvage some of their most valuable assets.

Elder Regina's approach was different from her companions. Her puppets couldn't inflict heavy damages on the red wh.i.p.s, but they could leave many injuries on their structure.

She would have to create something bigger to eradicate them, but she had chosen to opt for a different strategy.

The Elbas family had limited resources and assets. The Royals didn't have the power to stop the three organizations when they worked together. Still, it had the chance to preserve a few regions if the invaders committed some mistake during their attack.

Ending a battle as quickly as possible was usually good since it limited the chances of suffering losses. Yet, the Royal didn't have much energy stored, so depleting it would benefit even the future battles.

Elder Regina's life wasn't in danger against the red wh.i.p.s. She could fight slowly and force the Royals to fix their defenses multiple times to maximize their energy consumption.

Skully and the magical plants appeared to have reached a stalemate. The powerhouse managed to destroy branches from time to time, but she never injured the trunks of those defenses.

The magical plants had it a bit worse than her. They couldn't catch her, and her innate ability made her a troublesome opponent to trap with a few branches. The best they could do was stopping her from advancing.

However, Faith and Daniel soon arrived in her help, and they ignored any strategy when they joined the battle. The sheer power of the three powerhouses was more than enough to eradicate those magical plants.

True Speed and Elder Laura's battles ended soon after the Demons joined them. Dreaming Demon's influence on the puppets made them easy targets, and Flying Demon's abilities were quite effective against inscribed weapons.

June had to struggle in her battle. The defensive wall appeared able to absorb every attack that landed on its surface, and it could turn that energy into beams slightly stronger than the original technique.

The whirlpool continued to overwhelm her attacks, but that only pushed her Perfect Circuit to generate more energy. The energy released in her battle was so intense that the regions under her shattered whenever it leaked.

June's spear was full of cracks. It had long surpassed a quasi-rank 6 weapon's structural limits, and it remained in one piece only because its quality went far beyond ordinary inscribed items.

Noah had built it knowing that June would wield it, and she had reinforced it with her formations. A weapon that had gone through those two experts couldn't break easily.

June cleaned her mouth with the edge of her sleeve. She had spat some blood after the last clash with the defensive wall. The beam that it had released had utterly overwhelmed her attack, and it had almost reached her.

Her complexion was pale, but she radiated more energy than ever. The storm around her had covered the entire region by now. Still, it didn't expand because the shockwaves released in Matriarchs' battles destroyed her higher energy when it went too far.

June's battle intent filled the storm and made it release countless lightning bolts toward the ground. Her sole presence had managed to unleash destruction in a wide area, but even that amount of power wasn't enough to defeat the formation against her.

There was a limit to how much she could achieve with sheer power, but June didn't believe that her individuality could lose against some inscriptions. She had to win when it came to battles of that kind.

June knew that there had to be a limit to how much energy the whirlpool could absorb. However, she had yet to find it. The defensive wall had managed to reflect all her previous attacks.

Still, she had a plan. Her spear wouldn't survive that tactic, but it was time to change her weapon anyway. She couldn't think of a better way to use it either.

June pointed her spear at the defensive wall, and all the sparks started to fly toward her figure. The storm quickly disappeared, and black lightning bolts began to run through her body.

An intense aura spread through the sky as June condensed that higher energy. She did the same for the new sparks that her Perfect Circuit had produced after losing against the wall before making everything flow inside her weapon.

More cracks opened on the golden spear, but June traced lines around its structure as her higher energy flowed inside it. Black lines formed around the living weapon and created a formation that stopped its destruction.

Third Prince and Second Princess revealed a surprised expression when they saw that. They were inscription masters with a lot of experience in multiple cultivation fields, but they had never seen someone creating formations in the sixth rank with simple movements.

Formations even required specific materials, but she didn't use anything except for her higher energy.

They didn't know where June had learnt to perform such inscriptions, but that level of expertise exceeded theirs.

June continued to reinforce the spear until all her higher energy condensed in its structure. She decided to attack only when her Perfect Circuit became empty and started to produce more fuel.

The tip of the spear shattered as soon as June released her wave of energy, and the rest of the shaft ended up in the same state when her attack reached the defensive wall.

The whirlpool activated and began to absorb the energy contained in June's attack, but the lines that covered the wall started to flicker after a while.

Small explosions happened on the inscribed structure. Some of the lines on its surface became unable to withstand that flow of power and detonated, releasing the energy they had accumulated in the process.

That trend continued until even the rune under the whirlpool began to flicker. June only had a small part of the spear's flat end left in her hand, but she never stopped her offensive.

Cracks spread from the rune, and orange light came out of them. The golden halo tried to fix those damages, but June's flow of energy was too intense for that formation.

The wall tried to release some of that energy by launching a beam that could counter June's attack, but that attempt failed before even starting. The rune couldn't stabilize itself under an assault on that level.

The cracks eventually spread until the wall's stability fell apart, and the whole structure blew apart, releasing thick lightning bolts that gave birth to a storm wherever they landed.

The end of June's battle was the last defeat that Third Prince and Second Princess were willing to witness on that day. They deactivated the healing formation with a wave of their hand, and they disappeared from the battlefield before anyone could think about chasing them.

The invaders had yet to realize that, but they had already conquered the entire western coast and nearby regions.

Chapter 1204 - 1204. Settling

The invasion continued for a while even after Third Prince and Second Princess retreated. There were still defenses active on the regions involved in the attack, but the powerhouses didn't take long to defeat them.

Without the healing light, those formations weren't as threatening as before. The powerhouses could defeat them slowly and group up whenever they needed.

The Royals had also recalled all the valuable assets, which made it even easier for the invaders. They had already gained the advantage in that battle, so the fights could only lead to one outcome.

The invaders conquered the western coast and the regions nearby during their first attack. Not even a day had passed since they left the separate dimension, but they had already regained some footing on the new continent.

