

DEMONIC 1361

Chapter 1361 1361. Splitting

Noah flew quickly. Tunnels and areas filled with flames went by until he reached his target.

A dark-red landmass soon appeared in his vision. It was as big as the piece of Immortal Lands fallen in the lower world, and a yellowish halo surrounded it as it floated among the sea of flames.

The landmass had plains, forests, and mountains. Countless magical beasts had taken it as its home. That region was one of the spectacles that only the Immortal Lands could offer. No material in the lower plane could survive a similar environment.

Lightning bolts fell from the tallest mountain situated at the eastern edge of the landmass. The inheritance of the rank 8 expert was at its summit, and it continuously generated sparks that ran through the entire region and transformed its matter.

The flames alone couldn't give birth to that place on their own. Only the clash between two elements with similar power could create something so spectacular.

Noah felt in awe of the resilience of the creatures living on the landmass. The various magical beasts had learnt to absorb the flames that made the sky and the lightning bolts running in the ground, and their power had benefitted from those elements.

The lightning bolts carried a strange individuality. It allowed the beings that fed on their power to alter their species. Noah had never seen anything like that. The sparks seemed able to force those beings to evolve.

The magical beasts had it a bit worse on the landmass. The rulers of the Hellish Landscape all had a fire aptitude, so the Rumbling Region weakened their innate abilities. Only the species that couldn't survive in the sea of flames lived there.

Noah's instincts sent warning messages to his mind. He could sense the presence of rank 8 magical beasts among the flames around the landmass. Still, the Rumbling Region didn't have such strong creatures.

As for cultivators, the Rumbling Region appeared temporarily devoid of them. The inheritance in that place was quite challenging and could be deadly, so it wasn't popular among the weaker experts.

'This is perfect!' Noah thought before diving toward the landmass.

A layer of darkness and dark matter covered his figure and helped his innate defenses fend off the dangerous flames that filled the environment.

A few fiery tongues with power in the upper tier swam among fires in the middle tier. The flame's might decreased as Noah neared the landmass, and he could soon lower his protection without feeling in danger.

A strange sensation filled him when he stepped on the dark-red ground. The lightning bolts had nourished that terrain for millennia. The whole landmass radiated the mighty rank 8 existence's aura.

'What is this feeling?' Noah thought as he closed his eyes to experience the influence contained in the ground.

His body naturally absorbed the energy in the environment, and Noah could feel which effect that aura tried to apply on his tissues. The expert's individuality wanted to alter his figure's fabric and reassemble it to improve its state!

Noah didn't sense any harm coming from that aura, so he let it affect a small part of his skin while he absorbed the energy in the environment. However, he soon witnessed something strange.

The black hole activated on its own and sent dark matter toward the piece of skin that the expert's aura was trying to modify. The higher energy fought against that individuality and fended it off, regaining complete control over Noah's body.

Even the absorption of that energy went differently. The black hole would normally purify any nutrients before sending it back to his tissues, but the center of power decided to keep some of that energy for itself at that time.

Noah felt as if his black hole was studying that expert's individuality. The fourth center of power wanted to learn from it and improve its functions!

'Cultivating here might not be a bad idea,' Noah thought as his gaze went on the distant tall mountains.

His interest in that inheritance had suddenly skyrocketed. The enhancements that the expert's individuality tried to apply matched the purification operated by his black hole. The mountain could teach him how to improve his fourth center of power.

Still, Noah didn't let his greed take control of his actions. He had far more important matters to handle. He even had to prepare for the imminent clash.

Noah avoided the territories under the control of upper tier creatures but chose to settle near the Rumbling Region's center. He wanted to remain in control of the whole area to decide how to ambush his pursuers.

The ground was too hard for him. Even his strongest attacks couldn't pierce it, so he had to settle for one of the magical plants in the area.

Noah dug a small room inside one of the thickest trees in the lower tier that he found. That magical plants didn't have offensive capabilities, so it didn't struggle when the Demonic Sword cut its insides.

The Divine Deduction technique activated when Noah began to cultivate inside the tree. His consciousness also expanded to inspect the area. He had decided to train while he waited for his pursuers to arrive.

Noah wouldn't usually waste mental energy before a battle, but completing his workshop would make his battle prowess skyrocket. His instincts had also begun to sense some danger, so his mental capabilities worked at full speed to solve the issue.

He was close to a solution. He only needed to complete one blueprint to activate that ability, and he intended to do it before his pursuers arrived.

The hunting group flew through the tunnels and reached the area where the Rumbling Region was. The guards could only point them in that direction, so discerning where Noah had gone was in the expert's hands.

"There are too many interferences here," Gil said as howls spread from his figure. "I can sense that someone has recently flown through this area, but I can't pinpoint the exact location."

Some hierarchies had already formed among those experts. Those who belonged to assassin guilds and other smaller organizations didn't dare to oppose the Crystal City's orders. Only Chief Ash could join those conversations, but Lady Lena often took decisions on her own anyway.

They weren't a united group. They had the same target, and the Crystal City was willing to cooperate with all of them to ensure the success of the mission. The other teams wouldn't even be there otherwise.

"The Rumbling Region, the Fiery Lake, and the Three White Peaks," Chief Ash said at some point. "These are the only possible destinations in this area. We know that he has a darkness aptitude and a powerful body. He is also aware that someone is following him. I bet that he will use his advantages to set up an ambush."

"Hybrids rely too much on their bodies," Lady Lena said after sighing. "The Rumbling Region should suit him the most. He will probably try to use the flames to wear us down."

"Do you suggest exploring the Rumbling Region first?" Chief Ash asked.

"No," Lady Lena replied. "He will only escape again if our guess is wrong. We should split. The Crystal City will take the Rumbling Region. Your guild can handle the Three White Peaks. The others will go to the Fiery Lake."

A series of unsightly expressions appeared on the members of the weaker organizations. They had joined the hunt because of the bounty on Noah's head. Dividing the teams would only lower their chances of seizing it.

"Don't worry," Lady Lena added after she noticed their expressions. "You have already helped. The Crystal City will pay as long as the mission is successful. You can split the reward afterward."

Her words improved the overall mood of the group. The weaker members had no more objections at that point. The three teams split and flew toward their respective directions without saying anything else.

Chapter 1362 1362. Overwhelmed

Noah cultivated, meditated, and experimented with his dark world while his consciousness remained unfolded. His mind could sense almost everything happening in the Rumbling Region. Only the flames and the occasional lightning bolts interrupted his perception.

Mental energy rose from his mental sea as inscription illuminated the walls of his consciousness. His thoughts flew inside his mind to create simple shapes capable of containing enormous power.

The figure of a spider slowly formed above his mental sea. It had six slim legs and a minute body, but it didn't crumble after its creation ended. That was as far Noah had managed to go with the workshop. A stable set of rules was the best he could do for now.

'It won't be useful unless I turn it into a rune,' Noah thought as he continued his training inside the trunk.

Since the blueprint for the workshop had to affect the dark world, Noah couldn't use his higher energy to create the creature's shape. The rules carried by his thoughts would only interfere with the dark matter, and the same went for his other energies.

Noah needed to create a new rune that could force his dark world to mass-produce magical beasts, and he could only use his mental energy to complete the task. His thoughts had to reach the same level of power of inscriptions built through different energies.

The task was arduous. Noah's expertise also diverged from that type of inscription since he had always used his many energies to create stronger products. When it came to using only his thoughts, he found himself inexperienced.

