

DEMONIC 1321

Chapter 1321 1321. Destination

Torturing Bertha brought multiple advantages to Noah. His body improved by leaps and bounds due to her dantian and body. Still, his greatest gains came from her knowledge.

Noah learnt a lot from her. Those pieces of information didn't involve only the layout of the Immortal Lands. He also understood how far the influence of the Crystal City spread.

According to Bertha, the higher plane was a messy place filled with organizations. Most regions in the Immortal Lands were lawless regions filled with various magical beasts and simple groups of cultivators. Yet, some of them were under the control of forces that weaker beings had to respect.

The Crystal City was one of those forces. Madame Canson was a rank 8 cultivator, and that gave her the power to build an organization around her.

The population of the Immortal Lands valued existences in the eighth rank a lot. Bertha spoke of them as a privileged class in the higher plane. It seemed that rank 8 beings were celebrities in that world, and any organization would treat them with the respect they deserved.

Even the Crystal City treated the Twelve-legged Queen with respect. It didn't matter if that existence was a magical beast. As long as a being reached the eighth rank, it would become an esteemed guest in any organization of the Immortal Lands.

Noah had obviously asked about rank 9 beings when he questioned Bertha, but she couldn't give him any valuable information. According to her, there were rank 9 existences in the Immortal Lands, but they never involved themselves with the rest of the world.

The reports that involved rank 9 existences were mostly vague or unrealistic. Even cultivators in the eighth rank couldn't be sure about the power wielded by beings on a higher level, so they never dared to confirm those rumors.

The information that involved the Immortal Lands' layout gave Noah an idea of how he had to move to avoid troubles. The area of influence of the Crystal City was only a small part of the higher plane, and it even bordered the lands belonging to intelligent magical beasts.

Noah had many possibilities at hand. Most divine beings would avoid organizations anyway, so he could easily live without remaining stuck in any of them.

'The Crystal City marks the end of the human area,' Noah thought as he sorted the knowledge obtained from Bertha. 'I should meet more human settlements as I march past these danger zones. Finding useful items shouldn't be a problem at that point.'

Noah's interrogation had focused on the inscribed items after he learnt about the general layout of the Immortal Lands. According to Bertha, storage items were a valuable resource in the higher plane, and most rank 7 cultivators had to rely on external organizations to take care of their materials.

It wasn't a surprise that cultivators couldn't gain access to divine items. The inscription methods of the lower plane often relied on imitating Heaven and Earth's laws, but that process had clear limits. Wills

also had a hard time affecting the matter in the higher world, so those capable of performing inscriptions were an elite class in that place.

Noah had yet to test how his Elemental Forging method would perform in the Immortal Lands, but he expected the matter of the higher world to resist his wills when they tried to alter its fabric.

The creation of storage items was also a niche of the inscription field, so it wasn't a surprise that only a few masters could perform it in the Immortal Lands. Noah was an exception due to the dark world, but most cultivators would have to swear specific oaths to obtain those tools.

Cultivators like Bertha were an exception due to their backing. Still, that didn't apply to every organization in the Immortal Lands. Noah knew that his next destination would give him a clearer idea of the situation in that world.

'I wonder if I can turn the separate space into a sellable divine item,' Noah thought as he left his cave to resume his journey. 'Now that I think about it, I don't even know which currency they use here.'

The matter concerning the storage items was the reason why Noah couldn't seize anything valuable from Bertha. She couldn't give her resources to him due to the restrictions applied by Madame Canson.

Noah couldn't obtain the item that fended off the radiations of the white sky nor anything that could stop Gil's individuality. He was back a square one with a stronger body and a vaster knowledge about his new world.

The forest, the large sea, and that mountain chain were still peripheral areas of the human domain, and Noah had no interest in reaching smaller cities. Moreover, he wanted to get far away from the Crystal City, so he picked a famous town in the Immortal Lands as his next destination.

'Vagona City is one of the biggest human settlements in the entire higher plane,' Noah thought as he reviewed the pieces of information obtained from Bertha. 'I should find something valuable there.'

Noah had picked a destination, but the journey was long. Bertha didn't dare to be vague during her explanation, and she described the many lands that he had to cross to reach that place.

Rich cultivators had access to sophisticated transports, but Noah didn't even know how to summon them. He would have to make the journey on foot, but he didn't dislike the idea too much since it allowed him to learn more about the Immortal Lands.

There was a limit to how much an organization made of pure humans could understand the regions inhabited by magical beasts. Noah felt strange that creatures could rule over entire lands in an area under the control of cultivators, but he suspected that stronger beings had taken secret agreements to settle those matters.

Still, he wanted to see those lands with his own eyes and memorize all the emotions that the environment sent to him. He wanted to see how being an existence that surpassed the hybrid realm affected his understanding of the whole higher plane.

Noah set off and traveled through the mountain chain. His destination lay after many regions, which translated into multiple years of march in the complete wilderness.

It would take him an entire decade spent traveling to reach the first small settlement, but Noah planned to avoid it. That city was a branch of the Crystal City, so he preferred the wilderness over certain problems.

Of course, Noah wouldn't spend entire decades focused only on traveling. His priority was to reach the stars beyond the sky, and he had to increase his cultivation level to do that.

Noah had already planned that he would spend many years cultivating inside improvised training areas and hunting every potential prey he found.

His current cultivation level almost represented the bare minimum of the Immortal Lands, and Noah had no intention to remain at that stage for long. The fact that his actual power didn't reflect the average might of a rank 7 cultivator in the gaseous stage wasn't enough to make him satisfied with his current battle prowess.

Improving was the key to gaining access to more opportunities, and Noah planned to solidify his divine foundation before reaching Vagona City. He wanted to be the best newly ascended cultivator by the time he reached his destination.

Chapter 1322 1322. Vagona City

Noah had to explore multiple wild regions during his voyage toward Vagona city. Magical beasts occupied many large lands even if the area belonged to the humans, and Noah preferred to travel through them rather than risking encountering members of the Crystal City.

The Immortal Lands weren't free of the curse of the magical beasts. Those creatures were too resilient and advantaged in the cultivation journey. Even areas inhabited by mighty rank 8 cultivators couldn't avoid them.

Through Bertha's explanation, Noah had understood that the human area was nothing more than a series of cities filled with danger zones. Those settlements would have large safe environments around their borders, but no amount of clearing operations could prevent the arrival of magical beasts in their domain.

The "Breath" was to blame for that outcome. That miraculous energy favored simpler living beings, which gave birth to a constant stream of magical beasts and plants.

Most magical plants in the areas inhabited by humans were harmless, but the same didn't apply to the violent magical beasts. Those creatures lived by their hunger even in the divine ranks. They were only more careful about their behavior.

Noah crossed marvelous regions as he marched toward Vagona City. He had already seen the forest inhabited by the Twelve-legged Queen and the vast lake, but he explored far more incredible lands during the years that followed his clash with the Crystal City.

The Immortal Lands were immense, and the same applied to their regions. Noah saw prairies as vast as the new continent, mountains that merged with the whiteness of the sky, and mountain chains that would take centuries to explore.

None of those lands was in decline. They were full of life, and many magical beasts had taken them as their home due to their richness.

