

DEMONIC 1241

Chapter 1241 1241. Scrolls

Noah wasn't holding back, but he didn't use all his techniques right away. He limited himself to use the warp spell and his sword arts because he didn't know what the Matriarchs had in store for him.

Cultivators were different from magical beasts. They had tricks, strategies, and inscribed items that could turn a certain victory into an overwhelming defeat instantly.

Noah was stronger than the two powerhouses, but he had to be wary of their experience and preparation. He wouldn't be surprised if they prepared items to defeat him even before the situation reached that point.

The lunges flew through the dark world without any obstruction. Noah's ability would even make them stronger if they weren't so fast.

The Matriarchs only had an instant to react, but they didn't fail to deploy spells that could stop Noah's offensive.

Great Elder Diana's crackling second skin expanded and created a spherical defensive net that destroyed anything trying to cross among its holes.

A massive amount of her "Breath" went inside the net and fueled the many lighting bolts that converged on the lunges when they crossed her protection. Those powerful attacks couldn't do anything against her spell.

God's Left Hand waved her fan vertically a few times before violent gales shot out to clash with the lunges. Noah didn't think much of that spell initially, but he had to reevaluate it when he saw his attacks falling apart.

The winds that she had created through that gesture appeared dense enough to stop his sword arts. Noah believed that the Matriarch of the Empire would struggle a bit more to deal with his attacks, but it seemed that Shandal's return had made her power improve more than he expected.

A large cut suddenly opened on God's Left Hand's back. The Matriarchs showed a surprised expression, but she soon redirected more "Breath" toward her whirlpools to increase their rotation speed.

Noah knew through his mental connection that Night missed God's Left Hand's neck because the whirlpool on her back had accelerated on its own. The defensive ability had noticed the arrival of a threat and had acted before the Matriarch contemplated the issue.

Night was one of Noah's aces. Even the Elbas family had been unable to obtain its power, and its body had gone far beyond the limits of its species after Noah used the Royal Metal with it.

There was a chance that something capable of countering Night couldn't exist in a lower plane. The existences facing the creature could only rely on wide defensive methods to hinder its silent attacks.

The two Matriarchs had done that. The crackling sphere and those whirlpools created a defensive array that could block attacks coming from any direction. Noah had to break them if he wanted to inflict serious damage on the two powerhouses.

'They won't reveal anything at this pace,' Noah thought when he understood that he couldn't defeat them with only casual attacks.

Noah entered the dark world, and smoke started to come out of his skin. The demonic armor covered his figure instantly, and three fiendish copies appeared near him in the next second.

A small sphere appeared in his palm, but Noah immediately threw it outside of the dark world. The Black Hole spell was frail, so he needed to keep it away from the battlefield to rely on its power.

Snore formed inside the dark world before it surrounded the Matriarchs with its huge body. Lightning bolts, gales, and fire shot out from its head as it blocked some of the powerhouses' escape routes.

The dark world empowered Snore's elemental attacks while its suppression intensified. The Matriarchs' defensive spells lost some of their effectiveness when the Blood Companions' abilities swept them.

The two powerhouses couldn't ignore the dark world for too long. Their level didn't allow them to keep control of their abilities inside that environment.

God's Left Hand destructiveness lost intensity, and Great Elder Diana's failed to properly control her lightning bolts when the dark world affected their defenses. The elemental attacks destroyed them to envelop the Matriarchs in a tight wave.

Noah didn't stop there. He was inside the dark world now, so he could charge his Demonic Sword with dark matter more quickly.

His higher energy flowed inside the blade and transformed it into a four hundred meters long sword that fell on the spot where the elemental attacks were suppressing the powerhouses. Night also remained in the area to prevent anyone from escaping that offensive.

Shockwaves spread through the dark world. Noah's domain trembled under the might that he had unleashed, but no happiness appeared on his face.

He knew what had happened to the Matriarchs through the dark matter around them, and he didn't like what he sensed.

Violent lightning bolts shot out of the raging waves of dark matter that surrounded the Matriarchs. Dense winds also rotated around the area and created a massive tornado with the Matriarchs as its center.

'They are far more prepared than I expected,' Noah thought as the dark matter in front of him dispersed to reveal the two powerhouses.

Both Great Elder Diana and God's Left Hand held two long unfolded scrolls high above their heads. Countless lines covered the yellow surfaces of those items, and some of them shone brighter than others.

Those items were similar to talismans, but they didn't have a limit on the spells that they contained. Experts had to inscribe the scroll to engrave a series of spells on their surface to activate them at a lower cost.

Of course, the scrolls would express their true power when they contained the best spells that the cultivators wielded. The Matriarchs had engraved some of their most powerful abilities on those items, so they could cast them as soon as their "Breath" filled those lines.

Moreover, the spells used by the Matriarchs to defeat Noah's offensive were slightly different from their usual attacks. They didn't carry the powerhouses' individualities, so the dark world couldn't suppress them on the spot.

That was a weakness of the dark world. Noah could prevent the Matriarchs from using their laws whenever he saw fit, but he had to know which meanings he had to suppress beforehand.

Noah couldn't even imagine how long the Matriarchs had needed to inscribe spells that didn't even suit their individuality, but he soon suppressed those thoughts when his opponents began to speak.

"It's hard to keep track of all the eyes studying you once you reach a certain status," God's Left Hand said. "The entire world has created countermeasures for you since the battle against King Elbas."

"We have our pride too," Great Elder Diana said. "You were nothing more than a bastard back then, but I was a powerhouse already. I took orders from you because you were stronger, but that doesn't mean that I am weak!"

Great Elder Diana's aura surged as another set of spells lit up on the scroll that she held. Her lightning bolts began to transform into an army of crackling wolves that charged toward Noah.

"I won't remain passive anymore," Great Elder Diana continued. "You have chosen your path, so don't blame me if I aim to kill you now. May the best of us win!"

Great Elder Diana jumped on one of the wolves at that point and used it to fly out of the dark world. God's Left Hand did the same, and Noah couldn't stop them because the dense tornado that slowly rotated at the center of his technique had begun to move toward him.

The two attacks made him feel danger. He couldn't ignore them.

Chapter 1242 1242. Throa

Noah launched the fiendish copies toward the army of wolves and gathered dark matter inside his blade to deal with the tornado.

He had initially thought that God's Left Hand's spell matched her individuality, but the dense gales that made it didn't carry her destructiveness.

The tornado rotated slowly, and it acted as a massive club rather than as a calamity. It had an orderly structure while God's Left Hand typically used violent winds.

The fiendish copies fought against the army of wolves before exploding into a dense wave of corrosive smoke. Some of those creatures survived that offensive, but the dark matter that fell on them afterward finished destroying them.

Noah slashed at the tornado. His massive blade cut that rotating figure in half and dispersed its winds through the dark world. It filled the empty spot that the Matriarchs had created with their abilities, but that was useless now.

God's Left Hand reappeared above Noah, outside of the dark world. She was still riding the wolf, and a series of spheres made of raging winds hovered in their palms.

The spheres fell toward the dark gas, and storms appeared in those spots. The raging winds expanded until they became a series of small tornadoes that tried to disperse the dark matter.

Great Elder Diana appeared under Noah, outside of the dark world. Thousands of minute lighting bolts had appeared above her. They resembled small arrows when they shot toward the dense cloud to disperse the dark matter.

