

DEMONIC 1491

Chapter 1491 1491. Sleep

The foreign energy belonging to Madame Canson had made the Shadow Domain go wild. Noah was inside the layer between the dimensions, but that force had flung him outside the edges of the area created with Miss Void's spell.

Once Noah flew out of the Shadow Domain, the space around him twisted. He began to shift between the void and multiple dimensions that bordered the technique.

He flew for thousands of kilometers in the span of a few seconds. The barriers between the dimensions resembled thin watery layers during the process.

Noah couldn't help but feel a similarity with King Elbas' dimensional tunnel. A slight movement made him cross entire regions, and that process continued until Madame Canson's pushing force ran out.

When the force was about to run out, Noah used his remaining strength to push himself into the most stable dimension, which turned out to be the Immortal Lands. His head slammed on an azure ground, and his consciousness went dark due to his exhaustion.

A chaotic sleep followed those events. Noah's consciousness wanted him awake, but he had accumulated too much stress during the past months. He had gone from an experiment to another without ever taking meaningful breaks.

Now that Noah was outside of the quasi-rank 8 sphere, his centers of power could finally feed on the world's energy again. His black hole handled the distribution of that power, and his condition slowly improved during his sleep.

The stress that afflicted his mind vanished, and the bloodlust that had tainted his mental walls harmonized with his mind, giving it a faint scarlet shade.

His dantian couldn't enlarge on its own, but the black hole made sure that its walls received enough nutrients and that its insides were full of darkness.

Noah's body had suffered countless injuries due to the exposition to the battle among rank 8 existences. Madame Canson's attack had also touched him, and the Demonic Form had only worsened his condition.

Still, Noah had corroded the quasi-rank 8 sphere, and his separate space contained the purple crystal seized by Miss Nine's chest. When his black hole saw that the outside world couldn't provide enough energy for his recovery, it destroyed the item and used its power to nourish his tissues.

Noah's body was already near the peak of the middle tier, but the crystal contained Madame Canson's energy. That wave of power allowed him to meet the requirements for his breakthrough and advance.

The black hole handled everything while Noah slept. It even improved his innate absorption of "Breath" to make sure that the breakthrough went smoothly.

Needless to say, the Demonic Sword, Night, and Snore took care of protecting him. They came out of his body on their own and never stopped patrolling the area.

Years passed. The black hole only accepted perfection, so it slowly reinforced Noah's tissues until they met its requirements. The organ also had to harmonize the various changes that had involved his mindset, so the process took longer than expected.

When Noah opened his eyes, an immense sensation of power filled his mind. The images of the battle in the Crystal City quickly ran through his vision, and his hands instinctively went on his body to check his condition.

Surprise appeared on his expression when Noah noticed that his body had reached the upper tier. The breakthrough had gone smoothly, and his black hole had even stored images of the process to keep him updated.

'That was close,' Noah thought as his expression turned cold. 'Too close.'

Surviving those types of challenges made cultivators improve quickly, but Noah couldn't accept being completely powerless. His friends would be dead if Divine Demon didn't show up. It was clear that his power had yet to reach the point when he could act as he wished in the Immortal Lands.

Noah tried to send a mental message through his inscribed notebook, but no one replied. It seemed that he was too far away from the Legion and his friend to communicate through that item.

'Where am I?' Noah wondered as he straightened his position.

Noah recalled what had happened inside the Shadow Domain. He had managed to remain in the Immortal Lands during the teleportation, but he didn't know how far he had gone.

His notebook was a rank 7 inscribed item in the lower tier. Noah had seized it from Fergie's group, and he had never dared to waste money to buy a better one. Its range wasn't great, but it was still quite large when he considered the width of the Immortal Lands.

'How far did I exactly fly?' Noah wondered as he inspected his surroundings.

His companions were cheering around him, but his eyes focused on the environment. Tall yellow trees filled his vision, and a few mountains stood in the distance. The area appeared empty of magical beasts, but the plants radiated a dangerous aura.

'I must be deep into the magical beasts' domain,' Noah concluded in his mind. 'How long has it been since humans have seen these lands?'

The Immortal Lands never stopped expanding, but the human domain didn't enlarge. Only the magical beasts benefitted from that process, which made their territory basically immense. Noah wouldn't be surprised if even the older organizations ignored how vast it actually was.

Noah had created a deep hole in the ground during his landing. He could vaguely guess where the human domain was, so finding the way back home wasn't an issue.

However, Noah hesitated. If he went back now, he could very well incur in the same unbeatable enemies. The Crystal City, the Sailbird family, and the secret organization were too powerful for him. Even his recent breakthrough didn't manage to fill the gap that separated him from those forces.

If Noah managed to reach the Outer Lands, he could sneak past the human domain and return to the Legion. Still, that wouldn't change his situation. He would be nothing more than a promising hybrid hiding behind a powerful force.

'June and the others are probably safe,' Noah thought as his lover's face appeared in his vision.

Noah had seen June only for a brief moment, but that had been enough to sweep away the millennia spent in different planes. She was alive and in the Immortal Lands. They would meet again as long as they remained alive.

A warm smile appeared on his face before his cold expression returned. His mind had already decided that he wouldn't try to return to his friends.

Noah had done the same during the invasion of the Eternal Snakes. A possible safe situation was behind him, but he wanted to maximize his growth since his enemies had turned out to be far more fearsome than expected.

Going back would force him to hide in the Outer Lands and use the Legion as a shield. Some experts would be happy to have that backing, but Noah could only see the drawbacks of that situation.

'I can't take the safe path anymore,' Noah thought as he took the bracelets that allowed him to ignore the pressure radiated by the sky.

Noah closed his hand into a fist, and the bracelets broke under his physical might. The white light suddenly became a blinding force that pressed on his mind, but he ignored the pressure before stepping toward the forest.

The sky was a natural training area. It was an annoying constant pressure, but Noah's mind could benefit from it. Even if being without bracelets made his journey harsher, Noah couldn't give up on the possibility of improving faster anymore.

His opponents were rank 8 existences. Noah had to exploit anything he could find to fill the gaps that separated him from those experts.

Chapter 1492 1492. Mistake

Noah hid his presence with his inscribed robe and dived deep into the forest until he found a decent spot where to dig a cave. The magical plants around him seemed to keep track of his movements, but they didn't react even when he started breaking the terrain.

Noah had decided to venture through the magical beasts' domain, but he had a few matters to settle first. He didn't cultivate properly for a while, so a long training session had the priority.

While Noah cultivated, his mind inspected the changes that happened during his sleep and the separate space's insides.

His mind appeared sharper than before, but Noah couldn't find any trace of Supreme Thief's energy. The expert's gift had allowed him to seize the purple crystal, but Noah didn't know where that power had come from.

'What an unreliable power,' Noah thought as a helpless sigh left his mouth.

Noah could understand why he couldn't find that power. His level was too low. Supreme Thief's had been a rank 9 cultivator, so it was only normal that Noah's mind couldn't identify his influence.

'I guess I will know something more once my mind reaches the eighth rank,' Noah concluded before moving his attention elsewhere.

The Demonic Form had moved out of the separate space during his sleep. The plant was now on the insides of his chest, and its flower grew on top of the black hole.

The spell acted as a proper parasite that fed on Noah's energy. In that form, the plant didn't manage to weaken him since his natural absorption made up for that consumption. Still, he could understand that its requirements would increase once it reached higher levels.

The Demonic Form was a rank 7 living being in the upper tier that fed on Noah's four energies. It lived to destroy, but it needed a host to survive. Noah could only accept that he had gained another creature to feed before moving his attention elsewhere.

