

DEMONIC 1531

Chapter 1531 1531. Over

Noah couldn't help but start planning his return to the human domain now that he had stabilized his battle prowess in the eighth rank. He wanted to see his friends, and the constant fights against those simple magical beasts had started to bore him.

The magical beasts' domain was perfect for gathering resources. Those regions had also benefitted Noah's ambition since he had fought countless creatures stronger than him.

However, that domain had limits, especially for existences that needed to enhance their laws. Noah could seize countless valuable resources and find excellent training areas, but the inheritances could give him far more.

It would have been different if Noah were a magical beast or a hybrid that didn't have steep requirements to improve. Yet, he needed to interact with other cultivators to strengthen an essential part of his existence.

Noah had to return to the human domain. He could still improve fighting magical beasts, but that approach would soon reach its limits.

'When should I try to return?' Noah wondered while continuing to cultivate.

He didn't have a correct answer to that question. It would be perfect if Noah could confirm that his battle prowess allowed him to handle rank 8 cultivators before returning, but that was impossible inside the magical beasts' domain.

Noah could only guess how powerful those existences were for the time being. His few interactions with cultivators at that level didn't let him grasp the entirety of their abilities.

Fergie gave Noah a mountain of Soul Stones when the latter exited his cave. The group had seized the entirety of the mine. His new finances amounted to more than a million Soul Stones after that meeting.

Even guilds couldn't obtain that sum, but Noah had gathered it after a single battle. He was filthy rich now, and that without considering the countless resources stored inside his separate space.

'I could buy entire regions in the human domain with this sum,' Noah thought before focusing on Fergie.

"How much did you learn about the secret organization before the events with the Crystal City?" Noah asked.

That sudden question surprised Fergie. The expert had felt happy that Noah was finally ready to move again, but he didn't expect that his leader had already begun to plan the return to the human domain.

Fergie had been free of Noah's control for entire centuries, but he had remained loyal to him during that time. The secret organizations had eventually discovered him, but he had remained one of its pawns for a while.

The expert had also reached the liquid stage during that period, which had granted him a better position inside the secret organization. Fergie had to know more compared to when he was under Noah's control.

"Not much," Fergie replied. "Secrecy is a must in the secret organization, so only the rank 8 experts have a general idea of how large it is. Still, most of them don't even know how many cells their force has."

"Do you know if one of them wants to damage the Crystal City?" Noah asked.

"That's for sure," Fergie replied before explaining better. "I don't know who they are, but I am aware of their existence. Any large force has allies and enemies among the secret organization."

That information didn't help Noah. He wanted to know if Fergie could find leads about the new location of the Crystal City. He didn't care about the political environment of the human domain.

"We shouldn't give our enemies the time to prepare for our arrival," Noah said. "I would rather attack the Crystal City before even stepping inside the human domain. I only don't know how to find it."

Fergie fell deep into his thoughts. His position inside the secret organization had been too low to grant him information about the other cells, but an idea formed in his mind anyway.

"We might not need to rely on the secret organization," Fergie eventually said. "We already know that the Crystal City has allies among the magical beasts' domain. We can ask them if they know where it is."

Noah's eyes widened. That solution was far better than his initial idea. He even knew who they had to find to learn about that information.

'The leader of the Rats might know it,' Noah considered inside his mind. 'Those creatures must have had a tight relationship with the Crystal City to prepare that ambush. The attack of the Legion shouldn't have changed their situation.'

"Are we going back to the human domain?" Fergie asked, but Noah promptly shook his head.

"Not yet," Noah replied. "This army is too weak, and the same goes for us. Let's turn once we reach the end of the magical beasts' domain."

Fergie nodded, and Noah gave voice to a roar to notify his troops. The various magical beasts that had filled the region converged toward his position, and the Foolery also left their lairs to fly toward him.

The pigs had turned that region into a blue paradise, so the various beasts in Noah's army didn't need to hunt in that period. Some of them had even given birth to weaker specimens during those years, and their overall power had increased.

"Are we ready to move again?" The rank 8 pig asked, and Noah limited himself to nod.

The group moved toward the next region and resumed their long journey. Both Noah and the rank 8 Foolery had silently agreed that they would turn once they reached the end of the domain, but they didn't rush that exploration.

The army went from region to region, fighting all the packs that featured opponents at their level. Noah's underlings constantly increased, and the overall power of the group grew as they faced countless battles.

Noah and the others never stopped. They didn't even need to take long periods of rest anymore since most of their battles ended up in overwhelming victories.

The group now had the rank 8 Foolery, Noah, and Duanlong. Their battle prowess surpassed what packs featuring creatures in the lower tier of the eighth rank could achieve.

Noah's stash of materials increased, and his expertise did the same. His foundation also improved as those fights honed his techniques and battle style.

The long journey continued until the group reached a sea filled with white water. The wind also blew in those regions. It was clear that the group had stepped in the areas before the Outer Lands.

The sea radiated a dangerous sensation. Powerful creatures inhabited its waters, and Noah had no intention to venture through them at his level.

He couldn't even see the end of that area. Noah and his group would die if they found themselves surrounded by a series of rank 8 creatures that they couldn't defeat.

The sea covered all the regions in Noah's view. He couldn't see any safe passage. He couldn't even find regions untouched by its waters.

It didn't take Noah much to accept that his long journey was over. He had reached areas that cultivators completely ignored, and he had also built a powerful force along the way.

Yet, the journey had come to an end. The magical beasts' domain still had countless unexplored lands, but most of them featured creatures that Noah couldn't face. Even if he could beat them, Noah would probably avoid them now that he had reached the edges of that wild area.

'It's time to go back,' Noah thought before turning in the opposite direction of the sea.

The others in his group noticed his action and the determination that it radiated. They immediately understood what that gesture meant, and his cold expression also warned them about his seriousness.

It was time to stop playing around and begin the hardest part of their journey. The group had to survive the reentry into the human domain.

Chapter 1532 1532. Captains

The group didn't immediately leave the sea. The white waters contained chaotic laws, which made them one of the best resources in the entire higher plane.

Noah and the others remained on the shores for a while. They even fought the many packs that arrived to challenge them for the ownership of those regions. Those attacks eventually featured a rank 8 magical beast in the middle tier, which forced them to run away before that force reached those lands.

The group took a different route to return to the human domain. They still wanted to fight and improve, so they decided to avoid the regions already conquered in the first part of their journey.

