

DEMONIC 1511

Chapter 1511 1511. Plan

Noah didn't go all-out even after he landed on the ground, and the two rank 8 leaders did the same. The three of them were unaware whether the moles' pack would show up again, and they didn't want to be in a position where those creatures could surprise them.

The two leaders attacked Noah. The monkey's chest inflated to launch a dense soundwave. The wolf shot toward him, but it didn't use its incredible speed due to the innate ability of the other creature.

Noah had landed on the ground only to attract the leaders' attention, but he had no intention of fighting fairly. Magical beasts would almost always focus on any being with a human shape, and Noah didn't want to end up in the middle of two rank 8 creatures.

His body transformed into a black blade that shot backward. Night fused with the environment before the soundwave could reach it, and an explosion happened on that spot.

The shockwaves released after the detonation of the monkey's attack forced Noah out of his movement technique and made him spat blood. The wolf didn't hesitate to reach him at that point, and Noah could soon see the creature's tall figure jumping on him from his side.

Noah could barely face one rank 8 magical beast, let alone two. However, he had his improved companions by his side, but he didn't want to unleash their power while he was near the tree.

Snore quickly materialized to intercept the wolf's attack. The snake's massive figure created a natural barrier that stopped the creature's leap and forced it to focus on its new opponent.

The wolf easily pieced Snore's body, but a wave of violent dark matter engulfed it before it could launch another attack. The Blood Companion was pure destruction now. Even its insides featured the same substance that made its dark beam.

The violent dark matter didn't manage to injure the leader, but pieces of its fur vanished when that wave of energy engulfed it. The wolf's anger surged before it leapt again and pierced Snore's body. Yet, it didn't find Noah when it reached the other side.

A soundwave threatened to crash on Snore, but the snake transformed into a cloud that vanished once the attack exploded. A crack appeared on Blood Companion's ethereal figure, but the wolf ended up enduring most of the blow.

Snore was still a Blood Companion, so its body would disperse once Noah went too far away. The attack of the rank 8 monkey would normally inflict severe injuries to its ethereal figure, but the snake didn't stay in the area long enough to endure the entirety of the blow.

The wolf gave voice to an angry howl before turning toward the monkey. The creature seemed about to jump toward its previous opponent, but a cross-shaped slash suddenly crashed on its body and forced it to turn again.

Noah had stopped only to launch the slash. He had immediately resumed his retreat when the wolf turned again. The creature couldn't contain its anger and chased him at full speed, but Snore appeared on its path when it was about to reach him.

The monkey launched another soundwave while the wolf was busy fighting Snore, but the snake disappeared before the attack reached the area at that time.

The soundwave ended up crashing directly on the wolf's body. Blood flowed out of the creature's mouth. It seemed that the attack had damaged its internal organs.

Noah slashed toward the wolf before it could turn toward the monkey. The creature was livid at that point. It had no idea who to attack, but it eventually charged toward Noah.

'Almost there,' Noah thought once he reached the edges of the region.

The tall tree was far away from that spot. Fergie would have a decent chance to let the fruit grow and seize it once it was fully ripe now. Noah only had to keep the two leaders busy for as long as possible.

The wolf reached Noah in an instant, but Snore didn't appear. He turned toward the creature, slashing with both his blades while a wave of dark matter surrounded his figure.

The blades and the wolf clashed, releasing a shockwave that shattered the ground. Noah's arms released screeching noises, and the swords threatened to break, but the dark matter and the unstable substance kept them intact.

Still, the impact flung Noah away and made him dig a long hole through the azure ground. His body felt sore once the empowerment given by the Demonic Sword vanished. The skin on his elbows, wrists, and shoulders had also shattered.

'That was dumb,' Noah thought before wearing a broad smile.

Facing a rank 8 creature with his bare body had been a stupid idea, but Noah was willing to lose his arms to understand how far he was from the eighth rank.

Noah couldn't remain deep in his thoughts since the wolf immediately leapt toward him. The creature wouldn't let him go now that it had managed to put him on the ground.

An invisible force flung the wolf upward and created a long mark on its chest. The Pterodactyl became visible for less than an instant before fusing with the world again and resuming its offensive.

Night attacked the creature again while it was mid-air, and Snore quickly formed to wrap its immense body around the wolf. The snake restrained its limbs and bit on its neck as violent dark matter flowed out of its mouth.

Noah straightened his position and pulled his blades back. His knees bent as the Demonic Sword's black hole released dark matter that covered both weapons.

His ambition also activated. His cultivation level increased and reached the limits of the seventh rank. Noah was ready to launch his strongest attack, but the monkey's offensive forced him to retreat.

Snore quickly transformed into a cloud that dispersed before the dense soundwave exploded. The wolf endured the entirety of the blow again, but no slash crashed on its body at that time.

Noah flew around the wolf and neared the monkey. He came out of his movement technique to resume his previous position and gather his power.

The monkey's chest inflated at that sight, but the wolf jumped on the creature before it could launch its attack. Noah could take his time to amass as much dark matter as possible before launching his double lunge.

Two beams shot out of Noah's figure. One of them was pitch black, while the other was almost invisible. A wave of dark matter covered both and enhanced their destructive capabilities.

The two attacks fused mid-air. They transformed into an unstable piercing force before crashing on the monkey's belly. The attack destroyed its fur, and Noah could even see a drop of blood flowing out of the landing spot.

'I did it!' Noah shouted in his mind when he saw that minute drop of dark-red blood.

Noah had to use his ambition, the full power of his Demonic Sword, the unstable substance, an upper tier weapon, and dark matter, but he had finally managed to pierce the skin of a rank 8 creature.

The actual amount of damage inflicted in the clash didn't matter. Noah could barely contain his excitement. He had finally approached a rank 8 battle prowess.

Chapter 1512 1512. Overreacting

The wolf bit on the monkey's shoulder and tore a piece of its skin. Blood spurted out of the creature and tainted its fur, but the injury didn't stop it from inflating its chest again.

The monkey turned its head toward the wolf and launched a soundwave. The attack exploded right in its face, separating the two magical beasts and injuring both of them.

Noah couldn't escape the shockwaves released in the attack. His organs shook, and blood accumulated in his mouth, but he remained on his feet. He would rather suffer more internal injuries than lose that favorable position.

Once Noah felt able to move his arms again, he raised his blades and bathed in the incredible feeling of having his power enhanced by an external force. He was already near the peak of the seventh rank, but the Demonic Sword's ability pushed his might slightly past that.

Dark matter covered both blades and created two black rivers that flowed upward. They shot high in the sky as Noah placed the weapons on his forehead and focused his consciousness on the two rank 8 magical beasts.

The two creatures ignored Noah. The wolf charged at the monkey again, and the latter didn't hesitate to inflate its chest to launch another threatening soundwave.

Noah intervened before the monkey could launch its attack. He wanted the creatures to keep hurting each other, but the wolf had already suffered a severe injury while following Noah.

The monkey would win in that situation, and Noah couldn't allow it. He needed both of them to keep them busy.

The two blades slid across Noah's forehead and filled the environment with sharp noises. The dark matter around and above the weapons disappeared to create two massive black pillars that fell on the leaders one instant before the monkey launched its attack.

That broad attack couldn't injure the leaders. It didn't matter how much power Noah had accumulated inside it. He was still in the solid stage, so only blows featuring piercing properties could hope to tear the creatures' tough skin.

Still, the might carried by the attack managed to hinder the leaders' offensive. The monkey had to delay its shockwave by an instant. The wolf managed to close the distance from its opponent during that time.

