

DEMONIC 1411

### **Chapter 1411 1411. Invasion**

Noah didn't immediately focus on his reward. His body was a mess and needed attention, and the underground structure had many valuable materials that he could seize.

With all the golems dead, their dark-blue rocky remains didn't belong to the inheritance anymore. Noah could take them as part of the trial's rewards, and he wouldn't give up on that resource, especially since some boulders were materials in the upper tier.

His overall gains there surpassed what he had managed to seize in the previous trials. The other sparse resources gained in the second layer couldn't match that sheer number of materials.

Noah could only be happy about the outcome of the trial, but those gains didn't manage to improve his mood. He had just learnt about a massive conspiracy and incredible plans. Those few rewards couldn't satisfy his desire to join the field where only rank 9 existences could walk.

'Recovering comes first,' Noah thought as Snore brought him through the halls had helped to gather all the dark-blue debris left in the underground structure. 'I still have eight towers to explore. One of them has to contain something that can bring my battle prowess to a superior league.'

What he had gained in that trial and the entirety of the second layer was only a minute part of what Supreme Thief's inheritance could offer. The "strength" tower had more floors available, and the same went for the other buildings. Noah was still far away from being over with the structure.

Since the second layer couldn't offer him anything else, Noah decided to return to the outside world to recover. He also had to hunt to refill his stash of magical beasts' corpses, and he wanted to spend some time in seclusion to absorb the experience gained in the previous battles fully.

A surprise was waiting for him in the outside world. When Noah left the inheritance and reappeared above the "strength" tower, he saw countless platoons of hybrids fixing a series of long metal bars at the bottom of the fake mountain.

The air in the area was tense, and neither of those hybrids seemed interested in Supreme Thief's inheritance anymore. The bottom of the region under the structure had become their priority.

Noah could vaguely understand what was happening, but he couldn't comprehend the reasons behind that hurry. The platoons were preparing themselves to move the region, but Noah didn't sense any threat with his mind. Even his superior awareness couldn't feel the slightest trace of danger.

"You came out in the end," Divine Demon's familiar voice flew in the form of mental waves and reached Noah's mind. "Join me. I will update you on the current situation."

Noah flew toward the source of his aura and found Divine Demon sitting together with Ian and Jordan. Even Don had joined that group, and his eyes studied Noah's injuries as if trying to understand whether he had defeated that impossible trial.

"What is happening?" Noah asked. "Why this hurry?"

Noah didn't fail to notice that the hybrids' expression turned grim at his question. Still, they seemed more annoyed than concerned.

"The magical beasts have resumed their invasion," Divine Demon revealed before the others had a chance to say anything. "A large part of the human side is migrating, so they have to move the inheritance toward more windy areas."

Divine Demon's words confirmed Noah's guess, but the contents of what he revealed surpassed what Noah's expected. He had thought that the human side was up to something, but he didn't expect that its movements came from the magical beasts' side.

"How is the invasion going?" Noah asked.

The two sides' border was the home for many inheritances, and Noah didn't forget about them only because he had found another one. In theory, Supreme Thief's creation could offer much more than the Land of the Fallen, but the rewards contained there were easier to seize.

They also carried elemental aptitudes that the trials in Supreme Thief's inheritance lacked. The latter contained good techniques and valuable resources, but it wasn't as specific as the others.

Noah had managed to meet Supreme Thief by chance, and he had already received his reward. Reaching the towers' bottom was impossible at his current level, so that inheritance had already stopped being his priority.

"The families on the border are holding strong, but they always do that at the beginning," Ian replied. "They can't stop the endless waves of beasts forever. They will eventually give up on those lands."

"Silkpost city will fall," Jordan continued. "We will move Yellnbel deeper into the windy area for now, but we will fight if they try to send us deeper in the lands filled by chaotic laws."

It didn't matter what Noah did. The war was inevitable, and it had already begun. It was only a matter of time before scouts flew above those lands and spotted the presence of living beings in the region.

"You won't be able to use the inheritance while we move it," Ian explained. "It becomes heavier according to the number of existences in its insides, so I must ask you to leave. Unless you want to help, of course."

Ian and offered Noah a formal invitation and was almost tempted enough to accept. He didn't care if the Land of the Fallen ended up in the magical beasts' grasps, so he desired to remain with the hybrids for the time being.

Yet, a mental message suddenly reached his inscribed notebook. Fergie was giving him his version of the events inside Silkpost city, and he also wanted to inform him about a special event that was about to happen in those areas.

Since the humans were about to abandon those inheritances, the powerful organizations had created a series of elite teams to clear anything that they could. It didn't matter if those experts needed the rewards. The various families had another plan for them.

Fergie explained that the powerful organizations wanted to create a massive auction featuring all the resources obtained in that period. They were also willing to sell some of their resources to gain some extra money.

The event was quite significant. It was rare for many organizations to lift the restrictions placed on those areas and allow a proper auction. They would also hold large trades featuring many valuable resources, so Noah felt the need to attend.

Noah now had many resources at hand, especially when it came to his stash of Soul Stones. He could purchase almost anything for his level. He could even aim to obtain some rare item from the auctions due to his wealth.

"How will I find you if I were to leave now?" Noah asked, hinting at his intentions.

Divine Demon exploded into a loud laugh, and Jordan revealed an interested expression. Instead, Ian remained stern and replied with plain words.

"You won't find us," Ian said. "Come into the Outer Lands, and the Legion will find you. This is still our home. We aren't giving it to anyone. Migrating the valuable structures is only an insurance."

"What about you?" Noah asked Divine Demon, but the latter shook his head.

"I made too many enemies among the human side," Divine Demon explained. "I have no reason to leave Supreme Thief's inheritance either. I will stay with the Legion."

"I will see you all in the future then," Noah said before limping away as he searched for a place where to rest.

Still, two familiar presences immediately appeared behind him and revealed canny smiles when he turned to look at them. Jordan and Don had followed him.

### **Chapter 1412 1412. Group**

"I usually travel alone," Noah said as he sat on Snore's head.

"I like being in a group," Jordan replied, pretending that she didn't understand the meaning behind his words.

"I have been in the Outer Lands for too long," Don added. "My cultivation will stagnate if I keep on training in seclusion."

The two hybrids had continued to follow Noah even after he had left the region with Supreme Thief's inheritance. He was searching for a place where to recover properly, but the duo had slowed down his task.

"I don't work well in a group," Noah said.

"You are a celebrity among the hybrids at our level," Don replied. "I'm quite curious about your power."

"I'm in the solid stage," Jordan said without adding anything else. Her statement was enough to decline Noah's almost polite words.

"The Crystal City has put a bounty on me," Noah said. "It will be dangerous to travel with me."

"I also want a bounty," Don replied. "The Legion will understand my value if I bring back the heads of a few fanatics."

"I'm in the solid stage," Jordan added, and Noah gave up on trying to use that approach to convince them.

"I will surely cause a mess," Noah said in a last desperate attempt to convince the duo to leave him alone. "It's almost certain that something will happen. Nothing ever goes smoothly whenever I try to do things properly. The whole Legion might get involved if you are with me."