His body was perfect. The black hole had done an incredible job during the breakthrough. Noah couldn't find any flaw in his tissues. His mental walls reeked of bloodlust, but that feeling didn't affect his other centers of power.

His dantian was also about to reach the peak of the liquid stage. His potential had increased again after Noah had managed to destroy the quasi-rank 8 sphere and survive that hopeless situation. The process toward the next stage would be smooth as long as he continued to cultivate.

The separate space was almost empty. Noah had depleted his stash of magical beasts during his imprisonment, leaving him with only a few valuable materials and a pile of Soul Stones.

The raids on the guilds had been quite profitable. Noah had more than one hundred thousand Soul Stones now. Still, they were nothing more than disposable energy in the magical beasts' domain, so he didn't hesitate to use a few of them to quicken his growth.

'This is the perfect chance to use these crystals,' Noah thought when his attention went on the red minerals found in the Evolution Pit.

His separate space also contained the dark-blue boulders seized in Supreme Thief's inheritance, but that was it. Noah had a few useless potions, pills, and items, but they didn't count. Only his pile of metals and rocks mattered.

The separate space had stored something else. Noah had recovered Fergie while the rank 8 existences were fighting, but his condition had been too poor at the time.

The Crystal City and the secret organization had tortured the expert and crippled his centers of power. Fergie was on the verge of death after he endured the shockwaves released by the rank 8 experts. The black hole had deployed the dark world to create an environment where he could survive, but he couldn't live anywhere else.

Fergie would die if he left the dark world. The expert was nothing more than a corpse kept alive by Noah's technique.

Doubts filled Noah's mind when he inspected Fergie. He didn't know why the expert didn't sell him out. Luke had even confirmed that Fergie didn't reveal anything about Noah during the torture.

Noah didn't know how to react to such loyalty. He had done nothing for Fergie. He had only given voice to a vague and unrealistic promise once.

That wasn't enough to build such loyalty, especially in an expert who had to join the secret organization. Fergie could become a spy and a mercenary if his force ordered that, but he had kept Noah's information a secret even after reaching that condition.

Noah deployed the dark world around him and took out Fergie. The expert was unconscious, and the dark matter made him float in front of Noah's confused figure.

Noah had decided to save Fergie after learning about his loyalty. Yet, he now wanted to know the reason behind that behavior.

The dark world became denser, and Noah's ambition spread through the currents of dark matter. The environment transformed to force Fergie to wake up, and the expert slowly opened his eyes after those changes.

'Am I stuck in the afterlife with you?' Fergie said through his mental waves. He couldn't talk. The secret organization had broken his throat.

"You are alive, kind of," Noah replied. "I managed to drag you out."

'I guess I should be grateful,' Fergie replied as a weak smile appeared on his face. 'You sure are full of surprises. No rank 7 existence could survive that, but here you are. Regrettably, I won't see what you will become.'

Noah didn't answer. His eyes inspected his body, and his mental waves seeped inside his tissues. Fergie was too far gone to survive. Even the dark world couldn't preserve his condition forever.

'Don't look at me like this,' Fergie said as a laugh echoed through his thoughts. 'I followed my instincts. I bet on the most promising guy in the entire higher plane. I'm sure you will do great stuff in the future.'

"Why didn't you talk?" Noah finally asked. "Why did you protect me after I kept you as my slave for years?"

'You should know,' Fergie said. 'You are so sharp when it comes to what you desire, but you refuse to see this quality of your law. Do you know what your individuality does to those who follow you?'

Noah knew the answer. He had often ignored how his ambition could influence others, but he wasn't blind. His law could make his companions overcome bottlenecks and improve faster.

That feature was part of Heaven and Earth's mistake. His individuality represented the flaw in their system. It allowed Noah to influence the journeys of those who interacted with him.

Noah had confirmed that in the Mortal Lands, and the effects of his law had only become stronger in the Immortal Lands. He even suspected that King Elbas' rapid improvements were partially his fault.

"We are alone in our journeys," Noah replied. "We must walk our paths on our own. I can use this ability to control magical beasts, but I have never liked being a leader."

'It might be pointless in the grand scheme,' Fergie said, 'But I know that I reached the liquid stage thanks to your influence. I didn't even have hopes for my journey anymore, but everything changed after meeting you. To answer your question, how could I let my chance to reach the higher ranks die?'

Chapter 1493 1493. Eccentric

Noah didn't know what to answer. Fergie's eyes reeked of death, but a faint ambition shone from them. Noah couldn't fail to recognize that feeling. It was the same emotion that had driven him through his entire cultivation journey.

'This power can be a curse,' Noah thought while continuing to inspect the expert.

His ambition had put Fergie in that situation. That feeling was so intense that the expert had endured countless tortures to preserve his chance to improve.

Luke's words resounded in Noah's mind. The rank 8 cultivator had claimed something that Noah knew far too well. His power alone wasn't enough to match the large organizations. He was nothing more than a promising expert in a world filled with overlords.

'I have overcome this challenge already,' Noah thought in an attempt to reply to those words. 'King Elbas did the same when we went against him.'

There was a flaw in Noah's reasoning. Both he and King Elbas had relied on organizations to survive through part of their cultivation journey. The Elbas family had always been powerful enough to stand near the peak of the Mortal Lands, and the Hive had also reached the same state after a series of wars.

Those large forces were valuable tools, especially in an environment filled with large organizations. Noah had initially believed that he would eventually join the Legion due to his species, but Fergie had made him aware of a second option.

Noah had never liked to be a member of an organization. He liked being in charge of a force even less. Yet, there was a middle ground between being among strangers and remaining alone. FreeWebNovel

'I have my pride,' Noah thought. 'My ambition naturally attracts cultivators, and my hybrid status makes me a privileged existence in the world. I have everything I need to build my force. I only lack the desire to do it.'

Countless thoughts surged in Noah's mind. He wanted to find a reason to avoid that solution, but even his Demonic Deduction technique couldn't find anything.

"Dammit!" Noah shouted inside the dark world. "Fuck it! Why do I even have to do it? Why am I surrounded by weaklings who prefer to build teams rather than focus on their paths?!"

Fergie didn't know what was happening, but Noah's influence expanded as his loud curses echoed through the dark world. His aura seemed to cheer at his new mindset. It was as if his decision had unlocked a power that Noah had always suppressed.

"Fine!" Noah shouted again. "I will do it! I will create my damned force and take this whole plane. Still, I will leave as soon as I find a way out of this annoying sky."

'What are you even saying?' Fergie asked, and his eyes widened when he saw Noah's crazed expression.

"We will not stop until we destroy Heaven and Earth!" Noah shouted as roars mixed with his voice. "We will have but one enemy. I will create a force meant to destroy the world!"

'Oh,' Fergie exclaimed. 'I guess it's time for me to go then.'

A faint smile appeared on Fergie's face. He seemed at peace. He had accepted death during the tortures, and nothing else could disrupt his mood.

"Where do you think you are going?" Noah asked as he opened Fergie's robe and undressed him to bathe his naked body in the dark matter.

'I'm about to die!' Fergie complained.

"Yes, yes. You will die soon, but not before I understand how to revive you." Noah replied as he scratched his head while thinking of a way to turn the expert into a destructive creation.

'Wait!' Fergie exclaimed. 'I didn't agree with any of this!'

"You have no choice on the matter," Noah replied as he turned Fergie upside down to inspect him from a different angle. "Rejoice. You are now part of my organization. I will decide the name when I feel like it."

