

DEMONIC 1211

### **Chapter 1211 - 1211. Lab**

The old Capital had lost any importance to Noah and other thieves after the migration into the new continent. King Elbas had even placed the dimensional portal in the Utra nation, which decreased the value of what had once been one of the world's most advanced cities.

Too much had happened back when Noah was still performing raids with the Demons. That eventually led him to never think about the old Academy and Capital again but seeing Second Prince's memories had ignited his curiosity.

King Elbas was a monster, and he was even more impressive when it came to the inscription fields. If there was even a slight chance that his old lab contained some of his studies, Noah had to seize it.

Moreover, he had the faint feeling that Second Prince still had some connections with that place. After all, King Elbas had appeared twice in the memories obtained through the red crystal.

Noah browsed through his inscribed notebook before deciding to make the travel on his own.

His underlings and the other organizations were still busy studying the Three-headed Dog, and they weren't even close to defeating it. Noah had time for a trip to the old continent.

'It acted like a Bloodline Inheritance,' Noah thought as he inspected his mind, 'But it didn't improve my sea of consciousness.'

Noah felt slightly disappointed that the memories obtained through the piece of crystal didn't improve his mind. Second Prince would have instantly become more valuable if his consciousness could work as a Bloodline Inheritance.

Yet, King Elbas didn't create Second Prince with that feature. His mind resembled a Bloodline Inheritance because it carried intense emotions, but his memories didn't have the same miraculous effects.

Noah flew toward the Utra nation and stopped to inspect the area once he reached the old Capital. The lands there barely had any vegetation left, and even the city's tall defensive walls had suffered from the existence of the dimensional portal.

King Elbas had left the portal open before departing for the Immortal Lands. The consumption of energy had continued during the five centuries that the three organizations had spent inside the separate dimension.

The Utra nation was on the path to become a desert. The only feature that had stopped its degradation was the mountain chain in the distance since it contained a lot of energy.

Still, it didn't meet the standards of other habitable lands anymore. There was simply nothing valuable left in those regions. Even the weaker magical beasts and normal animals had left that nation and the ones nearby.

Noah didn't feel much by staring at that desolation. He had embarked on the cultivation journey in that nation, but there wasn't anything left there. Only ruins and bitter memories could appear in his vision.

The buildings inside the Capital had it a bit better than the defensive walls due to some "Breath" blessings left behind during the migration. Still, even those resources had suffered from the effects of the dimensional portal.

The tall structures envied by the entire world had become nothing more than ruins. The city's luxurious streets and quarters had turned into symbols of the era before the new continent.

Noah never forgot who he had been before finding the Hive. He was nothing more than a human cultivator when he had started to live in the Capital. His job as a hunter and the memories of his secret missions were still vivid in his mind.

It felt strange returning there as the leader of the most powerful organization in the world. Noah could barely believe how weak he had been in the past.

He still recalled the struggles to obtain techniques and the constant suppression that he had to overcome to reach his current status. Time had made all of that vanish, but those memories would live forever in his mind.

Those memories surged inside his mind as he descended toward the streets of the Capital. Only one thought kept on echoing through his mental walls as he looked at the scene: 'The cultivation journey is ruthless!'

Not even the best city in the world could survive the passage of time. The Royals didn't think twice before abandoning the Capital to make new homes in the new continent.

Humans cultivators who couldn't even walk on the piece of Immortal Lands had migrated without giving the matter any second thought. They had left everything in the hope that the new world could give them a chance to reach the peak.

Noah didn't linger too long in his memories. Those ruined streets and buildings made him pensive, but he had a lot to do, and he couldn't waste time.

The world wouldn't wait for him. Every second lost was a chance given to his opponents to catch up with him. Noah didn't have threatening enemies in the world, but his mindset never allowed him to relax.

Noah didn't need to search for traces of King Elbas' old lab. He had sensed a familiar aura with his innate awareness as soon as he landed inside the Capital, and he walked directly toward the source of that trace.

He soon arrived in front of a crumbled building. The debris was all over the place, but he could see that someone had moved them recently.

The debris crumbled into a pile of dust as soon as Noah's consciousness touched them. His mental waves blew the dirt away and revealed the same floor he had seen in Second Prince's memories.

Noah wielded the Demonic Sword and started tapping the floor with its tip. His consciousness couldn't sense anything specific there, but he knew that the owner of that familiar aura had stopped there.

His sword sensed something at some point, and Noah stabbed it on the floor before tilting it to lift the trap door. King Elbas' old lab appeared in his vision, and Noah analyzed the insides with his consciousness before walking down the stairs.

Dust, books, scrolls, and a few inscribed items appeared in his vision. Most of them were old or broken, but there was something that the passage of time didn't ruin.

Still, the items didn't go past the fourth rank in terms of power. For a powerhouse like Noah, most of the stuff inside the lab was nothing more than junk.

Noah couldn't focus for too long on the lab. He had noticed even before entering that place that there was someone else there, and he could place his eyes on the other powerhouse after he had descended the stairs.

"You are a tough one," Second Prince said as he inspected his forehead with a series of inscribed items. "No wonder my Father respected you so much."

Only half of his crystal had fallen when he had performed that reckless evasive maneuver, but it seemed that it had mostly regrown during the short period after his battle against Noah.

Noah looked at the Royal before losing interest in him. No tension formed in the air even if the two of them were in the same room. None of them wanted to fight at the moment.

"Are the other main descendants like you?" Noah asked as he picked a random item from a desk near him. His mind didn't sense any energy coming from that, so he placed it back where it was.

Second Prince appeared slightly surprised by that question, but he answered anyway. "No. He has labeled me as a failure, so he has created the others through normal methods. Well, normal for his standards."

### **Chapter 1212 - 1212. Life**

Noah had many questions, but his main goal was to find studies left behind by King Elbas. Still, he would take any piece of information that Second Prince was willing to give him.

"Why didn't you run?" Noah asked as he browsed through some of the scrolls on a dusty shelf. "You knew which memories the crystal you left behind contained. You knew that I would have come here."

The scrolls contained studies aimed for cultivators in the fourth rank fifth rank, but even Noah could see that the current inscription methods were more advanced than those described.

King Elbas might have been a genius, but most of his knowledge had become public domain. Only his latest inventions were still a secret, and the world wasn't sure if his descendants knew all of them.

"I came at you with the strength of ten powerhouses at the peak of the liquid stage," Second Prince replied as he took a bag of blood from a drawer next to him, "But I lost anyway. What should I try next time? Should I wait until I can do the same at the solid stage? Should I take my victory if I manage to become a god before you?"

Noah didn't answer that question. He had found a book that described some taming method, and he promptly stored it.

The Hive didn't need help in controlling the hybrids as long as Noah and Skully were there. However, Noah would eventually ascend, and beings stronger than Skully were bound to appear sooner or later.

Noah didn't want to leave the Hive unprepared for the army of hybrids, so he stored that book to improve Thirty-seven's knowledge. The automaton would take care of teaching it to the others when the time was right.

"These studies don't belong to you," Second Prince said as he poured a few drops of blood on his forehead. His crystal absorbed the liquid, and a small part of its missing piece regrow after that procedure.

"Didn't you just admit your eternal defeat?" Noah asked as he continued to browse through that collection. He wanted to make sure that he didn't miss anything valuable, so he inspected every item that he found.

Second Prince remained speechless after Noah's reply. He had vented previously, but he didn't expect Noah to treat that lab as if it was his raiding ground.