Most of them now had new packs since the Foolery made every region that they inhabited irresistible. Still, Noah wanted to find more troops and valuable resources, so their return led them into unexplored areas.

Noah and the others couldn't go wherever they wanted. Many packs along their way featured magical beasts that they couldn't approach. They were a powerful force, but that domain contained proper overlords.

The group always had to approach their advance carefully. Noah had to inspect every region before deciding their route. He and Fergie also needed breaks from the white sky every once in a while. Their return wasn't any faster than the first part of their journey.

Many of the various magical beasts in the group faced breakthroughs during the journey. They also reproduced often, and that process happened more frequently once their number surpassed one thousand.

It was rare for packs led by existences at the bottom of the eighth rank to have so many underlings, but Noah's influence had no limit over the number of followers that he could gather.

That feature of his existence improved quickly. Noah's law had always given him a predisposition to lead, but he had started to use it properly only recently.

Noah quickly gathered experience in that ability, but his improvements didn't involve his leadership skills. They mainly concerned his capability to submit stronger underlings and the nourishing properties of his influence.

The magical beasts in his group grew far faster than normal creatures, and the same applied to Fergie. Even the Foolery benefitted from that influence.

Noah's law could express its true potential now that he had accepted his position as a leader. That unleashed his ability to taint his underlings with his ambition, which led to faster growth.

The process involved far more than the simple power level. Most of the magical beasts experienced spontaneous mutations and sudden improvements in their intelligence.

Their innate abilities grew stronger. Their skin thickened, and their organs began to work faster. Their minds also improved to the point when it was hard to distinguish them from hybrids.

Noah had no control over those improvements. His ambition only gave his underlings the potential to evolve, but they had to make that leap on their own. Still, most of them managed to accumulate enough energy for that growth due to the countless battles that they had to face.

The pack went through a few transformations. The many battles thinned the number of underlings, but Noah kept submitting more creatures. Their fertility diminished after their growth, but the size of his army continued to increase.

A few specimens also managed to reach Fergie's position in terms of power over the troops. They remained under the expert, but they gained the ability to control large platoons and handle different sides of every battle.

Noah eventually granted them names to mark their arrival in a state that surpassed ordinary magical beasts. Those creatures were still in the upper tier, but they had already shown that their potential could lead them toward the higher ranks.

'We should be near by now,' Noah thought at some point during the journey.

It was hard to keep track of his position inside that wilderness, so Noah used the growth of his companions to quantify how long had passed since the departure from the sea.

His eyes inevitably fell on Fergie. The expert had obtained a rank 7 body in the upper tier recently, and his dantian was also nearing the breakthrough.

'I must have spent a few millennia here already,' Noah concluded in his mind.

The three captains of the army flew under Fergie. A tall white eagle with its beak and claws made of a transparent crystal handled the bird-like beast. A giant winged elephant managed the vanguard, and a flying wolf took care of the troops that couldn't soar through the sky.

The elephant and the wolf had gained their wings after mutations. The same went for the crystal beak and claws of the eagle. Those three magical beasts also had great intelligence, which led Noah to appoint them as captains.

"White, Greeny, Grey, silence the others," Fergie shouted to the three captains. "The boss needs to explore the next region safely."

Noah had named the three leaders after the color of their skin, fur, and feathers for lack of a better choice. The eagle was White, the elephant Greeny, and the wolf Grey.

"The next area only features magical plants," Noah said after shooting a glance at the region ahead. "I can't sense anything dangerous. Even my instincts are strangely silent."

"Are we about to reach the human domain?" Fergie asked with a tinge of excitement.

"It appears so," Noah replied, "But I have never seen these areas. They aren't even close to the Outer Lands."

The magical beasts' domain was immense, so it made sense that Noah didn't find anything familiar in those regions. Yet, he was waiting for something that he could recognize to appear in front of him. There was a chance that the group could enter the human domain unprepared otherwise.

"Let's try to reorganize after conquering this region," Noah said before shooting ahead.

Greeny trumpeted as soon as it saw Noah move. Grey ordered the troops on the ground to charge ahead, and White didn't fall behind the two captains.

The Foolery charged ahead with Noah's army. Their squeals filled the sky and warned every creature in the area of their arrival.

Noah flew above the region filled with dark-green trees. Those plants had sharp leaves that they didn't hesitate to launch when they sensed that danger approaching.

The region featured three rank 8 magical plants in the lower tier and countless rank 7 beings. Their storm of leaves filled the sky and killed many invaders, but they didn't manage to do anything to the leaders.

Noah sat cross-legged on the air while he waited for the storm to end. Duanlong was under him, and it kept its massive mouth open to shred and absorbed all the leaves flying in his direction.

'Greedy dragon,' Noah said through the mental connection when a faint wave of energy flowed inside his body.

Duanlong was sending part of the absorbed energy to Noah, but it kept most of it for itself. Still, Noah couldn't blame his Blood Companion since he had used his greed as the meaning for the Elemental Forging method with that creature.

The dragon gave voice to a proud roar while continuing to absorb those leaves. It felt no shame in seizing most of that energy, and Noah didn't even try to complain since he had learnt how that creature thought.

Then, a dangerous sensation suddenly reached his mind. Noah wasn't the only one who felt that threat. Fergie and the rank 8 Foolery also stopped fighting and turned toward one corner of the region.

Their pupils shrunk when they focused on the figures that had appeared in the distance. A series of massive snakes were slithering on the ground while spatting a silver liquid that froze everything it touched.

Noah couldn't fail to recognize those creatures. He had lived in a world where they were the overlords. The magical beasts that had appeared in the distance were Eternal Snakes.

Chapter 1533 1533. Trap

The Eternal Snakes were still far away. Noah and the others could avoid meeting them if they were in a normal situation. Yet, the storm of leaves limited their movements.

Noah sensed two pairs of gazes landing on his figure. The rank 8 Foolery and Fergie had turned toward him to see if he had any strategy at hand.

'The landing zone of my lower plane might be nearby since the Snakes are here,' Noah thought while inspecting the pack.

Noah didn't know how the connections between the higher plane and the various Mortal Lands worked. Even most rank 8 experts ignored how those dimensional tunnels functioned.

He had a series of valid hypotheses, but they could only give him a vague idea of how things worked. Noah didn't know if Shandal had fallen into the Mortal Lands because he was near the correct landing zone or if Heaven and Earth had thrown him back home.

