

DEMONIC 1221

Chapter 1221 1221. Broken

The powerhouses couldn't even begin to express how amazing damaging the puppet as a united group felt.

They had fought and defeated three puppets already, but only Noah and Great Elder Diana had managed to inflict blows directly on the red metal in the previous fights.

However, the situation had entirely changed due to Noah's strategy. He had limited himself to reveal part of what the dark world could do when he used it together with his ambition, but the Titan had immediately lost the upper hand in the battle.

The puppet focused its efforts on catching Noah, but he was too fast, and he damaged the red metal whenever he dodged. Moreover, his actions gave his companions all the time in the world to establish a second offensive.

The Titan suffered immense damages during those long seconds. Noah had created a large hole on its chest and head, and the other powerhouses had opened cracks connected to the first spot.

It would typically take half a day for the group to reach the same results. Yet, they had only fought for less than a minute!

Of course, it would have been better to exploit Noah's strongest slash, but the Titan's defense was too tight for that. The cover to the fiendish armor worked better against that opponent.

Noah sprinted again to dodge the eight fiery swords trying to catch him. He returned inside the Titan from the hole in its head and threw a punch in an area filled with golden lines.

Most of those inscriptions went dark after the shockwave generated by Noah's attack spread on that area of the puppet.

Noah had aimed to destroy the inscriptions during that attack. His punch didn't manage to pierce the red metal, but he could gain far more benefits from that type of attack.

His eyes remained fixed on the dimming lines during his stay inside the Titan. Some functions and failsafe of the puppet stopped working after that blow, but something even more peculiar happened as those inscriptions crumbled.

The lower part of the Titan became unable to create golden flames. Its legs and low-waist became defenseless after Noah destroyed the inscriptions connected to that function.

'Found them,' Noah's eyes lit up before he sprinted outside of the Titan.

Noah only had one attack left. His power would return to its actual level after that, but he had already decided his target.

The Titan was an inscribed weapon. Its abilities came from formations and other types of lines. King Elbas had placed them inside its body since it was its safest spot, but they were the perfect target for anyone capable of reaching them.

The puppet could function only because of those lines. Destroying them would stop some of its abilities until the golden flames fixed the damaged inscriptions.

When it came to the Titan's inscriptions, Noah had made sure to understand which lines gave it the ability to produce flames.

His inspection didn't grant him a complete overview of that array of inscriptions, but he had figured half of it at least. That was enough to give his group an important advantage that could last even after the empowerment from his ambition ended.

Noah saw the swords reaching for him once again, but he sprinted toward the Titan's chest at that point. Great Elder Diana and the others had changed their target when they saw the flames on the puppet's legs disappear, so no attacks were flying in that spot.

The Demonic Sword had returned inside the special space-ring while Noah fought in that new form, but it flew back in his palm when he returned in front of the golden lines. Part of the armor of dark matter morphed to envelop the blade to protect it from the flames.

Noah pointed the tip of the Demonic Sword toward the center of those inscriptions, and the dark matter around him began to flow inside his blade as he prepared a powerful attack.

The real fiendish armor finally appeared in the open, but the corrosive smoke soon burned under the golden flames' power. Noah's defenses instantly crumbled when he redirected his dark world toward his weapon.

Pain reached Noah's head when his skin began to burn. His incredible body managed to fend off the flames for three whole seconds before its external tissues crumbled under the fire's might.

Noah's quasi-solid stage cultivation level was only a fake created with his ambition. His centers of power didn't become stronger during that empowerment. Only the energy that he exuded surpassed his current limits.

The Demonic Sword absorbed all the dark matter, and it didn't spare the higher energy protecting its shape. Cracks started to appear on the living weapon as the flames landed on its body, but Noah didn't interrupt the preparations for his attack.

He only had one last blow left. He would have to rejoin the group afterward, so he couldn't waste it.

The world of laws appeared in Noah's vision, and his hand trembled when he found his targets. The Demonic Sword's tip touched one of the lines, and countless black dots flowed inside that golden line.

The dots destroyed the inscription and spread on those nearby to continue their destruction. Noah had chosen a spot with many lines intertwined with each other so that his attack could affect more of them.

Also, he had targeted those that could generate the flames. If he managed to remove them, the Titan would almost become a punching bag for the group of powerhouses.

Noah couldn't admire the result of his efforts since his cultivation level began to fall as soon as he launched that attack. His condition was even awful since he had remained inside the flames without protection for a few seconds already.

A human-shaped crack replaced his body, and Noah reappeared next to the Matriarchs. The two leaders could only glance at his fuming figure for a second since a breathtaking view soon caught their attention.

Noah's attack continued to destroy the inscriptions inside the puppet. Cut began to open on the red metal whenever the sharpness couldn't find other lines to target.

All the inscriptions near the Titan's chest disappeared in less than a second, and massive changes happened to the puppet's battle prowess.

The golden flames disappeared, but light promptly came out of the mountain chain and started to rebuild the inscriptions lost during the assault.

The Titan's legs stopped functioning, and it fell on its knees. Three of its arms went on the mountains to support its massive body and prevent it from landing entirely on the ground.

Five fiery swords disappeared, but three of them remained intact. Noah didn't manage to destroy the inscriptions connected to them in his last assault, so the puppet didn't lose those abilities.

The Titan's movements became slower once it stabilized its new position. It tried to stand up again, but all his gestures appeared clunky, and it didn't seem able to perform certain actions anymore.

Noah's had destroyed its defenses and rendered it virtually harmless when he had crushed the golden lines. He had managed to inflict more structural damages against the other puppets, but his achievements in that battle were more than enough to open a path toward victory.

The group now only had to damage the Titan as much as possible before the golden light fixed its annoying abilities.

Chapter 1222 1222. Egg

The battle against the Eight-armed Titan continued, but the powerhouses destroyed most of it before the golden light managed to fix its inscriptions.

The puppet lost all its arms and legs before the golden flames began to burn on its skin again. Yet, the battle had already ended by then. That fire alone couldn't stop the powerhouses.

The Titan crumbled, and the leaders inspected the region to remove any inscription still lingering in the area. In less than a week, troops from their organizations started to settle and build encampments to reclaim that land properly.

The organizations resumed their expansion after the Titan fell. They had defeated almost all the guardians of the Elbas family, so they could conquer most of the new continent before having to gaze at the regions that still had powerful protections.

The Elbas family had reinforced most of the regions in its domain, but there were a few lands that had special protections.

The last part of the mountain chain at the center of the new continent had the Nine-headed Hydra, and the southern part of the eastern coast had piles of formations that could replicate the might of a solid stage powerhouse when working together.

That disposition of the defenses revealed that the Royals had never planned to control the entirety of the new continent for long. They knew exactly how strong they were, so they had reinforced only a few crucial regions.

Third Prince and Second Princess didn't expect King Elbas to leave without even bothering to deal with their enemies, but that had only accelerated the inevitable invasion.

The three organizations had still part of the new continent's southern area to reclaim, but they had to face the threatening Hydra before they could advance further.

The problem with the last puppet was that its range was far wider than the Titan. The waves of flames that the nine heads launched could fill the sky above multiple regions while maintaining their upper tier power.

Reaching it was pointless. Noah could use the armor made of dark matter to cross the Hydra's barrage of attacks, but he wouldn't have any support inside it.

