

DEMONIC 1421

Chapter 1421 1421. Short laugh

King Elbas and Noah went silent after that brief exchange of words. They didn't know how to behave in front of each other.

They had been sworn enemies for a while. King Elbas had killed Chasing Demon, and Noah had banished him in the separate reality with the help of the other powerhouses. The Royals' leader had then come back and defeated the whole world before ascending to the Immortal Lands.

King Elbas could have killed Noah in the lower plane, but he had chosen to let him live alongside the forces of the other organization. The past grudges meant nothing in his mind after he became a god.

The same went for Noah. The lower plane's political situation had made them enemies, but he respected the Royal as a cultivator. Noah couldn't hate him. They both had damaged each other's organizations multiple times across the millennia spent in the same world.

Everything resurfaced now that they were in front of each other again. Countless thoughts and memories filled their minds as they wondered how they had to act after going through so much together.

'He reached the liquid stage in a few millennia,' Noah stated in his mind.

That was King Elbas' most striking feature. Noah had basically cheated to reach the liquid stage, but the Royal was at his same level. That confirmed once again how King Elbas was a true talent.

"You are in the same situation, am I right?" King Elbas asked. "Your companions over there are hybrids, and you are in the magical beasts' domain during an invasion. It's not hard to guess that you have made powerful enemies already."

"How did you handle the oath from the Crystal City?" Noah asked. "I'm not sure you are the type to accept it silently."

"It must be the Legion," King Elbas continued. "It's not surprising that you joined them. Still, I didn't expect you to become part of an organization so soon."

"I imagine you had many offers from the various organizations," Noah continued. "The fact that you are here can only mean that you are in trouble."

Neither of them replied, but they both understood part of their opponent's life without needing answers. They knew each other well enough to know how they would behave in the political environment of the Immortal Lands.

"Shall we drop the façade?" King Elbas asked.

"Are you worried that I might call the others?" Noah asked. "I'm not under you anymore. Your only advantage was your age,"

"The whole area is my research lab," King Elbas replied. "I can handle ten of you here."

"Shall we try?" Noah asked as a cold smile appeared on his face.

A tinge of bloodlust leaked into his aura and gave it violent properties. The memories of Chasing Demon's death also resurfaced in his mind as a desire to kill King Elbas began to fill his thoughts.

"Why not?" King Elbas replied as small tongues of golden flames began to flicker on his hands. "This might be the right time to put an end to our battle."

A minute of silence followed that exchange of questions. Neither of them was willing to take a step back and talk without leaving a battle as a possibility.

Their personalities were too strong to step down from that stalemate. They didn't want to make the move that could lead to their submission.

Jordan and Don began to fly toward Noah at that point. He had been alone for too long with that powerful cultivator, and they wanted to see what was happening.

King Elbas didn't miss that event, but he didn't dare to move with Noah's reptilian eyes studying his every move. Something told him that he would die if he turned his back toward Noah. No number of defenses would protect him at that point.

"I have turned down every offer from the various large forces," King Elbas eventually said. "It's depressing seeing the level of their expertise. I almost didn't believe that I was in the higher plane at first."

"The refusals led you here?" Noah asked before telling the hybrids to back off.

"No," King Elbas replied. "Every force would like to have me in their ranks."

"How so?" Noah asked.

"Because I'm the best, of course." King Elbas replied without even blinking.

Noah wanted to retort, but King Elbas was right. The Royal was a genius when it came to the inscription field. Only a few experts through history had managed to match his talent.

"I'm here because I want to," King Elbas continued. "The Crystal City didn't like that I broke their oath, and every organization is hunting me to make me join their ranks."

"What are you doing here then? Escaping?" Noah asked.

"No, I'm only gathering the resources for the auction. Helping at least," King Elbas revealed.

Noah couldn't help but connect everything at that point. King Elbas was near the Void Zone, so one of the resources he mentioned was the black shards that carried "Breath" of the darkness element.

King Elbas could know how to seize more of that mineral if Noah's guess was on point. That would ease his search and bring him closer to uncovering the secrets behind Shandal's diagram.

"I'm looking for a special mineral found in the Void Zone," Noah said. "Do you know anything about it?"

"I know a bit of everything, especially that you shouldn't enter the Void Zone unprepared." King Elbas replied.

"What about your preparations?" Noah asked, and King Elbas snapped his fingers.

The entire area lit up at that point. Countless golden lines appeared on the region and released their light on the sky. Their golden halo almost suppressed the whiteness of the Immortal Lands.

Noah could sense the pressure radiated by those inscriptions. King Elbas didn't lie when he said that the whole region was his research lab. Noah was right in the middle of his defenses.

"I also need that mineral," King Elbas said. "My finances are running short. There is too much to build in this vast world. I can never have enough of using these materials."

"So, do we kill each other, or do we cooperate?" Noah asked without showing the slightest fear even after the golden halo enveloped his figure.

His bloodlust was slowly growing. His existence was getting ready for a battle, and part of him desired it. That was the influence of the cursed sword and part of his greed's effects since he also wanted to seize King Elbas' dantian.

"Seventy percent to me," King Elbas said after considering the situation for a few seconds.

"Don't joke around," Noah replied. "The auction only had one shard, so it's clear that you need my help. Fifty-fifty."

"Fifty-fifty it is," King Elbas said after hearing those words.

The Royal snapped his fingers again, and the inscriptions went dark. The golden flames under his cauldron also stopped burning as he stood up and tidied his robe.

Noah landed near him. The two experts glanced at each other before turning toward the part of the sky that showed signs of instability. They both knew where their target was. They were only waiting to regroup with the two hybrids.

"How did you even break the oath of the Crystal City?" Noah asked without moving his gaze from the sky.

"Because I'm the best," King Elbas replied. "It took me an entire millennium, but I found myself in the liquid stage afterward. How did you break yours?"

"I didn't. They never had a chance to place it on me," Noah replied, and King Elbas gave voice to a short laugh that he quickly suppressed.

Even if he didn't want to admit it, King Elbas felt proud that an expert from his same lower world was showing his superiority to the cultivators of the Immortal Lands.

Chapter 1422 1422. Immovable

"Space here is extremely frail," King Elbas explained to Noah and the two hybrids. "We can't unleash our full power, or massive cracks will open. You should even limit your physical strength to the minimum. You don't want to end up on the other side. Trust me. I have been there."

Noah diverted his eyes when King Elbas said that. He didn't want to tease the expert during his explanation of the Void Zone.

"Strange magical beasts occupy this area," King Elbas continued, pretending that he didn't see Noah's gesture. "The black crystals are on their head. I suggest you take them out of the void and collect them afterward."

The last statement confused the trio, and their minds expanded to inspect the region next to them. The natural pressure radiated by their mental waves broke the frail space and created small cracks as they flew through the sky, but no magical beast appeared in their range.

"Look on the other side," King Elbas said when he saw their confusion.

The trio's mental waves entered the cracks at that point, and a stunning scene appeared in their minds. Countless black tentacles fused with the blackness of the environment as they floated among the blackness of the void.

Noah could sense more than a hundred different lifeforms among that mass of tentacles. He didn't feel any creature in the eighth rank, but his worry didn't diminish.

"How can they live there?" Noah asked.

