

DEMONIC 1281

Chapter 1281 1281. All-ou

Noah didn't need to think to know how that battle would end. The presence of a defensive item in the divine ranks could only lead to one outcome.

A quasi-rank 7 creature was an opponent that Noah could overcome due to his ambition and the many advantages connected to his centers of power. However, the presence of a divine item changed everything.

The Snake's weakest feature had just become its strongest. The divine armor covered its entire body. Its assaults were now unstoppable.

The dark beam had incredible destructive properties, but it couldn't overcome such a difference in power. The dark matter had to evolve before it could make a dent in that armor.

The same went for the rest of Noah's abilities. Nothing he had could make up for that difference in power. He had been able to fight the Snake until now because most of his attacks carried might that defied logic. Still, the armor marked a point that he couldn't cross at his current level.

Noah didn't retreat in front of that threat. His ambition became more intense as he analyzed the Snake and its divine item.

The Snake's power hinted at an important detail. The creature wasn't a complete divine beast, so that armor was the best it could do. Noah even guessed that it couldn't keep it active for a long time.

Yet, the Snake had used only a quarter of the ice in the world to create that protection. Logic said that it could perform that technique three more times before it depleted its core material.

Also, the actual power of the Snake didn't change after it created its armor. The creature was still a beast that Noah could suppress even if there were an abyss of difference between their levels.

The Snake would end up in a sorry state as long as Noah managed to cross the armor. That defensive item was troublesome, but he still had a chance to defeat his opponent.

The divine armor had only three openings. The ice didn't cover the Snake's eyes and insides of its mouth, which left them exposed to the same attacks that had managed to suppress it before.

Noah only had to prevent the Snake from summoning the storms again while aiming for a quick kill. If he succeeded, he could even test if his theory was on point.

He didn't believe that the Snake could rely on those techniques often. The armor and the reconstruction of its head were skills that went beyond lower realms, so there had to be a limit to how many of them it could perform.

It was a simple matter of logic. The Snake wasn't a divine being, so its divine techniques usually had drawbacks and limitations that Noah could exploit.

The Snake lost its patience when it saw that Noah didn't attack. The sudden blow from before left it slightly confused, but it was too angry at Noah to let him do as he pleased.

The creature jumped forward, and massive cracks opened in the sky at its passage. Noah had prepared his arsenal beforehand, which gave him a good advantage against the beast. The only problem now was to use his weapons smartly.

The Snake reached Noah's position in an instant, but he was ready. The creature's speed didn't increase after the storms, so he knew exactly how fast it was.

Noah could dodge and escape until he wielded enough power to defeat the creature without relying on strategies. However, he didn't plan to leave the battlefield just yet. The sight of something in the divine ranks had ignited his desire to test himself.

Noah raised his free hand, and the six fiendish giants flew next to him to help him in the task. The Snake arrived in an instant, but it found six pairs of clawed hands waiting for it.

An immense force landed on Noah and shattered the armors protecting his right arm. Still, he didn't suffer any injury at that time. The fiendish giants had eased the impact with the creature.

Noah didn't waste time. He pointed the Demonic Sword toward one of the eyes and lunged while unleashing all his accumulated power.

The Snake didn't have the time to dodge. It was still trying to fling Noah's away when a torrent of dark matter pierced its eye and ravaged its insides.

Noah's assets didn't let the other eye go. Snore bit the other side of the Snake's head and released its dark beam. Night also moved and fused with the insides of the creature to unleash its destruction.

The Snake screamed in pain, but Noah didn't waste the moment when the creature opened its mouth. Two of his fiendish giants entered it and exploded to fill the creature's body with a cloud of poisonous, corrosive smoke.

The sea of saber-shaped runes followed the fiendish giants. They entered the Snake's mouth and began to ravage everything they could.

In an instant, Noah had unleashed the entirety of his arsenal on the creature. He did not doubt that his abilities would kill the Snake on the spot, but he was more interested in what happened afterward.

The Snake began to fall toward the ground after that series of attacks. Yet, one of the fiendish giants grabbed it, and Snore coiled itself around it to restrain it.

There was nothing but dark matter, corrosive smoke, and floating pieces of flesh inside the divine armor. Noah's attacks had reduced its body into a messy pulp of blood and skin that were about to disappear due to the sharpness still lingering inside the divine item.

However, the silver armor lit up before the last of the Snake's tissues could disappear. A blinding light came out of it, and angry roars soon echoed through the sky.

When the silver light disappeared, Noah could see that the Snakes' leader had wholly reformed. All its injuries had disappeared, but the armor had paid the price for that restoration.

The ice of the armor had become thinner after that round of healing. Noah could sense that it even expressed less power than before.

Noah's eyes lit up when he saw that. He now knew how to defeat the Snake. It could take a while, but he had a strategy, at least.

The Snake leaped away and destroyed two fiendish giants with its charge. Then, it made a sharp turn to charge toward Noah again.

Noah didn't fear that attack. He could inflict more damage than the creature did, so he didn't mind playing the target in that battle. Moreover, he felt too excited in that situation that he didn't mind taking those blows head-on.

The two remaining fiendish giants and Snore stepped forward to intercept the charge, and Noah raised his hand again to help in the task. However, his cultivation level suddenly dropped and reminded him that he didn't own that power yet.

'Not now!' Noah cursed in his mind as he threw every disposable attack at the creature.

The Black Hole spell flew toward the Snake together with the two fiendish giants. Snore even helped them, but Night reappeared next to Noah and flew inside his space-ring.

The giant uneven sphere exploded, but its power wasn't suitable for that type of battle. Hitting the holes in the armor required precise and condensed attacks, and the Black Hole spell was the opposite of that.

The fiendish giants and Snore did their best to stop the Snake. The copies even detonated when they saw that they couldn't stop the creature anymore.

When the Snakes' leader managed to cross those hindrances, it saw only a human-shaped crack. It couldn't sense Noah anywhere.

Chapter 1282 1282. Investmen

Noah returned inside the separate dimension after the battle. The effects of his ambition had run out mid-fight, but he had managed to escape.

'My ambition can't last for so long,' Noah concluded after he reviewed the battle.

The quasi-rank 7 Eternal Snake was weaker than him, but its resilience made it hard to defeat since his superior strength had a time limit.

'Three to four times for each divine armor,' Noah calculated in his mind. 'The entire world should make it able to perform that ability only four times. I need to kill the Snake a minimum of twelve times to win this fight.'

Noah didn't consider the things that could go wrong in his math. Battles on that level could be unpredictable, especially when it came to magical beasts and their instincts.

The Snakes' leader had never shown fear or worry during the fight. Even when Noah had found a way to counter the storms' cloaking capabilities, it had always remained calm.

Noah analyzed his opponent while he let his centers of power disperse the stress accumulated in the last battle. He reviewed every exchange and technique deployed in the fight, but the process always brought him the same conclusions.

He could kill the Snake, but the creature had multiple lives. That made it almost impossible to defeat when Noah's superior battle prowess had a time limit.

Noah didn't let that fact discourage him. Some strategies could make up for the flaws in his battle prowess. He only needed to find the correct tactic to defeat his opponent.

'I need to save energy while inflicting fatal blows,' Noah thought as images formed in his mind. 'This fight might not be impossible if I plan every step carefully.'