"It's fine. Hybrids don't fear wars," Don replied.

"I'm in the solid stage," Jordan said again, and Noah felt the urge to attack both of them after that pointless conversation.

"Does Theodora have anything to do with this?" Noah asked, and the duo revealed shameless smiles at his question.

"The members of the Legion already like you," Don replied. "Those who have watched your battle against the Steeled Boar have taken you as their role model. I wonder what they would say if they knew that you have also overcome the impossible trial."

"We won't intervene unless the situation requires it," Jordan added. "Besides, it's always quite messy during an invasion. Being in a group can only help."

Noah could only give up at that point. Don wasn't hard to shake off, but he didn't have the power to go against Jordan. As she had often mentioned, she was a hybrid in the solid stage.

"Fine, you can come," Noah said before heaving a helpless sigh, "But I won't change my plans because of you. If you want to follow me, you will have to abide by my schedule."

The duo nodded as they suppressed a laugh. They found Noah's helplessness quite funny, especially when he had no power over them. They could do as they wished, and Noah couldn't stop them.

The journey proceeded silently for a while. Don and Jordan understood Noah's need to rest, so they didn't disturb him as he searched for a suitable spot before secluding himself.

His condition was quite poor, but it began to improve as soon as he focused on recovering. The Dark Womb spell worked together with the black hole and quickened his recovery. In a bit more than a few months, Noah had almost returned to his peak, so he could resume his travel with his fourth center of power took care of polishing his status.

Noah had reviewed his battles during the seclusion, and his focus had mostly gone on his improved martial arts. The power that he had managed to express after fusing his dark matter with his forms was spectacular, but he could still improve a lot.

That was only a first application of his higher energy to his slashes. It was the beginning of the improved version of his personal fighting school. Noah wasn't limiting himself to his hybrid status anymore. He was finally making use of his four centers of power at the same time.

The following steps would see him adding the dark matter to every technique and spell in his possession. That would set the end of his project, and the start of another focused on creating new arts without having to go through the same fusion again.

Noah used part of his time to study his reward from the trial. Don showed some interest in that book, but Noah didn't mind it since he already guessed his success against the golems.

The "embodiment of power" was a strange technique that required him to create channels that his darkness could use to fuel his tissues. The same was possible with the mental energy. The idea behind that skill was to transform one's body into a weapon that could face spells head-on.

Noah had already reached a similar level due to his hybrid status and his black hole. Still, his body would surpass anything in existence if he managed to use that technique.

The Divine Deduction technique illuminated his mental sea and helped Noah understanding the method. He couldn't use it in its current state. He had to break it down and reassemble it in a shape that could affect even his incredible body.

Noah didn't limit himself to a passive study of the book and his martial arts. He also created fake cores to refill his stash depleted against the golems. He even built instabilities now that he had an abundance of materials.

The dark-blue boulders in the upper tier remained inside his separate space. Noah didn't want to show that he owned such valuable materials. Still, he couldn't waste time performing countless tests with his other projects occupying most of his thoughts.

Noah wasn't even sure that he could handle materials in the upper tier at his level, but he wasn't going to test that any time soon. His martial arts and the auctions had the priority.

As his body returned to his peak, Noah resumed to hunt, and he soon had to admit that the duo didn't bother him in the slightest. Their cooperation even felt natural.

Don, Jordan, and Noah shared the same needs. They had to eat to improve their bodies and cultivate to improve their dantians. They also had personal training techniques meant to enlarge their minds.

Since their needs were so similar, they managed to divine every part of their journey perfectly. Only Jordan had to adapt to her companions' needs from time to time since her superior level gave her different timings.

The trio didn't use a conventional path. The human domain was a mess after the magical beasts invaded, and they were hybrids. It was better to move through the Outer Lands and turn toward Silkpost city once they reached its area.

Noah had only read that path in maps that gave a vague description of the Immortal Lands, but Jordan and Don were experts in that field. The Legion lived in the Outer Lands, so most of its members had committed those regions to memory.

The air grew tenser as the group neared the border between the two domains. Faint shockwaves also ran through the sky, and vague roars echoed from region to region.

The trio's superior awareness couldn't miss those signals. Powerful existences were fighting in the distance, and the effects of their battles spread for entire regions before dispersing. The fight on the border seemed even more violent than expected.

### **Chapter 1413 1413. Secret area**

"I didn't expect this," Fergie said when he saw the two hybrids behind Noah.

The trio had met with Fergie to gain a better understanding of the situation in Silkpost city. Noah even had to refill the oval-shaped core inside his spy to keep the Shadow Swords active.

Fergie didn't complain while Noah poured energy inside him. He had accepted his status as a spy, and his cultivation level had also grown in that period.

He was still in the gaseous stage, but he was about to approach the breakthrough. Seeing Noah's ambition had allowed his power to grow far quicker than usual.

"Can we enter the auctions without alerting the Crystal City of our arrival?" Noah asked, ignoring the surprised expression of his spy.

"That's impossible," Fergie said as he shook his head. "Still, nothing major should happen as long as you play by the rules. In theory, these events are illegal. The rules of Silkpost city are turning a blind eye because of the invasion, but they will intervene if you cause some trouble."

Noah glanced at the duo behind him when he heard those words. A helpless sigh escaped his mouth as he considered how poorly everything could go. Still, he knew how pointless it was to ask them to leave.

"Many famous figures will appear in the auctions," Fergie continued. "I suggest you keep a low profile and focus on your bids. It might be worth investing in isolated rooms if you want to avoid any trouble."

Noah let Fergie explain everything he knew about the auctions. The event would occur in a secret area under Silkpost city, and only the major organizations could grant access to experts without any affiliation.

Obtaining that authorization wasn't hard. Paying a hefty price to one of the various organizations was enough to enter the secret area, but that alone wouldn't grant access to the best auctions.

The organizations wanted to keep the best resources for themselves. The best way to do it was to limit the access to the auctions that featured valuable materials and techniques.

Experts without any affiliation could still enter those auctions, but they couldn't pay their authorization with simple Soul Stones. They had to offer something equally valuable, and Noah wasn't willing to separate himself from resources when he intended to purchase them.

'I need to use my relationship with the Balrow family,' Noah concluded in his mind after he learnt everything Fergie knew.

"I won't join the auctions," Fergie said when it was time to separate. "The secret organization wants me to keep track of the invasion, so you will be on your own there."

"It's fine," Noah replied. "I only want to buy items. Nothing bad should happen."

Both Noah and Fergie didn't believe in those words. Events of that caliber often involved many political interactions that the duo ignored. Non-affiliated experts would usually suffer from the suppression of large organizations since they didn't have enough wealth or power to purchase and defend their gains.

Noah was an exception due to his success in the various inheritances explored in the past years. His wealth amounted to ninety thousand Soul Stones, which was an outrageous number for a single expert.

His robe in the middle tier had cost two thousand Soul Stones. That had been a lucky price due to Thea Monneay's mistake, but it was enough to describe how much resources at his level could cost.

The items in the auctions would generally be more expensive, but Noah had enough Soul Stones to overpay anything that he wanted. He could also trade some of the dark-blue metal if the situation required it.