As an expert in the magical beasts' field, Noah desired to learn more about that species. Those creatures had set their lair in the void, which didn't have "Breath". Also, they managed to remain in the same spot even if the tentacles never stopped moving.

"Technically, they don't live there," King Elbas promptly explained as his curiosity became more intense. "They live on the border of the dimensions, opening cracks to seize the "Breath" that they need to live. Their home is between the Immortal Lands and the void!"

"Can they sense us?" Noah asked as his curiosity resonated with King Elbas'.

"Of course," King Elbas answered. "We will be meat bags stepping into their territory."

"If the region is so frail," Jordan joined the conversation, "Why are we working together? Space won't withstand our pressure if we concentrate it in a small area."

"We won't be in the same area," King Elbas replied. "We will take different corners of the region and engage in separate hunts. I need you only to lure more magical beasts away."

Everything became clear in the trio's minds at that point. King Elbas didn't actually want help. He needed to divide the attention of the pack to improve his success rate.

That discovery didn't make Noah regret his decision to team up with the Royal. They would all get a better chance to seize the crystals if they hunted in different areas. Those benefits didn't apply only to King Elbas.

"If one ends up on the other side," Don asked. "Can't we simply create a passage in the void? Those creatures would be our signal. I don't see why everyone is so scared of this place."

"Are you implying that you can charge at an entire pack of magical beasts with countless limbs in their habitat and win?" King Elbas asked as a tinge of sarcasm leaked into his voice. "Try not to survive too much in the void. Those creatures won't come out if they have targets on the other side."

Don realized how hard that task was when King Elbas described it. The frail area contained an entire pack of magical beasts at various levels. Only a rank 8 existence could feel confident about that battle.

King Elbas explained a few more details. He described what he had learnt about those creatures and their various features. He made a list of their strong and weak points and briefly explained his previous hunt.

The octopus-like creatures were weak, but they attacked together. Moreover, their tentacles were the toughest part of their bodies, while weak spots were on the other side.

Knowing their weaknesses won't help in the fight until they successfully managed to pull those beasts back into the Immortal Lands. That task would be easy anywhere else, but it was quite challenging in an area with such a frail space.

After the explanation ended, the group took four different spots around the Void Zone and used their inscribed notebooks to coordinate the attack. They didn't share their tactics with their companions since they all had different abilities.

Noah gazed at the region. It didn't look any different from any other land. A few trees occupied the area, and the sky shone brightly on the azure ground. Yet, on the other side, countless magical beasts remained hidden, waiting for targets to arrive.

"I'm ready," Jordan said.

"Me too," Don added.

"Don't cause a mess," King Elbas reminded them.

"Let's go," Noah gave the order, and the four entered the region while keeping the auras and minds condensed inside their figures.

Noah didn't dare to run there. He could feel the frailty of the fabric of space as he walked on the azure ground. Something told him that he could break it if he released even more of his physical power.

'How can we even fight here?' Noah wondered as he warned his companions not to come out of his separate space.

His companions always flew out of his chest to help him when he was in a dire situation, but he couldn't allow them to do that in that environment. If they ended up in the void, he didn't have the power to retrieve them.

King Elbas had advised the group to remain in the peripheral areas of the region and wait for the arrival of those creatures. That was the safest approach in that situation. Noah and the others would have a chance to escape without destroying the area in the process.

Don, Jordan, and Noah followed his advice and walked for a few hundred meters before stopping. Small bits of their auras leaked into the environment. They seeped on the other side through the cracks that opened due to their pressure. They were acting as baits for the creatures in the void.

The inhabitants of the Void Zone weren't smart, but any magical beast in the divine ranks would have a decent amount of intelligence. The tentacle creatures didn't attack immediately, but Noah and the others remained in their position and let their hunger grow.

It was only a matter of time. Those beasts would eventually fall prey to their instincts and attack the group, giving them a chance to fight back.

Signs of instability slowly began to appear in the sky. Space bent as if something was moving under it.

Noah saw wave-like tremors spreading from under the fabric of the sky and nearing him slowly. He couldn't understand how many creatures had come for him from that position, but he let them prepare their assault.

Then, multiple black tentacles pierced the fabric of the sky and stretched toward Noah. Fissures opened from the spots where they passed, and a faint pulling force enveloped the area.

Noah let the tentacles reach him and restrain his figure. Those limbs felt cold at the touch, but they were soft. Their flexibility mixed with their toughness perfectly and made them threatening enemies.

The tentacles tried to pull Noah toward the void, but nothing happened when they tensed. For some reason, Noah wouldn't move no matter how much strength they applied.

Chapter 1423 1423. Hunts

The magical beasts that had attacked Noah were creatures in the middle tier. It was only normal for them to focus on a target they felt was at their same level. Yet, they had heavily underestimated the power of his body.

Noah wasn't only a hybrid. His black hole placed him on a superior league, and his body had gone through so many purifications that simple labels couldn't describe its power.

More tentacles broke the fabric of the sky and entangled themselves around Noah. Even some magical beast in the lower tier had joined the attack to add power to the pulling force, but that didn't make any difference.

Noah didn't move. Cracks opened on the ground due to the strength applied to his figure, but he didn't budge. Those creatures couldn't even make him bend toward the passages to the void.

'You had to attack me when you had the chance,' Noah thought as he twisted his ankles and began to turn.

Small fissures opened around him as he applied his strength to pull those creatures while he turned to leave the region. Tremors filled the tentacles as he successfully turned and began to walk as if he didn't have a mass of limbs wrapped around his figure.

Noah could almost hear the screeches of the magical beasts from the tremors that filled the tentacles. He could sense their confusion and the fear that had begun to appear inside them.

More tentacles came out of the void. Those magical beasts didn't want to create too many fissures since they would lose their coverage in the process, but they couldn't let Noah go.

Noah continued to walk as the tentacles amassed around his figure. The pulling force eventually began to affect him, but he had almost reached the region's edges at that point. He didn't have to hold back anymore.

Massive fissures opened in the sky as his aura leaked into the environment. The blackness of the void fused with the whiteness of the Immortal Lands as Noah bent his legs to gather his strength.

Cracks also opened under his feet as he took large steps that dragged almost a dozen magical beasts with him. Some of the tentacles began to leave his figure when he neared the edge of the Void Zone, but Noah promptly grabbed as many of them as he could while marching through that last part.

When he sensed that the space around him and returned to a stable state, Noah leaped, dragging as many magical beasts as he could with him. Many tentacles managed to escape his grasp, but he made sure to save a few of them.

Noah turned once he returned to a regular land. He stretched his arms and began to draw circles in the air as he used the tentacles to pull the creatures from the void.

Those beasts tried to stretch their limbs to delay that awful outcome, but Noah never stopped pulling. His arms had become a mass of entangled tentacles that continued to grow bigger as he kept drawing circles.

A cry eventually echoed through the Void Zone. A small circular head, no bigger than a man's chest, came out of one of the cracks and screamed in fear as Noah continued to pull it.

The creature hand on its companions' tentacles, but the beasts on the other side soon let it go when they saw that it was too far gone. Also, Noah's strength had begun to affect them, so they had to get rid of their captured friend.