Still, his other abilities were a perfect match for Great Builder's individuality, so he pressed on with the experiments. Noah could feel that he was close to completing the first blueprint. He only needed a small push to polish it.

Luckily for him, he had enemies willing to give him a reason to improve.

Lady Lena, Gil, Zach, and a fourth cultivator from the Crystal City descended toward the Rumbling Region while Noah was in the middle of his training.

The unknown member was a middle-aged woman in the gaseous stage with long blonde hair and dark eyes. Her position among the other weaker experts didn't appear to be low, but she couldn't show off with Lady Lena next to her.

The group of four landed on the dark-red terrain and began their investigation. Lady Lena and Gil took care of that part of the hunt, but they failed in locating Noah in that wild environment.

They could sense Noah's aura in the environment, but they couldn't pinpoint his exact location. The flames' interference and his robe's hiding capabilities made the task too hard to solve in a few hours.

"Be careful," Lady Lena said as she stepped forward to lead her group toward the center of the region.

Even with the robe, Noah couldn't hide the traces left during his training. The group from the Crystal City could understand that he was somewhere at the center of the region, and they didn't hesitate to march toward those areas.

Noah was aware of the movements happening around him. He had seen how many cultivators had arrived before retracting his consciousness. He was relying on his instincts to keep track of their behavior now.

The presence of the liquid stage cultivator worried him, but part of him trembled in excitement at the idea of facing an existence at that level. Noah wanted to throw himself at Lady Lena right away, but he had to take care of her underlings first.

Noah wasn't sure that he could handle a cultivator in the liquid stage, but he was certain that his death would arrive if he let those underlings live. He needed to be wholly focused on Lady Lena to fight her, and he couldn't let weaker enemies hinder him.

Noah's mental waves spread through the environment and covered almost the entirety of the landmass. His robe managed to hide most of their properties, but Lady Lena soon realized that something was off.

That sensation didn't come from her consciousness. Her instincts had told them that the area had suddenly become more dangerous, and she prepared for the imminent clash.

Noah closed his eyes, and his enemies appeared in his mind. The Demonic Sword flew out of the separate space and landed in his hand before lifting it to lay it on his forehead.

Zach and Gil had already fought against Noah, so they had learnt part of his abilities. Yet, Noah had grown a lot since his landing in the Immortal Lands.

His body had reached levels that they couldn't imagine, and his other centers of power had also seen a decent growth. Noah wasn't a newly advanced god anymore. He was an existence that could defeat beings stronger than him.

Gil was the first among the experts in the gaseous stage to notice that something was off. Through his howls, he sensed that the air had become denser as if an invisible layer of energy had covered the whole area.

It didn't take him much to understand what was happening, but it was too late when he noticed anything. A black line formed above his head and crashed on his body in an instant.

The same happened for Zach and the other gaseous stage cultivator. They saw massive black lines appearing above their heads and transforming into large but sharp blades that fell on them.

Only Lady Lena remained outside of that assault. Noah knew that his chances of taking her by surprise were scarce, so he didn't even try to attack her.

Noah moved among the thick trees as he studied the effects of his attack. His opponents would find him if he remained in the same spot after unfolding his consciousness. There was a limit to what his robe could do at such a distance.

Disappointment soon filled his mind when he saw that azure shields came out of the cultivators' figures and expanded to form three large spheres. His black lines vanished among the tides running on the defenses' surface. His attacks couldn't even pierce them.

The landmass began to tremble at that point. Noah felt an immense threat flying in his direction, but his instincts told him that he couldn't avoid that clash.

Noah turned and slashed in the direction of the danger, but a tide of azure water crashed on him, destroying his attack and flinging him away. He soon found himself at the bottom of a mountain and with his bones emitting screeching noises.

His robe was in tatters. Even that magnificent piece of equipment couldn't fend off the attack of a liquid stage cultivator.

Noah spat a mouthful of blood as he straightened his position and shot in the distance. He didn't want to face an expert in the liquid stage directly, but what he desired didn't matter in that situation.

A series of water currents ran through the fiery sky and converged in his position, crashing on his body and pushing him back on the ground. The impact on the landmass was so intense that earthquakes began to spread through the regions.

Noah felt his bones cracking as the water prevented him from making any movement. Strange noises echoed from inside his body, and blood accumulated in his mouth.

Those were only casual attacks, but Noah felt utterly overwhelmed. The differences among the stages and ranks in the divine realms were immense, and filling those gaps required countless items or a great talent. Training was also essential.

"You thought you were so strong, didn't you?" Lady Lena said as she and her underlings neared Noah. "Hybrids rarely are great thinkers. They often give up on their intellect to choose the path of the beast. You won't be any different."

Noah struggled to get up, but more currents fell on him and continued to damage him. Lady Lena wanted to keep him down, and she was succeeding.

"I already am different," Noah said as black smoke began to come out of his figure.

Two shadows also shot out of his separate space, and his ambition began to fill the entire aura. Noah was about to go all-out, but he held back the disposable puppet.

Chapter 1363 1363. Tide

Lady Lena's might was immense. Her casual attacks could suppress and injure Noah easily. The gap between the gaseous and the liquid stage was something that would take more than a few tricks to fill.

Noah sensed his power increasing as his ambition seeped out of his figure. His cultivation level rose as all his techniques and assets spread in the world.

'Three gaseous stage cultivators, one in the liquid stage,' Noah thought as the range of his consciousness increased. 'No gaseous stage expert can win this battle.'

That conclusion was obvious. Lady Lena's power alone could suppress him. The battle would only become harsher once her three underlings joined the fight.

'I can't escape, I can't hide, and I can't win,' Noah concluded as his power rose.

Facing certain death made his survival instincts scream, and Noah didn't dare to suppress them. He needed to feel everything and understand how hopeless his situation was to create a chance. He needed to sense the most intense desperation to force his existence to improve.

Truth be told, Noah didn't predict that the Crystal City would send a liquid stage cultivator so quickly. Still, he couldn't avoid ending up in that situation unless he decided to slow down his growth.

His ambition had forced him to be in that situation, and Noah could only rely on his individuality to overcome that challenge. If he couldn't do it, he wouldn't be able to survive what would come after that battle.

'I have done this countless times,' Noah spoke to himself as pure coldness came out of his figure. 'I will use every trick, every shameful act, every desperate move to overcome this challenge. Honor is pointless. Sanity is pointless. Power is everything, and I need to be alive to seize it.'

Lady Lena didn't let the unfolding of Noah's techniques startle her. The dark world and the corrosive cloud were expanding toward her, but another wave of torrents forced them to shrink.

Noah could sense everything happening around him. Azure torrents pierced his strongest techniques and converged in his position to crash on his body again. Blood accumulated under his skin as countless internal injuries opened.

The dark world and corrosive cloud expanded once again. Noah had just suffered heavy injuries, but the power unleashed by his abilities didn't decrease. Lady Lena could see how they had moved closer to the peak of the gaseous stage.

"A reckless animal indeed!" Lady Lena shouted while raising both hands to the sky.

Her aura expanded and seeped into the environment to alter its laws. The sea of fire that filled every inch of the sky morphed and obtained liquid features. The flames transformed into scarlet waves that began to move toward the expanding cloud.

Noah sensed the arrival of the scarlet tide. It was as if the whole sky was falling on him. Lady Lena's individuality carried endlessness that he couldn't describe, and part of him felt unable to conceive methods to stop that attack.