The wolf bit on the monkey's injured shoulder again before a soundwave exploded on its face. The attack flung away both leaders and made them crash on the ground. Their bodies had become a mess of internal injuries and shattered skin.

During the previous battles, the wolf and the monkey had never managed to land such clean blows on their opponent. They would always be wary of each other and exploit their innate abilities to preserve their condition.

However, Noah had rigged their fair battle. His influence prevented them from gaining the upper hand over their opponent and forced them to exchange self-harming blows.

Of course, Noah didn't forget about the magical beasts' insane resilience. Those creatures were existences in the eighth rank. He guessed that they could stand even with their internal organs reduced to a pulp.

The possibility of defeating those creatures never crossed his mind. Noah knew his power better than anyone else. He was aware that it was impossible to kill them unless his battle prowess improved.

Still, that was the very reason behind that battle. The fruit was only an excuse to throw himself into fights that he couldn't win.

'Snore. Night,' Noah said through the mental connection. 'Go all-out. I will also unleash the Demonic Form.'

A torrent of dark matter flowed out of his figure before condensing to create Snore. A mark also appeared on the leaders' forehead before a huge Pterodactyl became visible among the whiteness of the sky.

Snore's arrival attracted the leaders' attention, but Night gave the snake enough time to launch its attack. The Blood Companion unfolded its wings, and a barrage of metallic feathers crashed on the two rank 8 creatures.

'It's time to see what you can do,' Noah thought before storing the white blade and raising his palm.

A dark halo covered that part of the region as roots spread from his hand. They consumed the dark matter and primary energy still lingering mid-air, and they didn't ignore the azure ground under Noah's feet.

The feathers landed on the leaders at that point. The ground began to shake, and two large black clouds expanded after the attack detonated. Those waves of energy engulfed Noah, but the roots sensed the threat and decided to protect their host.

When the waves of dark matter dispersed, Noah noticed that the roots had wrapped themselves around his entire body. They had covered his arms, legs, torso, and face, giving him a peculiar appearance.

Noah found out that he could move freely, but the corrosive properties of the roots threatened to pierce his skin. His body resisted those effects due to the dark matter released by the black hole, but his robe wasn't as lucky.

The dark matter quickly created the fiendish armor, creating a defensive layer between the skin and the roots. Noah was temporarily safe from that corrosive power in that form, and he could even use the plant's power as a protective measure.

'You can also do this then,' Noah thought when he inspected his body.

The leaders had endured the full might of Snore's feathers. That attack expressed Noah's peak destruction. Not even the Demonic Sword could unleash such power in a single blow.

Snore had lost most of its feathers to perform that attack, but the black hole was already rebuilding them. It would take the organ only a few minutes to restore the snake's wings.

The two rank 8 creatures found themselves covered in new injuries. Their bodies already had many wounds, but the snake's attack had enlarged them and had exploited their condition to spread more destruction.

For the first time since the beginning of the battle, the leaders considered the possibility that Noah could defeat them. The creatures sealed a silent agreement at that point. They would take care of Noah before resuming their battle.

'I knew this would happen,' Noah thought when he saw the two magical beasts turning toward him.

The leaders were overreacting. Snore had managed to inflict those damages only because the beasts were already in poor condition. The destruction that it radiated had allowed it to fill their insides with its destructive force.

Still, the rank 8 beasts didn't care that Noah would need to spend hours repeating that attack to bring them closer to their death. That opponent had annoyed them for the last time. They had to take care of him before the battle became too dangerous.

'Time for the last attack then,' Noah thought when the wolf disappeared from his sight, and the monkey inflated its chest.

His bloodlust surged as the cursed sword appeared in the open. The blade landed on his right palm, and the roots entangled themselves around its figure.

A thick layer of dark matter covered both blades before the roots stretched over the Demonic Sword. Noah was in his most deadly form right now, but he didn't waste time inspecting his power.

His arms moved before Noah could even muster enough power. A horizontal slash shot out of his blades and sent forward all the energy accumulated around his figure.

The roots shattered during the attack, but the corrosive force that they contained fused with the slash and transformed it into a threatening blow.

The monkey felt the need to launch its soundwave before completing the preparations for the attack. The wolf also stopped its offensive in a desperate attempt to dodge the slash.

The soundwave crashed on the slash, and the wolf leapt above it. The monkey ended up blocking the attack, but the other leader saw two large cuts appearing on its rear legs.

After the attack dispersed, the two leaders turned toward Noah, and cries came out of their mouths when they noticed that he had disappeared.

Chapter 1513 1513. Growth

"How was the loot this time?" Noah asked once reuniting with Fergie in a region near the tall tree.

"I managed to wait longer," Fergie said before taking out the yellowish fruit from his space-ring. "I'm getting better at my spell. We might be able to seize rank 8 resources at some point."

Noah nodded before taking out his white sword and dividing the fruit. He took three-quarters of the resource for himself and left the rest to Fergie.

Fergie didn't dare to complain. Noah had kept two rank 8 magical beasts busy while he had merely handled a bunch of rank 7 creatures. The difference between their tasks was immense.

'My powers are on point,' Noah thought as he left Fergie's cave to return to his habitation near the tall tree. 'My foundation is the reason why I still can't fight rank 8 magical beasts. I need to improve my base level.'

Snore, Night, the Demonic Sword, and the Demonic Form were perfect. The first two could launch attacks capable of slowing down rank 8 magical beasts, while the other could enhance Noah's power enough to injure creatures at that level.

It wasn't a matter of assets anymore. Noah needed to make his centers of power grow to bring his battle prowess to the eighth rank. Nothing else could close the distance from that level.

Noah needed to recover. He had suffered severe injuries due to the leaders and the cursed sword. His ambition had also stressed his centers of power.

His flames took care of most of his injuries, and a short period of rest allowed his centers of power to disperse the accumulated stress. Noah could soon resume his training, and his level slowly rose.

The fruit provided more nutrients at that time, but Noah's body barely noticed them. His center of power was a bottomless pit that absorbed any form of energy without giving him actual benefits.

Instead, his dantian improved steadily. His existence brimmed with potential after the fight against the two leaders. Noah almost struggled to contain his ambition during his training.

Forcing his mind to endure so much pressure turned out to be a good decision. The white sky honed its sturdiness and allowed Noah to fill its insides with an immense amount of dark matter. The mole's ethereal figure also helped in enlarging its walls.

Noah didn't stop there when it came to his mind. The constant fight against the pressure of the sky made its walls sturdy enough for his mental waves' innate ability.

His mind could devour wills, but Noah rarely relied on that ability to improve because it thinned his mental walls. However, the sky compensated for that drawback and allowed Noah to abuse that feature.

Finding suitable magical beasts in those lands was extremely easy. Noah even felt confident in surviving against rank 8 magical beasts that couldn't fly. He could seize upper tier specimens from any pack and escape without suffering injuries.

That approach forced Noah's mind to improve far faster than the other centers of power. Only his dantian barely managed to keep up with that organ. Instead, his body fell behind, but Noah couldn't do anything about that.

Noah's physical strength allowed him to remain in one piece after a clash with a rank 8 creature. No other rank 7 existence could do the same. It was only normal for his body to have insane requirements.

'It seems that I need a rank 8 prowess to improve my body,' Noah thought after completing a training session. 'The fruits are spectacular, but they can't give me what I need. My cells crave for rank 8 materials.'

Any other existence in the world would remain dumbfounded at that idea. Thinking that they would need rank 8 materials to reach the eighth rank would make most of them give up on the cultivation journey.

Yet, Noah was different. He had already filled the gaps that separated him from the superior ranks many times. He only had to do it again.