Another head came out from a different crack, and a third followed it. Noah had managed to capture three magical beasts during his first hunt, and he wasn't willing to let any of them escape.

Eventually, the first head entered his range, and a shadow promptly came out of his chest. Before the creature could understand what had happened, its head separated from its limbs and fell onto the azure ground.

The other two creatures screeched in fear when they saw that scene, but they couldn't avoid it. Noah was too strong, and his grasp was too firm. They could only enter in his range and suffer from Night's deadly blows.

'They are smaller than I expected,' Noah thought when he inspected the creatures.

He had killed two beasts in the middle tier and one in the lower, but they didn't differ too much. They had extremely long but thin tentacles and small heads. A circular mouth that featured two rows of sharp teeth opened under their bean-sized eyes.

The only difference between the two tiers was the number of tentacles. The lower tier creatures had only eight limbs, while those in the middle tier had sixteen of them.

'King Elbas said that the mineral is in their brain,' Noah thought as he proceeded to dissect those creatures.

As the Royal had described, the black mineral resided at the center of their head. Each creature only carried one shard, with the lower tier beast having the smaller one.

Noah quickly stored the shards and inspected how they interacted with the strange diagram. The minerals crumbled when they reached the lines, and their energy flowed inside them to fuel their functioning.

The energy contained in three shards wasn't enough to activate the diagram. It didn't even fill one of its lines. Noah was still far away from knowing what that item did, but he had a path to follow now.

Noah stored the corpses and walked back into the Void Zone. The magical beasts were creatures with a darkness aptitude, so he could use their bodies for more specific creations. They could be quite valuable for him, but he would evaluate how precious they were after he activated the diagram.

The cracks in the sky closed while he dealt with the beasts, but more of them opened when the beasts on the other side sensed Noah's presence. Tentacles appeared among that whiteness and flew at high speed toward him as fissures expanded from their base.

The magical beasts weren't trying to capture him anymore. They had understood that Noah's level didn't express his actual power, so the only viable approach was to kill him before bringing him into the void.

Noah didn't move. He let the tentacles slam on his body and open cracks during the impact. He could catch them if he wanted, but a sudden movement of his arms would send a large area of the sky into the void.

The tentacles continued to slam on him, but they eventually entangled around his figure and tried to pull him inside the void again. Those beasts had become tired of waiting, and Noah didn't hesitate to exploit their mistake.

Everything happened as it did before. The tentacles became powerless once Noah grabbed them, and he used them as ropes to drag the magical beasts outside the void.

Four heads came out of the cracks at that time. Noah was already perfecting that hunting method, but some worry had begun to take root in his mind.

There was a limit to how much he could exploit those creatures' stupidity. They would eventually give up on seizing him until he died, and that would put Noah in an annoying spot.

Still, he was already developing a tactic to counter a possible offensive. After all, those beasts couldn't escape as long as he caught them.

Chapter 1424 1424. Unreasonable

No one could use Noah's hunting method. Even the strongest hybrids at his level couldn't match his physical strength. The sole thought of opposing multiple magical beasts that tried to pull them into the void would make them escape from the region.

King Elbas had developed a refined approach. His body could turn into golden flames at will, so he didn't have to worry about the tentacles. Still, he had to make sure that his fire didn't fall into the void.

The Royal would let the creatures attack and disperse into thin flames before the impact. Part of his fire would then fly along the tentacles and explode once it reached the other side.

His flames didn't threaten the stability of the area. King Elbas had studied the tentacles enough to copy their movements. His fire did on the sky of the Immortal Lands what the creature's limbs did from the void.

Once the flames exploded, King Elbas would reform and collect any beast that had died. That approach was slow and clunky, but it allowed him to remain safe even if he had a human body.

Don and Jordan had it a bit worse. They had lived with the Legion long enough to disregard any form of limitation when it came to their physical strength.

They often created large fissures that threatened to pull them inside the void. Their initial hunts were messy and clumsy, but they eventually learnt to use their abilities to their advantage.

The solution that they reached resembled Noah's. They defended against the attacks until they managed to grab a tentacle and drag it outside of the Void Zone. Their approach was also slow, but they didn't completely fail in the task at least.

Noah exploited the magical beasts' stupidity as long as possible, but those creatures eventually learnt that nothing would work against him. Their tentacles didn't hurt him as much as they wished, and restraining his figure would lead to certain death.

The beasts stopped coming out of the void when they sensed Noah's presence. They labeled him as someone too hard to hunt and began to focus on his companions since their approach was far messier.

That left Noah no choice but to use baits to lure them out. He had to attach threads of dark matter to pieces of magical beasts' corpses to have a chance to capture those creatures.

Noah began to fish for the octopus-like creatures that lived in the void. His hunts also became slow, but he couldn't do any better in that environment.

'One line needed almost thirty specimens,' Noah thought when he inspected the strange diagram. 'The pack might end before I finish refilling it with energy.'

The diagram had more than thirty lines, but the pack only featured a few hundred magical beasts. When Noah excluded the creatures in the upper tier, he felt that he wouldn't have enough materials by the time all the specimens in the lower and middle tier died.

The creatures' level affected the amount of energy in the mineral, but the difference wasn't enough to make him create a plan to capture one of the specimens in the upper tier. He wasn't even sure that he could hunt one of them, especially in that peculiar environment.

Specimens in the eighth rank would probably have the amount of energy that Noah needed, but he couldn't even come close to creatures at that level. He had to find an alternative solution that didn't involve relying on that species.

'I need to create this type of darkness myself,' Noah concluded as he sat at the edges of the Void Zone while holding a black thread attached to a piece of flesh.

Noah had initially disregarded that idea because the black mineral was too frail. Studying it would be troublesome, and creating something usually took longer than destroying.

It was easier to exterminate a pack instead of replicating the process that led to that type of darkness. Still, the requirements to activate the diagram were unreasonable, so Noah had to make an unreasonable choice to complete his task.

The thread of dark matter tensed while Noah was deep in his thoughts. A tentacle had wrapped itself around the piece of meat hanging from the black string, and Noah didn't hesitate to activate its properties.

Fissures opened as the string expanded and enveloped the tentacles. It became a firm trap that Noah could pull back until the limb ended in his grasp. Nothing could make the creature escape at that point.

Noah pulled until the creature's head entered in his range. Night came out of his chest to kill it, but Noah didn't dissect it right away to seize the mineral.

The head was an important piece of his newfound approach. He didn't know if the creatures' brains affected the creation of the unique darkness, but he couldn't waste it before confirming that guess. Also, he had grown bored of fishing already, so he preferred to avoid going through it another time.

An icy-blue light came out of his eyes as the Divine Deduction technique activated. Noah studied the creature's head thoroughly while ensuring that he didn't break the mineral inside it.

It took him a while to understand how the beast's organs worked. Noah had to immerse the head in his dark matter and create an environment full of primary energy to see how that species made the minerals.

To his surprise, the mineral turned grayer as that process continued. Noah had let the organs do everything. His influence was less than minimal. Yet, the head created a crystal different from the others.

'The only variable is the environment,' Noah concluded before changing his approach.

He didn't bathe the head in primary energy anymore. Noah placed it inside an empty area of the dark world and attached some of the tentacles seized during the hunts to that severed body part. Then, he filled the tentacles with primary energy and let the creature's organs do the rest.