'I see,' Noah thought as Snore appeared in front of him and spewed its dark beam. 'She carries the true power of a catastrophe. The endlessness of countless waves, and the might of something that can't stop moving forward.'

Snore's dark beam crashed on the waves, but it only managed to pierce a part of those scarlet waters. The sky continued to fall on Noah and destroyed all the techniques that he had deployed in his defense.

That attack could kill him. Suicidal thoughts surged in his mind as Lady Lena's individuality converged on his figure. The immensity of her waves made him desire to give up and put an end to that struggle.

Noah opened his mouth, and the world went dark for an instant as a defiant roar spread in the environment. Dark flames surrounded by a silver halo shot everywhere on the Rumbling Region right before the tide crashed on him.

The whole landmass trembled, but it didn't suffer any damage. The shockwave generated in the crash eradicated some of the trees in the area and destroyed part of the black flames.

No gaseous stage cultivator could survive that attack. Even the strongest material in the lower tier couldn't remain intact against the full might of an expert in the liquid stage.

The waves slowly transformed back into flames as Lady Lena retracted her individuality. A destroyed environment became visible after her spell vanished.

The cultivators from the Crystal City saw a maimed body among that destruction. The waves had almost reduced it to a pulp. Its limbs had vanished, and its torso was nothing more than a series of torn tissues immersed in a pool of blood.

A faint trace of life came out of the body. Noah appeared on the verge of dying. It seemed that even his centers of power didn't want to keep him alive anymore.

"Wonderfully done," Zach said as he performed a bow toward Lady Lena.

The other underlings imitated him, but Lady Lena didn't move her eyes from Noah's body. She sensed that something was off, but she couldn't pinpoint the cause behind that feeling.

Moreover, she couldn't understand how Noah was still alive after her attack. Hybrids were only slightly stronger than magical beasts when it came to their physical strength, and her attack could even threaten some creatures in the middle tier.

Nothing should have survived the waves, but Noah was there, alive. That scene left Lady Lena dumbfounded. She saw something impossible.

Her worry slowly began to vanish when she sensed that Noah kept weakening. He would die soon. That flaw in her understanding would disappear as soon as that issue ended.

"Hmph!" The third underling snorted when she saw that Noah was still hanging on his life. "He dares to remain alive after Lady Lena's attack! Can I put an end to his struggles?"

A slight tremor ran through the sky after her words, but only Lady Lena managed to sense it. Cultivators in the gaseous stage couldn't feel that subtle change in the environment.

"Kathleen, Zach, Gil," Lady Lena said as coldness appeared in her eyes. "Retreat."

Three underlings couldn't understand the meaning behind her words, but a suffocating aura soon filled the sky and forced them to remain still. An intense feeling crashed on their minds and forced them to condense their consciousnesses in a desperate attempt to stabilize their center of power.

Their thoughts tried to shoot out of their minds when that feeling swept them. Desires that they couldn't suppress took over their mental spheres and made them gasp for air.

The trio in the gaseous stage didn't understand what they were feeling. Their eyes moved on their own to stare at the red sky above. Small white dots even appeared in their vision. For some reason, they began to see stars in that separate dimension.

Lady Lena easily fended off the effects of that individuality, but she couldn't stop the black flames. The black fire had expanded after that aura filled the environment, and countless specks of energy flew toward Noah to fuse with his body.

A silver halo soon enveloped Noah. His destroyed tissues grew right in front of Lady Lena's eyes. His body reformed in a few seconds, and a violent aura came out of his figure.

When a twitch ran through Noah's fingers, Lady Lena began to sense an aura with power in the liquid stage coming out of her opponent.

Chapter 1364 1364. Domains

Lady Lena unfolded her aura and created another tide that began to crash on Noah. She wouldn't wait for him to recover. Her survival instincts were telling her that it was better to finish him off quickly.

The flames in the sky transformed into a scarlet sea that flew toward Noah. Waves crashed on his spot again, and more tremors ran through the Rumbling Region after her attack.

Lady Lena didn't stop there. She quickly cast her ability again and created more waves around her figure. The sky continued to fall on Noah. The expert could launch an endless attack that would never stop.

A silver halo soon shone from inside her scarlet waves, and a black spot spread until it filled the entire ground. Dark flames began to burn Lady Lena's waters and send energy toward their center.

Lady Lena tried to create more waves, but the flames didn't stop. They kept expanding and threatened to reach her position since they were following her spell.

The expert had to dodge. Lady Lena cut her connection with the tide and shot higher in the sky while dragging her underlings with her. The trio was unable to think properly with Noah's aura filling the environment. They could only stare at the sky in wonder.

The flames expanded until they covered the entire Rumbling Region. Any magical plant or beast with power near the bottom of the middle tier or below died under the violence of Noah's ability.

The energy contained in their bodies then converged toward the source of the flames. The powerful beings in the area couldn't understand what was happening, but they decided to hold back their offensive when they heard a draconic roar spreading through the landmass.

The fire shrunk after it consumed everything that it could. Lady Lena observed the scene, and her eyes sharpened when she saw the shape of a cultivator appearing among the condensing flames.

"You have my gratitude," Noah said as he straightened his position.

His robe and body had reformed after the flames had taken all the available energy on the landmass. Lady Lena couldn't find a single injury on his body. Noah had returned to his previous condition, except that his cultivation level was in the liquid stage now.

"You won't be so grateful after I kill you again," Lady Lena answered as the upper part of the sky took a liquid form.

Noah limited himself to reveal a cold smile. The time for words was over. He only wanted to test his new power now.

A deafening roar came out of his mouth as he raised his head to the sky. He felt his ambition exploding. He sensed his need to turn the whole environment under his control.

Noah had never sensed such intense power. Every inch of his body cheered, and his mind expanded. The world around him transformed due to the aura that he released. Black lines appeared in its fabric and strengthened its structure.

His ambition was raging energy that forced everything to evolve. Impurities began to fall from the landmass, and the surviving creatures in the area neared the battlefield to bathe in his aura.

The magical beasts and plants could sense Noah's ambition's beneficial properties, and they didn't hesitate to get closer to his influence. Even Lady Lena felt compelled to let that individuality affect her tissues.

'I can do it in this state!' Noah thought as an ethereal figure took form inside his mind.

His thoughts surged to give birth to a six-legged spider. A massive amount of mental energy flowed inside that figure and filled it with rules and orders. The creature soon took life and flew inside the mental sea to join the other runes.

Lady Lena suppressed her desire to bathe in Noah's ambition and waved her hand. The scarlet water accumulated above her separated to form a series of torrents that fell toward Noah. The whole sky converged toward him, but he didn't feel the slightest danger at that sight.

The Demonic Sword roared as Noah waved it. The blade seemed heavy. It was as if it carried the weight of the whole world while it slashed toward the falling torrents.

Lady Lena's mind screamed in fear, and she quickly performed an evasive maneuver to dodge the incoming attack. When she turned to inspect her ability, she saw that a large chunk of her scarlet sea had disappeared and that black lines were expanding from that spot.

A dangerous sensation suddenly appeared next to her, and her remaining waves immediately converged in that spot. A tall Pterodactyl became visible when the torrent crashed on its body.

Lady Lena suddenly sensed another threat. A dark beam was flying in her direction, and her instincts told her that she couldn't block it. She had to perform another evasive maneuver to dodge that attack. Still, the danger sensed by his mind didn't disappear even after the violent dark matter missed her.

A slash appeared on her path while she flew through the sky. Lady Lena didn't have the time to dodge that attack, so a large cut opened on her body when she touched the black line.