Moreover, he could guess that the Royal would modify some of the puppet's defenses to stop him from destroying the inscriptions. If Noah went inside the Hydra and something went wrong, he would remain stuck among the golden flames.

The invasion had to stop for a few years. Thirty-seven, Noah, and other inscription masters had to build a series of specific weapons to counter the Hydra's annoying abilities.

The three organizations finally had access to many resources again. It didn't matter that the new continent had lost a lot of power since it first fell. It still contained materials that could help them out.

The experts created robes, barriers, formations, and talismans. Noah even built a few living weapons that could fend off the flames a few times.

The main issue against the Hydra was its level, but the invaders could use many inscribed items to make up for that difference in power.

Truth be told, Noah believed that he could create something stronger than the golden flames. He didn't know if he could build a proper weapon in the upper tier, but reaching that level of power with disposable items was more than possible with his current expertise.

However, he didn't want to start a long series of experiments, and he would rather preserve the world's resources. Wasting valuable materials in a battle that they could win through other methods risked to leave him without the items required by his projects.

Also, he wanted the other organizations to do their share of work. They would start to take advantage of the Hive if it kept on solving every issue.

The attack on the Nine-headed Hydra started ten years after that break. The powerhouses revealed a long series of defensive items in the lower and middle tier that could block the golden flames when they worked together.

The invaders had to perform a few tests against the puppet before they felt confident that their methods worked, but they launched massive attacks once they polished their battle strategy.

Their offensive progressed slowly, but that was the best that they could do in that situation. The powerhouses had to use most of their energy to fuel the defensive items and arrive on a spot where their spells could reach the Hydra.

Then, they had to damage the puppet. Noah didn't dare to expose himself after he had revealed his techniques and limited himself to launch slashes that could leave long cuts on the Hydra's heads.

The assault had to progress slowly because the invaders couldn't remain inside the Hydra's range for too long. They had to inflict as much damage as possible before retreating and refill their reserves of energy.

That wasn't always possible, but the invaders slowly polished their battle style against the Hydra and began to cut multiple heads during each assault.

That gave the group the time to recover before the entire puppet could fix all its damages. The invaders had to dismantle it little by little and could only win if they managed to remain constant in their results.

That didn't seem to be any problem in that aspect of the assaults. The invaders always managed to inflict significant damages in each battle, so the destruction of the Hydra became only a matter of time in their minds.

However, something strange happened while the group continued to attack the puppet. Seven heads of the Hydra never managed to regrow, and the invaders wanted to increase that number soon, but Noah's instincts suddenly felt an immense danger.

There didn't seem to be anything different from the usual in the area. The Hydra spat fire that the powerhouses blocked with their defensive items. The experts then moved the protections forward to make the puppet enter the range of their abilities.

Noah couldn't explain the reason behind his sensation. He initially thought about Second Prince, but the danger he felt was too intense for it to come from the Royal.

'What is even happening?' Noah shouted in his mind as he looked around him.

His companions were too busy dealing with the flames to notice his odd behavior, but they sensed his mental waves expanding recklessly in the sky.

Part of Noah's mental waves burned when they crossed the defensive items and entered in the flames, but he didn't mind that loss. All his focus was on finding the cause behind that danger.

The feeling never waned. It only increased in intensity, and Noah eventually acted. His instincts had never misjudged a threat, so he trusted them enough to call a retreat.

"Fall back!" Noah shouted before sprinting outside of that region.

His companions remained speechless when they noticed his sudden action, but that wouldn't be Noah's first time predicting or sensing a dangerous event before them.

Moreover, they all trusted his judgment. He had to have a good reason to interrupt the assault and let the Hydra heal.

Noah continued to retreat until the dangerous feeling began to disperse. He had to reach the center of the region nearby before he felt safe to stop.

The other powerhouses did the same and grouped around him to question him about the issue, but Noah didn't even glance at them. He was too busy searching for the cause of his sensation to mind his companions.

'What is this?' Noah asked himself when he saw that nothing happened. He was almost about to think that his instincts had failed for the first time.

Yet, a giant lightning bolt fell from the sky at that point. It crashed on the Hydra and pierced its golden flames before shattering its body.

Noah almost couldn't believe his consciousness. The lightning bolt carried an energy superior to the Heaven Tribulation faced by God's Right Hand.

His eyes went on the sky, where he saw that a large hole had appeared in its fabric. A pure white light came out of that fissure, and some smoke still lingered on its edges.

Noah looked at the ground at that point, and his surprise could only increase at that scene. He saw a cultivator covered in trails of white smoke holding a large egg with both his arms.

"Almighty!" God's Left Hand shouted while the group silently recognized that cultivator.

Chapter 1223 1223. Human thief

Noah couldn't fail to recognize the God of the Shandal Empire, especially after meeting his will. Also, the aura that he radiated carried the unmistakable trace of a divine being.

"Almighty!" God's Left Hand shouted again before kowtowing on the air.

Tears fell from her eyes, and her aura became stronger as she expressed her utmost respect toward her leader. It was as if Shandal's return in the lower plane had stirred her individuality to improve.

The other powerhouses showed different reactions at that scene. Concern appeared on most of them, but those who had been in Shandal's separate dimension didn't feel any fear.

The reappearance of the God of the Empire would give a new life to that organization. His sole presence was enough to make it become the strongest force in the world, and his guidance would make its growth spike again.

It was normal for the powerhouses from other organizations to fear Shandal. His return would make them lose some of the benefits they experienced while he was in the Immortal Lands.

Instead, the powerhouses who had been in Shandal's dimension knew that he didn't mean any harm. The God wouldn't influence the political environment. He only cared about sending more cultivators to the Immortal Lands.

As for Noah, he could barely focus in that situation since his instincts were screaming like crazy. They had gone silent after the lightning bolt fell, but they had soon started to warn him again.

Noah wanted to focus on Shandal, but his mind didn't allow him to do it. His eyes moved between the egg and the crack in the sky on their own. They didn't even give him the time to look at the divine cultivator!

The egg made Noah feel the most intense hunger that he had ever felt in his life. It was as if he had gone back to when he was a hybrid. It took all his concentration to remain sane in that condition.

The hole in the sky made him feel danger. Noah sensed a massive menace whenever he looked at white light leaking from that connection to the Immortal Lands.

That dangerous feeling helped to keep in check his hunger, but Noah felt conflicted anyway. He didn't know what to think in that situation. Too much was happening at the same time, and his mind acted as an enemy due to all the sensations that filled it.

Noah's black hole rotated and sent a large amount of energy toward his mind. His condition slowly stabilized, but his instincts continued to run wild through his mental sea.

The black hole had only made Noah able to endure those sensations. It didn't make them disappear.

Once Noah's stabilized, he could finally inspect the god. Shandal was gasping for air while sitting cross-legged on the ground. The debris created after the lightning bolt destroyed the Hydra surrounded him, but he had eyes only for the egg between his arms.

Noah's attention went on the egg. It was green, and it was as big as a man's chest. Its surface appeared quite sturdy, but Shandal still held it as if it was the frailest item in the world.

What surprised Noah the most was the aura exuded by the egg. That was a proper rank 7 item, and the energy that it spread in the environment made every magical beast and hybrid hungry for it.

'Can a creature be born directly as a divine being?' Noah wondered as he continued to inspect the egg.