The dark world suppressed the Matriarchs' abilities when they entered inside its range, but Noah let them destroy it. His opponents weren't interested in remaining inside his technique anymore. It was better to use it in a different form at the moment.

More dark matter came out of his chest, and a second layer of armor appeared on top of his fiendish figure. Some of the higher energy around him also fused with his protection, and three more copies appeared next to him to go through the same process.

Noah called the Black Hole spell at that point. The small sphere had become quite big during those few exchanges, but it still needed to grow to express its overwhelming power.

Yet, that didn't stop Noah from making the copies go through the spell to turn them into giants. The same went for his Demonic Sword since he immersed it inside the Black Hole spell.

Snore reappeared behind his figure. The Blood Companion couldn't stop the Matriarchs since they had suddenly unleashed far more power than usual, but it didn't suffer any damage in the process.

The Matriarchs moved again. They didn't dare to remain in the same position for fear of having to face one of Noah's threatening attacks.

God's Left Hand dismounted from her wolf and launched it at Noah while she created a series of gales that began to blow around him.

Great Elder Diana threw a series of crackling spheres that surrounded Noah and worked together with the gales to create a special aura around him. Noah felt the sky's structure becoming frail under the effect of those spells.

'They want to suppress me by using the void,' Noah thought.

He couldn't fail to recognize the tactic that defeated King Elbas the first time. The Matriarchs' spells made the sky too frail for his physical might. Anything beyond human standards would turn the entire area into a massive fissure.

Noah waved his hand, and a black line appeared in front of him. A portal opened, but the sky's structure crumbled, and the fissure that came after that engulfed the Warp spell.

The Matriarchs didn't stop their offensive. Great Elder Diana followed her attacks by launching other crackling spheres that surrounded the entire frail area.

God's Left Hand waved her fan to create violent gales that circled the frail area and created a barrier that prevented others from crossing it.

The Matriarchs wanted to trap Noah before delivering their final attack. He wouldn't have any escape at that point.

Noah closed his fist, and that simple gesture opened many small cracks around his hand. The sky was too frail, but he quickly found a way to escape from that situation.

His leg bent as Noah crouched in the area. Other cracks appeared around him because of that gesture, but Noah had eyes only for the area with fewer crackling spheres.

The Matriarchs tried to launch more spells, but Noah charged and made the whole area crumbled as he tried to enter his dimension to overcome the hindrances on his path.

The whole area became a massive crack connected to the void that applied a strong gravitational pull on Noah. That suction force was so intense that he couldn't even gather darkness under his feet to sprint away again.

Meanwhile, the Matriarchs had launched more spells. Three giant lightning bolts with the shape of arrows and a wide dense gale surpassed the area's edges and converged toward Noah.

The void was annoying, but the incoming attack worsened his situation. Noah used part of the dark matter inside Snore to create platforms under him and sprint away. As for the enemy spells, he let his copies face them.

Noah disappeared after the spells exploded. A cloud of gray smoke appeared on its spot, but the void absorbed it in an instant.

The Matriarchs couldn't see Noah anywhere. They didn't think that he had fallen into the void, but they didn't know how he could hide his presence so well.

The two tried to gather again, but Noah reappeared behind God's Left Hand and slashed at the same spot damaged by Night. A second skin made of dense air appeared on top of her figure and blocked the attack, but the crack that it opened sucked away most of that energy.

Noah punched using his free hand at that point, but he saw no fear inside God's Left Hand's eyes. She felt confident in that situation, which meant that she was still hiding something.

A long cut appeared on God's Left Hand's face as Noah began to retreat. Night took the powerhouse's right eye away with its attack.

God's Left Hand broke a talisman at that point, and a wild series of tornadoes formed around her figure and began to fly in every direction.

Those tornadoes also appeared different. It wasn't gray as usual. Its color was closer to a proper black that gave off a dangerous aura.

That wasn't the average wind. Its aura was eerie, but he could sense the danger coming from inside it.

Noah continued to retreat, but an array of lightning bolts blocked his path by creating a tight net that released attacks. He had ended up encircled again, but he didn't mind that situation.

God's Left Hand had suffered a bit, while Great Elder Diana felt her pride as a powerhouse plummeting whenever Noah survived one of those attacks.

Instead, Noah had yet to suffer any damage. He was even in perfect condition since he didn't use his ambition at all.

Noah wasn't in control of the battlefield, but he still had the upper hand. The Matriarchs were attempting to take him out with a few grand moves, but he preferred to slowly and safely wound them.

Snore charged toward the black winds while Noah sprinted upward. He had no reason to face Great Elder Diana's spell, so he dodged it to disappear from the battlefield again.

The black winds destroyed Snore and crushed even the dark matter that made its body. The Blood Companion couldn't do anything against them, which was why Noah had decided to improve it after completing the other task.

Noah reappeared behind God's Left Hand again while the black winds ravaged its body. His Demonic Sword lunged at her throat, and Night aimed to sever her torso.

The tip of the blade pierced her skin before she exploded into a wave of scorching gales that reformed near Great Elder Diana. A trail of blood still fell from her throat, but she didn't bother to clean it.

Chapter 1243 1243. Sacrifice

The Matriarchs didn't expect anything less from Noah. He had claimed the title of strongest heroic cultivator for a reason, and his battle style made it clear that no one on his level was his match.

It didn't matter that the Matriarchs had prepared for that battle. Noah had various abilities, and the powerhouses couldn't counter all of them. Some of his techniques didn't even have actual countermeasures.

Noah didn't have a time limit in that situation. The power that he wielded in the battle didn't come from his ambition, so he could fight the Matriarchs without having to put his life on the line.

He could rely on his superior battle prowess to exhaust them. That would eventually expose some flaws in their fighting style, and he wouldn't hesitate to exploit them.

God's Left Hand and Great Elder Diana understood that they couldn't defeat Noah with normal methods. He could overcome all their plans and even injure them at the same time.

Great Elder Diana glanced at her companion. A few injuries had appeared on God's Left Hand's body, and she had lost her right eye during the last exchange.

Each of Noah's attacks could be deadly. The two of them wouldn't even have survived for so long if they hadn't studied all his abilities.

Two layers of armor still protected Noah. Instead, the Matriarchs had already shown their tricks. Their traps had also failed, which left them with nothing but injuries.

The sky slowly reformed as Noah and the Matriarchs studied each other. Neither of them appeared willing to make the first move, but Noah soon decided that he had enough of waiting.

A sea of saber-shaped runes came out of his figure and surrounded him. Snore reformed and unfolded its wings, and the Black Hole spell floated toward him.

Copies of his fiendish armor also formed among the sea of blades. They immersed themselves in the Black Hole spell as soon as they appeared in the open, and five giants came out of the dark sphere once the empowerment ended.

The sheer power in Noah's techniques was able to twist the sky's structure and bend the sunlight. That area had become nothing more than a black patch capable of altering the very fabric of the world.

It was as if Noah's abilities were cancer that spread through Heaven and Earth's world and tainted it with his existence. His dark world and corrosive cloud would often hide his arsenal, but the Matriarchs could witness it in its spectacular might in that situation.

Noah lifted his free hand at that point. He pointed at God's Left Hand with two fingers and focused on the sharpness carried by his existence.

