

DEMONIC 1471

Chapter 1471 1471. Learning

The pressure increased as the light gathered around them. Noah's tissues released screeching noises as they bent under that force. King Elbas' figure became unstable as Blanche's aura filled his surroundings.

Blanche's technique appeared simple, but it carried an intrinsic complexity that made it almost indestructible. She wasn't only forcing her law to converge on the two experts. She had also given to her power watery features, which countered most of Noah's abilities.

Noah slashed, punched, and used every last bit of energy given by the unstable substance flowing through his black veins. He could activate his "embodiment of power" again, but he found no reason to waste his precious resource before finding a way out of the technique.

Snore came out of his chest, but its giant head shattered when it touched the azure aura. Even the dark matter that the Blood Companion released crumbled under the pressure amassed in the area.

The Demonic Sword began to release painful roars, and Noah quickly stored it inside the separate space. A few dents also appeared on the white blade, and Noah didn't hesitate to put it away.

His Divine Deduction technique activated, and the black hole sent most of its energy toward his mind. Noah's thinking speed reached an incredible level, but he could find only a single way out of that situation.

The Shadow Domain had already expanded around him. Noah could enter that dimension and fly out of the azure aura. However, that technique had a severe drawback.

Noah already owned a similar spell. His Ethereal Form spell was a technique that he had abandoned because it would require too much energy to change his body's properties.

The Shadow Domain shared the same flaw. Noah's existence was heavy, heavier than his other assets. Transporting his body into a different dimension would deplete all his special darkness.

The technique had almost reached Blanche. Noah only had to survive for a few more minutes to gain the chance for a deadly blow. Yet, it seemed that the azure aura would kill him before his separate dimension could reach his opponent. Even the Divine Deduction technique was telling him that he had no choice on the matter.

'Can I join the fight now?' King Elbas suddenly asked through a mental message.

Noah was about to transport his body into the Shadow Domain, but he stopped when he sensed those words. His head struggled to turn toward his companion. When his eyes landed on the Royal, he saw an annoyed King Elbas tapping his cheek and waiting for his answer.

'How can you move freely?' Noah asked.

'I have created a substance to counter her law,' King Elbas answered plainly.

'Why didn't you tell me this sooner?!' Noah asked again.

'You wanted to fight her alone!' King Elbas shouted through his mind.

Noah didn't know what to answer, but he didn't forget to not toward his companion. The azure aura around them suddenly disappeared after his gesture. Specks of golden light had come out of King Elbas' figure and were eating that foreign influence.

Blanche couldn't believe what she was seeing. Her aura was disappearing due to something that she didn't understand. Her consciousness could study the golden specks, but she had no idea how those small lights could destroy her law.

Blanche didn't forget that her opponents were two liquid stage experts. However, it seemed that they both were incredible monsters whose power didn't make any sense.

Noah had been able to keep her stuck among his slashes for multiple exchanges, and King Elbas had created something that could destroy her law. Their power was something that any major organization would kill to own.

The azure light soon vanished, leaving only the golden specks that flew back toward King Elbas and fused with his fiery body. Noah kept his eyes on his companion. He felt surprised that the Royal had managed to activate his trump card before him.

King Elbas could understand Noah's thoughts, but his usual arrogance didn't appear. The Royal didn't brag. Instead, he chose to explain the reason behind his quick success in the activation of his trump card.

"I'm the best, but this has nothing to do with my ability," King Elbas explained. "You allowed me to focus on her law during your fight. Your battle prowess has forced her to take out all the aspects of her law."

Noah's eyes left the Royal at that point. For a moment, he had thought that King Elbas had improved faster than him. That would have forced him to reconsider his approach to his growth.

"Moreover," King Elbas continued, "I am trying something new. I despise that arrogant Demon, but the power of his creation is immense. I couldn't let him waste it like that."

The slight relief that had filled Noah vanished when he heard those words. King Elbas was talking about Divine Demon's miracles. He had admitted that he had learnt from the expert's law.

"Are you trying to copy his power?" Noah asked.

"Copy? Nonsense," King Elbas said before giving voice to a loud snort. "Imitating that mindless idiot would only ruin my foundation. I'm exploring his path and studying his power. Using the world instead of materials is a power that I crave."

In his twisted way, King Elbas had admitted that Divine Demon's power was incredible and that he wanted to obtain it. Noah didn't feel surprised about that statement, but his focus remained on how quickly the Royal had completed his study of Blanche's law.

Noah had allowed King Elbas to focus only on his trump card, but the outcome of that battle remained the same. The Royal had been faster. The Shadow Domain had reached Blanche only after he destroyed the azure aura.

"I don't know how you did it," Blanche said as she appeared above the duo, "But it's time for you to die."

Blanche's palms shot downward and released two massive shockwaves that fell toward the duo. However, before that force could reach the two experts, King Elbas exploded into a sea of flames and endured the attacks' full might.

His flames barely flickered when the shockwaves seeped into the golden sea. Blanche's attack didn't manage to do anything after King Elbas had developed a method to counter her law. The solid stage expert was powerless now.

"Impossible!" Blanche shouted, but her surprise didn't make her forged the experience amassed through her long life.

A weapon promptly came out of her space-ring. It was a shield in the upper tier that featured shining symbols on its surface.

Blanche had understood that her individuality had become useless. The sole thought that two liquid stage cultivators had managed to make her reach that point was incredible, but she couldn't deny what was happening. Her only choice was to rely on inscribed items at that point.

Her "Breath" flowed inside the shield and charged a powerful attack that made both Noah and King Elbas' instincts scream in fear, but Noah activated his trump card before she could activate her weapon.

Blanche's expression suddenly froze. She glanced at her tattered robe and noticed that spikes had replaced most of her skin. Black flames also came out of those holes as her organs began to shut down.

Her mouth opened, but no sound managed to come out of it. Her figure exploded into a storm of flames and fuming spikes, and a wave of energy flowed back to Noah.

Chapter 1472 1472. Fame

The battle over the region divided by white rivers came to an end a few minutes after Noah and King Elbas killed Blanche. The other two solid stage cultivators had faced Ian and Jordan, but their situation had quickly turned become quite poor.

Boss April and her companion were strong, but Ian and Jordan surpassed them both in battle experience and sheer power. They were hybrids who had fought for their entire lives. The two experts from the guild struggled to fend off their offensive since the beginning of the fight.

Jordan had quickly transformed into a dragon. Instead, Ian had begun to accumulate his howls as soon as the two experts had left the underground structure.

Even the hybrids had stopped playing around and testing their opponents. The battle against Boss Edna's guild had already satisfied their desire for a good fight. They only wanted to finish their mission now.

Boss April had a tricky law. Her power allowed her to interact with space. She could teleport boulders that exploded whenever they touched a foreign aura, and her defensive abilities also relied on her true meaning.

However, her incredible ability had to have some drawbacks. One of them was its cost in terms of "Breath", and the other was the amount of energy that she could teleport.

The explosions released by her boulders could be deadly for humans, but hybrids at her level could endure even her strongest attacks. Boss April could injure both Ian and Jordan, but she couldn't inflict severe wounds.

That weakness was even more noticeable against Jordan in her dragon form. She was too big, and her amber scales could disperse most of the energy released in the explosions.

Ian was a bit worse off, but he could redirect his soundwaves to deny the explosions. Boss April had to take a supportive role in the battle after realizing that her ability couldn't lead to victory. She had to rely on her companion to win.