"Damned beast!" Lady Lena shouted, and her blood flowed out of her injury to fight against Noah's slash.

A slash-like wave came out of the cut and destroyed Noah's attack. Lady Lena's blood also fused with the environment and transformed a large chunk of the sky into a shining sea.

Noah didn't remain still during his offensive. He had flown after Lady Lena when Snore forced her to dodge. He was already behind her by the time she created the sea again.

Noah performed a lunge, but her Demonic Sword met an invisible barrier before it could reach Lady Lena's back. The air between him and his opponent had obtained liquid features and was protecting her from his attacks.

"What?" Lady Lena turned to show a mocking smile at Noah. "Did you think that power was everything for divine cultivators? You truly are a beast. This part of the sky already belongs to me."

Noah felt a massive pressure falling on his body. The air had become invisible water that crashed on his figure and tried to squeeze him to death.

The scarlet water above Lady Lena began to rotate while Noah remained stuck inside the invisible tides. A dense column grew out of the massive whirlpool and converged in her hand.

Lady Lena threw her edge of the column toward Noah. It was only as big as a man's fist on that end, but it rotated quickly and began to dig Noah's skin when it landed on him.

The attack consumed water, but Lady Lena had connected the column to the liquid sky above her. That attack could theoretically be endless in that situation. It wouldn't stop until it pierced Noah.

'This suppression is similar to my dark world,' Noah thought as his smile widened.

He was in danger. Lady Lena was the strongest opponent that he had ever met. However, he couldn't hold back his happiness. The power that ran through his body made him feel ecstatic.

Still, Lady Lena's aura was starting to suppress his individuality. Her endlessness seemed able to overwhelm his ambition. Noah grew weaker with each second that he passed in that situation.

Noah's black hole rotated faster than ever. Cracks appeared in the liquid air as dark matter flowed inside his black veins and pushed his physical might above his natural limits.

Lady Lena could suppress his individuality thanks to her experience in the liquid stage, but she couldn't restrain him. Noah's hand slowly took the form of a claw and slashed toward the column.

Noah's movement was slow, but it managed to launch a slash that severed the column and forced Lady Lena to retreat.

The Crystal City's expert didn't let go of her control of the area during her retreat. She continued to make pressure and attacks converge on Noah, but a dense black gas came out of his chest and forced its way through her domain.

Lady Lena's individuality was still stronger than Noah's dark matter, but a violent beam and a shadow flew behind her and forced her to dodge again. During that instant of distraction, the dark world reached her and enveloped her figure.

Chapter 1365 1365. Stronger

Lady Lena couldn't do anything as the dark world enveloped her. The dark matter stole that area's ownership from her, and its influence began to suppress her individuality.

However, her aura seeped out of her figure and gave birth to raging waves that slowly created a safe zone around her. Even inside the dark world, Lady Lena expressed her individuality and turned part of the environment into her domain.

The safe area wasn't big, but it continuously expanded as her azure waves pressed on the dark world. Lady Lena could only affect a four square meters wide zone, but her individuality was slowly enlarging it.

Shadows moved inside the dark world. Lady Lena couldn't see much. Her senses were dull due to the suppression of Noah's technique. Yet, she could feel that something was brewing inside that darkness.

Noah didn't think. He let his instincts drive his actions against that powerful foe. He had yet to become used to his new power, so only his vast battle experience could make him express a decent prowess.

Lady Lena was stronger than him. Her individuality alone could fend off Noah's ambition and the dark world at the same time. She was an expert who had learnt how to use her liquid stage prowess.

Instead, Noah had to bring himself on the verge of death to achieve that power. He didn't even know what would happen when the effects of his ambition ran out. Everything that was happening to him was new and unclear.

Still, his condition didn't change his intentions. Noah had to deal with Lady Lena and all his pursuers. He had to win that battle to establish his place in the Immortal Lands.

Mental energy flowed inside the spider-shaped ethereal figure that he had completed after his empowerment and came out of his mind to fuse with the dark world. The dark matter around him became tense after those orders seeped into its fabric, and creatures quickly took form under his attentive gaze.

Noah saw a giant six-legged spider appearing among the dark world. Dark matter made the entirety of its body, and simple instincts ruled its limbs. Its overall structure seemed quite fragile, but it moved and could act on its own.

A second spider appeared as the ethereal figure continued to affect the dark world. Small vortexes formed among the technique and gave birth to those creatures.

The dark matter only took a few minutes to create an army of spiders. Those creatures didn't even look at Noah. They directly shot toward Lady Lena once dozens of them had formed.

The dark world continued to create spiders that shot toward Lady Lena, and Noah followed them to join the assault. Those creatures couldn't win on their own. They contained power in the liquid stage, but their bodies' frailty made them too weak to defeat that threatening opponent.

Lady Lena's waves had continued to expand her domain, but she had to redirect her ability when she saw the spiders coming out of the dark world to assault her. Dozens of spiders recklessly charged in the area under her control and stretched their sharp limbs toward her figure.

The waves destroyed them before they could touch her, but the dark matter in their bodies filled her domain and gave part of the ownership back to Noah. Moreover, their assault seemed endless since more spiders jumped out of the darkness to attack her.

The dark world began to close on her figure as dark matter accumulated around her. Her waves continued to rage and destroy anything that came too close. Still, her methods lost against the endlessness of the beasts' tide.

Noah didn't let that chance go to waste. He waved his Demonic Sword to launch massive slashes that ran through the army of spiders and crashed on Lady Lena's safe area.

Snore and Night also joined the offensive. Dark beams flew through the dark world and crashed on Lady Lena's waves. The Pterodactyl used its speed to cut through that defensive ability and slowly create an opening in her technique.

It was a proper siege. Noah used all his abilities to create a flaw in Lady Lena's defense, and he seemed on the right path. Her waves were slowly giving in to Noah's attacks.

However, Lady Lena was a rank 7 cultivator in the liquid stage who had lived in the Immortal Lands for countless years. Her abilities didn't stop the activation of her individuality. She had techniques that Noah couldn't even begin to imagine.

Lady Lena closed her eyes, and the waves around her stopped moving. They remained still against Noah's offensive. They didn't even try to block his attacks.

The dark beams, the army of spiders, Night, and the slashes crashed on her figure, ripping her domain to pieces. The dark world soon came into contact with her skin, and a sense of weakness filled her existence as the technique suppressed her law.

Another series of attacks was about to land on her defenseless body. Noah could almost see his victory drawing closer. Yet, a blinding azure flash suddenly shone among the dark world and radiated energy that fended the technique back.

Pillars of light ran through the dark world and cut its fabric as they rotated around the expanding sphere that had replaced Lady Lena's figure.

Those pillars resembled swords capable of destroying Noah's technique, but he soon understood their true nature. He could sense Lady Lena's individuality inside them. They weren't blades. They were a threatening tide that had taken a condensed form.

The endless expanding waves had transformed after the activation of that technique. Their power had increased because Lady Lena had condensed them into a slim shape, making them able to pierce the ability that was trapping her.

The efforts exerted during that technique were substantial. Lady Lena's individuality could potentially be endless, and condensing its power into such an orderly form required all her concentration. Still, it also brought incredible results.

Noah saw his dark world crumbling under the power of an individuality that he couldn't stop. His strongest technique against cultivators couldn't do anything against Lady Lena. She was stronger than him, and no tricks seemed to work.