Fergie and Noah continued their seclusion near the tall tree until a new fruit appeared. The event made them leave their caves and join the battle for that valuable resource.

Multiple battles happened over the years, and the duo never changed their approach. Noah took care of keeping the leaders busy, while Fergie focused on seizing the fruits.

Most battles only featured the two familiar packs, but foreign forces would appear from time to time. Migrating rank 8 specimens and large armies of magical beasts would join the battlefield and force the duo to reconsider their tactics.

At times, Noah had to retreat before even attracting the two leaders. The appearance of a rank 8 creature with power in the middle tier or above forced him to abandon his tactics and return to his cave.

Both Noah and Fergie's battle prowess improved during that period. Fergie had a lot to create to adapt his methods to his new existence, and Noah never lost sight of his goal.

Fergie improved faster. He soon learnt how to handle upper tier magical beasts on his own, and he often managed to seize fruits with power near the eighth rank.

Noah's situation turned out to be tricky. He had hit a wall after the evolution of his companions. His centers of power improved slowly, so he couldn't force his battle prowess to grow as fast as he wished.

Still, he didn't let that pace bring him down. Noah had just reached the solid stage in the end. Obtaining a rank 8 battle prowess took time.

The main issue in his situation was that his real target wasn't a rank 8 magical beast. Cultivators were generally stronger than those creatures, and the Crystal City had more than one of them in the eighth rank.

'Madame Canson must be in the gaseous stage,' Noah thought during one of his rare breaks. 'The secret organization shouldn't help the Crystal City again, so I need to bet that no other rank 8 asset will be in the area.'

Noah even guessed that he would have to face multiple experts with the same battle prowess as Miss Nine. With Madame Canson's, many rank 7 assets in the Crystal City could reach a level of power capable of making Noah worried.

'Defeating rank 8 beasts isn't enough,' Noah concluded. 'I need more, far more to take down a rank 8 cultivator, but what can I even do?'

Noah didn't know what else to invent. He had improved his companions, and he had also turned one of his strongest spells into something that could fuse with his arts.

He had other spells, but they were relics of the lower plane. The dark matter and his slashes could give birth to similar and stronger effects. Those abilities couldn't even fuse with his martial arts due to their uniqueness.

'I guess this is my core,' Noah concluded before standing up. 'The other spells are situational. I should focus on enhancing abilities that already work for me. Only the Shadow copy spell is useful since it can multiply my base level for a short time.'

The now-familiar scent of the fruit had reached his cave. It was time to fight again. Fergie had also left his cave and was flying toward that area.

'Maybe I can create a few more blueprints for the workshop,' Noah thought while leaving the cave. 'I might also rework the Warp spell. I can't perform proper teleports since my existence is too heavy, but I might be able to fuse it with my movement technique. I need to improve it anyway.'

Chapter 1514 1514. Reques

While Noah and Fergie were busy training and exploring the magical beasts' domain, Divine Demon and the rest of the army that had attacked the Crystal City were traveling through the Outer Lands.

Their assault on the Crystal City had turned out to be a massive success. The Legion had destroyed the entire structure and killed many fanatics in the attack. Only a few members of that force and the two rank 8 experts had managed to escape.

The fight had not been fair. Divine Demon and Wilfred were powerful, but their opponents weren't weak either. Yet, Luke wasn't a member of the Crystal City, so he had eventually stopped caring about the battle and focused on retreating.

Madame Canson could only order a full retreat at that point. Miss Canson, Miss Nine, Shandal, Lord Ethan, God's Right Hand, and other core members of the Crystal City managed to escape, but they had to sacrifice all the other experts in the area.

The Legion won, but its army ended up stranded in those foreign regions. Only King Elbas had a vague idea of their position, but the journey back to the Outer Lands turned out to be quite chaotic.

Luke and Madame Canson had warned their allied forces about the assault. The territorial advantage allowed those organizations to ambush the Legion multiple times during their journey back to neutral zones.

Divine Demon and the others were deep in the realm of the Crystal City, and they were also on the other end of the human domain. Their enemies had the chance to attack them countless times, but they didn't manage to balance the losses inflicted during the assault.

Their journey became safer once they reached the Outer Lands. Wilfred and the other hybrids had never lived in those regions, but they knew them better than their enemies.

Once the Crystal City and its allies lost their advantage, the Legion managed to fend off the ambushes without suffering any loss. Still, it never managed to make its enemies lose its tracks.

The forces of the human domain rarely chased enemies in the Outer Lands, but the Crystal City and the Sailbrird family were livid. The losses suffered during the assault didn't matter too much, but letting Noah escape was a spot to their reputation.

The Crystal City and the Sailbrird family had to make the Legion pay, but their assaults lost their success rate once that force reached the Outer Lands. The pursuit became a matter of endurance, but the hybrids were unbeatable in that field.

"Why don't you create something that teleports us home," Divine Demon said in an annoyed tone. "I have an inheritance waiting for me."

"Why don't you ask Wilfred to build it?" King Elbas replied. "He destroyed our transport so carelessly. He must have had a plan."

The army had built an encampment near a mountain to recover from the recent attacks. Everyone had gathered around a large fire to relax and celebrate their victory over the fanatics.

Wilfred pretended not to hear that discussion. He knew that Divine Demon was only blowing off steam. The expert seemed to like poking King Elbas with his sharp words.

"Well," Divine Demon said while standing up. "Jordan, I need the usual. Make sure to treat my disciples with care."

Jordan arched her eyebrows at that request. Divine Demon had asked that favor many times already, and she was growing bored of satisfying his eccentric needs. However, he was a rank 8 asset that could benefit the Legion, so she didn't dare to reject him.

A chill ran down Dreaming Demon and Flying Demon's spine at those words. They were on the other side of the fire, near their companions from the lower plane, but their Master didn't want to let them rest.

"My treasured heir is missing because you had to get yourself captured," Divine Demon said after snorting. "You can't be my disciples and be this weak at the same time."

"I told you many times already," June said before taking a sip from her cup. "He isn't missing. He is probably using his time in the magical beasts' domain to cultivate."

"You might be his woman, but I am his Master!" Divine Demon said while waving his hand. "Our bond knows no barriers!"

"What's your idea then?" June asked.

"He is definitely cultivating!" Divine Demon replied. "What probably. My heir doesn't know probably."

June massaged her temples. Talking with Divine Demon was tiring. She could never argue with him, and he also reminded her of her previous Master.

"Feel lucky that he doesn't make you wear large hats," June said toward the two Demons while Faith patted her shoulder.

"I will also join the training," Daniel exclaimed before standing up and walking toward the two Demons.

Faith held his hand, but the duo exchanged an intense gaze before separating. June ignored the whole interaction, but she soon felt Faith's eyes on her.

"What?" June asked.

"He will reappear," Faith said before a hint of doubt appeared on her face. "Sooner or later."

"You know him," June replied. "He is alone among countless magical beasts. I bet he has already forgotten that the Crystal City had trapped us."

"I don't know how you put up with that," Faith said.

"Because I'm the same as him," June replied. "The Crystal City has trapped us for centuries. We didn't get the chance to improve properly during those years. I wouldn't spend much time with him even if he were here."

"Your man has already prepared everything for you," Faith said. "You have enemies everywhere. You don't even need to do anything. Battles will come for you anyway."

"I still need to improve first," June said. "This isn't like the clash with Great Elder Diana. We had lost Noah back then, but our force was still superior to hers. Here, even Noah was about to die."

"We should have amassed enough experience to reach the liquid stage," Faith replied in a cheerful tone. "Power comes from pain, and we suffered a lot. We might even reach Noah before he comes back from the magical beasts' domain."