Her companion's name was Alan. His law allowed him to create snake-shaped lightning bolts to ride to obtain massive bursts of acceleration. He could also launch those creatures toward his opponents to create piercing attacks.

The core of his law was acceleration. All his lightning bolts could perform sprints able to take any opponent by surprise. Their power also depended on how fast they went, so Alan could potentially injure the two hybrids.

With Boss April's support, many of Alan's attacks managed to hit the hybrids. She would teleport when their power was still low and let them accelerate once they arrived in a spot that could take her opponents by surprise.

Yet, Jordan and Ian didn't stay still during the fight. They quickly understood that Boss April wouldn't be a problem as long as they defeated Alan. They soon began to focus on the expert and render that tactic impossible to deploy.

Boss April did her best to support her companion, but the hybrids ignored her attacks during her reckless assault toward the lightning cultivator. Alan eventually realized that the battle could only end with his death, so he attempted to leave the battlefield and escape without minding his guild.

Still, Jordan's influence had already spread through a large area of the sky at that point. Alan had been too slow in deciding to escape. The hybrid could use her winds to stop his acceleration and deliver a deadly blow with her claws.

Once Alan died, Boss April lost her will to fight. Her guild had crumbled, and her companion had tried to leave her behind. She couldn't even try to defeat her opponents. She would rather let them end the battle quickly than continue in a pointless struggle.

Her behavior made Ian and Jordan decide to take her as a prisoner. The team already had Adele, but it couldn't hurt to have more informants in their ranks, especially when it came to guilds.

The outcome of the second battle turned out to be far better than the first. Noah's team managed to win without suffering any serious injury. They could set off in less than two months and move toward their next target as soon as they finished pillaging every resource hidden in the underground structure.

Noah's group continued their mission, hunting every guild hired by the organizations involved in the invasion of the Outer Lands. Most of those forces were nothing more than small armies featuring only one solid stage cultivator. The last battles ended up being nothing more than a one-sided slaughter.

The other guilds involved with the invasion soon understood what was happening. They couldn't confirm that the Legion was behind the attacks, but they guessed that some large force didn't want them to join that mission.

Those forces began to sever their ties with the large organizations that had hired them. They left their homes and settlements to hide from the fearful group of experts hunting them.

The news even reached the other guilds. The large organizations soon found no one willing to accept their offers, no matter how generous they were.

Everything unfolded as Noah had predicted. The loss of manpower would force the large organizations to deploy their own forces in the invasion. Yet, the first phases of every war would always lead to slaughters, and they weren't willing to invest their troops in those projects.

Once the sacrificial pawns disappeared, the invasion came to a stop. The pagoda in the Outer Land still had a few troops in its defense, but nothing changed even after years passed.

It was as if the large forces had put their plan to a stop. The lack of expendable cultivators made them rethink their approach to the mission. They couldn't directly attack anymore. They had to create a proper plan that could lead to fewer losses.

Noah ignored the political repercussions of his actions. He didn't need to ask about them to know how everything would unfold. The final decision was up to the organizations anyway. They had to choose whether they were willing to sacrifice their troops to invade the lands of the strongest warriors on the higher plane.

His focus remained on his improvements. The mission had given Noah the chance to fight many solid stage cultivators. His battle experience increased again in that period, and he even managed to perfect his new techniques.

Noah also created new abilities that could improve his battle prowess. Once he had confirmed that spells could work together with the workshop, Noah went through a long testing phase that aimed to bring his power to a new level.

After all the battles were over, Noah and the others flew back to the Outer Lands, carrying their prisoners with them. Adele and Boss April had ended up being only the firsts of a long trail of cultivators trapped during their battles.

When they returned to Yellnbel, the group noticed that the rank 8 auras high in the sky had disappeared. It seemed that the experts in the eighth rank had taken a break from their endless battle. The two forces had silently agreed to seal a truce while the situation was so unstable.

Noah's group led the prisoners inside the city, and Theodora didn't hesitate to take the issue into her own hands. Those cultivators could become significant assets for the Legion, so she didn't want to kill them or let them rot in a cell.

Wilfred was with Theodora inside the largest building in the whole city. The hybrid and Noah's group observed how Theodora handled the prisoners and tampered with their memories to protect her underlings' identity.

Chapter 1473 1473. Memories

"You will not tell anyone about this mission," Theodora said as her aura filled the large room where Noah, his group, Wilfred, and the prisoners stood.

"You will not spread information about the guilds," Theodora continued as her aura intensified and flowed inside the minds of the prisoners.

"You will not damage the Legion," Theodora concluded. "Forget!"

Theodora's aura transformed into a blinding blue light that filled the whole room. Mental waves flowed inside those targeted by her influence and tampered with their memories.

Noah gave voice to a loud cough when the light dimmed. He didn't like the conditions spoken by Theodora. He wanted her to be more specific about the experts who didn't belong to the Legion.

"Right," Theodora said as her aura shone again. "You will also forget about our helpers. Anything concerning the invasion of the Outer Lands will escape your mind."

After the second burst of her colorless aura, Theodora sat on her throne and ignored her guests. Ian promptly gathered the confused prisoners and led them outside. Jordan and the others followed him, and Noah was about to do the same before a mental message reached his mind.

'Stay,' Theodora's voice resounded inside Noah's head.

Noah nodded at his companion and waited for them to leave the room before turning toward the rank 8 existence. Wilford wore a curious expression as he sat on a throne placed next to Theodora and moved his eyes between Noah and the leader.

"You wanted to talk to me," Noah said when he saw that Theodora didn't speak.

A moment of silence followed his statement. Theodora waited until Noah's companions exited the building before addressing his words.

"Why do you still avoid joining the Legion?" Theodora asked. "You can't belong to the magical beasts' domain. You have already offended many powerful forces among humans. You have even helped the Legion. I think it's time for you to make up your mind about our invitation."

Theodora didn't spread her influence to inspect Noah's mind. She was respecting his privacy and leaving his thoughts away from that conversation.

Noah didn't know what to answer. The Immortal Lands still felt like a foreign place in his mind, so he preferred to avoid making decisions that would affect the rest of his cultivation journey. Joining the Legion wasn't a simple step in his life. It would change his status and priorities instantly.

"I want to delay that choice as long as possible," Noah replied honestly. "I like my freedom. I don't mind that my current state makes me more open to enemy ambushes."

"You are a hybrid," Theodora continued. "You are deluding yourself if you think that the world won't consider you as part of the Legion. Just join us and accept your benefits."

Theodora's speech made sense, but Noah still had his doubts. He was nothing more than a small force among the complex political environment of the Immortal Lands. He lost some power by lacking affiliations, but that also made him harder to track.

"I will think about it," Noah replied.

Theodora heaved a helpless sigh when she heard that answer. She couldn't offer any significant benefit to Noah. He had already access to Supreme Thief's inheritance, and he had even gained a small group of loyal followers among the Legion.

In her mind, it was only normal for Noah to join the Legion. Yet, she didn't want to force him. She wouldn't dare to risk losing an asset with the potential to stand among the leaders in the eighth rank.

"You have already built your team," Theodora said as she changed approach. "I looked inside your existence. Your influence is already making Jordan and Don grow far faster than normal. The other humans are experiencing the same. It's time that you accept yourself as a priceless asset."

Noah's law could make others grow faster than normal, and that feature had intensified after his ascension. He had yet to see tangible effects, but he knew that his influence was forcing those who followed him to improve quickly.