His senses weren't reliable when it came to the divine realm since he was still too weak to grasp it. Noah didn't manage to pinpoint the actual cause of that divine aura. Both the material that made the egg and the creature inside it could be the source.

'This hunger isn't natural,' Noah thought. 'Divine creatures shouldn't cause these reactions inside me.'

Noah had already been in the same room with divine items and resources, but his hunger had never reached that level of intensity. The only explanation was that the egg had some unique features.

'That would also explain this flashy return,' Noah thought as his eyes went on the sky.

The danger that he felt coming from the crack was peculiar too. It was different from the lightning bolt that had fallen in the lower plane. It appeared almost alive when Noah tried to analyze it.

However, the crack began to close as the seconds passed. The hole shrunk as the structure of the sky enlarged to block that passage for the Immortal Lands.

"Almighty!" God's Left Hand shouted again without raising her head.

Shandal heaved a sigh of relief when he saw that the crack had started to close itself. His attention could finally go on the group of powerhouses staring at him while wearing stunned expressions.

"I didn't plan to return so soon," Shandal announced as he stood up, "But I couldn't escape in any other way. I had to make Heaven and Earth notice me to open this shortcut. Nothing cuts through planes better than a Tribulation."

Shandal appeared to be in a happy mood. He began to laugh on his own, and he didn't even care that his hair and beard were a mess. Only one braid had survived. The lightning bolt had destroyed the others.

His aura seeped through the environment and affected the matter that made it. Shandal was a failed divine cultivator, but he carried some features of a true god.

God's Left Hand couldn't contain her excitement anymore after she heard her leader speak. She straightened her position and flew toward Shandal to welcome him back to the lower plane properly.

Gales formed in the air after she passed. Her individuality made her a calamity that served only Shandal, so the Patriarch's return made her power grow.

The other powerhouses relaxed when they saw God's Left Hand's actions, and some felt intrigued about the whole situation. They didn't know how valuable the egg was, but they mostly wanted to talk with an actual god anyway.

"Don't move," Noah said in a low tone after True Speed left the group to follow his Matriarch.

Noah had purposely waited for the powerhouses of the Empire to leave the group before giving his warnings. The hole in the sky had yet to close, and he still felt danger coming from it. It was better to wait until the fissure disappeared before moving right under it.

True Speed and God's Left Hand didn't manage to reach Shandal since a growl came out of the fissure and echoed through the whole lower plane. The air in the sky shattered, and cracks opened when that sound passed.

None of the powerhouses had doubts when it came to evaluating Shandal's enemy. Everyone knew that only a creature in the divine ranks could give birth to such an intense sound.

Noah had to condense his consciousness inside his mental sphere to endure the vibrations caused by the growl. His mind could understand the meaning behind that cry.

"Human thief," The creature on the other side of the fissure said.

Noah felt curious about the matter, but he couldn't step forward and ask for the details of Shandal's journey. He had to organize a specific meeting for that topic.

Still, the surprises weren't over yet. Noah was about to evaluate whether to greet Shandal when a curved green claw pierced the fissure in the sky and enlarged its edges.

Chapter 1224 1224. Crisis

"Human thief," The growl resounded again and spread through the entire world. "Human thief!"

The sky trembled when the claw surpassed the edges of the hole and appeared in the lower plane. A divine aura spread from it, and the world's fabric found itself unable to bear it.

Countless cracks appeared in the sky as the divine aura spread. A lower plane was too frail to endure that creature's aura, but the divine being in the Immortal Land didn't seem to care. It continued to growl and stab its claw deeper into that world.

The powerhouses couldn't do anything in that situation. They didn't even move. There was nowhere to hide when divine beings became involved. King Elbas had already proven that.

'The sky will collapse if that guy tries to cross the barriers between planes,' Noah thought as he studied the claw.

Noah could learn many pieces of information from a single body part, but he didn't know how useful his expertise was in that situation. Even discovering the creature's species wouldn't help him at all unless it had severe flaws.

Yet, even serious flaws wouldn't help him. There was a simple but insurmountable problem in that situation. Noah couldn't damage a divine being. Surviving in its presence was already a remarkable feat.

A tremor suddenly ran through the claw, and a few sparks came out of it before dispersing in the sky. An angry roar followed that event, but the body part began to retreat nonetheless.

The claw disappeared among the white light, but the hole didn't show signs of closing. It was as if something was keeping it open, but that action happened on the other side. Noah and the others couldn't forcefully block it since the culprits were then in the Immortal Lands.

A series of low roars began to echo through the hole again. The meaning that they carried was different, but Noah understood most of it.

"World too frail," The creature growled, "Kill human. Take egg. Make them fear us."

"What did you even lead here?" Noah asked without moving his eyes from the crack.

Shandal knew that the question was for him. He didn't know how Noah could be so relaxed in his presence, but he didn't feel angry about his gesture.

Instead, Shandal looked above him before heaving a sign and replying to those who were listening. "This is my fault. I might have led the Eternal Snake's species into a lower plane."

All the powerhouses turned toward Shandal when they heard his words. The name of that species was quite peculiar, and it didn't seem like a good sign.

"What will happen now?" Noah asked without minding that he was speaking with an actual god. His survival instincts made him completely disregard respect and politeness.

"I'm in the same situation, young man," Shandal answered. "We can only believe in Heaven and Earth's restrictions now."

Having faith in Heaven and Earth wasn't something that Noah could do. His ambition surged while he waited for the Eternal Snake on the other side of the hole to do something.

His cultivation level increased too. Noah couldn't gather much power, but he almost reached the peak of the liquid stage. His eyes had already reopened when something happened in the crack.

Layers of ice and silver reinforced the edges of the passage and forced it to remain open. That method completely stopped the natural healing of the sky.

Shadows appeared through the white light, but some of them released an angry roar when the Heaven Tribulation on the other side punished them.

Their crime against Heaven and Earth was that they had tried to fly into the lower plane while being in the divine ranks. The world couldn't allow that.

Shandal was a peculiar existence, so Heaven and Earth never bothered to punish him. They tried to hit him only when he went in the Immortal Lands.

A series of growls echoed through the sky again, and Noah could hear that they were only complaints aimed at the fragility of the world. There was a chance that those creatures had never lived in a lower plane, so their surprise was understandable.

'It shouldn't be too smart,' Noah thought as he inspected what he could in that situation.

The Eternal Snake didn't appear to be as smart as other creatures. Night could talk freely, but that species of beasts had many difficulties in reaching that level of expertise with words.

After that failed attempt, the creatures on the other side of the crack sent something into the lower world. Ten giant boulders fell from the sky and crashed on various spots of the world.

The new continent saw the highest number of those meteors falling on its surface. Some of them ended up in the sea, while one even landed in the old landmass.

The crash of those boulders created intense shockwaves that threatened to wipe out the living beings in entire regions, but Shandal intervened at that point.

His consciousness unfolded and covered the world, and his divine "Breath" moved to perform a spell that only a few experts noticed. His individuality made him freeze the shockwaves that remained on their spot until they depleted all the energy that they contained.

Shandal's individuality affected the boulders, but it was only a matter of time before the creatures inside them freed themselves of that cover. They had used it exclusively to preserve their health in the end.