"You can't even imagine to surpass him," June teased Faith.

"You heard Divine Demon," Faith replied. "Noah has already proven himself as a monster here. Elbas has become his subordinate, and he has also survived the shockwaves radiated by rank 8 existences. I don't see us catching up."

"I'm not his subordinate!" King Elbas shouted from the other side of the fire, but Faith and June ignored him.

"What's the point of discussing this?" June asked. "I can't stop anyway. I will always search for another battle, and he can provide an endless struggle to be the best. I would follow him even if I weren't his lover."

"Luckily, I'm on the other side in my relationship," Faith said before heaving a helpless sigh.

"Vanity is pointless," Daniel said when he heard Faith's comment.

"But you still bother to reply," Faith added, winking toward Daniel when he turned.

"They are finally here," Divine Demon said when he noticed a few figures in the distance.

Jordan flew in front of a pack of red dragons that she had found in the Outer Lands. Her innate ability allowed her to easily find members of those species, and Divine Demon didn't hesitate to use that feature to punish his disciples.

Most of those dragons were in the lower tier, but some were in the middle tier. Jordan had chosen a pack that the Demons and the others could face at their current level.

"How many of you this time?" Divine Demon asked.

June promptly stood up. She had never missed one of those training sessions. Divine Demon was brutal, but his methods worked. She could sense her potential brimming after that long journey and the many battles.

Flying Demon gave voice to a loud laugh before shooting in the sky. Daniel, Dreaming Demon, and June followed him as their auras expanded in the area.

The other hybrids had become used to that scene, so they took those battles as entertainment. They turned toward the dragon and observed Noah's friends working hard to become relevant in the higher plane.

Chapter 1515 1515. Monster

'They have become used to my battle style,' Noah thought while the rank 8 monkey and wolf kept their angry gazes on him.

Fergie and Noah had never stopped fighting under the tree during those years. Their success rate in seizing the fruits was relatively high, so their opponents eventually learnt that they had to get rid of that nuisance.

The many underlings couldn't do much against Fergie. The expert could fly, and his techniques had continued to improve throughout the years spent fighting. He could handle the two packs even if they decided to focus on him.

Instead, the situation for Noah became far worse. He had always managed to manipulate his opponents during the previous fights, but those creatures had slowly adapted to his techniques.

Most divine magical beasts were intelligent, and that feature improved in the higher ranks. Noah's opponents were two rank 8 existences, so they eventually understood why they kept losing the fruits.

The monkey and the wolf didn't attack each other at that time. They immediately followed Noah and waited for him to make his move. They didn't even try to attack each other during the chase.

'I might have to retreat early today,' Noah thought before bloodlust flowed out of his figure.

Noah drew the Demonic Sword and the cursed sword without showing any hesitation. He couldn't fight two rank 8 magical beasts simultaneously, but he still wanted to keep the creatures busy.

'How much do you need to reach the eighth rank?' Noah asked through his mental connection.

'These half-fights aren't enough for me,' The cursed sword replied. 'Magical beasts don't even give me much. You might need to kill a few of them in the eighth rank to make me advance.'

Noah cursed in his mind before focusing on his opponents again. The monkey and the wolf didn't move. Their fierce eyes waited for him to launch one of his slashes.

'Maybe it's time to leave this region,' Noah thought, but a loud squeal suddenly echoed through the area.

Multiple squeals followed it, and a third rank 8 aura fell on the region. The monkey and wolf couldn't bother with Noah anymore at that point. Even he turned to look in the direction of the tree.

The Foolery flew through the sky and chanted war cries before shooting toward the tree. Fergie had filled the region with flames, so only the strongest in the pack managed to reach the surface.

The leader of the Foolery was also there. It charged ahead of its pack and slammed its head on the tree without bothering to mind its opponents. Those rank 7 creatures couldn't stop it anyway.

The monkey and the wolf shot toward the tree, but Noah promptly launched a slash. The latter managed to dodge the attack, but the other leader found a massive wave of sharp energy landing on its body and forcing it to stop its sprint.

Noah spat flames while his chest exploded. His fire instantly healed him, but it didn't manage to do anything to the monkey in the distance.

The leader glanced at the tree before turning toward Noah. Anger filled its expression. The creature had grown tired of those interruptions.

The monkey walked through the flames while its chest inflated. Noah could sense its determination to take him down. Nothing would stop it from making him pay for all the troubles that he had caused since his arrival in the area.

'It's a one versus one now,' Noah thought as resolve surged in his mind. 'This is a good moment to test how strong I have become.'

The dark world spread around him, and a blueprint lit up in his mind. Waves of dark matter solidified around his body and gave him a draconic form.

Noah raised his draconic head at the sky and gave voice to a roar. The dark matter around him dispersed and revealed his new form to his opponent. Still, Noah had yet to complete his preparations.

The unstable substance flowed inside his black vessels and brought his physical strength to its limits. His ambition also surged and forced his centers of power to reach the peak of the seventh rank.

A second wave of dark matter covered Noah. The rune representing the Shadow Copy spell activated and multiplied his arms. His darkness almost vanished during the procedure, but Noah didn't dare to stop it.

Once the transformation ended, black roots pierced his palm and covered his draconic figure. The Demonic Form consumed the dark matter in the area, so the monkey could lay its eyes on Noah's monstrous shape.

The monkey hesitated for an instant. Its soundwave was ready, but it didn't want to attack just yet. The beast had never seen something like that in its long life. Even its instincts didn't know how dangerous that opponent was.

Noah had the shape of an eight-legged dragon. Six of those limbs held long black blades that radiated a threatening aura. He had a pair of large wings and two long horns that pointed toward the monkey.

Roots also covered his entire draconic body. That part of the area darkened due to the many influences that seeped into the world.

'I almost emptied my dantian to copy the cursed sword,' Noah thought before launching a roar and shooting toward his opponent.

The monkey quickly released its soundwave. The attack crashed on Noah's chest, destroying many roots and ripping apart that armor of dark matter.

The shockwaves released during the attack also reached Noah's real body. He spat blood and almost lost consciousness due to the sheer power contained in the blow, but his ambition forced him to stay awake.

'I can fight rank 8 magical beasts!' Noah shouted in his mind while black flames shot out of his mouth.

His black hole sent the dark matter to fix the damages in his draconic armor, and the parasite absorbed nutrients from Noah's body to spread more roots.

Meanwhile, Noah reached the monkey and slashed with his six arms. The creature wasn't as fast as him, but it managed to prepare a second soundwave that it didn't hesitate to release.

Noah's blades touched the monkey before the soundwave exploded on his face. The detonation flung Noah and the leader away, but they both stabbed their legs on the ground to stop their momentum.

A spiderweb of cracks ran through Noah's body. His skin shattered, and a rived of blood came out of his injuries. Multiplying the cursed sword had increased the severity of its drawbacks.

The soundwave had destroyed Noah's draconic head. His real face was in the open now, and blood flowed out of his mouth. A series of cracks had also spread there, but his black hole was doing its best to preserve his most essential organs.

Noah instinctively launched flames that spread through the environment and burned everything in his range to restore his body. The wave of energy that followed his attack closed his injuries, but it didn't manage to fix all of them.

The black hole quickly restored the upper part of the draconic armor, and a wave of excitement filled Noah's mind when his eyes landed on his opponent.

The monkey had suffered some injuries due to the soundwave, but six large cuts had also appeared on its arms, right in the spots where Noah's blades had landed.