That was a natural outcome of his law. Noah's aura would always radiate his ambition, and his companions couldn't escape his influence. He forced their existences to evolve, even if he didn't want them to surpass his growth.

Noah had finally started to notice that feature. King Elbas' improvements didn't only depend on his talent. The Royal had also benefited from Noah's ambition to grasp the core idea behind Divine Demon's individuality and improve his creations.

Noah wielded a dangerous power that he preferred to keep for himself. After all, he desired to be the strongest so that he could avoid remaining entangled in the political world of the Immortal Lands.

"I don't want to create a fourth force," Noah tried to reassure Theodora. "I only chase personal benefits, and the Legion is helping me in this task. You have nothing to fear from me."

"And yet, you have already created a fourth force," Theodora replied. "Maybe you have yet to realize it, but you already have loyal followers among different organizations. Saul from the Balrow family, Elbas and Divine Demon, Jordan, Don, Fergie, and those who witnessed your feats inside Supreme Thief's inheritance would follow you. You only have to ask for their help."

Theodora knew more than what words could express. Even if she was leaving Noah's mind alone now, she had already inspected the memories that involved him from the prisoners. She could understand how deep his relationship with the hybrids and the other companions had become.

"I don't care about that," Noah replied honestly again. "We have different visions of the world. I still don't want to consider others when my power is barely enough to keep me alive. Leave invitations and offers for when I reach your level."

Theodora revealed a broad smile at his words, but she didn't reply. She remained silent as she watched Noah's aura become denser. The more he decided to walk a solitary path, the more his influence intensified.

"What can the Legion do to help you reach this level?" Theodora asked after she stopped enjoying Noah's aura.

Noah thought about that question for a while, and his gaze eventually fell on Wilfred. Theodora and the rest of her organization couldn't offer him anything, but that man could give him something that even the libraries in the human domain lacked.

"I'm searching for a unique species of magical beasts," Noah said. "I need a creature with a darkness aptitude and great might, especially when it comes to its innate abilities."

Wilfred had been in charge of a hybrid city placed in the Outer Lands around the magical beasts' domain. Even if he weren't an expert in that field, he would know a lot about those regions' fauna.

Noah wanted to complete his experiments with the red crystals as soon as possible. That material carried the secret behind the evolution itself, and Noah needed to absorb it into his battle prowess.

The question left Wilfred surprised, but the expert soon scratched his short beard as he thought about the matter. A list of creatures eventually flew inside Noah's mind and described most of the peculiar magical beasts that met his requirements.

Noah now had the chance to resume his hunts, but he didn't immediately leave Yellnbel. He had spent many years fighting already. It was time to take a break and focus on his cultivation level.

Chapter 1474 1474. Dragon

Noah settled in Yellnbel. Even if he wasn't a member of the Legion, the hybrids in the city didn't complain when their leaders gave him one of the most luxurious habitations.

Yellnbel was a city featuring simple buildings, but Theodora and Wilfred managed to give him a large house with a few significant benefits. The structure could gather "Breath", and many of those rooms had inscriptions that reinforced its fabric.

Noah could train freely inside that structure. With the invasion on hold, he and his companions could focus on turning the experience gathered in the past battles into actual power. That break was something that they all needed after defeating many guilds.

Noah's potential had skyrocketed after his many victories against solid stage cultivators. His dantian wanted to improve, and the true meaning that it contained propelled the organ faster toward the superior stage.

The centuries spent in the wilderness, and the many battles had made Noah's existence ready for the solid stage. He only had to invest time to reach that level now.

Noah's aura grew. The influence of his ambition increased, and a dark halo began to loom around his habitation. It was as if the world wanted to create a separate area featuring a night that covered only Noah.

The breakthrough grew closer with every year that Noah spent in seclusion. Wilford had given him interesting leads on potential Blood Companions, but the world was too messy now. Noah preferred to focus on his foundation while the environment around him became easier to explore again.

The magical beasts' domain featured spies of the Crystal City. Many human organizations were hunting for the experts that had delayed their invasion on the Outer Lands. Noah was truly safe only inside the Legion, and he didn't dare to waste that peaceful time.

Still, before he could complete the last step before his breakthrough to the solid stage, Ian contacted him. It seemed that new troops had appeared around the pagoda, and most of them featured white robes adorned with purple drawings.

That event had to happen. Noah knew that far too well. His group had killed two solid stage cultivators from the Crystal City and one from the Sailbird family. It was only normal for them to join the invasion in the hope of finding him.

Ian explained how the invasion had changed after the arrival of those new troops. The Crystal City and the Sailbird family didn't care that they couldn't hire guilds for the task. They sent their core forces through the pagoda and started expanding their influence in the nearby regions.

Those organizations had also sent rank 8 cultivators meant to keep Theodora and Wilford busy. They had joined the invasion, even if their political satiation made them unsuitable for maintaining control of those regions.

Noah didn't immediately join the fight. He didn't care that the Legion was on the losing end of the invasion. His cultivation level was about to improve. Nothing mattered more than that.

However, Noah soon understood that he couldn't reach the superior stage with regular training alone. Even his vast accumulation couldn't push him toward the solid stage. He needed to fulfill some requirements dictated by his ambition to complete the breakthrough.

His ambition had allowed him to reach the liquid stage, and the same had to happen with the solid stage. Noah's existence already desired the breakthrough, but he had to fuel that emotion with actual achievements.

'My body is also about to reach the upper tier,' Noah thought after studying the reports accumulated in front of his habitation's door. 'I might complete two breakthroughs if these battles give me enough potential.'

Noah decided to leave his habitation after he reached that conclusion. He wouldn't miss the chance to hurt the Crystal City, and his existence required battles anyway. It was better to fight against the invasion than remain inside Yellnbel for who knew how long.

When Noah reached the pagoda, he found a familiar face among the troops that defended the structure. Miss Canson was among those troops, and she led a group of liquid stage cultivators that seemed connected to her cultivation level.

Miss Canson's cultivation level had reached the liquid stage, and she revealed a livid expression when she saw Noah joining the troops deployed by the Legion.

It was clear that Charles' defeat weighed on the Crystal City, and Miss Canson didn't even try to hide those feelings. She mainly felt angry, but traces of fear leaked into her expression whenever her eyes fell on Noah.

Noah cared so little about liquid stage cultivations that he had almost failed to see Miss Canson as he focused on the solid stage experts among that small army.

The pagoda featured more than ten solid stage cultivators and countless weaker experts. It seemed that even the Crystal City struggled to provide an entire army of powerful existences, but Noah didn't mind killing them now that he had the chance.

After a life spent fighting, Noah could immediately imagine the best and worst outcomes in every situation. He knew that he wasn't far away from forcing the Crystal City to deploy rank 8 cultivators only for him, so he had to inflict as much damage as possible before the organization inevitably compelled him to escape.

The other troops from the Legion let him pass. Those armies created a long corridor that led directly toward the frontline. The hybrids wanted to see him fight, and Noah wouldn't deny them that chance.

Noah noticed King Elbas among the troops. The Royal had also decided to join the battle after Ian's continuous pleads. The hybrids wanted every valuable warrior in those battles, and he couldn't think of anyone other than the experts who could face solid stage cultivators on their own.

Noah stared at the enemy troops in front of him and deployed the dark world. He had completed other blueprints during his seclusion and battles against the guilds. His four additional blades and arms had become a reliable but old technique.