In the end, Second Prince sighed before asking Noah a question. "Why didn't you kill me? Don't tell me that you have started to pity me."

"You are a cursed existence," Noah began to speak as he heard those words. "Your Father has tortured and restrained you. Isn't this how life normally goes?"

Noah wasn't serious, but Second Prince didn't laugh. He shook his head and continued the treatment for his crystal.

Some of the shelves fell when Noah moved them to inspect certain items. The most important resource in the lab appeared to be the scrolls and books, but even those were quite old for the current era.

Yet, Noah took anything that appeared remotely valuable. It would be up to Thirty-seven to sort them and evaluate their utility. Even if none of them could improve the Hive's current state, it could lead the automaton to create something that could benefit his entire organization.

"You," Second Prince hesitated for a moment before resuming speaking, "Your ambition. It touched me in the separate reality. I managed to awaken a part of my personality in that place."

Noah didn't answer. He could feel that Second Prince's speech wasn't over. He didn't know what the Royal was about to say, but he didn't have much to do. Looting a lab didn't require much attention.

"How can an existence like you choose to live?" Second Prince asked. "I've read your story, I've made my investigations, and I know about a part of your individuality. Your law of ambition burns hotter than Father's flames. I didn't think it to be possible."

Noah recalled his defeat against King Elbas. The Royal had overwhelmed the forces of the entire world with his golden flames, and some of the powerhouses still feared that color.

The memories of such a massive battle could even affect the minds of the strongest cultivator. King Elbas was an existence worthy of creating those traumas.

"Why would I even help you?" Noah asked.

Second Prince wasn't his ally. Part of him knew that they weren't enemies either, especially after learning how King Elbas had manipulated him. Yet, Noah couldn't find any reason to help him.

"I still am King Elbas' heir," Second Prince replied. "I am the best inscription master in the world now."

Noah shook his head as he continued to browse through that collection of antiques. Second Prince was willing to bribe him as long as he could receive an answer to his question.

"What is your source of energy?" Noah asked. "Do you even have a dantian?"

Second Prince's eyes lit up when he saw that Noah had taken an interest in him. That gave him hope, but he had to answer honestly to avoid triggering another battle.

"My dantian is only for scene," Second Prince began to explain. "It grows and absorbs laws, but it contains no "Breath". My energy comes from the seabed."

Noah didn't need to show a curious expression to make Second Prince understand that he wanted to hear more about that method. He only turned and looked at the Royal with his usual cold reptilian eyes.

"The new continent was powerful enough to fuel formations on its own," Second Prince explained. "The seabed is quite similar. I have a formation connected to a teleportation matrix down there. The energy that it gathers flows directly into my dantian."

"So," Noah spoke to make sure that he couldn't gain anything from eating Second Prince. "Your dantian is worthless, isn't it?"

"Yes," Second Prince showed a smile as he replied. "I'm only a consciousness that moves puppets. I wouldn't satisfy you if you were to eat me."

Noah could only sigh at that discovery. Learning about Second Prince's cultivation method made him want to scan the seabed and see if he could find that formation.

If the Hive learnt how to harness energy from the seabed, it wouldn't have any problem activating the Copying Technique.

"You ask me how," Noah said as his inspection continued. "I don't know. I'm alive, so I choose to live. There isn't anything out of it. My ambition is boundless, but I would have remained alive without it too."

"Do you think I can?" Second Prince asked.

"You are the only one turning this into an issue," Noah quickly replied. "Alive, dead, human, monster, who cares. You can cultivate, so you can live this life."

Noah's words were something that Second Prince had repeated himself many times, but they had a different weigh when Noah was the one to speak them.

Second Prince suddenly seemed to understand something, but his mood didn't change. He remained pensive, and he didn't appear wholly convinced about Noah's point.

"The thing about your dantian," Noah began his speech, "You are completely useless to me without it. Killing you gives me no benefits, but I have another role in mind that you can fill."

"Which is?" Second Prince asked.

"Deal with my boredom," Noah replied. "I'm going to grow bored of these lands quite soon if no one tries to reach the top of the world. I don't want to spend the solid stage in seclusion."

### **Chapter 1213 - 1213. Puppet**

"What do you mean?" Second Prince could vaguely understand Noah's words, but he wanted to hear him describe them. "I've already lived as a slave. I won't be yours."

"You should feel lucky that I have no interest in killing you," Noah replied as he showed a cold smile toward the Royal.

A chill ran down Second Prince's spine when the reptilian pupils landed on him. He felt n.a.k.e.d under Noah's piercing gaze. Even if the Royal wasn't an actual living being, his survival instincts screamed in fear when death became a possibility in his mind.

Noah could end his life in that situation. Nothing in the world could stop him, and Second Prince didn't have any secret strategy to deploy. The Royal would die for sure if Noah decided to attack.

Yet, Noah soon diverted his gaze to explode into a loud laugh. Second Prince gave up on understanding him after that event, and he limited himself to listen to what he had to say.

"You don't have to do anything too specific," Noah said after he suppressed his laugh. "Live, grow, fight. Do whatever you want, but keep me as your enemy. Be a constant threat in my life. I don't want this war to be the last exciting event that I will see in the lower plane."

Second Prince couldn't believe his ears. It was as if Noah was hiring an assassin to avoid living in peace for the rest of his journey through the heroic ranks!

"Are you crazy?" Second Prince asked, but Noah shrugged his shoulders at that question as he continued to browse through the items in the old lab.

The Royal found that task unreasonable. No living being would choose to add danger to their lives unless that brought clear benefits. Yet, Noah didn't seem to have anything to gain from that.

A smile started to appear on Second Prince's face as that idea settled in his mind. He was King Elbas' heir, so he only needed time to come up with threatening offensives and assassination plans.

"What if I manage to kill you?" Second Prince asked as his smile widened.

"I will just die," Noah replied without stopping inspecting the lab. "I should warn you though. I won't hold back during your attacks, so it will be up to you to survive."

Second Prince's smile froze when he heard that answer. He did not doubt that Noah was serious about his proposal now, but he still didn't know how he had to react to it.

Noah understood that the Royal found it hard to accept his reasons, but he didn't want to give up on that chance. After all, he could solve one of the issues that had bothered him since King Elbas' banishment.

"Look," Noah said before taking a short break to think about words that the Royal could understand. "I will let you live today as long as you promise me not to disappear from the political scene. Don't ask yourself why. Just do your best not to die the next time we see each other."

"Aren't you afraid I will go after the other members of your organization?" Second Prince couldn't give up so soon, but Noah's answer left him dumbfounded.

"Where is the fun in that?" Noah replied. "Shouldn't you prove that you can aim for the sky? What is the point in hunting down weaklings?"

Noah didn't look at the Royal during his answer, and he completed the inspection of the lab while Second Prince remained dumbfounded.

There wasn't much in the lab. The few items and studies that Noah had taken weren't exceptional nor competitive in the current inscription fields.

Still, they carried King Elbas' genius. The most valuable aspects of those studies and items were the ideas that had led to their creation.

Those ideas could inspire the current generation of inscription masters and open the path for the birth of new masterpieces. Noah couldn't let go of the chance to make the experts in his organization grow.

Noah gave another look at the lab before moving toward the stairs. He had already said his piece. It was up to Second Prince to decide what to do.