Chapter 1516 1516. Arm

Noah couldn't stop suffering injuries during the battle. He was against a rank 8 magical beast, and he wielded three cursed swords. Each clash brought his body to its limits.

Yet, his flames allowed him to recover instantly. Noah would be fine as long as the environment had nutrients to burn and the monkey didn't manage to kill him in one blow.

On the other hand, the monkey had the resilience of a rank 8 magical beast. It was almost immortal in the eyes of rank 7 beings. It didn't matter how many injuries it suffered. The creature always straightened its position and launched its threatening soundwaves.

Noah never stopped leaping toward the monkey. His slashes would deal more damage if his blades touched the creature's skin, so he couldn't deploy safer tactics.

Moreover, the soundwaves damaged the monkey whenever they exploded next to it. Noah slowly gained the upper hand in the battle after forcing many attacks to detonate in front of his opponent.

'I'm running out of things to burn,' Noah thought before flying high in the sky and launching a series of slashes.

A rain of curved black attacks fell on the monkey. Noah's body almost crumbled, but he promptly covered some of the trees under him with flames that fixed his condition.

The monkey gibbered as it chased after Noah. It performed a long leap that almost reached him, but he dodged the attack and dived toward the falling beast to exploit that opportunity.

The leader couldn't dodge the attack during its fall. Noah joined his blades to touch the center of the creature's chest. The dark matter then came out of his back to increase his speed and build momentum.

Once the beast touched the ground, Noah released his attack, forcing all the dark matter to fall on the spot touched by the blades. His physical strength also helped, and his swords eventually pierced that thick skin.

Noah spread his arms to enlarge the injury. The monkey's skin was tough and fought against that force, but a small hole eventually appeared on the creature's chest.

'Snore!' Noah shouted in his mind, and the massive body of the Blood Companion soon wrapped itself around the monkey.

Snore then bit on the creature's head and spat a wave of violent dark matter. The attack engulfed both Noah and the monkey, but he didn't care that his armor was slowly falling apart.

Night shot out of Noah's chest and flew through the hole created by his blades. The Pterodactyl began to ravage the monkey's insides, and Snore closed its wings around the creature.

Noah jumped off of the monkey and covered the ground with flames. His innate ability destroyed the terrain and filled him with its nutrients. His body had been on the verge of collapsing, but it had found new stability now.

Snore launched its feathers, destroying its body in the process. A wave of dark matter engulfed Noah and spread through the whole region. Even in his draconic form, Noah didn't manage to oppose that dense shockwave.

The explosion flung Noah backward, but he soon spread his wings to fly in the sky. Snore reformed next to him, and Night pierced the black cloud around the monkey to rejoin him.

Noah and the two companions didn't move their eyes from the cloud. They didn't know how effective their offensive had been. Only the monkey could solve their doubts.

An angry cry eventually filled the area and dispersed the dark matter accumulated on the ground. Noah and the companions could finally see the monkey again, but their expression turned cold at that sight.

Blood flowed out of the hole on the creature's chest. Its arms featured multiple wounds, and a few green spots had also appeared on its waist. However, the monkey acted as if those injuries didn't exist.

Noah had landed more than ten blows on the monkey, and the last attack had consumed Snore's feathers. Night had also inflicted some damage on the inside, but the monkey didn't grow any weaker.

'I'll try one last thing,' Noah thought before letting go of the swords wielded by his left arms.

Two of the blades transformed into dark matter, but the other regained its original appearance. The Demonic Sword flew next to the companions before dark matter covered its body and transformed it into a black dragon.

Noah drew the white sword at that point and activated the Shadow Copy spell to multiply it. The dark matter then covered those blades as he wielded them with his free arms.

The Demonic Form soon covered the new swords and restored Noah's monstrous shape. He was now using all his assets to fight that beast. If even that didn't work, Noah would have to retreat and focus on improving his foundation.

The monkey revealed a taunting smile when it saw the second dragon appearing in the sky. The creature could sense Noah's struggles, but they only made it laugh.

'I can't kill it,' Noah concluded after a thorough inspection with his mental waves, 'But I can seize something.'

Noah dived toward the monkey, and the latter launched a soundwave. The attack exploded on his draconic face, and a large chunk of his armor crumbled. However, he continued to descend toward his opponent.

The monkey tried to prepare a second attack, but a white mark suddenly appeared on its chest and interrupted it. Night then shot inside the hole and assaulted its lungs to prevent them from creating another soundwave.

Snore restrained the monkey with its body and bit on its shoulder. The creature shattered the snake's tissues whenever it moved, but the Blood Companion held its position.

The Demonic Sword slammed its reptilian head on the same shoulder targeted by Snore. The Blood Companion opened to let that other attack land on the leader, but its teeth continued their desperate attempt to dig that tough skin.

Noah joined his blades and pointed at the same spot targeted by his companions. His swords pierced the Demonic Sword's draconic body and Snore's head to stab the leader's shoulder and create a deep cut.

Snore bit on the creature again, focusing on the opening created by Noah. The Demonic Sword did the same, and Noah also continued to lift and stab his blades to enlarge that wound.

Black flames filled the area. Noah's body ended on the verge of crumbling every time his blades fell, but the fire always managed to stabilize it. Still, his innate ability eventually found itself unable to burn anything else, which left Noah no choice but to stop using his swords.

The draconic armor dispersed, and the blades returned inside his separate space. Noah jumped through the waves of dark matter released by the Demonic Sword and Snore to land on the monkey's shoulder and stab his hands in its injury.

Black roots came out of his palm and spread corrosive energy inside the injury. Noah saw the wound enlarging under the efforts of his entire arsenal, and he eventually grabbed the creature's arm to pull with as much strength as he could muster.

The monkey cried in anger and pain, but Snore kept it in a prison of destructive energy and black scales. Night also prevented it from launching its threatening innate ability. Noah, the Demonic Sword, and the parasite could focus on the arm without worrying about their surroundings.

The monkey suddenly moved its arm, and Noah spat blood when that limb hit his chest. Yet, he didn't stop pulling. Blood spurted in his face as the wound enlarged, and a dark-red river fell on him once he managed to sever the entire limb.

Chapter 1517 1517. Regre

An angry cry echoed through the area, but Night managed to contain its power by attacking the monkey's lungs.

Noah stored the arm and used the dark world to gather all the blood falling on him. He wouldn't let any of that rank 8 material go to waste.

The monkey was livid. That rank 7 existence had managed to sever one of its limbs. Its anger knew no limit. Even its safety didn't matter anymore at that point.

The leader forced its lungs to expand even if Night kept damaging them. The Pterodactyl managed to pierce their tissues during that forced inflation, but the wave of dense air that came out of them pushed the creature outside of the monkey's chest.

The creature required more time to prepare its attack since Night had pierced its lungs, but that didn't make any difference for Noah. He couldn't inflict more damage in such a short window.

Noah grabbed the Demonic Sword through the waves of dark matter and called Snore back before kicking the monkey to shoot backward. He even relied on his movement technique to escape faster, but a shockwave hit him before he could get far away.

The soundwave had grown unstable since the monkey's lungs couldn't perform as usual. The attack didn't manage to reach Noah, but it exploded a few hundred meters behind him.

A series of dense shockwaves engulfed Noah and flung him higher in the sky. The lower part of his robe shattered, and his legs released shrieking noises under that pressure.

Noah heard his bones breaking and his skin shattering, but no pain managed to reach his mind. He had suffered so many injuries during that fight that he barely felt anything anymore.

When Noah managed to stabilize his position, he discovered that his legs were limp. They had turned gray due to the many injuries accumulated under his cracked skin. He couldn't even move them anymore.