Of course, they couldn't directly rebuild habitations and similar structures. The invaders had to take care of all the inscriptions hidden inside the terrain and perform a thorough inspection of the whole area.

Five hundred years weren't a long time for heroic cultivators, but they were enough to place traps and similar protections on the whole new continent.

Luckily for the invaders, the Hive had an asset capable of identifying most inscriptions. Only divine formations could escape his eyes.

Noah sent Thirty-seven and other powerhouses of the Hive to explore all the regions conquered in the attack. He prohibited to set foot on the new continent until his underlings completed that analysis.

The army could only hover above the sea while they waited for the powerhouses to complete the inspection. The experts in the heroic ranks helped the human cultivators, and all of them trembled in excitement at the scenery that filled their eyes.

Those assets were eager to reach those lands, but they respected Noah's orders. Waiting a few weeks wasn't hard after five hundred years spent in the barren separate dimension.

God's Left Hand and Great Elder Diana used that time to negotiate with Noah. They knew how much he hated handling political issues, but they needed to decide a few things before their organizations started settling in those regions.

"The Shandal Empire should get as many regions as the Council," God's Left Hand argued. "We might even split the coastline into three equal parts."

"I disagree," Great Elder Diana said. "The Empire doesn't have the assets to defend so many territories. It would be a waste to leave these lands in your hands."

"We can't grow if you keep on giving us nothing but scraps," God's Left Hand complained. "The Empire is the weakest organization only because the entire world has continued to suppress us since the Almighty's departure."

God's Left Hand mentioned Shandal to remind the leaders that her Patriarch was still in the Immortal Lands. The god of the Empire would return one day, and she wanted to make sure that they didn't forget that.

"That's exactly what the Empire has done for millennia!" Great Elder Diana replied. "The Council didn't forget the centuries spent fighting in the old continent. This is simply payback for those years."

Noah remained silent while the two Matriarchs discussed next to him. Both of them wanted him to pick a side, but he couldn't care less about their arguments.

Also, those discussions bored him. He only wanted that invasion to be over so that he could start looking for something to do until he reached the seventh rank.

"We'll divide the conquered territories equally," Noah said, and his words put a smile on God's Left Hand's face. Yet, his following lines made her expression freeze.

Noah wore a cold as he turned toward the Matriarchs to continue speaking. "Yet, I suggest you take what you can defend. We don't want to create tension among our organizations so soon, right?"

The Matriarchs understood the meaning behind Noah's words, and God's Left Hand couldn't help but curse in her mind when she heard them.

The Empire only had two powerhouses in its ranks. That amount of power was nothing against the numerous assets of the alliance.

Nothing would stop the Hive and the Council from attacking the Shandal Empire once they established themselves on the new continent. God's Left Hand could only decide to be humble in that situation and aim for a lower number of regions.

Great Elder Diana did the same. The Hive was stronger than the Council, and the Matriarch wanted to convey that she accepted Noah's leadership inside the alliance.

The world would still see her and Noah on the same level, but they would know who was in charge of the alliance.

Great Elder Diana's behavior surprised Noah. He wondered how such an old monster could accept a new leader so easily, but he guessed that she was smarter than most powerhouses.

The events in the past centuries had established the Hive's superiority, and Great Elder Diana wasn't willing to fight to reject that statement. She had accepted her new status and was already looking at how that could benefit her.

Noah felt a bit disappointed by that outcome. Great Elder Diana was the only existence in the world who could face him in battle. Second Prince was probably still around, but Noah had never considered him his equal.

Without opponents, Noah could only continue training alone. The only adventurous idea that appeared in his mind was the exploration of the other world's core, but he didn't even know if King Elbas had left the dimensional portal open.

'Don't tell me that I have to remain in seclusion until I reach the divine ranks,' Noah thought before suppressing his worries.

He did not doubt that he would reach the Immortal Lands, but he didn't know how boring the journey toward the higher plane would be.

The group of powerhouses and Thirty-seven spent a few weeks inspecting every inch of the territories involved in the invasion. They found a few traps and some inscriptions that had survived the battle, but they took care of them on the spot.

The cultivators from the dimension could finally begin to settle on the new continent at that point. Noah gave the ok on the matter, and the army divided itself as the assets followed their respective leaders toward the appointed regions.

Noah did the same with the Hive, but he limited himself to assign roles to the higher-ups before choosing a region that could work as his temporary training area.

In the end, he settled in the area that had once featured the azure plain. King Elbas had transformed it into a green prairie after he burned it, and Noah couldn't find anything better when it came to the density of "Breath" and sturdiness of the ground.

The three organizations went silent at that point. All their higher-ups and inscription masters began to reinforce their borders and build structures that could accommodate their underlings.

There was a lot to build and even more to reorganize, but they neglected the projects that would take many years to focus on creating defenses that could blow a few assaults.

The experts knew that their invasion wouldn't stop there. It was pointless to create robust defenses in regions that would lose their status as edges of their domain soon.

It was better to focus everything on stabilizing their situation so that they could resume the invasion without worrying about their new homes.

Chapter 1205 - 1205. Puppets

The invasion resumed a few months after the three organizations settled in their new homes. They only built a few habitations and created many protections before venturing to the regions more inland.

The Elbas family showed that it still had many defenses worthy of its fame. The Royals revealed most of their arsenal in the battles that followed the first invasion.

King Elbas had created many defenses during the five hundred years of undisturbed rule. The number of resources available in the world had diminished after his mindless destruction of the new continent. Still, he had managed to put together a few protections that made the invaders struggle.

The inscribed items in the middle tier weren't a problem for the powerhouses of the three organizations. However, Third Prince and Second Princess used them together with battle formations performed by their weaker assets.

Moreover, they even revealed rank 6 inscribed weapons in the upper tier. The invaders didn't even reach the new continent's center when five massive puppets surged from the regions and began to face the invaders.