His wealth made him sure that he could win some of the auctions. That would inevitably lead to problems if one of the organizations involved in the event wanted his same items.

'I can only deal with the problems when they appear,' Noah thought as he put those worries in the back of his mind. 'No point hesitating now that I am here.'

Fergie left, and the trio traveled toward the closest wild region to wait for the beginning of the auctions. The official event would start in a few years since some of the most famous experts had yet to arrive. The invasion had been too sudden, so some organizations had to reorganize before they could send bidding teams.

Those years went by quickly for Noah, Don, and Jordan. They limited themselves to cultivate and hunt in separate areas as they had done during their travel. Their hybrid status gave them an innate understanding of how much space their companions needed, and they had even gained experience in that field in the last period.

When the time for the auctions arrived, the trio regrouped and moved toward Silkpost city while wearing clothes that hid their appearance. Jordan and Don would be fine even without them, but Noah didn't want to face any risk during the event.

Crowds of experts filled the streets of Silkpost city. A heavy aura coming from the border with the magical beasts covered every building, but those cultivators didn't seem to care about it.

The population of the city had also gone through a complete transformation during the last years. Silkpost city was usually the home of warriors that wanted to test their abilities in the Land of the Fallen, but they had become the minority after the invasion.

The crowds mostly had experts wearing expensive and luxurious clothes who spent most of their time having peaceful conversations with members of other organizations. No one visited the shops either. Only the inscription halls and the restaurants continued to have their normal stream of clients.

Noah and the others ignored everything around them and moved directly to a building situated near the city center. A green banner hanging from one of the windows of the structure confirmed the identity of its owners, and the group didn't hesitate to approach it.

A line of experts had formed in front of the structure belonging to the Balrow family. Guards with various strengths protected its entrance and surveyed the area to ensure that no one could cause any trouble.

Noah and the others waited for their turn, and the guard in the liquid stage revealed a broad smile when she saw the green card held by Noah's hand. Yet, her expression froze when she heard his request.

"I want complete access to the auctions," Noah said as he waved the green card in front of the guard's eyes. "You should call your superiors to confirm my identity. I'm sure we can find an agreement when it comes to the price to pay for the authorization."

The guard didn't know what to say in front of such confidence. Non-affiliated experts would usually try to use a humble approach to gain access to those events, but Noah saw his entrance as a certainty.

"I will contact my superior," The guard said. "She will know what to do."

"There is no need for that," A familiar voice resounded from inside the structure, and a bald cultivator in the solid stage appeared in the open to greet Noah.

"Saul," Noah said as he performed a polite bow.

"Let them pass," Saul Balrow said as he gestured to Noah to raise. "We have a lot to talk about. I'm quite sure Defying Demon also wants to know about the pyramid."

#### **Chapter 1414 1414. Trade**

"How did you know about Great Builder's inheritance?" Saul asked as he led the group inside the structure.

"I didn't," Noah replied. "I only happened to unlock the secret area when I cleared the last room. Did you take a look at it?"

"Others from the family have," Saul admitted as he kept his gaze forward. "The Balrow family has immediately closed the pyramid and cleared two more layers, but the exploration is on hold for now."

"Did they lead to the same room?" Noah asked.

"Yes," Saul replied. "We obtained two more pieces of Great Builder's inheritance, but the higher-ups have yet to decide whether they want to keep clearing the pyramid."

"Why is that?" Noah asked.

Noah couldn't understand why such a large organization would hold back in front of rewards that it knew how to obtain. After all, they consisted in the inheritance of a rank 9 existence. Not many would hesitate in front of the chance to seize it.

Saul fell silent as he continued to lead the group through the structure. They went through multiple rooms and unlocked a secret passage by activating a device hidden under a tile.

The floor moved at that point, and a narrow staircase unfolded in their vision. It was only when the group had descended a few steps that Saul finally answered Noah's question.



"You know what Great Builder's plan is," Saul said as he heaved a long sigh. "The output of energy redirected to the secret room increases whenever we clear a layer. The family has become worried that we might trigger the resurrection of a rank 9 expert."

Everything became clear in Noah's mind at that point. Great Builder was a variable that the Balrow family wasn't willing to face. Even if it could instantly obtain valuable resources, that organization didn't want to awaken a monster by mistake.

"Is it possible to take a look at the other two parts of the inheritance?" Noah asked as a cold smile appeared on his face.

Saul stopped to stare at him with an emotionless expression. Multiple thoughts surged in his mind as he studied Noah's face.

"How did you reach the liquid stage so soon?" Saul asked.

"I had a series of lucky encounters," Noah replied. "My accumulation in the wilderness did the rest."

"The whole world knows that you are a hybrid," Saul said. "The wilderness can explain the level of your body, but your cultivation level belongs to another field. These lies work only with those fanatics from the Crystal City."

A tremor ran through Noah's eyes when he heard those words. Saul made him understand that he knew about the events inside the Hellish Landscape. He wouldn't have mentioned the Crystal City otherwise.

Saul glanced at Noah's companions at that point. He couldn't use his mental waves to inspect them since Jordan's presence worried him, but he could vaguely understand that something had changed in Noah's status from that scene.

Connecting Noah to the Legion wasn't hard. Gathering information in the Immortal Lands wasn't hard for a cultivator in the solid stage who belonged to a large organization. Saul only needed to link a few reports to understand what Noah had experienced after the clash with the Crystal City.

Saul couldn't imagine that Noah had also explored Supreme Thief's inheritance and found a connection with that structure and Great Builder's pyramid. Still, he could identify him as the cause behind the sudden disappearance of Boss Van's guild, especially since Chief Taylor had live to tell that story.

"You should never leave survivors," Saul eventually said. "Your bounty would have already gone up to ten million Soul Stones if the magical beasts didn't decide to invade. Those creatures are the only reason why I can allow you inside the auction without having to face any repercussion."

"You have my gratitude then," Noah replied, but Saul released a loud snort.

"Who cares about your gratitude," Saul said. "What are you willing to give for the two pieces of Great Builder's inheritance in our possession?"

"The originals?" Noah asked.

"The copies," Saul replied firmly.

"I will give you the first part," Noah said as his cold smile widened. "A copy."

"Nonsense," Saul said as he resumed to move. "You have the weakest part. The Balrow family is willing to trade the piece in the liquid stage for yours, but it can't include the part in the solid stage. That's something that even I can't buy without relying on my organization."

"I hope the other forces would understand the value of my piece then," Noah said as the coldness leaked by his figure became more intense.

Saul almost froze when he heard those words. Noah had hinted at something that he feared. If Noah sold his part of Great Builder's inheritance during the auctions, the Balrow family would have to deal with the enormous pressure coming from the forces that wanted to explore the pyramid.

Instead, if everything remained between Saul and Noah, the Balrow family would continue to hold its monopoly over that resource, which was a good investment in front of a rank 9 inheritance.

"I can't give it for free," Saul said once he managed to recover. "Add something to the plate. I wouldn't know how to explain the trade to my superiors otherwise."