His internal organs had also suffered in the attack. Noah was in no condition to fight, and he had already burned every spot in the area that contained some nutrients.

'I need to move near the tree or in other regions to recover,' Noah concluded before moving his eyes toward his opponent.

The monkey was still on its feet. It didn't dare to jump toward Noah, but it didn't want to move its gaze away from its opponent either.

Its missing arm had already stopped bleeding, and the hole on its chest was almost about to close. It wouldn't take long until the creature fixed its lungs and became able to fight again.

The creature's arrogance had vanished after the last clash. It didn't smile anymore. Instead, its eyes carried the silent determination to fight until death.

The monkey didn't do anything, but Noah understood that something had changed. He could see a trace of respect on the creature's expression. The leader had acknowledged him as a being able to stand among rank 8 existences.

'Maybe another day,' Noah thought before leaving the battlefield.

His instincts asked him to answer the monkey's acknowledgment, but Noah had no intention to keep fighting. He had already gone all-out, and the arm was his prize.

Noah quickly found a suitable spot where to spread his flames before burning the entire area. The monkey didn't follow him, so he could take his time to heal his body.

Once every injury vanished, Noah moved his focus on the tall tree. He had ignored that spot since the wolf left to face the Foolery. When his mental waves spread through the region, he sensed that the area was featuring a battle between two rank 8 magical beasts.

'The leader of the pigs should be able to win,' Noah thought as he flew toward the tree. 'We might be able to seize rank 8 fruits now that the Foolery have joined the battle. I knew that those creatures could become usef-.'

Noah's thoughts went silent when he saw that the tall tree began to fall. A creaking noise spread through the region as that massive plant leaned to a side before crashing on the ground.

Noah's mind froze at that sight. He didn't know what to think. The magical plant that could periodically produce incredible resources was no more.

"I tried to stop them," Fergie said when he saw Noah flying toward him.

Noah remained silent while he inspected the area. The pigs were chanting happy squeals as they fed on the tough trunk of the plant. They ate everything, leaves included. Even the fruit had long since fallen prey to their hunger.

The rank 8 Foolery floated above its pack. It kept its eyes closed and its head raised toward the sky in an attempt to appear noble and heroic. Still, even its underlings didn't bother to look at their leader while they ate the tree.

"What exactly happened?" Noah eventually asked.

"The leader defeated the wolf and took down the tree," Fergie shortly explained. "It said that its underlings needed to eat."

"Did it choose the tree instead of the countless corpses amassed on the ground?" Noah asked.

"No," Fergie replied. "It said that they would eat them later."

Noah glanced at Fergie, but the expert was as confused as him. He then decided to talk with the leader of the Foolery, but the pig didn't break its proud expression even after he reached it.

"Why did you have to take down the tree?" Noah asked once he understood that the pig wouldn't notice him unless he talked.

The rank 8 pig lowered its head before lifting it again. A prod squeal came out of its mouth, and some of its underlings decided to echo it. Still, most of them continued to eat, uncaring that their leader wanted to express its pride.

"I have defeated the leader of the wolf's pack," The pig said. "This land shall become food for my underlings. They will regain their forces and turn into the best magical beasts in the entire Immortal Lands."

"Do you realize that the tree could give birth to rank 8 resources every few years?" Noah asked.

The pig's expression froze. It continued to keep its head lifted toward the sky, but a drop of sweat ran down its cheek. The creature then began to wait for Noah to stop staring, but he had no intention to move his eyes.

"I have defeated the leader of the wolf's pac-," The pig tried to repeat the same line as before, but Noah promptly interrupted it.

"I don't buy it," Noah said. "You have ruined the best resource in this entire zone. Ask for my opinion the next time."

The pig slowly lowered its head at that point. Its eyes moved between Noah and its underlings on the ground. A tinge of regret appeared on its expression, but it soon faded at the sight of so much food.

The leader began to drool, but its desire to join its underlings faded whenever it glanced back at Noah. His stern gaze made it recall what it had done.

"Just go," Noah said after heaving a helpless sigh.

The rank 8 pig shot downward and joined the other creatures in their feast. The pack ate the entire tree, all the corpses amassed in the area, and even the tiny plants that grew near the region's edges.

In a matter of hours, the pigs ate all the nutrients in the region. They ignored only the ground since they began to release excrements as soon as their banquet ended.

"Do they really have to come with us?" Fergie asked when the smell of the excrements reached his nostrils.

"Won't you feel better if they did this on the debris of the Crystal City?" Noah asked while wearing a cold smile.

"I hope this smell doesn't kill me first," Fergie said, eventually breaking into a broad smile that matched his leader's.

Chapter 1518 1518. Promises

Eating a rank 8 material was an arduous task for a rank 7 existence. Noah had to bathe the monkey's arm inside the dark world while his technique enhanced his destruction to absorb its nutrients slowly.

His tissues cheered whenever that energy flowed inside their cells and enhanced their power. The arm forced his body to advance significantly, but that growth didn't match Noah's expectations.

His body didn't reach the halfway mark of the upper tier even after Noah ate the whole arm. The improvement was substantial, but he could barely sense it.

'My body requires many rank 8 materials to reach the eighth rank,' Noah concluded after inspecting his condition.

That conclusion left Noah disappointed, but part of him knew that such harsh requirements would be a good thing in the end. The hardest his path toward the superior ranks was, the stronger his centers of power would become once he advanced.

His realization didn't change his current situation. Noah was still unable to defeat rank 8 creatures on his own. He had managed to seize the arm after going all-out against an opponent that didn't expect such a burst of power, but his actual battle prowess barely bade him step in the quasi-rank 8 layer.

The path toward the higher ranks appeared more troublesome than Noah had predicted, but he didn't lose his determination. He had ideas on how to improve, and the magical beasts' domain could still offer him many resources.

"Where to?" Fergie asked once Noah came out of his cave.

The Foolery had settled in the area previously inhabited by the tall tree while they waited for Noah and Fergie to complete their training sessions. They had turned the region into a plain filled with blue bushes in that period. Some of them had even started to invade the nearby lands.

"Let's reach the edges of this domain," Noah said before looking in the distance. "We are too weak to return to the human domain anyway. It's better if we focus on improving for the time being."

"Shall we keep fighting until we force our way into the eighth rank?" Fergie asked.

"That's the plan," Noah replied. "I also have a few other projects in mind, but their success doesn't depend on me."

Fergie shot a curious glance toward Noah, but the latter ignored that gesture. His plans conflicted with his idea of constant growth, but they represented his best shot at returning safely into the human domain.

Noah had already disclosed that he wanted to build his organization, but he had no use for rank 7 creatures. He could accept only creatures with functional innate abilities like the Foolery.

Still, submitting rank 8 magical beasts was almost impossible at his current level, and Noah didn't know how beneficial it was to spare some of them. They could always work as nutrients for his body, so Noah was quite conflicted about that approach.

'I guess I should only follow my instincts,' Noah decided in his mind as he flew toward the rank 8 pig.

"It's time to move," Noah said, and all the pigs in the region raised their heads to turn toward him.

Those magical beasts showed regretful expressions while looking at Noah. It seemed that they didn't want to leave the region after transforming it into their ideal lair.

Noah immediately understood what was going through their minds. He had learnt how the Foolery thought in those years, and he had already developed countermeasures to their laziness.

"Did you like the tree?" Noah asked, and all the pigs nodded.

"The magical beasts' domain is full of those delicacies," Noah continued. "You will be able to eat anything you want during our journey, and you will also obtain a land once we join my friends."

Most of the Foolery fell for his words, but the leader and a few upper tier specimens remained hesitant.