Noah wouldn't lose anything even if the Royal decided to hide and never show his face again. He had nothing to gain from Second Prince anyway. He could become useful only if he became a proper enemy.

"Does this mean that you think I'm worthy of being your opponent?" Second Prince asked before Noah could leave.

"Recognition won't lead you anyway," Noah replied as he lifted the trap door. "If I were you, I would stop searching for what I am and start looking for where I want to go."

Noah left the lab after that line. Second Prince remained behind, but Noah didn't look back as he set off to return to the new continent.

He didn't have anything else to say. Second Prince had to make his choice now.

The invasion was still in its early stages in the new continent. The five massive puppets had stopped the expansion of the three organizations, limiting them to the western coast and the regions nearby.

The powerhouses among the invaders had found some weaknesses in the Three-headed Dog during their assaults. Still, all the strategies proposed during their meetings had an unavoidable flaw.

The puppets were rank 6 weapons in the upper tier, but the organizations only had access to liquid stage powerhouses at best. The difference in sheer power between the defenders and the invaders was too steep to overcome without external help.

Of course, the powerhouses had made those calculations without considering Noah's power. He had yet to join that battlefield, and the experts couldn't create accurate strategies without knowing how much he had grown.

Noah's return put in motion strategies that had been impossible to apply without him. The invaders could now test the puppets' prowess more accurately and hope to reclaim their lost land.

Great Elder Diana, God's Left Hand, and Noah gathered near the region containing the Three-headed Dog. A month had passed since the events with Second Prince, and the leaders of the three organizations had finally completed the preparations for a powerful assault.

The attack would feature only the three of them at that time. The trio's role was to test the puppets' structural limits and see if they could hope to destroy it without creating something on a similar level.

"You have the highest piercing power," Great Elder Diana said while looking toward Noah. "We'll open a path through the flames. See if you can break that red metal."

Noah didn't answer, but the Demonic Sword flew out of his space-ring and landed in his hand. That gesture was enough to express his compliance with the strategy.

The trio flew toward the mountain chain in the region in front of them, and a golden halo soon filled the sky as flames surged from the ground.

A massive Three-headed Dog came out of the mountains and began to roar toward the three powerhouses. Flames came out of its red skin and amassed inside its mouths.

The Matriarchs attacked before the puppet could gather enough energy to attack. The previous attacks had taught them how long the creature needed to launch its flames, so they didn't fear its offensive.

A series of dense lightning bolts shot out of black lenses and crashed on the golden flames surrounding the Dog. That attack didn't manage to destroy the fire, but it destabilized its structure.

God's Left Hand waved her damaged inscribed fan, and a series of dense gales blew from her figure to converge on the spot damaged by Great Elder Diana.

The fire in that spot crumbled, and a narrow path opened through the puppet's innate defenses. Noah's blade descended at that point. He wouldn't waste the chance created by the Matriarchs.

### **Chapter 1214 - 1214. Damage**

Noah could now condense his dark world inside the Demonic Sword and unleash it when he completed a slash. Yet, that attack had multiple variants.

The blow that he had shown to Second Prince aimed to cover a large area, but the situation was different now. The Matriarchs had managed to uncover only a small part of the puppet's skin, so Noah had to unleash everything he had in that spot.

No slash came out after Noah's sword descended, but the Three-headed Dog trembled as something landed at the bottom of the tunnel dug through the flames.



The puppet slid through the mountains and created cracks at their bases as it tried to maintain its position after the impact. Something had landed on its body, and the power that it carried had threatened to fling the Dog away.

God's Left Hand showed a confused expression while staring at the opening that she had created in the puppet's defense. She didn't see Noah's attack, but the reaction of the other Matriarch told her that something had happened.

Great Elder Diana's reaction wasn't flashy, but her aura became tense when she witnessed Noah's slash. Her cultivation level was still a bit above the Hive's leader, so she had been able to see the true nature of Noah's attack.

Noah's slash wasn't invisible. It was simply tiny. A minute black shard had flown out of the Demonic Sword and had crossed the opening in the puppet's defenses to land on its skin.

The amount of energy contained in that shard was unfathomable. Noah had condensed the entirety of his dark world in that attack. When it came to sheer power, that was Noah's strongest slash.

The trio watched as the golden flames filled the tunnel created by the Matriarchs. They waited until they could get a good look at the red metal, and confident smiles appeared on their faces when they saw the damages inflicted by Noah's slash.

The attack didn't manage to pierce the red metal, but a deep white mark had appeared where the slash had landed. That was the only proof that the leaders needed to decide their approach with the puppets.

The powerhouses in the world had lost a lot inside the separate reality. Only a few of them had died, but King Elbas had burned most of their stronger items.

The weapons that allowed some of them to overcome the difference of power between the stages was no more. God's Left Hand still had her fan, but it had suffered damages, and she was the weakest leader.

The trio theoretically held enough power to deal with threats on the puppets' level, but the Elbas family had built them to shine in battle. With the right allocation of energy and protections, an upper tier item could be unbeatable with sheer strength alone.

That didn't seem to be the case for the Three-headed Dog. Noah's slash could damage it, so the three organizations could overcome that hurdle. It was only a matter of strategy now.

The golden flames slowly fixed the damage. Red metal replaced the white mark and brought the puppet back to its peak condition.

'Maybe if I amassed enough primary energy,' Noah thought as he inspected the puppet.

Noah had other attacks that could deal with the puppet's annoying abilities, but he didn't want to reveal all his assets. He had a new enemy now. The sole fact that Second Prince existed made him remember the danger that the cultivation world could bring.

Moreover, the Matriarchs had to play their parts. Noah didn't want to carry the weight of the war on his own. That approach would only hurt the Hive since it wouldn't learn anything about the other leaders' abilities.

"Shall we continue for a while?" Great Elder Diana asked before her companions could say anything.

The Council's Matriarch had a lot of experience in the political field. She didn't even try to trick Noah and God's Left Hand to make them reveal everything they had since she valued the integrity of the alliance far more than those small gains.

God's Left Hand and Noah nodded without adding anything else, and they immediately began to assault the puppet with the same strategy they had applied before.

Great Elder Diana destabilized the flames' structure, God's Left Hand made them crumble, and Noah attacked the opening that the two Matriarchs created. The only difference was that they didn't stop there at that time.

The trio continued to assault the Dog until it finished gathering enough flames. By focusing the same spot over and over again, they had managed to pierce the initial layers of red metal and damage the puppet's insides. Yet, the creature's counterattack forced them to stop their relentless offensive.

The Dog spread its mouths, and golden beams shot out of them. The attacks didn't aim for the leaders but converged in front of the puppet to create a massive fiery sphere that radiated golden light in the sky.

The invaders had already seen that attack multiple times, so Noah didn't feel any surprise at that sight. He knew that was about to come, and he placed his blade on his forehead as he focused on the environment.

A rain of fireballs flew out of the fiery sphere. The golden halo dimmed as the star shrunk, but the process continued until all the flames had flowed into attacks flying toward the leaders.

Noah closed his eyes and unfolded his consciousness. He could sense hundreds of fireballs converging in his direction, but he didn't move.

'I exist,' Noah said in his head as his ambition surged. 'I can cut one of those fireballs, so I can cut all of them.'

His cultivation level surged and reached peaks that he had to explore, and a tremor ran through his aura as his sharpness manifested in the world.