'They appear to be migrating,' Noah evaluated while keeping his gaze on the distant pack.

The Eternal Snakes weren't targeting Noah and his group. They were traveling, and Noah ignored the real purpose behind their actions. They could be either hunting or searching for a region that had better resources.

Noah's instincts sensed danger, so the pack featured magical beasts that could hurt him. His experience in the Mortal Lands also told him that some of the Eternal Snakes could keep the connection between the planes open. There was a high chance that the group featured multiple rank 8 beings.

'If only I were stronger,' Noah thought before spreading his consciousness and ordering a full retreat.

The Eternal Snakes opened an exciting opportunity, but Noah didn't feel safe approaching them at his current level. He didn't want to play with existences that he couldn't control.

Darkness flowed inside Duanlong and enhanced its innate ability. The pulling force intensified and affected a large area of the sky. Most of the storm of leaves converged toward its mouth and gave a chance to the other creatures to retreat.

Noah joined that retreat, moving Duanlong only when most of his underlings managed to escape the dangerous areas. He didn't care about the slower ones. That battle was only another skimming process when it came to his pack.

However, Noah's instincts rang again, and the same went for the rank 8 Foolery and Fergie. The trio turned and saw that a second pack of Eternal Snakes was slithering on the opposite side.

The trio didn't have the time to think since a third pack appeared on another corner of their vision. Noah could finally understand what the Eternal Snakes were doing at that point. They were regrouping.

'They must have separated to increase their efficiency!' Noah shouted in his mind while remaining still mid-air.

The Eternal Snakes had blocked three possible paths, and the last one seemed to match the destination of those packs. Noah had no idea what to do in that situation. Danger lurked in every direction.

"Remain here!" Noah shouted while roars mixed with his human words. "Keep fighting the trees. We must hope that they ignore us!"

Noah was already planning how to use his underlings as meat shields while speaking those words. The situation was tragic. Even his expertise couldn't make him predict that danger.

The Eternal Snakes continued their march. They kept covering the lands that they crossed with silver ice, but they seemed ignorant about the battle happening in the distance.

'At least one of these groups will notice us,' Noah thought while his gaze went on the third pack.

The third pack would cross areas near the battlefield. Those specimens couldn't miss Noah and the others.

Noah slowly began to rise higher in the sky. He would have the chance to escape if the Snakes noticed only his underlings. Yet, his hopes soon shattered when he sensed a series of reptilian eyes landing on his figure.

His movement had attracted the Snake's attention. Those magical beasts didn't hesitate to launch hisses that filled their regions and even spread past their borders.

The hisses eventually reached the other two packs, and their specimens turned toward Noah and the others once they noticed the battle happening in the distance.

Noah's guess had been on point. The entire pack of Eternal Snakes was too big for a single region, so their leaders had split it into three groups and had led their underlings into three different hunts.

Those creatures couldn't decide to ignore food. Noah and the others were nothing more than tasty meals ended up in a trap by chance.

Noah's expression grew cold as he retracted his darkness from Duanlong. His Demonic Deduction technique activated, and a series of bloodthirsty plans filled his mind.

Noah had a trump card that he had never dared to use. The cursed sword was in the eighth rank now, so it could help him fight stronger beings.

However, the drawbacks would be immense. Noah preferred to rely only on his ambition until his body improved. He didn't want his trump card to kill him.

'The cursed sword is my last resort,' Noah thought before giving voice to a roar carrying meanings that even Fergie understood.

The Foolery, the various magical beasts, and Noah turned toward the third pack and shot forward. Their only chance to survive was to pierce through that force and reach areas that the Eternal Snakes didn't dare to invade.

They didn't even need to worry about the possible dangers lurking on that path since the Eternal Snakes had just cleared it. The only problem was that they had to surpass those creatures.

Noah and the others tried to avoid the third pack, but those Snakes turned to follow their movements every time. The other groups did the same, but they were still too far away to be a threat.

'No leaders in the middle tier,' Noah concluded in his mind after his consciousness completed a thorough analysis of the third pack. 'Four rank 8 specimens in the lower tier.'

Noah roared again to explain what he had learnt about the pack. A few cries that carried all the details concerning the Eternal Snakes and a battle plan followed.

There was no easy way out of that situation. Noah's group had to crash on the Eternal Snakes and kill as many of them as possible to create an opening through their ice.

Noah's ambition seeped out of his figure and forced his centers of power to grow. His aura wasn't targeting his underlings, but they still benefitted from that power. Their vigor intensified, and their morale also improved.

The Eternal Snakes eventually arrived in front of Noah's group. The clash was imminent, so those creatures began to fill the sky with ice to create a massive wall.

Noah had fought enough Eternal Snakes throughout his life to know what was about to come. He was also aware that he couldn't let those creatures complete that technique.

'I will do everything in my power to escape if this plan fails,' Noah said in a mental message forwarded toward Fergie. 'Try not to die.'

Noah's figure disappeared as soon as that message reached Fergie. A wall of dark-green scales filled his vision after the teleport ended. Noah had reappeared in the middle of the third pack.

Chapter 1534 1534. Chaos

Most of the Eternal Snakes failed to notice Noah's arrival, but his presence didn't escape the sharp eyes of the four rank 8 leaders.

Loud hisses resounded in the area as the four leaders gave new orders to their underlings, but Noah didn't give them the time to deploy any tactic.

Duanlong appeared above Noah, Snore covered his figure with its huge body, the Demonic Sword and the white blade appeared in his grasp, and Night flew out of the separate space. Noah had instantly deployed his assets and had enhanced their power with his ambition.

Snore was now bigger than the Eternal Snakes. Its size even surpassed the rank 8 specimens. When the Blood Companion opened its mouth, a sea of violent dark matter filled the area and began to crush the weaker creatures.

Duanlong opened its monstrous mouth to activate its innate ability. Its suction force could affect the ice that had gathered in the sky. That silver substance shattered and flew toward the Blood Companion.

Night flew undisturbed through the pack. It avoided the leaders, and a series of large reptilian heads started to fall on the ground. Tens of rank 7 magical beasts had died in an instant.

Noah raised his blades above his head while his figure morphed. Dark matter covered his body and created a draconic armor that featured six arms and six swords. Black flames also flew out of his mouth and joined the violent dark matter released by Snore.

The dark world expanded, and the workshop activated. A series of six-armed dragons filled the waves of dark matter and began to fight the weaker snakes. Those creations were in the upper tier and had cores fueling their structure. They were basically on par with their opponents.