"How can we be sure that you won't put chains on our necks once we meet your allies?" The rank 8 pig asked.

Noah gazed at every specimen in the pack. He could sense their worry and pain. He didn't know what to reply to that question, so he decided to tell the truth.

"You can't," Noah replied. "I will obtain the power to enslave your kind, so you will always fear my true intentions. I can only make promises for now."

"What promises?" The leader asked.

"I can promise that you will never become mounts again," Noah said, and his pride naturally seeped out of his figure at those words.

Noah had no control over that event. His ambition fueled his pride, and those feelings were part of his existence. His words would carry them whenever Noah stopped suppressing his influence, which happened during the conversation.

The leader's eyes widened. Noah had spoken words that had hit the creature deep in its core. He had mentioned its greatest fear.

"What about the humans?" The leader asked while trying to suppress its emotions.

"I need to kill many of them already," Noah replied. "Most large organizations even consider me as an enemy. I don't see how I could ever sell you to them."

Noah and the pig stared at each other for a long time, but tears eventually fell from the creature's eyes. Sniffs also echoed through the region as the other beasts began to cry. It seemed that Noah's words had triggered their feelings.

"We... we will eat you if we find out that you are a liar," The leader said among its sniffs before giving voice to a squeal that summoned the entire pack.

Noah rolled his eyes before shooting in the distance. Fergie quickly followed him, and the Foolery didn't hesitate to imitate them.

That moment marked the beginning of a long series of battles. The Foolery were always hungry, and Noah could be more daring now that he had a rank 8 creature by his side.

The group flew through every region containing packs that featured specimens at their level. Noah could throw himself in reckless battles now that he had powerful allies, and his battle prowess slowly improved under that constant pressure.

Noah always tried to face the rank 8 magical beasts by himself, but he rarely inflicts more than severe injuries. He managed to seize limbs and patches of skin from time to time, but he never killed one of those creatures.

The leader of the Foolery respected his desire to improve and let Noah fight alone until his situation reached a critical state. The pig always intervened at that point and exploited the damages inflicted by its companion.

The Foolery improved during that journey. That process didn't only concern their level. Eating different types of food restored their intelligence to its real peaks and soon removed the annoying disadvantages connected to their memory.

The pig remained an eccentric bunch, but they stopped forgetting things. That growth allowed Noah to create complex plans without fearing that his companions would ruin them.

The group required his plans when they met packs that featured multiple rank 8 beings. Only the leader of the Foolery could defeat beasts at that level, so Noah had to devise tricky strategies that allowed them to seize benefits from those dangerous situations.

Chapter 1519 1519. Ear

Noah spat blood after a giant flying elephant slammed its trunk on his torso. The attack shattered the draconic armor on his chest and destroyed his additional limbs. It even broke his right arm in the process.

'I failed again,' Noah thought after straightening his position and covering the area with black flames.

The attack had flung Noah on the ground, so he could burn a large part of the vegetation in the region. His body instantly healed, and his black hole also restored his draconic armor, even if it didn't manage to replicate the copies of the swords destroyed during the exchange.

The Foolery and Fergie were in the sky, fighting the other flying elephants. Those creatures were as tall as small mountains and had two pairs of large feathered wings on their back. Two sharp tusks also grew from the sides of their trunk.

The pack of elephants featured only one rank 8 specimen, and Noah had attracted its attention by slaughtering tens of its underlings. The leader of the Foolery had also remained on the sidelines to grant Noah a one versus one battle.

'This technique is so unstable,' Noah cursed in his mind as he fixed his eyes on the charging rank 8 elephant. 'It needs far more polishing.'

Noah didn't move while the massive elephant dived toward his position, but his figure turned into a shadow before the creature could crush him.

An earthquake spread through the area, and an angry trumpet echoed when the elephant noticed that its attack didn't hit anyone. Noah reappeared at a few hundred meters high in the sky, but he lost his chance to attack since his back was facing the ground.

'Almost!' Noah cursed again in his mind before shooting higher in the sky. 'It's so hard to control the technique in this form.'

Noah had used the vast battle experience accumulated throughout his countless fights to improve his movement technique. However, the project turned out to be a partial failure since he didn't manage to fuse his sprints with the Warp spell.

Instead, his tests led to a completely different movement technique. Noah had fused the Warp spell with the Merging spell to create a different version of his usual sprints.

The new technique allowed Noah to perform instant teleports, but their range wasn't great. His usual sprints were better when it came to long distances, but they lacked the immediateness of his new ability.

Both movement techniques were powerful, but their effectiveness depended on the type of opponent in front of Noah. He liked having that variety of abilities, but he had yet to perfect his teleports in his current state.

The main issue in the technique was Noah's power. His existence contained so much energy that the teleports always grew unstable mid-way, leading him to reappear in odd positions.

His draconic form aggravated those difficulties, but Noah didn't stop training in his new ability even when his opponents injured him. His mind worked faster during a battle, and he wanted to exploit that mental state to master the movement technique hastily.

"I can come whenever you want," The rank 8 pig shouted from the other side of the battlefield.

"Not yet!" Noah replied before disappearing again once the rank 8 elephant was about to reach him in the sky.

His figure reappeared in another spot of the sky, but upside down. Noah had failed to control his teleport again, and one of the rank 7 specimens charged toward him once it noticed his odd condition.

Noah waved his two remaining blades toward the creature and severed it into two parts. Still, his attack gave the rank 8 elephant enough time to reach him.

The massive trunk slammed on Noah's back and destroyed his wings, along with a large chunk of the draconic armor. Blood came out of his mouth and eyes after the impact, and his lower body went limp as he shot through the sky.

Noah spat flames whenever he saw plants and soft terrain. His body quickly healed, but the elephant was already on him by the time he fixed his condition.

His figure disappeared again, and the elephant ended up cracking its trunk in the air. The beast grew tired of those teleports, but it ignored that Noah had finally succeeded in performing his new technique correctly.

Noah reappeared above the elephant. The cursed sword quickly replaced the white blade before he swung downward. A large cut opened on the elephant's back, but that injury appeared insignificant compared to its massive body.

A vertical cut opened on Noah's chest and almost divided his torso into two parts. Those drawbacks reflected the power released by the cursed sword and forced Noah to accept that he had no chance to win that battle.

'Another rank 8 creature that I can't kill,' Noah thought before teleporting to dodge the massive trunk converging toward his position.

The teleport went well again. Noah reappeared higher in the sky and activated the Shadow Copy spell to replicate the cursed sword.

The fact that Noah couldn't win that battle didn't stop him. He had sealed a deal with the rank 8 Foolery. The pig would share part of its loot as long as Noah inflicted consistent injuries.

That alone made Noah willing to go all-out every time he met a rank 8 magical beast. His body required rank 8 materials to grow significantly, and he couldn't give up on the chance of obtaining them.

Noah dived toward the elephant once his copied swords formed. The creature's pale-blue skin darkened, and the trunk cracked once again toward him.

Noah teleported under the creature. The technique allowed him to maintain his momentum, but he found himself turned in the wrong direction.

His six blades stabbed the ground and created a spider-web of cracks that spread through that part of the region. Noah also suffered drawbacks for that attack, and his flames filled the area to heal him.

'Dealing with the laws of space with my true meaning is tricky,' Noah thought before teleporting away.

The elephant crashed on the ground and shattered the cracks opened by its opponent. A piercing attack fell toward the creature at that point, and one of its ears separated from its body once that dark flash disappeared.

Noah stored the severed ear and activated the Shadow Domain. Roots grew inside the elephant, and Instabilities filled its organs before a loud explosion resounded in the area.