There were so many fireballs in the sky that the entire area was still golden, even if the main star had vanished. No other colors could exist in that environment, and even the air struggled to resist the pressure that those attacks radiated.

As an upper tier inscribed weapon, the Three-headed Dog could launch attacks that resembled a solid stage powerhouse's spell. Its fire wasn't normal either since it took inspiration from King Elbas' higher energy.

Yet, a large chunk of the array of fireballs went dark after Noah launched its attack. Fissures appeared on every fiery sphere flying toward him and divided them in half.

The light that they radiated instantly dimmed after they suffered that damage, and they didn't even explode after Noah's sharpness destabilized their structure. Their flames faded in the sky.

Great Elder Diana didn't have issues dealing with the attacks converging toward her either.

She had created a crackling orange sphere by gathering the lightning bolts launched by her lenses while the puppet still prepared its attack. Then, small but dense bolts shot out of her attack and seeped inside the fireballs coming toward her.

The fireballs initially didn't show any difference in their behavior, but they all exploded after a second passed. A flash of golden light filled her side of the sky before vanishing altogether.

God's Left Hand had to rely on her inscribed weapon to deal with that offensive. Her fan had suffered damages, but it still was a quasi-rank 7 item. The prowess that the Matriarch could express through it was immense.

Her gales swept the fireballs away and made them explode in different areas of the sky. None of them could touch her, and her feat put an end to the puppet's first offensive.

'This is annoying,' Noah thought when his eyes went on the Three-headed Dog after. He searched for the spot he had managed to damage, but the golden flames had fixed it while the trio was busy fending off the fireballs.

#### **Chapter 1215 - 1215. Void**

The most annoying aspect of the puppet's healing properties wasn't in its fixing speed. The main issue was that the golden flames relied on a source of energy that didn't have clear limits.

The golden halo capable of healing formations used "Breath" to replace and fix inscriptions, but the puppets had only one fuel. They consumed the blood of the Elbas Bloodline to activate their flames and obtain those annoying abilities.

That made the battle more troublesome. Noah and the others couldn't aim to slowly exhaust the reserves of energy connected to the puppets in that situation. They didn't know how their fuel behaved.

It would have been different if the Hive still had access to the Copying Technique. The damage that the leaders could inflict with that asset would be enough to make even those powerful puppets struggle.

Yet, the organizations were on their own now. The best they could do was creating inscribed weapons that countered the puppets' abilities, but they still needed to find a way to inflict consistent damages.

"Can you cut it from one side to another?" Great Elder Diana asked as she neared Noah.

God's Left Hand shook her head when she heard that, but her eyes widened when she saw that Noah was pondering about the matter. It was as if he was really considering whether he could do it or not.

"Does the Hive have another divine weapon stored somewhere?" God's Left Hand asked.

Noah scratched his head as calculation happened in his mind. The puppet was sturdy, and the materials that made it were quite hard, but it was only half a stage above him when it came to sheer power.

"I might be able to come close to that," Noah said as he continued to study the Three-headed Dog. "I need to land on it after preparing my attack for a while. Still, I think it's easier to cut the heads."

With enough preparations, Noah knew that his sharpness could overcome the red metal's sturdiness. The upper tier wasn't exactly on par with the solid stage, so he felt confident of reaching that level if he pushed his ambition to its peak.

Noah's answer didn't surprise Great Elder Diana. Her evaluation of the strongest cultivator in history was on point. Defying Demon was a monster among monsters.

"We only need to take care of the flames then," Great Elder Diana said as she turned toward God's Left Hand.

The Empire's Matriarch had her doubts, but her role in that strategy didn't appear to be too dangerous. It didn't hurt to try that approach with those conditions.

The Three-headed Dog charged another attack while the leaders conversed, but it lost its targets before it could create the rain of fireballs again. Noah and the two Matriarchs flew out of the puppet's range as soon as the golden star formed.

Noah crossed his legs and closed his eyes once the trio reached the edges of the battlefield. His consciousness expanded, and his aura became more intense as he relied on his ambition to enhance his abilities.

The two Matriarchs left to fly toward different teleportation matrices. They needed to take a few items from their organizations' temporary headquarters to succeed in their plan.

The air around Noah fell apart as his mental waves spread in the sky. Primary energy formed from the "Breath" that his destruction shattered.

The primary energy was volatile and would usually disperse in a few seconds, but Noah's consciousness kept it in its place. His mind had long since become able to affect the laws of the world, and the primary energy couldn't escape his influence.

Noah's aura grew as that process continued. His cultivation level surged, and white smoke came out of his skin as the black hole in his chest spun faster.

Red spots appeared on his skin. His body temperature went beyond what normal humans and magical beasts could endure as he pushed his cultivation level to its peak.

When the Matriarchs returned, Noah's cultivation level had reached the peak of the liquid stage, and its growth had yet to stop!

God's Left Hand and Great Elder Diana felt that something was off in the area, and surprised expressions appeared on their faces when they studied that phenomenon.

Some of the higher-ups had learnt about the secrets behind the magical beasts' evolution path. As the experiments with the hybrids continued, the world's experts had become aware of the existence of the primary energy.

However, they had soon discarded any project featuring the higher energy since they saw it as a weaker version of the "Breath". Only Noah still relied on it since it was an expression of his destruction.

The Matriarchs remained silent as they waited for Noah to complete his preparations. A tremor ran on their eyes when they sensed that his cultivation level stepped outside the limits of the liquid stage and began to reach the solid stage.

Noah was crossing the distance between the last two stages of the heroic ranks with his individuality!

"This-," God's Left Hand began to comment, but Great Elder Diana shot a warning glance at her. She could make her considerations after the battle was over. Now she had to leave Noah be.

Once Noah's cultivation reached the quasi-solid stage level, he opened his palm to create a small dark sphere that applied a gravitational pull on the primary energy accumulated in the sky.

The sphere absorbed everything it could. The primary energy converged inside its shape, but Noah's spell also captured "Breath" in its pulling force.

The Black Hole spell became bigger, and its surface started to show signs of instability after the power accumulated in its structure surpassed the liquid stage's limits.

It seemed that the spell was about to explode, but Noah promptly stabbed the Demonic Sword in its dark surface at that point.

The Black Hole spell shrunk as the Demonic Sword absorbed its power. Noah's living weapon trembled as that intense energy filled its structure, and growls came out of it as it struggled to contain that power.

Noah knew that he was pushing his living weapon to its limits, but the Demonic Sword could endure that for a bit. He would consider his creation a failure if it couldn't keep up with his individuality.

"Open the path," Noah ordered, and the Matriarchs deployed their offensive methods to take care of the golden flames.

Great Elder Diana took out an orange shard from her space-ring, and she crushed it in her palm to release the lightning bolts that it contained. A storm began to expand in her palm, but her individuality forced that energy to remain condensed.

God's Left Hand drew circles with her fan, and gales converged at their center. Whirlpools formed in the air as the Empire's leader created small versions of her tornadoes.

Great Elder Diana launched her spell when the other Matriarch nodded at her. Her storm flew toward the left head and expanded once it touched the golden flames that protected it.

Lightning bolts and orange light fought the flames to open a path for Noah. The storm then detonated when it couldn't progress any further and spread sparks through the golden fire.

God's Left Hand unleashed her spell at that point. Her tornadoes abandoned their condensed form to turn into gales that converged on the left head.

The golden flames still had sparks running through their structure, and they couldn't endure the violence of the gales. God's Left Hand destroyed them with a single attack, and the head of the puppet finally lost its defenses at that point.