Noah didn't have any other option. The quasi-rank 7 Snake would probably be his last real opponent in the lower plane. After defeating the creature, he could only remain in his quarters and cultivate until his centers of power reached the divine ranks.

Second Prince could still surprise him, but Noah couldn't see him as a worthy opponent anymore. He would fight the Royal if the situation required it, but he wouldn't hunt him.

Defeating the Snake wasn't a priority now that the world was safe, but Noah hated spending centuries in seclusion. Still, he had to accept that he had almost reached the limits of the heroic ranks, so the lower plane couldn't offer him any other adventure.

His decision to fight the Snake at his current level could only delay the inevitable, but Noah preferred to handle that matter before entering a long period of seclusion.

Facing those struggles could make his power increase faster, and Noah never ignored those opportunities. Also, it was better to polish his individuality before improving it. That approach would reduce the chance of ending up with a flawed law.

A scene had appeared inside Noah's mind while he analyzed his issue. Two figures fought each other to the death while exchanging various blows that always led to different results.

The two figures depicted Noah and the quasi-divine Snake. Noah imagined how the battle against the beast would go if he approached it in different ways.

It didn't matter for how long he reviewed that battle. Noah didn't have many attacks that could kill the creature in one blow, which made his offensive limited.

Having fewer attacks at his disposal made his offensive predictable. Moreover, Snore's dark beam was one of those techniques, and the Snake could already dodge it often.

Yet, the dark beam wasn't the main issue in that fight. Noah's attacks performed well, especially when he considered that his real level was nowhere near the Snake.

The main problem was the time that passed between one exchange and the other. Noah's offensive had to stop whenever the storms surrounded the Snake. Night had managed to counter that ability a few times, but it didn't solve the issue.

'It would be great if I could just charge through them,' Noah thought, and the images of the storms appeared in his vision.

The pieces of ice carried by the storms were quasi-rank 7 materials. Their sturdiness stood on the limits of a lower plane. The Snake even had a divine armor that made it quite troublesome to fight.

'My body is too strong to have a classification,' Noah thought as he continued to consider his options, 'But I know that it's better than magical beasts and hybrids. It shouldn't even be hard to make it able to endure those attacks.'

Noah had barely stepped into the last part of the sixth rank. His centers of power were only at the beginning of that stage, so they could become far stronger before the inevitable jump to the divine ranks.

He was almost able to match the Snake's physical power, which showed how strong his body was. If he managed to improve it enough to surpass the creature's level, he would cross the storms and spare a lot of time during the fight.

'It shouldn't be hard to reach that level,' Noah thought as the stuffed winged beast materialized in front of him.

Hunting couldn't bring Noah any valuable resource since only a few rank 6 creatures had remained in the world. The quasi-rank 7 Snake even ate them from time to time, so Noah would have a hard time finding suitable prey.

However, he had the stuffed winged beast at his disposal. He had always avoided eating its skin because his breakthroughs required an immense quantity of energy. Still, that resource appeared to be perfect for his situation.

Noah wouldn't even lose his stash of quasi-divine flesh if he ate the winged beast. Using that stuffed creature could give him access to the quasi-rank 7 Snake, which was far more intact.

He wouldn't lose the resource needed for the breakthroughs since consuming the winged beast was an investment toward a greater hunt, a mission that could bring him an entire quasi-divine creature.

The more Noah thought about that, the more he felt convinced that eating the winged beast was the right choice. He could deploy a completely different offensive against the snake as long as he surpassed its physical strength.

He wouldn't fear its attacks anymore. His slashes would also improve since they depended on his physical strength. The next battle could be the last if he went there after his body grew.

'No time to waste then,' Noah thought as he stood up and wielded his Demonic Sword.

He had decided to eat what remained of the winged beast and spend some time training. His other centers of power also needed to improve. A better foundation would produce better effects with his ambition.

The Demonic Sword touched the stuffed creature's skin as Noah pointed it toward that resource. The world of laws appeared in his eyes as attacks started to come out of his blade.

Glass-like shards fell on the ground as the stuffed beast lost pieces of its skin. Noah peeled all the tissues that Shandal had ignored when he seized that creature.

Once the entirety of the stuffed beast had turned into nothing more than an empty bust, Noah sat on the floor and began to eat its skin.

Inside his mind, the imaginary figures of him and the Snake continued to fight. Noah had decided that he would kill the quasi-rank 7 Snake in his next fight, so he didn't hesitate to imagine a simulation of that battle.

Chapter 1283 1283. Fear

A quasi-rank 7 creature was the best food for a body in the upper tier. The stuffed winged beast only had its skin left, but that resource could boost Noah's power by a lot.

Ordinary magical beasts would find it hard to digest a resource on that level, but Noah's body didn't have those limits. His black hole also helped in that process and made him absorb the energy contained in the winged beast's skin in no time.

Still, the actual improvement of his tissues arrived slowly. The black hole had to purify the energy absorbed from the skin and redirect it to every corner of his body. Then, it had to harmonize that growth so that Noah could obtain the best out of that process.

Noah mostly trained while his body grew, but his mind continued to imagine battles against the Snakes' leader during the whole process.

That type of mental training would generally fail to reproduce the true might of a creature. Yet, Noah had studied the Eternal Snakes for entire centuries by then. His knowledge allowed him to create perfect simulations and even predict situations that he didn't trigger during the last fight.

The leader's battle style wasn't hard to understand. Its attacks consisted of a relentless assault that made use of the flexibility of its body. Its offensive was also reckless due to its confidence in its innate ability.

Noah had calculated that he would have to kill the Snake a minimum of twelve times. His opponent wasn't the leader alone. He had to force it to consume all the ice accumulated in the world.

Part of him understood how King Elbas felt after he returned from the void of the separate reality. The Royals' leader had to fight an entire world set on killing him, but he triumphed due to his nigh-endless reserves of energy.

Noah's situation was slightly different but also quite similar. Even with his ambition, his sheer power couldn't reach the levels that King Elbas had shown in the past. Still, he was getting there.

'I will be far stronger than him once I reach the true peak of the heroic ranks,' Noah thought as the images in his mind dispersed.

He had finally completed his mental training. He knew exactly how he had to fight the leader. Now he only had to apply those plans in the battle.

Noah came out of the separate dimension once his body had absorbed the nutrients. He didn't have to prepare anything else. He only had to win now.

The world had returned to its previous frozen state in the years that Noah had spent inside the separate dimension. The Snakes' leader had spread its silver liquid again to restore the regions destroyed in the battle.

The frozen landmass had expanded. The creature's ice now reached deeper into the sea. It seemed that the Snake wouldn't be satisfied until the entire world turned into ice.

That sight didn't discourage Noah. If his strategy worked, he wouldn't have problems killing the Snake more times. His ambition had a time limit, but it could last enough if he minded his reserves of energy.

Noah's aura grew as he stared at the layer of ice that stood in his way to the sky. His ambition surged and pushed the level of his centers of power beyond their limits, and spells activated on their own as he prepared for the imminent battle.

Corrosive smoke and dark matter seeped out of his skin to create two layers of his fiendish armor. The Demonic Sword flew out of his space-ring to land on his hand, and Night merged with the environment to prepare its surprise attacks.