God's Left Hand didn't feel anything initially, but a dangerous sensation soon built up inside her mind. She felt that something was about to arrive, but she couldn't understand the nature of that threat.

Great Elder Diana's eyes suddenly widened as she inspected that scene. Her hand shot in front of her companion and lightning bolts exploded in the area.

The Empire's Leader was about to question her, but she soon noticed that traces of Noah's sharpness came out of her companion's technique. Great Elder Diana had prevented the casting of a spell, and a chill ran down God's Left Hand's spine when she saw that the attack had aimed at her forehead.

She couldn't lower her guard for even a second against Noah. She couldn't allow herself to show any flaw against that opponent.

When the duo glanced at Noah again, they noticed that he had disappeared from the center of his abilities. They couldn't sense his presence anymore either, but they couldn't focus on that since the techniques in the distance began to fly toward them.

The five giants moved, surrounded by the tight array of blades. Snore also flew with them and used the dark matter around the fiendish copies to remain intact even if it had lost its connection with Noah.

God's Left Hand waved her fan to create a series of dense gales that resembled snake-like creatures as they flew through the sky to reach Noah's attacks.

Great Elder Diana used her black lenses to generate a barrage of thick lightning bolts that filled the sky with an orange radiance.

The Matriarchs prepared themselves for a loud explosion and intense shockwaves, but their consciousnesses suddenly sensed a presence nearby, and the world around them became dark.

The powerhouses began to retreat as soon as they understood the nature of the darkness that had surrounded them. Noah's dark matter was easy to recognize, so they knew what was about to happen.

The dark world suppressed the Matriarchs' spells, and Noah's attacks destroyed them after entering his domain. The dark matter even improved their power as it enhanced their effects.

Snore became bigger. The saber-shaped runes accelerated as they turned into smoke. The claws of the giant copies grew as dark matter flowed inside them.

Flashes of orange and gray light shone on the Matriarchs' back and forced them to stop their retreat. Night had attacked them, but their defensive spells had blocked it.

The array of attacks drew closer, and the dark world suppressed any foreign law in the area. The Matriarchs felt cornered, and they could only take out their inscribed scrolls again to rely on the domain's weakness.

All the lines on their scrolls lit up right before Noah's attacks crashed on the duo. The area became a mess of explosions, tornadoes, and lightning storms, but Noah remained nearby, ready to take the life of whoever managed to survive that clash.

Even if he was inside the dark world, Noah didn't understand what was happening in the impact area. The clashes among the many abilities made that zone chaotic, and dark matter often crumbled as shockwaves came out of it.

Noah waited a few seconds before he charged his Demonic Sword with dark matter. His blade grew until it was more than four hundred meters tall, and he slashed at the area that still featured multiple clashes.

The massive blade descended, and the dark world tuned with the sharpness that it carried to enhance its abilities. That blow contained so much power that even the dark matter opened to let it pass.

Before the slash swept the area, black winds appeared inside the dark world and expanded to create a massive tornado. An array of dense lightning bolts also shot out of the spell, and sparks began to run through those raging gales.

The tornado clashed with the giant blade. The Demonic Sword pierced the spell while losing part of its power, but the lightning bolts that shot out of the tornado prevented Noah's weapon from damaging them any further.

The lightning bolts landed on the giant blade's structural flaws and dispersed most of the dark matter that the Demonic Sword had accumulated. The massive weapon soon became an unstable mess that the tornado could sweep away easily.

The tornado didn't stop expanding. The dark world crumbled under that spell and the lightning bolts that it released. Dark matter also fell apart when it touched the sparks running through the winds.

Noah's technique was about to lose against those spells, but he wouldn't let the Matriarchs regain the upper hand in the battle. He charged right through the storm and used his movement technique to pierce the tornado.

Sparks landed on his body and shattered his robe as cracks opened on his skin. Noah had eventually chosen to suffer some damage in that battle, but that was only part of his regular fighting style. He often decided to sacrifice something to put his opponents in an even worse situation.

Chapter 1244 1244. Damage

The dark winds ripped off the armor made of dark matter, but they lost their power after completing that feat. A large opening appeared on the black tornado, but the sparks that ran through it soon filled that spot.

Noah only had the Demonic Form at that point. The sparks generated lightning bolts that destroyed his fiendish armor and landed on his skin. However, the damage that they inflicted wasn't even worthy of consideration for someone like Noah.

His skin cracked, and many cuts appeared on his body. Yet, his resilience went beyond both magical beasts and hybrids. Those injuries didn't even manage to slow him down.

Noah crossed that barrage of spells and entered inside the maimed tornado. Calm filled the area, but two figures soon appeared in his vision.

God's Left Hand and Great Elder Diana were both injured. The last array of attacks had crushed their defenses and threatened to kill them on the spot.

The complete activation of their inscribed scrolls had saved them from certain death. The tornado and the countless sparks that filled its surface were the best spells that those items could generate.

God's Left Hand had already suffered some light injuries during the previous exchanges, but the last clash left her maimed. Her left arm had disappeared, and part of her torso had become a bloody mess.

The injuries even spread to her legs. Her entire left side was about to fall apart, and only her mental energy kept it together.

Great Elder Diana was a bit better off, but she had also suffered her share of damage. Her right hand had lost a few fingers, and patches of broken skin filled her legs.

A few cuts had appeared on her torso and face too. Yet, those were still light injuries for an expert on that level.

The Matriarchs had to endure attacks that were on the same level as those launched by them. The difference in the injuries came from the innate defenses of their bodies.

The toughness of Noah's skin could match the power of a couple of defensive spells, while the Matriarchs' bodies were far below the magical beasts' level. The duo couldn't surpass him when it came to resilience, even if they were two against one.

Noah sprinted toward the Matriarchs, but they both snapped their fingers when they saw him. Their individualities also surged while they prepared new attacks. The dark world's suppression couldn't reach the empty area at the center of the tornado.

The tornado and the sparks caved in. They began to fill the area with pieces of attacks that flew for a while before converging toward Noah.

Meanwhile, Great Elder Diana and God's Left Hand unleashed techniques that carried their intense individualities.

God's Left Hand was a calamity. Her winds existed to destroy and fly unbound through both land and sky.

Countless gales came out of her figure and began to twist around her as if they were giant snake-like creatures. They even rotated to create a series of attacks that converged toward Noah.

Great Elder Diana had perfect control over her wild element. Sparks accumulated around her and gave birth to countless minute arrows, with each of them carrying the power of her lightning bolts.

Those spells joined the collapse of the previous ones in their flight toward Noah. He sensed threats from every direction, but he had every intention to continue moving forward.

Dark matter came out of his chest as he deployed the dark world again. The spells that carried the Matriarchs' individualities lost power as the higher energy banished those laws from Noah's domain.

Noah could charge through them without worrying about his safety once the dark world suppressed those spells. He waved his hand to launch slashes that tore through the violent gales, and his body destroyed the arrows when they crashed on him.

The arrows only managed to leave small dots on his skin. Those weren't even worthy of being injuries for his standards, but he could understand how dangerous it would have been to face those attacks without the dark world.

Both God's Left Hand and Great Elder Diana could injure him if he ignored their attacks. The Matriarchs were worthy of his respect even if they relied on their numerical advantage to deal with his techniques.