Noah hunted freely during his voyage. He held back only when he sensed auras on the same level as the Twelve-legged Queen filling the regions. Also, he often created training areas when he felt the need to cultivate.

He felt completely free in the wilderness. Noah had experienced the life of a magical beast already in the lower plane, and he didn't hesitate to enjoy the same lifestyle in those lawless lands.

There was simple happiness in the lack of political struggles. Noah could hunt and cultivate as much as he desired, and his cultivation level benefited from that environment. However, he also met the unavoidable limits given by his peculiar species.

Noah wasn't a magical beast. The individualities were tricky powers to improve, and he soon had to face their limits. His dantian suddenly stopped improving during his voyage, and he didn't appear able to solve the issue at his current level.

Noah tried everything after that problem arrived. He threw himself into crowded packs of rank 7 magical beasts in the lower tier. He stuffed his body with as many nutrients as possible. He spent entire years immersed in meditations empowered by his Divine Deduction technique.

Nothing seemed able to overcome the bottleneck met by his dantian. Noah found himself unable to enlarge his organ, and he couldn't find a solution to that issue no matter how hard he tried.

The freedom felt in that slow exploration of the higher plane abandoned Noah's mind once his dantian stopped growing. Anxiety replaced that sensation. Noah couldn't enjoy the wilderness anymore after he faced a bottleneck that he couldn't overcome.

Noah could understand that his growth had to require far more than a simple accumulation of energy. Having access to an environment packed with laws wasn't enough to push his level toward the higher ranks now that he was a god.

However, he lacked guidelines about the journey ahead. Noah had vaguely understood what he had to strive for, but he didn't know how to approach that path.

His voyage through the wilderness became more hurried after his dantian met that bottleneck. Noah understood that he couldn't find the solution to his problems in an environment ruled by magical beasts, so he did his best to reach his destination more quickly.

Noah didn't stop his hunts, but he didn't waste time in pointless meditations anymore. He wouldn't neglect his body, but he wouldn't hope in a miracle either.

He had to learn more about the divine realms, and he couldn't acquire that knowledge from the magical beasts. He had to see cultivators on a higher level to understand how his journey had to proceed.

After crossing endless regions and multiple environments, Noah eventually reached a green plain placed in the middle of an immense mountain chain.

Green grass covered that land and filled the area with its radiance. A few trees also grew in the region, but the most striking aspect was the immense series of structures at its center.

A series of large buildings occupied the central part of the plan. Crystal-like materials filled the white metal that acted as their core item. Those structures resembled large mansions rather than simple buildings, but Noah could see that they had different purposes even before entering the city.

The city didn't have any defensive wall, but Noah could sense that the entirety of the plain lacked magical beasts. The reason behind that phenomenon was the intense aura radiated by that immense array of structures.

Noah had to stop his march to suppress his instincts once he sensed that aura. Five powerful individualities filled the plain and scared away any existence that had ill intentions. Vagona City was the home to five rank 8 cultivators!

'A white city where peace is mandatory,' Noah thought as he calmed down. 'Just like Bertha has said.'

Bertha's knowledge ended there. She only knew the regions near the Crystal City and the path toward Vagona City, meaning that Noah had to gather information again now.

Still, Vagona City was outside of the area of influence of the Crystal City. The humans there didn't follow those fanatics' beliefs, and they accepted every intelligent being as long as they didn't cause any trouble.

Noah didn't hesitate to march toward the city once he stabilized his condition. Crowded streets and different individualities soon entered in the range of his consciousness, and many eyes turned in his direction.

Vagona City didn't have a main gate. Anyone could enter. Yet, it was customary to suppress the seas of consciousness in that area out of respect for the weaker beings inhabiting those streets.

Noah didn't take much to understand that feature. He had seen that rank 5 and 6 cultivators were the majority of Vagona City's population while his mental waves spread in the area, but he recalled his consciousness when they began to suffer due to the innate pressure radiated by his mind.

A few annoyed comments resounded through the streets after his gesture. Most of those heroic cultivators complained about Noah's lack of manners, but he ignored them to focus on the city.

Noah didn't dare to stir any trouble with the five rank 8 auras covering the whole city. He was in a foreign environment, so he had to study his surroundings to avoid incurring the wrath of some powerful existence.

Chapter 1323 1323. Chief Ash

Vagona city was immense. Humans of various ranks filled its streets, but all of them wore robes and armors made out of divine materials.

Large mansion-like buildings illuminated the area with the whiteness radiated by their metal. Those radiances obtained different shades after they passed through the crystals embedded in their surface, so the city's halo didn't disappear in the light of the sky.

White metal and crystals also filled the streets. Everything structure in Vagona city appeared perfectly polished and devoid of any stain. It was a divine scenery, an environment that no lower plane could offer. Still, the presence of heroic cultivators left Noah confused.

The invasion of the Eternal Snakes had confirmed the presence of heroic existences in the Immortal Lands, but Noah didn't know how that process worked for cultivators.

They weren't magical beasts that could live off of the "Breath" in the environment. They needed to overcome real-life struggles to build their individualities and push them through the heroic realms.

Noah didn't even know how newborn humans survived the pressure of the higher plane. There had to be some specific procedure to allow the birth of those weaklings, and he guessed that only wealthy cultivators could build families in that environment.

'There is too much that I don't know about this place,' Noah concluded as he studied the scene.

The buildings on the peripheral areas of the city had large labels that described their functions. Runes and images shone on their surface and radiated ideas that made anyone understand which activities happened inside.

Noah didn't recognize the language used on the labels, and there seemed to be different ones according to the owners of those buildings. Yet, those runes, letters, and signs exuded true meanings that translated them into a message that he could understand.

Blacksmiths, libraries, inscription halls, and other types of shops filled the outer circle of Vagona city. There were even a few restaurants among them, and multiple customers waited in line for their turn to enter them.

Noah found himself lost in that flourishing environment. He had gone from the complete wilderness to that crowded scenery, and that sight left him speechless.

'I can only explore and see,' Noah concluded in his mind as he ventured through the large streets of Vagona city.

Noah didn't unfold his consciousness, but his superior awareness allowed him to hear the many topics spoken by the crowds that surrounded him.

The heroic cultivators mostly spoke about trivial matters. They named famous chefs and designers that only involved the style of certain inscribed items.

Instead, the cultivators in the seventh rank were mostly silent bystanders who didn't interact with anyone and became lively only once they entered the buildings.

Noah couldn't hear what anyone said once they entered the buildings. A barrier prevented sounds and auras from seeping out of those structures, so he couldn't overhear any valuable information.

Still, he could see how the crowds of weaker cultivators showed respect for the existences in the seventh rank. They opened the path for anyone capable of divine might, and the same happened to Noah when he walked through the streets.

Noah saw crowds opening at his passage. The cultivators in the heroic ranks didn't dare to stand in his way even if they had suffered from the expansion of his consciousness. They revealed pure respect at his sight, and they felt no anger when they moved to let him pass.

It was needless to say that Noah felt wary when he saw that behavior. His lack of knowledge of the customs of that place made him worried about eventual repercussions to that generosity.