The four leaders sensed that something was off when Noah's flames filled the insides of their pack. They could feel a similarity with their ice, but their opponent didn't give them the time to study that strange event.

Noah unfolded his consciousness and let the blades touch his draconic forehead. Six black pillars appeared above the leaders and crashed on their massive heads. The attacks then detonated before spreading Noah's sharpness in the area.

The six pillars had opened large wounds on their head, but the ice in the environment quickly flew toward them to heal those injuries.

The area occupied by the third pack had instantly transformed into a battlefield. An army had also appeared together with a series of dangerous substances.

The four leaders were far from stupid, but they had no idea how to handle that situation. They had lost the upper hand in a matter of seconds, and they couldn't even explain how that had happened.

Still, they could appoint Noah as the reason behind those strange events. Anger filled the four leaders as they charged ahead and tried to slam their massive heads on the draconic figure flying among their pack.

Noah teleported again. He reappeared above one of the rank 8 Eternal Snakes and thrust his blades on its head. The attack released a black flash, and an immense cavity opened on the creature.

The hole pierced the Snake's head from side to side. It even crossed its brain. Any other magical beast would consider that a deadly injury, but Noah was aware of the resilience of that species.

The ice in the sky converged toward the injured leader and closed the cavity. Still, the effort depleted most of the silver substance in the area. Noah had already managed to cut their reserves short.

'This is not enough,' Noah thought before teleporting above the pack to inspect the whole battlefield.

The dark world kept Snore and Duanlong active, so they continued to perform their tasks. Most of the ice had disappeared already, and the dragon was ensuring that the Snakes couldn't accumulate it anymore.

Snore sensed that Noah had left the battlefield and spread its wings. Its feathers flew in every corner of the pack and exploded, releasing waves of violent dark matter that turned most rank 7 specimens into corpses.

Night and the products of the workshop handled the remaining Snakes. A few of them managed to hide behind the rank 8 leaders, but most of them ended up dead.

The Eternal Snakes couldn't regenerate without their silver ice. Noah's sharpness, the violent dark matter, and Duanlong were handling that part, so the dead specimens didn't manage to come back to life.

Even the creatures injured by the dark matter and sharpness floating through the battlefield couldn't fix their condition. Their ice shattered or turned into nothingness whenever they tried to amass it in the sky.

The large pack of Eternal Snakes had turned into a small group that featured less than twenty specimens. Noah had killed most of them in a few exchanges.

The anger of the four leaders knew no limit. They quickly found Noah in the sky, but they couldn't pursue him since the rest of their opponents finally reached their position.

'It's still too little,' Noah thought as a helpless sigh resounded in his mind.

His efforts had paved the way for the weaker creatures, but he didn't manage to solve the core issue. The four leaders were still alive and unharmed.

'I need more!' Noah shouted inside his mind before diving toward one of the leaders.

The ambition carried by his aura intensified and filled the battlefield. His influence enhanced the sharpness, Snore's violent dark matter, and Duanlong's innate ability, but it didn't affect their actual power.

Noah's target raised its head when it sensed that threat. The Eternal Snake used its massive body like a spring to leap in the sky and pounce at Noah before he could complete his attack.

The attack flung Noah higher in the sky. Blood flowed out of his mouth, and pain spread through his lower body, but his attention never left his opponent.

The rank 8 Eternal Snakes were faster than Noah. They could catch him by surprise and even interrupt his attacks if he didn't manage to teleport away in time.

Yet, Snore and his sharpness had taken care of the ice, and Duanlong was making sure that they couldn't accumulate that material. The rest of Noah's group and the Foolery had also crashed on the rest of the pack. The leader that had leapt toward Noah couldn't use its innate ability to stop its fall.

Noah dived toward the falling leader as soon as he managed to stop his momentum. His flames had yet to return to his body, but he didn't care about his condition.

He had a clean shot at one of the leaders, and he didn't dare to ignore it. Noah would always decide to suffer as long as his pain led to valuable benefits.

The falling Eternal Snake didn't see much. A flash of darkness filled its vision before a large piece of the lower part of its head vanished. The creature couldn't even find it anymore. Its body part had disappeared without leaving any trace.

Noah reappeared under the maimed Eternal Snake. He lowered his blades while Night became visible behind him and prepared for the imminent attack.

The Pterodactyl wanted to follow Noah's slash to improve its offensive, but the situation led to a disappointing outcome. One of the leaders still in the pack promptly ignored the rank 8 pig and slammed its head on Noah.

Chapter 1535 1535. Fru

Noah flew through the region as lumps of dark matter flowed out of his draconic armor. The black hole quickly fixed his transformation, but his expression remained grim.

Two rank 8 Eternal Snakes were looking at him. The only existence in Noah's group that could fight those creatures was the rank 8 Foolery, but it was busy with the other two leaders. Noah couldn't have one versus one battles in that situation.

The other two packs were slithering at full speed toward the battlefield. It wouldn't take them much to join their companions and surround Noah's group.

Noah was at a loss of what to do. Even escaping seemed impossible in that situation. His ambition would eventually run out if the Eternal Snakes didn't stop targeting him.

'I must kill them,' Noah concluded in his mind.

Noah had a different tactic in mind, but that approach was a gamble. He didn't know how the Eternal Snakes would react. It was better to pursue his simple strategy for now since it had yet to fail.

'Two at the same time,' Noah thought while inspecting the battlefield. 'I don't know if I can handle them.'

Snore could theoretically help, but Noah didn't want to risk losing the advantage created with his sudden assault. The same went for Duanlong. The two Blood Companions were taking care of the ice, which was the most crucial task in that battle.

The two Eternal Snakes leapt toward Noah, but he teleported away before they could reach him. He reappeared among the rest of his troops, right in the middle of the battlefield.

'It's your turn,' Noah thought while looking at his right palm. 'Try not to kill me.'

Noah's ambition flowed inside the Demonic Form, and a wide array of roots pierced his palm to expand in the sky. The corrosive aura that they radiated dimmed the white light and forced most of his underlings to run away.

The two Eternal Snakes didn't care about that threatening aura. Noah had already inflicted unforgivable losses to their pack. They would continue to attack him even if their bodies ended up burning in the process.

Noah turned toward the two leaping leaders. The Snakes were far weaker than usual without the ice, especially when it came to their movement. He could easily teleport on top of one of the creatures and place his palm on its head.