The dark world condensed around his figure as his workshop activated. A roar came out of the black cloud when the unstable substance filled his black veins and forced his technique to use his new power as the base for its creations.

The workshop consumed an immense amount of dark matter to build a new body around Noah's figure. Two massive limbs covered Noah's arms, and the same happened for his legs. A large piece of scaled forms also replaced his torso, and his draconic helmet enlarged as his body morphed.

Before the invaders could even understand what was happening, Noah transformed into a giant dragon that roared at the enemy troops. His cry inspired the other hybrids and made them change into their beast form.

Jordan wasn't an exception. She was the first to follow Noah's example and transform into her beast form. Other hybrids soon followed her, and the army from the Legion quickly gained messy features.

The cultivators around the pagoda took a step back when they saw so many liquid and solid stage experts transforming. Even the mindless hybrids in the seventh rank were enough to frighten those humans.

The cultivators soon understood that their peaceful days spent expanding were over. It was time for the Legion to strike back.

Chapter 1475 1475. Fan

The hybrid army had far more assets than the invaders. The Outer Lands were the home of the Legion. That organization could deploy the full power of two entire cities against those enemies.

The human army had twelve solid stage cultivators, but the hybrids featured more than twenty assets at the same level. Moreover, those existences had a body in the upper tier, so their overall prowess surpassed what humans could reach.

However, the pagoda was a teleportation matrix. More troops could arrive in that region as long as the invading organizations were willing to deploy reinforcements.

Noah had the shape of a black dragon with two massive wings. An armor of scales and spikes covered his real body, and his claws resembled swords when he waved them toward his opponents.

His roar marked the beginning of the fight. The hybrid army shot toward the cultivators, and Noah was in the frontline. He didn't know if Theodora had planned that, but the situation didn't allow him to care about that outcome.

Noah wasn't protecting his home. He was fighting to gather enough experience to approach the breakthroughs. His body also needed nutrients to reach the upper tier, so he wanted to burn and eat as many enemies as possible.

The human army didn't let that sight scare them away. They weren't members of guilds. Each of those cultivators belonged to large organizations, and they were willing to die to bring honor to their force.

Noah dived toward the mass of liquid stage cultivators. His wings and claws released a storm of slashes whenever they moved through the sky.

Those attacks featured the entirety of Noah's law, but they weren't on the level of his actual slashes. He wasn't using his swords in that form. His offensive featured his sheer physical strength, dark matter, and the meanings carried by his darkness, but it didn't involve any personal art.

The cultivators in front of him began to disperse when they saw the storm of slashes approaching their position. Those attacks already bordered what liquid stage cultivators could face. They almost breached into the solid stage in terms of power.

Before the storm could crash on the enemy army, one of the solid stage cultivators separated from the rest of the leaders and shot toward the incoming attack.

A wave of fire shot out of his figure when she waved her hand, and the storm of slashes crumbled under the might carried by her simple attack.

The scarlet flames burned anything on their path. They destroyed the slashes and used the energy dispersed by their form to expand. A massive fire soon appeared between Noah and his opponent, but that sight didn't make him slow down.

Noah barged into the fire and spat flames of his own. A wave of darkness spread among the scarlet attack and fought for the ownership of that area. Yet, the two abilities seemed to be at the same level, so they didn't manage to overcome their opponent.

"The Rats have told us what happened to Charles and Cassandra," The woman said as she stretched her arm toward the flames. "You have roamed freely for too long. I, Felicia, will avenge my companions and bring honor to the Crystal City."

Felicia had the aspect of an old woman with long white hair and yellow eyes. Her white robe had purple flames drawn on its edges, and a large token hanged from the belt that kept her clothes still.

Noah couldn't understand the meaning behind the symbol on the token. It didn't seem to express an actual word. He guessed that only the members of the Crystal City could comprehend its value.

The expert tightened her hand, and the flames began to expand. The scarlet radiance exploded into currents that shattered large chunks of Noah's draconic body and burnt the dark matter that they released.

Noah promptly summoned his swords. The dark world expanded around his figure again, and the flames burnt it. Yet, the clouds covering his front legs resisted that influence and continued to modify his body.

The claws on his front legs had stretched after the workshop modified that body part. Their sharp figures radiated the same aura as the Demonic Sword and the white blade. Noah had annexed the two weapons to his draconic form.

When Noah waved his limbs, he launched a wave of slashed that pierced through the wave of scarlet flames. Singularities also formed whenever the two types of attacks touched each other. Noah's blows had the power to give birth to wonders.

Felicia soon understood that nothing in her law could allow her to stop those attacks. The singularities would appear for less than an instant anyway. Her priority was to defeat the massive dragon.

Her flames morphed. They transformed into a huge fan that could cover Noah's giant body. The weapon featured fiery marks that depicted specific months and seasons.

"Summer flame," Felicia said, and the fan launched an attack that made Noah stop his offensive.

A wave of scorching flames had hit the side of his body and had destroyed his right wing. His fantastic technique had already reached its limits against a cultivator stronger than Charles.

"I will continue until your armor crumbles," Felicia said as she opened and tightened her hand again.

The flames transformed again. They became fiery spears that pointed toward Noah and stabbed his massive body. Neither of them could reach his actual tissues, but his technique grew unstable under that constant offensive.

Noah slashed, roared, and launched flames. He didn't care if his form would lose. He only minded that his power increased during the fight.

Felicia was fighting to stop that from happening. Her flames could transform into anything that she could imagine, but their density couldn't stop Noah from barging into weaker troops.

The expert saw how Noah didn't care that his opponent was a solid stage cultivator. His body protected him from most attacks, so he would focus the weaker troops from time to time.

Noah always tried to use his flames to accumulate enough energy for the breakthrough of his body. He had to gather nutrients now. That battle was only an excuse dictated by his need for evolution.

Felicia didn't let Noah do as he wished. She shot in front of his attacks and summoned a wall of flames that protected her underlings from incoming attacks.

Noah launched his flames and wing attacks, but his arms remained free. When Felicia completed her structure, she shot inside it and hid her presence among her fellow troops.

Noah didn't let that trick surprise him. His arms continued to launch slashes that the fiery wall couldn't completely block. Trains of energy flowed toward his body, signifying that his attacks were managing to kill his opponents.

Suddenly, the wall of flames transformed into a giant reptilian mouth that bit on Noah's neck. He didn't expect that attack, and his speed was too low to avoid it anyway.

The mouth severed Noah's draconic head, but the wave of dark matter that came out of it fended off the flames for an instant. The technique broke at that point, and Noah found himself among a fire that had the power to kill him.

Chapter 1476 1476. Ambition

Noah found himself surrounded by scorching flames. His draconic armor had crumbled, and only the layer of dark matter and corrosive smoke covered his body now.

The unstable substance still flowed through his black veins, but Felicia had already shown that her flames could hurt him even in that state. She was strong, stronger than any other solid stage cultivator Noah had ever faced.

Noah didn't hesitate to rely on his strongest asset when he realized how poor his situation was. The reptilian mouth was about to close on his figure, but an intense bloodlust suddenly filled the area and slowed down the attack.

The white sword returned inside the separate space, and a black handle came out of his chest. Noah promptly wielded it with his right hand, and the flames in his surroundings shattered when he waved his blades.

The space bent under the power carried by Noah's sharpness. The scarlet flames disappeared as slashes flew through the sky and slammed on the enemy army.