Noah had literally recreated the beasts' natural environment with that approach. He was replicating their life in the void through the dark world. If even that failed, he would have to return to the hunts.

Luckily for him, that process worked. The crystal inside the head turned pitch black again, and Noah tested the energy inside it by seizing half of it and fusing it with the diagram.

Once he confirmed that the diagram accepted that energy, he began to work on a new blueprint for the workshop. Noah didn't want to rely on those frail minerals. He preferred to use his dark matter for the whole procedure.

Don and Jordan also stopped hunting when they saw that Noah didn't care for those creatures anymore. They had no interest in those beasts. They were simply killing time since they had to be with Noah.

King Elbas continued even after everyone else stopped. He wanted to study those beasts and obtain their materials for his studies, and nothing could stop him once his curiosity took the better of him.

Still, after the number of middle tier and lower tier specimens became scarce, King Elbas stopped hunting and took out a portable habitation from his space-ring. He then entered those quarters to resume his experiments.

Chapter 1425 1425. Diagram

Even if they were in a group, Noah, Don, Jordan, and King Elbas had to take care of their training and projects separately. The cultivation journey was a path that experts had to walk on their own, and the occasional team-ups could only last as long as they didn't need to take care of their power.

The four didn't separate. They remained in different spots of the same region to focus on their cultivation or complete projects. King Elbas and Noah had to work with the black mineral, while Don and Jordan had far more serious matters to attend.

The two hybrids were in a unique period of their cultivation journey. Don had to begin the preparations for his breakthrough, and Jordan needed to fill the vastness that separated her from the eighth rank.

Their decision to accept Theodora's orders came from that peculiar state. Traveling the Immortal Lands with Noah was a new experience that could help them gain insights into the next level of power. The two hybrids had chosen to leave the Legion to take a break from the stillness of that organization.

Safety was the enemy of the experts that strived to reach the higher ranks. Even gods couldn't escape that rule.

Noah relied on his Divine Deduction technique to complete the new blueprint. His dark matter would remove the structural limitation given by the octopus-like creatures' bodies. Once he replicated those beasts with his higher energy, he would mass-produce the peculiar darkness that filled their black mineral.

Noah rested in a cave dug on a corner of the region. The area was mostly empty due to the presence of the Void Zone nearby, and his aura fended off the few creatures that were brave enough to venture into those lands.

The dark world filled the entire cave as he floated among his higher energy. Noah sat cross-legged in the air and cultivated while the workshop kept multiple replicas of the octopus-like creatures active.

His aura leaked in the environment to create primary energy that the dark world pushed toward the fake tentacles. Strands of that peculiar darkness then flowed out of the fake creatures' heads and converged in Noah's chest.

Noah had created a system that allowed him to continue his training while he mass-produced the peculiar darkness. His attention was elsewhere while his technique filled the strange diagram with energy.

'How long will it even take?' Noah wondered from time to time.

The energy required to activate the diagram was immense. The amount of energy absorbed by those lines would make any gaseous stage cultivator pale, but the process was nowhere close to its end.

Noah eventually felt forced to create more copies of the inhabitants of the Void Zone. His curiosity toward the strange diagram affected his training since he would often lose focus to check the lines' status.

He had martial arts to improve, spells to evolve, and techniques to develop, but his mind could only think about the diagram. The more energy it absorbed, the more Noah's interest increased.

Even in that annoying state, Noah managed to improve in some aspects. He managed to develop an initial form of the "embodiment of power", but the changes on his body were minimal.

The creator of those forms wanted to obtain a body that even hybrids would envy. Yet, that was Noah's starting point, and improving the technique meant reinventing it in his case.

His only advantage was that he already had vessels for the dark matter. Noah only needed to find a way to make his tissues feed on his darkness and mental energy, but the task was harder than it looked.

After the events with the Eternal Snakes, Noah's body had already reached a limit in the number of different features that it could accommodate. The exploration of the Evolution Pit had also purified all his tissues, which left him with nothing to improve.

In theory, he had already reached the peak. He had the strongest type of body. He only needed to nourish it to obtain far more power than his peers.

'Maybe I shouldn't try to make it a permanent state,' Noah thought at some point. 'The "embodiment of power" was the individuality of a human, but I can't be sure that the expert was on the right path. He even died before completing the procedure on himself.'

Doubts formed in Noah's mind as the failures kept piling. He even wondered whether his ambition was playing tricks with his mind again as that trend continued.

'Maybe I can turn it into a technique,' Noah concluded. 'Something similar to a secret art that doesn't have drawbacks. A skill that behaves like innate abilities.'

That path seemed more reasonable, and it also suited his abilities. Instead of creating forms that could permanently improve his body, Noah would aim to create a temporary boost that used all the energies in his body.

Only his personal arts managed to do that. Spells and martial arts always failed to use primary energy, darkness, dark matter, and mental energy at the same time, but his innate ability gave him an advantage with that technique.

'I wonder if I should change the way my innate ability works,' Noah wondered. 'The black vessels come from the black hole, so the main issue would be to find the right mixture of the four energies.'

Noah's experiments changed course after that decision. He began to test how the primary energy, darkness, dark matter, and mental energy interacted. He planned to find a mixture that could provide more power than all of them once it flowed inside his black vessels.

The diagram continued to absorb energy while Noah was deep inside his experiments. He would focus on the lines from time to time, but he eventually became so used to that procedure that he managed to forget about it.

Whenever Noah recalled that he was creating that peculiar darkness, he would make more copies of the octopus-like creatures to increase energy output.

The diagram absorbed a massive amount of darkness on a daily basis. Noah didn't even dare to calculate how much primary energy he had wasted for that project.

His cave had become a massive underground structure due to the energy that he had continued to absorb. The dark world filled every corner of the area, and countless creatures floated inside it as they continued to produce the needed darkness.

The underground structure enlarged and became deeper as that process continued. Noah had yet to witness that amount of destruction in the Immortal Lands, but the scene didn't faze him. He would eradicate entire continents to obtain the energy that he needed.

The diagram eventually showed signs of activation. Noah had lost track of the passage of time by that point, but he had a vague idea of how much energy those lines had absorbed.

In terms of the maximum capacity of a dantian, the diagram had absorbed enough energy to refill a solid stage cultivator. Noah's dark matter could match that amount of power with a week of accumulation, but it was strange that a single divine item would have such high requirements.

'Don't tell me that it's something in the eighth rank!' Noah exclaimed in his mind as the absorption continued. 'If only Shandal knew that he had found such a promising item.'

Chapter 1426 1426. Portal

'Is this thing for real?' Noah wondered as astonishment filled his mind.

Noah wasn't sure of how much "Breath" a rank 8 dantian contained, but he was almost sure that the diagram had absorbed far more energy than any rank 7 cultivator could store.

'Am I really activating a rank 8 item?' Noah thought as a bit of worry formed inside him.

He didn't know what the diagram did. It didn't seem dangerous, but his senses weren't able to accurately judge matters in the higher ranks. His instincts told him that he had nothing to worry about, but Noah didn't feel completely safe near those pulsing lines.

The diagram was almost active. Only a few weeks of mass-production would be enough to fill the lines with darkness. Noah was near, but part of him hesitated when he realized how much power that item had absorbed.