'What organization?' Fergie continued to complain. 'How many members does it even has?'

Noah thought about it for a second before taking out his companions. Snore, Night, and the Demonic Sword came out of his body and gave voice to loud cries that echoed through the dark world.

"There is also an annoying plant," Noah said. "The other sword isn't exactly alive, but you can count it if you want."

Roots pierced his palm after Noah mentioned the plant. It seemed that the Demonic Form wanted to show its power, but its absorption of Noah's energies increased to fuel that growth.

"Go back into my body," Noah ordered. "We need to have a talk about your nutrients."

A shrill noise came out of the roots that continued to grow, uncaring of Noah's orders. Yet, he promptly slashed with his fingers at the roots and closed his hand into a fist. The plant couldn't come out anymore with his palm in that position.

Another shrill noise echoed from Noah's body, but a vague sense of helplessness filled it. It seemed that the plant had given up on coming out for now.

'What exactly is that?' Fergie asked as fear filled his face.

Fergie had sensed the dangerous aura radiated by the roots. His instincts had reacted on their own, and he could only feel fear in front of such a threatening creature.

"It's a parasite that feeds on my energies," Noah replied. "Don't worry. We have an agreement, kind of."

'What kind of agreement did you do with that thing?' Fergie asked.

"Well," Noah scratched his head as he replied. "It needs a host, so it can't kill me."

'That's not an agreement!' Fergie shouted through his mental waves. 'Do you even have it under control?'

"Shut up and let me focus on a blueprint," Noah replied while avoiding giving a proper answer.

'Blueprint for what?!' Fergie continued to ask.

Noah's behavior was bringing Fergie on the verge of insanity. The expert had always known that Noah was eccentric, but he had understood the depths of his strangeness only during that conversation.

"For your new centers of power, of course," Noah replied. "These are awful. It's better to throw them away."

'You are talking about my body and dantian!' Fergie said as his thoughts became louder.

"Yes. See, you understood it," Noah replied as the bloodlust radiated by his figure intensified.

The Demonic Deduction technique consumed his tainted mental energy to generate countless ideas on how to turn Fergie into a living being meant to destroy the world. Noah's experience in humanoid creatures wasn't great, but he planned to reward him for his loyalty.

'I didn't mean it like this!' Fergie continued to complain.

"Shut up!" Noah eventually shouted. "I am trying to save your life here. Well, technically, you might have to die a few times during the procedure, but those are necessary reboots. Tell me, how much do you care about your human appearance?"

'I like my face!' Fergie replied.

"Don't you like any magical beast?" Noah asked as a bright red light shone from behind his icy-blue eyes.

'No! I like how I am,' Fergie said.

Noah gave voice to a snort, but he accepted the expert's desires. Noah would build a new body for Fergie and allow him to continue his cultivation journey as a specimen who stood above humans.

Chapter 1494 1494. Procedure

'It hurts!' Fergie shouted through his mental waves.

"You will be fine," Noah said as he reviewed the outline in his mind. "You can't die in there anyway."

Fergie was still inside the dark world. His condition had yet to improve, but Noah had devised a proper approach to fix his situation. The process had just begun, and its initial phases were excruciating for Fergie.

'Why can't you let me die?!' Fergie asked as dark matter flowed into his broken tissues and replaced part of their fabric.

"You will thank me once the procedure is complete," Noah replied without bothering to open his eyes. "Endure for now. You will enjoy the benefits later."

Fergie continued to scream in pain and curse Noah as the process continued. Noah didn't lie to him. The expert was inside the dark world, which would preserve his consciousness even if his centers of power were to fall apart.

That was an environment made specifically for the procedure. Fergie couldn't see its incredible features in his condition, but Noah had made many efforts to create that space.

The Demonic Deduction technique had given Noah a solution to an issue that he thought to be unsolvable. In theory, cultivators in the heroic ranks and above couldn't survive thorough changes in their existence. Even if they did, they would find their path blocked due to the lack of harmony in their centers of power. FreeWebNovel

That issue had stopped Noah from giving hybrid bodies to others. The differences between magical beasts and cultivators who had already unlocked their individuality were too great.

However, the dark world could work in Noah's favor now that he wielded divine power. Humans didn't need to become hybrids to reach stronger states of existence.

There could be more types of existence. Noah didn't belong to that species anymore either. It was only normal that other cultivators could reach a similar state or something slightly inferior.

The main issue in the procedure was the harmony between the specimen and the other materials. Cultivators could already improve their tissues through specific inscription methods, but their bodies couldn't go past certain limits because their existences would reject the improvements otherwise.

Still, Noah had access to a material that could take any shape in the world. It could also imitate elements. The dark matter that filled the dark world was the key to solve that problem.

Noah kept track of Fergie's condition. The expert's consciousness went dark multiple times, but the dark world didn't let it leave its edges.

Fergie soon went past the verge of insanity, and Noah couldn't help him in that matter. The procedure was a product of the Demonic Deduction technique. Making it less destructive would go against Noah's very existence.

The dark matter replaced Fergie's tissues. It destroyed and replicated every inch of his body without ignoring his dantian and mind. The pain that the expert was suffering was immense, but the procedure was about to end since it had reached those phases.

Fergie lost his body, dantian, and mind. He became nothing more than a mass of dark matter that replicated his original appearance. He still had his consciousness, but everything else had crumbled under the waves of higher energy that had seeped inside him.

"It's almost over," Noah said as he dragged Fergie's new body outside of his cave.

The dark world began to disperse, and the white light of the sky soon shone on Fergie's figure. Lumps of dense gas escaped his new body as he knelt on the ground and tried to understand what had happened to him.

"What have you done?" Fergie asked in a low tone.

"I replaced every cell of your body with a powerful material," Noah replied. "I have preserved all the features of your existence, but you have a better foundation now."

Fergie didn't seem to accept that outcome. His body felt unstable. It was a mass of dense gas belonging to someone else. He couldn't even say that it was part of his existence.

"Did you turn me into one of your slaves?" Fergie eventually asked. "I can feel the connection to your mind. This energy doesn't belong to me."

"It would be pointless to take away the freedom of my followers," Noah replied. "I don't need slaves. My organization requires existences capable of improving past the limits of Heaven and Earth's system. This is a war against the whole world. I can't win it with empty puppets."

Fergie couldn't understand what Noah meant, but his words went against that new body. Fergie could see that he would never be free as long as he depended on the dark matter to remain alive.

"What can I even do in this condition?" Fergie asked. "How can you ask me to fight for you when I'm nothing more than a humanoid cloud?"

"Well," Noah replied as he scratched his head, "The procedure isn't over."

Noah's ambition surged. His aura began to influence the world and resonated with Fergie's new body. The dark matter amplified that feeling and forced the expert to express his desire to reach the peak of the cultivation world.

"I can only create destruction now," Noah explained. "You can thank the Crystal City for that. This material has your features and replicates your existence, but it can't create a body for you. Only your law knows how to build something that fits you."

Fergie's aura expanded under the effects of Noah's ambition. It seeped in the matter around his figure, destroying it in the process. A suction forge then came out of the dark matter that made its tissues, making him absorb the energy released in the environment.

"Breath" and primary energy flowed toward Fergie as his aura expanded. The ground broke, and small magical plants turned into dust to provide him with the power needed for the transformation.

The dark matter that made his body slowly transformed as energy flowed inside it. The higher energy adapted to the features carried by Fergie's aura and began to build a body that reflected his existence.

