

DEMONIC 1391

Chapter 1391 1391. Party

"Why would you have any interest in that place?" Ian asked after he heard Divine Demon's request. "Even the Legion doesn't dare to enter it carelessly."

Noah's curiosity for that place increased when he saw Ian's reaction. He had already decided that he wanted to visit it since Divine Demon had requested his help to enter it.

The Demon didn't explain the nature of that place, but Noah could guess that it could bring him massive benefits. Divine Demon wouldn't even try to enter it otherwise.

"Supreme Thief's inheritance belongs to every race," Divine Demon replied. "I contacted the Legion once already, and I retreated peacefully in front of its refusal. I came in peace once again, but I brought my heir this time."

Ian appeared to be conflicted about the matter. His eyes moved between Noah and Divine Demon, but he didn't seem able to find a proper answer.

Noah understood that Ian's thoughts didn't linger only on Divine Demon's request. The leader was pondering about multiple matters at the same time, and one of them involved Noah.

It wasn't hard to guess why Ian was interested in Noah. He had shown his excellent battle prowess already. It wasn't a surprise that the team leader wanted to recruit him.

"I don't have the power to give this authorization," Ian eventually replied.

"Then contact someone who has it," Divine Demon continued.

"It's not that simple," Ian answered. "I might intercede to award a visit to your heir, but I can't explain the situation properly from her when it comes to you. I would need to bring you to one of the leaders for that."

"I don't mind meeting your leaders," Divine Demon said before giving voice to a short laugh.

"But I mind bringing you to our cities," Ian promptly replied. "The humans will eventually migrate to these lands once the magical beasts resume their invasion. I don't want to give your side valuable information, and we all know how easy it is to break an oath."

Noah memorized the last part of that line. He had yet to improve his connections with the various aspects of the human society of the higher plane, so he was still unaware of what was normal in that place.

Learning that breaking oaths was possible and easy made him feel quite relieved, even a bit surprised. He had yet to find a shop that sold inscribed items capable of such feats, but he quickly suspected the involvement of the inscription halls in the matter.

"You don't have to worry about that," Divine Demon replied. "The secret organization, the Monneay family, and many smaller forces already see me as an enemy. My heir has even clashed with the Crystal

City. We don't work with the human side unless it offers greater rewards, and there is nothing greater than Supreme Thief's inheritance."

Noah's interest was shooting over the roof after hearing that name twice. An inheritance that Divine Demon held in such high regard had to be incredible, and he couldn't wait to enter it.

Ian shot a surprised glance toward Noah when he heard Divine Demon's words. His mouth even hung from his jaw while he studied him.

"What's the matter?" Noah asked when that stare became too intense.

"How did you anger the Crystal City?" Ian asked.

"They wanted me to swear an oath right after the beast tide," Noah explained. "I left, they chased me, I killed a few of them and left again. They then put a bounty on me, but I killed those that came after me too."

Noah said that as if it was the most normal thing in the world, but Ian could barely contain his surprise when he listened to him. His mouth opened even more as he learnt about Noah's messy arrival to the Immortal Lands.

"Did you really defeat the beast tide?" Ian asked.

"The other ascended hybrids can't?" Noah replied with a question.

Divine Demon soon exploded into a laugh as that interaction continued. Pride filled his aura when he saw the stupor that his heir could cause in that solid stage expert.

"They can't," Ian replied. "Most of them, at least. What do you think about joining the Legion? I guess you have already received an invitation since you caused so much trouble."

Noah nodded and took out the marked piece of wood, and Ian nodded at that sight. The Legion had experts hidden everywhere, and they often managed to invite the hybrids that arrived in landing zones outside of their control.

"I want to remain free at the moment," Noah replied, "But I don't mind reconsidering my position after I learn more about the Immortal Lands."

"That's understandable," Ian said before nodding a few times. "One last thing. You said that you killed members of the Crystal City. Can you tell me who exactly?"

"Lady Lena," Noah replied, mentioning the only noteworthy name among his victims.

Ian's expression froze after Noah's answer, and he quickly picked his inscribed notebook to contact someone. After he sent a mental message, he stood up and gestured to the duo to stand up.

"It seems that you have already performed a great feat for the Legion," Ian said as he escorted the duo outside the tent. "Lady Lena has killed many hybrids during her life with the Crystal City. Even if you did it for personal reasons, I can't ignore someone who has avenged our fallen companions."

"Will you bring us to the inheritance then?" Divine Demon said as a broad smile appeared on his face.

"No," Ian answered, "But I will bring you to someone who can approve you. I suggest you rethink this now if you have any hidden purpose. No one can lie to her, and she is merciless against the potential enemies of the Legion."

Noah glanced at Divine Demon, and he nodded to confirm his position. He didn't have any grudge with the Legion, and he had no interest in ruining that peaceful relationship for now. The duo would proceed with the mission as planned.

Once the three of them reached the center of the encampment, Ian raised his head to the sky and released a loud howl. That cry carried an immense joy that Noah and the other hybrids in the area could feel and share.

The howl also carried a simple meaning. It announced Lady Lena's death, and the other hybrids cheered when they heard that news.

Ian didn't mention that Noah was behind that feat to maintain his anonymity. It seemed that the expert wanted to keep Noah pleased at the moment, so he didn't cause any problem for him.

Chaos spread after Ian's howl. A dug a large hole in the azure ground while others removed the tents and threw them inside that pit. Then, those who could spit flames lit up the fabric in the hole and created a massive fire that illuminated the entire region.

Barrels of wine came out of their space-rings and landed around the fire. The hybrids roared and cried as they filled countless cups and drank without holding back.

The entire encampment was celebrating. Only the five solid stage experts remained on the sides, watching their happy underlings giving in to their beast sides and abandoning any form of decency belonging to their human part.

Chapter 1392 1392. Supreme Thief

The flames danced in Noah's eyes as he remained on the sides, watching the encampment celebrate Lady Lena's death. Wine never stopped flowing in the hybrids' cups, and countless cries ran through the region, scaring away any lifeform that had taken those lands as their home.

It was impossible to witness that scene among humans. Most of them had lost their ability to celebrate so wholeheartedly. Only cultivators in the weaker ranks could aim to replicate that type of party.

A banquet filled with conversations about individualities and similar topics was the most cultivators in the higher ranks would do as a celebration. It wasn't in their nature to engage in the activities happening in front of Noah and Divine Demon's eyes.

Divine Demon mostly laughed during the celebrations. He even sat near the hybrids at some point and took a few cups of their wine for himself. Instead, Noah remained on the sides. His caution didn't allow him to relax.

Suddenly, Noah began to miss June. He had been on his own for entire millennia, and the party made him aware of that.

Noah didn't mind being alone. He actually preferred it most of the time. Yet, he had allowed himself to feel, so he couldn't stop that tinge of longing from seeping out of his mental sea and filling his mind.

'Hurry up,' Noah thought when June's face appeared in his mind. 'I might go too far away if you don't reach the Immortal Lands soon.'

"Like what you see?" Jordan said as she approached Noah.

Her large robe had gotten loose during the celebrations, and her right shoulder was now in the open for everyone to see. Her amber skin shone as the scarlet flames danced in the area and mixed with the azure radiance released by the ground.