His first instinct was to create defenses, but Noah quickly abandoned that thought. Nothing he did could protect him from something in the eighth rank. He only had to decide whether he was willing to risk activating the diagram.

'No point stopping now,' Noah concluded while suppressing his fears and continuing with the mass-production.

The diagram began to radiate a mysterious aura as it neared the last phases of its activation. Noah didn't even sense it, but he could feel that something was coming out of the lines.

It was a peculiar sensation. Noah had met magical beasts that could hide from his mind, but he had never sensed forms of energy that his consciousness couldn't perceive. He was using his instincts to understand how that project was proceeding.

At last, the diagram stopped absorbing the peculiar darkness. It didn't matter what Noah did. The lines couldn't contain any more energy. The item was full. He only needed to understand how to activate it.

Noah took out the diagram from the separate space at that point. The dark world shrunk to create a dense environment that surrounded Noah and the item.

He couldn't do anything if the diagram tried to hurt him, but the dark world could give him a small hope. The dense dark matter would try to suppress any harmful energy that could come out of the item.

Noah raised his hand to touch the diagram at that point. The lines reacted to that gesture and began to rotate to create a black oval shape that slowly stabilized.

'Is this a portal?' Noah thought at that sight.

He had traveled through dimensions with his movement techniques, and he had even teleported multiple times with the Warp spell. Noah knew what a portal looked like, so he didn't have any doubt that he saw that shape.

'A portal to where?' Noah wondered as his mental waves seeped inside the oval shape to inspect its insides.

His consciousness couldn't go far inside the portal, but it managed to capture a few images. Still, Noah only saw darkness when he reviewed them. The dimensional door seemed to lead to a black world.

Noah inspected the insides multiple times, but his mental waves always crumbled before going deeper into the black world. That wasn't unusual when it came to separate dimensions and similar areas, but knowing about those matters didn't reassure him.

His worries were still there. The portal could lead to great dangers. Yet, part of his had already decided to explore it, so he eventually took a few steps forward and entered that blackness.

The pressure of a teleport landed on his mind and pressed on his mental walls. Noah felt nostalgic when that sensation forced him to close his eyes, but he never lost his concentration during the process.

When he opened his eyes, he found himself inside a dark world surrounded by the same cave where he had spent the last period. He could even see his workshop keeping the fake magical beasts alive.

Noah immediately turned to look at the portal. The oval shape was still there, and it didn't show any sign of running out of energy. He had time to explore that area without worrying about remaining stuck in that place.

The world outside that dimension moved whenever he took a step forward. It was as if Noah was still in the Immortal Lands but walked inside a separate dimension that was almost inside the real world.

'This is similar to my movement technique,' Noah thought. 'This dimension is so close to the real world that I can see the outside world.'

Noah knew even that field. His old movement technique allowed him to see the lifeforms around him as he sprinted. That dimension was the same, even if far more stable.

The dimension appeared empty, and Noah didn't find anything even after he walked for a while. The rocks and ceiling of the outside world couldn't stop him inside that place, but he couldn't affect them either.

'Am I a ghost now?' Noah joked in his mind, but the situation was stranger than it looked.

At some point, his instincts gave voice to loud warnings, and Noah didn't hesitate to wield the Demonic Sword. Nothing happened in his vision, but he could sense that something was about to come.

A magical beast suddenly materialized behind him. The creature was in the middle tier, it had a small humanoid body, but it had sharp claws instead of fingers.

Its head resembled Night's, but its insides had skin, flesh, and organs. Dark-red scales also covered the entirety of its body. It was a strange creature that Noah had never seen.

Noah's weapon darted, and a flash of darkness filled the separate dimension as the blade and the claws clashed. The beast had tried to cut his neck, but he had stopped it before it could even touch his skin.

The impact flung the creature in the distance, and Noah promptly shot to follow it. However, the beast suddenly vanished before he could hope to catch up.

'Is it an ability of this dimension?' Noah wondered as another dangerous sensation appeared on his left side.

Noah swung the Demonic Sword before even seeing his opponent. He could understand its shape through his mind, and he didn't see anything different from the other specimen.

The separate dimension seemed to be the home of those creatures, but Noah couldn't confirm it before exploring all of it. Yet, he felt that his guess was on point when he saw that three more of those beasts had appeared under him and were trying to stab their claws into his feet.

Noah quickly kicked the air under him to shoot upward, and a few slashes flew out of his blade. Yet, when they reached the beasts, those creatures vanished, and the attacks hit nothing.

'Can they turn ethereal?' Noah asked to himself. 'Is this their ability, or does it come from the dimension?'

Noah saw countless beasts shooting in his direction with their claws stretched forward as the dangerous sensations multiplied. They were all creatures in the middle tier, but their sheer number forced Noah to reveal a few cards.

Snore materialized and launched a dark beam that stopped the entire enemy offensive. Those creatures immediately vanished when they sensed how much power the Blood Companion could generate.

A cold smile appeared on Noah's face as he planned to chase some of those beasts, but a sudden dangerous sensation spread from his chest and forced him to stop.

An opening had appeared on his chest, and blood flowed out of the injury. It was as if one of those creatures had managed to stab him.

Chapter 1427 1427. Grateful

'When did they hit me?' Noah wondered as blood accumulated in his mouth.

His dark matter and corrosive smoke seeped out of his skin to create the fiendish armor and the dark world. Night also came out of the separate space to help in the battle.

Noah couldn't understand what had happened. He had fended off every creature. They had never managed to touch him, but the wound on his chest didn't lie.

Flames came out of his mouth as soon as the fiendish armor formed. His fire reduced to ashes the few beasts that appeared among the blackness of the separate dimension.

Tiny tongues of flames then flew toward Noah and filled him with energy. His wound quickly closed, but part of his internal organs remained damaged since he didn't absorb enough power to perform the instant regeneration.

Noah continued to spit flames. He filled the entire environment with his innate ability, and countless magical beasts burned in the process. His wound eventually healed, but his worry didn't diminish.

There didn't seem to be an end to those creatures. They appeared out of nowhere and threw themselves at him in a reckless assault. Noah always fended them off, but the same strange event eventually happened again.

A large wound suddenly appeared on the side of his neck. His experience in the magical beasts' field allowed him to make a connection with the previous injury. He could instantly understand that their shapes matched the claws of those creatures.

'Is this their innate ability?' Noah wondered as flames flew toward him to heal his body.

Noah couldn't explain how the beasts did that. He didn't sense any shift in the energy around him, and he was even in the dark world! Nothing could normally pass through it without alerting his senses.

However, those creatures often managed to injure him. Cuts appeared on his arms, legs, and torso, but his flames always healed them in no time.

Noah began to perform evasive maneuvers as he fought with those creatures. They had never hit his head, but he didn't want to risk that by remaining in the same position.

He wasn't sure whether moving helped in the matter, but he couldn't do much about it. Noah had no idea how those creatures managed to hit him. He could only try everything that he could think of.

His evasive maneuvers seemed to work for a while, but wounds eventually reappeared on his body. Those beasts had yet to touch him, but he had suffered many injuries already.