However, he could only accept it for the time being. Noah could only hope that he wouldn't have to compensate anyone for that type of respect.

There was a limit to how appealing the various shops appeared to Noah. He found some interest in the robes made of divine materials, but he barely browsed through the items shown in the open before moving forward.

His abilities had always gone against armors of any kind. Noah could consider them now that his spells didn't destroy his clothes anymore, but the sturdiness of his skin made him ignore those pieces of equipment.

Noah had yet to learn about the type of currency used in the Immortal lands, so he didn't want to focus his study on such ignorable items. His main focus remained his centers of power. He had to understand why his dantian had stopped growing before thinking about inscribed weapons.

The library was the most appealing structure in his eyes, and Noah didn't hesitate to walk toward the biggest one once he gained a general understanding of that area of the city.

The structure had tall walls around its perimeter and a large gate that featured a group of guards wearing light-yellow robes. Those cultivators were all rank 7 existences, and a few of them went past the gaseous stage.

A series of thick books that radiated the word "knowledge" occupied the label of that library. Noah also saw a peculiar rune that didn't exude any specific meaning there, but he didn't fail to notice the same design draped on the robes of the guards placed on the entrance.

'This building must belong to a specific organization,' Noah guessed as he neared the library.

The line opened when he walked toward the structure. The heroic cultivators waiting for their turn to enter let Noah pass, and some divine existences did the same after they inspected his cultivation level.

Noah didn't know why he was receiving such respect, but he put everything in the back of his mind as he waited to enter the library. He knew that he would eventually find the answers to his questions, and his focus remained on the structure that could provide them.

A group made of five cultivators gathered on the gate when it was Noah's turn to enter. Four of them were in the gaseous stage, while the last radiated the aura of an existence in the liquid stage.

"Do you have any affiliation with the Sailbird family?" The liquid stage guard asked Noah when he reached the entrance of the library.

The cultivator was a tall woman with short black hair and shining green eyes. She wore a light-yellow armor that carried more details compared to her underlings, but her aura lacked any individuality.

Noah could sense the power radiated from her figure, but he couldn't feel any individuality inside it. The liquid stage woman could contain the entirety of her law while her aura spread through the sky. It seemed that the control of her true meaning surpassed what Noah was able to comprehend.

"No," Noah replied.

He didn't dare to lie in that situation, but the woman didn't seem satisfied with his answer and continued questioning him about his political affiliations.

"Do you have a special status given by the five Lords?" The woman asked only to receive a negative answer.

"Do you own a series of buildings in Vagona city?" The woman continued, but Noah shook his head.

"Are you part of some minor organization?" The liquid stage cultivator asked, but Noah shook his head again.

The surprise on the woman's expression increased every time he gave her negative answers. Noah was trying his best to remain honest until he understood how things worked in the Immortal Lands, but it was clear that those inhabiting the higher plane had values that he had yet to grasp.

Chapter 1324 1324. Soul Stones

The woman's name was Chief Ash. Noah had learnt a bit about her during her questioning. She was a member of a guild that served the Sailbird family and provided its structures with guards.

Noah wanted to ask more about those organizations, but Chief Ash never gave him the chance to question her. The line behind him also grew annoyed with his negative answers, so he preferred to cut the conversation short to enter the building.

"Since you have no affiliation whatsoever," Chief Ash announced once her interrogation ended, "I need you to pay the entire fee to enter the library. One hundred Soul Stones will grant you access to most structures belonging to the Sailbird family for a whole year, but you can pay five of them if you desire a simple visit."

Noah had no idea what she was talking about. The cultivators before him didn't pay to enter the library, so the currency of the Immortal Lands was something that he had yet to see.

Chief Ash could see the confusion in Noah's face, and she seemed to understand something when he didn't give her an answer. She bent toward him and isolated the two of them with her aura before questioning him again.

"Is this your first time in a human settlement?" Chief Ash asked, and Noah couldn't help but nod at her question.

Noah could guess that his inexperience in those matters had exposed his newly ascended status, but he didn't mind that. Chief Ash revealed a newfound interest in him after she learnt about that feature, and Noah saw a chance to understand more about the Immortal Lands when she asked him to talk in private.

The four gaseous stage cultivators took charge of handling the line while Chief Ash led Noah in a large area near the defensive walls. A table and two chairs appeared on the white floor when she stopped, and Noah didn't hesitate to sit to talk with that expert.

"I guess you spent a millennium in the wilderness after leaving the landing zone," Chief Ash announced once she sat on the opposite side of the table.

"A few centuries," Noah rectified to study her reaction.

Only a few decades had passed after Noah's ascension, but he didn't want to reveal too much about himself. He preferred to lie to see how Chief Ash reacted to his claims.

"Centuries?" Chief Ash asked again while surprise flashed on her face.

She tried to suppress her emotions, but Noah didn't fail to notice that slight change on her face. His answer had been too sudden, so Chief Ash didn't manage to hide her real thoughts about his situation.

"It's not rare for newly ascended cultivators to spend some time alone before approaching organizations," Chief Ash revealed when she saw that Noah had noticed her expressions. "Still, they often fail to grow on their own. Talents like you are an exception. You must have many stories about your life in the lower plane."

Chief Ash had understood that Noah was new to the environment of the Immortal Lands quickly. She had seen many of them through her long life, and she usually needed only a few details to identify which existence had just reached the higher plane.

"I will be blunt," Chief Ash continued. "You have the potential to reach the liquid stage. You can choose to join my guild and gain access to the knowledge you were hoping to find in this library or continue in your solitary training. I won't suggest the latter, but you are still too young to understand how hard the path ahead can be. My invitation will remain open for as long as you need."

Chief Ash gave Noah a metal card that had a peculiar rune drawn on its surface. That symbol was different from those on the guards' robes, but Noah decided to take it when his instincts confirmed its harmlessness.

Chief Ash's eyes widened when she saw Noah storing her card. Storage items were a rare resource in the Immortal Lands, so she couldn't fathom how Noah had access to one of them.

Inheritances usually explained that, but Noah didn't seem the type of cultivator to rely on resources obtained from other experts. His claim about his growth speed already placed him above the average divine experts in the Immortal Lands, so it was probable that his expertise surpassed most of the other gaseous stage gods.

"I'm willing to give you some information as a show of goodwill," Chief Ash announced after she saw Noah storing her card.

Her approach had changed, and Noah could recognize that as his chance to learn more about the Immortal Lands. He knew that Chief Ash would hold something back, but he didn't mind that behavior as long as he obtained something valuable.

"Do cultivators aim to become a world in the eighth rank?" Noah asked, but Chief Ash's face didn't show any reaction to his words.

Noah had taken her by surprise the first time, but she had been ready for her questions now. His words had surprised her, but she didn't reveal any emotion. She only shook her head to express the secrecy of that information.

"How do you grow through the stages of the seventh rank?" Noah asked, but Chief Ash shook her head again.

She wouldn't reveal anything to him since that topic involved many branches of studies that belonged to the Sailbird family. Chief Ash wouldn't be able to push Noah toward her guild if she revealed such important information.

"Soul Stones," Noah eventually said. "Talk to me about them."