The puppet wanted to roar at its opponents, but Noah appeared on top of its left neck. His Demonic Sword descended while carrying the momentum accumulated with his movement technique. His veins bulged as he focused that immense amount of energy into a single attack.

Laws manifested in Noah's vision as the blade descended. The Demonic Sword felt heavy, and his slash appeared slow to his senses. Yet, the Matriarchs saw everything happening in less than a second.

The sky broke right after Noah stepped on the puppet. A tall fissure replaced its left neck, and its severed head fell into the void.

### **Chapter 1216 - 1216. Hope**

The Matriarchs knew what was about to happen, but seeing that scene stunned them anyway. Noah's slash had ripped off the puppet's neck and the sky's fabric, creating a fissure so large that the giant severed head couldn't avoid falling into the void.

The fissure threatened to engulf the rest of the body too, but the Dog took a few steps back to avoid that dangerous area. Its remaining head even stopped gathering flames to focus on retreating.

The world lost its light for an instant when Noah spewed his flames in the insides of the puppet. He never failed to inflict more damage when he had the chance.

Noah's starry sky flowed inside the puppet and burned its frailer parts, but the golden flames soon converged in his position and forced him to retreat.

The puppet's natural defenses covered the empty spot and started to heal it. Yet, the damage suffered was too large for the flames to fix it in a short time.

Moreover, the Dog's head contained more inscriptions than the rest of the body. The flames required more time to rebuild those lines.

Noah reappeared next to the stunned Matriarchs. His cultivation level returned to its normal state, and he felt heavy when the drawback of his ambition hit his centers of power.

Forcefully raising his cultivation level had serious drawbacks on his dantian and mind. Regular centers of power wouldn't be able to withstand that pressure. After all, the ability of Noah's individuality resembled a secret art.

However, Noah was even beyond hybrids when it came to the sturdiness of his centers of power, and his black hole made sure to refill their structure with energy whenever they were about to reach a critical state.

Noah could withstand drawbacks that would ruin most cultivators and hybrids. He was the only being in the world capable of wielding such ability without suffering any injury.

God's Left Hand and Great Elder Diana could express their amazement now that Noah had completed the attack, but they didn't comment on the matter. They only noted that Noah's power could reach the solid stage if he had enough time to prepare.

'Tricky one,' Noah thought as he stared at the puppet.

He didn't mind the Matriarchs' curious gazes. His last action had demonstrated once and for all that he was the strongest warrior in those Mortal Lands. Even those who struggled to accept his superiority could only give up on their delusions after witnessing that scene.

The Hive, the Council, and the Shandal Empire were allies, and that made Noah their leader. There was no need to make the matter official since all the higher-ups in the world had accepted that.

Also, Noah knew that it was better to leave certain things unsaid. Forcing his hand on the Empire and Council would only cause unwanted reactions from the two Matriarchs.

Red metal regrew from the severed neck of the puppet, but nothing appeared in its insides. The golden flames were fixing only its external layer at the moment.

'They have a weakness then,' Noah thought as coldness seeped out of his eyes.

That trend in the healing process was a massive flaw in the puppet's power. Taking out one head had removed one-third of its offensive prowess!

"How long do you need to launch another attack with that power?" Great Elder Diana asked when she noticed that weakness, but a dangerous sensation soon surged inside her mind.

Great Elder Diana turned only to see that Noah had his cold reptilian eyes fixed on her. She felt him inspecting her and trying to understand what her intentions were.

"Shall we stick with one every battle?" Noah asked as he smiled toward the Matriarch.

Great Elder Diana's eyes sharpened at those words. She had understood the reason behind Noah's coldness, and she didn't hesitate to nod.

Her question probed directly into Noah's power. If Noah's answered honestly, he would reveal his current limits.

"Once is more than fine," Great Elder Diana said to reaffirm her position.

She didn't fear Noah, but she didn't want their relationship to grow cold. She had misspoken due to her excitement, but she wouldn't dare to let it endanger the alliance with the Hive.

God's Left Hand remained silent during that interaction. She could only accept that she was outside of the political scene since her power didn't amount to much.

Her only valuable asset was the damaged quasi-rank 7 fan, but her cultivation level couldn't grant her a spot among the world's true leaders.

"Good," Noah said as his expression relaxed. "Let's see how long it can withstand our attacks."

The Matriarchs forgot about the previous scene after his words. The puppet became their main concern again, and spells soon shot from their figures to destroy the golden flames.

The trio didn't discuss to decide a strategy, but they instinctively aimed for the damaged part of the puppet. The leaders couldn't ignore such a large opening in its sturdy skin.

God's Left Hand and Great Elder Diana cleared the golden flames around the severed neck multiple times, and Noah never failed to sprint toward that spot to launch powerful attacks.

The trio put their offensive on hold only when the Dog attacked, but its abilities weren't as dangerous as before since it lacked one head. The leaders didn't even need to try their best to destroy the rain of fireballs.

Noah and the others resumed their offensive after they fended off the fireballs, and the golden flames never managed to heal the massive injury since the leaders kept on focusing their attacks on that spot.

The small strands of red metal that had regrown when the flames protected that spot crumbled whenever Noah landed on the puppet. His attacks destroyed every soft spot outside and inside the Dog and forced it into a constant healing process.

Noah didn't have the time to use the full power of his individuality in that situation. He limited himself to launch slashes that unleashed his dark world in the area.

The golden flames could fend off Noah's dark matter, but the spots without them suffered damages whenever the higher energy seeped through their structure.

Noah could modify the properties of the dark world freely. In that situation, he used it to enhance the innate destructiveness of one of his strongest attacks.

Since his focus was on the areas without golden flames, Noah could use the same technique that had managed to corner Second Prince. His slash covered the puppet's vulnerable spots and released dark matter that carried the entirety of his individuality.

Noah's sharpness continued to destroy the red metal even after the golden flames forced him to fly away from the puppet's skin. Cuts and fissures appeared both on the outside and inside of the creature, and they continued to ravage its body even after its protection reappeared.

Inscriptions crumbled under the intensity of Noah's sharpness, but the red metal endured his power. That was a material in the upper tier in the end. Noah couldn't destroy it unless he brought his cultivation level to the peak of the liquid stage.

The leaders' assault continued for a few days. The Dog never managed to heal its injuries, but the powerhouses couldn't inflict any more substantial damages.

Their offensive opened cracks on its body and destroyed some of the inscriptions. Still, the golden flames always mitigated the damages that it suffered by fixing many spots during the rain of fireballs.

However, the Dog didn't rely on any secret attack during that exchange, and the leaders soon understood that they could take it down in that assault if they had enough firepower.

The three of them only needed to exchange a few words before contacting the other powerhouses in their organizations. There was hope to destroy one of the puppets now, and they wouldn't waste it.

### **Chapter 1217 - 1217. Crumble**

Noah, God's Left Hand, and Great Elder Diana continued to attack the Dog while they waited for the other powerhouses in their organizations to arrive.



The trio didn't expect the puppets to have a flaw in their healing skills. Noah's slash had revealed that weakness, and they could adapt their strategy to that discovery now that they saw hope in destroying one of the defenders.

Retreating and reorganizing was worth it only if they couldn't destroy the puppet during that assault. Yet, the three had managed to inflict more damages after one of its heads was out of the picture.