Each boulder radiated a peak rank 6 aura, and they remained in that shape and spots for a long time.

A twitch soon appeared on Shandal's face, who recalled his consciousness and stood up. He couldn't use his divine power for a long time and refilling it was even more troublesome. It was better to save it now that he knew that he couldn't avoid that threat anymore.

More roars echoed from the hole in the sky. The creatures on the other side cried the same lines again, but only Noah could hear their meaning. Still, the other powerhouses could vaguely understand their purpose.

As the growls echoed through the sky, the ten boulders began to tremble. The white smoke coming out due to the burns suffered during the fall vanished, and a few cracks opened on their figures.

The boulders started to move as those orders reached them. They soon revealed to the world what they were. They had taken that oval form to pass through the hole in the sky and get the surface, but they were nothing more than massive snakes coiled to take that shape.

The ten snakes roared at the sky when they stretched. Noah could immediately understand that those weren't simple snake-like creatures since their cries made them sound like dragons.

Still, he didn't feel fear. Instead, he was excited that such powerful creatures had fallen from the sky. It was as if the Immortal Lands wanted to ensure that the world had enough nutrients to reach the divine ranks.

Moreover, that was the struggle that he had searched for in the last period. Shandal's return had given birth to a battle that would force Noah to overcome his limits, and he didn't desire anything else.

The world was about to undergo a peculiar crisis, and Noah couldn't wait to jump right into it.

Chapter 1225 1225. Challenge

The world fell into chaos as the roars echoed through the sky. The ten snakes that had awakened in the lower plane and the leaders in the Immortal Lands chanted war cries that affected every living being.

An invasion had begun. Ten peak rank 6 creatures had fallen into the world. Their power was enough to alter the division of power between humans and magical beasts, but that wasn't the end.

The creatures above had reinforced the crack in the sky. The passage toward the Immortal Lands was still open, and it didn't show any sign of closing.

No one knew for how long the divine creatures would be able to keep the fissure open. Heaven and Earth would surely punish them for that, but the experts in the lower plane couldn't predict when the Eternal Snakes would become tired.

That allowed the divine creatures to send reinforcements. The experts in the heroic ranks didn't know how powerful the pack in the Immortal Lands was, but they could guess that it didn't have a shortage of peak rank 6 specimens.

The crack was a continuous threat that hung over the world. The organizations had to take care of it before a horde of powerful beasts fell into the lower plane. However, Shandal was the only one that could deal with that issue.

The ice and silver that had covered the crack's edges came from the divine beings in the Immortal Lands. Even the efforts of the whole world would be useless against those materials.

Shandal was the only one capable of expressing power in the divine rank. He had to remove those restrictions and make sure that the crack closed.

Still, it was unsure whether he could deal with the issue. Everyone knew that he wasn't a proper god, so there was a chance that he couldn't destroy those abilities.

It soon became clear that the experts had to cooperate with Shandal, but that meant negotiating with a divine being. The heroic cultivators hesitated to plan a strategy after they understood that they had to fly toward him.

That hesitation appeared even in the experts that had been in the separate dimension under the Odra nation. Meeting a will was different from talking with an actual divine being.

Noah would typically have no worries in those situations, but he had a lot to lose now. The peak rank 6 Snakes were the best nourishment that he could find in a lower plane, and he wouldn't dare to approach negotiations that involved them unprepared.

'He probably doesn't know about our conversation,' Noah thought as he glanced at Flying Demon, who sensed his stare and turned to nod at him.

Flying Demon had inherited part of Shandal's individuality. He was the perfect powerhouse to bring in that meeting.

Shandal heaved a sigh when he saw what he had brought to the world. He expanded his consciousness again to establish a connection with his separate dimension, and an ethereal figure soon set off from the old continent to fly toward him.

The group of powerhouses saw Shandal's will fusing with his figure. The memories of his will flowed inside his mind instantly, and the god showed a different expression when he reopened his eyes to look at the experts.

"I see," Shandal said as his eyes moved among the powerhouses of the Hive.

A satisfied expression appeared on his face, and he started to play with his long beard as he inspected those who had met his will. Noah and the others felt naked under his intense gaze.

"You have grown quite well," Shandal said. "Especially you, man of tw-."

"I want to discuss something with you," Noah interrupted Shandal before he could speak about his transmigration again. "I believe you want to help us deal with this crisis, but I want to know what role you will play first. I'm interested in some of the creatures that have fallen."

Noah's hesitation didn't last long. As soon as he saw Shandal's will fusing to the main body, he knew that he could act freely. After all, he was quite crucial to existences that went against Heaven and Earth.

Shandal smiled when he heard those words, and he nodded before sitting on the ground. The experts understood the meaning behind that gesture. That same ground would hold their negotiation.

Noah flew forward, and Flying Demon followed him. Great Elder Diana did the same while bringing Elder Regina with her.

God's Left Hand appeared different from before now that her leader had returned. She radiated intense confidence in her abilities, and her individuality leaked from her figure to affect the environment.

Wild winds formed wherever her influence reached, but they were too weak to hinder the path of her fellow powerhouses. Noah and the others went to the Empire's higher-ups and sat in front of the waiting god.

God's Left Hand and True Speed didn't sit. They moved behind Shandal's back and remained there as if they were his protectors. Sternness also appeared on their expression when they took those spots.

"You said that you were interested in the Snakes," Shandal said to start the negotiations. "I thought that a creature like you would be more interested in this."

Shandal moved his arms to reveal the egg, and Noah's pupils shrunk at that sight. His instincts suggested reckless plans to his mind, but he limited himself to suppress them.

"The Eternal Snakes are famous for their longevity and endurance," Shandal said before giving voice to a short laugh. "I don't have the strength to defeat one of them, but this egg will directly give birth to a divine specimen. I want to use its energy to see if I can improve my cultivation level."

Shandal's statement made Noah give up on the egg. The god of the Empire would use everything he had to fix his condition, so he wasn't willing to put that resource for sale.

"Can living beings be born directly as gods?" Noah asked as curiosity filled his mind.

He had only managed to gather small pieces of information about the Immortal Lands, and none of them talked about the fauna in that place. Even Night was useless in that field since it had lost many memories.

Shandal scratched his beard before replying. "It's rare, but it can happen. There are many divine beings in the Immortal Lands, and some have laws capable of affecting the world. You will find many peculiar things up there."

A tremor ran through God's Left Hand's face when she heard those words. Her Patriarch had confirmed that Noah would reach the Immortal Lands. She couldn't believe that even Shandal had acknowledged his talent.

The same went for the powerhouses from the Council. Great Elder Diana and Elder Regina didn't look at Noah, but seeing Shandal being so confident about his statement made them respect Noah even more.

As for Noah, he didn't care about those words. He had only one goal in his mind. He had to secure the powerful specimens that had fallen into the world.

"Only you can take care of the crack," Noah said without commenting on the previous matter.

"I'll deal with the energy that is forcing the sky to remain in that state," Shandal replied. "I won't touch the magical beasts."

His line reassured Noah, but it worried the other experts. Great Elder Diana even spoke to express her fears. "They are creatures at the peak of the sixth rank. I'm not sure we can take care of them with our current forces."

"So?" Shandal said while standing up. "This is your challenge to overcome. Good luck."