Noah quickly made his way through the spells and arrived in front of the Matriarchs. His sword cut through the fabric of the sky as it slashed toward them.

Both Matriarchs activated a talisman to deal with that attack. Black winds raged out of God's Left Hand's palm, and a giant bird-like creature made of lightning bolts came out of Great Elder Diana's figure.

Part of those spells fell into the crack created by Noah's slash, but the rest of them swept Noah and pushed him away. However, he managed to wave his hand and Demonic Sword again before returning inside the area with crumbling sparks and winds.

Noah's hand released five casual slashes that landed on God's Left Hand. She didn't have any protection in that situation, so the attack chopped her remaining arm and created five long marks on her torso.

Those injuries were even quite deep. God's Left Hand's life might have been at risk if it wasn't for the array of spells flinging Noah away.

The Demonic Sword released a thick black line that bent the air around it. Great Elder Diana was also defenseless, and the attack severed her lower body, transforming her into nothing more than a floating torso.

Noah suffered injuries too. The winds ravaged his body and rotated as they tried to pierce his skin.

The Matriarchs had given up on inflicting new injuries and focused on enlarging those suffered during the previous exchanges. Noah's chest was their favorite target since it was full of small holes due to Great Elder Diana's arrows.

The black winds crashed on Noah, and the bird-like creature engulfed him before trapping him inside its body. Lightning bolts ran through its figure and landed on him while trying to stop his momentum and escape from that situation.

The spells had slowly managed to create large wounds on his body, but dark matter promptly came out of them to protect him and prevent further damage. It had also started to heal those injuries.

The winds and lightning bolts appeared indestructible even when he relied on his physical strength, but he soon placed the Demonic Sword on his forehead and focused on his individuality.

His sharpness surged. Countless cuts appeared on the bird's body and made it crumble into a rain of raging sparks. The same went for the gales that still tried to hit him. They became nothing more than shattered air after his slashes finished destroying them.

Noah's sharpness didn't affect only the spells around him. His consciousness reached even the Matriarchs who saw a series of cuts appearing on their maimed bodies out of nowhere.

God's Left Hand coughed blood as her defensive spells tried to stop that technique. She couldn't stop Noah's cuts at all, and they continued to ravage her body no matter how injured she was.

Great Elder Diana had already lost a lot, and those cuts didn't help her. However, her individuality could deal with the attack more easily. She would directly burn the injuries' edges as soon as they appeared.

Chapter 1245 1245. Red rune

The victory was near for Noah. Both God's Left Hand and Great Elder Diana had suffered grave injuries. Instead, he was still at his peak when it came to his battle prowess.

The external layer of his body was also a mess, but he was an existence that surpassed the hybrids' realm. That damage didn't affect his movements nor abilities. It only hurt.

Cuts continued to open on the Matriarchs' bodies. Blood spilled everywhere in the area, and Noah soon aimed at his next target after he managed to stop.

Great Elder Diana's dantian was basically in the open since the Demonic Sword had severed her lower body in the last clash. Noah could charge at her and decide to suffer a few more injuries to retrieve that organ.

The battle would be over once the Council's Leader lost her dantian. God's Left Hand alone couldn't even come close to Noah's level of power. She had managed to survive for so long only because of the numerical advantage.

The pieces of the black tornado and sparks still converged toward Noah, but he reactivated the Demonic Form and covered his fiendish armor in a layer of dark matter to fend them off.

His two armors had already been enough to fend the two spells off when they were complete. They didn't even budge now that those abilities were in pieces.

Noah bent his legs as he prepared himself to sprint, but the Matriarchs acted before him. Their consciousness expanded, and the environment churned as they called upon their individualities to gather the remains of their spells.

Trails of energy gathered in the sky. "Breath" of the lightning and wind element converged toward the Matriarchs in the form of sparks and dense winds.

It was as if they were preparing a final attack, but Noah still had Night waiting nearby. There wouldn't be any last spell if the Matriarchs died before casting it.

While the cuts still filled the Matriarchs' bodies, Noah launched a series of slashes in their direction. He didn't use only the Demonic Sword to generate those attacks. Even his free hand and mind helped to create a threatening array of powerful blows.

Night attacked too. It could charge at the Leaders through the dark world and increase Noah's offensive power by cutting away one escape route.

The powerhouses didn't lose their inscribed scrolls. God's Left Hand had lost both her arms, but she had seized her space-ring with her mental waves before it fell toward the surface.

The scrolls appeared in front of them and lit up completely. The black tornado reappeared, and orange sparks crackled on its surface.

The slashes launched by Noah crashed on those spells, but they couldn't do anything against them. They even pushed the dark world back since they didn't carry the Leaders' laws.

Night had to retreat too. It could cut through those powerful spells, but it would remain in the open afterward. Completing an attack wouldn't cost its life, but it was a risky move, especially now that the Matriarchs gathered all the "Breath" that carried their aura.

Noah stepped back when he saw that spectacle. The black tornado expanded and blew more of his dark matter away, and the Matriarchs gained valuable time to create powerful spells.

Running inside the spells again wasn't doable anymore due to the dangerousness of the abilities prepared there. Noah didn't want to remain stuck in a tornado with an unavoidable attack.

His sharpness was still affecting the Matriarchs, so Noah knew that it was only a matter of time before the duo gave up on fighting or died. There was no actual counter to his endless cuts. A powerhouse would need to suppress his individuality to put an end to that technique.

Noah recalled the dark world as he continued to retreat. He eventually stopped escaping, and he pointed two fingers toward the faint trace of the two powerhouses.

His sharpness surged again as his consciousness expanded. Noah focused on establishing a connection with the other side of the tornado to launch the improved Dark Ray spell that he never had the chance to use due to his frenetic battle style.

However, a sudden event claimed his attention and made him put aside the idea of launching that attack now.

A divine aura spread in the world, but that didn't come from the beings in the Immortal Lands. A human figure was flying in the sky, and every powerhouse in the world knew who he was.

Shandal had made his appearance in the world after years of silence. His return gave birth to a wave of cheers from the weaker cultivators and other higher-ups. Even the Matriarchs stopped their offensive to observe him.

Of course, neither of them lowered their guard in that situation. Noah could very well decide to attack even if Shandal was respecting his side of the deal. After all, they didn't expect the god to interfere with matters that concerned heroic cultivators.

Shandal flew slowly toward the crack. He remained at the same height as the opening to prevent the divine beings in the Immortal Lands from noticing him.

Once he reached the crack, Shandal took out one of the divine items from his inventory and pointed it at the layers of silver ice that prevented that hole from closing.

Time appeared to slow down for the rest of the world. Shandal moved normally, but Noah and the others felt that they couldn't control their bodies properly after the god unleashed his aura.

The pressure that spread in the world was immense. That weight didn't faze Noah, but many weaker cultivators couldn't withstand being under the aura of a divine being. They had to retreat to the separate dimension or stop looking at inscribed items that transmitted images of that event.

The item that Shandal had taken out was a red rune that shone like as if it was an inscribed crystal. Its flickering light affected the silver ice every time it illuminated it.

The ice slowly melted under the effects of Shandal's rune, and the sky began to reform as soon as part of the crack's edges became free again.

Shandal had studied the situation thoroughly. The Eternal Snakes and the divine beings were too far away to notice something. They would only see the crack closing when it was too late to do anything about it.