"It is a strange scene," Noah replied as he turned toward the fire. "My lower plane couldn't offer something like this."

"Most lower planes have that issue," Jordan said while also turning toward the fire. "You aren't the first to stare at this scene in surprise. There aren't many hybrids even in the vastness of Heaven and Earth's system."

"It's only fair for us to be a minority," Noah admitted. "The other species won't even exist if we didn't have this weakness."

"You don't seem the type to care about fairness," Jordan teased him.

"I only care about my power," Noah replied. "Everything else is circumstantial."

"Many hybrids were like you, but they eventually accepted the Legion as their home," Jordan continued. "You can live how you want and do whatever you desire, but you will always be part of this organization. No one else can understand you."

Noah didn't answer anymore. Jordan was right, but he didn't like the idea of joining an organization, especially when he didn't know anything about it.

"Don't deny your nature," Jordan continued. "There are so few hybrids already, and even less like us. Dragons with a human shape should stay close. We have the strongest blood running through our veins. It's a pity to spill it with no one nearby to lick it."

'Maybe one day,' Noah concluded in his mind as he watched Jordan leaving to rejoin the celebrations.

The hybrids went on for days, but Noah didn't watch the whole party. He left at some point and climbed one of the mountains nearby to resume his training.

The noises of the celebration reached his ears, and the light of the flames illuminated his body, but Noah ignored everything around him. Nothing existed when he was cultivating. His mind focused on his centers of power and cut off everything else.

Noah knew what he needed to do to improve. He only needed time and many tests to obtain the power that he sought.

The celebration ended before Noah could achieve anything, and Divine Demon soon notified him that the encampment was about to set off. Ian would lead them to one of the cities in the Outer Lands, where a leader of the hybrid faction would evaluate them.

"I think it's time you tell me more about Supreme Thief's inheritance," Noah said as he interrupted his training and followed Divine Demon.

"The tales about this expert are quite legendary," Divine Demon explained. "It's not hard to learn about his existence. Every rank 8 being in the human domain also knows that the Legion controls his inheritance."

The group of hybrids waited for Divine Demon and Noah to arrive before setting off in the distance. The duo followed behind them but remained at some distance to keep their conversations private.

"Supreme Thief has been a rank 9 existence in his prime," Divine Demon said continued. "According to the legends, he has reached the peak of the cultivation journey by stealing from every organization. It didn't matter to which side they belonged. Supreme Thief has stolen every kind of technique, spell, and material from all the known forces. He didn't even spare the other inheritances."

Divine Demon couldn't contain his smile when he spoke about that expert. Noah even sensed a tinge of admiration leaking out of his aura.

"It is unclear whether he really died," Divine Demon explained. "We only know that he has disappeared for hundreds of thousands of years and that he has left his inheritance among the stormy edges of the higher plane. As the Immortal Lands expanded, the inheritance appeared."

'He created an inheritance in the middle of the storms of laws,' Noah thought. 'I wonder if he managed to see the world past the edges of the higher plane.'

"The appearance of an inheritance belonging to a rank 9 existence made the whole world go crazy," Divine Demon continued. "Every organization wanted to control it, but the hybrids have been smarter. They lifted the whole region with the inheritance and moved it to a secret location. The human domain has been unable to gather any information about it since then."

"How do you know that the Legion hasn't cleared the inheritance already?" Noah asked.

"This is the most interesting part," Divine Demon replied. "According to the legends, Supreme Thief's inheritance isn't a single place. It contains multiple areas meant for different qualities and abilities, all of them with the chance to give rewards in the ninth rank. I'm not underestimating the Legion. I only believe that no force in the world could clear it."

"And we went through this mess to enter this unclearable place, am I right?" Noah asked as a smile also appeared on his face.

"Of course!" Divine Demon replied. "I can't let anyone complete the trials before me. Supreme Thief was a real Demon, so I need to be his heir!"

"I might take it from under your nose if you aren't careful," Noah said in a teasing tone. "I did the same with your inheritance in the end."

"I expect nothing else from you, my heir!" Divine Demon said. "This is the inheritance of a rank 9 existence. Nothing should stop you from reaching its end."

"Let's try not to kill each other," Noah said before exploding into a laugh.

"We will keep things fair between us," Divine Demon replied as his eyes became cold, "But only between us."

Noah revealed a similar expression, and the duo fell silent as they followed the group of hybrids. They couldn't wait to see what Supreme Thief had created.

Chapter 1393 1393. Stunning

Noah and Divine Demon followed the hybrid team for months. They crossed countless regions and witnessed a multitude of environments before reaching something that resembled a city.

"Not yet," Ian transmitted to the duo with his consciousness. "This is one of our major forces. The city is deeper into the Outer Lands."

An immense encampment unfolded in Noah's vision after he received that message. Countless hybrids in the seventh rank occupied that multitude of tents and created a poor imitation of the human cities.

Noah recognized shops of various kinds and countless habitations as he flew above the encampment. Its overall population was lower than Vagona city, but that number was still outstanding since all those citizens were hybrids.

Not all of them had a human form. Noah saw creatures with magical beasts' bodies conversing with other citizens and purchasing items from some shops. The peculiarity of that scene left him speechless, but he soon accepted that such a view was quite ordinary among the Legion.

The group of hybrids didn't stop flying and crossed the encampment to venture deeper into the Outer Lands. That settlement was nothing more than a weak army placed near the human domain to ensure that no explorer managed to reach the lands belonging to the Legion.

Noah and Divine Demon had to fly behind Ian's group for entire years and reach lands where intense winds blew to arrive at their destination. A series of tall buildings eventually appeared in their vision, and the noises of a bustling city reached their ears before they could even set their eyes on its citizens.

"This is Yellnbel," Ian transmitted with his mental waves. "One of the few moving cities of the Immortal Lands."

Countless tents filled Yellnbel's outskirts. Its tall structures also swayed left and right as the winds crashed on their light materials. A series of holes spread from under them and no streets divided them.

The buildings appeared shoved into the ground. They didn't have a solid foundation, and something told Noah that he could lift them if he applied enough strength.

'Do they really move the city if the situation requires it?' Noah wondered as he studied those structures.

Nothing kept them fixed on the ground. The holes prevented the buildings from giving in to the intense winds, but they couldn't stop anyone from lifting them.

The entire city seemed ready to leave the area. Noah even guessed that a single rank 8 existence could lift all the structures with mental energy. Those buildings appeared incredibly light and served the sole purpose of being easy to move.

'No wonder they are so hard to find,' Noah concluded in his mind. 'They can just leave whenever an enemy force learns about their position.'

Everything became clear in Noah's mind after he studied that scene. Before, he couldn't understand why the humans didn't attack the hybrids and overcame them with their numbers. Yet, that approach sounded impossible when their opponents could move their cities at will.

"We might not have the polished streets of the human domain," Ian explained through his mental waves, "But luxury is pointless. We don't need to appear grand. We only need power, and we have it."

An intense aura enveloped Ian's team, Noah, and Divine Demon as they continued to fly toward Yellnbel. Mental waves in the eighth rank studied them and allowed them to pass after they confirmed their identity.