Chapter 1226 1226. Ambition

Great Elder Diana wanted to say something else, but Shandal disappeared before she could make any sound. He had decided that the negotiations were over, so the powerhouses could only accept that outcome.

Noah was satisfied with that result. Shandal wouldn't affect the battles against the peak rank 6 Eternal Snakes, so he could use his influence to assign more hunts to the Hive.

The egg was tempting, and its aura still lingered inside his mind. Yet, that was the resource of a divine cultivator, so he couldn't hope to seize it.

Noah would be lying if he said that he didn't think about stealing the egg. Still, he knew his limits, so that idea never managed to go past the back of his head.

Noah had even obtained a new piece of information concerning the Immortal Lands. He now knew that divine beings could give birth to other creatures in the divine ranks. That changed everything in his idea of the fauna up there.

He had already guessed that there wouldn't be any creature in the human ranks up there. Still, he was now sure that there would be far more divine beings than he had predicted in the Immortal Lands.

As for the crack, the group could only trust Shandal. The survival of human society depended on his task.

Noah stood up too after Shandal left. Great Elder Diana and God's Left Hand shot confused gazes at him, but he had other pressing matters in his mind.

The leaders wanted to organize a plan to deal with the ten peak rank 6 beasts, but Noah had his instincts to satisfy before. He also felt a battle intent surging from the bottom of his mind.

Noah didn't want to work together with the other organizations just yet. Opponents that could endure his strength had appeared, and he couldn't wait to test himself.

The battles against Second Prince and the puppets had forced Noah to reveal part of his power, but he had never felt fully satisfied there.

The Royal was weaker than him, and he relied on its peculiar existence and superior expertise in the inscription field to last against Noah.

The puppets weren't living beings. They were defenses created to be annoying and hard to deal with. Noah didn't have the time and space to express his prowess in those battles.

Noah desired to fight an opponent that could force him to go all-out, and a few contenders had just fallen from the sky. He couldn't contain himself anymore. He had to seize that chance.

"Let's see how the situation evolves," Noah said. "The beasts will follow the aura of the egg, so they will probably search the entirety of the new continent to retrieve it. Our organizations didn't build much. We can let these creatures hurt the Elbas family for us."

Noah's words made sense. The three organizations had returned to the surface less than twenty years ago. All their buildings and defenses were only temporary structures created to last while the invasion continued.

Abandoning wasn't a problem, and they could exploit the destruction created by the Snakes to damage the Elbas family and its domain.

Noah was sure that the Snakes would converge in the new continent. The trace left by the egg had disappeared together with Shandal, so the beasts would think that their target would be in the landmass.

God's Left Hand quickly agreed with Noah's idea, and even Great Elder Diana felt inclined to study the situation for a while before deciding on an approach.

However, the leaders couldn't help but question Noah when they saw him setting off in the direction of one of the Eternal Snakes.

"We didn't decide any plan," Noah said as he shrugged his shoulders. "You can behave as you wish. I'll do the same."

After those words, Noah ignored any other complaint and flew toward the nearest Eternal Snake. He didn't even inform his companions about his destination. There was only the imminent battle in his mind.

Shandal had returned while the group was fighting with the Hydra, and Noah had barely used any energy. He was virtually at his peak.

Noah flew through the sky. His aura became sharper as he sensed the mighty opponent in the distance. His cultivation level also surged as his ambitions pushed his centers of power beyond their normal limits.

A creature at the peak of the sixth rank was stronger than him. Noah wasn't so delusional to think that he could defeat existences at the heroic ranks' apex.

However, the Eternal Snakes were magical beasts, the weakest type of creatures in the world. They stood under humans and hybrids, but Noah surpassed all three of them when it came to sheer potential.

With his ambition leading him to the quasi-solid stage, Noah believed that he could put up a fight against those Snakes. He even guessed that he could land a few blows if he could exploit the species' flaws.

Noah flew higher in the air when he sensed that his opponent was nearby. His vertical pupils shrunk when he laid his eyes on the massive Snake that had fallen from the Immortal Lands, and his instincts began to scream again.

The Eternal snake was immense. It was longer than Snore, and it had dark-green scales that appeared indestructible.

The creature had four arms with three giant claws each. A pair grew near the head, while the other was at the center of its body. The limbs were quite short compared to its size, but they appeared quite threatening nonetheless.

Noah didn't feel only danger when he looked at the creature. His hunger had also surged again, and he soon understood why his instincts had acted in that way.

Creatures on that level wouldn't normally give birth to those reactions inside him. It was as if anything coming from the Immortal Lands could awaken his most profound and most primal instincts.

Noah soon understood the reason behind his intense sensations. The Eternal Snake didn't seem different from any other magical beast initially, but some of its peculiarities became obvious as the analysis continued.

The scales of snake-like and dragon-like creatures would always gain metallic properties after the specimens became strong enough. It was a simple matter of evolution. The skin of a beast became sturdier as its power increased.

However, the Eternal Snake's skin appeared even sturdier than what Noah had predicted. He had never thought that materials in the heroic ranks could give off such a powerful aura, but he found the reason behind that feature immediately.

That magical beast lived in the Immortal Lands. Its meals consisted of other creatures and "Breath" coming from the higher plane.

With such top-tier nutrients, the body of the Snake had reached the peak. The creature was the best possible version of a specimen at the peak of the sixth rank. Even species with better innate gifts would be inferior to that beast unless they grew in the same environment.

'It is bordering the quasi-rank 7 in terms of power,' Noah evaluated, and his ambition became even more intense at that sight.

Seeing the higher world's effects on a simple magical beast made him desire to ascend even more. He desired that environment since it was the best training area in all the planes as far as he knew.

The desire to make the Immortal Lands his territory increased and his ambition continued to make his cultivation level grow under that wave of greed and impatience.

It didn't take much before Noah's ambition made him break through the solid stage.

Chapter 1227 1227. Stuck

Noah's breakthrough was the result of his law. His ambition had empowered his cultivation level so much that he had advanced to the solid stage.

Of course, that was only a temporary boost. Noah would suffer a backlash when the effect of his ambition ended, but he was ready to endure it. He only wanted to have the power to face the Eternal Snake head-on.

The creature slithered right above the ground. Its skin didn't touch the terrain, but cracks opened anyway at its passage. The pressure generated by its aura and its quick movements were something that even the new continent couldn't endure.

The Snake didn't manage to sense Noah in the sky when he was still in the quasi-solid stage, but his complete breakthrough made his aura impossible to miss.

Moreover, the Snake sensed that Noah aimed at it. Any other magical beast would normally stop and face its opponent at that point, but the creature from the Immortal Lands continued to fly toward the trace of the egg's aura.

Noah felt strange at that sight. The Eternal Snake was at the peak of the sixth rank and had the best body for a creature at its level. Very few beasts in the entire lower plane could be its opponents, but it wasn't free to follow its instincts.

The mission given by the leaders in the Immortal Lands was too important. The Snake would ignore everything and everyone to complete it.

A mighty magical beast was nothing more than an underling in the Immortal Lands. Noah felt his ambition surge again at that sight, but he didn't have the time to remain immersed in his thoughts.

A human-shaped crack replaced his figure, and Noah reappeared on the escaping Snake with the Demonic Sword already in his hands.

Noah didn't want to use all the power accumulated with his ambition, so he didn't pour all his energy into the slash that followed his reappearance. Yet, he launched an attack that no creature in the upper tier could block completely.