An Eight-armed Titan, a massive Snake, a Nine-headed Hydra, a Phoenix, and a Three-headed dog appeared on the second line of defense of the Elbas family.

The puppets represented the Princes and Princesses' iconic spells. Golden flames came out of their red bodies, and they consumed the Royals' blood to work.

The five puppets expressed power that only solid stage powerhouses could wield, but that didn't mean that they were unbeatable. They were still inscribed weapons, and the invaders could find countermeasures to their prowess.

The appearance of the puppets slowed down the invasion. The troops from the three organizations had to study those weapons before approaching them. They couldn't just charge at defenses stronger than them.

Noah kept his promise and stayed away from the battlefields for an entire year. It didn't matter that his underlings suffered defeats. That process was necessary for their growth.

Even weaker heroic cultivators had joined the fray in that period. Large battles happened in the air every time the invaders attempted a new tactic against the puppets.

During that year, the invaders focused their efforts on the Three-headed Dog since it appeared to be the weakest puppet. It was on the same level of power as the other upper tier items, but its attacks were slightly easier to predict and avoid.

Still, the Three-headed Dog managed to defeat its opponents even if they tried to exploit its weaknesses. The difference in their power was too great, even if the three organizations worked together to beat it.

The invaders didn't lose their morale because of those defeats. Wars among heroic assets could last for decades, and they only needed to defeat the puppet once to eradicate it.

The Royals had even avoided using the healing light during the last battles. It seemed that their reserves of energy had already reached a critical condition in that year, so they could only rely on their defenses' intrinsic power.

There was another reason behind the invaders' unyielding battle intent. They had only relied on God's Left Hand and Great Elder Diana during that year when it came to opponents that they couldn't face.

Yet, the strongest cultivator in history could finally step on the battlefield now that one year had passed. The Matriarchs wouldn't have to be the main offensive force in their attack anymore. Noah could join them.

The appearance of the puppets had ignited Noah's battle intent since he had finally found worthy opponents. He couldn't help but consider them as a gift left to make his boredom vanish.

One year after the three organizations left the separate dimension, Noah set off from his training area and flew toward the territories that featured the fiery puppets.

Those areas had been nothing more than destroyed rocky environments before the battle against King Elbas, but they featured tall mountains that showed some trace of vegetation now.

The invaders' previous attacks had destroyed most of the fauna there, but some lifeforms still survived in a few protected zones. It seemed that even the Elbas family wanted to preserve part of the life on the new continent.

Noah's arrival on the battlefield was a signal that awakened the weaker troops from the three organizations. They had kept track of the passage of time during the past attacks, so they had prepared themselves for the moment when he would join the fray.

The Demons, the Matriarchs, and the other powerhouses rose in the sky and reached Noah, who kept on flying toward the central regions. None of them said a word as more troops gathered behind them.

The rank 4 and 5 cultivators of the three organizations would typically fight the Elbas family's experts on areas far away from the existences in the sixth rank. Yet, none of them intended to join the battlefield on that day.

They all wanted to witness Noah's power. None of them wanted to miss that scene.

Noah felt eager too. He had studied the reports regarding the puppets, and he had observed the fights of the other powerhouses.

The invaders couldn't gather many details about the Three-headed Dog's abilities since they had faced it only four times, but that was enough to identify its most threatening attacks.

The puppet's flames were annoying. They had peak middle tier power since the inscriptions around the creature enhanced the Royals' cultivation level.

Still, its most troublesome quality was its exceptionally strong body.

King Elbas had created the puppets by using some of the best materials in those Mortal Lands. The red metal that made its bodies could absorb most impacts and was virtually immune to any form of fire.

Moreover, the golden flames that ran over its surface fixed the dents that the Matriarchs managed to inflict.

The puppets were perfect guardians, and their level made them threatening opponents since the three organizations didn't have a solid stage powerhouse at hand.

The Dog's power wasn't enough to scare Noah away. The Matriarchs had already confirmed that liquid stage powerhouses could injure the puppets, so they only had to inflict enough damages in a single attack to defeat it.

A tremor filled the central regions when Noah reached his target. A massive Three-headed Dog came out from the mountain chain in the land right in front of him, and a wave of golden fire filled the sky as soon as it appeared.

The heads of the puppet spewed more fire as the creature roared toward Noah. Yet, it didn't attack but remained inside the borders of its region.

Noah knew that any attempt to bring the puppet outside of its region had failed. The Royal had programmed it so that it would only attack anyone trying to invade its territory.

Those were the real defenses of the Elbas family. They were on a different level than the formations of the western coast.

Noah didn't need to review his strategy with the Matriarchs. The three of them would be the only ones nearing the Dog, while the other weaker powerhouses would only provide long-range support with their abilities.

Only the leaders of the organizations could endure the shockwaves released by the puppets.

However, right before Noah could charge ahead and trigger the puppet's offensive, a golden rune appeared next to him, and a massive fireball teleported in that spot.

The fireball exploded and engulfed the entire area in a wave of golden flames. The powerhouses could retreat to escape from the fire since they weren't close to Noah, but the Matriarchs had to activate defensive spells to protect themselves.

The power of the flames surprised the Matriarchs since their defensive spells burned under their assault. The two liquid stage powerhouses had to rely on talismans to stop the fire completely and escape from its range.

Noah's figure became visible among the flames before his underlings could even begin to worry about his well-being. His robes were intact, and no burn had appeared on his body after that surprise attack.

The powerhouses turned toward him when they saw him wearing a wide smile. He appeared happy that someone had tried to kill him off with a sneak attack.

"You were indeed alive," Noah shouted once all the flames dispersed. His eyes went on a distant spot in the sky where a crowned figure had become visible.

Chapter 1206 - 1206. Star

Noah didn't have any doubt about the identity of his assailant. There was only one existence who could wield such power and wasn't part of the organizations under him.