A sense of weakness filled his centers of power as the roots spread and entangled themselves on the Snake's head. They covered its neck and used their corrosive aura to pierce its thick scales.

The Snake hissed in pain when the roots spread through the insides of its body. The other leader wanted to come in its aid, but a large cut suddenly opened on its left eye and interrupted its charge.

Noah didn't hesitate to point his blades at the dark-green scales. His blades slowly pierced the creature. Once their tip reached the beast's muscles, they released a wave of energy that opened a large cavity inside its head.

The Demonic Form quickly expanded in that cavity and continued its destruction, and Noah felt temporarily relieved after the plant consumed those tissues. The more it absorbed, the less it ate from his body.

'Another one!' Noah shouted inside his mind before pointing his blades again.

The swords pierced the dark-green scales and prepared to launch an attack fueled by Noah's ambition, but the other leader managed to slam on his figure.

Noah revealed a surprised expression after focusing on the second Eternal Snake. Night had severed both its eyes during that short exchange. It had managed to sense him only through its instincts.

The roots had broken in the impact, but they remained materials with high corrosive properties. They continued to destroy the Snake from the inside until they depleted their power.

'Can't you give me more?' Noah asked through the mental connection.

The plant ignored Noah, but he promptly lowered his barriers. The black hole allowed the Demonic Form to eat more of Noah's power and gave it the chance to grow while his ambition fueled its existence.

The array of roots inside Noah's chest thickened, and the flower slowly closed to give birth to a fruit. Noah quickly seized it through the dark world, and his figure disappeared again.

Noah reappeared above the Snake that had suffered from his attacks. It didn't have the chance to heal without the ice, so it still featured a large cut on its head.

A wave of pain invaded Noah's mind, but he ignored it. He dived toward the injury and stabbed his hand inside it. When he released his grasp, the fruit entered the Snake's body and dispersed its corrosiveness through its head.

Noah teleported high in the sky when he sensed the arrival of the second leader. The pain didn't stop after he got rid of the fruit. His eyes fell on the source of that sensation, where he saw that both his hand and his white blade had suffered heavy damage.

'I didn't even hold it with my real hand!' Noah cursed in his mind.

The influence of the fruit had partially destroyed the white sword's handle, and his right hand had lost a few fingers. His two additional right arms had regrown, but the fruit had managed to destroy them before. It didn't even spare the copies of the blade.

Noah thought about that issue only for an instant. His injuries proved that the fruit corrosive's power was off the chart. His eyes instinctively went on one of his targets, and he saw that the creature was slamming its head on the ground in a desperate attempt to get rid of its pain.

The other Eternal Snake couldn't do much. It was blind, and Night had never stopped attacking it. Its body was too huge for the Pterodactyl to inflict severe injuries, but the companion still covered it with wounds.

Noah withdrew his ambition from the plant and restored the limitations around it. He felt a bit surprised about the actual destructiveness of the fruit, but he welcomed that discovery happily.

The Eternal Snake convulsed on the ground. Its huge body crushed the terrain during its struggles. Yet, the creature couldn't do anything against a weapon that was already inside its mind.

Its situation would be different if it had its ice, but Noah's Blood Companions were taking care of that. Duanlong's innate ability was so powerful that even the Eternal Snakes fighting against Noah couldn't accumulate that material around them.

The Snake never stopped struggling, but Noah and the roots had inflicted too much damage on its insides. The fruit only had vital organs left to destroy once it entered its head. The creature remained alive for an entire minute before exhaling its last breath.

'Did it really die?' Noah wondered before a sense of weakness invaded his mind and made him lose his foothold.

Noah quickly straightened his position and flew toward the massive corpse. The body of the leader entered his separate space, but Noah's expression remained grim.

The Demonic Form had absorbed too much of his power. His ambition was also fueling his other assets. It wouldn't take much before the drawbacks arrived.

Still, Noah couldn't do anything about that. He didn't even think about that topic. He had managed to kill one of his opponents, so he had to take care of the other leader to gain his chance to escape.

Chapter 1536 1536. Thief

The Snakes hissed in anger when they saw one of their leaders dying and disappearing. They had been sure that Noah's group couldn't pose any threat to their pack, but the recent events had changed their mind.

The battle wasn't a simple hunt anymore. Intense hatred had built in those short exchanges. The snakes wanted to make Noah pay the price for his actions.

Night was keeping the blind leader in a deadlock. The Snake never managed to touch the Pterodactyl, and injuries continued to accumulate on its body.

Night was showing its innate superiority during the battle. Noah's ambition made it able to inflict consistent damage, and the Snake couldn't even keep up with its offensive.

Noah shot toward the Snake. He felt weak, but the other two packs were about to reach his position. He had to kill the second leader to have a chance to escape.

The Snake could keep track of Noah's movements even in its blindness. Its instincts could sense the danger that neared its position.

Noah thrust his blades forward, and a wave of sharpness flowed out of his weapons. The attack landed on the Snake's head and opened a large injury, but it didn't manage to stun the creature.

The Snake charged ahead, using its huge body like a spring. That action made Noah's attack more effective, but it also allowed it to slam on him in an instant.

Noah spat blood while flying backward. The weakness that was filling his centers of power intensified, but his mind forced him to stay awake.

Still, his awareness didn't change his condition. The ambition continued to fuel his centers of power and companions, but Noah was running out of fuel. His dantian was almost empty, and even his insane resilience showed signs of giving in to his intense struggle.

'Just a little more!' Noah shouted in his mind, and his ambition intensified.

A new wave of power filled his centers of power. Noah dispersed his momentum and charged toward the massive Snake that was chasing him.

Injuries continued to open on the creature's body. Night never stopped attacking, but its effort didn't manage to interrupt its opponent's charge.

The Snake had only one target. It wanted to kill Noah even if the effort ended up leading to its death.

Sharp energy covered Noah's draconic figure. He pointed his blades forward without interrupting his charge.

The Snake opened its mouth when it sensed the incoming clash. Ice accumulated in its throat and reinforced its tissues, but everything crumbled once the creature clashed with Noah.

Noah's figure cut through the Snake's head. The sharp aura surrounding him severed its tough scales before his blades even landed on the creature.

The Snake's vision suddenly went black. Noah had divided its head into two pieces. However, the rest of its body still slammed on him and flung him away.

A river of blood poured on Noah while the corpse pushed him away. He quickly stored the body, but it took him a while to stop. His eyes quickly studied the battlefield, and what he saw turned his expression even grimmer.