Noah had understood that he couldn't wholly replicate a law. He couldn't avoid flaws and differences in his copies due to his lack of understanding in that unique field.

Yet, Noah could let Fergie take care of that part of the procedure. The ambition would force the expert to unfold his aura, which led to the creation of something that suited him perfectly.

The world had to pay the price for that process. Noah's creations had to destroy, so Fergie had to sacrifice part of the environment to obtain the energy required to build a new body.

That amount of energy would be immense due to the high standards set by Noah's outline. Fergie would aim to reach his most perfect form, which could require the "Breath" contained in an entire region.

Of course, Noah didn't care that he had to sacrifice part of the world to give Fergie new centers of power, but the magical plants living in the area didn't feel happy when they saw the ground shattering around them.

Their sharp roots came out of the ground and shot toward Fergie's figure, but Noah promptly stepped between them and the expert. Fergie needed time to complete the transformation, and Noah would gladly protect him during the process.

Chapter 1495 1495. Attack

Fergie needed time to complete the transformation. The amount of energy required to turn the dark matter into a fabric that belonged to him depended on his existence. Still, Noah would protect him until the process ended.

'I have yet to test my new body,' Noah thought as a cold smile appeared on his face.

The magical plants in the region had different levels. They went from the bottom of the lower tier to the peak of the upper tier, but no rank 8 specimen occupied the area chosen by Noah.

Regular hybrids couldn't handle that many creatures. It would be different if they were existences near the borders of the eighth rank, but Noah was still in the liquid stage. He had to rely on his body to handle the strongest plants.

Countless roots filled Noah's vision. All the magical plants in the area had attacked at the same time when they sensed that a foreign force was threatening their environment.

The attacks came from every direction, and all of them targeted Fergie. The plants could sense that he was the cause behind that destruction, and they didn't hesitate to launch their offensive.

Noah gave voice to a roar before spitting flames toward the incoming roots. He even rose in the sky to burn anything attempting to take Fergie's life.

Deafening shrill noises filled the area as the ground crumbled to reveal the complex array of roots that ran through the whole region. Those plants were the overlords there, and they started a joint offensive toward the creatures that were threatening their domain. FreeWebNovel.com

'I should avoid using my ambition,' Noah thought before spitting more flames on the other roots that had come out of the ground.

Noah could sense the presence of multiple rank 8 plants in the distance. Going all-out might attract their attention, so he preferred to express an inferior battle prowess for the time being.

His flames kept the plants away. They also managed to destroy the roots belonging to upper tier specimens, even if those needed multiple attacks to burn completely.

The bloodlust radiated by Noah's figure intensified as he generated more destruction. Countless small flames even converged toward his body to give him the energy absorbed from the plants.

The battle was going smoothly, but Noah's actions were slowing down Fergie's transformation. Since Noah took part of the area's energy, the expert needed to destroy larger pieces of land to obtain the power that he needed.

Noah didn't mind that. It was a win-win situation as long as the plants didn't manage to reach Fergie. Both of them could improve during that destruction.

Still, the magical plants didn't let the battle continue like that. They had some primitive form of intelligence, so they could understand when an approach didn't work.

The offensive suddenly stopped, but Noah's eyes never left the roots underground. His instincts were telling him that the battle was far from over. The plants were only reorganizing.

'They can communicate,' Noah thought as the Demonic Sword, and the white blade came out of the separate space.

Noah glanced at the Demonic Sword as he wielded both blades. The weapon was still in the middle tier, so it couldn't endure his new physical strength for long. However, Noah couldn't continue relying only on his flames in that situation.

The plants were planning something, and Noah had to be ready for them. The Demonic Sword also sensed that and shrunk to condense its fabric. A layer of dark matter even came out of its figure and surrounded the weapon to reinforce its structure.

The ground began to tremble. An earthquake spread through the entire region as a tide of roots surged from the terrain and tried to engulf the whole area occupied by Noah and Fergie.

The roots spanned for entire kilometers, and their sharp tips converged toward Fergie, who was still absorbing energy on the ground.

Noah knew that a simple attack couldn't stop that offensive. He closed his eyes as his blades touched his forehead and performed a cross-shaped slash targeting any foreign presence in his range.

Countless cuts covered the area and created expanding singularities that turned that offensive into ashes. The ground shattered under the pressure released by Noah's physical strength, and his sharpness even filled the area.

A tornado of slashes encircled Noah and Fergie. Only a few roots belonging to upper tier plants managed to pierce that defense, but Noah didn't hesitate to spit flames to take care of them.

The storm continued to ravage the area and further slowed down Fergie's transformation. A large hole eventually formed under his figure when the ground lost too much energy. That cavity enlarged as the procedure continued, revealing another layer of roots ready to shoot toward the expert.

Noah dived toward the ground and clashed directly with the surging roots. His blades released loud noises when they touched those plants, but his physical strength eventually made him overwhelm that offensive.

That process continued until all the roots under the duo had turned into ashes. The plants' offensive stopped at that point. It seemed that those creatures had given up on protecting the area.

The storm of sharpness stopped their offensive, and Noah had also depleted their reserve of roots in the ground. Those plants left the area, but Noah's instincts didn't stop screaming.

'They will bring reinforcements,' Noah thought as waves of energy filled his body.

Noah had destroyed multiple roots belonging to upper tier specimens, but his body barely felt anything. His requirements had increased again, bringing him to the point when he had no idea how long it would take him to reach the next breakthrough.

'I need to obtain a rank 8 battle prowess if I want my body to reach the eighth rank,' Noah concluded in his mind.

That conclusion came from simple reasoning. Noah's body had fed on the quasi-rank 8 sphere and the purple crystal to advance. They contained immense energy, but Noah had used it to reach the upper tier.

The requirements for the breakthrough to the eighth rank would be steeper. Only rank 8 materials could meet them, and only existences with rank 8 battle prowess could consistently seize resources at that level.

Noah had to surpass every record again if he wanted his body to advance, but that wasn't an immediate problem. He could take his time developing and honing his prowess while he brought his body to the peak of the seventh rank.

The dangerous sensation felt by his instincts intensified, and Noah instinctively looked toward the sky. Orange lightning bolts had begun to accumulate among the whiteness, and a violent wind had started to blow in the land.

Noah glanced toward Fergie. The dark matter that made his body had begun to change nature. Its gas had started to take the shape of tiny flames. The scene reminded him of King Elbas, but the procedure aimed to create something far different.

The dark matter began to change color, but the danger sensed by Noah's instincts also intensified. Something massive was about to come.

'I wonder what the Tribulation in the Immortal Lands will throw at me,' Noah thought as his smile widened.

The fact that Heaven had reacted to that procedure was a good sign. The process was going well. Fergie would soon obtain superior centers of power that reflected his existence.

A massive lightning bolt eventually fell at some distance from Noah and Fergie. Sparks ran through the ground and clashed with the sharpness accumulated on the area, but they were nothing more than the after-effects of Heaven's actual attack.

A humanoid figure made of lightning bolts had appeared on the ground. The creature pierced right through the storm of sharpness and stopped above Fergie, where it began to accumulate sparks.

Chapter 1496 1496. Fear

Noah transformed into a black blade that released dark matter to shoot toward Heaven. He flew past Fergie to clash directly with the figure made of lightning bolts.

Heaven didn't seem to care about Noah. Its figure exploded into a storm of lightning bolts when his blades pierced its body. The creature then reformed next to Fergie, where it resumed its accumulation of sparks.

Noah performed a cross-shaped slash, launching an invisible attack toward Heaven. A straight singularity shot out of his blades and pierced the crackling figure, destroying even the ground under it.