Snore formed inside the armor made of higher energy, and the Black Hole spell materialized above Noah's head. A sea of saber-shaped runes also flew out of his hands and began to absorb the primary energy created after his aura spread in the environment.

The copies didn't appear. Noah had used them during his previous battle to match the leader's physical strength, but he didn't need them anymore. They were only a waste of energy against that opponent.

The roars of the Snakes' leader resounded above him after his aura expanded. The creature had noticed the arrival of its annoying opponent, and it cried its impatience to resume their battle.

Noah could sense from its tone that the creature considered him a worthy contender for the throne of the world. Even the Snake wanted to see who was the strongest existence in that lower plane.

A surge of dark matter came out of Noah's living weapon after he pointed it at the ice above him. The attack dug a smooth tunnel where Noah flew to reach the surface.

The Snake was already filling the sky with its silver liquid when Noah resurfaced. He wasn't the only one capable of preparing his attacks, and the leader wouldn't hold anything back after it accepted Noah as a worthy opponent.

Noah's aura continued to surge after he reached the surface. His ambition finished empowering his centers of power while he observed the magical beast preparing the battlefield.

His dantian reached the peak of the sixth rank and stopped growing, but his mind and body acted oddly after they touched the same level.

His ambition didn't stop empowering them after they reached that point, but it seemed unable to push them beyond the limits of the heroic ranks.

Yet, the empowerment didn't stop. Noah felt the limits of his mind and body bending to accept that extra power, and a feeling of completeness filled him once their level rose again.

Noah could feel it. His mind and body had reached the absolute peak of the sixth rank in that situation. Even a tiny whiff of energy would be enough to make them step inside the divine realm.

No thoughts surged in Noah's mind as he observed his opponent. His mental sea was calm since he knew exactly what he had to do. The difficulty in that fight consisted of being as perfect as possible.

Silver rain started to fall from the vast cloud in the sky, but Noah ignored that event. The corrosive smoke coming out of his armor was enough to destroy the drops that fell in his direction, and he didn't care about the ice in the environment.

Getting rid of the cloud was a waste of energy. Killing the Snake would force it to use the ice in the environment anyway.

Noah began to walk toward the Snake as his corrosive smoke spread through the landmass, and the ice crumbled under the deadly properties of the Demonic Form. His current level allowed his spell to counter the creature's innate ability perfectly.

The Snakes' leader could notice that Noah had improved, but it didn't reveal any fear. The ice's best quality wasn't its sturdiness in the end, and it could always make more of it.

Frozen structures formed on the world, but Noah limited himself to walk toward his opponent. The Snake couldn't use its ice to hide anymore. The smoke of the Demonic Form created holes in every defensive layer that divided the two of them.

Entering the deeper parts of a lair wasn't a smart move, especially when it came to magical beasts capable of creating battle strategies. Yet, Noah wouldn't waste his limited attacks to force his opponent out of its safe area.

Noah could sense something moving through the ice around him, but he kept going. He knew that the Snake would attack at any moment, which would mark the start of his strategy.

A crack suddenly opened in the ice above him, and a massive figure dived through the corrosive smoke to crash on Noah's head. However, a clawed hand suddenly appeared in its path.

The leader felt surprised when it sensed its momentum dispersing. Noah had managed to stop its charge with one hand, and his claws had stabbed its mouth to keep the creature locked in that position.

Then, a chill ran down the leader's spine when Noah's reptilian eyes landed on it. A crack opened on his fiendish armor to form a devilish smile that made the Snake tremble in fear.

Chapter 1284 1284. Storms and blackness

The Snake could understand that something was off, but it couldn't do anything in that situation. Noah was keeping it stuck in its grasp. The creature had to tear its mouth apart to escape.

Noah wouldn't let it do as it wished. Each second spent in that situation was time that he couldn't use to fight, so he didn't hesitate to raise his sword to attack the restrained beast.

The Demonic Sword pierced the creature's scales and dug its skin before releasing a torrent of dark matter that destroyed its insides. The attack engulfed the beast's skull and came out from its back.

The Snake lost the upper part of its head after a single attack. Slashes capable of a large area of effect were pointless against that opponent. Noah only needed to be precise and deadly.

The frozen lands in the world surged toward the sky when they sensed the Snake's death. A storm made of large chunks of ice engulfed the duo and separated them.

Ice crashed on Noah and flung him away. His corrosive smoke couldn't prevent those chunks from hitting him, but they only managed to crack his armor when they landed on his body.

The dark matter that surrounded his figure began to freeze, but the armor forcefully expanded to create the dark world and prevented any chunk from reaching Noah's position.

Noah's physical strength was above the Snake now, but the storm could still hinder his movements, and he couldn't let that happen. He couldn't let the creature stall.

The dark world enhanced Noah's awareness and allowed him to sense the traces left by the creature. The storm had already hidden the Snake's aura, but it had yet to cover the smell of blood lingering in the air.

Noah sprinted forward, and the dark world condensed in the form of a fiendish armor before he entered his dimension. The shockwaves released by the storm attempted to stop his movement technique, but Noah fended that pressure off by relying on his physical might.

A presence eventually appeared in the dark environment. Noah quickly came out of his dimension and saw countless ice-shards converging toward the corpse of the Snake that floated in the air.

Noah couldn't reach it in time to stop the healing process, but the same didn't apply to his assets. A giant reptilian head came out of his armor and spat a dark beam toward the motionless creature.

Snore's violent energy engulfed the quasi-rank 7 Snake and created a massive hole in its head. The ice accumulated until that moment crumbled, but more frozen lands separated from the ground to help the creature.

It was as if the Eternal Snake was the favored son of the world. Every piece of ice in the plane worked for the creature and tried its best to revive it.

Another storm crashed on Noah and flung him away, but he deployed the dark world again to resume his assault. In the many strategies that he had played inside his mind, the best one saw the Snake depleting all the ice without being able to revive.

Of course, that was only the best possible outcome. Noah had created multiple strategies before the battle, so he could adapt his approach according to the creature's reactions.

Noah charged forward until the Eternal Snake appeared in his vision again. Snore's head came out of his armor and launched another dark beam, and the ability successfully interrupted the healing process.

The ice began to radiate an ominous aura at that point. It seemed to have its own mind, and it didn't like that Noah kept interrupting the Snake's revival.

Entire frozen regions shot in the sky and aimed for him while giving birth to raging storms. Chunks of ice as big as mountains flew in his direction and crashed on his figure before shattering into a wave of smaller ice-shards.

Even Noah's new physical might didn't allow him to fend off those attacks. He inevitably lost his momentum as he tried to stop himself from crashing on the ground.

His saber-shaped runes had remained outside of the battlefield before that moment, but they flew to help Noah when he remained entangled in the storm of ice.

The dark sabers turned into smoke that seeped through the storm before condensing into a solid form once they reached Noah. They then flew toward him and began to rotate to open a path where he could escape.

The saber-shaped runes had arrayed themselves to create a drill-like structure that Noah followed to leave the storm. Many of them broke in the process, but they succeeded in making Noah reach a safe area.

Storms raged in the distance. Noah knew that his opponent was inside them, but he couldn't avoid what was about to happen. He knew what would come out from that violent mass of ice.