The two packs had reached the battlefield. They were only a few seconds away from jumping on Noah and the rest of his group.

A dense aura had also spread in the environment. Noah felt an intense danger coming from those packs. They featured specimens at a level that even his ambition couldn't make him match.

Ice started to accumulate in the area. Snore and Duanlong didn't manage to suppress that innate ability anymore now that the other packs had arrived.

"Run!" Noah shouted as draconic roars mixed with his human words.

His companions flew back inside his separate space, and the same went for his swords. His dark armor also vanished. Noah focused his whole existence on accelerating, but a massive figure appeared on his path before he could even decide where to go.

A rank 8 Eternal Snake in the middle tier appeared above his head and threatened to slam its massive body on his figure. Noah quickly teleported away, but a second giant figure appeared on his path again.

The weaker leaders couldn't keep up with his teleports, but the same didn't apply to those in the middle tier. Those creatures had sharp senses and could follow the movement of his energy through the sky.

Noah continued to teleport, but the leaders forced him to reunite with the rest of his group. The rank 8 Foolery and Fergie searched for answers in his expression, but they only saw hopelessness on his face.

"It has been a good run," Fergie said before closing his eyes.

The Snakes were lowering their bodies to prepare a joint assault from every direction. They had already surrounded Noah and the others. The group had no way out of that situation.

"I know where the thief is!" Noah suddenly shouted while roars resounded through his human voice.

The Snakes were about to launch themselves forward, but a series of hisses suddenly came out of the leaders and forced them to hold back their assault.

Countless reptilian gazed fell on Noah's figure. His mind struggled to remain awake when the aura coming out of the middle tier specimens converged on him.

Fear filled his mind. Noah's instincts knew how hopeless his situation was. Nothing in his arsenal could make him overcome that challenge.

One of the leaders left the group and stretched its massive head toward Noah. Its tongue made the sky tremble whenever it cracked in the air. That creature seemed to be at the very limit of the middle tier.

"How could you know about the thief?" The Snake asked with human words.

"I killed all the Snakes that you sent in the lower plane," Noah said without showing any fear. "The thief is in the Immortal Lands now. I can lead you all to him."

The Snake gave voice to an angry hiss. Noah didn't only kill two crucial members of its pack. He had also tainted the pride of its species!

However, the creature hated someone more than Noah. Shandal had managed to steal an important egg from its pack. The Snake couldn't let that human live, even if it meant letting Noah go.

"Tell me where the thief is," The Snake said, and a cold smile appeared on Noah's face.

"I won't," Noah replied while his smile broadened.

The Snake cracked its tongue on one of the creatures in Noah's pack. The beast directly exploded, but Noah didn't flinch. He wouldn't give up on his advantage even if the Snake decided to kill his entire group.

The leader sensed Noah's determination and gave voice to an angry hiss. Its underlings echoed its cry, but they didn't dare to move.

"I can lead your pack to him," Noah said while blood flowed out of his ears, "But only after we set terms for our agreement. I also want a piece of the thief."

"The thief belongs to us!" The leader shouted, creating a shockwave that made the weaker magical beasts in the area faint. "No one can touch him without my permission!"

"Then you might want to lower your voice," Noah replied without hiding his excitement. "You don't want to kill the only existence in the entire higher plane willing to tell you where the thief is."

Chapter 1537 1537. Kill me

The negotiations with the leader of the Eternal Snakes didn't go as Noah expected. He could force the creature to stop the assault on his group, but he didn't manage to make it seal a long-lasting alliance.

The leader was too proud. Noah had killed two rank 8 Snakes, so he had to pay for that. Knowing about Shandal's position only managed to buy him some time.

The situation changed after Noah sealed that temporary alliance with the Snakes. Those creatures surrounded his group and made sure that no one left that encirclement without their permission.

The Eternal Snakes had become powerful wardens that escorted Noah's group, but they never dared to lower their guards. They didn't underestimate their opponents even when their entire pack was surrounding their enemies.

'How do you plan on getting us out of this situation?' Fergie asked through his consciousness.

'Let's follow the plan for now,' Noah replied. 'The Snakes have to join our assault on the Crystal City anyway. A window will open once chaos falls on the battlefield.'

'Do we have to put our trust in our enemies?' Fergie asked.

'The Crystal City had to face an overwhelming assault only a few millennia ago,' Noah replied. 'Those fanatics have access to countless resources, and many large organizations are willing to help them. We might end up needing the Eternal Snakes far more than our real allies.'

Fergie went silent after that answer. His situation was far from ideal, but he trusted Noah enough to stop questioning his methods.

'It's unwise to try to contact the others now,' Noah thought while his eyes darted among the various middle tier specimens in the enemy pack.

Noah's group had finally reached regions close to the human domain. His inscribed notebook could theoretically contact his allies in the Outer Lands, but the presence of the Eternal Snakes prevented him from sending mental messages outside of the encirclement.

A thick aura covered the stronger Snakes and destroyed any form of mental energy that tried to leave the encirclement. Noah could only use his consciousness to speak to his underlings and explore the environment.

'This might be a good thing,' Noah concluded after reviewing the issue a few times. 'I count four rank 8 magical beasts in the middle tier here. I don't know if I want to make the others face them.'

Noah's army was atypical. His plan also went against the human species. He wanted to assault the first line of defense of the human domain with a platoon made of powerful magical beasts. His actions would label him as one of the worst traitors in the entire Immortal Lands.

Of course, Noah wouldn't care about that title, but he didn't want his friends to face the consequences of his actions again. Divine Demon wasn't an issue, but June and the others were still too weak to become enemies of the entire human domain.

Noah led the two packs on random routes until he found familiar regions. From there, he searched the Land of the Fallen, the area ruled by the pack of Rats.

"It's safer if I speak with them alone," Noah said once the large army stopped at the edge of the Land of the Fallen.

"I will never let you escape my gaze, cunning creature," The leader of the Snakes replied, putting an end to that conversation.

The massive army barged inside the Land of the Fallen without making any attempt to hide their presence. The peak middle tier Snake even left a small platoon outside of the immense regions to make sure that the leader of the Rats couldn't escape what was about to fall on its domain.

Noah couldn't keep his eyes away from the ground. The immense prairie and the various bordering regions featured countless Inheritances, but the situation didn't allow him to explore them.