That had opened the path for a crucial victory. It didn't matter that the leaders had discovered it just now as long as they managed to exploit it.

Dreaming Demon, Flying Demon, and the other cultivators from the Hive were the first to arrive on the scene. The golden flames spewed by the puppet were too dangerous for them, but they could help taking care of the protections around its body.

The Council's powerhouses reached the battlefield right after their allied Elders, and they quickly created an offensive strategy that could ease the Matriarchs' role.

True Speed was the last to arrive, and he joined the plan that the other powerhouses had devised.

Among the powerhouses, only a few of them wielded enough power to affect the golden flames. The Demons, Elder Julia, and Elder Regina could replace one of the Matriarchs' attacks if they worked together.

June had to go through a few exchanges before she could join them, but Daniel, Faith, and the others lacked the sheer destructive power needed to affect that threatening fire.

They didn't even have weapons that could enhance their power and make them surpass the limits of their cultivation level. Yet, they could deploy a strategy similar to that used against King Elbas inside the separate reality.

All kinds of flames had similar structural weaknesses, and the golden ones protecting the puppet weren't even higher energy. The group of powerhouses only had to make a few attempts before they found something that could heavily affect the fire.

The Demons and the other powerhouses who had already fought against King Elbas knew which abilities they had to use, and the others adapted to their battle style.

Faith condensed her individuality in the shape of a few bubbles that flew through the storm of attacks before exploding when they touched the golden flames.

The bubbles released shockwaves during their explosion, and the golden flames became harmless for a few seconds when Faith's individuality swept them.

Daniel imitated Faith, but he had to modify his attacks since his individuality wasn't as intense as Faith's. He unleashed his white light before condensing it into beams that landed on the flames protecting the puppet's damaged parts.

Skully couldn't do much in that situation. Her mental waves were too frail to survive among those powerful attacks, so she could only use her innate ability to support the other spells.

Her mental waves made her companions' attacks faster and increased their piercing ability. She covered their spells with a few layers of condensed energy aimed to enhance some of their properties.

Laura did her best with her arrows, but she was in a similar situation to Skully. Her attacks lacked the power needed to survive in that environment, so she could only use them to shield her companions' spells.

As for June, her attacks became stronger every time she failed to hit the golden flames. Her lightning bolts initially crumbled due to the shockwaves released by the many spells that filled the area, but they eventually became strong enough to help with the offensive.

The powerhouses' efforts were commendable, especially in a battlefield that could easily lead them to their death if they failed to dodge the puppet's offensive.

However, they only managed to replace Great Elder Diana. They still needed God's Left Hand's help to open a path through the golden flames.

Still, that was already a lot. Having more than one liquid stage powerhouse inflicting damages on the puppet made their offensive far more threatening.

Noah and Great Elder Diana used every chance created by their companions to enlarge the damages on the Dog. After many exchanges, its severed neck had become the origin of wide cracks that spread until the other heads.

That approach was slow, and it didn't bring immediate results. Yet, it worked, and the three organizations didn't mind keeping that trend for entire days as long as they managed to destroy one of the defenders.

The puppet only had to crumble once for its territory to become part of the invaders' domain. One victory was all the three organizations needed against that type of defense.

The Dog's flames began to lose intensity after that battle continued for an entire week. Even that inscribed weapon had limits, but the Royals didn't let it die so quickly.

Third Prince and Second Princess appeared on the scene while their enemies were busy defending against the rain of fireballs created by their puppet.

The Royals dropped blood on the creature's heads, and their flames returned to their initial intensity after they burned that resource. Their power also increased as the two powerhouses continued to add fuel to their puppet.

That gave birth to a series of violent offensives that forced the invaders to focus on defending. The Dog had managed to surpass its limits for a few hours thanks to the Royals' blood, and that gave it enough time to heal part of the damage that it had accumulated during the previous exchanges.

However, the invaders regained the upper hand in the battle after the puppet depleted that surplus of energy, and its power returned to its previous level. Noah and the others only had to last a little longer than they had predicted to defeat that defender.

The shockwaves released in that battle destroyed the region and the lands nearby. There were too many powerhouses fighting at the same time, and that affected the condition of the new continent.

Wars among existences on that level always led to those outcomes. Both invaders and defenders knew that they couldn't avoid causing damages to the environment unless they found a peaceful way to settle their battle.

Of course, no negotiations happened. The Elbas family was the enemy of the world, and the three organizations would gladly sacrifice some regions to take a step toward reclaiming the new continent.

Noah and the others would assess the condition of their domain only after they reclaimed it. They wouldn't hesitate to destroy it as long as it continued to belong to their enemies.

Third Prince and Second Princess appeared on the battlefield to give their blood two more times. Their gesture always made the puppet unleash a wave of power that forced the invaders to slow down their offensive, but that never managed to stop them completely.

By the time the Dog crumbled, only Noah, the two Matriarchs, June, True Speed, and Skully still had enough energy to keep fighting. The others had depleted their reserves of "Breath" to lead the puppet toward its destruction.

The invaders didn't need their full force at that point. The three leaders were enough to conquer that land and eliminate all the inscriptions in the region.

### **Chapter 1218 - 1218. Expansion**

The victory against the Three-headed Dog led the invasion into a new phase. The three organizations now knew that they had enough power to defeat the other puppets, so they only had to plan their strategies before resuming their assault.

The Eight-armed Titan, the Snake, the Nine-headed Hydra, and the Phoenix were stronger than the Three-headed Dog, but they shared the same weakness.

Its healing ability rebuilt the body parts that required fewer efforts to fix before moving to the areas that had more inscriptions. That flaw allowed the invaders to suppress the puppets as soon as they inflicted severe damages.

Of course, the invaders had to approach every puppet differently. Noah would push his ambition to its fullest only once in the fights, so they had to inflict as many structural damages as possible with that attack.

The invaders decided to attack the Phoenix after defeating their first puppet. They wanted to take care of the weaker defenders before dealing with the stronger ones.

The Phoenix had an erratic battle style. It didn't require long periods of accumulation to launch its attacks, but it couldn't cover a large area with its offensive.

The creature launched giant fireballs through its wings, but it could only create four of them at the same time. The invaders had an easier time blocking them since they could join their forces to take care of that offensive whenever the Phoenix decided to attack.

Noah decided to cut away one of its wings since its offensive appeared to rely on them. His choice gave good results, and the Phoenix became unable to launch more than two fireballs at the same time after it lost that limb.

The invaders could apply the same tactic that had defeated the Dog at that point. The Phoenix didn't let them attack too often, but it couldn't stop them from inflicting damages to its body.

As long as the large injury created by Noah's slash remained, the damage inflicted by the invaders always surpassed what the golden flames could heal.

That was enough for the invaders. They only needed to keep attacking after their battle reached that situation. The puppet would eventually crumble if they continued to worsen its condition.

Third Prince and Second Princess appeared on the battlefield again while the invaders suppressed the Phoenix, but Noah and Great Elder Diana had predicted their arrival.

The two leaders shot toward the Royals when they stepped on the battlefield, but their assault didn't lead anywhere. Noah and Great Elder Diana could only force Third Prince and Second Princess to use a few defensive items to escape.

That outcome disappointed the two leaders, but their actions prevented the Royals from refilling the Phoenix's reserves of energy. That eventually allowed the invaders to destroy the puppet faster than the previous one.

The invaders picked the giant Snake as their next target once even the Phoenix crumbled and Thirty-seven helped remove any lingering inscription.