An angry roar suddenly echoed through the sky. A giant figure shot out of the storm and charged at Noah while releasing more silver liquid.

The divine armor had appeared around the creature. Ice covered its entire body except for its eyes and the insides of its mouth without affecting its flexibility.

The battle had already reached the point when Noah couldn't abuse his physical superiority anymore, but he didn't mind it. He calmly accepted that his first strategy had failed and that it was time to deploy the next one.

The chunks of ice that the Snake didn't use during its revival flew alongside the creature. Noah's opponent had also begun to fight differently after their last clash, but there was a limit to how much its fighting style could change.

Noah didn't show any fear and charged at the incoming beast without entering his dimension. It was in his interest to clash with the Snake, so he didn't let it lose track of him.

Cracks opened in the sky as the two charged toward each other. The Snake radiated a silver light due to its armor and the storm following it. Its assault made even the world tremble due to its connection with the frozen lands.

Noah radiated pure blackness. Corrosive smoke flew out of him and created a giant dark cloud as he charged toward his opponent. His spell had already covered most of the sky behind him during those short seconds.

The Snake lowered its head and flipped its body in the instant before the clash. Its massive tail swung toward Noah while carrying a wave of ice with it.

The creature had learnt from its past mistakes. Noah could kill it while it was inside the divine armor. Yet, the back of the defensive layer didn't have any opening, so it could attack its opponent safely.

Noah didn't slow down his charge at that sight. His cold eyes analyzed the tail for an instant before focusing again on his opponent's head.

He couldn't waste time against a material that he couldn't break. He had to remain focused on the spots where his weapons could inflict some damage.

The chunks of ice flying together with the tail suddenly crumbled as a shadow moved past them. Snore even came out of Noah's armor and hissed as it rose toward the massive tail.

A loud clash happened between the Snake's tail and Noah's puppets, but he didn't even look in their direction. He flew past the creature's body and reached its head, where he stabbed his blade in one of the openings.

Then, a storm of dark matter filled the insides of the divine armor. That was the fourth death experienced by the Snake in the battle.

Chapter 1285 1285. Entire world

Noah was unstoppable. Obtaining a superior physical strength made the Snake powerless against him. The storms could slow down his assaults, but they only ended up delaying the inevitable.

The divine armor didn't budge, but Noah's attack destroyed everything inside it. The surge of dark matter would normally sever only a chunk of the creature's body, but it managed to do far more damage in that closed area.

The ice in the world began to tremble after the Snake died for the fourth time. The ominous aura radiated by that material became more intense and forced more frozen regions to shoot in the sky.

The ice appeared alive. It reacted to the creature's condition and didn't hesitate to fill the sky with storms when it sensed that its creator was suffering.

Noah knew that the ice and the Snake had a tight connection, but he didn't expect that material to overreact to the creature's condition.

Some worry appeared inside him. That was only the fourth death, but half of the world's frozen lands had already flown in the sky. Noah couldn't imagine what would happen once that number increased.

However, that situation didn't only benefit the Snake. Noah had initially calculated that the creature would have depleted that amount of ice after its sixth death. Instead, it seemed that the battle would last less than he expected.

That could only benefit him. A shorter battle would remove most of the uncertainties that accompanied his strategies. After all, Noah could lose only if the effects of his ambition ran off. He had already confirmed that the Snake was weaker than him.

Frozen mountains flew in the air and converged toward Noah while ice-shards flowed inside the divine armor to revive the Snake. The ice didn't want him to interfere with the healing process, and he had already accepted that he couldn't avoid ending up far away.

A silver mountain crashed on him, and cracks appeared on its surface before it broke into a series of large chunks of ice that spread through the sky.

The ominous aura suddenly became more intense while Noah flew away, and his fiendish smile widened when he sensed that. Night had hidden inside the armor before the storm arrived. The Pterodactyl confirmed through its connection with Noah's mind that it had killed the creature while it was about to revive.

Noah eventually managed to stop himself and charge toward the massive storm again. Half of the world had fallen into chaos. Still, that was the only possible outcome of a battle between existences at the peak of a lower plane.

More ice surged in the sky and fused with the storm that continued to rage above the frozen lands and sea. Snore had to appear in the open to help Noah fend off the giant silver chunks that flew around the reviving creature.

Something different was happening inside the storm at that time, but Noah didn't have time to waste. Snore launched a dark beam that opened a tunnel through the ice and allowed him to fly directly toward the divine armor in the distance.

Pieces of flesh and organs had begun to appear inside the armor, and Noah could even see the spots that Night had cut during its surprise attack.

He purposely slowed down his charge when that scene entered his vision. Noah wanted more ice to accumulate inside the armor so that the Snake's losses would increase after he destroyed its body.

The storm noticed Noah and tried to launch giant frozen boulders in his direction, but Snore appeared again and stopped most of them. The remaining chunks of ice crashed on his body but were unable to do anything.

Noah reached the Snake when a good part of its skeleton, tissues, and muscles had reformed. He stabbed the Demonic Sword inside one of the openings in the armor and released another lunge.

The attack filled the armor's insides with a raging dark matter that destroyed everything on its path. That incomplete body couldn't do anything to stop that destruction.

The Snake's sixth death arrived, and the ice understood that it couldn't stop Noah if it continued to hold back. The world began to tremble as all the frozen regions rose in the sky and converged toward the divine armor.

Noah felt fear when he saw pieces of ice as big as the old continents flying in his direction. He couldn't avoid that attack even if he used his movement technique to shoot high in the sky. The frozen regions were too big to escape from them.

His Demonic Sword began to tremble as Noah turned. Dark matter seeped out of his blade and began to rotate around it.

Noah wielded the Demonic Sword with both hands and raised it above his head as he focused on one of the huge pieces of ice flying in his direction. Part of the dark matter coming out of his blade created a vertical trail of dense smoke that appeared fused with the weapon.

When the massive piece of ice was about to hit him, Noah slashed, and a black line appeared in front of him. The attack divided the frozen land in half and allowed Noah to remain still while those two silver chunks surpassed him and converged toward the divine armor.

An intense shockwave spread in the sky after all the giant pieces of ice crashed on the Snake's position. A storm of ice-shards and debris flung Noah away, but he managed to stop himself when he was still close enough to inspect that event.

The central areas of the storm condensed and morphed. The ice that had previously covered the whole world had now gathered in the same spot to give birth to a new ability.

Noah could only prepare for the worst as he waited for the Snake to come out. He couldn't charge at the storm when it contained all the ice in the world. His physical strength was immense, but he would need to have a divine body to deal with those hindrances.

The storm quieted down after its central parts condensed, and the ice flying in the external areas also fell to fuse with that giant body. A massive silver mountain appeared in the sky once the process ended, and Noah couldn't even see its summit due to its immensity.

The ice began to morph again after that structure became stable. The mountain stretched, and a reptilian head soon appeared among those vague features.

Clawed arms grew from its bottom, and a tail soon became visible on its back. The mountain further condensed then, and its vague features became more detailed as they took the aspect of the Eternal Snake.

All the ice generated through the leader's innate ability had condensed in that area to create a massive armor. The Snake had now become almost as big as half of the old continents. It was immense.