Noah and Divine Demon exchanged a glance and nodded at each other before continuing to advance toward the city. It was too late to go back now. They had to reach the end of the matter and obtain permission to fly toward Supreme Thief's inheritance.

Noah wasn't worried about himself. He was a hybrid who had already proven his strength. The Legion had already expressed its desire to make him join its ranks, and he had also gained some favor by killing Lady Lena.

Divine Demon was the issue. He was a human, and his personality was quite peculiar. The expert would stop at nothing to obtain what he wanted. He was using a peaceful approach only because it was impossible to reach Supreme Thief's inheritance without the Legion.

Ian's team flew above the tents and landed at the base of one of the city's tallest buildings. Divine Demon and Noah followed them, but most of the group dispersed before reaching the structure.

Only Ian, Jordan, and a few more hybrids remained at the building's base, waiting for the duo to land. It seemed that the others had other matters to handle now that they had returned to Yellnbel.

"Follow me," Ian said before recalling something. "And try to restrain your thoughts. The leader has seen enough indecent ideas with her ability."

Noah and Divine Demon exchanged another glance before following Ian inside the gray structure. The swaying didn't seem to exist there, and a large barren room unfolded in their eyes after they crossed the entrance.

A few pieces of furniture saved the room from being an empty area, and a staircase connected that floor to the upper ones. The couch and table there also had a sticky material keeping them glued on the floor. It seemed that the hybrids were ready to move at any time.

Ian led the duo and the rest of his group to the upper floors of the structure. Similar rooms unfolded in their vision, but even they were mostly empty. Still, it seemed that someone had left only recently since Noah could sense traces of warmth on the furniture.

Right before reaching the last floor, Ian and the rest of his group stopped. He then gestured to Noah and Divine Demon to proceed before performing a bow toward the top of the staircase.

It was time for Noah and Divine Demon to receive their evaluation.

The duo finished climbing the staircase and arrived in a large room with a series of carpets covering its walls, ceiling, and floor. Two couches also stood on opposite sides of the area, and a tall metal throne grew from its bottom.

A stunning middle-aged woman sat on the throne. She had long black hair and dark skin, and the light radiated by her azure eyes was so intense that it could illuminate the entire room.

The pressure that her eyes could radiate made Noah and Divine Demon feel powerless under her gaze. Their thoughts also suffered from the effects of that azure radiance, and their minds became sluggish as they tried to return to their normal functioning.

Noah and Divine Demon felt unable to think in that situation. Azure light seeped inside their minds and studied their mental seas, but they couldn't do anything to stop that probing.

The mighty rank 8 expert could do what she wanted in that situation. Still, Noah and Divine Demon had offered themselves for that evaluation, so they didn't try to hide anything. They let the azure light roam freely inside their minds and study their intentions.

"Supreme Thief's inheritance isn't as nice as you think, human," The woman said at some point. "Dying there is common. That great expert's tests are ruthless, and they won't hesitate to take your life if you aren't careful."

"Having said this," The rank 8 expert continued with her captivating voice, "I won't stop you from testing your skill and luck. Our friendship depends on your potential gains, so I won't suppress your desires. You can go and see Supreme Thief's inheritance for yourself."

Chapter 1394 1394. Tempting

Noah and Divine Demon felt compelled to perform a polite bow after hearing the expert's words.

"Human, you can go," The expert said after Noah and Divine Demon straightened their position. "I wish to talk with Noah alone."

The woman's words created waves of shock in the duo's minds. They had never revealed Noah's real name to Ian and the others. She could have learnt it only when she inspected their mental seas.

The azure halo radiated by the woman's eyes became less intense and allowed the duo to think properly again. Divine Demon slightly relaxed and gave one last glance at the expert before winking at Noah and leaving the room.

Noah turned toward the expert at that point. He didn't know how much she had managed to learn from the inspection of his mind. Still, he suspected that the reason behind her request concerned his memories.

"My name is Theodora," The woman said after a few seconds of silence. "I speak for the entire Legion when I say that it would be our honor to have you in our ranks. Your achievements are impressive, to say the least."

"How much did you see?" Noah asked as a tinge of annoyance inevitably leaked into his voice.

Noah didn't like that Theodora had inspected his memories. He had stored many valuable scenes there, and most of his valued relationships were there as well. The Legion could have learnt about the entire Hive after that short interaction.

"Do not worry," Theodora replied. "I've sworn to use my gift only against the enemies of the Legion. I won't spread anything learnt from your mind unless you hurt my organization."

Even if Theodora didn't add any malice in her words, Noah took that line as a threat. His memories would be safe as long as he didn't become her enemy.

"Gift?" Noah asked.

It had become a habit to learn everything he could from the existences that he met. Seemingly useless information could become a trump card in a specific situation, so he always tried to probe his potential opponents.

"I have nothing to hide," Theodora said as a knowing smile appeared on her face. "I have the blood of the Psychic Carps in my veins. That places me among the weakest hybrids in terms of battle prowess, but I make up for that in fertility. The weakness of my species gives me the chance to give birth to my kind."

Noah didn't dare to think anything when he heard those words. Theodora had already shown that she could read his mind easily, so he preferred not to ponder about that information at all.

"Oh? Afraid of your own mind?" Theodora said as she stood up from her throne and neared Noah. "I wonder what June would think when she learns about your desire."

Noah didn't move. He watched Theodora stretch her arm to caress his shoulder. Her hand then slid toward his bare neck.

"What do you say, little dragon?" Theodora continued as her voice became even more tempting. "Your kind is so rare. I can help to populate it, and June won't even learn about it."

Theodora touched his neck, but her hand froze when she noticed Noah's cold gaze. His eyes didn't flicker under that temptation. His mind had remained calm under her warmth.

"Don't underestimate my will," Noah said in a cold tone. "Also, I suggest you keep this from June. You will have to use my memories otherwise."

Theodora retracted her hand and covered her mouth as a soft laugh came out of her. She seemed strangely pleased that Noah had managed to reject her so easily. That outcome didn't hurt her pride at all.

"Go now," Theodora said as she returned to her throne. "I know that I will see you soon. You might not need the Legion now, but you will eventually accept us. You will even help us when the time is right."

Noah didn't question her anymore and turned to descend the staircase. His mind relaxed once he left the range of her azure radiance, and countless thoughts flew out of his mental sea as he reviewed those scenes.

He wanted to blame himself for his carelessness, but he had to accept that the situation had been hopeless. Even Divine Demon had to lower his head in front of a rank 8 existence. Noah never had a chance to hide his thoughts in front of Theodora.

'I wonder if the other leaders are like her,' Noah thought as he exited the building. 'As for what she said, I guess she was speaking about the migration of the human domain.'

The powerful existences of the Immortal Lands seemed to view that migration as inevitable and imminent. The attack of the magical beasts would force the humans to move their domain, which would inevitably make them enter the Legion's lands.

That would be the beginning of a war with multiple battlefields. One side saw humans against magical beasts, while the other featured cultivators against hybrids. Noah would have to decide whether to join the battles or remain on the sidelines at that point.

'I have been through this already,' Noah thought as he found Ian's group and Divine Demon waiting for him outside the entrance. 'I need to become stronger to seize benefits in the imminent war. My power must come first, or I won't obtain anything even if I fight.'