Felicia didn't expect Noah to be capable of such might. The Rats had described Charles's fight, but they didn't know how to evaluate the cursed sword. Their simple minds couldn't tell the difference between the Demonic Sword and that incredible item.

Even if Felicia had guessed that Noah still hid some trump cards, she didn't expect him to destroy her flames so quickly. It only took him one attack to defeat the spell that had managed to shatter his draconic form.

The army on the other side of the flames was powerless against that offensive. The massive slashes that had flown out of Noah's figure ripped their bodies apart and destroyed their consciousness in an instant.

A hole appeared among the army. Noah's offensive had destroyed the first line of defense and left those areas unprotected. His slashes even carried enough power to slam on the invisible barrier around the pagoda.

A surge of anger filled Felicia's mind. She had failed to protect those valuable troops against an opponent that had already damaged the Crystal City.

She couldn't let her great organization appear so weak. Noah had to die on that day, or the Crystal City would have lost power for nothing.

Noah's skin crumbled as a series of injuries opened on his torso. Blood filled his inscribed robe, but the fiendish armor prevented Felicia from seeing the drawbacks of the cursed sword.

Felicia raised both hands, and flames appeared around her figure. The fire flowed in front of her, and dense fireballs flew toward Noah whenever she snapped her fingers.

Noah deployed his movement technique, but Felicia's offensive was too fast. He initially managed to dodge the attacks, but a fireball soon hit his legs and turned them into a charred mess.

A series of fireballs converged toward Noah after he came out of his movement technique. Felicia wasn't giving him any break, so Noah had to rely on his cursed sword again.

The Demonic Sword melted and covered the cursed sword. A massive horizontal slash came out of the blade and destroyed every fireball flying toward him.

The slash didn't stop and continued to fly toward Felicia's position. The expert couldn't completely block the attack, but dodging would lead to more casualties among her army. She had to make a difficult choice, but she didn't hesitate to listen to her instincts.

Flames amassed behind her figure. The fan reappeared and waved toward the massive slash. Its structure crumbled during the attack and transformed into fiery spears that flew toward Noah's technique.

"Winter flame," Felicia said as the scarlet halo hid her figure.

The black slash and the many fiery spears clashed, but Noah's attack continued to press forward, cutting anything on its path. Yet, the dense fire crashing on its structure consumed part of its power and destabilized its form.

The slash had turned into a sharp trail of dark matter that clashed with Felicia's innate defenses. A scorching aura surrounded her figure and consumed the remaining power contained in Noah's attack.

When one of the shockwaves radiated by a different spot on the battlefield vanquished the smoke accumulated in the area, Noah could see that a large cut had appeared on Felicia's waist. Her complexion had also paled. His attack had managed to hurt her!

"You can't hurt the Crystal City anymore," Felicia said as trails of blood flowed out of her mouth. "I will stop you."

Felicia joined her hands, and the giant reptilian head reappeared. More flames formed around her and fused with her technique to build a fiery body for her creature.

"Spring flame," Felicia said, and the giant reptilian creature released a roar.

The beast resembled a dragon, but it had three pairs of feathered wings that spread fire through the sky. Its head wasn't wholly draconic either. It had a long mouth, and two lines of sharp teeth filled its insides.

Noah's pride exploded when he placed his eyes on that creature. The bloodlust was making his mind unstable, and the sight of that beast managed to trigger his instincts.

Noah felt as if the fiery creature wanted to challenge him for the ownership of the region, and his tainted thoughts didn't allow him to hold back. He raised his blade before the beast even completed its roar, and a massive vertical slash soon came out of its sharp edge.

"Spring flame," Felicia said, and the fan reappeared.

The fiery weapon flew in front of the creature and released dense flames that clashed with the slash. An explosion followed the event, but Noah's attack managed to pierce that technique.

Yet, it had lost too much power. The fiery creature raised its legs and stooped the slash with its bare claws. Its massive head also bit on its sharp edge and shattered the attack before it could even damage Felicia's technique.

Noah ignored that event and launched another slash. Wounds continued to open on his body, but he didn't care. His mind could only focus on one thing in that situation. He had to kill Felicia.

The fiery creature didn't manage to withstand the arrival of the second slash, and Felicia had been too slow. Her injury was starting to affect her, so she couldn't cast another powerful fire attack against that offensive. The slash severed the creature in half, and flames filled the sky after its figure crumbled. Noah's attack even continued flying toward Felicia, but the expert raised her hands again.

"Autumn flame," Felicia said, and all the fire accumulated in the sky condensed to take the shape of dense currents.

The fiery currents flew toward the slash and destroyed it, creating an expanding cloud of dark matter and corrosive smoke. The attacks even converged toward Noah, who felt compelled to use the cursed sword again.

Noah and Felicia appeared to be on par. They were using their best attacks without managing to overcome their opponent. Those watching the scene remained speechless. Noah was actually fending off a solid stage cultivator!

Of course, that outcome didn't satisfy Noah. His bloodlust even enhanced his greed. He wanted to kill his opponent and anyone around her. Being on her same level couldn't make him happy.

Before he could even decide to activate his ability, Noah's cultivation level began to rise. It reached the peak of the liquid stage and barged inside the superior level.

Felicia had no words to describe what was happening in front of her eyes. Her opponent had suddenly transformed into a solid stage expert.

Chapter 1477 1477. Threa

"You don't only defy logic," Felicia said. "You go against the very nature of the cultivation journey!"

Felicia couldn't help but shout when she saw Noah forcefully raising his cultivation level to the solid stage. His ambition flowed into the very fabric of the world, and his influence forced the matter around him to evolve.

That part of the sky grew darker as Noah's influence spread. Black spots appeared even inside Felicia's flame. The expert lost control of her attacks when Noah's ambition seeped inside its fabric. Her fire didn't belong to her domain anymore.

Noah stored the cursed sword and wielded the white blade again. He couldn't use the black weapon when he was in that form. Its attacks would use his new cultivation level as their foundation, and he didn't have the power to withstand its drawbacks.

However, his ambition allowed him to resort to assets that he couldn't usually use. Snore and Night came out of his chest, and their level grew as they bathed in his influence.

Snore became bigger. Its fabric grew denser, and its horns stretched. The amount of power contained in its body increased, and the creature didn't hesitate to open its mouth to launch its innate ability.

Night also grew. Its figure became blurry as it fused with the world and shot toward Felicia. A black trail would taint the white sky as it flew toward the expert.

The Demonic Sword also improved. Its fabric became denser, and flares of dark matter came out of its structure due to the massive power accumulated inside its body. The living weapon also gave voice to a roar that expressed the ecstasy felt during that empowerment.

Noah attacked the expert. His blades performed a cross-shaped slash that launched an invisible blow toward Felicia. The cultivator saw the battle transforming in mere seconds, and she could only perform a basic technique before Noah's offensive reached her.

Her fan appeared in front of her figure. Still, a series of cracks filled its structure before the other attacks could reach her. Night came out of the fiery weapon and gave voice to a snort before diving toward Felicia again.

The dark beam destroyed any lingering flame on its path and slammed on the cultivator. The scorching aura surrounding Felicia couldn't do anything to stop the attack, and the violent dark matter soon began to devour her skin.

The invisible singularity also reached Felicia. A large hole formed at the center of her belly before she could even understand what had hit her.

Felicia's maimed figure became visible when the smoke created by Noah's offensive vanished. She appeared to be on the verge of death. Her skin had disappeared, and a hideous hole pierced her belly from side to side.