The duo began to negotiate after they silently agreed that they wouldn't spread that resource through the world. The information about the pyramid also had to remain a secret to fend off interested forces.

Noah eventually agreed to build a series of living weapons for the Balrow family since he wasn't willing to let go of his resources, especially before the auctions.

As for the delivery of the goods, Noah and Saul agreed that they would wait until the auctions were over to conclude that deal. Both parts had to see how the event would go before deciding to trade those valuable techniques.

The staircase led to a series of underground rooms before allowing the group inside the actual areas that would feature the auctions. After they went through a few old doors, the sound of countless conversations reached their ears, and a series of crowds appeared in their vision.

A large underground structure as big as the whole Silkpost city unfolded in the group's eyes. Countless cultivators filled the area and gathered in front of small shops that featured a small number of items.

However, the exhibited items weren't their best pieces, and most of those shops didn't belong to actual merchants. All the experts that couldn't reach the secret area were there, selling and trading the resources obtained throughout their lives in the hope of finding something that could make their level advance.

"This is only the first area," Saul explained. "No point remaining here. The auctions will happen a few more layers underground."

"Lead the way then," Noah said, even if some of the items there had attracted his interest.

Noah was filthy rich, but he wanted to see what the auctions had to offer before exploring the other markets in the underground structure. He didn't want to risk losing the best items put up for sale to trade with unknown cultivators.

Glances flew in the group's direction, but the experts there didn't have the authority to stop Saul. Jordan's presence also scared them away, so they reached the lower layers of the underground structure without coming across any trouble.

## Chapter 1415 1415. Black shard

"They are guests of the Balrow family," Saul said once a guard in the solid stage stopped the group at the bottom of a staircase leading to the lower layers of the underground structure.

The guard checked Saul's green card and performed a polite bow before letting the group pass. A maze made of multiple corridors and doors unfolded in their vision at that point, but Saul promptly led them across the structure.

Saul then used his green card to open one of the doors, and a large room that featured a few couches and a table filled with food appeared in their vision. Jordan and Don didn't hesitate to jump on the delicacies, but Noah and Saul remained at the entrance to exchange a few last words.

"The large forces have a shared control of the event," Saul said. "They won't know your name, but they will manage to connect you to the Balrow family since I've used my credentials. Please, don't cause a mess."

"I'm here only to buy resources," Noah replied. "I wouldn't have come back at all if it weren't for this chance."

Saul nodded, and some worry left his expression. Noah had spoken the truth, and he could sense his honesty. Still, Saul knew that Noah could stir a mess even if he didn't intend to.

"A window will open once the auctions start," Saul said. "Use the panel to place your bids. They will return into the room if you fail to win the resource. The same goes for the items when you win them. Everything is quite simple."

Noah nodded, but Saul wasn't over with the explanations. His expression became stern as he began to explain the political aspects of the auctions.

"You know how important face is to the organizations," Saul said. "Pay attention to the experts in the front rows. If they start sealing loud deals, you should back off from the auction and let them have it. Failing to do so will tell them that someone inside the Balrow family doesn't care about their fame."

"Understood," Noah said in a less honest tone.

Noah knew that the event could be dangerous. The atmosphere in the lower layers of the underground structure was tense due to all the powerful experts joining the auction. Almost all the guards there were in the solid stage. The same went for the other guests and participants. That place could become a deadly trap if he didn't play carefully.

Yet, Noah wouldn't hold back if he found something that could help his battle prowess. He would try to play it safe, but his growth always had the priority.

In the worst case, Noah would escape in the wilderness and spend some time with the Legion. Jordan and Don already saw him as a member of that organization in the end. Theodora had even told them to keep an eye on him.

"We will finish talking about Great Builder's inheritance afterward," Saul concluded as he approached the door. "I shouldn't say this, but the Balrow family wants to use the workshop to gain more relevance in the political environment. Giving it a favorable price can only benefit you."

Saul left without waiting for Noah's answer. A barrier appeared around the room once the door closed. A series of shining lines came out of its walls to activate some of that structure's functions.

The panel placed after the couches lit up, and Noah studied it to be ready for the auction. Jordan and Don mostly ate while Noah kept himself busy, but they didn't hold back from giving voice to a few comments.

"The human society didn't change in these centuries," Jordan said in an annoyed tone. "It's one bow after another. They waste so much time in trying to be polite when they can't even protect their homes."

"You forced me to have a fistfight with other hybrids before accepting my requests," Noah commented. "How is bowing different?"

"Fighting reveals your true self," Don said as he gulped a big piece of meat. "Bowing only hides your intentions."

Noah gave up on arguing with the duo soon. Jordan and Don had become so used to live among hybrids that they couldn't acknowledge the human traditions anymore.

Truth be told, Noah found most of them pointless, but he couldn't deny their usefulness, especially when it came to those connected to their political environment.

"Why didn't you attack the human side if you are so strong?" Noah asked as he sat on the couch and filled his cup with some wine.

"There are too many humans," Jordan replied before heaving a helpless sigh. "They aren't weak either. Our innate abilities can put us above them, but the Legion can't win in an all-out war due to the immense difference in our number. We are lucky that they are too busy fighting among themselves to focus on the enemies coming from outside their domain."

A few hours had to pass before one of the walls lit up and became transparent once the light dimmed. A deep structure appeared on the other side of that screen-like item. Multiple seats circled a large stage that featured a few experts in the solid stage who wore luxurious robes that didn't carry any special symbol.

The transparent wall didn't block the sound from the stage, so Noah and the others could hear everything happening under them. Even the conversations among the experts on the stages reached their room.

The auction began with a long presentation that described the identity of the solid stage experts on the stage and explained how the event would proceed.

The experts had different areas of specialization. They were famous cultivators that the organizations had lent to take care of the inspection and evaluation of the auctioned items. Their tasks also involved the description of the resources once they reached the stage.

The auction began right after their presentation. A series of items quickly appeared on the stage. They were chests filled with crystal-like materials in the middle tier, and their starting price was a mere one hundred Soul Stones.

The price quickly rose to four thousand before the auction ended. A member of the Monneay family purchased those materials, and the expert in charge placed them over a small matrix that teleported them directly on the winner's lap.

More items came out afterward. Noah didn't find any of them interesting, but he used that chance to expand his knowledge of the Immortal Lands. Some of those resources were quite peculiar, but they didn't fit his situation enough to make him place a bid.

That was only the initial part of the auction. Only items with vague value would appear now, and Noah didn't dare to use his resources only to please his curiosity.

Still, something capable of stirring his interest eventually appeared. Noah didn't expect anything when he saw a simple-looking black shard appearing on the stage, but an item inside his separate space activated at that sight.

Noah almost couldn't believe his mind when he looked inside the separate space and saw that the diagram obtained in Shandal's separate dimension had begun to radiate strange waves of energy. The black shard had triggered a reaction in an item that had been silent for millennia.

Noah didn't even need to think about it. Before anyone else could even bid, he had already placed two thousand Soul Stones inside the panel.

#### **Chapter 1416 1416. Mistake**

Noah had obtained the strange diagram millennia ago and had remained uncertain about its effects since then. Nothing he did could cause a reaction in those lines, and the situation didn't change after he reached the divine ranks.