The leader of the Snakes was already mad that Noah had partially lied about knowing Shandal's exact position. The creature had pretended not to care about it, but Noah could sense that its grudges had deepened.

Truth be told, Noah had begun to respect the Eternal Snakes after spending years traveling with them. His pride had reached an insane level of influence, but those creatures managed to remain unaffected.

Noah couldn't even force some of the weaker Snakes to create openings in the encirclement. The influence of their leader was too intense.

That feat didn't only depend on the power of the leader. It was clear that the peak middle tier Eternal Snake was special even among its species. It was a true leader, a position that Noah had begun to understand only recently.

'It is born to rule,' Noah thought during the flight above the Land of the Fallen.

The atmosphere was tense, but the environment of the Land of the Fallen managed to intensify that feeling. Both packs had to be wary of each other, and the presence of a third group hiding underground only worsened their mindset.

The Rats didn't immediately attack at that time, but both Noah and the peak middle tier leader knew that they were hiding underground. Still, while Noah could keep his cool during the flight, the Snake didn't share the same control.

"Stop staring and come out already!" The leader of the Snakes eventually shouted as loud hisses fused with its human words.

The other Snakes echoed its cry, and the ice under them crumbled to let their massive bodies crash on the ground. The terrain shattered after the fall, but those creatures soon released their innate ability to freeze the whole environment.

Noah promptly considered the possibility to escape, but two pairs of reptilian eyes landed on his figure before he could even start creating a plan.

Two middle tier Eternal Snakes had remained in the air to continue controlling Noah's group. Those creatures were far from stupid.

A sea of large Rats came out of the underground world once ice began to cover the terrain. Their squeaks filled the sky and announced their will to fight the invaders.

Rats appeared everywhere. Noah's group was already deep inside the Land of the Fallen, so those creatures could surround them in an instant. Still, they were all rank 7 specimens that had no hope to win against the many rank 8 Snakes on the ground.

"Hey," Noah said while turning toward the middle tier Snakes around his group, "I'm going down."

"These resources belong to our pack!" One of the Snakes hissed while speaking human words.

"Then kill me," Noah replied in an uncaring tone before a roar came out of his mouth. "Attack!"

His figure shot downward, and a draconic armor covered him before reaching the ground. His pack didn't hesitate to follow him, and the two middle tier Snakes couldn't help but let them join the battle.

'This is the best training ground for my body,' Noah coldly calculated in his mind. 'I might be able to face the Snakes if I manage to approach the breakthrough to the eighth rank before the assault on the Crystal City.'

Noah didn't fully believe in those thoughts. He had spent centuries eating rank 8 magical beasts without obtaining significant benefits. Those rank 7 creatures couldn't do much for his growth.

However, Noah was already calculating Madame Canson's defeat in his plan. There was a slight chance that his potential could finally bring his centers of power into the eighth rank after that feat, which would give him the strength to fight the pack of Snakes.

'We need to force the leader of the Rats outside of its lair anyway,' Noah thought as a wave of flames escaped his mouth and covered the land.

Chapter 1538 1538. Magic

Hordes of rank 7 Rats came out of the ground and assaulted the massive Snakes. Those tiny creatures were little more than dots compared to the immense reptiles, but their reckless assault managed to inflict consistent damage.

The Eternal Snakes could constantly heal thanks to the ice accumulated in the environment, and the Rats had no method to stop that innate ability. Yet, there were thousands of them in the area, and the weaker specimens among the reptiles soon ended up falling apart under their relentless offensive.

The Rats forced their opponents to deplete the ice too quickly. Only the rank 8 Snakes remained untouched during that offensive due to the absence of rank 8 specimens in the enemy army.

Noah revealed his full power, showing how much he had grown throughout the past millennia. He didn't have to worry about his body since the draconic armor protected him, so his ambition could focus on his flames to inflict a catastrophic number of casualties.

The Rats couldn't even try to get close to Noah. They barely managed to leave the underground world. His flames constantly covered his share of the battlefield, and countless flickering bodies converged toward his figure to give him the energy accumulated in the fight.

Noah felt his body advancing far faster than he had initially predicted. He had chosen an isolated spot of the battlefield on purpose, and his decision maximized his gains far beyond his expectations.

It would take thousands of rank 7 magical beasts to match the energy provided by a single rank 8 creature. Still, the pack of Rats had thrived during those millennia, and it had become able to sacrifice entire armies with every assault.

Most of the specimens in those armies were also quite strong. They were either in the middle or upper tier, which didn't reflect what Noah had witnessed during his first attack on those lands.

Even the upper tier Rats couldn't survive Noah's flames, especially when his ambition fueled the innate ability. Those attacks could hurt rank 8 specimens, so the magical beasts could only burn as soon as their heads left the underground world.

The Rats had never faced a similar invasion. Their alliance with the Crystal City had made their borders relatively safe, and the magical beasts nearby didn't carry enough power to attempt a serious assault on those lands.

However, both the Snakes and Noah's group didn't care about the Crystal City, and their overall power far surpassed what rank 7 magical beasts could stop.

Their assault was nothing more than a one-sided slaughter. The rank 7 underlings soon failed to reach their opponents since their rank 8 leaders and Noah took care of most of the Rats.

The Snakes stopped dying once the rank 8 leaders managed to freeze most of the region. The Rats couldn't perform sudden attacks anymore at that point. They could only assault the invaders from distant areas, leaving Noah and the others enough time to counterattack.

'Their fertility is incredible as always,' Noah thought while hovering above the not frozen surface.

The Rats never stopped attacking Noah, but he didn't mind that outcome. He even wished that the assault would last for entire years since the situation was forcing his body to grow at an incredible pace.

There was a sharp difference between hunting a rank 8 magical beast and killing thousands of rank 7 specimens. The former provided far more nutrients, but it took Noah a long battle and an abuse of his ambition to achieve a clean victory.

The ambition then exacted its price, forcing Noah to spend weeks dispersing the accumulated stress. The rank 8 materials obtained in the battle made Noah willing to put his centers of power through that struggle, but the approach wasn't exactly as perfect as he desired.

Instead, the Rats offered Noah a constant wave of nutrients at little to no cost. He was using his ambition only on his flames, which would almost lead to a complete lack of drawbacks.

Fighting the Rats was also far safer, and it didn't require Noah to take long breaks. Noah had already absorbed enough energy to match multiple rank 8 specimens in less than an hour since the beginning of the invasion.

'I hope the leader never comes out!' Noah shouted in his mind without daring to withdraw his flames.