Ian and the other hybrids appeared surprised that Noah had come out so soon. They were aware of Theodora's habits, so they had suspected that Noah would remain in her quarters for a while.

Noah ignored those gazes and exchanged a glance with Divine Demon. The two understood each other in an instant, and they soon turned toward the hybrids while expressing evident greed.

They had done everything Ian had asked them to do. It was time for the Legion to honor its side of the deal. The hybrids had to show them the path toward Supreme Thief's inheritance.

Ian understood the duo's intentions, and he promptly sent a series of mental messages to create a new team. Some of the hybrids living in the encampment around Yellnbel set off to meet him in the sky. They had specific tasks, but they all were near Supreme Thief's inheritance.

"Let's go," Ian said before shooting in the distance, followed by the rest of his team.

Noah and Divine Demon chased after him, and their travel resumed. Different regions began and ended in their vision as the group flew through the sky, and more years passed as they moved toward that famous destination.

Then, a tall structure appeared in their eyes. At first, that scene made Noah and Divine Demon think they were about to venture through another mountain chain, but they soon understood that something was off.

An azure region stood above another land, and a structure grew from its peak. The building was different from those seen in Yellnbel, and it was far bigger than anything in Vagona city. It was even taller than Great Builder's pyramid.

"Do you move the whole region when you have to hide the inheritance?" Divine Demon asked as he studied that scene.

"Of course," Ian replied. "We can't put the inheritance inside our storage devices since no artificial space in the world can contain the legacy of a rank 9 existence."

"Won't eventual enemies see you?" Noah asked as he joined Divine Demon in the study of that immense structure.

"It is always gone by the time enemies are about to reach it," Ian replied. "This is Supreme Thief's inheritance. The Legion won't even come close to risk losing it."

Chapter 1395 1395. Palace

The scene was majestic. An entire region stood on top of the azure ground, and a palace-like building rested above it. Supreme Thief's inheritance seemed to stand on the largest mountain in the world, on a structure created only for its presence.

No wild living beings lived in the area. The Legion had scared and killed flora and fauna there when it placed the inheritance on that region. Still, Noah could sense multiple traces of life coming from the top of the immense mountain.

Ian led the duo and his group toward the inheritance, and Noah could soon see how grand Supreme Thief's creation was. The palace had an ennagonal shape, and nine towers grew from its corners. Light-azure marble covered the entire structure, except for a few large windows that reflected a dim radiance.

Each tower had nine windows, and they seemed able to radiate only two colors. Some were black, while others were white. All the white ones were near the top of the structures, while the black ones occupied their base.

The most peculiar aspect of the inheritance was that it didn't have an entrance. Its walls were smooth and without the faintest dent. The storms of laws and the passage of time didn't manage to ruin that spectacular structure.

"You must have noticed that you can't enter the inheritance through normal methods," Ian began to explain as the group landed on the vast barren plain that surrounded the structure.

Faint meanings came out of the towers. They seemed to hint at certain aspects of the cultivation journey, but Noah and Divine Demon couldn't understand them from that distance.

"The roofs of the towers are the entrances, and each tower leads to different types of trials," Ian explained. "Each trial has nine layers, and each layer has multiple challenges. You wouldn't even believe the number of separate dimensions contained in the whole structure."

Needless to say, Noah could barely bring himself to speak when he heard those words. He had explored many inheritances throughout his life, and he had even built one. However, everything paled in front of Supreme Thief's creation.

"You can open the path to the lower layer only after you complete nine challenges," Ian continued, "But that isn't the maximum number of tests that each layer contains. You can obtain rewards even in areas that we have already cleared."

"The human organizations must be desperate to find this place," Noah eventually said.

"More than desperate," Ian replied. "This inheritance alone has given to the Legion most of its current wealth. It's only thanks to Theodora and many efforts that we have managed to keep it safe from enemy hands."

"What about the trials?" Divine Demon asked.

"They have clear differences, but they tend to be less specific in the upper layers," Ian explained. "We have given names to the towers to describe the field that they test. They are strength, will, speed, defense, power, martial arts, spells, offensive inscriptions, and defensive inscriptions."

Noah and Divine Demon fell silent at that point. In their minds, they were already choosing which towers they would face first.

"Each layer has different levels of difficulty," Ian concluded. "They match to the stages of the divine ranks, so it's not a surprise that the lower ones are still dark."

That last piece of information almost made Noah go crazy. Supreme Thief wasn't only a monster who had reached the ninth rank. He had also created an inheritance that could test cultivators at the peak of the divine ranks!

That placed the palace far above the pyramid in terms of value. There was simply no point in comparing those inheritances. Supreme Thief was an unparalleled monster, and the whole world had to be grateful for his efforts in creating that inheritance.

"You can already enter," Ian said as he pointed at the towers. "Fill the roof with your mental energy, and you will teleport inside the inheritance. It's impossible to miss the paths leading to the lower layers, and the same goes for the exits. You can't get lost."

Noah and Divine Demon set off as soon as they heard those words. They couldn't hold back in front of such a valuable place. However, Ian reached them to hand one of the marked wooden tokens to Divine Demon.

"There are only hybrids in the inheritance right now," Ian said as he handed the token. "You will need to show this to reassure them."

Ian left after that last reminder, and the duo separated as they flew toward different towers. The Legion had placed banners on the roofs to describe the trials, so they could already decide where to go.

Divine Demon flew toward the roof with the banner that radiated the word "power", while Noah landed on the tower called "strength". It wasn't hard to understand which fields those words indicated, so they choose trials that matched their best qualities.

The "power" tower involved dantians, and Divine Demon couldn't wait to test his individuality its challenges. As for Noah, his physical strength was off the scale, so he had chosen the "strength" tower to see if he could find trials that hybrids at his same level couldn't overcome.

The "strength" tower had the highest number of white windows. Only three of them remained black, and that gave Noah a general idea of the Legion's power. It was clear that it had existences that could defeat tests meant for rank 8 cultivators in the liquid stage.

Noah and Divine Demon didn't exchange any last glance. They directly poured their mental waves on the blue roofs and saw the scenery in front of their eyes transforming as the teleport activated.

They couldn't bother to check their companion with Supreme Thief's inheritance under them. They could only think about all the possible rewards now.

When Noah managed to focus his vision and unfold his consciousness, he found himself in a seemingly ordinary environment filled with a faint-azure light. The fake sky had that color, but the ground radiated shades that tried to imitate the outside world.

Before he could analyze the new environment more thoroughly, a series of runes appeared in his vision and conveyed a simple message with the meanings they radiated.

'Cultivation level too high for this layer,' Noah read, 'Descend by one layer to gain access to suitable tests.'

'This restriction must be the reason why the Legion didn't manage to go too deeply in the other towers,' Noah thought as he studied the environment to learn more about that place.

Many members of the Legion didn't have individualities and had a low aptitude toward certain fields. The fact that each layer applied restrictions to the contenders' level had forced those hybrids to focus on towers where the power of their species could shine. Still, it made them disregard the others.

'The "strength" tower must be popular among the hybrids,' Noah guessed, 'But my superior abilities don't involve only my physical strength. I might have a chance to seize multiple rewards in the other towers if the situation is like this.'