That was Shandal's goal. He had to avoid angering the divine beings until the crack closed. His calculations told him that it was possible to succeed without any negative consequences, but those matters were complex when it came to creatures in the divine ranks.

The ice continued to melt under the influence of the red rune. Shandal's individuality accelerated that process for him while slowing down the world.

The crack eventually reached a critical state since most of the ice around its edges had disappeared. Shandal needed only a few more minutes to complete the procedure.

The divine beings noticed what was happening with the crack at that point. Closing the passage would force them to give up on the egg forever, and it would also make them lose all the weaker specimens deployed in that mission.

Shandal continued to remove the last bits of ice to let the sky heal. The process was almost over, but the divine beings wouldn't suffer that loss without fighting.

Chapter 1246 1246. Third wave

Angry roars echoed from the closing crack. They spread through the entire lower plane and claimed the attention of all the rank 6 Eternal Snakes searching for the egg.

Noah couldn't believe his ears. He could understand how many divine beings conveyed their anger from the Immortal Lands, and that number left him speechless.

'Nine,' Noah concluded in his mind as the loud cries continued to echo through the sky.

A single pack of magical beasts in the Immortal Lands had nine divine beings, and Noah wasn't even sure that they were all the divine assets in that group of creatures.

The amount of power contained in the Immortal Lands surpassed his expectations. He had always known that there were many divine entities there, but even his generous evaluation had been wrong.

Noah would be alone once he ascended, and he didn't plan on taking Shandal's offer. He didn't want a guide, and he wasn't interested in joining any organization before learning more about the environment in the Immortal Lands.

Yet, he didn't know if his power alone would be enough to make him survive up there. Noah trusted his instincts and battle prowess, but the task appeared far harsher than he had predicted.

'I need to become far stronger,' Noah thought as those angry roars filled his ears. 'Surviving isn't enough. Being strong among heroic cultivators isn't enough. I need to be a monster even among gods.'

His ambition seeped out of his figure and filled his consciousness as he stared at the crack. He didn't want to behave like a scared beast after the ascension, but he needed far more power than he had predicted for that.

The black hole in his chest began to rotate faster as his ambition pushed his fourth center of power to its limits. The Divine Deduction technique even activated on its own.

Countless ideas on how to become stronger surged in his mind. Most of them were unrealistic and impossible to actuate in his current situation, but there was something that he could complete before his ascension.

The lower plane had its limits, but Noah planned to stretch them as far as he could before ascending. It might be impossible for him to be a monster when he reached the Immortal Lands, but he wanted to be as complete as possible by that time.

The rank 6 Eternal Snakes scattered through the world raised their heads and began to roar toward their leaders. The latter replied with cries that carried a simple order, and all the creatures in the lower plane set off for the crack when they heard them.

Forty-nine rank 6 magical beasts began to slither toward Shandal on platforms made of ice. The leaders had asked them to keep the connection between the planes open, and they didn't hesitate to charge toward the god of the Empire.

Silver liquid came out of their mouths and created long trails made of ice as they converged toward the crack. It was as if a series of slim icy-pillars had started to grow from the surface.

The leaders didn't stay still after giving that order. A massive green claw passed through the crack again, but only its tip managed to reach the lower world.

The sky had already healed a big part of that fissure. The world didn't even tremble when that piece of divine body crossed its edges. It seemed able to contain that amount of divine power.

The divine creature tried to dig the claw deeper into the crack, but orange sparks soon ran through it and began to destabilize its structure. Cries of pain also resounded from the passage, and the divine power spread through the world lost part of its intensity during the process.

The Heaven Tribulation was attacking the pack of Eternal Snakes again. Its power appeared even superior to the previous ones since it managed to shatter bigger chunks of the creature's claw.

It seemed that Heaven and Earth had grown tired of that invasion on the lower plane. They wanted to punish the Eternal Snakes once and for all.

The claw started to retreat even before the rank 6 creatures reached Shandal. Yet, silver light began to shine on the crack's edges as the Snakes' innate ability covered those spots.

Shandal's red rune melted the ice that formed inside that silver halo in no time, but the divine beasts never stopped spewing silver liquid on the crack's edges.

The sky continued to fix the crack, but the ice slowed down that process and forced Shandal to remain. The weaker Snakes reached him at that point, and they immediately spewed bullets made of silver liquid toward their target.

Noah could see how the rank 6 Eternal Snakes didn't show any fear. Magical beasts would usually be frightened against opponents far stronger than them even if they had precise orders. However, those creatures appeared quite confident during their assault.

'Are they used to fight against divine beings?' Noah wondered when he saw that odd behavior.

Magical beasts could ignore some of their instincts when powerful leaders ruled over them, but they couldn't suppress what they felt during those moments.

The lack of fear in the Snake's eyes told Noah even more about the Immortal Lands. That was his first time seeing magical beasts so confident about a battle they couldn't hope to win.

Shandal didn't even bother to glance at the incoming attacks. His free hand rose in the sky, and an azure light began to shine on his palm. One word also came out of his mouth as that halo covered the entire area.

"Stop," Shandal said, and everything illuminated by his light suddenly stopped moving.

The silver bullets flying toward him stopped mid-air. The air stopped moving, and the gales didn't blow through the sky anymore. Even the Snakes remained immobilized after Shandal's word, and traces of panic appeared on their expressions.

Shandal kept the azure halo active while he continued to remove the ice. The rune melted the silver reinforcements only to see the crack's edges freezing again.

However, the crack continued to close even if the leaders were doing their best to hinder Shandal. The healing process also became quicker. It seemed that the world didn't want that passage to exist anymore.

The Eternal Snakes in the Immortal Lands didn't know what to do. Shandal didn't give them much time, and they couldn't focus on the crack with the Heaven Tribulation punishing them.

They didn't have paths that led to victory anymore. Still, that pushed them to do their best to make that lower world regret its decision.

Another series of cries resounded in the world, but nothing moved when the roars spread through the lower plane. Those orders weren't for the weaker Snakes frozen in time. They were for the beings in the Immortal Lands.

Before the crack could close, countless boulders fell through the opening and landed on the surface. Shandal's consciousness expanded to suppress the shockwaves that they created, but he didn't do anything to stop the process that followed that event.

Different cries added themselves to the noise filling the sky. The third wave of Eternal Snakes woke up, and one of them carried a quasi-divine aura.

Chapter 1247 1247. Packed

The third batch of powerful Eternal Snakes had descended in the lower plane, but Shandal stopped caring about them as soon as the shockwaves vanished. He didn't even pay attention to the quasi-rank 7 creature that had joined those reinforcements.

Shandal kept his focus on the crack and ignored everything else. He didn't move even after the third wave of invaders rose in the sky to join their companions' offensive.

The azure light radiated by Shandal's palm froze them in time as soon as the halo landed on them. Only the quasi-rank 7 Eternal Snake struggled a bit before joining the other motionless creatures.

Shandal was in a different league. His power alone was enough to stop the whole invasion, but he didn't have any interest in that.

He would close the crack because that mess was his fault, and he was the only existence in the world capable of succeeding in that task. Moreover, there were many valuable existences in the lower plane that deserved a chance to reach the Immortal Lands.