Fergie was partially oblivious of his surroundings. His consciousness could only focus on his existence since he was still under the effects of Noah's ambition. The clash that had happened next to him only provided more energy to his transformation.

Noah kept track of the lightning bolts. He shot where they converged, and his blades stabbed Heaven before it could fully reform. The creature turned toward him at that point. It had finally noticed that foreign presence.

A second lightning bolt fell from the sky and created another crackling figure that pierced the storm of sharpness and threw a series of sparks toward Fergie.

Noah drew his swords, destroying the first Heaven in the process. A thick slash also came out of his blades and intercepted the attacks flying toward Fergie.

A third lightning bolt then fell on the ground, and another crackling figure joined that offensive. Heaven was sending an army of puppets in the upper tier, which forced Noah to rely on his ambition.

Noah's aura exploded, radiating the intense bloodlust contained in his mental walls. Waves of destruction flew out of his figure and obtained sharp features under the influence of his law.

The three puppets crumbled as Noah's cultivation level reached the solid stage. Shockwaves spread through the area as he placed his blades on his forehead and covered most of the safe zone with his sharpness.

The three Heaven reformed on different spots of the sky, but Noah's sharpness destroyed their bodies before they could even begin to prepare their attacks.

Their lightning bolts then flew higher in the sky, and Noah didn't hesitate to follow them. Those sparks fused and condensed to create a bigger version of the crackling figures, and a massive attack suddenly rained on Noah.

A thick, orange lightning bolt shot out of the giant Heaven. Noah could dodge it, but Fergie was right under him. Noah had to block that attack to preserve his companion's life.

Roots pierced the skin on Noah's right palm and expanded upward. The sky grew dark as the Demonic Form's influence filled the area, but the orange light carried by the lightning bolt soon clashed with that blackness.

The impact almost flung Noah away, but he endured the blow and continued to provide energy for the parasite. The roots expanded, and their destructive aura intensified as more power flowed into the Demonic Sword.

The massive lightning bolt slowly crumbled under the corrosive properties of the Demonic Form. Even the sky bent due to its influence. A tinge of surprise appeared on Heaven's emotionless expression. It seemed that even that creature didn't expect Noah to stop its attack.

A deafening sound came out of the crackling figure. Heaven had opened its mouth to give voice to a scream that forced Noah to cover his ears.

The noise spread through the area and reached Fergie, who spat blood but continued to destroy everything around him. Noah didn't overlook that event. Fergie had to be almost done since he had blood again.

'Let's take it out in one attack,' Noah thought, and his companions understood his intentions.

Night flew out of the separate space, and Snore condensed next to Noah. Black flames also accumulated in his mouth as he shot toward the giant crackling figure.

Snore launched a dark beam to cover his advance. Heaven wanted to launch another cry, but the violent dark matter reached its figure and forced it to throw lightning bolts to fend off that destructive power.

Night was usually faster than Noah, but he reached the opponent first at that time. He crossed his arms, making his blades touch his torso before launching a cross-shaped lunge that opened a hole in Heaven's figure.

His flames then covered the sky, burning all the sparks that surrounded Heaven. A wave of energy flowed back in Noah's body as roots spread from his palm.

The Demonic Form wrapped itself around Heaven and began to consume its lightning bolts. Night arrived at that point and fused with its fabric to sever its connection with the world.

Noah slashed again and dug two vertical lines on the figure's body. Its structure became unstable, and its sparks crumbled once Night reappeared on the outside world.

The plant finished consuming the lightning bolts, and the flames burned anything that had tried to fall on the ground. No sparks accumulated in the sky either. It seemed that Noah had managed to overcome that Tribulation.

Noah descended toward the ground without withdrawing his sharpness. His cultivation level fell, but his centers of power endured the arrival of the drawbacks. He felt tired, but he didn't accumulate enough stress to force himself to rest.

A large area in the region crumbled. The hole created by Fergie's absorption destroyed entire environments filled with different species of magical plants. His influence stopped enlarging only when his body had obtained enough energy to transform.

Fergie had lost most of his inhuman features. His skin had obtained a fair color, and his fabric had almost completely solidified. His eyes and hair had also returned to how they were before the torture. Only a few small flames still lingered on his figure.

Once the last flame vanished, the pulling force stopped affecting the environment. Fergie didn't destroy anything else with his influence. The procedure was over, so he didn't need more energy.

"How is it?" Noah asked as he landed in front of the expert.

Fergie breathed heavily and threw a punch toward Noah when he entered his range. Noah easily blocked that attack, but the ground under the duo broke due to the shockwave generated in the impact.

Noah analyzed Fergie's physical strength. It was on par with average hybrids in the middle tier, but the expert didn't fuse with any magical beast during the procedure.

Fergie had transformed without losing his human status. He was similar to Noah, but his power couldn't compare to him since he lacked the fourth center of power.

Fergie slowly began to understand how powerful he had actually become. His cultivation level was still in the liquid stage, but he couldn't hide his happiness in seeing his centers of power working perfectly.

The procedure had even fixed his eye. His existence had brought his previous appearance back, but the fabric that now made his tissues was far superior to those belonging to humans and simple magical beasts.

"I will follow you," Fergie said before kneeling politely.

"Dammit," Noah cursed loudly. "Why did you even kneel? Don't let the others see you, or they might also kneel."

Noah massaged his temples as he gestured to the expert to stand up. Annoyance filled his face, but Fergie couldn't understand what had triggered that feeling.

"Imagine if I had an entire army kneeling in front of me!" Noah continued to complain. "What am I even supposed to do while you are all on your knees? I have decided. I will forbid kneeling. This is the first rule of my organization."

"I don't care," Fergie replied as a broad smile appeared on his face. "I will still kneel whenever I want, even more now that I know how much you hate it."

"I can still improve your body if you want," Noah replied as coldness filled his expression.

Fergie quickly stood up and bowed before taking a few steps back and bowing again. A tinge of fear had appeared in his eyes. The expert didn't want to experience Noah's procedures ever again.

Chapter 1497 1497. Maniacs

"We should leave quickly," Noah said as he shot high in the sky.

Fergie didn't immediately understand the reason behind his words, but everything became clear once he reached Noah in the sky. From that spot, he could see that the entire region was trembling due to the actions of the few rank 8 plants that inhabited it.

"What should we do now?" Fergie asked.

The rank 8 magical plants couldn't fly, and their roots had a limited range. They couldn't reach Noah and Fergie as long as they remained in the sky, but their sole presence made the region uninhabitable.

"As I said before," Noah replied, "You are free to do whatever you want. The human domain is in that direction, and I believe that the Legion would welcome you if you manage to reach the Outer Lands."

Fergie considered that option. His whole world had changed after the events in the Crystal City. He had powerful enemies in the human domain now, and he wasn't even sure that the cultivators would accept him after his recent transformation.

Truth be told, Fergie had yet to understand what he had become. His body brimmed with power, and his dantian begged him to devour the energy of the world. His mind also felt sharper than ever. It seemed that his whole existence had reached a superior state without actually improving.

Fergie was still in the liquid stage, but his whole existence had gone through a complete transformation. The short exchange with Noah couldn't make him aware of his new potential. NovelsToday.com

"As I said before," Fergie replied after showing a slight smile to Noah, "I will follow you."

"I usually create a mess wherever I go," Noah said as a cold smile appeared on his face. "I plan to explore the magical beasts' domain and gather more followers while I become strong enough to destroy the Crystal City. This journey will surely get bumpy."