That puppet gave off a stronger aura than the Nine-headed Hydra, but Noah strongly advised against focusing on the weaker target since it represented Second Prince's technique.

Noah didn't fear Second Prince's methods, but he wanted to clear as many territories as possible before being stuck into long battles. Restoring a stable foothold on the continent had to be his priority if he cared about his organization's power.

The Snake was different from the previous two targets. It didn't have a clear weak spot, and its body was too thick for Noah. He could sever it with the right angle and enough time to prepare, but he didn't know how freely the puppet would let him move.

Having only one head gave the Snake fewer spots to defend. It could focus all its flames on a magical beast's sensitive areas and made those who could come close to its power struggle to wound it.

Moreover, the puppet could launch waves of flames that filled large pieces of the sky without accumulating energy. The invaders had to prepare fire-resistant robes before the battle since the Snake was too dangerous to face without inscribed defensive items.

Noah attempted to cut its head a few times, but the Snake always managed to dodge or avoid his attack.

Golden flames would come out of its skin whenever Noah's blade became too close, and it could also perform evasive maneuvers whenever Noah managed to sprint past the fire.

In the end, Noah had to settle for cutting away a large chunk of its body and leave the head intact. That slowed down the invaders' advance, but they managed to destroy the puppet anyway, even if they had to attack it four times and with different battle tactics.

As for the Royals, Third Prince and Second Princess didn't show themselves while the invaders ripped the Snake into pieces. They feared what Noah and Great Elder Diana could do if they managed to capture them.

The last two puppets were both quite annoying. The higher-ups had tested their power while Noah was still inside his year of break from the invasion, and they couldn't understand which one was stronger.

The Eight-armed Titan wielded an incredible physical strength, and it could create massive swords with its flames. It didn't have any long-range attack, but it was a threatening foe already in its current form.

The Nine-headed Hydra had opposite abilities. Its physical might was on par with the Titan, but it could only launch long-range attacks. It was quite powerless when an enemy managed to slip past its flames.

Noah would typically choose to fight the Hydra since it appeared to be weak against his abilities, but he had to be wary of Second Prince. He didn't know if the puppet carried a trace of the Royals' prowess. Only King Elbas was aware of that.

The Matriarchs understood his concerns after Noah explained the situation to them. Second Prince was King Elbas' heir in the end. The puppet that depicted his technique had to be different from the others.

The leaders decided to put a hold on the battles against the puppets due to those doubts. Defeating the other three creatures had already opened the path for the conquest of half of the new continent. The invaders only had to deal with the defensive formations there to seize them.

The three organizations expanded on the northern side of the new continent. The various powerhouses led different attacks while Noah and the Matriarchs studied a viable offensive to defeat the two remaining puppets.

Years of battles went by, and the invaders slowly reached the eastern coast as their advance continued. The defensive formations on their path could only hinder their inevitable conquest of those areas.

The leaders let their organizations settle in their new domains before resuming the war. They wanted to jump back on the positive trend that they had abandoned when they escaped inside the separate dimension.

They were finally back into a prosperous land filled with resources. It didn't matter that the current new continent had already suffered from many wars. It was a paradise compared to the separate dimension.

As for the war, the Matriarchs eventually decided to listen to Noah's instincts. They would leave the Hydra as the last puppet and move their focus on the Titan for now.

### **Chapter 1219 1219. Differen**

The Eight-armed Titan defended part of the mountain chain that covered the central part of the new continent. Its region wasn't as crucial as the landmass's resources, but it was a guardian that the invaders wanted to defeat.

The three organizations wouldn't hold back anymore now that King Elbas had left the lower plane. The Elbas family had to leave the new continent and pay for what it had done to the world's previous overlords.

The powerhouses gathered above the region defended by the Titan. All the rank 6 existences of the invaders flew there to begin a joint assault to one of the last champions of the Elbas family.

They didn't have a proper strategy since they had yet to test the limits of the puppet. However, they were ready to unleash everything they had in that battle.

Noah approached that battle with a heavy mind. Part of him wanted to test himself against that puppet, but he knew he had to hide his power in front of the other organizations.

His instincts told him that he couldn't face the Titan on his own. Still, he felt close to its level of power. After all, his ambition alone brought him near the solid stage in terms of battle prowess.

Noah felt slightly conflicted about the whole matter, but he decided to test the puppet with the other powerhouses before choosing how to approach that battle.

His biggest issue was the golden fire protecting its red skin. Noah was unsure whether he could face it when it came to its physical might.

Noah and the others had gathered a lot of experience with the other puppets, so they knew how to coordinate themselves in those fights. He didn't even have to give orders to make them start the assault.

Flying Demon and Dreaming Demon covered the battlefield with their coordinated spells. White flowers spread everywhere in that chunk of sky, and heavy mental waves came out of the ice they generated.

Daniel and Faith had learnt how to make their attacks work together with the Demons. Their individualities had a wide area of influence, so they could use them to pave the way for the Demons' spells.

Faith's mental waves flew through Dreaming Demon's consciousness and faced the golden flames head-on. Their goal was to reduce part of its destructiveness.

Daniel did something similar. His light took the shape of dense white trails that avoided the flowers to attack the flames.

Faith and Daniel were only gaseous stage powerhouses, so their individualities couldn't affect the flames too much. Items in the upper tier were above their power, but their attacks managed to cause some changes in that defensive layer.

The flames didn't lose much power, but they slowly shrunk under the effect of those individualities. Drops of blood appeared inside them as Daniel turned them into their true form and made them unable to fuel the puppet again.

The Demons' attack reached the flames only after they underwent that process. The ice melted when it neared them, but part of Dreaming Demon's mental waves managed to seep into their fabric and weaken their structure.

Dreaming Demon even managed to make a few strands of fire fight among themselves. Yet, even the work of four gaseous stage powerhouses couldn't create a flaw in the flames.

Those were only superficial damages. The puppet generated new flames continuously, so the four only affected part of their external layers.

Elder Laura and Elder Regina had learnt to work together too. They both gave birth to various creatures with their spells, so they could create battle formations meant to counter the puppet's innate abilities when they cooperated.

The two of them also came from the same organization. They had the time to study and prepare techniques that could damage the golden flames in that period.

The tactic that led to better outcomes saw Elder Regina creating an army made of countless worm-type creatures and Elder Laura shooting snake-like beasts that ate them to apply a layer of protection around their bodies.

That gave the puppets enough time to reach the flames and detonate around the Titan. When paired with their companions' attacks, their spells could fly through the fire until they were almost above the red metal.

Elder Julia had gathered enough experience to make her attacks aim for the flaws that her companions created. She could condense her wind-slashes into small blades that pierced the weakened spots among the flames and create long paths that led to the Titan's skin.

The other gaseous stage powerhouses could only have a supportive role. Their individualities made them capable of powerful attacks, but that was a useless feature against flames that could surpass them in their raw form.

The best attack of a gaseous stage powerhouse couldn't even come near a casual spell launched by a being in the solid stage. The same went for the weaker experts. They could only cast techniques that worsened the flaws created by their companions.

The efforts of the gaseous stage powerhouses made them able to replace one of the leaders, but the Titan was different from the other puppets. It wielded long swords that forced one of the experts in the liquid stage to block the shockwaves that they created.

The powerhouses fought outside of the fiery swords' range, but they had to remain inside the reach of their shockwaves if they wanted their influence to maintain its power.