His dark world flowed into his blade, and the Demonic Sword launched it when Noah slashed with all his strength. A massive fissure appeared on that spot, and the dark matter released in the attack expanded to give birth to a large cloud.

The dark world made its appearance and covered part of the beast's body. There was a limit to how much Noah's technique could affect beings that didn't rely on laws, but he didn't dare to face the Snake without his dark matter.

The Snake roared in pain, but it didn't stop to face its opponent. It continued to fly, but it launched attacks that didn't make him lose any time.

Noah saw a layer of ice covering the edges of the dark world. His dark matter tried to fend it off, but there seemed to be more than just water in that technique.

Silver drops floated among the ice and gave it metallic properties. They also radiated a peculiar aura that made them hard to inspect.

Noah had never seen anything like that, but that wasn't the time to analyze the materials that made his opponent's abilities. He had yet to make the Snake stop in the end.

'Am I not even worthy of your attention?' Noah thought as a tinge of anger appeared in his mind.

Snore formed among the dark world, and Night came out of his space-ring. He planned to go all-out now, but he had to use his Companions to preserve the boost given by his ambition.

The ice continued to cover the dark world, but Night took care of it. Its figure became one with the dark matter and destroyed the innate ability of the Snake.

The dark world improved both Night and Snore. The two of them also had a connection with Noah, so they benefited from his ambition.

Shards of ice fell toward the ground, but the Eternal Snake didn't stop. Noah's last slash had only managed to break a few scales, but that didn't even count as an injury.

Noah saw the body of the Snake moving through the dark world and closed his eyes. Both his hands went on the Demonic Sword as he pointed its tip toward the flying creature.

He could see everything inside the dark world, and its analysis surpassed most inscribed items meant for that purpose when Noah used it together with his consciousness.

Noah studied the structure of the Snake. He soon understood that the beast wasn't flying. Its claws gave birth to a thin layer of silver ice that allowed it to slither above the ground.

His destruction made him understand the weak structural points in the creature's body. Noah wasn't sure about that evaluation since it was mostly a faint feeling, but it didn't hurt to trust his individuality.

The dark world began to shrink as large quantities of dark matter flowed inside the Demonic Sword. Noah left enough higher energy to cover Snore and Night, but he poured everything else in his living weapon.

Noah performed a downward lunge at that point. An immense piercing force shot from his figure and flew toward the bottom of the Snake's body.

Snore joined the assault too. Its wings unfolded and began to absorb primary energy while it launched its elemental attacks in the spot focused by Noah.

Night was also going to support Noah, but it waited to see the outcome of his lunge before deciding where to attack.

Noah reappeared on top of the Snake's tail. He had left the dark world and had followed the trajectory of his lunge and increased its power by adding the momentum generated during the sprint.

The Demonic Sword pierced the dark-green scales and dug through the muscles as Noah's physical strength pushed the tail downward. Snore's attacks also arrived, and they helped to destabilize the innate defenses of the beast.

The layer of silver ice crumbled under that pressure, and Noah could push the Snake's tail toward the ground at that point. The energy carried by his lunge continued to pierce the beast's tissues, and green blood rained out of that injury.

Noah's attack still had energy left. The Demonic Sword stretched as it pierced the tail from the other side and began to dig the terrain. The Snake didn't even bother to look at the cause of the pain it felt, but it soon became unable to move.

Something was blocking it. No matter how much it pushed. The Snake couldn't move, and it only felt more pain whenever it tried to force itself free.

The creature had to turn at that point. Its massive head pointed at its tail, and its reptilian eyes found a similar gaze inspecting it.

Noah had finally managed to stop the Eternal Snake's charge. His weapon was more than fifty meters long now, and part of it had reached terrain hard enough to keep the creature's still.

Noah's grasp remained on the Demonic Sword as it looked at the Snake. The creature was finally looking at him. It seemed that he had succeeded in becoming more important than its current mission.

The Snake opened its mouth, and silver drops fell from its fangs. Noah could guess that it had multiple innate abilities, but he soon had to suppress his curiosity to focus on the battle.

Snore coiled itself around the Snake's head and forced it to remain closed. Yet, the creature was stronger than the Blood Companion, so it slowly torn the tissues made of dark matter as it opened its mouth again.

The Eternal Snake began to prepare its attack again, but a series of cuts suddenly appeared near Noah, and the peculiar figure of the Pterodactyl appeared under the sunlight.

Chunks of flesh fell from the Snake's body, and more green blood splatted on Noah's figure. That didn't faze him, and he promptly stored every scale and piece of flesh in his space-ring.

Chapter 1228 1228. Tail

A roar of pain came out from the restrained creature's mouth after Night severed chunks of its tail. The Eternal Snake's attention was entirely on Noah now. It had eventually understood that it had to deal with that opponent if it wanted to continue its mission.

'You finally noticed me,' Noah thought as his aura continued to surge.

He could now feel what June went through during her battles. Facing an opponent above his level forced his individuality to push his centers of power.

In Noah's case, the empowerment didn't come due to the production of more energy. His centers of power went beyond their stage because his ambition made them reach levels that Noah would eventually achieve.

Noah's individuality worked as a secret art when it came to battles. His true meaning covered multiple aspects of the cultivation journey, but that was its real application during fights.

The Snake suppressed its sensations to stare at its opponent in anger. Snore had already reformed and was restraining its mouth, but the creature didn't care about that annoying puppet.

The magical beast disregarded everything else to stare at Noah with the intensity that only a peak rank 6 existence could exert.

Noah felt a heavy pressure landing on his mind. He could sense part of his instincts pressing him to bow his head in front of such a mighty creature. However, he wasn't a mere magical beast. His existence had long surpassed the limits of those species.

His pride surged and filled his aura. His sharp mental waves raged around his figure and radiated the entirety of his existence.

Noah's consciousness destroyed the "Breath" around him and slowed down the Eternal Snake's healing properties. Tinges of his sharpness formed inside cuts on the tail and opened more wounds as his aura flowed.

It was as if Noah's existence was on fire. All the aspects of his individuality strived for their peak as his ambition fueled them. There didn't seem to be a limit to the level that he could reach when he expressed its true meaning.

Noah couldn't help but release a roar while the Eternal Snake stared at him. A peak rank 6 being was trying to suppress him, but the sheer power released by his existence was enough to fend that pressure off.

He had the peak of the heroic ranks in front of him. That was the very top of the world, but his power allowed him to damage it.

Nothing else in the world could bring Noah more ecstasy than that. He could finally wield power to injure the strongest beings in the world after a life spent enduring their suppression.

Becoming a powerhouse had freed him from many annoying aspects of a lower plane, but now he could claim to have true freedom. He had touched the peak that many sought to reach.

The Snake didn't seem a mindless beast. There was some intelligence in its reptilian eyes, and it looked at Noah as if it was studying what kind of existence had dared to oppose it.

Noah didn't miss that detail, even when that wave of feelings was engulfing his mind. Anything coming from the Immortal Lands interested him a lot, and he couldn't help but compare the magical beasts living in the lower plane with the Eternal Snake.

'Living there doesn't only affect the body,' Noah thought as his roar echoed in the sky. 'It's not a proper intelligent beast, but it comes close to it.'