The figure that appeared in the distance wore a small golden crown. He didn't show his usual smile to the invaders, but the red crystal at the center of his forehead announced his identity to the world.

'He has become stronger,' Noah thought as he inspected Second Prince.

The Royal was at the peak of the liquid stage, and golden fire surrounded his figure. He had inherited his Father's flames, but there was only "Breath" in their fabric.

He didn't use higher energy, but his cultivation level was surprising. Noah didn't grow as fast as he could due to the restrictions of the separate dimension, but that rate of improvement surpassed even monsters!

No one on the scene believed that Second Prince had reached that level of power due to his efforts or talent. After all, the powerhouses had lost track of him inside the separate reality. There were still some raw laws in that environment.

Second Prince didn't speak, but Noah didn't wait for him to do so. He flew higher in the sky to avoid entering the range of the Three-headed Dog as he neared the Royal.

Noah showed no fear as he flew toward Second Prince. The two of them were too distant from the new continent to trigger any formation, so they could talk or fight freely.

"No more fireballs?" Noah asked when he reached Second Prince.

The Royal wore a stern expression as he inspected Noah. His cultivation level was above Noah's now, but he still felt some hesitation inside his mind.

Second Prince couldn't explain the reason behind that feeling. Yet, his instincts told him that he couldn't beat Noah at his current level.

"No more smiles?" Noah asked as he revealed his usual cold smile.

"It's quite reckless for you to come here," Second Prince said. "We might be far above the landmass, but this is still my domain."

Noah sighed when he heard that answer. He didn't know if the Royal wanted to fight, but there had to be a reason behind his sudden attack.

"I'm not good at foreplays," Noah said as his smile vanished and the Demonic Sword flew in his palm. "Do we try to kill each other? Do we talk? I'm good either way since your Father has left a few opponents for me before leaving."

Second Prince kept his eyes fixed on Noah as he analyzed his behavior. He tried to see some flaws that could reveal his arrogance or worries, but Noah appeared completely relaxed in that situation.

Noah didn't feel fear. His instincts told him that Second Prince was dangerous, but he had been in front of a god. A cultivator in the same stage couldn't trigger his survival instincts.

"What's there to talk?" Second Prince asked. "Let's go. I don't want to risk bringing more destruction to the new continent."

Noah shrugged his shoulders, but he followed Second Prince when he turned to leave. The two left the sky above the new continent to reach an area in the middle of the sea.

"It is customary that the leaders of the strongest organizations in the world let their underlings deci-," Second Prince began to speak. Still, Noah interrupted his line by slashing toward his spot.

A black line cut Second Prince's torso diagonally, and the two pieces of his body began to separate. Yet, they both turned into flames that reattached themselves to reform the Royal's figure.

"I see that you don't care about this," Second Prince commented, but Noah slashed again.

The battle had started. Noah had no more words for his opponent at that point, and his face could express only coldness.

Noah's second slash divided the Royal in half again, but he didn't bleed. Golden flames came out of the cut edges, and his two pieces reattached themselves in a few seconds.

"You didn't even bother to check if this place had traps," Second Prince said, and four metallic pillars rose from the sea.

The pillars encircled the two cultivators, and a golden light came out of their surface. Their halo was about to reach Noah, but he closed his eyes and placed his forehead on the Demonic Sword as he focused on those items.

The halo suddenly stopped expanding, and a long cut appeared on the pillars' surface. Second Prince's expression became even more severe when he saw those inscribed items falling apart after enduring Noah's attack.

Second Prince didn't sense Noah's attack. It was as if the pillars had crumbled under his sharpness.

Noah didn't waste time and resumed to launch slashes toward Second Prince as soon as the pillars crumbled. The Royal appeared immune to his attacks, and he always reattached its severed parts through the flames coming out of its injuries.

Second Prince didn't appear affected by those attacks, but he didn't seem to like Noah's actions. He snapped his fingers, and golden runes came out of his skin before disappearing inside the air.

Noah didn't sense anything, but a golden rune suddenly reappeared next to him and a fireball teleported in that spot. An explosion resounded in the area, and a wave of flames filled that piece of the sky.

Second Prince didn't stop his offensive there. More runes appeared near Noah's position, and various attacks replaced them after their halo dimmed.

Fireballs, spears, and snake heads crashed on Noah as more golden flames spread in the sky. Second Prince unleashed an array of spells that opened large cracks connected to the void.

Noah felt that something was off. He never felt the need to dodge or react to those attacks because his instincts didn't sense any danger coming from them.

His sturdy skin was more than enough to endure those blows, and his aura could even weaken them before they landed on his body.

'Why is he so weak?' Noah questioned himself.

Second Prince was at the peak of the liquid stage. His individuality would theoretically be only a few steps before the state of law, but the power that he was expressing wasn't even close to that level.

That surprised Noah, but it led to only one explanation. Second Prince was holding back. No powerhouse could reach that level without going through the personal growth required by their individuality.

Noah didn't know why Second Prince wasn't showing his real power, but he had a way to find the answer.

Noah stomped on the air, and his figure disappeared. Even Second Prince lost track of him, but a shadow suddenly appeared in front of him.

Second Prince barely had the time to understand what had charged at him. He only saw the shape of a sword before pain spread from the center of his chest.

Noah reappeared behind him and slashed again. His previous attack had created a crack that led to the void right in the middle of his torso, but he wanted to put an end to the battle right away.

A second crack cut the upper part of the Royal's body diagonally. The flames that came out of the severed edges flowed inside the void and disappeared from that plane.

Noah didn't know how that defensive spell worked, but he could open cracks in the sky easily at his level. If Second Prince didn't want to reveal his cards, he would feed him to the void.

Second Prince turned his head before his entire figure became unstable. Noah felt a dangerous sensation at that point, but he also understood that it was too late to dodge the incoming attack.

The Royal blew himself up, and a storm of golden flames filled a large chunk of the sky. It was as if a star had appeared above the sea and had destroyed everything in its range.