Noah could only modify the strategies in his mind at that sight. He knew that the Snake would show something else once it neared its death, but he didn't expect it to summon all the ice in the world.

Luckily for him, the new armor wasn't a divine item. It exuded the same level of power as the Snakes' leader.

Chapter 1286 1286. Digging

The divine armor didn't disappear after the quasi-rank 7 Eternal Snake created that giant layer of protection. Noah could sense the divine aura flowing out of that immense amount of ice, so he could guess that the creature was somewhere inside that silver shell.

The already big Snakes' leader had transformed into a giant mass of ice that had its shape. That sight would normally scare away most of its opponents, but Noah didn't let the view of that new ability discourage him.

'I can still kill it,' Noah thought as he stared at the creature.

He had prepared his attacks while he waited for the transformation to end. He wanted to be ready for any ability the Snake decided to deploy, but he didn't expect that the creature would help him.

The ice created by the creature's silver liquid had gathered into one place now. Noah wouldn't need to kill the Snake multiple times anymore. Defeating it in that new form would be enough to win that battle.

The Snake had solved his greatest weakness by taking that form. The ability had obviously empowered the creature, but Noah saw that as an opportunity to end the battle more quickly.

Noah didn't need to mind his energy anymore now that he only had to win once. He could attack without caring about his time limits. The battle had fallen into the field that he preferred.

The Black Hole spell flew out of the sea to reach Noah. The spell had become a giant unstable sphere after accumulating primary energy through the entirety of the battle. Its power almost crossed the limits of the heroic ranks, and its flares opened cracks in the very fabric of the sky.

Noah didn't need anything else in that situation. His puppets, the Demonic Sword, and the fully-charged Black Hole spell were his strongest assets, and he had to focus his energy on the best he had to offer to win that battle.

He had to pierce a world worth of ice in the next exchanges. He couldn't waste energy into abilities that could only dent that massive protection.

Large chunks of ice fell when the giant armor opened its mouth. A deafening roar came out of the ice. Large cracks opened in the sky due to the shockwave that accompanied that sound.

Blood rose through Noah's throat after the shockwave swept his figure. His armor had protected his external tissues, but it could only block part of the pressure that landed on his internal organs.

'This form isn't just for show then,' Noah thought as he evaluated the power carried by the roar.

The Snake had been unable to hurt him before because his superior physical strength made him overwhelm the creature. However, it seemed that the ice didn't only protect the Snake. It even improved its body in that form.

The tables had turned once again. The Snake had reclaimed its spot as the strongest creature in the lower plane when it came to physical power. Noah wouldn't be able to fight it as easily as before, but his plans didn't change at that discovery.

Nothing had changed. Noah had already been able to kill the Snake when its physical strength surpassed his. He had lost due to the time limit on his power back then. Still, the situation had evolved in his favor now.

The Snake began to move after its roar stopped echoing in the sky. The world trembled whenever its tail moved, and cracks opened due to the power released during its flight.

The creature contained enough energy to cover the entire world. It was only normal for the sky to be unable to withstand its pressure.

Noah sprinted ahead. He entered his dimension and came out only when he was on top of the massive creature. His Demonic Sword was already pointing downward as he descended toward the Snake's head.

The quasi-rank 7 creature had become far slower after it had taken that form. It couldn't move freely with that amount of ice above its body, and its mind wasn't nearly strong enough to control the protection well.

Noah landed on the Snake's head before the creature even noticed his presence. His Demonic Sword dug through the ice without any problem. Yet, the blade was too small to do anything on that armor.

No special attack came out of it. Noah held back from using his strongest slashes in this situation since he had to wait for a more suitable spell.

The Snake eventually sensed that Noah had landed on its head. The creature opened its mouth again and released another deafening cry that made him spit a mouthful of blood once the shockwave swept him.

Then, its tail cracked toward Noah, and he didn't even try to dodge the attack. He didn't want to lose momentum, and he didn't mind suffering a few injuries if that led to a victory against the strongest creature in the plane.

The Snake slammed its tail on its head. A storm of ice-shards filled Noah's vision before Snore came out of his armor and launched a dark beam toward the incoming attack.

The dark beam created a tunnel in the spot of the giant armor that was about to hit Noah. He didn't even need to move since he ended up inside that hole while the tail landed on the creature's head.

Shockwaves hit Noah while he kept both hands on the Demonic Sword stabbed in the ice. He couldn't let the Snake fling him away in that battle. The hunt required a lot of work at that time, and he couldn't lose his momentum.

Noah smiled while he remained surrounded by silver ice. The tail eventually rose and freed him from that place, and he could see that the giant unstable sphere had finally reached his position.

The Black Hole spell crashed directly on the Snake's head. Noah didn't mind that the explosion would hit him too. He would suffer more injuries in that exchange, but he didn't mind that as long as he could reach the center of that armor.

The giant sphere landed on the armor's head and exploded, engulfing everything in the range of its attack. The sky and the ground trembled due to the shockwave that it had released after the detonation.

Noah felt an intense force landing on his body and tearing his armor apart. The ice suffered from the same fate. The Black Hole spell destroyed a large chunk of the creature's head.

The divine aura coming out of that armor became more intense after the Black Hole spell dug deeper into that defensive ability. Noah understood that he had taken a step toward the Snake when he sensed it, and the fiendish armors promptly covered his figure again as he prepared his offensive.

Noah almost puked, and blood flew out of the many superficial injuries that had appeared on his body. However, he was still at his peak. His resilience wasn't something that a single spell and a few roars could affect.

The Demonic Sword came out of that spot as Noah flew where the divine aura was more intense. That would work as his starting point. He would dig through the armor from there.

Chapter 1287 1287. Slamming

Noah reached the spot where the divine aura was more intense and stabbed his weapon into the ice. The Demonic Sword released a sharp wave of dark matter that dug through the creature's protection and opened large cracks around the impact point.

His free hand grabbed one side of the nearest crack before he pulled to tear it open. Chunks of ice fell and crumbled under the effects of his Demonic Form as Noah made his way through the giant armor.

The Snake found it hard to aim at Noah while he dug through its armor. He was too small for its new form, and its roars didn't manage to slow down his offensive.

Yet, the creature didn't just stay still while Noah attempted to take its life. If its tail couldn't reach him, it would use the environment to its advantage.

The Snake lowered its head and dived toward the world. The ice had destroyed most of the previous lands when it accumulated around the creature, so the duo soon found themselves underwater.

Noah could sense what was happening around him, but he didn't do anything to dodge the attack. He stabbed his Demonic Sword into the sturdiest piece of ice that he found and prepared himself for the imminent impact.

The Snake slammed its head on the seabed. The rocky ground at the bottom of the sea crumbled under the might of the blow. Magma soon rose from the cracks opened after the impact.

Noah felt his insides churning due to the pressure that reached his body. His bones released screeching noises, and his muscles broke as he focused on remaining attached to the Demonic Sword.

Blood came out of his mouth, and his black hole redirected most of the energy it contained toward the damaged tissues. Noah had begun to suffer serious injuries, but his offensive had to continue.

Snore came out of his armor and launched its dark beam toward the trace of divine aura leaking out of the armor while Noah focused on stabilizing his condition. A large tunnel opened, and he crawled through it as he searched for the Snake's actual body.