Night also came out of her figure and left behind a series of cuts that worsened her condition. Felicia's consciousness began to slip away, but she managed to give voice to a few loud words even in that state.

"I understand," Felicia said. "You have the potential to become a major threat. Rejoice. The Crystal City will now treat you as one of its most feared enemies."

Her token had remained attached to her body even if her robe had become a pile of rags. When Felicia closed her eyes, a purple light began to come out of the item, and the pagoda reacted to that event.

The walls of the pagoda began to shine with white light, and a heavy pressure soon fell on the area. That part of the sky had become a mess due to the many battles unfolding around the building. Yet, every expert stopped fighting when that force spread in the environment.

A blinding halo mixed with the sky's light, and many figures became visible after the glow disappeared. A second army had appeared above the structure. The reinforcements from the large organizations had arrived.

Noah quickly slashed toward Felicia. The cultivator was on the verge of death, but someone could still rescue her, and Noah couldn't let that happen. Still, his fear became true when he saw two solid stage experts appearing in the trajectory of his attack.

Two men wearing white robes raised their hands. A wall of ice formed between the slash and Felicia, protecting her from Noah's attacks. The two cultivators could take their time rescuing the expert and sending her back inside the pagoda.

Noah wanted to charge forward, but he forced himself to remain in his position. His bloodlust was blinding his reasoning, but he could still retain a certain amount of control.

The arrival of the reinforcements placed the hybrid army on the losing end now. The humans had far more troops, and it seemed that the new platoon mainly featured solid stage cultivators from different organizations.

Only a few of those experts came from the Crystal City. It seemed that the other organizations had decided to invest their resources in those regions after the initial sacrifices of their allies.

The wall of ice crumbled and revealed the two men who stared at Noah. They had a middle-aged appearance. Both had pale-azure hair and white eyes, and their facial features were identical. They were twins, but it seemed that even their cultivation level had a tight connection.

"We are hunters from the Crystal City," One of the men said.

"We will now treat you like a peak rank 7 threat," The other man said.

A third aura appeared behind Noah while he studied the twins. When he turned, he saw a middle-aged woman floating above him and analyzing his every move.

"They are Abe and Ebe," The woman said. "I wouldn't listen to them. Their individuality makes them far more powerful than any other solid stage cultivator, but their intelligence has suffered serious drawbacks."

The woman wore a broad smile as her long golden hair fluttered in the wind. She had a pair of shining green eyes, and her white robe carried a purple number "9" drawn on her chest.

"I'm Miss Nine," The woman said as she performed a deep bow. "I have heard a lot about you. I hope you won't disappoint me."

Noah was surrounded. The reinforcements of the organizations had arrived far faster than he expected, and it seemed that the Crystal City wanted to kill him at all costs.

He could defeat a single solid stage cultivator when he went all-out, but the situation appeared quite poor. Three experts at that level were now surrounding him and closing his ways out. Noah's only chance to escape was to fight through that blockage.

Noah waved at the woman, but a metallic sound resounded in the area when his invisible singularity was about to reach her figure. The expert didn't move during his offensive. She had only used her innate defenses to block that attack.

Abe and Ebe didn't stay still after his attack. They pointed at Noah, and a trail of ice came out from under their feet to shoot toward him.

The ice spread quickly. It covered the sky and froze Noah's ambition. The blackness that filled the sky disappeared, replaced by the azure glow radiated by the twins' attack.

'This won't do,' Noah thought as flames came out of his mouth.

His weapons also fused as he launched a powerful thrust, but the metallic sound resounded again when his attack was about to reach the ice. Miss Nine had interfered again.

While Noah watched the ice draw closer, a familiar roar filled the sky. Jordan in her dragon form appeared behind Miss Nine and spat a wave of flames that forced her to move her attention on her.

Noah could only rejoice at that sight, and his figure promptly transformed into a black sword that shot in the distance. Yet, ice soon appeared in front of him and stopped his movement technique.

Chapter 1478 1478. Losses

Noah couldn't pierce the ice. Nothing he did could make a dent in the azure walls that appeared on his path and forced him to remain on the battlefield.

It was clear that the Crystal City was targeting him. The organization didn't seem to care about the Outer Lands. All its reinforcements would fly toward him if the other troops of the hybrid army didn't force them to fight elsewhere.

Even in his solid stage form, Noah couldn't break the ice. His slashes and companions did nothing to that element. Miss Nine's words were correct. Noah had never faced such powerful cultivators.

'There must be a trick behind their power,' Noah thought as he suppressed the pain that was reaching his mind.

Noah was still suffering from the drawbacks of the cursed sword. His body and mind had improved and could withstand more harmful effects, but Noah had to rely on the blade multiple times against Felicia. His skin had continued to shatter, and the bloodlust had never stopped affecting his thoughts.

The Divine Deduction technique activated to analyze the ice. Many plans on how to kill his opponents filled his mind due to the tainted mental energy that flowed inside his ability. Still, he could quickly find the answer to his doubts even in that condition.

'They are part of the same individuality,' Noah concluded in his mind after a quick inspection of the ice.

Noah could feel two identical auras inside the ice. They merged to give birth to something that far surpassed their power. Abe and Ebe had probably resorted to some unorthodox cultivation method to reach that state.

Everything became clear to Noah once he understood that aspect of their existence. He wasn't fighting two different solid stage cultivators. His opponents were two experts who could fuse their laws perfectly and generate far more power than usual.

'No wonder I couldn't pierce the ice,' Noah thought as his expression grew cold.

The ice accumulated in the sky was creating a circular prison that slowly converged toward Noah. The two experts wanted to trap him, and there didn't seem to be a way out of that situation.

A clanging noise suddenly spread through the sky. Miss Nine threw Jordan's massive body away through an invisible technique and turned toward Noah again. Her wide smile still shone on her face, and she barely felt tired after that exchange with the hybrid.

"You should have expected this outcome," Miss Nine said. "You fools ascending from lower planes are all the same. You have been kings in your words for so long that you fail to realize your place in the Immortal Lands."

Jordan flew toward Miss Nine again, but her head slammed on another invisible wall. Blood flowed out of her massive mouth, but her gaze appeared as determined as ever.

"Look at what a large organization can do," Miss Nine continued. "These troops are a mere part of the full power of the Crystal City, and that if we consider only the cultivators in the seventh rank. My force has monsters who have lived for eras. How did you even hope to win?"

Miss Nine continued her speech even if Jordan was doing her best to pierce her defenses. Cracks began to appear in the sky after she amassed enough winds, but those openings didn't lead to the void.

"You accomplish a great feat every time you manage to kill a solid stage cultivator," Miss Nine continued. "Yet, look around you. Three among the best experts in the seventh rank have flown to the other side of the plane to hunt you."

"I count two," Noah said as black flames flowed out of his mouth.

The flames disappeared after they flew for a few centimeters. They didn't even reach his chest since they went into the Shadow Domain.

Miss Nine's smile froze at that sight. She had understood that something terrible was about to happen but couldn't see what Noah had in mind. She didn't even sense his energy spreading into the environment.

Suddenly, Abe exploded into a cloud of gray smoke, black flames, and fuming spikes. Nothing of the expert remained, and the energy contained in his body flowed toward Noah through tiny fiery specks.

Noah could finally experience some clarity of mind after the black hole purified that energy and redirected it toward his tissues. His body instantly healed, and the bloodlust started to retreat.