"I can't improve if I don't overcome challenges," Fergie replied. "I can use you as a portable source of problems. I might even surpass you."

"You should definitely aim to do that," Noah said as his gaze moved in the opposite direction of the human domain. "Let's go. I need to catch some magical beasts."

Noah began to fly deeper into the magical beasts' domain, and Fergie didn't hesitate to follow him. The duo crossed the region inhabited by those magical plants and moved toward the mountains in the distance.

Fergie didn't fail to notice that Noah showed signs of annoyance as the flight continued. Confusion appeared on his face, but Noah quickly explained the reason behind his situation.

"I don't have items that counter the white sky," Noah explained without adding any extra detail.

Fergie quickly folded his sleeve and revealed a black bracelet. He wanted to offer his item to Noah, but the latter promptly shook his head.

"I destroyed mine on purpose," Noah explained. "Heaven and Earth have created this oppressing environment to force us to improve. I might as well exploit their kindness."

Noah's words left Fergie speechless. He had already acknowledged Noah's greatness many times, but that last interaction made him gain insights into his actual mindset.

Fergie could finally see Noah's dedication. His commitment to the cultivation journey went past common sense. After all, living under the pressure of the sky would be constant torture, but Noah was willing to endure it to improve faster.

"You are a maniac," Fergie eventually said.

"I'm the leader of the maniacs," Noah replied after giving voice to a loud snort.

Fergie's eyes didn't leave Noah. Marvelous lands that the humans didn't explore in eras filled the world under him, but he couldn't stop looking at his leader.

Noah was a complicated existence, but Fergie felt able to see the simple desire that drove his actions. His ambition was pure, and he accepted no compromises. Once Noah saw a path that would lead him to power, he had to take it.

Fergie glanced at his wrist before mustering his determination. He took off the bracelet and crushed it in his grasp. The pressure radiated by the sky immediately crashed on his mind, but he endured it without slowing down his flight.

"I guess I have a bad influence," Noah commented, but a slight hint of pride appeared on his face.

"Definitely," Fergie replied. "A terrible influence."

The duo flew for months, taking breaks whenever their minds needed to disperse the stress accumulated during the travel. Fergie used that time to test his new body, and Noah inspected him when he wasn't busy hunting.

Noah wanted to test the red crystals, but the lands he explored didn't offer him suitable specimens. He could only focus on refilling his stash of magical beasts for the time being.

Most of those regions featured rank 8 creatures. Noah felt surprised by their sheer number. If all those beasts were to attack the human domain, the cultivators wouldn't have any chance to survive.

'The benefits of a constant expansion,' Noah thought as he inspected the lands under him.

The magical beasts had an easy time improving in that environment. Most of those packs had been at the peak of the food chain for millennia. They didn't have worthy opponents, so they could grow freely and create immense groups.

Each of those lands had certain overlords. Actually, it was better to say that the borders of those regions depended on how vast the various leaders' influence was. The magical beasts could affect the environment with their aura, so each area represented the perfect lair for the packs that inhabited them.

"This isn't something that the cultivators can handle," Fergie said at some point during the travel. "There are too many magical beasts. The Immortal Lands belong to them already. How can any organization hope to defend their homes against this army?"

"They are far from united," Noah replied. "You don't see battles because each pack remains inside the borders of their leaders' influence. Still, these creatures would fight over the smallest piece of land if they happened to meet."

"What are you looking for then?" Fergie asked.

Fergie could understand that Noah wanted to improve, but that environment didn't suit cultivators. There was a limit to how much laws could grow among magical beasts.

"I want a mess," Noah replied before he noticed something in the distance.

A large battle was happening in the distance. Two immense packs of magical beasts were fighting around a tree that resembled a short mountain.

There seemed to be something special about that tree, and Noah couldn't wait to check it out, but a massive figure suddenly appeared in his view and forced him to counterattack.

Noah threw a punch and flung away the creature. However, no blood spread in the sky. It seemed that his attack wasn't strong enough to make the creature bleed.

Fergie immediately prepared for battle. Scarlet flames gathered on his palms as his consciousness expanded. Then, a few figures suddenly appeared behind his back and forced him to release his attacks.

A sea of flames expanded behind him, and a series of screams echoed through the sky. Those creatures were incredibly fast, but they couldn't escape Noah's sharp vision.

A squeal then resounded through the sky, and multiple black figures set off from the ground to shoot toward the duo. Fergie couldn't understand the meaning behind that cry, but Noah promptly replied with a roar.

The many figures suddenly stopped. An army of flying pig-type magical beasts became visible around the duo. Those creatures stared coldly at Noah and Fergie without making any sound.

Chapter 1498 1498. Blue

Any flying species was a big problem, especially for a team made by rank 7 existences. Since all the packs in those regions featured rank 8 creatures, Noah preferred to avoid fighting beings that could soar through the sky.

Moreover, the pigs' squeal carried specific orders. It told the army of beasts to kill the invading humans, but both Noah and Fergie didn't belong to that species.

That was what Noah had told through his roar. He had announced his belonging to a different species, hoping that the pigs wouldn't mind him and Fergie. If even that failed, the duo would have to fight through the army and escape.

"We aren't invaders," Noah said through a growl. "We aren't humans either, but I don't mind giving birth to a bloodbath if you want to take us down."

His bloodlust expanded as his consciousness covered the area. More than fifty creatures between the middle and upper tier had encircled Noah and Fergie. Those pigs weren't as organized as the rats, but they weren't completely wild either.

'I don't recognize this species,' Noah thought as he inspected those creatures.

The pigs had a large round body and short legs. They had tough dark-pink skin and a pair of tiny feathered white wings on their back. The wings appeared too small to make them fly, but Noah couldn't deny the fact that they were in the sky with him.

The smallest of those creatures was thirty meters tall. The fat under their skin gave them an immense figure, but their tiny wings made them appear quite funny. Their proportions were entirely off. Even their mouth was too small for their giant body. NovelWell.com

One of the upper tier specimens stepped forward without moving its dark eyes from the duo. A series of guttural noises came out of its mouth before a shrill human voice resounded in the area.

"Can you prove that you aren't humans," The pig asked.

One of Noah's eyebrows arched before he lifted his head to spit a wave of black flames. The pigs watched the fire in awe and took a step back, but the creature that left the formation didn't budge.

The pig continued to stare at Noah for a while before giving voice to a happy squeal. All the other creatures relaxed when that noise reached their ears, and they didn't hesitate to echo that cry.

Countless black figures shot in the sky at that point. Noah's expression became cold when he saw that immense army gathering around them, but he gestured to Fergie to lower his hands.

'What did they say?' Fergie asked through his consciousness.

'They are celebrating the fact that we aren't humans,' Noah replied through his consciousness.

'Why would they celebrate that?!' Fergie replied. 'We are more dangerous than humans.'

Noah didn't reply. He didn't understand the situation either, but he decided to play along with those creatures. Since they seemed willing to talk, he could ask for information about the area.

A rank 8 aura suddenly filled the sky. Noah and Fergie instinctively shot higher in the sky, but a human voice reached their ears before they could go too far away.

"Do not fret," The voice said. "Your appearance has scared us, but we do not seek a conflict. Hunting the two of you would be pointless."

"What do you want from us then?" Noah asked.

"We want news from the human world," The voice replied. "We haven't met a cultivator in eras. My youngest children didn't even know what they looked like before meeting you. Please, join our banquet."

Noah had always tried to avoid ending up in situations that featured existences far stronger than him, but his instincts were telling him that he had nothing to fear from those creatures. They actually felt harmless after he solved that misunderstanding.