A vast prairie expanded from his position and ended in different environments. Noah could see a tall forest, a mountain, and a small stream, but the pillar of white light shining in the distance claimed most of his attention.

'The passage for the lower layer must be there,' Noah thought before moving in the direction of the pillar of light.

Chapter 1396 1396. Mountain

Noah had chosen the "strength" tower because his body was far above the standards of the middle tier, but he didn't expect Supreme Thief's inheritance to reward his situation even more.

With the restrictions on the cultivation level, Noah didn't have to worry about the lack of rewards. The higher layers would have more contenders, but those limitations gave him a chance to overcome challenges that no one else had managed to beat.

Hybrids filled the first layer of the inheritance. Noah met many teams as he flew toward the white pillar in the distance. Those existences barely even glanced at him since they were too focused on searching for undiscovered tests.

The Legion had placed multiple signals throughout the layer. They were inscribed items that described the known undefeated challenges and even explained parts of their contents.

Noah couldn't test himself in that layer, but he spent some time gathering information about the types of tests that the "strength" tower offered. Still, he soon gave up on searching for something that could help.

The undefeated challenges in the first layer could feature any hurdle. They went from lifting an insane weight to facing creatures that lived in remote lairs without using "Breath" or mental energy.

Noah began to understand why the Legion had tested him in that peculiar way. Ian and the others wanted to see where his physical strength was compared to its other members. That information was useful when it came to Supreme Thief's inheritance.

'No point remaining here any further,' Noah thought before disregarding any signal and hurrying toward the pillar.

The white light began to fill his vision, and Noah could soon touch the pillar and experience its effects. The environment transformed again as a teleport started, and a barren land unfolded in his eyes when his mind managed to focus.

No runes appeared in front of him at that time. The inheritance didn't apply any restriction to him in that layer. Noah could finally search for a challenge that his superior physical strength could allow him to overcome.

The barren seemed to expand endlessly. It was far bigger than any region of the higher plane, so Noah couldn't even see its edges. Still, the second layer featured the same signals as before, so he eventually found something that aroused his interest.

'Lift the azure mountain. The reward is under it,' Noah read from one of the signals and didn't hesitate to approach the challenge.

A short mountain was a few kilometers away from the signal, and Noah landed at its base to approach the trial. A few hybrids were there before him, so he had to wait for his chance to test his strength.

The hybrids that saw him approaching the mountains revealed broad smirks. Noah's body had grown a lot, but it was still far away from the halfway mark of the middle tier. It was only normal for those existences to believe that he stood no chance against that trial.

'How do I even lift it?' Noah wondered as he studied the huge structure.

A crack ran around the mountain's base and signaled that it wasn't part of the ground. Anyone could stab their fingers in that fissure and see if their strength was enough to win the challenge.

Noah did exactly that. He inserted his hands and part of his arms into the crack and began to pull. The mountain shook and trembled under his physical might, but he could immediately sense that power wasn't enough to succeed in the feat.

A peculiar light began to spread through the crack as Noah continued in his attempt to lift the mountain. There seemed to be something hidden under that structure, but he couldn't understand what it was from his position.

'This won't do,' Noah thought when he saw that his physical strength allowed him to move the mountain only for one meter. 'Let's see what Supreme Thief says about this.'

Dark matter began to come out of his black hole and fill his black vessels. Noah's physical strength surged as his innate ability activated.

The mountain started to shake with more intensity when Noah poured the entirety of his physical might into his arms and legs. The tremors began to affect even the terrain nearby as he slowly lifted the whole structure.

His feet eventually had to stand in the air since Noah had managed to lift the mountain for more than three meters. He went under the crack at that point and began to push the structure higher as he reached for the center of its base.

The hybrids watching the scene remained speechless. They had seen how Noah's physical strength had skyrocketed once those black veins had filled his skin. They couldn't believe that a simple innate ability could give so much power.

However, the mountains continued to go higher, and it soon started to float on its own. The weight pressing on Noah's arms suddenly vanished once the whole base had left the ground.

'I did it,' Noah exclaimed in his mind.

The loss of weight of the mountain was a clear sign of his success. Moreover, he had discovered something helpful during the trial.

The inheritance had allowed him to use his dark matter. Even if the test was purely physical, he could use techniques to improve his prowess.

'Does this apply to every test?' Noah wondered as he descended toward the center of the crack.

A golden casket stood at the center of the hole previously filled by the mountain. Noah didn't feel any danger coming from it, so he seized it before returning to the surface.

The mountain descended after Noah took the reward, and an earthquake spread when it landed back on the ground. That chaotic event was unusual in the inheritance, but the hybrids on the scene completely ignored it to keep their focus on Noah.

The gazes of those hybrids didn't stop Noah from opening the small casket. The golden light dimmed once he opened the item and uncovered its contents.

Noah found a single red pill laid on a series of luxurious fabrics. A few runes drawn on the casket's insides described the nature of the item and its purpose.

The red pill was a life-saving drug meant for cultivators. It could fill them with a sudden wave of strength and made all their injuries heal. Noah guessed that it was valuable, but he couldn't really use it.

Since he was even above hybrids, most of the drugs meant for humans would have limited effects on him. His body required too much energy, so that pill wasn't a life-saver item in his hands.

'Selling this shouldn't be a problem,' Noah thought as he stored the casket. 'I might even decide to keep it for now. I don't have any valuable drug with me, so it might be useful.'

Noah left the area after seizing the reward, and the hybrids who had witnessed his feat decided to follow him. They wanted to see if he could overcome another challenge and reveal parts of the second layer they had yet to uncover.

His desire to seize as many resources as possible made Noah disregard the team of hybrids that had begun to follow him. He didn't care if he had an audience. He wouldn't change his approach toward the inheritance.

Chapter 1397 1397. Boar

Noah didn't limit himself to use his dark matter whenever he had the chance. He first tested how much the inheritance allowed him to cheat.

The tests became impossible to overcome whenever Noah tried to use his "Breath" or mental energy, even if he limited them to the simple boost of his physical strength.

The same happened when he deployed the dark world or used the dark matter to create the fiendish armor. The "strength" tower only tested his physical prowess and gave rewards meant for his body. Unless the test expressly said so, he couldn't use his abilities.

However, the inheritance didn't react when he used the dark matter to activate his innate ability. It seemed that the tests saw the dark vessels as an extension of his physical strength, and the same applied to his dark flames, even if they weren't useful most of the time.

Noah didn't mind those restrictions since he knew that his innate ability gave him another advantage that other hybrids didn't have. The fact that he could indirectly use the energy inside his fourth center of power gave him the battle prowess of a cultivator instead of making him rely only on his physical strength.

That advantage allowed Noah to clear multiple undefeated challenges in a row. Those tests often involved heavy or tough materials that he had to lift or destroy, and their reward matched their difficulty.

Most of the undefeated tests were challenges that peak middle tier hybrids didn't bother to approach. They were too simple for existences at that level, and their rewards wouldn't help them in the breakthrough.

Moreover, the members of the Legion cared for each other. The strongest existences in every layer often ignored trials that they could overcome easily to leave some resources to the weaker hybrids. Greed didn't move their actions since they were placing the well-being of their organization above simple rewards.