Noah looked around his crumbling dark matter. Parts of his dark world were still active, and that gave him the chance to continue his offensive for a while. After that, he would be in the open again, and she wouldn't fall prey to his technique so quickly at that time.

'I need to kill her here,' Noah concluded after allowing his mind to think again. 'The workshop, Snore, and Night will cover me. Those techniques usually have the same weakness, and I need to risk it.'

Snore formed next to him and spewed a wave of violent matter. The Demonic Sword left Noah's grasp and flew inside Night to shot toward the spherical structure together. The remaining dark matter transformed to give birth to an army of spiders that ran toward the threatening opponent.

Noah was still holding the disposable puppet back, but he found no reason to use it there. The surface of Lady Lena's technique could barely contain his companions' attacks. The spiders had managed to join because Noah didn't care if they fell during the offensive.

Then, he shot forward, right behind the army of spiders. He would use them as a shield to reach the central sphere and give Lady Lena a demonstration of the power inherited from the magical beasts' world.

Chapter 1366 1366. Holes

Lady Lena's pillars didn't attack randomly. She had initially focused on the dark world due to that technique's annoying properties, but she redirected her condensed tides toward the incoming offensive when she sensed it.

The pillars curved as they moved toward the dark beam, the army of spiders, and Night. The Pterodactyl was the only asset fast enough to dodge them, but Lady Lena's technique managed to slow down its advance anyway.

The spiders couldn't do anything. The workshop wasn't complete since Noah had yet to add cores to its creations, so the creatures exploded into a wave of dark matter when the pillars hit them.

The dark beam could continue to fly forward even when multiple pillars converged on its position. Still, Lady Lena soon focused on that ability and made most of her dense tide target it.

Snore's innate ability eventually stopped moving, and the endlessness carried by Lady Lena's individuality made the pillars pierce that violent dark matter. The dense tides soon reached the Blood Companion's head and destroyed it.

Noah's sensed Snore's pain, but he didn't help it. The Blood Companion had performed its role flawlessly. Lady Lena had used most of her pillars to stop its incredible ability, and that gave Noah the chance to reach her.

The same went for Night. The Pterodactyl could finally move freely when the pillars converged on Snore, and its figure soon appeared above Lady Lena. The creature disappeared to attack the defensive sphere, and the Demonic Sword remained outside to slash at the same target.

The army of spiders reached the azure sphere an instant later. Every grain of dark matter in the area had transformed into those simple creatures and given birth to hundreds of specimens. Lady Lena found herself surrounded by a swarm of reckless magical beasts that assaulted her defense without hesitation.

The pillars moved to fend off the spiders and slow down the blade's offensive, but a crack suddenly opened on her sphere. Her tide immediately flowed to fix it, but Noah appeared there and stabbed his hands on the edge of the fissure.

Corrosive smoke and dark matter flowed out of his chest to create his two layers of armor. He took the form of a fiendish creature that pulled with its claws to widen the breach created through Night's efforts.

Lady Lena wanted to launch another ability, but the corrosive smoke seeped through the crack and forced her to activate another defensive technique. Her skin began to glow with azure light, and the Demonic Form found itself unable to touch it.

Yet, using that defensive spell had given Noah the time to muster his strength. His clawed fingers stabbed the endless waves and forced them apart as he pulled with both his arms.

Noah could feel an immense force piercing the armor on his hands and digging through his skin. Injuries appeared on his body again, but he was so focused that he barely sensed them.

Lady Lena felt alarmed when she saw that her tides couldn't stop Noah's physical strength. They never stopped flowing, but they couldn't defend against the physical strength of a monster.

Noah widened the crack and used his claws to tear pieces of that azure sphere. Most of them vanished in the distance after Noah threw them into the scarlet flames above. Still, a few exploded in his hands and unleashed all the power that they were capable of.

The explosions almost flung Noah's away, but the army of spiders and his physical might allowed him to hold his position. Lady Lena felt terrified at that sight. Not even some of her strongest abilities could deal with Noah's immense strength.

When Noah felt that he had enough room to attack, he lunged with his stretched claws directly toward the expert's throat. He wanted to kill her in one blow.

Lady Lena didn't let that happen. The tides around her exploded and deviated Noah's arm, which stabbed her chest. The wound was deep and her from side to side, but it was pointless against a cultivator at her level.

The heart was nothing more than an organ that pumped blood. Cultivators could easily patch those injuries with "Breath" and mental energy until they could focus on healing properly.

Noah tried to move his arm to rip her chest into shreds, but a heavy pressure suddenly landed on his body and kept him stuck in that position. He found himself unable even to open his mouth.

"Too late," Lady Lena said as a smile appeared on her face.

Blood flowed out of her mouth and injuries, but she didn't appear concerned. She only wanted to mock Noah's efforts to beat someone who had a cultivation level above his.

Coldness came out of Noah's fiendish figure when she saw her reaction. His reptilian eyes studied her, and a strategy soon appeared in his mind.

The spiders began to explode as soon as Noah had that idea. The pillars had destroyed the dark world, but nothing stopped Noah from unfolding his technique again.

His reserve of dark matter was virtually endless. He could chain attacks as long as Lady Lena didn't manage to fling him away.

The dark matter spread in the environment again, but the pressure quickly landed on it and forced it to remain still after it moved for a few seconds.

Under that suppression, the dark matter couldn't rebuild the dark world, and it couldn't produce more spiders. It couldn't even apply any defense against Lady Lena's attacks. It was simple black smoke that carried Noah's individuality.

"This is the end, beast," Lady Lena said as pillars came out from the remains of her azure sphere and landed on Noah.

Noah held strong, but the pillars soon pierced his skin and ravaged his insides. Two large holes formed on his torso and those wounds enlarged as the rotating attacks moved toward his head.

Lady Lena could see her victory, but a dark beam suddenly landed on her and pushed her higher into the sky. Noah kept his fingers stretched and sealed his grasp only when her dantian landed on his palm. A rain of blood followed the act, and screams of pain echoed in the environment.

Noah raised his head and saw Lady Lena standing among flames with power in the upper tier. Snore had used the dark matter released by the spider to form its head and launch a final attack against Lady Lena.

The expert still had her azure shield active under her feet, but the violent dark matter carried so much might that it pushed Lady Lena directly into the sky.

Since Noah had his clawed hand stabbed in her chest, he could seize her dantian as the dark beam flung her above. The shining organ was in his palm, and he didn't hesitate to eat it.

Noah still feared for his condition. He didn't know what had happened with his ambition, but he couldn't risk running out of power now.

A series of presences appeared in the distance, but Noah couldn't care less about them. He unfolded his dark world again and spewed black flames to weaken the fire in the sky and heal the deep injuries on his torso.

Lady Lena screamed when she saw her dantian ending up in Noah's mouth, but no sound came out of her mouth when he flew through his flames to grab her and bring her back to the ground.

Chapter 1367 1367. Insult

Countless burns filled Lady Lena's body as he stood on her knees on the dark-red ground. Noah's skin had also burned when he flew through the sparse tongue of flames with power in the upper tier, but his techniques and resilience had allowed him to suffer fewer injuries.

Moreover, his flames had burned part of the scarlet fire in the middle tier and had brought nutrients back to his body. His injuries had mostly healed by the time he returned to the ground. Holes remained on his skin and muscles, but his internal organs were fine.

Intense energy surged inside Noah. Lady Lena's dantian contained "Breath" in the liquid stage, and he had never eaten something so nutrient. Every cell of his body rejoiced when the black hole transformed that power and redirected to his tissues.