Chapter 1207 - 1207. Copies

The sea of golden flames engulfed Noah. Cracks opened in the sky as the destructive force of Second Prince's fire spread in the area.

The golden star expanded, and flares came out of its unstable surface. Yet, a fissure soon opened at its center and divided the fiery sphere into two precise halves.

Noah came out of the fissure and floated outside of the star's range. The sharpness radiated by his consciousness had cut the flames, but many of them had landed on his skin. Still, he didn't suffer any significant injury.

'He can hurt me then,' Noah thought as he stared at a burned spot on his right arm. The flames had managed to burn a small part of his skin, but he had acted before the damage spread.

Noah didn't lower his guard. Second Prince's aura still lingered in the area, but even his superior awareness couldn't pinpoint his location.

'Does he even have a real body?' Noah wondered as his consciousness expanded to look for the Royal.

He had cut Second Prince many times, but he had never managed to kill him. The Royal had always used fake bodies and clones that didn't reveal any difference from an actual body.

Mystery surrounded Second Prince. He was different from the other main descendants. Noah had never managed to understand him, but he had never bothered to do it since he had always been stronger than him.

However, the situation was different now. Second Prince's cultivation level was superior to Noah and Great Elder Diana. Noah wasn't sure about his actual battle prowess, but he knew that he had to take care of him to remove the alliance's last hindrance.

Noah waited for Second Prince to reappear, and his eyes sharpened as he saw that the golden star began to morph. His consciousness sensed multiple presences appearing around him, but all of them carried the Royal's iconic aura.

After the flames completed their transformation, Noah saw five identical Second Prince. They all radiated a cultivation level at the peak of the liquid stage, and Noah couldn't sense any difference when he inspected them.

It was as if the Royal had cloned himself right in front of him. Noah's instincts even begin to send warning messages to his mind. The technique didn't seem to be a trick or an illusion.

'Can he really multiply himself?' Noah wondered.

He had to admit that he didn't expect Second Prince to own such a strange technique. He knew that it was possible to perform feats that defied reason through the "Breath", but replicating a powerhouse required an immense amount of energy.

The Copying Technique had the same issue. Even with all its reserves of energy, the Hive didn't manage to create an army of rank 6 creatures against King Elbas.

Yet, there were now five Second Prince in front of Noah, and the Royal didn't rely on any external source of energy to perform that feat. Noah didn't even sense a surge of power when that happened.

"What exactly are you?" Noah asked.

He never spoke once a battle started, but Second Prince was too peculiar. Noah couldn't hold back his curiosity when looking at him.

"What is indeed the right word," The five copies of Second Prince replied together. "I'm one of the masterpieces of the best inscription master of these Mortal Lands. You might have created living weapons, but my Father has surpassed you even in that field."

'I see,' Noah thought as black smoke started to come out of his skin. 'He is an inscribed human.'

A cloud of corrosive smoke soon filled the area. The activation of the Demonic Form instantly covered the sky and engulfed the five Second Prince.

A golden halo came out of the five Royals and fended off the corrosive properties of Noah's smoke. Not even a speck of his gas managed to land on the five powerhouses.

Noah couldn't play around anymore in front of such prowess. His instincts told him that Second Prince wasn't on his level, but he couldn't underestimate five of them.

Still, he didn't want to reveal everything that he was capable of. Second Prince was probably hiding more tricky techniques, and Noah didn't want to give him a complete demonstration of his power until he was sure that the Royal was really there.

The five Second Prince raised their hands to launch waves of golden flames that burned Noah's corrosive smoke. The black cloud vanished in a few instants, but a shadow appeared next to one of the copies before the last trail of gas disappeared.

The copy exploded into a fiery storm that gave birth to another star. The flames engulfed the other four Royals, but it didn't manage to reach Noah since he had begun to retreat as soon as Night attacked.

The Pterodactyl came out of the golden star and flew back inside Noah's ring while he raised the Demonic Sword above his head. Dark matter flowed out of his chest and entered his blade as he prepared one of his iconic slashes.

Noah's blade descended, and darkness filled the sky. Dark matter engulfed the golden star and destroyed everything in its path.

Only cultivators staring at the battle from afar could see the attack in its true form. A gigantic blade had appeared after Noah's slash, and the technique had launched a storm of dark matter.

The entire area became part of Noah's dark world, which enhanced the sharpness carried by the slash. The fabric of the sky managed to remain intact only because the dark matter contained the destructive power launched during the attack.

Noah knew that Second Prince had survived the attack. Nothing could escape his vision inside the dark world. He had seen the slash destroying the copies and preventing the golden flames from exploding outward.

The technique had removed every trace of the Royal, but Noah could still sense his aura lingering around him. It was as if he existed even when he lacked a body.

'Does he have a core somewhere?' Noah wondered. That was the only explanation he could find to define Second Prince's odd power.

"You have become stronger," Second Prince's voice echoed through the dark world. "It doesn't surprise me that my Father has acknowledged your power. I wonder if you can put an end to my existence."

"Do you want to die?" Noah asked as he kept his weapon ready to slash. He would attack as soon as Second Prince regained a physical form.

"I've never been alive in the first place," Second Prince continued, and something began to move right outside of the dark world. "Is my existence worthy of this power? Can something like me advance through the cultivation journey? Can I become a god? I don't know."

Multiple pecks of golden flames appeared around the dark world's edges. They expanded until an army of Second Prince's copies formed in the sky.

Noah's instincts warned him about the danger that was about to fall on him, but he didn't move. The dark world was his strongest defensive and offensive method. Flying out of it would only expose him.

"Show me," Second Prince's copies spoke at the same time as they pointed their palms toward the dark world, "Show me the ambition that has made even my Father acknowledge you."

After they finished speaking, Second Prince's copies launched waves of golden flames that covered the dark world.