"You can find them in many forms," Chief Ash explained. "They are the only possible currency in the Immortal Lands since they contain raw laws, and cultivators can absorb their energy to improve their level. Are you knowledgeable about raw laws?"

Noah's nod made Chief Ash continue. "Most of the mines of raw laws are under the control of powerful organizations, so you will always find them in the same shape in the cities. Yet, no one will refuse them if you find Soul Stones of peculiar shapes."

The explanation had been quite extensive at that time, but Noah wanted to learn more about them. Raw laws had their limits when it came to the cultivation level, but Noah wouldn't disregard them now that his dantian had stopped improving.

"You asked me one hundred Soul Stones to enter the library," Noah asked. "Is that normal for this place?"

Chief Ash hesitated a bit at his words, but she eventually gave Noah an idea of how the economy in the Immortal Lands worked.

Cultivators belonging to powerful organizations or who had completed jobs with them gained access to heavy discounts that made the access to those structures almost free.

The fee of one hundred Soul Stones would go down to five for any cultivator who had helped those organizations, and the price could go further down for those who still belonged to them.

The initial price seemed meant to force lone cultivators to join organizations. Noah did not doubt that Chief Ash and similar platoon leaders did their best to recruit promising cultivators. However, Noah desired to remain alone, so he soon refused her offer and walked out of the structure to decide on his next move.

Chapter 1325 1325. Inscription hall

Chief Ash held back from revealing anything valuable even after realizing that Noah was above average newly ascended cultivators in terms of talent.

Of course, Noah didn't reveal the truth about his growth speed either. Her reactions had told him that his talent was a currency he could use once he found a suitable environment. Yet, her lack of cooperation had eventually forced him to leave the library.

Noah didn't want to remain entangled in organizations. He would consider them only after learning more about the environment of the Immortal Lands, but he would rather avoid them at all if he had the chance.

Still, it became clear that he needed money to obtain the information he needed to decide how to behave in the higher plane. Earning Soul Stones seemed hard for cultivators that didn't belong to organizations, but he had a few ideas on how to solve that issue already.

Noah had obtained many valuable materials during his voyage toward Vagona city. He didn't eat the entirety of the prey hunted through his journey, so he could trade some of them for that currency.

All the shops in the city required divine materials. Noah guessed that they had specific suppliers aware of their needs, but he predicted that he could sell his resources without joining any organization.

Noah expected the shops to lower his materials' price due to his lack of backing, but he didn't mind it as long as he could access the city's shops.

Another idea involved the inscription halls seen as he walked through the city. They always had large crowds of cultivators in the heroic and divine ranks staring at the gardens that encircled their main buildings. Experts performed inscriptions there, but Noah had ignored them before during his first exploration.

Still, his second exploration revealed that anyone could enter the inscription halls and show his expertise. The cultivators waiting outside could then place an offer for any finished product, and the inscription hall itself could take an interest in the experts involved in those procedures.

Noah had yet to understand if he could perform inscriptions in the Immortal Lands. He had completed a few quick tests during his voyage, but he had never attempted to create a proper inscribed weapon since his training had occupied most of his time.

However, the inscription halls could give him the chance to test his ability and compare it to other divine experts. He could even gain something out of it if he managed to build a stable product.

As for the experts belonging to the inscription hall, Noah didn't even consider the possibility of attracting their attention. The items in Vagona city had gone through multiple polishing, and the messy products of the Elemental Forging method didn't fit that haughty environment.

'It's better to avoid crowded inscription halls,' Noah thought as he walked through the white streets.

Fewer customers would give him fewer chances to sell his products, but Noah was still too wary of his surroundings to jump into proper competitions. Moreover, he didn't want to interact with the population of Vagona city too much due to his lack of knowledge about its political system.

Noah tried to study some of the inscription masters performing in the most crowded halls, but he soon discovered that he had to pay one Soul Stone to be part of the audience. The barriers around the structures also blocked most of his mental waves, so he couldn't even see which inscription methods the experts inside them used.

The idea to learn about his competition waned before even forming, but Noah used that discovery to approach the second phase of his plan more quickly.

Noah walked until he found a smaller inscription hall that didn't have any picture on its label. It only had a few runes that conveyed the function of that building.

A few old-looking rank 7 cultivators sat in front of the entrance and observed the single expert performing inscriptions on the other side of the short defensive walls. Noah could see what the master was doing, but he didn't dare to force the barrier to spy on the area.

"Three Soul Stones to join the auction," A rank 7 cultivator in the gaseous stage said as he placed himself between Noah and the entrance to the inscription hall.

"I'm not a buyer," Noah replied as he tried to sound as polite as possible, "I'm here to perform inscriptions."

Noah's words stirred the curiosity of the guard who inspected him from head to toe. It was hard for cultivators to recognize Noah's peculiar status when he didn't show his physical strength, but the gaseous stage expert didn't look for those features.

"This inscription hall is quite famous," The guard said when he understood that Noah was a newbie of the Immortal Lands. "We can offer you only a day free of charge. You will need to pay afterward."

Noah could only nod at those words. He didn't even want to ask about the price to join the insides of the inscription hall, but he didn't mind it for now.

One day was more than enough to understand if he could perform inscriptions, and he could always change building if that inscription hall were to refuse him at some point.

The guard sighed and let him pass after his positive answer. Noah lost contact with the outside world once he crossed the structure's barrier, but its insides became apparent when he stepped into the large garden around the central building.

Noah could finally see the expert performing inscriptions in one corner of the garden. He was a rank 7 cultivator in the gaseous stage with long white hair and a youthful appearance. The man had grey eyes and wore a grey robe with a large black rune drawn on its chest.

The man ignored Noah and remained focused on his inscription method. An azure gas flowed out of his head and fused with the crystals in his palms, slowly altering their shape and aura.

The process resembled the inscription method of the natives of the other world, but Noah could sense that the azure gas didn't carry simple meanings. It seemed to exude something more complicated, but a loud voice suddenly resounded in his mind and forced him to stop his analysis.

"Don't try to copy other's inscription methods," An ancient voice resounded inside Noah's head. "It's a crime to steal ideas from other masters. This will be your last warning."

'They always understand that I'm not from the place,' Noah thought as he diverted his gaze from the other inscription master and sat near the entrance to focus on his creation.

Noah didn't need to create a blueprint or invent a new product. The materials inside the separate space were too different from what he had used in the lower plane. Also, he already had the perfect idea for that procedure.

There was one inscribed weapon that had accompanied Noah since the events inside the Odrea nation. His bombs only required one material and his saber-shaped runes, making them the cheapest item in Noah's knowledge.

That made them perfect for his current situation. Noah could attempt to complete them without wasting too many materials. At worst, they could threaten to explode before stabilizing, but the separate space could cover for that feature.

Chapter 1326 1326. Auction

The gaseous stage guard let out a surprised gasp when he saw Noah's taking out pieces of skin belonging to a divine magical beast from his chest. Still, he soon covered his mouth to preserve the tranquility of the inscription hall.

It wasn't hard to discern that Noah was a newly ascended existence. His robes and behavior made it impossible for him to appear as a citizen of the Immortal Lands.