Noah didn't respect that unwritten rule. He didn't belong to the Legion, and he wouldn't hold back even if he did. He didn't hold back in front of the chance to obtain valuable resources.

Various pills and potions began to fill his separate space as Noah cleared trials. The number of hybrids following him to admire his physical prowess also increased as he moved through the second layer.

Noah couldn't avoid attracting attention. His body's level wouldn't normally allow him to defeat those challenges, but his innate ability gave him the chance to clear most of the easy ones on the first try.

The hybrids following him couldn't even complain. Noah was theoretically weaker than some of them, but he could clear trials that they couldn't even approach. That alone turned him into a celebrity during his first journey through the inheritance.

'Eight life-saving drugs between potions and pills, three high-energy containers that I can eat right away, and a small rank 7 space-ring,' Noah summarized his gains when the easy challenges were over. 'The

inheritance is slowly giving me better rewards. I wonder what the hardest challenge in this layer would award.'

The second layer was so vast that there didn't seem to be an end to its trials. Those barren lands even hid magical beasts and plants featured in some challenges that created a few livable areas. That environment resembled a small world that the Legion had yet to explore fully.

'I guess it's time to start fighting seriously,' Noah thought as he glanced at the group of hybrids behind him.

Noah didn't want to show all his abilities to that audience. He didn't know if the inheritance would react to his companions, but he preferred to keep them hidden unless he found something complicated.

That was exactly what he was aiming to find now. Noah continued to approach every challenge in his path, but he tried to pick the most difficult ones to obtain better rewards.

The layout of the second layer was relatively easy to understand. The farther Noah went, the harder the trials became. He only needed to cross the pillar leading to the third layer to reach an area filled with seemingly impossible challenges.

The signals in those areas had also become scarcer. Only a handful of trials were still considered unfinished. The others were hidden somewhere inside the second layer.

'I can only hope to find something eventually,' Noah concluded in his mind. 'I can't give up on these resources. This inheritance is basically asking me to become rich.'

Of course, Noah didn't care about his wealth, but the currency of the Immortal Lands was quite valuable. The Soul Stones contained raw laws that he could absorb to quicken his growth, and having many of them would allow him to use them more often during his training sessions.

'Defeating the Steeled Boar in a physical battle, no "Breath" or mental energy allowed,' Noah read from one of the signals placed in the deeper areas, 'This sounds hard.'

Noah's dark world enhanced his senses and allowed him to find traces of the Steeled Boar. The creature was hiding in one of the few livable areas in that barren land, and it fed on the magical plants that grew due to the high density of "Breath" in the air.

The Steeled Boar was a rank 7 magical beast near the peak of the middle tier. It was nine meters tall, and it featured a brownish metallic skin that acted as a natural form of defense. Two thick curved tusks grew from the sides of its mouth, and its aura carried the intense hunger that it felt.

When Noah neared the livable area, the Steeled Boar came out of its lair and shot in his direction. Noah didn't even need to search for the creature anymore at that point. He could hear the noise created by its heavy steps from kilometers away.

Noah activated his innate ability as he turned toward the creature. His fingers took the shape of claws that he didn't hesitate to slash at his opponent. Yet, lines shone of the creature's body when the inheritance sensed that Noah had relied on the sharpness in his aura to launch that attack.

The black line that came out of Noah's hand crashed on the Boar's head without doing any damage. The inheritance was boosting the creature's physical might since Noah had tried to cheat.

The Boar also accelerated during its charge. The empowerment given by the inheritance had allowed the creature to gain an explosive speed that made it crash directly on Noah.

Noah couldn't avoid that blow. He could only stretch his arms and make sure that the creature's tusk wouldn't hit his body or any vital point.

The impact flung Noah away. He couldn't fight the creature while the inheritance empowered it. He had to wait and perform evasive maneuvers to deplete the surplus of energy that was filling the Boar's body.

The shining lines eventually vanished, and Noah could finally dive back into the fight. He didn't use any trick at that time. He charged directly at the Steeled Boar and used his fists, legs, and teeth to overcome the beast with the only method allowed in that trial.

The battle soon transformed into a test of endurance. The Boar couldn't suffer much damage since its skin protected it from most blows, but its internal injuries began to accumulate as Noah's assault continued.

Chapter 1398 1398. Perfection

Noah punched, kicked, and spewed flames on the Steeled Boar while he dodged its attacks. Even with the empowerment of his innate ability, he was weaker than the creature in a battle of pure physical strength. Yet, he had his speed on his side.

The Boar was big and had a limited number of moves that it could perform. As long as Noah didn't give it enough space to prepare a charge, the beast couldn't launch threatening attacks.

However, the Boar made up for the simplicity of its attacks with its incredible defense. Its brownish metallic skin protected the creature from almost any form of damage, especially when Noah could not use his best abilities.

He managed to inflict some internal injuries due to the sheer power released by his attacks, but they couldn't affect the Boar's resilience in such a short time.

The fight soon became a battle of endurance. Noah couldn't hurt the Steeled Boar, and the creature couldn't catch him. The two exchanged countless blows that created intense shockwaves, but neither managed to gain the upper hand.

Noah sprinted, leaped, and flew around the creature to dodge the massive tusks and the body slams that came in his direction. A storm of punches, kicks, and "Breathless" slashes went out of his figure whenever he stopped or found a safe opportunity in that chaotic battle.

The hybrids in the distance couldn't understand why Noah was continuing to fight. They had guessed by then that he had an incredible innate ability, but that couldn't help him in a prolonged battle.

When it came to his endurance, Noah had to be inferior to the Steeled Boar. The difference between the levels of their bodies was immense. No innate ability could make up for that.

Yet, Noah's body had gone through multiple cycles of purification, and even the Evolution Pit couldn't find flaws in his tissues. The black hole also fueled his center of power and functioned as a nigh-infinite reserve of energy.

Noah didn't believe that a simple magical beast could last longer than him. Their levels were worlds apart, but the quality of his body was many leagues above everything else. When he added his black hole to his situation, he saw that the Boar had no chances.

Only mistakes in his battle style could lead to a defeat. The Steeled Boar could win if it managed to land a few direct blows, but Noah planned to be perfect. He would fight without even giving the beast a chance.

Existences in the seventh rank had deep reserves of energy. A mere magical beast at the bottom of the lower tier could fight for entire months if the situation required it.

Noah was forcing the Boar to deplete far more energy than usual, but the creature didn't grow tired even after an entire day passed. Nothing happened even after a week went by. The beast didn't slow down its offensive and didn't show any sign of exhaustion.

The same went for Noah. He felt that he could fight for entire years in those conditions. Moreover, he never stopped landing blows on the brownish skin, so the Boar's condition worsened continuously.

An entire month had to pass before Noah saw some changes in the creature's condition. A trail of blood came out of its mouth, and its breath became slightly irregular.

The Boar had finally begun to show the damage suffered after acting as Noah's punching bag for an entire month. Its attempts to catch Noah had also helped in worsening the faint internal injuries that Noah's blows managed to create.

The hybrids in the distance held their breath at that sight. Noah was doing it. The Boar had shown a sign of weakness before him. If he continued to fight like that for more months, he had a chance to overcome one of the most difficult challenges of the second layer.