Chapter 1208 - 1208. Tricks

'How do I even kill him?' Noah wondered as he flew through his dimension.

He had chosen to rely on his movement technique to escape from the golden flames after seeing that his dark matter couldn't block Second Prince's attack.

The dark world had lasted long enough to create a path through the barrage of copies, and Noah had used that chance to fly above the battlefield.

Second Prince's copies turned toward him at the same time before turning into flames that flew in his direction. Noah couldn't understand how much energy the Royal had gathered after his last attack, but he didn't see any reason to change his approach.

The Royal was still in the liquid stage. Even after he created an army of copies, his overall power never reached the solid stage.

Noah felt confused about that, but he didn't have time to study his opponent's power. He couldn't divert his attention from the battle anymore. Second Prince had already proven that he was able to hurt him.

The trails of flames flew toward Noah, but he slashed before they could reach him. A wave of dark matter engulfed them and recreated the dark world, but Second Prince's aura didn't vanish.

Sparks appeared once again around the dark world, and the army of copies reformed. In less than an instant, the golden flames burned the dark matter and forced Noah to escape.

Noah reappeared in the sky and launched another slash, but the outcome was the same as before. Second Prince's presence didn't disappear even after the dark matter destroyed all its flames, and its copies reformed around the dark world again.

'This won't do,' Noah thought as Second Prince forced him to escape again.

Noah didn't have problems with his reserves of energy anymore, but he didn't believe that he could last more than Second Prince. The Royal had already admitted that he wasn't a normal cultivator, so Noah couldn't apply his knowledge to understand his limits.

Yet, Noah knew that there was a limit to how much King Elbas' creations could defy logic. Even as a masterpiece, Second Prince had to follow the laws of the world.

His energy had to come from somewhere. A regular liquid stage powerhouse couldn't fuel that ability so often, and even an inscribed item couldn't escape those restrictions.

There had to be drawbacks. The only problem was that Noah couldn't see them. Even his mind kept on telling him that Second Prince was cloning himself freely.

'I guess I had to reveal something,' Noah thought. He had to give up on his initial approach if he wanted to win that fight.

Noah didn't launch another attack when he reappeared in the sky. Second Prince's copies transformed into flames that flew toward him, but he waited until they were close to perform one of his new techniques.

Noah's ambition surged, and arrays of laws replaced the world in his eyes. His cultivation level grew as his individuality pushed his power toward peaks that he had yet to reach.

The Demonic Sword began to tremble as Noah's focused on the laws carried by Second Prince's flames. He saw King Elbas' arrogance inside that golden fire, but there were other meanings that he couldn't recognize.

However, Noah didn't need to understand his opponent's laws to cut them.

Noah's sword descended. The movement appeared slow in his eyes, but Second Prince didn't even notice it. The blade had completed the slash before the trails of flames could even reach their target.

Nothing seemed to happen after Noah attacked. The flames swept him and created a star in the area. Yet, countless fissures soon appeared in the fiery sphere's fabric.

Countless cuts covered the star. Its flames fell apart, and Noah didn't even bother to walk out of their range as he looked at the destruction that he had caused.

He didn't suffer any injury. His slash had severed the destructive properties of the flames, rendering them harmless. They weren't even warm anymore, and the sky could endure the energy they carried without shattering.

Cuts continued to appear on the flames that condensed into Second Prince's shape. The Royal didn't create any more copies, and he ignored Noah as he stared at his body.

Noah's attack didn't end even after Second Prince reformed. Cuts opened on his body, and golden flames came out of them. The Royal appeared made of fire, but that didn't slow down Noah's technique.

"What have you done to me?" Second Prince asked as injuries continued to appear on him.

The Royal tried everything. Golden runes began to shine on his skin, and potions came out of his space-rings to drop their contents on his body.

Second Prince used all his knowledge and healing methods to stop Noah's technique, but nothing seemed to work. Cuts continued to open on his body even if Noah didn't attack anymore.

'He can survive this too,' Noah thought as he inspected Second Prince. It didn't matter how many injuries the Royal suffered. His flames always fixed his body.

"Make it stop!" Second Prince shouted and launched a wave of flames toward Noah, but he easily dodged it with his movement technique.

Second Prince chased after him, but his body continued to fall apart and slowed him down. Noah didn't even need to rely on his movement technique to retreat at that point.

The Royal understood that his efforts were pointless as long as cuts continued to appear on his body. Determination appeared in his eyes before he blew himself up again.

Second Prince's presence disappeared for the first time since the beginning of the battle, but Noah didn't drop his guard. He knew that he had forced the Royal to execute some dangerous technique, but he didn't believe that Second Prince would give up on him.

As Noah had predicted, Second Prince's aura suddenly appeared in the area again, and sparks of flames formed near him before taking the Royal's shape.

Second Prince heaved a sigh of relief when he saw that the technique had stopped, but Noah promptly slashed toward him again.

The Royal dodged the attack, but anger appeared in his expression when he saw that Noah had launched a simple slash at that time. The fear of the previous technique had made him perform an evasive maneuver to avoid something unable to hurt him.

"This one is real," Noah said as he reappeared on top of the escaping Royal and slashed toward him.

Second Prince tried to understand if Noah was speaking the truth, but everything had happened too fast. His consciousness didn't have enough time to analyze the attack, and he couldn't risk suffering from that threatening technique again.

The Royal turned into flames to dodge the slash, but a loud curse resounded in the area when he noticed that Noah had tricked him again. His attack didn't even launch the usual black lines. Noah didn't put any energy into his blow.

Second Prince was about to condense into a human form, but Noah appeared next to him again and slashed without saying anything. The Royal could only perform an evasive maneuver at that point, and he didn't even bother to curse when he noticed that Noah had tricked him again.

That chase continued for a while, and Noah didn't mind that trend. He was barely consuming any energy to follow the Royal, but the latter had to deplete a lot of "Breath" to perform his evasive maneuvers.