His gaze exuded his curiosity toward everything in Vagona city, and his clothes were nothing more than rags in that world. Even heroic cultivators wore robes made of divine items. Only a newbie would still lack such common defenses.

Still, the fact that Noah had a storage item changed the guard's idea about him. He suddenly became curious about that newly ascended cultivator.

The guards of the inscription halls could watch the masters in action, but they couldn't escape the barrier's restrictions. The experts in the inscription fields had to feel safe in those structures, so no one could memorize their methods while they performed.

The ancient voice and the white-haired inscription master's calmness made Noah feel safe to inscribe in that place. He could fully focus on his procedure and strive to create a stable item.

Dark matter flew out of Noah's chest and seeped inside the magical beast's skin in his hands. The higher energy followed Noah's instructions and shaped the material according to his needs. Those piles of tissues soon transformed into a sphere that began to absorb his darkness.

Noah let the incomplete Instability amass darkness until it grew unstable. The item was about to explode, but he promptly stored it inside his separate space and used the dark matter to isolate it.

No one in the area heard anything, but they could see how gray smoke came out of Noah's mouth after the Instability exploded. The barrier's restrictions didn't allow them to understand if that was part of his inscription method. Still, they began to grow wary of that peculiar expert.

'My wills are too shallow,' Noah thought as he focused again. 'These materials are too resilient. I need to change approach.'

Dark matter flowed out of Noah's chest and created a minute version of the dark world between his palms. Then, another piece of magical beast's skin exited the separate space and entered his technique.

Noah suppressed the law inside the material as dark matter modified its structure and fused it with his wills. The Instabilities were simple inscribed weapons, so he only had to make them able to contain his darkness.

The dark world benefitted the forging, but the incomplete Instability grew unstable after Noah began to fuse his saber-shaped runes on its surface. He soon found himself forced to store the item inside the separate space and suppress its detonation again.

The audience understood that something was off when they saw grey smoke blowing out of Noah's mouth again. That hinted at a failure in the process, but their interest grew when Noah took more divine materials out of his separate space.

It wasn't hard to find divine materials in the Immortal Lands, but Noah was alone. The audience didn't know if he had friends outside of Vagona city. Still, they began to respect his ability.

That inscription hall didn't have many cultivators among the spectators, but they had some relevance inside Vagona city. Some of them began to consider hiring Noah to gather divine materials for their shops, but neither dared to interrupt his performance.

'The dark world can weaken the innate defenses of the material,' Noah thought as he deployed his technique again, 'But my wills can't replace its laws. The dark matter can't be the core energy in the forging with items at this level.'

Noah sighed when he understood that. The dark matter had allowed him to create wonders out of common materials, but it was too impersonal when it came to dealing with laws.

Noah could still fuse it with the material's structure, but he couldn't use it to carry his wills, not if he wanted to succeed in the forging at least. Only his individuality could create laws capable of transforming those items, so he had to use the energy that reflected the entirety of his existence.

A peculiar aura started to come out of Noah's figure once he prepared the minute dark world and more magical beast's skin. He tried to contain the radiations of his individuality, but his ambition still affected the air around him while he focused on creating wills.

Black lines appeared on the air around his figure as his cultivation level grew. Noah became stronger right in front of everyone, and even the white-haired inscription master stopped his performance to focus on him.

"Is he using a secret art to succeed in the inscription?" One of the old-looking cultivators among the audience asked.

"It's not completely foolish," Another cultivator in the audience answered. "The masters of the inscription hall might recruit him if he succeeds. Injuries to the centers of power are easy to heal once you have their backing. He is willing to sacrifice his potential to join them."

Noah couldn't hear the conversations spoken among the audience, but his focus wouldn't allow him to do it even if the barrier didn't exist. He had decided to reveal part of his individuality during the procedure, so he couldn't falter for even an instant.

Darkness flowed inside his mind and transformed as it fused with his wills. The waters of his mental sea surged and crashed on his mental walls as his ambition fueled ideas of explosions and violent energy.

Those ideas entered the darkness before Noah used that energy to modify the magical beast's skin contained in the dark world between his hands. His technique would suppress the material's law, but it wouldn't interfere with the actual forging.

The darkness imbued with Noah's wills altered the material's structure and transformed it into a black sphere. Saber-shaped runes also came out of his mind and fused with the Instability's surface to create its spikes.

Dark matter then seeped inside its structure and fixed any flaw that it found. The higher energy also improved the overall quality of the disposable weapon and filled it with power.

The darkness helped in that process too. The Instability would be threatening as long as it contained enough energy, so it didn't matter which one Noah used.

The Instabilities' destructive power would eventually rely on the primary energy once Noah perfected the creation of that weapon. He only wanted to see if he could complete the item now, so he used energies that were easier to control.

The dark world slowly flowed back inside Noah's chest. A spiked black sphere that radiated metallic properties became visible to everyone once the dark matter left the area between his palms.

'Lower tier,' Noah thought as a tinge of disappointment filled his mind.

The Instability was a rank 7 weapon, but it didn't carry the power to match the spell of a gaseous stage cultivator. It was almost a waste of materials since it barely met the standards of the divine realms.

"Did you complete it?" The ancient voice resounded in Noah's head again.

"It's quite weak for a disposable weapon," Noah conveyed through his mental waves. "I should be able to make it match a spell if I perfect the procedure."

After Noah replied to the ancient voice, he dived back in his experiments, unaware that his recent success in creating the Instability had already given birth to an auction.

Chapter 1327 1327. Free

The rules of the inscription halls were quite simple. There could be special ones depending on the structures' owners, but most of them followed the same guidelines.

They allowed inscription masters to show their expertise for a set amount of time freely, and the audience watching them could decide to make offers about their complete products.

The same applied to the owners. They could place offers and bid against the audience for the purchase of the inscribed items.

The owners would have an advantage in the auctions since they were partially unaffected by the barriers. They could study the complete products' power better than the cultivators outside the inscription halls, but everyone knew about that feature.

Actually, the fact that the owners decided to bid on certain inscribed items usually made the audience more set on purchasing them. It showed that the product had some value.

Of course, the masters that had created the inscribed item could refuse to sell after they heard the price, but that was a rare outcome. Most experts entered the inscription halls intending to gain fame and money, so they would usually accept any form of compensation for their work.

The first Instability created by Noah had attracted the attention of some of the owners. An ancient voice had resounded among the audience and had placed a bidding price of five Soul Stones.

That number of Soul Stones was nothing unusual for the citizens of the Immortal Lands, but it showed the owners' interest in Noah's product. A series of bids followed that, but they stopped when they saw Noah's completing a second Instability.

Noah didn't stop after his first success. He was unaware of what was happening around him since he remained focused on perfecting the procedure. The Divine Deduction technique also activated on its own due to how concentrated he was.

The second complete Instability came out as a rank 7 disposable weapon near the lower tier's halfway mark. Noah studied it for a while before storing it inside the separate space and taking out more pieces of skin to resume his forgings.

Noah didn't feel satisfied with those Instabilities. Normal inscribed items could fall short in terms of power since cultivators would pair them with their abilities, but the same didn't apply to disposable weapons.