A divine item that could hide its nature from his inspection had to be powerful. Yet, Noah didn't know what to do with it. He had kept it inside his separate space due to its potential value, but he often forgot that it was still there.

"A frail mineral that can store particles of "Breath" of the darkness element," The expert on the stage explained to the audience even if Noah had already placed his bid. "It can work as a fuel for certain inscribed items and formations that require that type of energy. Other properties are unknown. Found in the Void Zone."

The auction began at that point, and everyone could see that Noah had already offered two thousand Soul Stones for the shard. They didn't know his name, but they knew that someone was willing to spend that substantial sum for a seemingly ordinary item.

Noah wasn't aware that he had committed a mistake. He wasn't an expert in those types of auctions, so he didn't predict that his action would cause unwanted effects.

All the experts in the auction were opponents. They wouldn't lose the chance to make someone else spend more Soul Stones. That tactic would allow them to purchase the resources that they wanted at a lower price or fight for them with fewer opponents.

Noah recognized his mistake when he saw multiple bids surpassing his offer and doubling the shard's price. Still, it was too late now. He could only deal with the consequences of his actions and continue to place more Soul Stones into the panel.

The other experts eventually let him have the item. They were afraid that Noah would stop bidding if they continued to raise the price. He had to pay a bit more than five thousand Soul Stones, but he successfully purchased the black shard.

The panel illuminated after the auction ended, and a case appeared above it once the light dimmed. Noah quickly opened the envelope and picked the peculiar shard to inspect its structure.

The item appeared quite ordinary. It was nothing more than a mineral filled with "Breath" of the darkness element. It didn't contain much energy either, but Noah guessed that it was part of a mine or a similar structure.

"Do you know what the Void Zone is?" Noah asked the hybrids as he continued to study the shard.

Noah had read something about it when he inspected the library. Some books described that place as one of the Immortal Lands' natural danger zones, but they never explained the reason behind that.

They only said that it had something to do with the void, which Noah found peculiar since it was inside a higher plane. Ripping the fabric of the world apart would take existences above the seventh rank in terms of power.

"I only happened to fly near it once," Jordan said after Don shook his head. "The Immortal Lands have many strange environments, but the Void Zone stands among the strangest."

"Is it dangerous?" Noah asked as he studied how the shard affected the diagram inside the separate space.

Surges of energy flowed through the lines of the diagram whenever Noah neared the shard to his chest. It was clear that he had found the key to unlock that mysterious item, but he wanted to wait until Jordan's explanation ended before proceeding with his test.

"Dangerous isn't the right word to describe that place," Jordan replied. "The fabric of the world is strangely frail in the Void Zone. Any whiff of divine energy will rip it open and create countless cracks that lead to the void. Divine entities can survive there, but you might remain on the other side forever if you aren't careful. A species of magical beasts that can exploit those features also lives there."

'I wish I could talk with the expert who found this,' Noah thought, but he quickly discarded that idea when he saw that a new auction had already begun.

The experts on the stage were selling other peculiar and strange materials, but Noah was interested in them. His eyes closed as dark matter seeped out of his chest and took the black shard inside the separate space.

Night and the Demonic Sword prepared themselves to fight as the shard neared the diagram. Noah didn't know what would happen once the two items touched each other, so he created multiple defensive layers with his dark matter.

The shard flew toward the diagram and crumbled once it touched its lines. The energy contained inside the mineral fused with the item and tried to activate its functions. Yet, that "Breath" didn't manage to trigger anything.

Noah scrutinized the diagram and sensed that one of its lines had changed after the shard fused with it. Part of it had become thicker, and energy was filling its insides.

'I think I need to charge the entire diagram to see its effects,' Noah concluded when he noticed that detail. 'I need to go to the Void Zone.'

The auctions had yet to reach the valuable items, but Noah had already found his next destination. He couldn't contain his curiosity now that he knew how to activate the diagram. He would fly to the Void Zone as soon as that event ended.

"Where is this place?" Noah asked after realizing that he had no idea where the Void Zone was.

"Inside the magical beasts' domain," Jordan replied, "Near a windy area. It might be a good spot where to absorb chaotic laws."

Jordan had already understood Noah's intentions, so she explained other valuable features about those territories. Also, her words expressed her intention to join the journey.

'I guess it's time to see the magical beasts' domain then,' Noah thought. 'It should be easier to explore during the invasion. We only need to cross the borders without joining any battle.'

The auctions never stopped, and Noah always glanced at the featured items to see if he found something interesting. Countless materials, simple inscribed weapons, and partial knowledge about certain techniques went by, but he didn't bid for any of them.

The appearance of the black shard had been a fluke. Noah found no reason to spend Soul Stones for resources that couldn't benefit his cultivation level or battle prowess. He had to wait for the valuable items.

Saul sent him a mental message as the items reached and left the stage. The expert told Noah not to leave the room since the auctions were about to get to the last phase.

A few experts among the audience left the underground area after someone purchased the last of the weaker items. More cultivators also appeared on the stage, and a series of waiters brought them inscribed robes capable of protecting them from external pressure.

A barrier descended on the stage. Inscribed lines appeared to protect the audience from the pressure of the following items. Some of the cultivators on the seats were in the middle tier, so they would find it hard to withstand the aura of anything stronger than them.

"Should we start with a blast?" One of the experts on the stage asked, and the audience cheered at his words.

The expert snapped his fingers, and Don jumped off the couch when he saw the item that appeared on the stage. Two cultivators carried a large transparent case that contained the beating heart of a rank 8 magical beast.

## Chapter 1417 1417. Bids

Noah's blood echoed the beating of the large heart. Surges of hunger filled his body and created tides in his mental sea.

Even if Noah had surpassed the hybrid status, his instincts were still there, and they couldn't remain silent in front of the beating heart of a rank 8 magical beast.

Don slammed his hands on the transparent wall, and saliva drooled out of his open mouth. His instincts were also going crazy, but he lacked Noah's and Jordan's self-control.

"Don," Noah said as a growl fused with his human voice. "Sit."

Noah's pride filled the entire room and seeped inside Don's unstable mind, bringing clarity that his instincts were trying to take away. The hybrid slowly grew calm under that influence, and he sat back on the couch while shooting an amazed glance toward Noah.

Jordan also turned toward Noah. Her pupils had sharpened to show her true nature, and an evident surprise came out of them. Don's cultivation level surpassed Noah's, but the latter had managed to command him easily.

The same shock filled Don's mind. He couldn't explain how Noah could remain so calm in that situation. As for the influence of his orders, Don used his unstable mind to justify it.

Countless bids appeared on the panel. The experts on the seats were basically throwing Soul Stones at the item in the hope of seizing that incredible resource.

"This is one of the treasures retrieved from the Land of the Fallen," The expert tried to explain. Still, the audience's cheer and noises covered his voice and forced him to give up on that description.

The bids for the beating heart quickly surpassed a million of Soul Stones and kept rising. Their growth slowed down only when they reached the five million. At the end of the auction, someone purchased the item for a total of eleven million.