The benefits given by the Immortal Lands went far beyond better nutrients. The calm that Noah could see in the creature's eyes was something that he had never seen in another magical beast.

It made sense that the Immortal Lands' white sky would affect even the magical beasts, but Noah had never understood how deeply it could change their behavior.

"Ant can't win me," The Snake growled, and Noah understood the meaning behind those cries.

A tinge of scorn appeared on the Snake's expression. It didn't care that Noah still had its blade stabbed in its tail and Snore was restraining its mouth. It didn't appear concerned at all.

"Ant?" Noah said using roars instead of human words. "I am a monster."

The world lost its light for an instant as Noah spewed black flames on the beast's head. Snore pointed its wings toward that spot too, and a series of saber-shaped runes shot out of them.

The Snake didn't expect the flames, and it didn't imagine that Snore could attack while restraining its mouth. The properties of the dark matter surprised the creature from the Immortal Lands and gave it no time to react.

Noah didn't stay still while the attacks crashed on the beast's head. Part of the Demonic Sword melted, and a second blade formed in his hands as he walked toward the edges of the wounds.

The other part of the Demonic Sword still kept the creature locked on the ground. It wouldn't last for long without Noah holding it, but it gave him enough time to launch another attack while the fire and Snore assaulted the head.

Night appeared next to Noah, and dark matter came out of his chest. The dark world formed in a second, but it soon flowed inside the Demonic Sword.

More cuts opened on the Snake's tail. Night had exploited that instant when the dark world covered the environment to use its innate ability to its fullest and inflict as much damage as it could.

The world of laws appeared in Noah's eyes as green blood splatted out of the new injuries. He walked among those splashes and let his individuality guide his mind.

The black hole rotated at full speed as Noah's destruction studied the structure of the wounded tail and found weak spots in it. He soon knew where he had to hit to inflict more damage.

Night continued to ravage the Snake's skin while Noah raised his blade. The sky shattered whenever the weapon moved, but he couldn't even sense the changes around him in that state.

An angry roar soon resounded in the area, but Noah's blade descended at that point. A large fissure replaced a chunk of the Snake's body, and the rest of the tail twisted as it remained stuck on the ground by the other Demonic Sword.

Noah had to use his movement technique to escape from the pulling force of the void, and he reappeared on top of the other Demonic Sword to look at the result of his attacks.

The last slash had severed the Eternal Snake's tail. His attack had managed to cut a peak rank 6 beast's body from side to side.

The tail was the thinnest part of the creature's body after its arms, but Noah wouldn't be humble with his achievements. His prowess was worthy of respect, especially when he considered his actual cultivation level.

Noah was a liquid stage powerhouse, but his blows could inflict serious injuries to a peak rank 6 creature. Only King Elbas could match that achievement with his many inscribed items.

The severed tail disappeared as Noah stored it inside his space-ring. The two pieces of the Demonic Sword also fused to reform his living weapon.

Chapter 1229 1229. Stuck

Another roar followed the previous one, and silver drops rained on the sky as the Snake freed itself from the starry sky that covered its head. Trails of ice formed wherever the liquid flew, and even the flames couldn't escape those effects.

Snore suffered from that attack too. Its enormous body froze together with the black flames that had surrounded the Eternal Snake's head.

The Snake tilted its head, and the ice around it shattered. Noah could see the effects of his previous offensive, but the result left him slightly disappointed.

Even if his individuality had improved Snore's power, the Blood Companion remained connected to his black hole. Noah's ambition couldn't empower it as it did with his centers of power. It required better dark matter to cross the limits of its tier.

Yet, it still managed to wound the creature. The skin on the left side of the Snake's head had become a mess of cuts and torn tissues after it endured the storm of saber-shaped runes.

That attack had damaged the thick muscles under the skin, but it didn't manage to reach the skull. The Snake's eyelid had also protected its left eye, but the creature had to sacrifice it during the process.

Green blood flowed out of those injuries, but the shards of ice that had fallen on the ground soon floated toward the Snake's face and covered the wounds.

Part of the also ice flew toward the tail to cover the various injuries and large cut. It didn't take much before blood stopped flowing out of them.

Noah could use that chance to attack, but he wanted to inspect that innate ability. According to Shandal, the Eternal Snakes had an incredible vitality, but that only explained part of what they could do.

Also, Noah knew that his current prowess had a time limit. He had already launched many attacks and fueled his puppets with his ambition. His individuality couldn't do miracles. Its effects had to end at some point.

Still, he couldn't help but show a wide smile when he stared at how he had damaged the Snake. The invasion wouldn't crush the lower plane as long as he wielded that power.

The ice slowly changed color. It previously was mostly silver, but it gradually turned dark-green to match the shade of the Snake's scales.

It also changed shape. The ice transformed into actual pieces of skin that fixed the injuries.

Noah remained speechless at that sight. The new tissues were no different from the actual skin of the beast. It seemed that the vitality of that species didn't apply only to the amount of energy that its specimens carried.

'This is the evolution process of the magical beasts!' Noah exclaimed in his mind when he understood the basics behind that ability.

The ice that had fixed those injuries had come from Noah's frozen abilities. The Snake had taken control of the energy that they contained and used it to patch its skin!

Noah's mind became silent for an instant before a tide of ideas surged inside it. His creation consumed his mental energy to give birth to a series of designs that attempted to replicate that innate ability.

It wasn't his first time meeting similar abilities, and he had even wielded a similar one in the past. Yet, he had never seen something so immediate and in line with the qualities of the magical beasts.

The Eternal Snakes could use the energy that they captured to fix their injuries in seconds. That went far beyond the normal absorption process of the magical beasts!

'Destroy others to recreate yourself,' Noah's expression became solemn as he thought that, but his instincts soon forced him to put those ideas in the back of his mind to focus on his opponent.

The Snake was livid. It inspected its tail and released angry roars when it saw that its ice didn't make the severed piece regrow.

The creature spilled more ice in the surrounding area to create more materials for its ability, but no number of shards was enough to regrow its tail. Their color didn't even change when they touched that body part.

'I can't play around much longer,' Noah thought as corrosive smoke started to come out of his skin.

The Snake turned to look at Noah once it gave up on regrowing its tail. Its eyes radiated intense anger, and silver liquid fell from its open mouth.

The growls that came out of it didn't make any sense when they reached Noah's ears. The Snake was simply expressing its anger with cries that had no meaning in human words.

The fiendish armor formed around Noah, and a corrosive cloud immediately appeared around him. Dark matter also came out of his chest and recreated the dark world.

Snore reappeared behind him, and Night hid inside the darkness to wait for a chance to attack. Noah was ready to have his last exchange with the Snake, and he didn't care that his remaining power might not be enough to kill it.

Noah raised his sword, but his survival instincts suddenly began to scream and forced him to perform an evasive maneuver. He entered his dimension and sprinted upward, but a shockwave hit him before he could reach his destination.

A dense pressure interrupted Noah's technique and flung him in the distance. His bones released screeching noises as he did his best to oppose that force and stop himself.

Noah didn't even know what had hit him. His dark world didn't sense anything, but an attack had almost landed on him. The shockwave that it had released had even been enough to interrupt his movement technique.

Noah managed to stop himself after he flew for a few kilometers, and the scene that appeared in his eyes made his mind grow cold. A large chunk of the terrain in front of the Snake had disappeared. Part of the sky right above it had turned into a wide fissure that led to the void.