Even if the Instabilities didn't require many materials, Noah still lost pieces of skin in the divine ranks during the forging. It wasn't hard for him to gather more of them, but he would rather eat them if he couldn't create anything decent.

Disposable weapons needed to be as powerful as spells or more to justify their consumption of materials. That was an unwritten rule among cultivators. No one would decide to use weak items when they had access to stronger abilities.

'They must be in the upper part of the lower tier to have any use among gaseous stage cultivators,' Noah thought as he dived back into the Elemental Forging method.

His ambition continued to alter the matter around him and fuel the wills that fused with his darkness. His individuality was the key behind the success of his inscriptions, so he couldn't turn it off for now.

Noah wasn't going all-out. His ambition wasn't pushing his centers of power beyond his structural limits. He was using his individuality only to strengthen his wills and create an energy that could replace the laws inside the skin's structure.

The drawbacks would be mild after that procedure, but Noah expected to experience a slight headache after he suppressed his individuality. He had to pay the price for his current power, but his centers of power wouldn't suffer since his ambition had mostly flowed inside his wills.

The third Instability appeared in the open, and Noah stored it inside the separate space. The disposable weapon had bordered the halfway mark of the lower tier again, so he decided to change approach.

Noah began to use the primary energy to stuff the Instabilities with power after his third complete product. He had to polish the procedure to obtain better results, and he took that chance to perfect the new blueprint for those disposable weapons.

No failures followed his change of approach. Noah had gained enough experience with the divine materials during his previous forging, so the resilience of their laws didn't hinder his inscriptions anymore.

Moreover, the primary energy had a few advantages. It was lighter than the darkness and the dark matter, so the Instabilities could contain far more of it. The weapons would also grow unstable more rarely due to those features.

Noah lost track of the passage of time, and a day eventually passed while he remained immersed in his creations. However, no one stopped him. The owners of the inscription hall even instructed the guards to leave him be.

The cultivators among the audience could hear those directives, and their excitement rose when they understood that the owners were publicly recognizing Noah.

Rumors soon spread among Vagona city. The customers of the various inscription halls had tight connections, so it didn't take much for a crowd to form around the structure where Noah was performing inscriptions.

"He sure looks young!" One of the cultivators in the audience exclaimed once he managed to see Noah.

"He has created more than ten inscribed items, and their power keeps growing!" Another cultivator said to reply to the previous exclamation.

"How many materials does he even have?" A third cultivator asked.

"Maybe he belongs to the inscription hall of another city," Someone else guessed.

"This structure belongs to the Balrow family," One of the original customers said to correct the rumors. "The Monneay family owns the most popular inscription halls in Vagona city, but its competitors are on the same level."

The price for Noah's Instabilities continued to increase as the crowd around the inscription hall grew. More wealthy cultivators placed their bids and challenged the Balrow family in the auction.

Noah slowly perfected the procedure. He was about to run out of materials after he completed his thirtieth Instability. Still, his creations' power was steadily striving toward the lower tier's peak after his many tests.

'The next one should be almost perfect,' Noah thought as he continued to forge.

Creating inscribed weapons filled him with a strange sensation now that he worked with divine materials. Noah felt his individuality growing as he used it to alter the laws inside the matter. He felt as if he could finally cross the bottleneck that had forced him to leave the wilderness.

The thirty-first Instability couldn't reach the peak of the lower tier either, but Noah didn't feel discouraged by that event. Perfection required many tests, and he had just begun to learn how to handle divine materials.

Yet, Noah had now depleted all his materials, and that made him curse in his mind. His desire to complete the procedure had taken over his initial intentions.

Noah saw a crowd of cultivators staring at him from the other side of the entrance. He initially turned to see if someone else was behind him, but he soon accepted that their gazes were for him.

The white-haired cultivator had also stopped inscribing to stare at him. The exhaustion of his materials didn't seem the main issue anymore in that situation.

"Why did you stop?" The ancient voice resounded again, but Noah could hear that it came from an old-looking cultivator that had materialized in front of him.

The cultivator was a bald man who had a thin white beard that reached his belly. He wore a luxurious green robe, but burns filled his sleeves and ruined those otherwise spending clothes. He kept his eyes closed, so Noah couldn't see their color for now.

Still, the detail that caught Noah's attention the most was his cultivation level. The expert was a rank 7 cultivator in the solid stage, but no laws leaked out of his figure.

"I'm out of materials," Noah honestly replied.

The cultivator nodded and rubbed his beard as he waved his free hand. After his gesture, a series of barrels materialized next to him, and Noah could see how they contained different rank 7 materials in the lower tier.

"You can use them," The cultivator said. "Don't worry. I'm giving them for free."

Chapter 1328 1328. Explanations

Noah understood that something had happened while he had remained immersed in the Elemental Forging method. The audience, the other inscription master's reaction, and the solid stage cultivator's words told him that his creations had attracted some attention.

However, Noah couldn't trust him so easily. He didn't forget where he was, so he had to be careful about those offers.

"Why would you offer me free materials?" Noah asked without suppressing his interest in those materials.

The barrels contained strange metals and peculiar tissues that Noah wanted to study, but he didn't take them even if he let his interest leak out of his figure.

Noah had plenty of experience in being a lone cultivator. He knew how he had to act to preserve some advantage in a foreign environment.

It was clear that his inscriptions had attracted some interest, but he didn't want to appear as the canny cultivator that he was. He would rather pretend to be a clueless genius in the inscription field while he studied his surroundings.

"I'm willing to pay to see you in action," The cultivator said while wearing an expressionless face.

Noah pretended to feel concerned about his words. His eyes widened as he put his hands behind his back and began to stand up.

"The barrier outside the structure prevents the creation of memories about the inscription methods seen here," The cultivator said when he saw Noah's reaction. "Do you recall anything about Master Jay's technique?"

The cultivator pointed at the white-haired expert during his question. Noah began to think about his brief inspection of that expert's inscription method, but he soon discovered that he couldn't remember anything about it.

No memories about his previous analysis existed in his mind. Noah recalled that he had tried to study the white-haired expert, but he couldn't remember even the faintest image when he thought about that.

'I wonder where is the limit to this feature,' Noah thought as he inspected the barrier.

Noah didn't know how strong a cultivator needed to be to avoid those effects, but his simple inspection couldn't reveal anything useful. Yet, the solid stage cultivator understood his thoughts and didn't hesitate to reassure him.

"I only remember a small cloud when it comes to your inscription method," The cultivator said. "I will forget about that too in a few days. Most of the barriers and restrictions in Vagona city have to go through the leaders' inspection. They make sure that every shop works in complete fairness."

Noah didn't need to ask who the leavers were. The five rank 8 auras that covered Vagona City were enough to answer those doubts.

"I don't want to join any organization," Noah announced as he moved his eyes between the materials and the bald cultivator.

"That's normal for newly ascended cultivators," The cultivator said. "I won't hide my disappointment, but we have long lives. I'm sure you will consider the inscription halls of the Balrow family in the future."

Noah didn't hesitate to question the cultivator about some aspects of the Immortal Lands since he appeared inclined to solve his doubts. It was clear that he wanted to gain Noah's favor, and he wouldn't miss that chance.