Corrosive smoke accumulated in that environment and destroyed all the ice that it found. Since Noah's ambition was still applying its effects, the Demonic Form could consume that powerful material.

The Snake raised its head and resurfaced before flying in the sky. It then lowered its head again before diving toward the seabed. That was its only effective offensive method, so it didn't hesitate to perform it whenever it could.

Noah ripped pieces of the armor apart and stabbed his Demonic Sword in the ice again when he sensed that the impact was near. An intense shockwave resounded in the environment at some point, and he could feel the same pressure as before landing on his body.

Blood flowed everywhere as Noah straightened himself and resumed his assault. His condition kept worsening, but that was the only approach that could lead him to victory.

The seabed shattered again, and magma came out of the cracks that had opened due to that offensive. The world didn't appear able to withstand the amount of power released in that attack.

The immense resilience of Noah's body allowed him to express his peak power even when injuries filled his tissues. His black hole even began to spread dark matter inside him to stabilize and reinforce his condition.

The fourth center of power knew that Noah wanted to put an end to that battle now. He wouldn't have a better chance to defeat the Snake anytime soon otherwise.

The Snake began to resurface again, but that area of the sky went dark as Noah released his flames. Black fire radiating a blinding silver halo spread through the many cavities opened in the giant armor and came out of the ice once it filled that space.

The fire burned the weaker chunks of ice before converging toward Noah to heal his injuries and transfer the energy that it had absorbed.

Flames soon surrounded Noah's figure and closed his injuries. The wounds that had accumulated on his body healed before the creature could reach the summit of the sky.

Noah's new innate ability could show its real power now that it managed to burn the ice. He could achieve the same degree of immortality as the other Eternal Snakes in that situation.

The quasi-rank 7 Snake didn't have many options. Noah was deep into its armor, so it could only continue to slam its head on the seabed to take care of that threat.

The impacts with the seabed injured Noah every time. His armor often broke due to the violence of the crashes. Yet, he always managed to make some progress in his excavations.

The Demonic Form's corrosive smoke and his fire opened large paths through the ice and made sure that the falling chunks would turn into nothing more than dust. Noah didn't want to defeat that technique only to go back to the previous type of battle. He couldn't let the Snake revive after he had invested so much energy in that fight.

Noah found it easy to dig through the ice with the Demonic Sword and Snore. His slashes and lunges always managed to sever and pierce large pieces of the armor, and the dark beam had yet to find a material that could stop it.

Part of the sea turned red due to the magma that had reached the surface. The creature's relentless dives had created a large passage connected to the central parts of the world.

The dives became more intense after Noah dug through almost half of the giant armor. The Snake could sense that its opponent was about to reach its body, and its survival instincts began to take control of its actions.

The Snake continued to rise and dive, changing spot whenever all the seabed under it fell into the magma. Cracks in the sky opened as it accelerated its movements to slam its head more times.

Noah eventually reached the center of the armor. Injuries kept accumulating on his body and healing, but he ignored that annoying process when he saw the divine armor and the Snake's real body inside it.

The creature tried to escape through the ice when it saw its opponent, but Noah's brute strength surpassed the advantages that the Snake had in that situation. It was its ice in the end. It was only normal for the material to move at its passage.

Noah flew toward the Snake and clutched his clawed hands on a handhold on the divine armor. He then crawled to reach the creature's head and stab his Demonic Sword into one of the eyes. Snore quickly materialized to take care of the other eye, and the two launched their abilities.

A wave of dark matter entered the divine armor and went wild. The higher energy carried Noah's sharpness, his power, and the energy radiated by the living weapon.

Snore launched its dark beam and cleared the insides of the divine armor. Nothing could escape the violent energy released after the attack.

Noah spat a wave of flames again, and the corrosive smoke continued to destroy ice as it spread in the environment. The divine armor also became thinner as it tried to revive the creature.

Snore didn't let the Snake reform, and more divine ice vanished to fuel its revival. Ice also separated from the giant armor to create gales that aimed to fling Noah away from that important location.

Night revealed its presence at that point. A shadow flew through the barrage of ice and rendered it harmless. That small storm crumbled against the Pterodactyl.

Noah and Snore continued to attack the Snake and destroy the ice. The effects of his ambition had begun to run out, but he didn't stop his offensive.

The divine armor crumbled after the Snake died four more times, but the ice around it converged toward its position and tried to start another healing process.

Noah didn't care about that and continued to launch slashes and lunges toward the powerless creature. The ominous aura radiated by the ice eventually vanished, and he couldn't see ice-shards converging toward the Snake anymore.

When he succeeded in storing the maimed corpse of the creature, Noah knew that he had won.

Chapter 1288 1288. Monster

The ominous aura was no more. Noah had even managed to store the maimed corpse of the quasi-rank 7 Eternal Snake. The only possible conclusion was that the creature wasn't alive anymore.

Noah didn't believe that at first. The Eternal Snake had come back from the dead so many times that he felt skeptical about its actual death.

However, his instincts soon reassured him, and the ice appeared to have lost the drive that characterized its peculiar behavior. The giant frozen structure had stopped moving, and it soon fell while carrying Noah with it.

The drawbacks of his ambition began to hit his centers of power. Noah felt weak, weaker than he had felt in years. That battle had utterly drained him, but the dark matter released by his black hole filled his body with a refreshing feeling.

The black hole wouldn't allow him to collapse on the spot, but it couldn't heal him either. Even his new flames couldn't fix his current condition since his tiredness didn't come from injuries.

Only a long rest could disperse the stress accumulated by his centers of power. The injuries would arrive if Noah continued to use them without getting rid of the fatigue that they had accumulated.

Those wounds wouldn't even be easy to treat. Stress was tricky to deal with when it came to centers of power, and Noah wasn't an exception. He had a few advantages in the field due to the dark matter and his innate superiority, but he couldn't overwork himself for too long either.

'I need to stop fighting like this,' Noah thought as he raised his head and pointed his feet on the platforms of "Breath" that cultivators used to fly.

The massive frozen structure stopped falling after the area that had witnessed Noah's battle landed on his palm. There was enough ice to cover entire regions in that maimed armor, but Noah could keep it in the air even in his weakened condition.

The Eternal Snake had consumed its divine armor to revive a few times, so only the quasi-rank 7 ice remained in the area now. Still, that material carried the same energy of its body, so Noah could eat it to absorb its nutrients.

His gains in that battle surpassed his wildest expectations. The entire frozen structure had enough ice to revive the Snake five to six times, but now it belonged to Noah. It was as if he had obtained more than six complete quasi-rank 7 corpses after winning that fight.

Noah couldn't store the ice as long as it kept that shape. His space-rings weren't big enough to contain that giant structure, and its power also went beyond what they could hold.

Yet, Noah didn't have to hide anymore now that the Snakes' leader had died. His victory had essentially freed the world from those creatures. He could throw it on the surface and build his new home around it.

'This power should be my last resource,' Noah thought as he brought the ice on the ground, 'Using it as my normal battle style will only bring injuries in the future. I can't be this weak in the Immortal Lands.'

The world was a mess after the battle between Noah and the quasi-rank 7 Snake. Most of its old layout was no more. The ice had destroyed entire continents when it flew in the sky to create the frozen armor.