Noah didn't let that feeling distract him. Lady Lena had lost her dantian, but she remained a divine cultivator. She could easily survive without that center of power.

"The Crystal City won't forget this insult," Lady Lena said in a weak voice as she raised her head to stare at her opponent.

Even without a dantian, her eyes continued to carry the fanatical belief of the Crystal City. Her expression didn't show any weakness. She still believed herself to be better than Noah.

Noah's gaze was cold when he inspected her. She respected Lady Lena and felt slightly grateful for the power that she had managed to bring out of him.

He didn't know what would happen when his ambition ran out, but he already treasured the experience gained in that battle. Lady Lena had allowed him to taste the fights among liquid stage cultivators, and she had also shown him how to use an individuality properly.

"You have caused this mess for a stupid oath," Noah said as the fiendish armor vanished, and he wrapped his hand around her head. "If I ever obtain enough power, I will destroy the Crystal City with my own hands."

Noah didn't immediately tighten his grasp around her head. New presences had arrived when he brought Lady Lena back to the ground, so he wanted to understand if he could use her as a hostage.

A group of familiar cultivators accompanied Zach, Gil, and Kathleen on the ground. Noah felt surprised when he recognized Chief Ash and some guards among those new arrivals.

"Are you with the Crystal City?" Noah asked as he studied that new group.

Chief Ash was with ten gaseous stage cultivators that stared at him with wide eyes. They appeared weaker than the Crystal City's experts, but their number made them annoying to deal with.

The Crystal City's trio slowly regained their awareness, and shock filled their expressions when they saw Noah holding Lady Lena's head. They couldn't understand how the situation had turned in that way, and anger built inside them. Yet, they didn't dare to make a move with their leader in that condition.

Chief Ash was the most surprised of them all. She had met Noah only a few years ago, but the aura that he radiated was completely different after that battle. His cultivation level also shocked her. She couldn't understand how someone could advance so quickly.

"Don't kill her," Chief Ash said. "It won't solve anything. The Crystal City will only send more assassins against you."

"Then, my situation won't change either way," Noah replied in a cold voice. "Why are you here? My bounty should be quite new, so you left Vagona city for other reasons."

Chief Ash's gaze became cold when she saw Noah's confidence. He had battled with a liquid stage expert right after a breakthrough. He had to be exhausted, but he still appeared convinced in his ability to survive.

"I have personal business with you," Chief Ash said. "We have marched in the Land of the Fallen to interrogate you. We came in possession of your wanted poster by chance."

Noah snorted when he heard that. He shot toward the other members of the Crystal City without letting go of Lady Lena's head. When he reached them, his free hand darted and seized the trio's dantians.

Zach, Gil, and Kathleen were powerless in that situation. Noah's aura made them lose focus and rendered them unable to react to his attack.

Noah threw the dantians in his mouth before waving his hand. The trio's heads exploded after that gesture. Three gaseous stage cultivators died in an instant.

Wielding power in the liquid stage made Noah almost unbeatable in that situation, and he wanted to exploit it for as long as it lasted. He would deal with the drawbacks of his ambition after he solved the issues that surrounded him.

His attack was a pure show of strength. Chief Ash's group didn't react to his actions even if he was killing potential allies. Still, the expressions of those guards didn't reveal any deep affiliation with the Crystal City. Noah saw a chance to leave without fighting at that sight.

"Why did you do it?" Chief Ash asked.

"No one comes in possession of my wanted poster by chance," Noah explained. "Who are you? Why are you eligible for these types of information?"

Chief Ash gulped when she heard those words. Noah knew far more than she expected. It seemed that he had already established important connections in the Immortal Lands.

"Our guild can take care of many jobs," Chief Ash explained. "We obtained the poster due to our connections with a secret organization. We aren't members, but it still asks if we want to."

"Why did you refuse?" Noah asked.

He felt curious about the whole situation at that point. Ideally, the secret organization could offer many benefits, especially for an expert at Chief Ash's level. She even had a few troops. Her situation inside that force would be far better than Fergie's.

"We didn't refuse," Chief Ash replied. "We negotiated the terms of our affiliation, but we have to complete some missions to obtain the benefits that we requested. One includes the capture of a cultivator that you seem to have connections with."

Noah couldn't understand what she was saying. He had just reached the Immortal Lands. His only real connection was Fergie, but his level was too low to be part of a mission connected to benefits.

"I will explain everything if you let Lady Lena go," Chief Ash added. "I will even share the reward for bringing her back with you."

Chief Ash felt quite sure about her words. She had chosen them carefully, creating both curiosity and a possible reward. Yet, Noah suddenly tightened his grasp and destroyed her head. Lady Lena died without even understanding what had triggered Noah's behavior.

"Why did you do it?!" Chief Ash asked. "She is an important member of countless troops, small organizations, and the Crystal City itself. No deal will protect you now. You can only join an organization with more power and hope that they will protect you."

"I was going to kill her anyway," Noah replied while shrugging his shoulders. "Now, name of the cultivator. I want to understand this connection."

Chief Ash struggled to come up with a decision. She didn't want to reveal that name for multiple reasons. She preferred to have Noah as an ally, and discovering that he had a connection with her enemy would ruin her plans. Still, lying to him wouldn't work in that situation. Only the truth would work with him.

"Have you ever heard of the name Divine Demon?" Chief Ash asked.

Chapter 1368 1368. Cooperation

Hearing that name made Noah's mind go back in time, to when he was only a human cultivator inside the Chasing Demon sect.

Obtaining Divine Demon's inheritance had brought Noah immense benefits. The Divine Deduction technique had been a core aspect of his entire journey, and the Copying Technique had allowed the Hive to seize political relevance.

Divine Demon was also the creator of the Demon Sects. He was a complete monster who could excel both in the inscription field and on the battlefield.

According to the stories told by the other Demons, Divine Demon was ruthless and overbearing. He would even throw his disciples into packs of dragons to test their potential.

Noah didn't feel surprised that the expert had made a few enemies. He had done the same right after his ascension in the end. Yet, he didn't expect to hear his name in that situation.

Chief Ash noticed the changes in Noah's expression when he heard that name. Noah rarely failed to mask his reactions, but he couldn't help himself there.

Divine Demon's name was too valuable for him. Noah was his heir and the leader who had brought the Demon Sects back to the peak of the lower plane. Saying that he had a connection with that expert couldn't explain the entirety of that relationship.

"Do you know where he is now?" Chief Ash asked.

She had confirmed that Noah knew Divine Demon, and that changed her situation. Noah had suddenly become the key to obtain an advantageous position inside the secret organization. Roping him in had become her priority.

Noah shook his head while wearing a cold expression. He had no reason to lie, but he felt that he could exploit that situation to his advantage.

The drawbacks of his ambition would eventually arrive, so he had to find a solution to that stall. The vagueness of his current power made him unwilling to fight again. Still, he didn't want to let go of that chance.

"Are you allies?" Chief Ash asked with a tinge of annoyance.

She could understand what Noah was doing, but she had no way to stop it. Chief Ash also wanted to avoid a fight after witnessing Noah's recklessness. She didn't know how far he was willing to go to remain alive.

"I only heard legends about him in the lower plane," Noah replied. "We don't have any relationship. His name had survived after his ascension, and I've heard it a few times."

"Why do you share the name Demon then?" Chief Ash continued.

"He started this tradition," Noah replied. "It's nothing more than a name used to label troublesome cultivators."