The cultivator's name was Saul Balrow. He didn't originally belong to the Balrow family, but his talent in the inscription field had given him the chance to join that organization and hone his skills. He had also managed to improve after he didn't have to worry about resources anymore.

Saul gave Noah a general overview of Vagona city. A few powerful families owned most of the shops, and they also had branches in other human settlements. The five rank 8 cultivator didn't belong to any of them, but they had organizations that handled other aspects of the city.

Noah finally gained a general idea of the political structure of the human side of the Immortal Lands. Cultivators divided themselves into organizations that had various purposes, and the most powerful of them had rank 8 existences as their leaders.

The most populated cities on the human side had multiple leaders from different organizations that enforced peace together. That didn't apply to the smallest ones that ended up being lawless zones where cultivators could act as they desired.

Saul stressed how beneficial the cities' life was, but Noah didn't want to remain entangled with political issues after his ascension. Once the elderly cultivator finished his explanation, Noah changed the topic of their conversation.

"How much did you offer for my items?" Noah asked before pointing at the audience across the entrance. "How much did they?"

Noah wasn't completely unaware of the environment of the Immortal Lands. He knew the rules about the inscription hall, so he could guess that his Instabilities had earned a decent success.

Saul's expressionless face flickered for an instant at those words, but he didn't hold anything from Noah. Still, he needed to ask a few questions before giving his weapons a final price.

"How do your items work?" Saul asked, and Noah saw the audience growing silent after his words.

Those cultivators wanted to see the effects of Noah's items to adjust their bids, but most of them felt somewhat discouraged. They knew how much the owners were willing to offer, so they thought they stood no chance in that auction.

"The Balrow family is willing to give you ten Soul Stones for each item," Saul said. "I know that your initial products were still incomplete, but we want to purchase them anyway at full price."

'Do they want to rope me in?' Noah wondered, but he soon understood that Saul's offer was quite close to the audience's best ones.

A few wealthy cultivators had offered similar numbers, but they weren't willing to purchase the incomplete products. Only the inscription hall could find even the weaker items useful.

'Three hundred and ten Soul Stones,' Noah did the math in his head, 'Are they even a decent number?'

Noah's lack of knowledge about the prices in that place was starting to annoy him, but he was about to fix that weakness.

"Three hundred and ten it is," Noah said as he took out thirty-one instabilities and placed them next to him.

"I can reach one thousand if you attach a description of your inscription method," Saul continued. "I can also offer you ten thousand to learn more about your storage item."

"The rest isn't for sale," Noah replied before shooting a cold glance toward Saul and continued. "For now, at least."

Saul showed his first smile since the beginning of their conversation and nodded at his reply. He didn't feel bad about that rejection. He had seen many cultivators like Noah desiring to remain alone for the entirety of their divine journey, but they always joined organizations at some point.

A pile of gray rocks covered by white lines fell from Saul's space-ring and accumulated in front of him. Noah could sense the presence of raw laws in those items, and he couldn't wait to get his hands on them.

Noah took out thirty-one Instabilities from his separate space and stored the Soul Stones. The inscription hall had lost its appeal after that transaction, so he left the structure after exchanging a few more words with Saul.

"Use this card if you want to contact a member of an inscription hall under the control of the Balrow family," Saul said as he handed Noah a small card made of green metal. "Give me your name. I will inform all the branches that you are welcome in our inscription halls.

Chapter 1329 1329. Fallen

The green card had a simple rune on its surface, the same mark embroidered on Saul's green robe. The item expressed the acknowledgment of the Balrow family. Saul had basically accepted Noah as a fellow inscription master.

The audience, the guards, and Master Jay gasped at that sight. It was rare for a cultivator to obtain that token during his first visit to an inscription hall.

The card wouldn't only allow Noah to enter every inscription hall of the Balrow family freely. It would also give him some recognition in similar structures belonging to other families.

Noah didn't fail to notice the reaction of the cultivators around him. He understood that the card was an important item, so he didn't hesitate to store it after he inspected it with his mental waves.

'He wants a name,' Noah thought while Saul kept smiling at him.

Noah could tell Saul his real name and leave, but he had the chance to express his affiliation with some powerful existence now. Cultivators also used titles often, so he didn't mind saying one that could lead him to potential allies.

Noah didn't want to join any organization, but he wouldn't discard the chance to create back-up plans. He already had a powerful enemy. Paving the path for the arrival of potential allies seemed necessary in his situation.

"Defying Demon," Noah said, and one of Saul's eyebrows arched when he heard that name.

Hearing that name had triggered something inside Saul's mind that made him break his peaceful expression. However, Noah could only memorize that detail and leave the inscription hall for the moment.

Noah didn't know if Saul had any connection with Divine Demon. Still, he could confirm that his decision to reveal his title didn't endanger his relationship with the Balrow family when he sensed the green card changing.

A few symbols appeared on the card. Noah couldn't read that language, but he could hear the name "Defying Demon" when he inspected them with his mental waves. The Balrow family had officially accepted him as a welcomed guest.

'I have finally made some progress,' Noah thought as the effects of his ambition waned.

The crowd in front of the inscription hall opened at his passage and stared at him from afar after he left. Noah didn't want them to see his cultivation level falling, but they respected him enough to leave him alone.

His performance had placed his name among the promising newly ascended existences. Many cultivators among the crowd expected Noah to become an important member of an inscription hall in the future.

Noah didn't have the same expectations. There was a crucial aspect of his existence that placed him in a different realm from the human world. He couldn't even begin to imagine what problems his species could cause.

Still, he now had enough money to solve some of his doubts about the Immortal Lands. Three hundred and ten Soul Stones wouldn't grant him access to all the structures in Vagona city, but they were enough to make him visit the library.

Moreover, his recent experience with the Elemental Forging method had unlocked something inside him. Noah felt that he had crossed the bottleneck and that he could increase his cultivation level again. Yet, he decided to delay his training to gather information about the higher plane.

A slight head-ache filled his mind after his centers of power returned to their real level. Noah didn't use his ambition to empower himself during his forgeries, so the drawback ended up being relatively easy to endure.

The sensations felt while his ambition affected the laws around him were vivid inside his mind, and Noah did his best to memorize them. Those feelings contained the reason behind the unlocking of his cultivation level, and he would do anything to keep them alive.

Noah returned to the big library and found Chief Ash smiling at him. She kept her arms crossed in front of her chest as she stared at his figure nearing the building belonging to the Sailbird family.

"I told you that you had potential," Chief Ash said. "You made a name for yourself already. Still, I didn't expect you to be an inscription master."

"I can pay the fee for the library now," Noah said as he ignored her comment.

"News run fast in Vagona city," Chief Ash didn't let the topic go. "Almost every weaker existence is aware of your arrival after your performance in the inscription hall."

"I only want to read a few books," Noah said as he continued to ignore her.

"Inscription masters are a valuable resource in the higher plane," Chief Ash kept going. "You have lost your anonymity, Defying Demon. I wouldn't be surprised if smaller organizations were to kidnap you now that you have revealed your talents."

Chief Ash's words sounded like a threat, but Noah didn't give them much weight. Her intentions were clear. She wanted Noah to join her guild now that he was still somewhat unknown.