'I might have underestimated these auctions,' Noah thought as another rank 8 item replaced the heart and marked the beginning of a second bidding war.

The experts on the seats belonged to large organizations that featured rank 8 experts. Noah was rich for his level, even richer than some solid stage cultivators. Yet, he couldn't match the wealth of the forces in control of the human side.

Going into an auction that could feature rank 8 items with only ninety thousand Soul Stones was a gamble. Noah had never hoped to purchase such powerful resources. He wanted valuable things that he couldn't obtain otherwise, but the trend of the event was making him feel delusional.

The auction went from a rank 8 item to another. Crystals, body parts, partial inheritances, techniques, and diagrams whose aura could make any rank 7 cultivator shake appeared on the stage. Noah watched them come and go as he committed their appearance to memory. He needed to desire them to keep growing.



Don and Jordan seemed to understand that the situation had become strange. Still, they remained silent out of respect for Noah. They didn't know what his plan was, but they wouldn't disturb him. Also, they wanted to memorize those resources to take notes of what the human side could hide.

Luckily for Noah, the auctions eventually became less intense. Items in the seventh rank began to reappear on the stage, and their prices also reached a more reasonable number.

With his current wealth, Noah accepted that he could only purchase one item. That conclusion didn't leave him disappointed after watching many resources in the eighth rank coming and going. He was already happy to have the chance to purchase something in the solid stage if he used everything he had.

"A complete inheritance of a liquid stage cultivator,"

"An almost intact corpse of a peak rank 7 magical beast,"

"One of the masterpieces of the Balrow family,"

The experts on the stage continued to announce the various items, and Noah kept track of them as he tried to find the perfect resource to purchase. He only had one shot, so he wanted to use it well.

"A cursed sword that reflects the damage inflicted to its wielder," One of the experts said at some point. "It's a troublesome item that can make anyone surpass the limits of their cultivation level. All the previous users have died after becoming addicted to the superior power that this weapon made them express."

Noah's eyes lit up at that point and inspected the case containing that slightly curved sword. The weapon was black, with a single red sharp edge. An ominous aura in the upper tier of the seventh rank came out of the item and seemed to ask for blood.

"This is an indisputable masterpiece that grows on its own," The expert continued. "Defeating opponents with this blade will make its power improve. Its creator has taken inspiration from the magical beasts to build it, but it doesn't require actual food. It just craves battles and victories."

'Finally, something that can improve my battle prowess,' Noah thought as he waited to see the bids of the other experts.

The bids quickly reached seventy thousand Soul Stones, a low number for an inscribed item in the upper tier. Its dangerous features were scaring most of the experts away since it was a risky purchase.

Noah joined the auction at that point. He raised the price by one thousand Soul Stones every time someone surpassed his offer. At some point, only an expert in the front rows remained as his opponents.

The expert was a solid stage cultivator with long blonde hair and dark eyes. He had a youthful appearance, and his robe carried the symbol of the Sailbird family.

He wore a broad smile that froze whenever Noah surpassed his offer. A tinge of annoyance even appeared on his expression when the price reached eighty thousand Soul Stones. That was already too much for a cursed sword.

The expert exchanged a few words with the cultivators near him and stood up to turn toward Noah's room. He couldn't see Noah, but someone had informed him that his opponent was a guest of the Balrow family.

"I'm Ethan Sailbrird," The expert announced. "Can the guest from the Balrow family leave this sword to me? I would like to add it to my collection, and the eighty thousand Soul Stones would come from my personal wealth. I will owe you one if you do."

After those words, Ethan dropped two thousand Soul Stones to surpass Noah's bid and performed a bow toward his room. He appeared sure that Noah would give up on the sword after hearing the Sailbrird name.

Of course, Noah didn't even consider the possibility of giving up on the cursed blade. His reserves of Soul Stones were running short, but he still had the dark-blue metal at his disposal.

Ethan's face turned ugly when he saw that Noah surpassed his bid. He felt underestimated and offended, but he maintained a calm expression as he stood up again to make another speech.

"I would really, really like to have this sword," Ethan said. "Having friends among the Sailbrird family is a valuable tradeoff. I wouldn't give up on it."

To answer Ethan's request, Noah added more Soul Stones to his panel, and the audience had to suppress their laughs at that sight. Ethan had yet to make another bid, but Noah had raised the price again.

#### **Chapter 1418 1418. Departure**

"What did I tell you before this auction?!" Saul shouted through the inscribed notebook. "That's the Sailbrird family! They control almost all the libraries in the Immortal Lands. Do you know how much wealth they own?!"

"Will you lend me some money or not?" Noah replied, ignoring the shouts coming from his inscribed notebook. "I have enough resources to double this price. Don't make me use them."

Don and Jordan couldn't contain their laughs when they heard the mental interaction between Noah and Saul. The previous scene had already made them lose part of their decorum, but that conversation had brought the situation to another level.

"Dammit! Yes! Have your damned Soul Stones!" Saul quickly gave up and sent some money through the panel in Noah's room. "Don't you dare to go back on our previous agreement. You know that we need the first part of Great Builder's inheritance."

"Thanks!" Noah replied before storing the Soul Stones and the inscribed notebook.

The first part of Great Builder's inheritance explained how to create the fake cores and the workshop's foundation. The Balrow family could invent a suitable replacement for the cores, but it couldn't complete the technique without knowing how it functioned.

Noah had guessed that the first part of the inheritance was slightly more important than the others when they were separate, but he could confirm that only after Saul lent him the Soul Stones. That ensured his upper hand in the transaction and made him sure that he would obtain the cursed sword.

Ethan didn't know how to react to Noah's gesture. He took it as a personal offense, even if Noah only wanted to express his determination to obtain the item.

The expert from the Sailbrird family didn't lie when he said that that money came from his wealth. There was a limit to how much he could spend to purchase a defective upper tier item, and he had already lost enough face after the last interaction.

"I will leave the item to you," Ethan eventually said as he stood up and performed a polite bow toward Noah's room.

His gesture granted him the appreciation of the audience. Ethan had managed to remain calm even after what had happened. Still, Noah had interacted with enough nobles throughout his life to know when someone was hiding hostile intentions.

The auction ended at that point. The case containing the cursed word appeared above Noah's panel, and he stored it before hurrying the hybrids to stand up.

The duo was initially confused about his reaction, but Saul suddenly appeared at the entrance of the room and hurried them to leave. Even he had understood that Ethan wouldn't let the matter go.

"You must leave now," Saul said. "You will only hurt my family if you remain here."

Noah didn't hesitate and grabbed the two hybrids before following Saul through the underground maze. The expert led them back inside the structure of the Balrow family, but he didn't escort them outside.

"I don't have the copies of the other two pieces of the inheritance with me," Saul admitted. "The Balrow family is still studying them."

"We will complete our trade later on," Noah replied. "I have to leave anyway. Something came up, so I will return to the Outer Lands."

"I will contact you once the copies are ready," Saul continued. "We can decide the other details and a secret location for the trade later on. Everything is too messy with the invasion. Even my leaders don't know how much the magical beasts will conquer this time."

Noah limited himself to nod before turning to leave, but Saul cleared his throat to claim his attention again.