Chief Ash felt disappointed when she heard that. She didn't have great hopes, but she expected to gain something from a cultivator who had ascended from the same plane.

Noah was now useless in her eyes when it came to the search for Divine Demon. He was only a cultivator with a bounty on his head that she wanted to recruit in her force.

Silence fell in the area after that last exchange of lines. Both sides didn't know what to do. They only knew that they wanted to avoid a battle.

"Don't you want one million Soul Stones?" Noah taunted Chief Ash at some point.

He wanted to hurry her to decide, but his words did not affect the expert. Chief Ash didn't let Noah distract her.

'I'm only wasting time here,' Noah thought before turning toward the tallest mountain on the Rumbling Region and setting off.

"Where are you going?" Chief Ash quickly asked.

"I don't have time to waste," Noah said as he glanced at the group still on the ground. "Contact me when you decide what you want."

A small amount of mental energy flowed inside his inscribed notebook and shot toward Chief Ash. She could now contact him even if he couldn't.

"Do you want to hunt him down together?" Chief Ash asked before Noah could turn again.

"Does he have anything valuable?" Noah asked while doing his best to hide his true intentions.

An unsightly expression appeared on her face, and her underlings reacted in the same way. They would feel surges of anger whenever they thought about that arrogant expert.

"Divine Demon has become famous quickly," Chief Ash began to explain. "He has shown immense talent in the inscription halls, he has seized multiple inheritances, and his growth speed has shocked many organizations. He is like you, an expert that any force wishes to have."

Noah didn't feel surprised about that, but he remained interested in her speech. After all, he wanted to know how Divine Demon had managed to become an enemy of the secret organization.

"The secret organization has invited him twice," Chief Ash continued. "Divine Demon has refused the first invitation and killed the messenger on the second one. He has survived multiple assassinations afterward and even destroyed some of the hidden bases of this hidden force. Our team isn't the first one sent to take care of him."

'We ended up doing the same things,' Noah thought as he laughed internally.

Divine Demon thought like him. They were both experts who suited that label, and their talent made them experience the same struggles.

"It's safe to say that his wealth is considerable," Chief Ash concluded. "We even suspect that some forces use him to solve some of their problems. The rumors say that he can optimize any inscription and improve every technique."

'The original Divine Deduction technique!' Noah exclaimed in his mind.

He was the only one in the world to know how Divine Demon could be so valuable even among talents. Noah also carried the Divine Deduction technique, but he had yet to obtain the power to modify it.

The same wouldn't be true for that mighty expert. Noah felt sure that Divine Demon had improved his iconic technique and had brought it to a superior level.

If Noah had to be completely honest, he wanted to meet Divine Demon. Interacting with powerful experts usually benefitted his individuality, and he felt deep gratitude toward that expert.

However, cultivators could change during their lives, especially after the ascension. The new environment gave everyone the chance to start again, and Noah didn't know if Divine Demon had seized it.

Noah didn't want to meet Divine Demon and find that he didn't care about his heir. That would only put Noah in danger. The unknown made everything connected to that expert quite foggy.

"Do you know where he is now?" Noah asked after a few seconds of silence.

"We have hints and traces," Chief Ash answered.

Noah thought for a while before giving a conclusive answer. "I can join you in the search for Divine Demon, but I want some rewards upfront. Moreover, I want to explore the Hellish Landscape properly before leaving the Land of the Fallen."

Chief Ash understood that she couldn't obtain a better deal in that situation. She couldn't force Noah, and she needed manpower for the task anyway. As for the rewards, she would come up with something later.

"Deal," Chief Ash said. "We will leave the Land of the Fallen and wait for you in Silkpost city. We will set off to find and hunt Divine Demon after you leave this place."

Chapter 1369 1369. Underground room

Noah watched as Chief Ash ordered her underlings to retreat. The gaseous stage cultivators didn't hesitate to leave the Rumbling Region, and she followed them after she sent an imprint of her inscribed notebook to him.

They could contact each other now, so they didn't mind that temporary separation. Their deal was already in place. They only had to respect it now.

Noah couldn't leave the Hellish Landscape right away. He wanted to explore that separate dimension and evaluate his condition before throwing himself into a new adventure.

Even if Divine Demon could turn out to be his enemy, Noah wanted to meet him. Still, he had to complete a few preparations against him and Chief Ash's group.

Chief Ash didn't mention Divine Demon's cultivation level, but Noah could guess that he was somewhere around the last stage of the seventh rank. An opponent capable of such might required Noah's full attention, especially since he had to travel with many potential enemies.

Noah flew toward the mountain that released lightning bolts. A cavity appeared in his vision when he reached the peak, and orange flashes shone from time to time from its depths.

He didn't have any information about that inheritance. His map was vague and only mentioned that the lightning bolts would become more frequent inside it. It didn't say anything about eventual trials and rewards.

Noah entered the cavity and walked for a few hours toward its depths. The ground there had a bright red color, and multiple holes filled its surface.

It seemed that someone had dug out pieces of that cave in the past. Noah didn't know if that had been the work of a single cultivator. Still, that scene confirmed the absence of valuable resources in the initial parts of the inheritance.

Noah didn't continue to march deeper inside the cave after that discovery. He sat on the ground and focused his attention on his centers of power.

His ambition had made all his organs improve. His dantian was in the liquid stage, his body had reached the middle tier, and his mental walls had become tougher. It was as if he had gone through multiple breakthroughs at the same time.

That would typically make him ecstatic. Yet, worry filled his mind when he saw how quickly he had advanced. The drawbacks of his ambition would eventually arrive, and their intensity would depend on how much he had improved with his individuality.

The drawbacks after such growth could render him unable to move for entire decades, but there seemed to be something strange about that empowerment. His cultivation level didn't start to decrease even after hours had passed.

'Can I make these breakthroughs permanent?' Noah wondered as he inspected his condition.

His ambition had forced him to reach a level of power that he was ready to wield. His new state only gave him more power and influence over the world, which made him hope to turn that empowerment into a permanent condition.

'I've eaten four dantian already,' Noah thought. 'I shouldn't need energy. What I need is for my black hole to understand that I don't want to let go of my current power.'

Noah turned toward the depths of the cave at that point. Only his black hole had the power to influence the effects of his individuality, so he wanted to improve it before the drawbacks arrived.

The lightning bolts released by the inheritance could make his tissues evolve. In theory, they had the power to improve his black hole even if it was quite protective. It didn't want to use the energy in the sparks as they were. It absorbed them and redirected them in the shape of primary energy.

'I need to make them work together,' Noah concluded as he stood up and walked deeper into the cave.

A lightning bolt eventually ran through the ground, and Noah's hand shot toward it after assessing its power. That massive orange spark couldn't reach the outside world since he seized it when it tried to cross him.

The lightning bolt threatened to shatter after Noah took it from the ground. The violent energy contained in that attack wanted to disperse, so he ate it before it could lose its power.

The meal didn't provide any immediate benefit. That lightning bolt had power in the middle tier. The energy that it contained was lower than what Noah had tasted before.

Still, his black hole reacted to the strange aura radiated by the lightning bolt and stored part of its energy when it purified what it contained. The primary energy that filled his tissues didn't feel different, but it didn't match the amount of power in that attack.

His fourth center of power kept part of that energy to improve, but the process seemed slow. Noah could only think of a method to quicken that empowerment, which involved gathering more lightning bolts.

Noah marched deeper inside the cave and seized every lightning bolt that he found. They didn't seem to surpass the middle tier in power, so the journey toward the first large underground room ended up being uneventful.