Noah's audience only increased during his battle. The scene depicted repetitive moves and boring battle tactics, but those hybrids couldn't stop watching him once they laid their eyes on the fight.

Noah was perfect. His every move allowed him to gain the most out of that situation without putting him in danger. His majestic battle style showed his vast experience and steady mind to his audience.

His aura also radiated an intense ambition that began to affect the hybrids in the distance. Noah wasn't using his individuality to empower his blows, and he didn't plan to reveal it either. However, his true meaning leaked out of his figure, and he couldn't stop that process even with the help of the black hole.

Noah couldn't hide that part of himself during such a violent battle. His ambition was the core of his individuality, so nothing could suppress it while he was busy doing his best against the Boar. He was putting his entire focus on the fight, and his existence reacted to that feeling by expressing his true meaning through his aura.

His ambition affected the hybrids that were watching him at some distance from the battle. They could sense their potential growing as the fight continued to rage.

A simple but breathtaking idea formed in their minds as Noah's ambition affected their reasoning. They could be Noah if they wanted. They could jump in that battle and fight perfectly for entire months if they desired.

Those hybrids had the potential to reach that level of perfection. They could defeat the Boar if their body obtained a similar power.

That thought shook the very foundation of their minds. The hybrids couldn't explain why they had given up on a trial that they could have overcome if they worked hard enough.

Of course, Noah wasn't winning only due to his perfect battle style. His black hole and superior body played an important part in that fight. He would have exhausted himself already otherwise.

During the third month of continuous battle, the Boar committed a grave mistake. The creature spat a mouthful of blood that made it lose a lot of time and focus, and Noah didn't hesitate to exploit that opportunity.

Noah jumped toward the Boar's head as soon as he saw that the beast stopped attacking him for an instant. Intense aggression spread from his body at that point. His opponent was showing weakness in front of him. He had to punish the beast for that insult to his commitment.

The creature sensed an immense force landing on its head and slamming it on the ground. A series of punches followed that, but the Boar barely felt them due to its dizzy mind.

Noah tried to focus the same spot on its skin repeatedly to destroy the brownish protection. Dents and bruises had appeared on the Boar after three months of continuous fighting, and his fists eventually managed to open a crack in its defenses.

The Boar cried in pain after a brownish shard fell from its head. Noah's eyes lit up at that sight, and his fingers arched to stab that opening toward the creature's insides.

Once his finger entered the Boar's head, Noah ripped off a large patch of its skin and spat flames in its insides. An intense surge of energy soon reached his body as the black fire separated from the attack and gave him the primary energy contained in the burned tissues.

Then, a loud cry filled the area before the creature stopped moving. Life abandoned its eyes, and Noah announced the Boar's death with a roar shouted at the fake sky.

Chapter 1399 1399. Like

Clamors resounded in the distance after the Steeled Boar died, and some of the hybrids roared at the fake sky to join Noah's cry. They wanted to celebrate his victory and announce to the world that he had succeeded in a feat that everyone thought to be impossible.

Noah's pride reacted to those roars. He felt instincts buried deep inside him awakening and resurfacing over his mental sea when he heard those hybrids acclaiming him in a language that humans couldn't understand.

His species had surpassed the hybrids, but the instincts that came from the magical beasts' world were still inside him. Noah could create a pack if he wanted. Part of his audience already considered him as a leader worth following.

Still, his greed soon overcame that feeling. He had completed one of the hardest trials in the second layer, and he couldn't wait to see what reward Supreme Thief had prepared for him.

Nothing happened even after a few seconds passed. Noah didn't know what he had to look for, but it seemed that the Steeled Boar didn't carry the answer.

Noah then stored the creature's corpse and flew toward the Boar's lair since it was the only place that could contain the reward for the challenge.

As the magical plants entered his vision, Noah could immediately sense that something in the area had changed. The magical plants were quickly wilting, and their energy flowed toward the center of that livable land.

When the magical plants died, a surge of energy spread in the environment. Noah walked toward the source of that phenomenon and found a strange fruit laid between wilted trunks and fallen leaves.

The fruit was small, no bigger than a man's fist. It was dark-green, and a series of soft spikes covered its surface. Still, its most striking feature was the massive amount of energy radiated by its figure.

"I must warn you," A male voice resounded behind Noah as he was about to pick the fruit. "That's an Uwan, the fruit of the death. It contains enough energy to repopulate an entire forest, but a powerful poison fills its insides. That's the innate defensive ability of that species of magical plants."

Noah's senses didn't feel any danger, so he picked the fruit before turning toward the hybrid. He saw a tall hairy man with short black hair and yellow eyes politely staring at him outside the dead forest.

"You are?" Noah asked as his gaze returned to the strange fruit.

"Don," The man replied. "You must be a new talent of the Legion. This is my first time seeing you here."

Don wasn't one of the weak hybrids that had followed Noah throughout the second layer. His cultivation level neared the last part of the liquid stage, and his body was also about to enter the range of the middle tier's peak.

He was an expert of the second layer, one of the few hybrids who could approach the most challenging trials and have a chance to win.

"I'm not part of the Legion," Noah replied honestly. "Why did you warn me? Do you want this fruit?"

Don felt surprised to hear that Noah had entered the inheritance without joining the Legion. His eyes flickered, but he tried to maintain a calm appearance in front of Noah.

The hybrid had sensed that something had changed after Noah had spoken to him. Noah wasn't treating him as a friendly bystander. He had started to view him as a potential threat.

Noah's actions had no malice. His reaction was the result of years spent as a lone cultivator. His caution never allowed him to lower his guard.

Don didn't understand how Noah could be there, but he had accepted his reaction more easily after learning about his situation. It was only normal to be cautious inside an inheritance filled with hybrids belonging to the same organization.

Still, his instincts startled him. Don's centers of power were far above Noah's, but the latter managed to trigger his instincts. The hybrid could sense that Noah was extremely dangerous.

"We don't steal from our kind," Don replied with a tinge of pride in his voice. "My words were only a friendly warning. The energy inside Uwan's fruits is dangerous if left untreated. I know a procedure, but I'm afraid that I can only purify sixty percent of its energy."

"I will handle the purification," Noah said before recalling something. "Do you know where the other hard trials are?"

"Harder than defeating a Steeled Boar near the peak of the middle tier with your bare hands?" Don asked as one of his eyebrows arched.

"Yes," Noah replied. "It's pointless to leave their rewards here. I might as well seize them."

Don remained silent for a second before exploding into a loud laugh. His voice became high-pitched as his laughter continued and made Noah think about monkey-type magical beasts.

"I like you," Don eventually said once he managed to suppress his laugh. "The Legion definitely needs someone with your guts. I will show you the harder trials, but you won't like what you'll see."

Noah's curiosity became more intense when he heard that. He stored the Uwan's fruit and stepped off the forest to follow Don, who waited for him before setting off.

The duo flew through the deeper lands of the second layer without saying much and stopped only when they reached the locations of the more demanding trials. As Don had predicted, Noah didn't like what he saw.

"This asks you to survive for a thousand years without eating and cultivating," Don said once they reached a deep fissure.

"This wants you to dig a hole as deep as the entire layer," Don explained when they reached a part of the barren land filled with deep pits.