Miss Nine's smile disappeared. She suddenly felt worried about Noah's incredible ability. He owned something that even solid stage cultivators couldn't sense. No one was safe around him.

However, she also noticed that Noah didn't rely on that technique immediately. Felicia didn't face that attack either. There had to be restrictions to how often Noah could activate it.

Miss Nine wanted to attack immediately, but Jordan managed to break through the invisible wall at that point and forced her to diverge her attention.

Noah could remain alone with Ebe. The cultivator appeared lost without his brother, and Noah didn't hesitate to exploit that moment of weakness. He shot toward the expert with his blades pointed at his head.

"No!" Ebe shouted as he waved his hands through the smoke that had replaced his brother's body. "You can't die! We are one! We will live as long as one of us lives!"

Noah didn't care about Ebe's mental instability and thrust his blades on the cultivator's head. However, a thin layer of ice appeared above his skin, and the attack didn't manage to pierce it.

The clash flung Ebe's downward, but he didn't seem affected by that attack. He slammed on the barrier around the pagoda and straightened his position before flying back toward the gray cloud.

"No, no!" Ebe shouted. "Return to me. Come back through me. Give me your power, brother, and we will live forever."

His aura intensified as his cries continued. Something was happening, but Noah wouldn't just wait there as his opponent became stronger. Moreover, Ebe had tried to put him in a cage. Noah couldn't even begin to describe his anger.

The Demonic Sword melted to cover the white blade. Noah slashed at the cultivator's neck, backing the attack with all the power contained in his enhanced form.

The blade landed on the layer of thin ice again, but his attack only managed to fling Ebe downward again. Noah couldn't hurt him as long as that innate defense existed.

"We will rise together, Abe," Ebe said as he returned toward the smoke. "Nothing will ever separate us."

Noah never stopped attacking, but his offensive appeared to be utterly pointless. Nothing he did could pierce the ice. Killing the brother didn't make any difference in the expert's power.

When the smoke completely dispersed, Ebe could see that nothing had remained of his brother. Noah had absorbed any lingering trace of energy, so that spot lacked even ashes.

"You!" Ebe shouted as his angry gaze turned toward Noah. "You killed him! You killed my brother!"

Ebe's aura increased as he muttered those words, but Noah promptly retreated. The cultivator followed him inside an area already covered by the Shadow Domain, and Noah used it to teleport Instabilities and flames inside his opponent.

Miss Nine had managed to fend Jordan away again, but her expression turned ugly when she saw Ebe exploding. Noah had managed to activate his threatening technique again, inflicting more losses to the Crystal City.

Chapter 1479 1479. Limit

Noah's influence intensified even if his cultivation level didn't increase. Defeating the solid stage cultivators after they had ganged on him made his potential increase. His ambition became denser and slowly managed to push back the ice that had accumulated in the environment.

Miss Nine couldn't put into thoughts the scene that she had just witnessed. Noah was a liquid stage hybrid at his foundation, but he had defeated three solid stage cultivators without exhausting his reserves of energy.

Ordinary experts had limits. They could push their power beyond them through secret arts and unique inscribed items, but they couldn't achieve a battle prowess that defied logic.

Noah was different. He was an exception among exceptions. His law didn't only allow him to reach the superior ranks. It also gave him enough power to defeat existences at those levels.

Miss Nine had seen many talented cultivators throughout her life. She had also fought many hybrids who could exploit the innate advantages given by their species. However, Noah stood above all of them. His potential didn't seem to have limits.

"Defying Demon," Miss Nine whispered. "What a fitting title."

Miss Nine's experience didn't allow her to remain still. She began to see Noah's true form, and a chill ran down her spine when she realized what he could become.

The Crystal City had stopped underestimating him, but that wasn't enough. Miss Nine understood that she had to treat Noah as a threat that went beyond her power.

"How high can you fly?" Miss Nine asked as her aura intensified. "Will you reach the eighth rank? Can you strive past that level and touch the peak of the cultivation world?!"

Shockwaves spread from her figure. Her voice lost warmth and gained metallic features. Clanging noises accompanied her words, and a heavy force fell on the whole battlefield.

Miss Nine's influence suppressed every expert in the area. Her aura almost covered the whole region. Even some hybrids in the solid stage struggled to move properly under that pressure.

Her law didn't only affect the hybrids. Miss Nine also suppressed her allies. Her influence couldn't differ between friend or foe. It fell on everyone in the area, forcing all the experts in the liquid stage to spit mouthfuls of blood.

"Miss Nine!" Miss Canson gave voice to a loud plead as she struggled to remain in the air.

Miss Canson had a series of guards around her and even a solid stage cultivator appointed to protect her. Yet, they couldn't protect her from Miss Nine's influence.

"Be silent!" Miss Nine shouted as the clanging noises carried by her voice intensified. "I will personally explain this to Madame Canson. I can't hold anything back against this monster."

'How powerful is she?' Noah cursed in his mind as he struggled to move away from Miss Nine's influence. 'Even Jordan can't completely fight this technique!'

Jordan's power was near the peak of the seventh rank, and she was even in her dragon form. Yet, Noah could see how annoyed she was about that pressure. Two solid stage cultivators were fighting her to let Miss Nine do as she pleased, and Jordan couldn't shake them off inside that environment.

Noah was technically at his peak. The effects of his ambition had yet to run out, and his body brimmed with power. He was a bit short of special darkness, but the black hole was already producing more of it.

Miss Nine would meet the same end as the twins if Noah had enough time to enlarge the Shadow Domain and refill his stash of special darkness. Still, Noah didn't know for how long he could survive against that expert.

"Do you want to know?" Noah asked in an attempt to buy some time. "Do you want me to tell you where my ambition stops?"

Roars fused with Noah's words. Snore and Night appeared next to him and gave voice to loud cries. His Demonic Sword also joined that expression of pure defiance.

"Do you want to know the limit of my potential?" Noah asked as the white sword returned inside the separate space.

The area grew darker as a black handle came out of his chest. Noah's felt a wave of bloodlust filling his mind and turning his thoughts into killing intent.

The bloodlust flowing out of his figure resembled a sea of swords that spread everywhere in the environment. The cursed sword used the cultivation level of its owner as its foundation. The power that it was radiating aimed to reach the very peak of the seventh rank.

The cursed sword was still a weapon in the upper tier since it had yet to defeat enough opponents. It couldn't push the power of Noah's attacks to the eighth rank. The peak of the seventh rank was the limit of its current form.

"Tell me," Miss Nine said without showing the slightest trace of fear.

The bloodlust released by Noah made the weaker experts in the area run away. Even some solid stage cultivators had to activate defensive techniques to fend off his dangerous influence.

Most experts turned their attention to Noah's figure. They could see that Miss Nine didn't dare to move her eyes away from him, and they wondered how Noah could even think of fighting that monster.

"My ambition knows no limit!" Noah shouted as he unsheathed the cursed sword and slashed with both hands toward his opponent.

Miss Nine quickly waved her hand, and the space in front of her bent. Something began to appear, but a storm of slashes clashed on that invisible figure before it could gain any color.

Everyone retreated. They expected massive shockwaves to fly out of that clash. However, they soon understood that something was off.

Miss Nine was the first to sense that anomaly. Noah had amassed a threatening amount of power, but the slashes that had clashed on her invisible wall were weaker than the attacks unleashed against the twins.

Her technique didn't even tremble when the slashes slammed on the invisible surface. Miss Nine felt confused, but she began to suspect something when she saw that a black cloud had replaced Noah's figure.