The crack continued to close while the area around it remained frozen in time. Only the leaders' roars continued to echo, but they soon stopped shouting when they realized that their underlings wouldn't manage to stop Shandal.

A series of low growls followed that realization. Noah's eyes widened when he understood the contents of that discussion, and he began to think of ways to help Shandal due to that sudden turn of events.

Still, he soon accepted that he couldn't be of any use in that battle. The army of beasts was enough to kill him even if he relied on all his methods. Shandal was alone in that task.

The leaders suddenly went silent. No sound echoed throughout the world. Only the faint noise made by the melting silver ice spread in the area.

A tremor ran through Shandal's eyes when his instincts warned him about the imminent danger. His mind wasn't the only one to sense that threat. Even the powerhouses in different parts of the world felt the same sensations.

Noah wasn't an exception. He felt that danger with more intensity than everyone else, and he didn't hesitate to take a few steps toward the surface since he was aware of the Snakes' plan.

The silence continued until a loud thud echoed through the world. The sky trembled after that sound and cracks opened on its fabric.

The new cracks led to the void. The leaders were doing something on the other side of the passage, and their actions managed to create repercussions on the lower plane.

A second thud echoed. More tremors filled the sky, and a new series of cracks opened on its structure.

The other powerhouses understood what the leaders were trying to do at that point. Their underlings couldn't defeat Shandal, and they couldn't enter the lower world without destroying it, so they had only one option left.

The leaders abandoned the idea of retrieving the egg since they couldn't stop the closing of the crack, but they didn't give up on their anger. The best way to vent it was to destroy the world where the thief had hidden.

Those were the contents of the discussion among the divine Snakes. They had briefly reviewed their options to decide that it was better to destroy that lower plane once and for all. As for the Heaven Tribulation, they would deal with it afterward.

A third thud echoed, and cracks leading to the void opened even near the passage for the Immortal Lands. The black and white doors intertwined, but the latter was denser, so it overcame the former, leaving only a few open areas that led to the darkness.

Silence fell in the world again, and no more thuds followed at that time. It almost seemed that the divine Eternal Snakes had given up on their plan, but a claw pierced the opening again and began to apply pressure to reach the lower world.

The claw didn't manage to go too deep due to Shandal's efforts with the crack, but that small part of a divine body was enough to destabilize the world's structure now that it had suffered a lot of damage.

The world began to tremble as the creature tried to enlarge the crack to push its claw deeper into the lower plane. Heaven and Earth attempted to end its efforts through the Tribulation, but the divine being didn't care about the destruction of its talon.

Cracks opened on the green claw, and chunks fell toward the lower world. However, the orange sparks always pulverized them and ensured that the Mortal Lands didn't obtain such valuable materials.

The Snake pushed its claw deeper into the lower world, and the structure of the sky soon reached its limits. All the fissures leading to the void expanded and created connections with each other.

A net formed in the sky, and only a few parts remained intact. The cracks covered most of it.

Heaven and Earth continued to unleash their anger toward the divine creature, but the Snake didn't care. It continued to push its claw downward even if it had reached a critical state after many lightning bolts.

The net became thicker as the cracks enlarged. Both the landmasses and the seabed began to tremble as the stability of the sky was about to crumble and engulf everything in the void.

That was an apocalyptic view. The world was ending, and the strongest cultivators in the world could only watch as the god of the Empire fixed the situation.

The Heaven Tribulation eventually triumphed over the claw. The cracks on its surface became too deep, making it crumble into a series of green chunks that the orange sparks pulverized.

The passage to the Immortal Lands began to close at full speed again. The many cracks that filled the sky didn't seem to affect that procedure, and no silver liquid appeared to delay it any further.

That opening closed in the following seconds. The passage for the Immortal Lands vanished without leaving any trace, and the leaders on the other side didn't even have the time to release the last roar.

The threat of the Immortal Land had finally vanished, but an issue soon became evident. The cracks connected to the void didn't close, and it didn't take an expert to notice abnormalities in the behavior of the sky.

The sky continued to remain unstable. The fissures didn't show signs of closing even if there was plenty of "Breath" in the environment.

That phenomenon was bizarre and went against the common knowledge of the world. The sky had never behaved like that. The delay in its healing didn't even come from its lack of energy.

Noah and the others didn't know what to think about in that situation, but Shandal had the answers that they needed.

Shandal snapped his fingers, and the ice under the frozen Eternal Snakes around him shattered. He also released the creatures from their restrictions, and they fell toward the surface as they tried to regain control of their bodies.

The Snakes scattered through the world, and roars soon came out of their mouths as they tried to contact their leaders. However, no answer came from them.

Shandal descended toward Noah at that point, and his confused gaze made the god explain the current situation.

"The sky is injured, and the world is unstable," Shandal said as he inspected the world. "This world is too packed with powerful existences to begin the healing."

Chapter 1248 1248. Decision

"What do you mean with too crowded?" Noah shouted to question the god of the Empire.

He could feel his instincts screaming when he inspected the sky. The dangerous sensation that such scenery caused inside him surpassed all the threats that he had faced throughout his life.

His instincts told him to escape, to run away as fast as he could, and never look back. It was as if they had decided that the world was beyond saving.

"The number of powerful beings surpasses what the world can take in its current state," Shandal explained, and his words spread through the sky to inform every powerhouse willing to listen. "The internal pressure caused by all of us is too much for this damaged plane."

Shandal's words left everyone speechless. According to him, the last attack of the divine Eternal Snakes had managed to bring the world on the verge of destruction.

The net of fissures connected to the void didn't remain still. It slowly enlarged as time passed, and that made Shandal's words easier to believe.

The higher-ups had yet to count how many specimens had reached the lower plane after the third wave of reinforcements. Still, it was clear that rank 6 creatures filled both the surface and the seabed now.

Even a perfectly intact lower plane would find it hard to withstand the internal pressure that those creatures caused. It wasn't a surprise that the world couldn't endure them now that it was in that state.

"Almighty!" God's Left Hand shouted as she kowtowed in the middle of the sky. "How do we solve this?"

Shandal glanced at her underling before shaking his head. That gesture already answered her question, but he decided to give more details to inform those unable to see him.

"You don't," Shandal replied. "The world can't start healing until it stops using its energy to contain its population."

Shandal began to leave at that point, but Noah couldn't accept that outcome easily. He had great plans for the myriad of Eternal Snakes that had invaded the world, and he wasn't willing to give up on them so soon.

"Where are you going?" Noah asked. "You have the power to save the world. You are the solution to this problem."

"Heroic cultivators have their hindrances to overcome," Shandal replied after heaving a sigh, "I have mine. I would help you if my actions were to lead to your doom, but you have another world available. You can survive this event without my help, so I won't do anything."

Shandal then teleported above the old continent and waved his hand. The land under him shook, and the terrain opened as a huge landmass rose in the sky.

The landmass wasn't wholly material, and it wasn't only a wide chunk of terrain. It had a white sky and storms above its surface.

Noah and other powerhouses of the Hive could immediately recognize that land. That was Shandal's separate dimension. The god had taken it out in the open without even bothering to hide it from the other cultivators.

The separate dimension shrunk after Shandal performed a sigil with his hand. That land became nothing more than a small white sphere that the god stored inside one of its devices.

It was clear that Shandal had every intention to abandon that world. The powerhouses didn't need any other proof to understand how far gone their world was.