Only a few large islands continued to float on the sea. A few changes would happen due to the magma flowing out of the shattered seabed, but Noah could only settle for the largest piece of land that he found for now.

Noah laid the frozen structure on one of the largest islands before coming out of it to inspect the area. The ice went beyond the edge of that piece of land, but the terrain appeared able to withstand its weight.

Noah had already planned his next moves. His victory against the Snake marked the end of his adventures in the lower plane. It was time to seclude himself until his centers of power reached the seventh rank.

He would have to prepare for the Tribulations, but they didn't worry him too much. Heaven and Earth had already tried to punish him multiple times, but he had only gotten stronger after them. His level of power was already far beyond their fairness.

Still, the world managed to give him one last surprise. A series of powerful presences appeared in the range of Noah's mind, and he could only heave a sigh when he recognized the owner of that aura.

"I guess this is the perfect time to attack me," Noah said without moving his eyes from the ice.

Twenty human figures appeared in the air above him and surrounded the island. They were identical, and they all wore the same small golden crown on their heads.

"This is my last chance to overcome you," Second Prince's copies said at the same time. "I'm grateful for what you have achieved in these years, and I won't forget your teachings. Yet, I'm sure you understand why I am doing this."

Noah raised his head to stare at the copies that had surrounded the islands. They all exuded the aura of a newly advanced solid stage cultivator.

"I do understand," Noah replied. "I even asked you to do this."

Second Prince's copies smiled at the same time when he heard those words, and they pointed their right hands toward Noah as they began to accumulate power.

That was an army of solid stage cultivators. Second Prince would have had a chance of defeating the quasi-rank 7 Snake if Noah didn't take care of the issue first.

"I'll make sure that time won't erase your name from the historical records of the world," Second Prince said as golden flames gathered on his palms.

"You should focus," Noah replied as a cold smile appeared on his face. "Killing me is no easy feat."

Second Prince snorted before his copies launched their attacks. Waves of golden flames flew out of his hands and filled the island with their destructive might.

The island sunk under the might released by the Royal. The ice remained unaffected by those attacks, but it fell on the seabed after losing its foothold.

Part of it remained on the surface. The frozen structure was too big for the sea. It created a huge silver mountain after most of its body went underwater.

A figure slowly walked out of the wave of golden flames. Noah ignored that attack as he strolled on top of the frozen structure and inspected the areas nearby.

The flames couldn't hurt his body. The drawbacks of his ambition made his centers of power weaker than their actual level. Still, that didn't apply to his tissues. He felt tired, but his condition didn't affect the sturdiness of his skin.

His body had become too strong after eating the remains of the winged beast. Even the attacks of twenty solid stage cultivators couldn't pierce his innate defenses.

Of course, Second Prince didn't use any special attack. His flames were the most basic spell that he could launch, but that scene still surprised him.

Noah was a monster that no labels could classify. His level of power went beyond common knowledge. Inside Second Prince's mind, he appeared far more dangerous than the quasi-rank 7 Snake.

Chapter 1289 1289. Overwhelming

'This will be tricky,' Noah thought as he inspected the areas around the frozen structure.

The world still had a few rank 6 creatures left, and they wouldn't hesitate to assault the quasi-rank 7 ice once they sensed that the area was safe. Noah needed to secure his gains, but he had to deal with Second Prince first.

The Royal had chosen the worst possible situation to attack him. The drawbacks of his ambition made Noah extremely weak, and that battle would only mark the beginning of other fights.

'Oh well,' Noah concluded as he heaved a helpless sigh, 'Time to suffer an injury.'

Second Prince's copies joined their hands to condense stronger flames and prepare an attack that could piece Noah's body, but an intense aura suddenly filled the area.

The Royal's eyes widened when he sensed that Noah's cultivation level reached the peak of the sixth rank. A chill ran down his spine when he saw that his opponent could still use his individuality to boost his power.

"This shouldn't be possible!" Second Prince's copies shouted at the same time.

The Royal had studied Noah during the past centuries. Second Prince had used his methods to watch his battles and understand his power, so he could guess that Noah's condition was far from ideal.

"Don't you care about your centers of power?!" Second Prince asked as fear built inside his mind.

The Royal knew that Noah was extremely resourceful. He always had a secret weapon or some strategy that could make him win otherwise impossible battles.

However, Noah had just fought against a quasi-rank 7 creature! He had revealed everything he had, and he had drained his reserves of energy. The stress accumulated by his centers of power also made them quite frail, so he was in no condition to fight properly.

"Better than dying," Noah said as his cold smile widened.

Second Prince could now see the depths of Noah's insanity. He was selfless when it came to what he was willing to sacrifice to stay alive. Moreover, no fear had appeared in his eyes even after he understood the danger that had fallen on him.

Noah wouldn't allow himself to end up in a passive position. He couldn't underestimate the preparations completed by Second Prince in those centuries. The Royal wasn't delusional, and he would have never attacked him if he didn't have a solid plan.

Noah trusted Second Prince enough to believe that the Royal could kill him if he didn't go all-out. Noah would rather suffer injuries that he could treat rather than face an unknown danger.

Second Prince's copies began to take a few steps back when Noah's aura swept them, but a shadow soon flew around their figures. Ten of them lost their heads during that moment of hesitation.

The headless copies turned into golden flames that converged toward the intact ones. Second Prince lost the upper hand in the battle after a single exchange, and he could only think about escaping after realizing that Noah could kill him in the next moves.

Yet, dark matter soon came out of Noah's chest and surrounded the area. The dark world engulfed Second Prince's remaining copies and suppressed their power.

The Royal's copies quickly transformed into flames that tried to fly out of the dark world, but a heavy pressure landed on them and forced them to remain still.

The dark world wasn't a technique that Second Prince could face while Noah's ambition empowered his centers of power. The Royal knew that, but he had attacked him only because he didn't believe that Noah could use his individuality again!

The golden flames struggled to overcome the suppression of the dark world, but they stopped moving when Noah appeared in front of them. Snore's massive figure also became visible as it surrounded them with its body.

The golden flames condensed until they became a small orb that Noah grabbed while he unfolded his consciousness. He knew that Second Prince's real body wasn't there, so he had to find it to get rid of the issue once and for all.

Second Prince's inscriptions surpassed what Noah could comprehend, but the dark world could affect the laws' correct functioning. Noah's ambition also boosted his mind's capabilities, and the Divine Deduction technique activated on its own to bring his awareness to its peak.

The Royal didn't say a word while Noah closed his eyes to focus on the environment. Only a faint fear came out of the lump of flames while Second Prince waited to see if his opponent could find him.

Noah's consciousness became able to pierce the very fabric of the world in that situation. His mental waves seeped through matter and laws as they searched for anything connected to the golden flames.

His mind soon found something, and a surprised expression appeared on Noah's face when he understood from where that trace came. He couldn't help but shoot a surprised glance toward the golden flames before moving in the direction of that connection.

The flames remained silent at first, but they soon grew restless when Second Prince saw Noah flying in the right direction. Still, they couldn't escape his grasp while the dark matter suppressed them.

The dark world moved together with Noah as he reached a seemingly random spot in the sky. The flames in his hand started to detonate at that point, but the dark matter suppressed their explosions and forced them to remain in Noah's grasp.