Miss Nine waved her hand, and the cloud dispersed. The technique didn't contain anyone. It was a simple mass of dark matter floating in the sky.

'Shut up!' Noah shouted inside his mind as he flew at high speed toward the edges of the battlefield.

Noah had pretended to use the cursed sword before. He wasn't crazy enough to use an attack that would turn his body into a bloody pulp when he had the chance to escape. Yet, the bloodlust that had filled his mind was real, and it was begging Noah to turn back.

'Let's kill her!'

'Let's feed on her belly!'

'Rip her limbs while she still breathes!'

'Kill her slowly!'

'Kill her quickly!'

'Devour everyone on your path!'

Violent thoughts filled his mind. They all carried his voice. It was as if he had suddenly obtained multiple personalities that were begging him to fight.

Noah managed to remain somewhat calm. He was struggling to hold his instincts back, and he had to slap his cheeks at times to stay conscious.

Those drawbacks warned Noah about the power of the cursed sword. He could barely withstand the bloodlust generated while his ambition fueled his cultivation level. He couldn't even imagine what an actual attack would do to his body.

His wild thoughts became harder to suppress when a figure materialized on his path. Noah had flown away as fast as he could, but he had to stop when trails of black dust converged in front of him and took Miss Nine's shape.

The expert had caught up with him.

Chapter 1480 1480. Sphere

"How can you be so strong?" Noah asked as he interrupted his movement technique and diverged the power of the black hole toward his mind.

Noah needed to think properly in that situation. He couldn't let his bloodlust take control of his actions. There was something off with Miss Nine's power, but he couldn't waste time uncovering it now.

The pretense from before had also tricked his allies. King Elbas, Ian, Jordan, and the other hybrids had thought that Noah was about to launch a massive slash. They didn't notice his escape until he was already far away.

Only Noah and Miss Nine stood in that part of the sky. The others would take at least a minute to reach him. Experts in the solid stage could exchange many attacks during that time.

"You can't kill me before the others arrive," Noah said as a cold smile appeared on his face.

Noah didn't attack. He didn't even try to escape. He didn't need to do anything to put an end to that battle. Jordan and the others had already begun to fly in his direction by the end of his line.

The empowerment given by his ambition was about to end, but Noah felt no fear. Miss Nine's power was something that he didn't understand, but his instincts were telling him that he could survive that situation.

Miss Nine didn't seem to care about his statement. She waved her hand, and a massive force slammed on Noah's head. The attack almost made him faint, but Snore quickly surrounded his figure and endured part of the blow.

Noah slammed on the ground. He didn't even remember how quickly he had left the sky, but he could feel that blood was flowing out of his head. A large injury had appeared among his metallic hair. The expert had almost cracked his skull open.

"Told you," Noah said as he struggled to stand.

He wanted to charge at the expert. He desired to stab his blades into her skin, but he suppressed those compulsions. Noah had to remain calm to gain as much time as possible.

"I believe you," Miss Nine eventually said as she descended from the sky. "From now on, I will treat you as the greatest monster that has ever stepped on the higher plane."

An inscribed notebook flickered in her grasp. Miss Nine was communicating with someone, but Noah couldn't sense what her messages carried.

Jordan had almost reached that spot. Flames were already accumulating in her draconic mouth. Ian was also behind her, and a series of solid stage cultivators were following the two hybrids.

"What does that even mean?" Noah asked, but the pagoda suddenly released a flash of light.

No reinforcements arrived after that event, but a notebook wielded by one of the cultivators near the pagoda flickered, replicating the light previously released by the structure.

Miss Nine's notebook also shone, and a dark sphere suddenly materialized next to the expert. The item was as big as a two-story building and radiated a power that left Noah speechless.

The sphere was a quasi-rank 8 item. Noah instinctively took a step back at that sight, but Miss Nine was faster than him. She threw the inscribed weapon toward him, and her figure began to disperse into a cloud of black dust.

Noah tried to avoid the sphere. He couldn't enter the Shadow Domain, but he still launched everything in his arsenal to fend off the item.

Snore materialized again and spat a dark beam. The Demonic Sword appeared in the open and launched a sharp wave of dark matter. Night shot toward the sphere as it tried to fuse with its fabric. The dark world also unfolded in a desperate attempt to buy Noah more time.

However, those attacks didn't even slow down the sphere. The scenery in Noah's vision suddenly went dark before a pale light restored his sight and allowed him to understand where he was.

Noah was still on the battlefield. He didn't move from his spot on the ground. Yet, his surroundings had grown darker, and he found himself unable to unfold his consciousness.

Dark matter promptly came out of his figure and filled his surroundings. The higher energy soon stopped expanding after it covered a spherical area. An invisible wall was blocking its advance.

Snore, Night, and the Demonic Sword were with Noah. They launched their attacks toward that invisible wall, but they didn't even manage to make it tremble.

Noah grasped the Demonic Sword and wielded the white blade at that point. A singularity flew out of his figure after he performed a cross-shaped slash, but his attack failed to cause any reaction on the invisible wall.

Miss Nine's figure appeared above him and touched the sphere as her body transformed into trails of black dust. The scenery in Noah's vision changed again. He suddenly found himself above the pagoda.

It didn't take Noah much to understand what had happened. Miss Nine had relied on a quasi-rank 8 inscribed item to trap him, and she was now attempting to bring him away from the battlefield.

Noah's gaze became cold, but he didn't do anything. The dark matter flowed back into the black hole. Snore, Night, the Demonic Sword, and Night returned inside his body. Even his cultivation level started to fall as he descended toward the pagoda.

He could see the entirety of the battlefield from that spot. Jordan and Ian were far away. King Elbas was busy fighting a solid stage cultivator, and the other hybrids had their opponents to take care of.

The sphere had even severed his connection with Miss Void's spell. Noah couldn't touch the layer between the dimensions anymore. The item had placed him in a separate space that limited his influence to that small area.

Throughout his long life, Noah had learnt to understand when he had lost. His situation was hopeless. The Crystal City had managed to trap him.

"Was it worth it?" Noah asked as he gazed toward the black dust accumulating above him. "The Legion will kill your troops now."

Miss Nine's influence had suppressed everyone on the battlefield, but the hybrids could resist her pressure better than the cultivators. The Legion had quickly seized the upper hand in the fight during those moments.

"You have no idea how powerful large organizations are," Miss Nine said in her metallic voice as her figure reformed above the sphere. "Losing one battle to take out a troublesome opponent is a good investment. How long will the Crystal City need to replace today's losses? How long will the Legion take to find another monster like you?"

The invisible wall muffled Miss Nine's voice, but Noah could sense the coldness carried by her words. She wasn't considering her companions as cultivators. The troops in the areas were mere numbers in her mind, and Noah was the highest.

A solid stage cultivator dragged a fainted Miss Canson toward Miss Nine. The expert wore a worried expression, but Miss Nine shook her head and revealed a satisfied smile.

"I will handle things once we return home," Miss Nine said. "Activate the matrix now."

"Our troops are outside of the teleportation's range," The solid stage cultivator tried to complain.

"It doesn't matter," Miss Nine continued. "Activate it. This is an order."

A blinding light filled Noah's vision after the solid stage expert nodded. The scenery in his eyes changed again. He suddenly found himself inside a large mansion filled with cultivators. An identical pagoda stood under him, and the symbol of the Sailbird family occupied the walls around him.