Noah continued to kill any creature that entered his range, but their number didn't diminish. They didn't slow down their assault either. Those beasts charged through the fire and corrosive smoke even if they had no chance to reach their target.

Even if Noah always managed to fix his wounds, that battle had begun to annoy him. It was a pure slaughter when he suffered injuries for no reason. That fight defied logic, and he could only rely on one of his strongest techniques to vent.

A surge of dark matter filled the Demonic Sword as Noah laid it on his forehead. The dark world resonated with his consciousness, and countless blades formed inside the separate dimension.

The blades didn't hit anything, but they quickly exploded, releasing Noah's sharpness inside the whole area. The blackness of the dimension shook as countless slashes filled its fabric and continued to cut it even after Noah lowered his sword.

The magical beasts that materialized inside the area saw their bodies crumbling under the might of Noah's techniques. The cuts would continue to hurt them even after they became ethereal. Once Noah's sharpness touched them, they would suffer from his endless attack.

Noah waited as he inspected the environment. Screams resounded through the separate dimension as countless beasts died around him.

'This is effective,' Noah exclaimed in his mind when he saw that the peculiar wounds stopped appearing on his body.

The technique worked. The endless cuts didn't let those creatures perform their threatening ability, so Noah only had to wait until all of them died now.

The screams slowly became rare as countless creatures died due to Noah's sharpness. Eventually, everything became silent inside the separate dimension. Only the churning of the dark world released a few deep sounds.

'Are they all dead?' Noah wondered once the screams stopped completely.

No beast came for him anymore. The battle was over. Noah had defeated the entire pack.

'What now?' Noah wondered.

He didn't believe that the defenses of the dimension were over. Noah knew how much energy the diagram had required. There had to be something else there, and he could only explore to find it.

The separate dimension didn't feature anything special. It was nothing more than an empty space now that the magical beasts had died.

Noah couldn't see the end of that place, but he wasn't sure that it had one. The outside world moved alongside him, so he guessed that the dimension expanded according to his movements.

The strange sensation from before returned at some point. Noah's instincts sensed that something was off, but he couldn't see any change in the area's energy.

The sensation became more intense as time passed. Noah was almost sure that something was following him, but nothing he did manage to shake that presence off. Even the evasive maneuvers with his movement technique ended up being useless with that issue.

Noah could only decide to retreat. He couldn't defend against that danger. He would return to the separate dimension once he had understood how those creatures managed to hit him.

Noah sprinted toward the portal, but the strange sensation suddenly reached its peak. A hand appeared on his path, and a loud slap resounded in the area.

The slap didn't hurt, but it made Noah understand that he had to stop. When he turned, he saw that a cultivator had appeared behind him.

The expert didn't release any aura, but she didn't carry the ethereal features that usually characterized wills. She seemed real, but Noah could sense that something was off.

The woman wore a large robe that covered her sleeves but revealed ample cleavage. She was tall, had long black hair and dark eyes, and she wore a broad smile that carried some trace of arrogance.

"I would have killed you if this was a blade," The woman said. "I'm truly a genius. I have created the best techniques in the history of the cultivation world. No one can defeat me."

'Dammit,' Noah thought after he heard the woman. 'Another maniac.'

"Look, look!" The woman said before disappearing among the darkness and reappearing quickly after. "You couldn't feel my presence for a second, could you?"

"I've never sensed your presence," Noah replied bluntly.

"Right," The woman said as she revealed a surprised expression. "I must have died, and this is my inheritance."

"Didn't you just say that you were unbeatable?" Noah asked, disregarding that she had confirmed that the separate dimension was an inheritance.

"Well, in theory," The expert replied. "I don't doubt that my abilities are the strongest among every cultivator. My level is to blame. I was too weak to use them properly."

Noah didn't know what to think. She was the most eccentric expert that he had met in the Immortal Lands, but he forced himself to listen to her to understand the contents of her inheritance.

The cultivator waved her hand when she recognized Noah's annoyance. A slap landed on Noah's cheek at that point. The woman had performed the same technique as those beasts.

"Don't underestimate me!" The woman shouted. "I'm Miss Void. Back at my peak, I was the only cultivator with a darkness aptitude in the eighth rank. My enemies didn't dare to mention my name for fear that I was waiting nearby. Also, you have opened my portable dimension, so you will inherit my techniques now. Appear grateful!"

Chapter 1428 1428. Shadow Domain

Noah couldn't help but remain speechless at Miss Void's statement. He didn't even hear her last line, but the part where she claimed to be a cultivator with a darkness aptitude caused a mess in his mind.

The inheritances that he had seized since his arrival in the Immortal Lands contained resources and techniques that anyone could learn. The divine cultivators would give more importance to their laws than to their elements. Learning those abilities was only a matter of suitability.

Noah was slightly different in that field. His ambition made him desire everything, and his species allowed him to endure almost any technique. He had yet to find something that he couldn't use. His versatility came from his vast accumulation in the lower plane.

That accumulation had allowed him to shine where everyone else had failed. The impossible requirements set by some inheritances were only hard challenges when he faced them.

Only the Evolution Pit had been rather easy because his black hole made him meet its requirements. Still, his gains there had consisted in a refinement of his fourth center of power. He couldn't seize the entire inheritance.

Yet, everything was different with Miss Void. With his ambition and the same aptitude, Noah could aim to learn her techniques and spells without having to spend years adapting them to his existence.

Another slap landed on his cheek while Noah was deep in his thoughts. Miss Void appeared annoyed that he wasn't paying attention to her, but she refused to speak again. She had already asked for his gratitude.

'Am I even capable of true gratitude toward her?' Noah wondered as he performed a deep bow.

Noah hoped that his gesture would be enough to satisfy the expert. His ability in those types of social interactions had always been lacking. He wouldn't know what to do if that didn't work.

"Hmph," Miss Void snorted before wearing a cold expression. "It seems that you know how to behave when asked politely. Very well. I will tell you the secret of my greatness."

Miss Void crossed her arms and remained still. Noah didn't know what she was thinking, but he didn't dare to interrupt her. It was better to play along when it came to eccentric characters. He had learnt that lesson with Eccentric Thunder.

Minutes passed, but nothing happened. Noah was beginning to think that Miss Void was playing with him, but he continued to wait in silence.

"Well?" Miss Void asked.

'Well what?!' Noah shouted in his mind, but he didn't dare to let his annoyance appear on his face.

"I don't think I understood it," Noah limited himself to reply.

"Of course you didn't," Miss Void said as a broad smile appeared on her face. "That's the whole point of my techniques. They operate inside a separate dimension and manifest only when they reach their target."

Noah's mind went wild again. The secret behind her techniques was so simple that he didn't believe it to be real. After all, separate dimensions were rare, but every cultivator knew about them. If it were so easy to create untraceable abilities through them, everyone would have already done it.

"How can that be possible?" Noah asked. "Do you use a spell to hide the dimension?"

Another slap landed on his cheek after his question, and Noah pretended that the gesture managed to tilt his head.

"No spells, techniques, or inscribed items," Miss Void replied. "The dimension itself is the cloaking ability."

"How?" Noah asked again, and Miss Void nodded when she saw the intense curiosity that had appeared on his face.

"I'm quite sure that only cultivators with a darkness aptitude can use this," Miss Void explained. "Go on. Expand your domain."