"The price of the sword didn't grow anymore," Saul said. "You didn't use the Soul Stones that I gave you."

"I will take them as proof of your good-will," Noah said before turning again and storming out of the structure. The two hybrids smiled at Saul before following him.

The trio ran as fast as they could through the streets of Silkpost city. Anyone in the area could realize that their speed wasn't human, but they didn't do anything to stop them. They only memorized that three hooded experts had left the structure of the Balrow family in a hurry.

"Lead me to the Void Zone," Noah said to Jordan as part of his attention went to the insides of his separate space.

The case suppressed the aura of the cursed sword, but Noah wanted to inspect it anyway. The blade was different from the Demonic Sword. It had a circular guard and a polished handle wrapped in a soft, black fabric.

The sword also had a black sheath that could contain its bloodlust. Noah had obtained the whole set in the auction, and he couldn't wait to test it in a real battle.

'I'm almost broke again,' Noah thought as he reviewed his wealth.

He had used all his money during the auction. Saul had lent him twenty thousand Soul Stones, but they didn't feel enough after witnessing experts purchasing rank 8 items.

Millions of Soul Stones had gone by during the auction. The large organizations could make trades with money that Noah would take millennia to gather.

However, the auction had also revealed to Noah that he could purchase rank 8 items as long as he had enough money. He believed that those resources were unattainable before the event, but the various forces had proven him wrong.

'I guess I still don't have a clear understanding of the human society in the higher plane,' Noah concluded in his mind as a loud sigh escaped his mouth.

Jordan took the lead of the group and set off once they left the borders of Silkpost city. The trio moved toward the Land of the Fallen, where the intense aura radiated by the battles on the border raged more violently.

The group didn't enter the battlefield. They gazed at the multicolored lights filling the sky in the distance before changing direction. Jordan led them around the battlefield and deep into the magical beasts' domain before slowing down.

"Humans sure are petty," Don said once Jordan slowed down.

"They have lived in comfort for so long that they have created different types of struggles for their kind," Jordan replied. "My time with the Legion has made me forget how hard it was to hide among cultivators."

Noah didn't join that conversation. The Immortal Lands tried to keep the three kinds as separate forces, but he didn't care about those differences. Only power mattered in his mind, so he didn't have any bias regarding humans and magical beasts.

"Is it a brother?" The Demonic Sword's youthful voice resounded inside Noah's mind after a while.

The living weapon had begun to fly around the transparent case after it understood that the cursed sword carried traces of a will. The Demonic Sword appeared happy to see that Noah's new companion was a blade instead of a beast.

'We will ask it later on,' Noah replied through his mind. 'We will have a long conversation and understand why it hurts its wielders.'

Noah gazed at the sky in the distance after that reply. It was impossible to miss the battlefield between the two domains. Multicolored lights had given the white radiance an everchanging color, and the very space of the higher plane seemed to twist due to the energy released in that area.

Noah watched those lights and let his mind go wild. Resources and traces of rank 8 beings were becoming a common sight in his life. That was the proof that his cultivation level was slowly nearing that league.

### **Chapter 1419 1419. Cursed Sword**

Noah couldn't explore the real version of the magical beasts' domain in the first phases of his journey toward the Void Zone. The creatures that lived near the border were fighting with the human side. The trio flew over empty regions inhabited only by immense magical plants.

The flora was far richer in the lands under the control of the magical beasts. The humans tended to clear entire areas to build cities and defenses, but those creatures lived in the complete wild. The magical plants died only when powerful beings fought near them.

That empty environment didn't allow the trio to hunt, but they could gather valuable materials from the unprotected and harmless magical plants.

Some of the tallest trees had thick trunks that could provide tough wood. Noah seized everything he could and filled his separate space with many valuable materials. He gained more from that simple travel than from the whole golem cave in the second layer of Supreme Thief's inheritance.

Those gains would have been impossible if the magical beasts were still in those regions. Many of the magical plants seized by the trio thrived near lairs belonging to rank 8 creatures. The trio had no chance to take those resources during normal times.

Magical beasts eventually began to reappear once Noah and the others flew deeper into that domain. Sparse packs made of creatures in the lower tier of the seventh rank acted like the trio and ate anything they could now that the leaders were away.

The trio avoided those packs. They were too weak to satisfy their bodies, and they didn't want to waste time since they were still too close to the human domain.

Their superior awareness told them that no one was following them, but it was better to play it safe against cultivators from large forces. The Sailbird family was wealthy enough to purchase cloaking robes for its members.

When the trio was deep enough in the magical beasts' domain, they decided to take a break and focus on their cultivation. Noah couldn't wait for that moment to arrive since he had a promising item to inspect.

Noah dug a cave in a tall forest and covered the entire habitation with dark matter before taking out the transparent case containing the cursed sword.

The Demonic Sword and Night also came out of the separate space carrying a mixture of worry and curiosity. They could sense that the cursed blade was an inscribed weapon in the upper tier, but they trusted Noah enough to believe that the item would become their companion soon.

Noah covered his body with dark matter, and the fiendish armor quickly formed. His clawed fingers then removed the seal placed on the case, and an intense bloodlust filled the dark world as soon as the container opened.

Countless images flowed inside Noah's mind and resonated with his memories. He recalled every battle and life that he had taken under the influence of that bloodlust.

Dark-red shades quickly began to replace the colors in his memories. All the blood spilled because of him filled his mind and tried to cover his whole mental sea.

"Another warmonger," A tired male voice seeped inside Noah's consciousness. "You all kill without considering your opponent's pain. My creator was a fool to believe that battles would stop once the aggressors learnt what their enemies felt."

The voice was deep and loud. It echoed inside Noah's mind and created shockwaves that ran through the red color filling his mental sea.

"Humans will never stop fighting," The voice continued. "This is their curse. Mine is to have them as my Masters. Luckily, I won't be your servant. Your arrogance has clouded your mind."

The cursed sword was speaking about Noah's cultivation level. He had chosen to feel the aura of the blade even if his power was inferior to the item.

Yet, Noah was far from ordinary. His black hole began to rotate faster as the bloodlust tried to fill every inch of his mind, and his companions gave voice to cries that created some clarity among that dark-red scenery.

Every time Noah recalled one of his bloodied memories, he sensed the emotions that had filled his being at that time. He remembered why he had killed so many opponents, and the answer was always the same.

"I agree!" Noah roared. "Humans are hypocrites, but I'm no cultivator. You can call me a monster if you please, but I will use you to unleash even more bloodshed. I won't run away from this bloodlust. Let me seize it!"

Noah's voice was a mixture of human words and roars, and a loud cry followed the end of his speech. His pride became more intense at that point, and his ambition surged to express all the qualities of his individuality.

The dark-red color that had filled his mind slowly began to disappear. It didn't fade. Noah's mental sea absorbed and made it part of its structure.

The dark-brown mental sea began to radiate scarlet shades after Noah completed the process, and his aura obtained an ominous feeling. Something had changed inside him, but he didn't feel any different.

Noah had his bloodlust. The cursed sword had intensified it and forced him to give it a form. The blade had also passed him the bloodlust of its previous Masters, and it didn't expect him to absorb it so quickly.