"This is my favorite. I almost didn't believe the seer when she divined it," Don said once they reached the peak of a tall mountain. "You must turn this whole structure into dust. Of course, you can only use your bare hands."

Noah began to understand how the second layer handled the harder trials at that point. They were harsh, but most of their difficulty came from the time required to win them.

Both hybrids and humans could improve on their own during that time instead of performing useless tasks for entire centuries. No reward in the middle tier was worth that kind of effort.

"Are they all like this?" Noah asked after the duo crossed the mountain.

"Yes," Don replied. "I'm afraid you took care of the last decent trial in the whole second layer. All the others require so much time that you would obtain greater improvements by cultivating in a random land in the outside world."

"What's the hardest of them all?" Noah asked at that point.

Noah didn't want to waste time, but he might invest a few decades every now and then in one trial since they didn't require much effort. If he then happened to reach the upper tier before completing it, he would simply leave the challenge alone.

"The hardest isn't something that you can clear at your level," Don said. "I've seen your battle against the Boar. Perfection won't be enough there. You won't survive it."

"That's something I'd like to decide," Noah replied.

Don heaved a sigh before changing direction to move deeper into the second layer. His mouth opened to give voice to a line that made Noah even more curious about that challenge. "Trust me. You won't like it."

Chapter 1400 1400. Impossible

"We found this when we were searching for the end of the second layer," Don explained. "Most of my old team can't fight here anymore since they are approaching the breakthrough or have already moved to the third layer."

"I thought the Legion didn't know how vast the layers were," Noah replied.

"That's true only for the lower ones," Don said. "Any rank 8 expert can travel through the entire superior layers and create a detailed map of all the trials. The Legion doesn't divulge the location of the most difficult ones here for fear that the weaker members would forget about their normal training to chase impossible rewards."

Don's words made sense. It was easy for cultivators to lose themselves in faint hopes, especially when their cultivation level began to stagnate. Hybrids had it even harder in those situations since their instincts would work against their minds.

"The Legion won't do anything if they find them, but all the stronger members know how pointless it is to waste time here," Don continued. "You have understood it as soon as I described the other trials."

Noah fell silent at that point. Don was right. He had already accumulated enough resources to improve his body, and the inheritance had eight more towers that he could explore.

Nothing could force him to waste years in those challenging trials since he could directly cultivate while exploring the other towers and approach the breakthroughs through normal training. The inheritance went far deeper in the end. Noah had barely begun to scratch the surface of that place.

"Why are you here then?" Noah asked.

That was the only flaw in Don's words. If the other trials were so useless as he said, then he had no reason to be in the second layer.

Don exploded into a laugh and turned to show his grin to Noah before explaining his reasons. "I wanted to fight the Steeled Boar. This would have been my ninth attempt. Imagine my surprise when I find you making that creature puke blood."

Don accelerated from time to time to make the hybrids behind them lose track of their position. He wanted to respect the Legion's wishes, so he even relied on his "Breath" to increase his flight speed.

Noah kept up with him easily, which surprised Don even more. The hybrid knew that Noah's prowess was far above the actual level of his centers of power, but he didn't understand how Noah could have so much energy left.

Don had met Noah right after the Steeled Boar died, and they had never stopped flying since then. Even the strongest hybrids in the middle tier would feel tired after fighting for three straight months, but Noah wasn't showing any sign of that.

Even if Noah's body was off the scale, he had to face the after-effects caused by his battle with the Boar. However, his black hole had learnt how to fight any harmful condition that afflicted his tissues after studying the lightning bolts in the Rumbling Region.

Noah felt refreshed every time the black hole redirected energy through his tissues. His fourth center of power knew how to relieve the accumulated stress better than him. Noah could recover even if he didn't rest.

The duo had to fly for a while to reach their destination. Don was leading him toward the edges of the second layer, which took entire months filled with the same scenery.

The second layer was nothing more than a barren land that featured a few living beings. The inheritance did most of the work by providing energy and sustaining the undefeated trials.

Noah wasn't even the talkative type, so they didn't speak for long periods and broke the silence only when Don tried to probe into his past. Still, Noah's answer always managed to make him regret his decision.

"We are here," Don said once the duo reached the end of the second layer.

The edges of the separate dimension were an immense cliff that led into the dim-azure sky. The second layer ended there, and the experts would only find azure walls if they ventured to the areas after the landmass.

Noah landed on the edges to study them. They were in a perfect state. He couldn't find any trace of corrosion or damage. Supreme Thief's work seemed an immortal and indestructible piece of art that could survive any trial.

'How can a single existence create all of this?' Noah wondered as his mind tried to imagine the power that Supreme Thief had wielded when he created that place. 'His existence isn't something that laws can define anymore.'

"I will tell you one more time," Don said, interrupting Noah's thoughts with his voice. "Clearing this is impossible, and it can very well lead to your death. I've seen talented hybrids who were nearing the breakthrough dying because of their greed. Those instincts run deeply in our species. I don't want you to die because of them."

Noah didn't reply. He limited himself to stare at Don and wait for his explanation.

"Fine then," Don said after heaving a helpless sigh. "There is a cave near the bottom of this cliff. Supreme Thief has thrown hundreds of peak middle tier golems there and called it a trial."

Noah's eyes lit up when he heard that. Fighting was far better than digging holes for millennia. If the trial involved battles, he would gladly give it a try.

"Calm your wild thoughts," Don continued, visibly annoyed by Noah's interested expression. "The trial forces you to destroy at least one golem every seven days. Missing this deadline will make them reappear and waste all the time spent fighting."

Noah's interest slightly waned, and Don began to relax when he saw that he was managing to make him understand how unreasonable the trial was.

"The golems never attack on their own," Don explained. "They always seem to know your location, and they can perform simple battle tactics. Some even know basic martial arts. The environment works in their favor due to the low ceiling, and you can't refill your dantian unless you clear an entire area. Trust me when I say that no one at our level has enough energy to reach the first checkpoint."

Noah's interest in the trial had almost completely disappeared, but one of his last lines made it skyrocket.

"Why would I need to refill my dantian there?" Noah asked as his eyes began to shine.

Don froze when he saw his expression. He had already guessed what was about to happen, but he didn't dare to lie to him after spending entire months to lead him to that place.

"You can use your "Breath" and mental energy in this trial," Don revealed, "But don't take it as an advantage. As I have said before, you can't refill your centers of power unless you destroy many golems. It's impossibl-. Where are you going?!"

Noah's sudden actions made Don interrupt his explanation. He saw how Noah had turned and thrown himself over the cliff while he was still speaking.

"Dammit!" Don cursed loudly. "Don't enter the cave, or the trial will start! You should use the surface to recover and cultivate before!"

Don heaved an annoyed sigh, but he felt relieved when he saw Noah's figure reappearing from the cliff.

"It's good that you changed your mind," Don said. "Honestly, something like that shouldn't even be in the second layer. The level of difficulty is clearly between the liquid stage and the solid stage. I don't even know why Supreme Thief has placed it in the "strength" towe-. What are you doing?"

Noah's actions forced Don to interrupt his explanation again. Noah had begun to dig the ground while he was speaking, but he stopped to answer his question.

"I'm following your advice," Noah said in a plain tone. "I'm creating a cave here to prepare for the trial."