Noah quickly executed her order. His aura leaked in the environment as his ambition became more intense. The darkness inside the separate dimension began to expand and shrink as its fabric toughened.

Even in that barren environment, Noah's ambition managed to have some effects. As long as it touched energy, his law could improve it.

"This is your world," Miss Void continued as she opened her palms to draw a sphere in the air. "Inside it, you can generate attacks from any spot. It doesn't matter how far it is. As long as you are in your domain, anything you want will happen."

Noah nodded. That was the basic theory behind the cultivation journey of divine cultivators. They could apply the effects of their individuality on the matter around them. The stronger they were, the bigger their domain would become.

"I have developed a technique founded on this theory," Miss Void explained. "I call it Shadow Domain. It allows me to expand my influence in a dimension that no one can sense and reveal it only after my attacks are already inside my opponents. It's a perfect technique that no one can dodge. Its only flaw is the time required for its expansion."

Miss Void waved her hand at that point and bent forward as an immense pressure landed on his mind. An empty but heavy aura had suddenly appeared in the environment, and his existence could barely withstand it.

"My Shadow Domain has already filled the whole dimension," Miss Void continued. "I can create attacks and materialize them anywhere. You might have a tough body, but that innate defense is useless when a blade is already inside you."

Miss Void waved her hand again, and the pressure disappeared. Noah's eyes darted left and right as he tried to find traces of her Shadow Domain, but he couldn't sense anything. His superior awareness felt that something was off, but that wasn't enough to alert his instincts.

'This is incredible!' Noah shouted in his mind.

Noah had initially thought that Miss Void was exaggerating, but that demonstration changed his idea about her. The Shadow Domain was a technique that no one could block. It wasn't as perfect as she said, but it came pretty close to that definition.

"You can move anything between the Shadow Domain and the real world," Miss Void explained. "Your body isn't an exception. Since the technique is quite slow, you will often have to hide until your influence reaches your opponents."

Noah became puzzled at that point. If Miss Void could hide freely inside the Shadow Domain, how did she even die?

"I have probably died because my enemies have learnt about this flaw." Miss Void said after she read the puzzlement on his expression. "They didn't give me the chance to complete my ability, and there is a limit to how long you can stay inside the other dimension."

"How can I learn the Shadow Domain?" Noah asked as his curiosity reached its peak.

Noah believed that there had to be harsh requirements to learn that technique. The main issue was that laws didn't usually create untraceable domains. Miss Void had probably changed the nature of her individuality to give birth to such a technique.

"The "Breath" of the darkness element gathered to open the portable dimension comes from beings that live between worlds," Miss Void said as her smile became humbler. "I've harnessed their ability to cling to the thin layer between dimensions to recreate that place. After I expanded it, I obtained a space where no one can walk. You have to do the same to obtain the Shadow Domain."

"Do I need to experiment on those creatures?" Noah asked.

"No, the technique is complete. You will receive it once you exit this dimension," Miss Void explained. "However, it will activate only with their "Breath". I suggest you learn how to produce it."

Chapter 1429 1429. Frail

Noah performed an honest bow after Miss Void's last line. She had given him an incredible technique without asking anything in return. Even the battle against those strange magical beasts had been nothing more than a performance meant to show her ability.

"This is getting tiring," Miss Void said after heaving a loud sigh. "Go. Don't waste time with the dead. You are only in the liquid stage, but you have managed to open my inheritance. This much already tells me that you want to reach the peak."

"Is the ninth rank the peak?" Noah asked as his ambition began to leak out of his figure.

"Maybe, maybe not," Miss Void replied as she tilted her head to look above. "I wanted to see it, the peak, the realm beyond Heaven and Earth. I lost my chance, so it's up to you now."

Noah could see himself in that gesture. Miss Void wore the same expression that he had when he imagined the distant stars in the sky. She shared his desire to go beyond the white layer that covered Heaven and Earth's realm.

"The world is so vast that a single life isn't enough to explore all of it," Miss Void said in a nostalgic tone. "Yet, even the most shining place hides black spots. Darkness is everywhere. Always remember this."

Noah nodded before turning to leave. Miss Void began to sing a sad song as she kept her eyes fixed on the barely visible ceiling outside of her separate dimension.

The song stopped when Noah crossed the portal. His superior awareness also stopped sensing that odd feeling once he returned to the outside world.

The portal morphed after Noah came out. It shrunk and condensed to take the shape of an ethereal orb that contained a spherical diagram. Its black lines radiated a pale dark light that managed to obscure the cave, and Noah almost fell on his knees when he realized what he had obtained.

'A rank 8 spell!' Noah shouted in his mind, and his hands carefully wrapped the fist-sized spherical diagram in their grasp.

The Divine Deduction technique activated, and the dark world expanded. The workshop also recreated the fake octopus-like creatures to resume the mass-production of that peculiar darkness.

Noah prepared for the first activation of his new spell. He needed to memorize the diagram and create the only energy that could make it function. Luckily for him, he had become an expert in the last part.

Understanding filled Noah's mind as he studied the diagram through the Divine Deduction technique. The complexity of those lines left him speechless. He could see how hard Miss Void had worked to create that spell during the process.

'Not the void, nor the higher plane, but something in the middle,' Noah thought as pieces of information flowed inside him. 'A frail layer strengthened and expanded to create a personal space that belongs only to you. Astonishing.'

Noah had created wonders throughout his cultivation journey. He had given birth to indestructible monsters and built a world through copies of Heaven and Earth's elements. However, Miss Void's work surpassed what he was capable of crafting. It delved into a field that Noah had touched only by chance.

The dark world stored the special darkness while Noah studied the diagram. Weeks passed while he remained immersed in the wonders that those lines contained.

Then, when Noah felt that he had learnt how it worked, he stored the orb inside his mental sea and made the special darkness flow toward his mind.

Noah didn't need to transform or translate that diagram. It was a spell that worked with a darkness that didn't belong to his existence. Anyone could activate it as long as they had that energy.

The diagram lit up, and a dark light filled Noah's eyes. The world in his vision suddenly changed. He became able to see the threads that kept the fabric of the Immortal Lands together, as well as the void that lingered right behind them.

'Darkness is everywhere,' Noah thought as he focused on the layer between the two worlds.

Miss Void's spell only allowed him to reach that state. Noah had to create the Shadow Domain on his own, but he felt sure that she had given him a few hints on the matter.

Noah stretched his hand and hung it above the line that separated the Immortal Lands and the void. He could sense the specks of darkness that inhabited that place with his mind, and he slowly made his aura flow inside them.

Most specks instantly burst open, but some were big enough to endure the first wave of Noah's individuality and expand. As his true meaning flowed inside that darkness, a third space formed between the two worlds.

Noah had to adjust the speed at which his individuality flowed inside the darkness to avoid ruining his progress. That space had frail edges, so he slowly learnt what it could endure.

It took him half a day to envelop his figure in the Shadow Domain and an entire week to stretch it as far as the ceiling of the cave. Expanding it became harder as its size increased, but Noah knew that the process would become easier after some training.

When the Shadow Domain surpassed the cave's ceiling, Noah moved his finger, and a small slash flew out of his hand. The attack dug inside the rocky layer above him and stopped before vanishing inside it.