That forced Great Elder Diana to focus her offensive on destroying any harmful shockwave that aimed for the weaker powerhouses. She could launch attacks toward the puppet even with that role, but she didn't manage to inflict significant damages when she split her attention.

God's Left Hand helped the other Matriarchs with her new role, but her main job was to clear the weakened golden flames and create an opening that Noah could exploit.

The invaders had to use part of their power to defend. It was up to Noah to make up for that loss of firepower.

Noah didn't join that battle immediately. He remained at the battlefield's edges as his companions became used to the Titan's fighting style.

His ambition had already brought his aura to the quasi-solid stage level, but he waited before making his move. He had to see if the puppet gave them hope to win that battle before deciding how to act.

The Titan was relentless. It slashed with its swords and tried to hit the powerhouses at the edges of the battlefield, but it could only reach them with the shockwaves generated with its attacks.

The leaders blocked those shockwaves, so the invaders and the Titan remained in a situation where they were unable to hurt each other.

Noah activated the Divine Deduction technique to evaluate his options, but he soon understood that he had already grasped all the aspects of that battle.

His only option was to fly through the slashes and reach the Titan to exploit the openings created by his companions. However, charging inside the puppet's range would give it the chance to inflict some damage with its technique.

He had to risk something to obtain benefits. Noah never hesitated to do that when it benefited him, but that battle would only help the organizations' political influence.

He didn't need to conquer those regions, but his battle intent became more intense as he kept watching the Titan. His instincts told him that he could defeat it if the other powerhouses kept on weakening the golden flames.

Noah glanced at the two Matriarchs before heaving a silent sigh. King Elbas had already proven that a single cultivator could defeat an entire world, so it was pointless to hold back when he desired to test himself.

"Don't stop attacking," Noah said as he broke his stance to sprint inside the Titan's range. "I'm going to try something different."

### **Chapter 1220 1220. Bai**

Noah heard some protests reaching his ears, but he ignored them as he sprinted toward the Eight-armed Titan. Its swords immediately flew toward him when he entered its range, but a black cloud appeared in that area before they could converge on him.

The dark world expanded and slowed down the swords for an instant. The Titan's weapon soon pierced Noah's dark matter and destroyed the cloud, but they only found a human-shaped crack when they reached the center of the technique.

Another cloud appeared where the powerhouses' attacks converged. The dark world unfolded again, but a layer of corrosive smoke covered its edges and enlarged the path through the golden fire created by Noah's companions.

Noah could change the shape of the dark world as he liked. He could even modify some of its features according to his needs.

His dark matter created tunnels where the corrosive smoke of his Demonic Form flew freely. That allowed his spell to damage the flames even if the dark world surrounded his figure.



The Titan's flames had endured the assault of the other powerhouses for a while by then. The experts from the three organizations had created an opening above the puppet's chest, and Noah's had sprinted to unleash his dark world and corrosive smoke there.

The Demonic Form spell finished to destroy the weakened flames and uncovered the Titan's chest. Noah now had the defenseless red metal right in front of him, and his cultivation level had already reached the point where he could launch a slash capable of ripping off a large chunk of the puppet.

However, launching his strongest slash would exhaust all the power that he had gathered through his ambition.

Noah knew that his group couldn't defeat the Titan in the same way as the other puppets. He and his companions couldn't exploit the damage created with one slash since the fiery swords blocked most of the attacks that entered their range.

One large wound wasn't enough to force the Titan into a passive position. Noah had to do far more if he wanted to have a chance to defeat that opponent.

Noah's black hole rotated faster as he decided to remain there. He was fast enough to dodge the blades, and being a bait could make his companions more useful in the battle.

The Titan spread its arms before pointing its swords toward the center of the new cloud and thrusting them. The fire that made those weapons fused and created a dense mass of flames when they converged on the same spot, but they only hit a human-shaped crack again.

Noah reappeared on top of the Titan. The dark world had taken the shape of a dense defensive layer that covered his fuming armor when he came out of his dimension.

His companions could see the air around Noah bending under the pressure that his figure applied on the sky. His quasi-solid stage cultivation level was enough to open cracks, but the condensed dark world made him too heavy for that area.

It was as if the sky couldn't withstand the amount of energy he had condensed into a small area. Even the sunlight couldn't overcome the gravitational pull that surrounded him.

Noah had transformed into a black hole that had the shape of the Demonic Form. The pressure that affected the sky weighed on his body, but it also gave him immense power.

There was a limit to the number of attacks that he could perform when the dark world took that shape, but Noah had chosen to use that technique because he had a clear strategy in mind.

The golden flames in that spot were intact, but Noah's technique allowed him to remain among them without suffering any injury for a few seconds.

The Titan swung its swords upward, but Noah delivered a punch to the puppet's head before they could reach him. His fist dug into the red metal and arrived in the empty insides filled with inscriptions.

The puppet lost its balance after that attack. Noah's punch created a shockwave that made the Titan bend backward, and its swords missed him by a few meters due to the impact.

The powerhouses didn't let that chance to waste. Noah had chosen to charge in a spot full of golden flames, leaving the cleared area unused. The Titan's chest didn't have fire protecting it, and its swords didn't launch shockwaves toward the other assets anymore.

The path was clear. The powerhouses launched everything they had at the Titan's chest, and deep cracks appeared on the red metal in that spot. Their joint attack allowed them to create some decent damage.

Noah sprinted away to reappear on the Titan's chest. He couldn't survive for long among the golden flames, and that area was the only spot without fire that allowed him to continue unleashing the power of his individuality.

Noah delivered another punch, and he tried to use the cracks opened by his companions to increase the amount of damage he could inflict. Another shockwave ran through the Titan, and it made it miss its attack again.

Meanwhile, a large chunk of its chest fell, and Noah flew directly inside it.

The powerhouses remained speechless when they saw Noah entering the Titan, but they could only trust him in that situation. They resumed their destruction of the flames, and they aimed at the damaged spots to slow down the healing properties of the creature.

Noah's defensive layer had recovered during his previous attack, so it could face the golden flames again. The puppet's insides were full of fire, but his protection could survive for a couple of seconds in that environment.

The world of laws appeared in Noah's vision as he inspected the inscriptions inside the puppet. His expertise in that field was poor, but he could vaguely understand which lines were more important.

'Not yet,' Noah thought as he sprinted upward to pierce the Titan's head from the spot he had previously damaged.

Noah continued to fly until he escaped from the range of the flames, and his aura became more intense as he saw the Titan restoring its balance and aiming its swords at him again.

The empowerment given by his ambition was about to end. Noah couldn't match solid stage powerhouses for too long. He could only launch two more weaker attacks before the effects of his law vanished.

The fact that he had been in that superior state for three exchanges prevented him from launching his strongest slash, but Noah had already expected that.

He planned to force the Titan's attention on him since he could continue to damage it and expose flaws in its battle style at the same time.

That allowed his companions to use offensive spells against the red metal. They didn't need to limit themselves to defending and destroying the flames anymore since Noah took care of part of that already.

The gaseous stage powerhouses couldn't do much, but his approach gave Great Elder Diana the chance to attack multiple times. Also, the whole group could aim directly for the red metal after they removed the flames.

Noah's strategy multiplied the offensive prowess of the group. While he acted as bait, Great Elder Diana could always attack the puppet, and her companions had the time for a direct blow once every two exchanges!