'I would have never found him if I didn't use my ambition again,' Noah thought as he straightened his fingers of his free hand to make them resemble a blade.

"Stop!" Second Prince's voice echoed in the area when Noah pierced the world's structure with his arm.

His limb moved through the void until he found what he was looking for. Noah then pulled back his arm and enlarged the crack to allow the passage of his target.

Noah pulled a scared Second Prince from the void. The Royal couldn't believe that Noah had actually found him there, but there wasn't much he could do anymore.

The dark world had started suppressing Second Prince as soon as he entered its range. Noah's firm fingers also held his neck and threatened to kill him on the spot.

Second Prince lost any will to fight after that overwhelming display of power. He couldn't even put up a decent battle when Noah used his ambition to empower his centers of power.

Noah inspected Second Prince. The Royal had covered his body in inscriptions to survive the void's environment, but they appeared to work only because he wasn't a real human.

The shining lines that filled his body converged toward the red crystal at the center of his forehead. They didn't even have the iconic golden color of the Elbas family. Most of those inscriptions radiated crimson shades while they tried to illuminate the dark world.

'What should I do with him now?' Noah wondered as he inspected Second Prince.

A peaceful expression had appeared on the Royal's face after he accepted death. There also seemed to be some relief in his eyes. It was as if Second Prince felt happy that his struggles were about to end.

Truth be told, Noah didn't need to kill Second Prince. The Royal was more useful alive than dead, especially when there was an entire world to rebuild.

Noah quickly reviewed the issue before shattering the flames in his hand and reaching for the red crystal. Second Prince didn't even struggle when Noah ripped his core away from his body.

Second Prince's body began to age at a fast pace after Noah removed the crystal. It soon turned into ashes that the dark world finished destroying.

"Stay there until I decide what to do with you," Noah said as he threw the crystal. Snore's open mouth materialized in its trajectory and made it disappear.

Chapter 1290 1290. Drawbacks

The period after Second Prince's sudden assault was hard for Noah. The second activation of his ambition hurt his centers of power and made them too frail to endure the power that they contained.

His body struggled to contain the strength that it carried. The weight of his other centers of power also became almost unbearable, and only the dark matter flowing inside his tissues managed to keep them in one piece.

His mind felt heavy, especially since Noah could stop the production of new mental energy. Cracks appeared on his mental sphere due to the internal pressure that pressed on its walls.

Noah also felt confused. His body couldn't fully contain his sea of consciousness, so he would black-out for a few instants every once in a while.

His dantian had it a bit easier than his other centers of power due to the almost absence of darkness in its insides. However, the muscles pressing on its walls made it regress by a few years.

The only organ that continued to work correctly was the fourth center of power. Noah's black hole provided every inch of his body with as much dark matter as it needed and prevented him from falling apart.

Noah couldn't leave the frozen structure while he endured that painful process. Ideally, he would need to isolate himself in a safe place and sleep until his centers of power dispersed the accumulated stress and gained their strength back.

Yet, the quasi-rank 7 ice was the most appealing resource in the world after the frozen land created by the divine silver liquid. The creatures that had survived the battle between Noah and the Snakes' leader would kill to take a bite of that structure.

Noah could barely remain conscious in that condition, but his aura still leaked from his figure, and the magical beasts in the world could sense the dangerousness that it carried. They would never decide to approach the frozen structure as long as he remained there.

Noah went through cycles of roars of pain, blood loss, injuries opening out of nowhere, and sudden surges of power while he endured the drawbacks of his ambition.

Snore, Night, and the Demonic Sword surveilled the area around the frozen structure while he remained immersed in his painful healing process. They could understand how harsh that situation was for him, and they didn't hesitate to support him in the best way they could.

Noah's body wanted to fall apart. Pieces of his skin even dispersed their energy when they became unable to contain it. Yet, his dark matter always managed to prevent the worst possible outcome whenever those situations appeared.

Nothing could help Noah's healing process. Any other external energy would only break his already frail tissues and worsen his condition.

He had to wait for his centers of power to become stable while he remained on the frozen structure. His only consolation was that the magical beasts in the world didn't try to take the ice since they were too scared to enter the range of his aura.

Their decision to avoid the frozen structure didn't come only from the fear that Noah's aura caused inside their minds. The surviving rank 6 Eternal Snakes had understood that their leader had lost against him, and that made Noah the new ruler of the world in their view.

His victory had put him at the very peak of that lower plane. He had become the king of the world even if his mind was too confused to realize it.

Moreover, he wasn't a cultivator, so the magical beasts had more respect for his power. Their instincts saw the frozen structure as Noah's lair, which suppressed their innate greed for valuable resources.

Noah felt as if he was in a long nightmare. His mind went dark and played scenes from his memory while his dark matter prevented it from escaping his body.

Chaotic images appeared in his vision, and his instincts reacted at certain scenes. His body would even spit flames on its own whenever he saw some of his old opponents.

Clarity slowly returned to his mind as his condition stabilized. Noah returned lucid only to sense a wave of tiredness filling every corner of his existence.

His mental waves quickly sent a series of reports to his mind once they understood that Noah was conscious again. He became aware of the damage that afflicted his body in a few seconds, and his expression turned grim when he sensed that his cultivation level had fallen.

His dantian had shrunk, and his body had lost some of its power. His mind had also suffered a series of injuries that sent sharp waves of pain to his mental sea.

Each of those problems was quite severe, and Noah could only sigh at that sight. He had paid the price to get rid of Second Prince quickly, and he had to deal with the consequences of his actions now.

Noah straightened himself before sitting cross-legged on the frozen structure. He didn't dare to cultivate in his condition, but he tried to take control of the black hole to improve its healing abilities.

His mind, dantian, and body needed to undergo a long recovery, but Noah wanted to shorten that process by focusing all his efforts on one of them.

The black hole didn't struggle and let Noah direct its action. His fourth center of power redirected most of its dark matter toward his mind and helped it close the cracks that had appeared on its walls.

Noah couldn't think properly with his mind in that condition, so he wanted to fix it before analyzing his centers of power again. The loss of power annoyed him, but he could take his time to get his cultivation level back once he secured his mental stability.

Thin patches of dark matter covered the cracks on his mental walls and allowed his mind to use most of its mental energy to fix them. Crystal-like structures filled those fissures and quickened the healing process while the higher energy took care of the external pressure.

Noah's mind took a while to heal. His center of power was near the peak of the sixth rank, so it needed a massive amount of mental energy to recover.

Noah's mental sturdiness was also incredible, so his center of power took longer than usual to return to a decent state. His mind required forty years to fix the cracks and reach a perfect condition.

His body and dantian had stabilized on their own while Noah fixed his mind. They had mostly suffered from a loss of power, so they didn't need dark matter to heal eventual injuries.

Noah couldn't let the matter about his loss of power go. His ambition wouldn't allow him to remain calm until he returned to his previous cultivation level.

Noah felt like an addict going through withdrawal as he studied his dantian and made sure that it could cultivate again. His Demonic Sword didn't hesitate to fly toward him once he confirmed that he could resume his training.

His dantian began to expand again, and some calm filled Noah's mind when he lost himself in that feeling. The center of power grew quickly since his existence was ready to reach superior levels. Noah returned to his previous peak in less than fifty years.