"Why?" The cursed sword asked through mental waves that seeped through Noah's consciousness. "Why do you all keep on fighting? Why can't you stop?"

Noah completely opened the case and dispersed his armor at that point. The sword's aura couldn't hurt him anymore after he had absorbed its bloodlust, so he could wield it without facing any danger.

"I will show you," Noah said as his hand closed on its handle and his ambition surged.

Noah's aura expanded. He had cultivated enough to have regained some potential, so his centers of powers slightly grew under that influence. The dark world also reacted to his ambition.

The dark matter morphed and gave birth to a starry sky. Noah's black higher energy began to shine with white color as it reflected what he saw through his ambition.

His feelings flowed out of his mind and seeped inside the blade. The weapon's will didn't speak during that scene. It simply focused on the starry sky and bathed in Noah's emotions.

"Can humans even reach that?" The sword asked after it snapped back to reality.

"I have no idea," Noah replied, "But I will kill every single living being in the Immortal Lands if that gets me closer to what I want."

"I see," The sword said and fell silent for a while before giving a final answer. "I accept your determination. Use me to unleash as much bloodshed as you like. Failing to endure it will lead to your death."

"Death is the easy path," Noah said as he took out the cursed sword from the case and raised it above his head.

That simple movement created a fissure in his dark world and broke the ground behind it. The slash also cut a few magical plans in the area before losing its power and vanishing.

A cut then opened on Noah's shoulder. That attack had also injured him, but he expected nothing less from a blade with the label "cursed."

"Now, tell me what you can do," Noah said as he came out of the cave. It was time for some tests.

### **Chapter 1420 1420. Encounter**

Noah soon understood that he couldn't go all-out during his tests. The cursed sword wasn't a weapon meant for daily use. It was a trump card that could force existences to unleash far more power than they wielded.

The foundation of the weapon's power was in its bloodlust. Its Master had to carry a similar feeling to wield the cursed sword, and their auras had to fuse during the attack to unleash blows that surpassed their level.

Noah had an enormous bloodlust. His life had been a constant battlefield, and he had never once held back from killing his opponents. His existence suited the weapon perfectly, but that was a disadvantage when he wanted to test its power.

"The bloodlust only enhances your power, but you pay the price with your energy and body," The cursed sword explained as Noah rested on a tree with the blade on his lap. "You can probably launch a few attacks with power in the upper tier before falling apart. Remember never to use me when your mind is

unstable. You have absorbed the bloodlust of my previous Masters, but their influence can still drive you crazy."

Noah memorized those teachings as he studied the blade. The cursed sword had yet to understand how unusual his body was, so it was treating him as a common hybrid.

He guessed that he could survive at least five attacks before suffering too many injuries. That was a rough estimate that took into consideration his current level and the incredible properties of his black hole, so he could stretch his limits as long as he improved.

'I have the middle tier disposable puppet and the cursed sword as trump cards now,' Noah thought as he stored the blade without putting it back in its case. 'The bloodlust and Supreme Thief's true meaning are also inside my mind, but I can't take them out at will. I even have many life-saving drugs that should help me if I eat them at the same time. This aspect of my power should be decent at my current level.'

With the trump cards in place, Noah could return to focus on his foundation. His ambition required time and experiences to grow, so he could only work on his techniques for now.

The personal arts required countless tests and enlightenment. Noah had to try until he invented something that surpassed his current abilities. Yet, that process required time that he preferred to use on the "embodiment of power".

The addition of the cursed sword to his level made that technique even more appealing. Any improvement in his body would stretch the limits of his bloodlust and allow him to suffer more backlashes other than making his overall battle prowess grow.

Noah had begun to test the forms described in the "embodiment of power", but they didn't work on his body. That outcome didn't surprise him, but it still left him annoyed since he had no idea how to proceed. He could only continue his studies of the black book until he gained a sudden understanding.

The trio eventually resumed their travel, but Noah didn't pay much attention to the environment anymore. His thoughts moved from the cursed sword to his foundation and ended with his battle prowess. He didn't lack ways to become stronger now, but he had to invest a lot of time in those projects.

'I will conclude the trade with Saul and go into seclusion,' Noah eventually decided. 'It's pointless to amass projects that will become obsolete once my power grows. It's better to prepare for anything before facing dangers.'

Noah's arrival in the Immortal Lands had been quite messy, and his life there hadn't been peaceful either. He had gone from one inheritance to another and fought whenever he had the chance. The clash with the Crystal city had also made him improve, but he almost had to die beforehand.

That never left him time to go into seclusion. The world had too much to explore, and he couldn't give up on the many events that had happened near him.

After that decision, Noah felt in a hurry to reach the Void Zone and understand its connection with Shandal's strange diagram.



Succeeding in the task would put an end to one of his oldest projects and give him enough time to go into seclusion. He planned to accumulate as much as possible before adapting everything to his level.

A few traces of instability appeared on the world's structure as the trio neared the Void Zone. They were almost there, but the environment was already revealing how influential that dangerous area was.

Stronger magical beasts began to appear around Noah and the others, and they didn't hesitate to hunt them. They would never give up on food at that level.

Dark patches even appeared in the sky in the distance at some point. Noah and Night could sense how the world was growing frail, but their main concern was toward a few presences felt by their senses.

Jordan had told Noah that the Void Zone was the home to a peculiar species of magical beasts, but he didn't expect the area to be so populated. He could already sense more than one hundred magical beasts there!

Still, Noah also sensed something that made his expression freeze. A single strong presence lived in the area right before the Void Zone, and Noah felt a familiar vibe coming from it.

'We meet at last,' Noah thought as he separated from Don and Jordan to fly in the direction of that familiar presence.

As he flew through the short forest surrounding the Void Zone, Noah saw that the area had obtained a peculiar color that he knew far too well. Golden shades had started to illuminate those magical plants, and a few charred marks filled the trees and the azure ground.

Noah couldn't fail to recognize the owner of that power, and memories inevitably resurfaced in his mind. He recalled the whole world fighting against a powerhouse that was ready for any occasion.

The cultivator sensed Noah's presence, and similar memories appeared in his mind. The expert didn't even move. It seemed that he wanted to meet Noah.

When Noah crossed one of the largest trees in the forest, a golden radiance filled his vision. He quickly adjusted to that light, and a peculiar scene unfolded in his eyes once he gazed toward the source of that halo.

A cultivator with long silver hair and shining golden eyes sat next to a cauldron boiling under golden flames. The expert wore a golden crown and radiated an aura in the liquid stage. His power seemed even greater than Noah's.

The two didn't say anything at the beginning. They glanced at each other and let their memories fill their minds. They had come from the same lower plane, but they were here now, in the Immortal Lands. The issue was that they didn't know how to interact since they had always been enemies.

"You made it here," King Elbas said without moving his golden eyes away from Noah. "That's not surprising. Your cultivation level is."

"I didn't expect you to be deep in the magical beasts' domain," Noah replied. "Did you cause some trouble among the large forces?"

"Of course," King Elbas answered. "How could I not?"