Noah's inscribed notebook rang to no end, but he ignored those messages. A strange idea had formed in his mind, but he knew too little about planes to decide if it was feasible.

"I have one last question," Noah shouted, knowing that Shandal would hear him even if his voice didn't reach his position. "I wish to go over it privately."

God's Left Hand and Great Elder Diana heard him, but they didn't understand why he thought that Shandal would grant him that meeting. However, an azure flash soon shone near Noah, and that halo engulfed his figure.

The azure light threatened to blind Noah, but he didn't show any fear and let the halo create an isolated area. Shandal soon appeared in front of him, and Noah could only sigh as he prepared his question.

A lot would change depending on how Shandal answered. Noah was ready to put his life at stake.

"Thinking of something foolish?" Shandal asked as a faint smile appeared on his face.

Noah didn't bother to nod as he asked his question. "How many existences need to leave for the world to stabilize?"

Shandal's smile widened. The god had to admit that Noah was even more reckless than he thought.

"Hundreds for it to be able to heal again," Shandal replied. "I'm not talking about rank 4 creatures."

Noah fell silent as calculations filled his mind. He had understood what Shandal meant. The migration alone wouldn't be enough to save the world.

"You are about to leave," Noah said at some point. "Three organizations will do the same. They have hundreds of heroic cultivators and a dozen powerhouses. This should be enough to slow the destruction of the world, am I right?"

"Yes," Shandal replied. "I'd say the world will gain half a millennium worthy of time with that migration. My departure alone will delay its destruction for three centuries at least."

'Five hundred years,' Noah thought as the calculations continued in his mind.

That would generally be a short period for a rank 6 existence, but Noah didn't intend to spend that time cultivating. With his Dark Womb spell, he could kill one Eternal Snake and recover in less than a year.

Noah knew that it would be harder to find isolated Eternal Snakes now, but time was on his side. Even if his instincts begged him to leave, his ambition kept making him consider all the benefits he could obtain in that ruined world.

"The dimensional portal can't withstand your pressure," Noah commented after he reached a conclusion about that issue.

Shandal snorted before answering. "I'm a god. I will travel through the void to reach the other world. I will use the dimensional portal only to keep track of the path."

Noah nodded and performed a sincere bow. Shandal had never tried to suppress him, even if he had the power to do so. The god had even helped him without asking anything in return, and he was now answering every question.

Shandal had even given Noah the best gift for an existence like him. The god didn't do that on purpose, but Noah felt that a polite gesture was the proper way to show his gratitude.

"This is a goodbye then," Shandal said as his smile widened. "Don't die. I've already mentioned you to them. It would be a pity if your peculiar existence didn't manage to reach the Immortal Lands."

Noah shrugged his shoulders and floated outside of the azure aura while waving his hand. His mind felt heavy whenever he thought about his decision.

The azure area vanished as Noah walked away from it. Shandal's presence had also disappeared after that, but a similar light shone inside a crack above the Utra nation.

Shandal had left the world, but he had warned his underlings before beginning his journey through the void. God's Left Hand had already left the area and was preparing her organization for the migration.

Noah sighed when he saw that Great Elder Diana left the area too. He picked his inscribed notebook and informed the Demons about the situation.

He also gave a few orders. The Hive had to migrate to the other world and never come back. There was a chance that the dimensional portal would crumble once the lower plane worsened, so they had to hurry.

Then, he contacted someone that deserved a personal message.

"June," Noah said to inform his lover about his decision, "We need to talk."

Chapter 1249 1249. Memories

"We have always known that our paths will eventually diverge," June said before heaving a sigh. "The only place where we can be truly together is the top."

Noah and June were in an isolated room inside the separate dimension. He had flown there and explained his plan to his lover, but her answer made him feel bitter.

Cultivators had long lives, and that gave them many chances to create deep relationships. However, their journeys forced them to remain alone. Their individualities weren't something that they could nurture with others.

Some called it a curse, but only those willing to give up on everything could hope to reach the higher ranks. There were very few cases in which couples managed to spend their lives together without neglecting their training.

Noah couldn't help but think about Dreaming Demon and Flying Demon. They were among the few exceptions in the world, but they had to survive through steep hindrances to reach their current situation.

They had yet to survive the Immortal Lands, but Noah believed that they wouldn't separate even on that occasion. They had already proven that they could overcome the harshest hurdles.

Noah and June had a different type of relationship. Their cultivation journey was too important to let feelings get in their paths.

Their priority remained their journey even if they loved each other. The couple had managed to be together for a long time because their individualities shared a few fields, but they sought different things, which often made them separate.

The current situation in the world wasn't any different. Noah knew June better than anyone else, and he was aware that magical beasts would soon bore her.

The army of Eternal Snakes could partially provide her with the endless battlefield that she had dreamed of, but she would eventually grow tired of having to face the same enemies.

The reason why Noah had managed to kill a creature far stronger than him was what made the army of Snakes inconvenient for June. She didn't want to be a hunter capable of exploiting her opponents' weaknesses. She aimed to become the best warrior.

"It sure is a pity," June said as she sat on the ground of the floor. "I didn't think this moment would come so soon. I suppose we can't even take a month off for our goodbyes."

Noah's inscribed notebook rang to no end even after he gave the order to migrate. He had yet to inform his underlings that he wouldn't follow them in the other world, but the chaos had already spread among the three organizations.

That gave him an idea of how little time he had with June. After all, the fissures in the sky had never stopped expanding. It was in his interest to relieve the world of some internal pressure as soon as possible.

The more the organizations delayed their migration, the less time Noah would have to save the world and himself.

"Dreaming Demon and Flying Demon should complete the preparations in a couple of days," Noah said as he sat behind June. "I would need to kick you all out if you take more than that."

June laid her back on Noah's chest and closed her eyes. Her lover began to caress her messy hair, and the two of them remained silent as they enjoyed the feeling of being together.

"The Immortal Lands are big," June said as she straightened her position to sit on Noah's lap.

"We only have to remain alive to meet again," Noah replied as he wrapped his arms around her waist and pulled her closer.

Noah placed his chin on her shoulder, and the two of them remained silent as they stared at the wall of the room. Countless thoughts rose in their minds, but they ultimately led to the same conclusion. They had to make the best out of the time that they had left.

Still, Noah and June weren't a young couple driven by their need to feel closer. They were far beyond the phase when they had to spend intimate moments that lasted months.

The sole being in each other's arms was enough to make them at peace. They didn't want anything else other than remaining in that position until they had to separate.

"The world will become boring without you," June said at some point.

Neither of them knew how long they had been in that position, but they never grew tired of being so close to each other.

"The political environment will change again after your departure," Noah replied. "The Empire will try to expand again now that Shandal has returned. The Council will want an even closer relationship with the Hive to fend that threat off. Great Elder Diana might even try to fuse our organizations."

"I guess I won't lack wars," June said as a smile appeared on her face. The sole thought of those battles lifted her morale a bit.

Noah could almost see all the events that would follow the migration. He had learnt to know the political environment quite well, even if that field had never interested him. It wasn't hard for him to predict what would happen.

"Hey," June said at some point. "We will be apart for a very long time."

She then turned to face Noah while sitting on his lap. He could see the desire in her eyes trying to overcome the other emotions that their imminent separation caused inside her.