It would be too late if Noah continued to reveal his value. Simple guilds would lose any hope to obtain him since the big families would step in.

"I'm sure the sophisticated citizens of Vagona city won't resort to such methods," Noah replied as a cold smile appeared on his face.

Noah stopped in front of Chief Ash and kept his reptilian eyes fixed on her. She couldn't discern his hybrid status only from that feature, but she didn't seem interested in the secrets he carried.

Chief Ash only wanted to recruit Noah. Her desire seeped out of her figure and began to fuse with the environment. Still, the arrival of her underlings forced her to retract those strands of aura.

Noah took out five Soul Stones from his separate space when the other guards arrived, but Chief Ash shook her head and opened a path for him.

"Take this as proof of my goodwill," Chief Ash said as she pointed at the entrance of the library. "You can stay there for three months and have complete access to the first level. You will need to pay for specific tomes or information with great value."

Noah's eyes went on the entrance before darting again on the liquid stage expert. Chief Ash was offering him a free visit to the library, but Noah's instincts told him not to trust her.

Still, that didn't involve the actual visit, so Noah limited himself to nod before walking toward the entrance. Chief Ash's suspicious behavior couldn't worry him with the five rank 8 existences watching over the entire city.

"Are you sure, Chief?" One of the weaker guards asked once Noah entered the library. "My contact in the inscription hall said that he created thirty-one inscribed weapons in a row. Also, he might have some connection with that other troublemaker."

"This is Vagona city, a reign of peace," Chief Ash replied to her underling. "We will confirm if he knows anything about that arrogant bastard once he leaves."

"He appears used to a life in the wilderness," The guard argued. "We might be unable to keep up with him once he leaves unless you were to join the chase."

"There will be no need for a chase," Chief Ash said as a confident smile appeared on her face. "I know exactly where he will go after his visit to the library. Every newly ascended cultivator wants to see the Land of the Fallen after learning about its existence."

Chapter 1330 1330. Books

The brightness of the library filled Noah's vision. The structure resembled an immense palace on the outside, but its insides appeared far bigger.

Something stretched the space inside the structure and made it far bigger than it could be. Bookshelves filled the hundreds of meters large main hall, and a large staircase circled the walls and led to the upper floors.

Noah could see more bookshelves from the few balconies on the upper floors. Cultivators browsed them while sitting on luxurious sofas, and the scenery wasn't much different in the main hall.

Multiple reading areas divided the many bookshelves. Some of them had specific purposes, and a few even held a series of cultivators discussing specific topics. Experts could even create groups there before venturing outside of Vagona city.

The areas that held discussions or groups of cultivators didn't let any sound escape from their edges. Complete silence filled the library, and some runes placed on its walls even absorbed the noise made by the turning of pages.

There were even catalogs that listed the services offered by the library. A series of waiters occupied every reading area and advised any cultivator in need.

Noah felt utterly lost in that environment, but a waiter quickly noticed his confusion and led him toward a white screen after exchanging a few polite lines.

The screen had an interactive list that reacted to the mental waves. Noah only needed to think about what he desired to read, and a series of names would appear on the device.

The waiter confirmed that Noah could read anything in the main hall of the library for free. That structure only featured an entrance fee and a payment to enter the upper floors.

Noah could also purchase wine and other goods to accompany his reading, but he wouldn't waste money before obtaining a general idea of how the Immortal Lands worked.

'This is even better than I expected,' Noah thought as more names appeared on the screen. 'Can I even read all of them in three months?'

Noah had seen thousands of names flashing in his vision as his mental waves interacted with the device. He had so many questions that the list on the screen never stopped changing.

'This will take too long if I don't do it properly,' Noah concluded before calling one of the waiters.

The waiter was a tall man in the gaseous stage. He wore a tight pale-blue robe just like the other cultivators working inside the structure, and he didn't hesitate to help Noah with his issue.

Of course, Noah had to pay for that service. Ten of his Soul Stones disappeared from his separate space as he questioned the waiter about his many doubts.

The library was simply too big, and it contained multiple versions of the same books. Experts would also create essays on some of those tomes, so Noah had no idea which one would be best for him.

Instead, the waiter advised him to read specific tomes and scrolls after hearing about his needs. Noah ended up with more than a hundred books even after that skimming process, but he couldn't reduce their number any more than that.

The waiter took care of bringing all the books to the reading area chosen by Noah, and he even carried some cheap wine to complete his service.

For Noah, that cheap wine was the best he had ever tasted. He could sense the divine materials used in its creation, and he felt strange when his mind calmed down.

That beverage could affect his divine mind, and it was the cheapest on the catalog! Noah couldn't even imagine what the most expensive would do to his sea of consciousness.

Noah dived into the books after the waiter completed his task. Many of them spoke about the layout of the Immortal Lands, while others told legends and pieces of history of that place.

The Immortal Lands were too vast to create complete maps. Noah could only learn about the general position of some important places. He would have to go to the upper floors to obtain detailed and updated descriptions of certain territories.

That study still helped him learn more about the Immortal Lands, but that place was so vast that it had any kind of region. Immense mountain chains, lakes as vast as seas, endless plains, the higher plane had everything.

Moreover, it was unclear whether the Immortal Lands had an end. Many experts had tried to understand how large the higher plane actually was, but they couldn't find an exact measure to describe it.

The Immortal Lands transformed often. They even enlarged through a process that no book in the main hall could describe. Noah could only guess that Heaven and Earth continued to expand their domain and annex more territories to the higher plane.

That process was the reason behind multiple unexplored regions. The constant expansion of the Immortal Lands made every map inexact and forced the cultivators to focus on many important areas rather than on the entirety of the plane.

The political situation of the Immortal Lands was even messier than their layout. Magical beasts and humans had precise borders that they never crossed due to agreements sealed among powerful existences. As for the hybrids, they were hard to track, and many suggested that their home was the unexplored part of the plane.

That division made it relatively easy for Noah. He could easily travel between one side and the other depending on his needs. His discovery made him quite pleased, but his mood soon turned sour after he studied more books.

The two sides had multiple leaders and even more underlings. The humans had also divided themselves into countless organizations, and the magical beasts had done something similar with their packs.

The library couldn't teach him about the various alliances among those forces. Noah would need to resort to specific services of the library to obtain those updates, but he didn't have enough money to purchase them.

'I guess I need to memorize the political alliances once I see them,' Noah concluded once he stopped studying the families and the various organizations that filled the human side.

Noah studied tomes that spoke about the cultivation journey in the divine ranks. Those teachings weren't detailed, and they were mostly guesses of cultivators that had managed to advance in the past.

Their experience was enough to confirm the idea that had brewed in his mind after the events in the inscription hall.

He was already on the right path, according to those books. Divine cultivators needed to evolve through their individuality, and that involved affecting the world with their law.

Their true meaning had to suppress the rules of the world around them and turn it into their domain. It was similar to the effects of the dark world, but cultivators had to apply them without relying on techniques and spells.

'So, I need to use my ambition to force my cultivation level to improve,' Noah summarized in his mind, 'But I can avoid using my individuality if I train more on affecting the world around me. I guess this process changes depending on the true meaning.'