The elephant kneeled on the ground after the blow, and rivers of blood flowed out of its mouth, trunk, ear, and eyes. Yet, it soon raised its head again and fixed its gaze on its elusive opponent.

Noah decided to retreat at that sight. His body turned into a blade that cut through the battlefield. He stopped when he reached the rank 8 pig, and the creature understood that it was time to handle the other leader.

'I will master the teleports as long as I continue to fight,' Noah thought as he dispersed his draconic form and stored the cursed sword. 'Still, I lack the sheer power required to kill rank 8 magical beasts. I can't hope to pierce spells launched by rank 8 cultivators at my current level.'

A couple of upper tier specimens flew toward Noah, but his Demonic Sword flashed before dividing those creatures in half. Noah soon burned them to heal his body, and his mind wandered as waves of power flowed through his tissues.

'I need a finishing blow,' Noah concluded.

The shockwaves released from the battle between the two leaders swept the battlefield, but Noah remained still. Even if most of the pack had decided to converge toward him, he didn't deign them of his attention.

His mind could only wander through his many techniques and vast experience to find something that could lead to a powerful finishing blow, something that could even surpass the Shadow Domain.

Chapter 1520 1520. Pure expression

Noah experienced nothing but losses throughout that long journey across the magical beasts' domain. His superior awareness allowed his group to avoid dangerous packs, but his situation didn't change even after centuries passed.

The Foolery helped in misleading some of the threatening opponents during their travel. Those creatures turned the conquered regions into wastelands before transforming them into blue paradises. Other packs would fight for the ownership of those lands every time the group left.

The journey benefitted Fergie and the Foolery the most. The expert's battle prowess went through multiple evolutions, and the magical beasts began to reproduce as their bodies absorbed valuable nutrients.

Noah witnessed the birth of rank 4 specimens, and he also saw them shooting through the heroic ranks due to the many resources offered by the higher plane.

The pack of Foolery enlarged and grew after every victory. Their morale had never been so high. Some sense of loyalty toward Noah also appeared among those creatures.

"I don't understand why you struggle so much," The rank 8 pig questioned Noah at some point during the journey. "You can already hurt rank 8 magical beasts. Your prowess is unmatched among rank 7 existences. Maybe it's time to accept that you can't force your power to reach the superior rank without facing breakthroughs."

"I have to agree," Fergie added. "Your flames allow you to restore your body, but you end up on the verge of falling apart many times during every battle. You might not carry lasting injuries, but this approach can't be healthy for your mind."

Their concern had reached the peak after Noah's aura had started to grow unstable. He was still in complete control of his power, but the bloodlust radiated by his mind had intensified after fighting non-stop for centuries.

Noah's approach to those battles was also atypical. He always jumped into fights that he couldn't win, hoping that the danger could force his mind to give birth to a new technique.

That approach had allowed Noah to master his teleports in a few decades, but it had yet to lead to a proper finishing blow. However, he had found a promising path, and his unstable bloodlust wasn't enough to make him stop.

"Anyone can face rank 8 beings after reaching the eighth rank," Noah replied.

"This isn't an excuse to turn yourself into a bloodthirsty beast," Fergie replied before glancing at the pig. "No offense."

"I wouldn't be me if I took a safe path," Noah replied. "I even have the faint sensation that my ambition wouldn't make me advance if I fail. My centers of power can be annoying to satisfy at times."

"Isn't your body near the breakthrough?" Fergie asked. "How many rank 8 materials did you already eat? You should be close, right?"

Fergie's belief wouldn't have been wrong in a normal situation. Even the strongest hybrid would approach the breakthrough after eating so many rank 8 materials.

However, Noah's body required an insane number of nutrients. It had grown so strong that Fergie couldn't evaluate its power anymore, but it had yet to approach the peak of the seventh rank.

Truth be told, Noah had crossed the halfway mark only a few decades ago.

His growth would have been faster if he had managed to eat entire rank 8 creatures, but he had to settle for what the rank 8 Foolery left. The loot from his battles even consisted of limbs or small patches of skin. There was a limit to how quickly Noah could improve with those meals.

"You should focus on your centers of power," Noah said before turning toward the pig, "And you should take care of your pack. Let me handle my existence. This isn't the worst I've experienced during my training sessions."

Fergie and the leader of the Foolery could only heave a helpless sigh in front of Noah's stubbornness. His battle prowess already amazed them, but he constantly desired more.

The journey led the group in many valuable areas. Noah had the chance to bathe in white rivers, seize countless precious materials, and eat many valuable resources during those adventures.

His law broadened, his mind enlarged, and his body improved. Everything was going smoothly, but his thoughts were slowly obtaining chaotic properties.

Noah had noticed those changes in his mind before his companions. He could sense how his thoughts were slowly losing their original diversity to transform into bloodthirsty ideas.

The process could become permanent if Noah didn't spend a few decades dispersing the bloodlust accumulated throughout those battles, but he couldn't stop just yet. His finishing blow was about to come to life. His existence prevented him from delaying that process.

'An attack without the cursed sword but in dragon form can cut a few fingers,' Noah thought while inspecting his opponent. 'Not enough. Even an entire arm wouldn't be enough.'

His opponent was a short crocodile. The creature was long, but its height prevented it from moving fast. Its defense was high due to the three layers of green scales covering its body, but its overall power was below average.

'This is one of the weakest rank 8 magical beasts in the world,' Noah thought before activating his workshop to create the draconic armor. 'I must be able to kill it.'

Noah drew the cursed sword and multiplied his arms and weapons. He even summoned the Demonic Form, and he soon obtained a monstrous shape.

The battle started as soon as Snore and Night came out in the open. The Foolery and Fergie kept the rest of the pack busy, so Noah could focus on his opponent.

The area featured multiple white rivers that the crocodiles used as their home, but Noah ignored those resources. Everything vanished from his vision. Only his opponent remained in his eyes.

Noah immediately launched one of his strongest attacks. His monstrous body transformed into a blade that pierced the sky and disappeared before reaching the crocodile.

He had devised a method to build momentum through his movement techniques. The teleports allowed Noah to maintain his speed, so he had learnt how to alternate the abilities and gather power through his sprints.

The black blade reappeared above the crocodile and began to dive in its direction, but Noah teleported again. He reformed at the creature's side and repeated the process.

Snore and Night assaulted the crocodile, but their attacks only managed to slow down its actions. They didn't pierce its skin, but their relentless offensive eventually broke some scales.

Once Noah built enough momentum, he performed a feint to bait the crocodile's bite and teleport above its head. His blade converged to create a drill-like structure that pierced the three layers of scales and touched the creature's skull.

Noah's blades stopped when they reached the skull. They couldn't descend anymore. His attack couldn't pierce that material.

The crocodile swung its tail before Noah could try anything else, but he quickly teleported to reappear high in the sky. His cold gaze then landed on the creature, and a wave of bloodlust surged out of his figure.

'What else did I miss?' Noah thought without launching his flames.

His mind worked faster while his body fell apart. That near-death situation gave Noah more ideas on possible finishing blows, so he held back his flames to delay his healing.

'I used both my movement techniques, my ambition, the unstable substance, and three cursed blades,' Noah thought. 'This is all I have. What else can I even do to kill it? Is my ambition tricking me again?'

Noah considered those options, but his reasoning stopped when an idea formed. Scenes from his training with Sword Saint resurfaced in his mind and uncovered the reason behind his failures.

'I will never step into the next level of power if I keep my abilities separated,' Noah thought. 'I need to fuse them into a single blow, an attack that can act as a pure expression of my ambition.'