Noah didn't know how vast Second Prince's reserves of energy were, but that approach gave him enough time to learn about the Royal's limits.

Second Prince understood Noah's intentions, and he eventually decided to stop dodging. His body divided itself into various strands of flames that condensed to create his copies, but a wave of dark matter engulfed them before they could attack.

The Royal reformed in a different spot of the sky after the attack, and he could only show an ugly expression when he saw that cuts had started to appear on his body again.

Chapter 1209 - 1209. Crystal

Noah's individuality focused on his ambition. His law made him overcome the limits of his cultivation level, but it also had other effects.

Noah had been unable to abandon anything during his journey. His ambition had made him keep his destruction, creation, and other aspects of his existence.

That path was far harsher than other journeys due to the width of the individuality, but Noah had managed to push it to his current level. Now, the ambition that had made him unable to leave anything behind allowed him to express everything simultaneously.

Noah's new slash wasn't exactly a new technique. It used the basics learnt during his training with Sword Saint, and it applied them to all his attacks. Noah only had to pour his ambition into his blows to manifest its effects.

The countless cuts were one of the techniques that best expressed his individuality. Noah only had to slash once to create a virtually endless number of injuries on his opponent.

His slash could generate other slashes. Destruction and creation worked together to give birth to an attack that would keep going as long as Noah's ambition continued to burn.

That was what Sword Saint had taught him. Noah could pour everything he had into his slashes to create an attack that knew no end. It destroyed to create more destruction in an endless cycle.

Second Prince blew himself up again when he saw that Noah had hit him with that troublesome technique. His body reformed high in the sky, but Noah promptly flew after him to continue his assault.

The Royal couldn't regain the upper hand in the battle. He had no way to predict when Noah would activate his individuality's troublesome properties, which forced him to deplete a large amount of energy to dodge all his attacks.

Noah didn't mind that type of battle. His endurance in those conditions was nearly endless, and he barely needed to perform real attacks anymore since Second Prince always performed evasive maneuvers.

The two powerhouses continued to fight in those conditions for entire weeks. Noah never let the Royal escape from his sight, and Second Prince could only rely on his immense reserves of energy to keep dodging.

Noah and Second Prince flew above both continents as their battle continued. The other powerhouses could see them for a few days before their fight led them above the sea again.

There seemed to be no end to that trend. Second Prince never had the time to react, and Noah's battle style was flawless. He never allowed him to do anything other than escaping.

'Where does he keep all this energy?' Noah wondered as he continued to suppress Second Prince.

He had forced the Royal to perform evasive maneuvers more than a thousand times, but Second Prince didn't show any sign of exhaustion. He didn't commit mistakes either, so Noah couldn't hit him with his technique anymore.

Noah couldn't explain how anything in the heroic ranks could last so long. The energy consumed by Second Prince during the battle was enough to replicate ten rank 6 beings through the Copying Formation, and he was still going!

The relentless chase saw no changes even after one month. Noah and Second Prince remained locked in that situation, and none of them managed to catch their opponent off-guard.

Noah didn't let that situation win over his determination. He knew that if he let Second Prince go, the Royal would develop countermeasures to his abilities.

That was his best chance to end him. He only had to remain patient and never give a chance to react to his opponent.

Second Prince began to feel the pressure of Noah's approach after the two of them spent two entire months in that situation.

Noah noticed that change in his mindset since the Royal began to test different strategies during his escape.

Second Prince tried to delay the solidification of his body. He attempted to create decoys and copies through his flames, and he even took out inscribed items in the hope of gaining valuable instants.

However, Noah never failed to punish him with his new technique. Second Prince could only blow himself up every time the cuts started to reappear on his body. He had no other way to stop that technique.

Those attempts made Second Prince waste even more energy, but Noah had to suppress him for another month before showing signs of exhaustion.

Second Prince became slower in his reactions. Noah began to land some blows on him even if he didn't test other strategies.

That development in their battle made Second Prince's situation quite critical. He almost didn't believe that Noah had managed to bring him to his limits, but the Royal could only blame himself.

He didn't underestimate Noah, but the latter had overcome Second Prince's highest evaluations. After all, the Royal could copy himself without dividing his power. He didn't believe that a powerhouse in the liquid stage could defeat that.

Yet, Noah didn't only overcome that technique. He had also forced Second Prince into a situation where he could deplete all his energy. That outcome was simply unbelievable in the Royal's mind, but he couldn't deny the reality of his current condition.

"Curse you!" Second Prince shouted before touching the crystal at the center of his forehead.

Noah used that chance to land another blow on him, but a blinding red light filled his vision afterward.

The halo radiated from the crystal didn't give birth to any dangerous sensation in Noah's mind, but it cut away his connection with the outside world for an instant.

Noah immediately deployed the dark world and activated the Demonic Form to defend himself, but no attack came in his direction.

After the halo vanished and he could sense the outside world again, Noah retracted his spell and dark matter to inspect the environment. Second Prince had used that chance to disappear, but he had left behind half of his crystal.

Noah felt slightly annoyed that Second Prince had managed to escape him again, especially after he had spent the last three months chasing him through the world.

'I need to invent something new before I face him again,' Noah thought as he picked that half crystal. 'I didn't even manage to understand what he is.'

Noah could only sigh at that outcome, but the crystal soon caught his attention. His mental waves went on the item, and images tried to barge inside his mind at that point.

Noah quickly cut the connection with the crystal. He wanted to be careful when it came to items that belonged to the Elbas family. They knew too much about the inscription fields for him to act recklessly.

Dark matter rose from Noah's chest and entered his mind to create a few defensive layers. Part of his higher energy also reinforced his sturdy mental walls as he prepared himself to connect his consciousness with the crystal again.

Once he prepared all his defenses, Noah spread his mental waves toward the crystal again, and the same flow of images began to enter his mind.