When the underground room unfolded in Noah's eyes, he saw that a crackling lake occupied its floor. Countless sparks filled the base of that area, but they didn't hinder his advance since a large tunnel dug right through them and connected the room to the deeper parts of the cave.

'Someone has been here already,' Noah thought as he inspected the sparks.

The lightning bolts that ran through the area above the floor had a different power. Most of them were in the lower tier, but a few thicker ones were in the upper tier.

Noah guessed that he couldn't seize any reward there, but his interest lingered on the lightning bolts. Those attacks carried the expert's peculiar individuality, and no amount of wealth could compare to the chance of improving his power.

'I hope they still send me the information if I end up spending too long on this place,' Noah thought before walking toward the lightning bolts and sitting among their crackling noises.

Lightning bolts landed on Noah's body and tried to fuse with his tissues. Yet, the black hole always stopped their energy from fueling his cells directly. The fourth center of power didn't accept anything that didn't first pass through its dense vortex.

The same strange phenomenon as before continued to happen. The black hole retained part of the absorbed energy to study its properties and improve its state.

Noah didn't sense anything different at the beginning, but the black hole eventually began to spin faster. More energy flowed inside it, and less energy reached the rest of his body. It seemed that the fourth center of power was preparing itself for some mysterious event.

The lake of lightning bolts shrunk as Noah continued to absorb that energy. The sparks in the upper tier even separated themselves to refill the hall with threats on a weaker level, and Noah could only rejoice at that sight.

The hall was a proper stash of that strange energy, and he couldn't wait to absorb all of it. He even felt that his drawbacks were about to arrive, so he didn't dare to waste time.

Chapter 1370 1370. Permanent growth

Noah continued to absorb the lightning bolts, but a tremor ran through his mind when he sensed that his cultivation level began to fall. The weakening process was slow but constant. The effects of his ambition had eventually run out.

The event made his worry increase and forced him to quicken the absorption of the lightning bolts. His weakening aura filled the underground hall while carrying intense destruction. Some of the sparks transformed into primary energy even before entering his body.

Noah felt in a rush. Every fiber of his body clung to his power and struggled to fight the weakening process affecting every tissue. Even his mind began to feel dull since it lost its grip on the superior understanding that it had reached after the battle with Lady Lena.

The black hole spun faster as it continued to store energy. It didn't send anything to his body and kept every nutrient for itself. Noah's worry had influenced it and was forcing it to work faster.

A vague sense of completeness filled his mind at some point. Noah didn't completely understand what was happening, but he remained speechless when he saw that his black hole's rotations were slowing down.

He initially thought that the process had failed, but a dense wave of energy suddenly came out of his black hole and flowed toward every part of his body. Dark matter also enveloped his insides and forced the weakening process to a stop.

Noah lost his connection with the outside world when the dark matter filled him. His vision went dark, and no sound reached his ears. He also stopped feeling the toughness of the ground. The black hole had cut him away from any external input.

Then, shining dust-like energy started to flow out of the dark matter and enter all his tissues. Noah felt an intense surge of energy enveloping his whole body and affecting his other centers of power. The black hole had triggered a peculiar process, and he could only observe its effects in that situation.

Waves of energy filled his insides. Those nutrients entered his tissues and forced them to evolve. Noah had already reached a state of high-perfection after the continuous purifications of his black hole, but that transformation seemed to push him across the half-step that he had yet to complete.

His nails slightly grew, and the icy-blue light radiated by his reptilian eyes intensified. Minute bits of impurities came out of his pores, and more dark vessels grew under his skin.

His muscles bulged, and his internal organs began to work faster. A sense of clarity also unfolded as that energy nourished his mind. Noah could finally analyze his transformation thoroughly, and he liked what he was witnessing.

The black hole had learnt from the expert's aura. It had found ways to improve its purification and optimize the division and type of nutrients that the tissues had to receive. It had used the individuality carried by the lightning bolts to improve.

The fourth center of power had depleted most of the energy absorbed in the room to perform that research, but it could now reveal its benefits. Noah felt at the very peak of the food chain when he sensed those nutrients improving his tissues. He could sense that the black hole was polishing his already incredible species.

Most of the energy redirected toward his other tissues went on his dantian. The black hole understood that his ambition's drawbacks were about to endanger his centers of power, so it did its best to stabilize its structure.

His dantian could contain liquid darkness in its current state, but the weakening process wanted to bring its power back in the gaseous stage. Yet, the black hole tried to set Noah's new level as the foundation of his power. There was a chance to make those breakthroughs permanent, so it didn't hold back anything to succeed in the task.

Noah began to feel hungry as the improvement continued. His focus remained on his dantian. He saw the dark matter releasing massive quantities of primary energy that fused with his organ and tried to detach it from the after-effects of his ambition.

His dantian soon began to shrink again, and the same went for his other centers of power. Noah was losing his power, and he could only hope that his black hole's solution would work.

As nutrients flowed in his dantian, the organ stopped shrinking and modified its structure according to the properties carried by the primary energy.

The black hole was stuffing energy inside his dantian to force it to remain at that level. Stopping the drawbacks seemed impossible, so it tried to create a checkpoint where the weakening had to stop.

Silent hours went by in complete darkness. Noah couldn't sense anything coming from the outside world, so he focused his whole attention on his insides.

The weakening continued. Noah saw his dantian reaching the bottom of the liquid stage and threatening to collapse, but its structure suddenly stabilized and stopped suffering from the drawbacks of his ambition. The same went for his body and mind. The black hole had succeeded.

His body's level reached the bottom of the middle tier and stopped falling. His mind tried to collapse on itself, but the energy that flowed inside its mental walls halted that process.

Noah had yet to realize it fully, but he had broken a record of the Immortal Lands. He had reached the liquid stage in mere decades. His ambition and his black hole had succeeded in making him defy common sense once again.

'My black hole has turned my potential into actual power,' Noah thought as the outside world reappeared in his senses.

His ambition was a strange power that allowed him to fulfill his potential, but it worked as a secret technique that applied hefty prices to his empowerment. Yet, the black hole had managed to transform that temporary boost into permanent growth.

'This can become an alternative to my cultivation technique,' Noah thought as he reviewed what had happened since his first exchange with Lady Lena.

It made sense for his ambition to improve his power, and it wasn't strange for that growth to be permanent either. That was the whole point of his individuality. It could transform potential into actual strength.

However, it was tricky to use. Noah had almost died against Lady Lena, and he had needed to deploy his black flames before that exchange happened to obtain those effects.

What had happened to his centers of power wasn't the result of a proper technique. It was a sum of multiple abilities that could pair their effects to create something that most cultivators would label as miraculous.

Noah wanted to replicate that effect and transform it into a technique. Yet, he couldn't experiment with that procedure, and his mind warned him about his lack of potential to use it.

He had already reached the level of power that he deserved. If he wanted to go through that procedure again, he had to understand and wield the power hidden behind the higher stages.

Noah felt hungry and tired after that procedure, but his tests had just begun. His first consisted in seeing if his ambition could raise his cultivation level again, and the answer to that doubt was a loud "no". He couldn't even activate his individuality in his current condition.

'I see,' Noah concluded. 'Increasing the influence of my ambition gives me potential. I can use it to improve my power through normal training sessions or to be reborn as a stronger being every time.'

Noah didn't linger for too long on that mental discussion with himself. He set off toward the deeper parts of the cave. There was an inheritance in front of him, and he couldn't wait to seize rewards.