"We should make a good memory," Noah replied as a warm smile appeared on his face.

The couple didn't need to speak anymore. Noah and June knew each other too well to understand how they wanted to use the little time that they had left.

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Two days later, the entire Hive gathered in front of the dimensional portal to begin the migration.

The Eternal Snakes had regressed to a state of wild beasts after losing the connection with their leaders, which made them ignore the Utra nation.

The dimensional portal had turned those prosperous lands into dried terrains. The Eternal Snakes had even destroyed them during their mission.

The Utra nation had become nothing more than a pile of debris. Many experts were even surprised that it was still in one piece after what it went through.

Noah was high in the sky as he stared at the troops under him. The powerhouses floated slightly under him, and the rank 5 Elders managed the various factions inside the Hive.

The human cultivators crossed the portal without any hesitation. Noah looked at them disappearing in the dark vortex, but he didn't feel anything at that sight.

'I guess I'm an awful leader,' Noah thought as he held back his words.

He had yet to reveal to his troops that he wouldn't follow them in the other world. Noah wanted to inform only the powerhouses to avoid the celebrations that his announcement would cause.

The portal flickered whenever the net of cracks expanded. The destabilization of the world affected its correct functioning, but the situation wasn't critical yet.

It would take a while before that item stopped working. Thirty-seven had already made his calculations, and he had predicted that the portal would last another year.

The rank 4 Elders began to cross the portal after all the human cultivators had completed the migration. The experts in the fifth rank followed them. Noah and the powerhouses soon remained alone in the sky.

Chapter 1250 1250. Departure

The powerhouses turned toward Noah, and the memories that he shared with all of them resurfaced in his mind when he looked at them.

Noah still recalled that Elder Julia and Elder Austin were the first rank 5 Elders to join the new continent's colonization. Those secret missions had laid the foundation of the current power of the Hive.

Elder Austin had died during Ravaging Demon's sudden attack, but Elder Julia had continued to improve until she became one of the Hive pillars.

She was Chasing Demon's true heir. He had taught her how to control the Copying Technique, and she had been in charge of managing the Hive ever since his sacrifice.

Skully was nothing more than a consciousness and a pile of bones when Noah first met her. The Kesier Apes had taken control of the hidden world, and she was in charge of the rebellious faction.

Noah had prolonged her lifespan by fusing her with a Kesier Ape, and he had freed her underlings when he destroyed the hidden world.

Upon returning to the Hive, Skully had decided to manage the hybrid armies. Those troops had flourished under her rule, and only a few of them lost control of their mental capabilities during those years.

Dreaming Demon and Flying Demon were lifelong friends. Noah had found them in Divine Architect's separate dimension and saved them from certain death.

That event started a long series of adventures that saw the trio spreading chaos throughout the world. The raids on the Utra nation and the many tunnels in the separate dimension also came from their collaboration.

The Demons had even helped Noah getting his revenge against his family. They had been on the frontlines in every war or battle after they revealed themselves to the world.

They also carried Divine Demon's original mindset. Dreaming Demon and Flying Demon were existences that truly embodied the will of the defeated Demon Sects.

The memories with Daniel went way back in the past. Noah didn't care about him when he was in the Royal Academy, but he didn't forget the events in the Bare Dungeon.

Daniel was nothing more than a promising noble back then, but his life turned upside down after meeting Noah. The events with the Cause and the migration of the Udye family ultimately led him to become another pillar of the Hive.

In the end, Noah looked at June, and countless memories surged inside his mind.

Noah had met June on the air-ship leading to the Royal Academy, and they had fought on that same vehicle. That signed the beginning of a relationship that didn't fade through the years.

The battles inside the Royal Inheritance had strengthened their friendship and led them to live together for a while. The gift of Eccentric Thunder's inheritance had created a bond that they couldn't ignore even when they belonged to different organizations.

Then, the reunion during the winged beasts' crisis signed the beginning of their relationship. Their feelings had survived the many separations and the constant hindrance placed by the world around them.

Noah didn't know what to say when the powerhouses looked at him. He couldn't help but recall countless memories featuring them. Yet, he felt at peace when he thought about that separation.

'I have shared many lives with them,' Noah thought as he recalled what kind of man he was before his transmigration. 'To think that my life would be so full.'

The man who saw no value in life had ended up experiencing far more than the average cultivator. Noah had survived where many would have fallen, and he didn't neglect his desires along the way.

"Why isn't he just sending us off?" Flying Demon pretended to whisper as he turned toward her lover.

"We won't see him until we reach the Immortal Lands," Dreaming Demon replied in a normal tone. "It's normal to go through your life's experiences after such a big separation."

"I actually have to ask him something before going away," Daniel said as he joined that conversation. "A Patriarch should have a say in these political matters."

"As if Faith cares about the politics!" June replied while shooting an angry look toward Daniel. "The whole world knows about you two. We have been inside a separate dimension for five hundred years. You can't hide anything in that environment."

"It's still a matter of political relevance," Daniel said. "The Patriarch must approve. I'm sure Chasing Demon has done the same with the two of you."

"Silence!" Elder Julia shouted. "You can wait until I become the Matriarch and ask me if you are scared of his judgment."

"I think I'm the only one who has no hope to see him again," Skully said as she joined that conversation. "I should have more time with him to express my gratitude properly."

"I don't think he cares about that," Flying Demon replied.

"He surely doesn't care about that," June added. "I bet that we are nothing more than pawns who apply pressure on the world at this point. You should never underestimate how addicted he is to his training."

"You are right," Dreaming Demon said, "We should leave soon. We are consuming precious time."

Noah didn't completely understand what was happening at first. The powerhouses spoke as if they were aware that he would remain in the main world.

However, he had revealed his intentions only to June. He didn't believe that she had spread that news to the powerhouses, but he couldn't find other possible explanations.

His questioning gaze went on June, but she shook her head before opening her mouth to speak. "Don't look at me. They figured it out on their own. I guess they know you quite well."

Noah's eyes widened, and he moved his questioning gaze to the other powerhouses. Yet, they all nodded while wearing smiles.

"I even wondered whether I had to make a speech," Noah said before heaving a sigh. "Well, there is no point since all of you are aware of my intentions."

Noah stopped speaking to look the powerhouses in their eyes again. Then, he resumed. "I won't be leaving with you. The current state of the world is too beneficial to my cultivation method to give up on it so easily."

"Don't worry about us," Dreaming Demon said. "The Hive will remain one of the stronger organizations in the world, even without you. You have raised it well."

"We will be fine," Flying Demon continued. "I was growing bored of being the strongest organization anyway. Some struggles can only benefit us."

Skully flew toward Noah at that point, and she kowtowed in front of him before he could say anything.

She remained in that position for a while before standing up and heading for the dimensional portal. Her figure disappeared as soon as she crossed that vortex.

Noah couldn't help but think that he would never see Skully again. He didn't manage to make her a dantian in the end, but she would continue to fulfill the promises made with Danielle and the Ape God.

The hybrids would grow strong and without mental instabilities due to the training method polished through the years. Thirty-seven could create replicas of Noah's spherical runes, so the future of those creatures would be bright.

The Kesier Apes would also be free to thrive among the other creatures in the Hive's ranks. The Ape God would obtain what it had always wanted. Its species won't see another slaughter as long as the Hive remained in power.