His curiosity eventually had the better of him. Noah had never faced magical beasts that didn't trigger his survival instincts, so he wanted to understand the reason behind that odd event.

'We are flying away, right?' Fergie asked, but fear appeared in his eyes when he noticed Noah's curious expression.

'I have warned you already,' Noah replied before diving toward the ground.

Fergie cursed in his mind when he saw his leader going back into an army of magical beasts, but he eventually followed him. The expert wouldn't leave Noah's side, even if that meant entering a region inhabited by creatures that they couldn't hope to defeat.

'Why are my instincts to calm?' Noah wondered as he dived past the army floating in the sky and landed on the azure prairie.

His eyes quickly widened when he recognized the various plants that grew in the area. They were the same short bushes that grew in the azure plain of the piece of Immortal Lands!

'These are all divine magical plants!' Noah exclaimed in his mind.

Each of those plants contained an immense amount of energy. They had an awful taste, but they could provide far more nutrients than average materials.

Noah now understood why those pigs didn't care about hunting other creatures. Their lair contained so many nutrients that they didn't need prey.

Fergie landed next to him, and confusion appeared on his expression when he inspected those plants. He had noticed Noah's excited gaze, but he couldn't understand the reason behind that reaction.

A massive figure slowly walked from a series of trees in the distance. The ground trembled due to its weight. The creature resembled a small mountain that moved among fragile plants.

A rank eight aura accompanied the arrival of the creature. The duo could soon see a giant pig covered in scars slowly walking toward them while the rest of its army landed on the region.

The rank 8 pig was slow, incredibly slow. Fergie almost grew tired of waiting, but Noah's eyes lit up at that feature. He had seen how fast they were in the sky, so he couldn't explain why they even bothered to walk.

Once the pig reached the duo, it sat on the ground and bit one of the blue plants near it. Noah and Fergie had to wait for the creature to finish munching before they could talk.

"You sure look like the humans I remember," The pig eventually said, revealing the owner of the human voice from before.

"We are hybrids," Noah replied. "Humans don't like us. I guess it's the same for your species."

Fergie wasn't exactly a hybrid, but those pigs couldn't tell the difference. The rank 8 specimen accepted that statement without bothering to ask for more details.

"It's the opposite," The rank 8 pig replied. "Humans like us very much. We have been slaves for a long time. It's hard to find creatures as amazing as us."

Noah's curiosity intensified, and he relied on his vast knowledge of the magical beasts' field to inspect those creatures. They didn't use any innate ability during their sudden attack, but Noah wanted to understand how they worked.

"Don't tell me," Noah said. "You are the reason behind these plants, right?"

"I see that you can appreciate part of our greatness!" The pig said as it lifted its head toward the sky in an attempt to wear a proud expression. "We can indeed increase the value of any land. Our poop turns wastelands into paradises!"

Chapter 1499 1499. Foolery

Fergie began to feel uncomfortable. The rank 8 pig had basically revealed that its species had pooped into the entire region. He couldn't help but see excrements whenever he noticed a blue bush.

On the other hand, Noah didn't care about that information. The capabilities of that species interested him. If the pigs really had that ability, they were far more valuable than his companion believed.

"Our story is sad and filled with bloodshed," The rank 8 pig explained as a tear came out of its eyes.

The other pigs slowly walked toward the creature and gathered around the duo as their leader told the story of their species.

"We don't like fighting," The leader continued, "But our innate talent makes us too valuable to other creatures. Our lairs were always under attack even before the humans came."

The other pigs started to cry. Some of them even gave voice to sad squeals that their companions didn't hesitate to echo. Noah and Fergie had no idea how to react to those events, so they remained silent and listened to the story.

"Our lives turned for the worse when the humans found us," The rank 8 pig continued. "Our skin is tough, and our bodies can rival dragons. We discovered to be perfect mounts during our slavery. My species has fought countless wars with the cultivators."

Noah didn't feel surprised about that. His body was in the upper tier, but a simple specimen at his same level had been able to endure his punch without bleeding. That feat alone spoke for the sturdiness of their bodies.

"I must admit," The leader said. "The humans gave us a lot of food, but they threatened the very existence of my species. We had to rebel. No number of meals can compare to the taste of freedom."

The leader lifted its head to the sky again. It wanted to wear a noble expression at that point, but even Noah struggled to recognize that. Still, the other pigs imitated the rank 8 specimen.

'Are they stupid or intelligent?' Fergie asked through his mental waves.

Noah didn't know what to answer, but he understood the reason behind his companion's question. It wasn't rare for divine magical beasts to learn the human language, but the pigs were fluent in that field.

However, their behavior gave off the opposite impression. Noah didn't get why they kept looking at the sky. It was as if they wanted to point out how important their words were.

"We fought a difficult war to regain our freedom," The rank 8 pig continued. "The humans had studied us for centuries, so they knew our flaws. We are slow on the ground, and we are always hungry. They always caught up or baited us into traps."

"Couldn't you fly away?" Fergie asked, and Noah glared at him.

The duo was in front of a rank 8 creature, but Fergie had interrupted its speech. Noah's instincts didn't feel any danger, but he wanted to avoid ruining the leader's mood anyway.

"I see that you are a smart fella," The rank 8 pig replied. "If only someone told us that earlier. You would have saved many lives during our escape."

The other pigs began to nod toward Fergie. They sobbed and shot admiring gazes at the expert. Some of them even stood up to walk closer to the duo.

"Why didn't you fight back?" Noah asked.

"You must also be smart!" The leader exclaimed. "We understood that too late. My species was nothing more than a small pack at that point. I still recall the rivers of blood flowing through the regions."

'They are idiots,' Noah said through his mental waves, and Fergie suppressed a nod.

The pigs were strange creatures. They appeared intelligent in some fields but completely idiotic in others. Even their survival instincts seemed off if they didn't tell them to escape through the sky during their rebellion.

"How is this lair?" Noah asked. "Do other packs attack?"

"The tall tree attracts invaders better than our plants," The leader explained. "We receive rare attacks, but we know how to fight back now, most of us at least. Our memory isn't great, so we have to repeat what we have learnt through our lives every day to make sure that we don't forget."

"Would you forget that you can escape in the sky?" Noah asked as helplessness filled his face.

"Of course," The leader replied. "That's a lot to remember with so much food around us!"

Noah's curiosity suddenly vanished. He had heard enough. It was clear that they had paid a severe price for their incredible abilities. Their intelligence had probably suffered a lot from Heaven and Earth's fairness.

"Tell me about the tree," Noah eventually said.

"Our story is sad and filled with bloodshed," The rank 8 pig said as it began to explain the tale of its species again.

"You have already told us that," Fergie promptly interrupted the creature.

The rank 8 pig showed a surprised expression which became excited once its eyes fell on the plants. A faint squeal came out of its mouth before it dived on the nutrient bushes.

The other pigs imitated the leader and began to eat. Those creatures didn't even look where their teeth landed. They bit large chunks of the ground while trying to hit the plants.

Strange noises came out of their belly as they continued to eat. Fergie began to panic, but Noah ordered him to remain in his position. He knew what his companion feared, but he had to continue that conversation before the pig forgot what it said again.

"What makes that tree so special?" Noah asked.

"The humans called us Heavenly Pigs," The leader replied when it stopped munching, "We saw that as the mark of our slavery, so we changed the name of our species."

The pig had begun to speak about the rebellion of its species again. Noah didn't know how to converse with that creature properly, but it seemed to maintain some continuity in that topic.