A long crack had opened in the region too. The fissure started from the Snake and continued until the land nearby.

As an expert in the magical beasts' field, Noah could identify what had caused that change in the environment. He could see the maimed tail of the Snake pointing at him, but he found it hard to believe that it had been capable of that destruction.

Moreover, that attack didn't cause the usual mindless destruction that most magical beasts would create. It had focused the spot where Noah had been just an instant before, and that had given the blow far more power.

'Don't tell me that they can use techniques,' Noah thought as he recreated the dark world. The Demonic Form had survived the shockwave, so corrosive smoke had already started covering his figure.

The black hole spun faster as Noah focused on the Snake. His fourth center of power worked together with his desire to see the attack, and a large amount of energy flowed in his eyes while they remained fixed on his opponent's body.

The Snake didn't hesitate and leaped toward Noah. The terrain under it crumbled under the physical strength that it released to jump, and its massive figure became hard to follow after it left the ground.

Noah could see everything with the empowerment caused by his black hole. The Snake used its flexible body to act as a whip and surpass its limits during its offensive.

Its head shot forward when it was about to reach Noah. The momentum that it carried created cracks wherever it passed.

Noah had to sprint again to dodge that attack, but the same pressure forced him outside of his dimension.

When he could focus on his opponent again, he found that his dark world had fallen in the void connected to the crack opened by the Snake's bite and that a layer of ice had spread from its mouth.

Then, he noticed that his feet had fallen prey to that innate ability.

Chapter 1230 1230. Close

The Eternal Snake had shattered the sky with both its leap and bite, and the last attack had spread its silver liquid. The air had turned into a thick layer of ice, and Noah wasn't fast enough to escape that ability.

Noah found himself stuck inside the ice. Cracks appeared on its surface as he tried to pull his feet off of it, but the ability managed to delay him for one instant.

The Snake exploited that chance to leap toward Noah again. The creature was above him before he could even decide what to launch to escape from that situation.

Noah could only let his vast experience guide him in that situation. His blade rose to meet the insides of the Snake's head, and dark matter flowed inside his weapon to create one of his strongest slashes.

The Demonic Sword became bigger before clashing with the Snake's mouth. When the two touched, Noah felt an unstoppable force flowing through the weapon and reaching his arms.

His connection with the Demonic Sword made him aware that the blade couldn't take that force head-on. The Snake's physical strength could shatter his living weapon and his body at the same time!

However, Noah had never planned to challenge the beast with his physical strength. He had always known to be inferior to that creature. Only his superior techniques could make him triumph in that battle.

The ice covering his feet shattered as Noah endured the pressure that landed on his body. His veins bulged and exploded as he gave his everything to stop that charge for a second.

Cracks appeared on the surface of the Demonic Sword during the clash. The blade suffered structural damages even if the dark matter made its fabric almost indestructible.

Still, Noah's attack managed to hurt the creature. His blade stabbed the insides of its mouth and dug deep in its skin. It even reached the skull after crossing its muscles.

Noah's body sunk in the layer of ice. He used the physical strength of the Snake to escape from the other side of that prison.

Once his feet touched the air again, he recalled the Demonic Sword inside his space-ring and let the momentum created in the clash fling him downward.

The Snake didn't let him go. It shattered the ice and charged after him while the shards gathered inside its mouth. The injury that Noah had created healed before the beast reached him.

The Eternal Snake opened its mouth to prepare its bite, but Noah sprinted away before it could finish its attack. A shockwave came out when its maw closed, but it didn't manage to reach its opponent at that time.

Noah had become used to the battle rhythm by then. Even with its immense strength and troublesome innate ability, the Snake was still a magical beast, and that made its fighting style limited.

The creature used the flexibility and might of its body to the fullest, and it also exploited that physical strength to make its slow innate ability threatening.

However, that was everything it could do. The magical beasts' weaknesses were still there even if the Eternal Snake expressed the absolute peak of the sixth rank. Even the inhabitants of the Immortal Lands couldn't escape the limits of their species.

Noah never stopped sprinting. He knew that he couldn't let the Snake retake the upper hand, but he didn't use that chance to escape.

He could launch one last attack before the effects of his ambition faded. The drawbacks would also be quite harsh at that time, so he aimed to deliver a killing blow.

That was his last chance to get something out of the battle. The next ones would go better since he had already gathered enough data about that species, so he could target other benefits now.

The Snake appeared unable to pinpoint his location. It had managed to follow him previously because the shockwaves forced him out of his dimension, but he was untouchable as long as he remained outside of its range.

The creature roared in anger, and the claws on its arms began to shine with a silver color. Waves of its liquid shot out of its limbs whenever it waved them, but those attacks were slower than its previous ones.

'The liquid is threatening only when it follows the charges,' Noah thought as he dodged the silver waves flying through the sky.

He would love to find out how such a species had developed their battle style, but he couldn't waste time in that situation. He could only guess that divine beings' guidance and the Immortal Lands' pressure had made their understanding about their abilities evolve.

Ice appeared in every direction. The entire area froze as the Snake continued to unleash its anger on the sky. It couldn't forgive the ant that had cut its tail.

Noah continued to sprint around the Snake until an opening arrived. The creature had stopped and had turned toward the center of the continent after a while. It seemed that its mission had resumed being a priority in its mind once it lost its opponent.

At that point, Noah sprinted toward its head and reached it in less than an instant. The Snake appeared happy to see him, but Noah didn't bother to notice those details in that situation.

Dark matter flowed inside his Demonic Sword as his blade descended. The cracks on the weapon spread as Noah pushed its structure over its limits.

He had to go beyond what the Demonic Sword could endure in that state if he wanted to kill the Snake.

Noah slashed, and a fissure appeared on top of the Snake. A long cut appeared on the creature's head, and the blood that spurting out of it fell into the void.

The cut was deep, but Noah didn't manage to make it go all the way down to the other side of its head. The slash didn't have the same piercing ability as the lunge, but his assault didn't end there.

More blood came of the injury when Night flew across it. The Pterodactyl dug through its muscles to open a path for its brain. Everything would be over if Noah managed to destroy that vital organ.

Snore also appeared under the fissure and launched its elemental attacks inside the wound. Its fire, gales, and ice opened the path for its lightning bolts and eventually managed to crack the Snake's skull.

Night flew back inside the injury at that point. It seeped inside the cracked skull and cut everything it could, but the Snake leaped toward the ground at that point.

Noah, Night, and Snore gathered in the sky and watched the Snake crash on the ground. His cultivation level began to decrease as the effects of his ambition waned, but he didn't retreat just yet.

He had to know if the damage he had dealt in the last exchange was enough to bring the creature to the death's door.

The Eternal Snake was at the bottom of a pit created after its charge, but it didn't move. It barely showed any sign of being alive.

However, the ice that had accumulated on the battlefield shattered and converged toward the creature's head. Noah could only sigh when he saw the shards filling the injury and beginning to change color.

Growls also began to come out of its motionless mouth. It was only a matter of seconds before the Snake healed and resumed to charge at Noah.

'I'm close,' Noah thought as he shot one last glance at the Snake before leaving the area. He had confirmed that his current power allowed him to survive a battle on that level for a few minutes.