Noah's slash didn't damage the ceiling. As long as it was inside the Shadow Domain, his attack couldn't affect the material world. The black curved line lived in a different dimension.

When Noah willed it, the slash left the Shadow Domain and appeared in the Immortal Lands. A hole instantly opened on the cave's ceiling, but his attack didn't deplete much energy. It was as if it didn't use its power to piece those rocks.

'Incredible,' Noah thought as his vision returned normal. 'Since it's already inside its fabric, the slash doesn't use energy to piece it. Miss Void has created a masterpiece.'

His stash of special darkness was over after that prolonged activation of Miss Void's spell. Noah had barely managed to create a Shadow Domain that reached the ceiling, but the ability had already deactivated.

'Using attacks quickens the consumption of special darkness,' Noah thought. 'The same must be true for the other abilities, so I need to find a better way to create this energy.'

The workshop performed well, but Noah couldn't keep it active during a battle, not while it mass-produced special darkness at least.

Noah didn't even want to spend long periods of seclusion while he accumulated that energy. He didn't want to rely on a resource that he needed time to gather since his main focus was his battle prowess.

'It's time to study this transformation thoroughly,' Noah concluded. 'I've already created my darkness from primary energy. I only need to do the same for this one.'

Noah's long seclusion continued for years. He mainly cultivated, but he also spent long periods studying the special darkness and experimenting on his four energies. He even tested his personal arts when he had the chance.

His level slowly rose in that empty environment. No one came to disturb him since his companions were also busy with their training.

An entire century had to pass before Noah felt the need to come out and resume his exploration of the Immortal Lands. When he left his cave, he sensed that the two hybrids were still cultivating in other spots of the region, and he didn't fail to notice that King Elbas' habitation was also there.

Chapter 1430 1430. Bored

Noah had his reasons to come out of the cave. He had never liked to remain in a safe place for too long since it was easier to improve when facing adversities. Also, his last project required him to explore the Immortal Lands.

The red crystals obtained in the Evolution Pit could improve his companions since they carried features similar to his black hole. They weren't an organ that could benefit every function of his existence, but they could perform the same purification.

Noah didn't dare to test them on his companions right away. Night, Snore, and the Demonic Sword were a core aspect of his superior battle prowess. He was already stronger than an average hybrid, but the three creatures brought his might far beyond what a single existence at his level could wield.

They were one of the main reasons why he could seize benefits where others ran away. Risking their structure with materials that he didn't fully understand was idiotic.

Noah had decided to create a new blood companion to test the red crystals, but he had yet to find a specimen that met his standards. The octopus-like magical beasts of the Void Zone were creatures with a darkness aptitude, but their base strength didn't make them a suitable choice.

The best approach to solve his issue was to explore the Immortal Lands, especially the magical beasts' domain. The current political situation was also in Noah's favor since most of the stronger creatures were either fighting on the border with the human part or settling in the conquered lands.

Noah would usually leave right away, but he knew that the two hybrids would follow him. Hence, he decided to wait on the surface for them to exit their improvised habitations and join him as he resumed the exploration of those lands.

As for King Elbas, Noah didn't know what to do with him. He had initially thought that the Royal would leave in that period, but his habitation was still there.

Don and Jordan quickly noticed that Noah had left his cave, and they sent him mental messages where they explained their status. After a brief conversation, they agreed to set off in a week, enough time for them to complete that training session.

Noah rested on the azure ground during those days. He didn't cultivate and enjoyed that short break from his constant training. His mind naturally wandered among the various projects that had kept him busy inside the cave, but he didn't linger on them too much.

His period of seclusion had been quite effective. His personal arts had improved again, and he had reached a decent level of expertise with the Shadow Domain. Only the "embodiment of power" still caused issues, but Noah had taken a few steps forward at least.

The issue with the "embodiment of power" was that the four energies didn't provide superior power output in their mixed form. Beating the dark matter in that field was a challenging task that they didn't manage to complete.

Alchemy wasn't even Noah's strong point. He knew energies, but he was clueless about the many processes and possibilities of that field.

Truth be told, Noah wasn't sure whether an alchemy master could do better than him in his task. Mixing four energies to create something more powerful than all of them was hard. It required far more than experience in a field that had similarities with that process.

Don and Jordan eventually came out of their habitations and joined Noah in his rest. Still, the group soon stood up to leave when everyone felt to have dispersed the stress accumulated during that long training.

However, as the trio was about to leave, the door of King Elbas' habitation slammed open, and the Royal came out wearing a satisfied smile that expressed how fulfilled he felt.

Noah didn't know how to behave with King Elbas. He didn't know what the Royal wanted to do, but he wouldn't offer him to come along them. They might have worked together in the Void Zone, but that short mission didn't change the fact that Noah didn't trust him.

Noah limited himself to perform a polite nod before setting off and turning in the direction of the Outer Lands on the side of the magical beasts' domain.

'Other cities of the Legion should be there,' Noah thought as he picked a direction that would lead him deeper into the magical beasts' domain.

Don and Jordan quickly followed him in the air, but they all turned when they sensed that a fourth presence had appeared behind them.

King Elbas flew behind the trio without even looking at them. His attention was on the lands below, and his curiosity flared whenever something claimed his interest.

Noah and the others exchanged a glance before resuming their flight, but King Elbas continued to follow them. The Royal didn't even talk with them. He simply moved along, slowing down and accelerating whenever they changed their pace.

"Why are you following us?" Noah eventually asked after he stopped and turned toward the Royal.

"I have been in peace for too long," King Elbas replied before falling silent.

"This doesn't explain anything," Noah continued.

"My potential will dwindle if I keep isolating myself to study materials or build inscribed items," King Elbas said. "You cause troubles wherever you go. I might as well join you and benefit from your talent."

Noah didn't even know what to answer. King Elbas wanted to use him as a portable source of problems so that his cultivation level wouldn't stagnate.

"Don't tell me that you are bored," Noah tried to mock him, but King Elbas promptly revealed his arrogant smile.

"The exact opposite," King Elbas replied as his eyes darted through the environment. "This place is so full of valuable and interesting materials that I can barely control me. I want to create something whenever I see a tree, and I want to improve my inscription methods every time I kill a beast. I have spent centuries building stuff already."

King Elbas' explanation was in line with his individuality. His arrogance and curiosity fused to create an insatiable drive that pushed him to perform countless inscriptions.

Noah shared that curse, but only when it came to his power. He could understand the Royal, but the hybrids weren't as nice as him.

Don revealed a cold expression, and Jordan limited herself to smile. She didn't need to express her feelings to make King Elbas understand her position.

"You can't defeat me," King Elbas replied when he saw the hybrids' reaction. "You might force me to go away, but you will pay a price that you aren't ready to face."

King Elbas didn't step down. The trio had a chance to send him away, but they would have to fight him in the process.

That was something that Noah wanted to avoid. King Elbas was like him. His cultivation level didn't reflect his battle prowess. The Royal's higher energy was also annoying to deal with, and his expertise made him one of the most resourceful cultivators in the seventh rank.

"Fine, you can follow along," Noah eventually said after a long exchange of stares. "Still, you have to be useful. You will join every battle and use your expertise to improve our travel."