"What's your new name?" Noah asked, hoping that the leader wouldn't shift the topic again.

"We are-," The leader interrupted itself and glanced toward one of its companions.

That specimen looked at another pig, and that process continued until the pack found someone who recalled that detail. That creature then said the name through a squeal, and the leader repeated it in human words.

"We are called Foolery!" The leader exclaimed as it lifted its head to the sky.

The other pigs stopped eating and looked at the sky while wearing noble expressions. That name seemed to carry a profound meaning for those creatures, but Noah and Fergie found the whole situation quite awkward.

"Did you choose it for its meaning?" Fergie couldn't help but ask.

Fergie's curiosity had surpassed Noah's at that point. He wanted to understand how foolish those creatures were.

"No," The leader replied. "It's just cool!"

The pigs lifted their heads higher at that point, and pride flowed out of their figures. Noah could only remain speechless in front of such idiocy. He had no words to describe what was happening in front of his eyes.

The situation became even worse. The pigs suddenly released smelly excrements that filled the whole area and forced Noah and Fergie to escape into the sky.

'Please, tell me that we can leave,' Fergie begged through his consciousness.

'They are our only source of information about the magical beasts' domain,' Noah replied. 'Don't worry. I hate this more than you.'

Chapter 1500 1500. Details

Noah had to struggle to get the information that he wanted. Talking with the Foolery was hard. They often forgot the topic of their conversations, and they stopped speaking every ten minutes to eat some of the blue bushes in the region.

Excrements always followed their meals. Those magical beasts didn't even try to control themselves, and Noah and Fergie ended up retreating into the sky many times to avoid that awful substance.

An unbearable smell soon covered the entire region. Noah could even hear cries coming from the nearby lands due to that scent. It seemed that even the magical beasts outside of the pigs' pack couldn't stand their excrements.

Fergie soon learnt that Noah didn't fear that smell. The latter dived back into the region every time the Foolery were ready to talk again, and Fergie had to follow him to honor his leadership.

Still, even Noah stopped touching the terrain. He had no reason to dive into that filth. He spoke to the magical beasts while remaining mid-air.

Noah eventually managed to get a surprisingly detailed understanding of the magical beasts' domain. The leader of the Foolery had traveled a lot in its life, which gave the creature a vast knowledge of those lands.

The description of that domain reflected what Noah had guessed during his past inspection. The environment of the various lands depended on the magical beasts that inhabited them. The number of rank 8 creatures also spoke for the valuable resources hidden in those areas.

The pack of pigs only featured one rank 8 specimen, even with that abundance of resources. Noah soon realized that the blue plants had limited effects on those creatures due to their tight connection to their innate ability.

The energy in those magical plants matched those creatures, so their bodies flushed most of it out. Noah had to reconsider his initial position when he uncovered that feature. The Foolery's greatest weakness wasn't their intelligence. They could not grow properly through their innate ability.

'Heaven and Earth are tricky,' Noah thought when he learnt about that, but the surprises weren't over.

The human domain rarely mentioned the rank 9 existences. No cultivator knew where they were or if any of them still lived in the higher plane.

Noah had only heard about them in Supreme Thief's inheritance. He had confirmed their existence in the secret area, but he had remained unclear about their behavior.

Instead, the leader of the Foolery knew far more about that, even if its knowledge mostly involved other magical beasts at that level.

"You won't find them here," The rank 8 pig explained. "These lands are too poor for them. Most strong beasts leave for the windy regions. The air there is dense with power. Legends say that the storms hide lands full of food and delicacies!"

The leader began to drool, and the other pigs imitated the creature. Still, Noah had learnt when to ignore those beasts by then.

'It makes sense,' Noah thought when that information entered his mind.

Storms made of chaotic laws filled the areas past the Outer Lands. Noah had initially thought that those regions only featured pure creation due to the constant expansion of the higher plane, but he started to wonder about their actual size.

'What if the storms hide an environment far vaster than the higher plane?' Noah thought.

The human domain vastly underestimated the magical beasts because it was unaware of how vast their territory was. The same could happen for the stormy regions. They could hide wonders that the Immortal Lands would only discover once those regions left the chaotic winds.

'Supreme Thief's inheritance has been inside the stormy regions for eras,' Noah thought as the small pieces of information gathered throughout his life in the higher plane connected. 'Maybe he didn't leave it there to hide it. Maybe those lands were his home, the only home worthy of a rank 9 existence!'

Everything fitted what Noah had learnt about the divine ranks. Cultivators had to become worlds to reach the ninth rank, but a mere law wasn't enough to cover the complexity of that feat.

However, the stormy regions featured an abundance of chaotic laws. They were the perfect place where cultivators could expand their true meanings and aim to become something more than simple gods.

The same went for magical beasts. The chaotic laws carried far more energy than the azure lands. The stormy regions appeared as the only areas suitable for existences that aimed to become worlds.

Noah's greed started to burst out of his figure. The stormy regions weren't hard to reach. He only had to fly past the Outer Lands. They were within his reach, but he couldn't survive there at his current level.

Suppressing his greed turned out to be hard. Noah had found the final training ground, but he couldn't go there. He was too weak to explore the vastness that surrounded the known higher plane.

His focus had to return on more achievable resources. Noah now knew that any land featuring more than a rank 8 magical beast contained something valuable. Dangers that he couldn't face also surrounded those resources, but they were far easier to overcome than the storms.

'The tall tree had two packs of magical beasts fighting for its ownership,' Noah thought. 'That must count for something. Those packs have a rank 8 specimen each, but they leave their homes to fight for that resource. It has to be something good.'

When Noah reached that conclusion, his conversation with the Foolery met some setbacks. Those creatures liked to have such a valuable resource nearby because it ensured the safety of their region. It was the best bait for any pack willing to raid other lands.

The Foolery didn't want Noah to join the fight for the tree. They were afraid that he could destroy that resource due to the greed that he had shown before. That would lead to catastrophic consequences for their livelihood.

Noah took a while to understand what was in those creatures' minds. Initially, he thought that they were too tired due to the long conversation, but he soon realized that they would pretend to forget at times.

Once Noah uncovered that detail, understanding the reason behind their behavior became easy. Yet, that knowledge didn't make him abandon his plans.

Even if the Foolery were harmless, Noah had to pursue his goals. He had to obtain a rank 8 battle prowess in that journey, and it would take him centuries to achieve that if he only relied on normal training.

Fighting and seizing resources was the faster method, and Noah had just found something valuable. He would fight to get that resource whether the Foolery liked the idea or not.

"Why don't you take it for yourself?" Noah asked at some point during the conversation. "You aren't weak, so why do you limit your potential instead of fighting like every other magical beast?"

"The struggle for power can only lead to bloodshed," The rank 8 pig replied. "There is no end to our hunger, so it's better to control it. We would only make countless enemies if we started eating anything in our reach."

"Just eat the enemies then," Noah replied. "That's the whole point of improving. You get strong enough to take anything you want. Suppressing your instincts can't be the answer."

"It is for us," The leader continued. "We did not forget our place in the food chain. We are strong, but not strong enough."

"You will never become strong if you keep limiting your growth," Noah replied, but he soon shook his head. "It's fine. I will go there anyway. Can I take some plants and cultivate nearby before the mission?"

The Foolery almost cried when they saw that Noah appreciated their innate ability. They didn't want to give up on their food, but they couldn't refuse either. Also, feeding Noah would delay his journey toward the tall tree, so they allowed him to take a few blue plants.