The images were a messy mass of colors at the beginning, but Noah slowly reconstructed them. When he had completed that process, he saw King Elbas pouring his blood on a red crystal.

Chapter 1210 - 1210. Memories

Noah felt like dreaming. He had gone through similar sensations already in his life, and he could barely believe what was happening.

The images that had appeared in his head gave off the same vibe as a Bloodline Inheritance. Yet, they were also similar to the dreams he experienced when he was still absorbing the Light-devouring Dragons' bloodline.

Noah couldn't understand what King Elbas had created just by listening to his sensations. He had to dig deeper in the memories contained inside the crystal to discover more about that item and Second Prince.

His mental waves went back inside the crystal, and more images flew toward his mind. Noah didn't want to go through many cycles of that process, so he continued to maintain the connection with the item until no more colors entered his consciousness.

Noah let his mind process those pieces of information until he obtained an orderly series of images. Even some sounds began to echo inside his mental walls as those pictures started to move.

"Failure," King Elbas' voice resounded inside Noah's mind.

The sound wasn't clear. It was muffled, and it seemed to come from far away.

The images showed King Elbas handling a series of items to inspect the red crystal that had received his blood. His mouth would move at times, but no sound came out of it.

Noah guessed that those memories were incomplete. He had a vague idea about the experiment that the Royals' leader was performing, but he had too many questions about the whole matter.

Moreover, King Elbas was mostly talking by himself. His mouth moved only when his considerations couldn't remain inside his mind anymore.

That scene depicted King Elbas in his natural environment. Intense curiosity brimmed in his eyes as he inspected the crystal with various inscribed items. The Royal's focus was on his creation, and he didn't show any anger in front of a failure.

'If these are memories,' Noah thought as the images became foggy for a few seconds, 'Who is watching him?'

Noah obtained the answer to his question as soon as the images became clear again.

King Elbas pinched the crystal in front of him and shattered it into pieces before turning toward the images' point of view. His muffled voice resounded once again inside Noah's mind as the Royal pointed at his palm to open a wound.

"Second," King Elbas murmured, "I've never succeeded at the second attempts."

The Royal dropped his blood on the point of view. Shades of red appeared on the images as the drops flowed on top of them.

The redness began to flicker, and the images became clear once again as the drops vanished. Noah could guess what had happened at that point. The second crystal had absorbed King Elbas' blood, and a consciousness awakened.

The images suddenly became messy. Noah saw darkness followed by redness. King Elbas' figure alternated between foggy and clear in a cycle that continued for a few minutes.

Then, at the peak of the images' clarity, Second Prince's resounded inside Noah's mind. "Who are you?"

"I am your Father," King Elbas answered as he hurriedly picked his inscribed items again to inspect the crystal.

His expression remained stern as the process continued, but the light coming out of his eyes became brighter as he read the results of his analysis.

"I did it," King Elbas murmured. "You are the first living being created through my blood. You shall be my heir. I'll award you the name of First Prince!"

Silence filled the room, but King Elbas patiently waited for an answer to arrive. Yet, when the crystal spoke, the Royal could only show a mix of surprise and interest.

The redness became more intense as Second Prince's voice resounded in Noah's head. "First? I'm the second! You have destroyed First!"

King Elbas didn't initially understand what Second Prince meant, but everything became clear to him when he turned to look at the pieces of the other red crystal.

"Oh," King Elbas said, "You could already see before inheriting my will. Part of me must have flowed inside you when I assembled the crystal."

King Elbas performed more tests, but he eventually put everything away to speak with his creation.

"Fine, I'll call you Second. I will teach you what I know before giving you a body. I'll probably make more of you if the experiment turns out to be a success."

King Elbas stretched his hands to take the crystal, and the images became foggy after he picked it. Noah waited for a while, but he could only see two more scenes from the memories he had obtained.

The first one showed Second Prince running through what appeared to be a lab. The crystal in his forehead was the point of view, so Noah didn't manage to get a good look at the environment while he remained immersed in those memories.

Second Prince gasped for air as he climbed a stair that ended into a trap door. His hands managed to lift its edges and make some of the air outside it flow inside the lab before someone flung him back at the bottom of the room.

King Elbas appeared in Second Prince's vision, but his expression didn't carry the same excitement as the first images. There were only seriousness and a tinge of disappointment on his face.

"You are too free," King Elbas said while heaving a sigh. "Your potential is immense, but you carry my desires and dreams. I can't let you fulfill yourself before I leave this world."

The images became foggy as soon as King Elbas' hand stretched to cover Second Prince's vision.

The second scene showed a place that Noah remembered well. It depicted the separate reality when Noah killed First Prince and First Princess.

The redness in Second Prince's vision flickered to no end as he kept his focus on Noah. The images became more vivid as he killed the two descendants.

Noah could sense his ambition in the images. It was as if his individuality had flowed inside Second Prince and had left a mark in his mind.

'Did I inspire Second Prince?' Noah wondered as the images became foggy, and the memories ended.

There were still many questions inside his mind, but Noah wasn't really interested in Second Prince's life.

Every living being went through hardships, and many of them carried traumas of those events for most of their journey. Overcoming and owning them was what allowed them to reach higher peaks in their path.

However, a detail in those images had caught his attention. When Second Prince lifted the trap door, Noah had seen part of the structure that stood on top of the lab.

Noah didn't see much, but he recognized the style of the structure's inside. He couldn't forget them since he had lived in similar buildings for a while.

'The Capital in the Utra nation,' Noah concluded in his mind.

There was only one place in the entire world that had such polished buildings, and the old Capital was one of the few spots that could still hide secrets from Noah.

Noah didn't believe that the Capital held any riches since the Elbas family had moved all its assets to the new continent and had placed the dimensional portal in that nation.

Yet, there was a chance that it still hid King Elbas' old lab. If that turned out to be accurate, Noah felt relatively sure that he could find some research there.