His group was searching for the leader of the area blindly. Their instincts told them that the creature was somewhere near the center of the Land of the Fallen, but they couldn't pinpoint its exact location.

The Rats also lived underground, so they could theoretically escape through paths that the Snakes couldn't sense while busy fighting. Only the reptiles controlling the edges of the region could notice any departing creature.

The battlefield changed at some point. Nothing peculiar had happened until then, so the sudden absence of armies coming out of the ground didn't go unnoticed.

Noah still recalled the wave that had flung him directly into the ambush, but he didn't know how the Rats could pull that off without an army preparing the attack on the ground.

It seemed that the Rats had retreated, but even that option was far away from the truth. The Snakes on the borders would have warned their allies otherwise.

A series of sharp gazes landed on Noah's figure, but he shrugged his shoulders before the Snakes could ask anything. Even he didn't know what was about to come.

Then, a series of squeaks resounded from under the layers of ice and ground under them. They all echoed the same sounds as if they were chanting the words of their leader. Those cries also carried human words meant for the two human figures among the invaders.

"We are ready to throw our entire force at you," The Rats echoed. "We are confident in taking you down, but the effort would cost us years of expansion. Do you have any specific reason behind this invasion?"

'Are they trying to buy some time?' Noah wondered before expanding his consciousness, trying to find anything odd in the presences that he felt.

Noah believed in the power of the Eternal Snakes, but the Rats were too small for those immense creatures. He wouldn't be surprised if some of those beasts managed to escape the encirclement and warn the Crystal City or other allies.

His consciousness and superior awareness didn't find anything unusual, but that didn't disperse his doubts. The Rats were smart enough to have methods that could hide their presence from his inspection.

The leader of the Snakes was about to reply with an angry roar, but Noah's cold gaze promptly landed on its figure and stopped its reckless action.

The creature didn't like having restrictions on its behavior, but it had experienced Noah's ability in negotiations first-hand. The creature limited itself to expand its aura and make its pride fall on the ground while remaining silent, waiting for Noah to work his magic.

The rank 8 Foolery did the same, and it also raised its head toward the sky. The pig knew how useless that action was after regaining its intelligence, but it liked that gesture too much to give it up.

As for Noah, he also expanded his aura to let his pride seep into the ground. Yet, he didn't stop there since the impatient gazes of the Snakes were telling him to handle that situation.

"We are looking for the Crystal City," Noah said, mixing his human words with roars. "I know that you deal with those humans. We'll stop attacking if you tell us where they are."

The Rats didn't answer, and silence soon spread through the entire land. Still, a series of tremors soon filled the area and shattered the layers of ice created by the Snakes.

Once the silver chunks vanished, the whole surface crumbled, revealing a complex underground lair filled with countless Rats that didn't hesitate to jump toward the invaders. A few rank 8 auras also spread from that immense army.

Chapter 1539 1539. Endless

The army of Rats featured less rank 8 magical beasts than Noah's group, but they seemed pretty threatening according to his instincts. The main reason behind that danger was that Noah couldn't find the source of their auras among that horde of creatures.

It was as if they were underground. The countless rank 7 Rats around them hid their presence and allowed them to move freely among their enemies.

Noah quickly resorted to his flames, and the Snakes didn't hesitate to spit their silver liquid. The other magical beasts and Fergie also activated their abilities while focusing on attacks that could affect large areas.

The joint offensive turned out to be quite effective since countless Rats died during the wave of attacks, but the invaders soon had to change their minds.

There were too many Rats. Even attacks with power in the eighth rank could only kill the hundreds of magical beasts gathered in the external parts of that wave of creatures.

The Rats filled the sky and used their companions' bodies to move through the air. They almost seemed able to fly in that situation. The decent mid-air agility of the Snakes was nothing compared to that offensive.

It didn't take much before the Rats engulfed all the existences in the sky. They resembled a sea that had taken control of the sky, and the leaders hidden among the rank 7 beasts could even move freely in that situation.

Noah couldn't see much among the sea of magical beasts swarming around him. Those creatures even affected his consciousness, forcing him to rely on his instincts to sense when something dangerous was about to approach his position.

His previous release of pride had turned him into a target. Noah soon sensed that a threat was approaching his position at high speed, and his ambition promptly began to fuel the draconic armor.

A large chunk of his armor suddenly disappeared as a shadow ran past him. The creature had marched through his flames and its many companions to reach Noah and launch a piercing attack.

'One of the rank 8 Rats is hiding here,' Noah quickly concluded in his mind before a simple plan formed in his mind.

Through his many talents and intelligent use of his ambition, Noah could open a path among that furry sea and find the rank 8 specimen. The massive assault would immediately lose one of its threatening aspects at that point.

However, that approach could force the Rats to retreat. Those creatures were willing to sacrifice hordes of rank 7 specimens, but Noah didn't know how they would react to the loss of one of their leaders.

Noah didn't want them to retreat. He liked that situation. The Rats were virtually unable to hurt him, and the swarm of creatures provided him with an endless flow of nutrients.

Noah could obtain an unfathomable number of benefits if he managed to stall the situation. He didn't dream of reaching the peak of the upper tier in one go, but he hoped to get close enough to the breakthrough to advance after the battle in the Crystal City.

'The rank 8 Foolery can't defeat the stronger Rats in this situation,' Noah thought. 'The Snakes will freeze the sky around them and slowly defeat the whole army, but that will take time.'

The situation seemed perfect for his plan. Noah had the power to inflict a significant loss, but he decided to hold back. He even withdrew his draconic armor to fake a moment of weakness.

His ambition switched its focus. Noah didn't even need to empower his flames anymore. He only needed to make his law push his body beyond its actual limits, and his innate ability would naturally benefit from that effect.

Noah stood naked among the army of magical beasts. Those weak specimens managed to destroy his robe in an instant, but they couldn't leave even the faintest mark on his body.

The dangerous sensation appeared again, and an immense force soon landed on Noah's forehead. Still, the impact only made him turn his head, even if a small cut had appeared there.

'Not bad,' Noah thought while inspecting the prowess of his body. 'I'm getting close to the raw physical strength of a rank 8 magical beast, and my body has yet to advance!'

There was a difference between an actual breakthrough and the empowerment obtained through his ambition. Noah knew that his law could only imitate his growth, but it couldn't express the real benefits that the process brought.

Moreover, Noah wasn't using his ambition to improve his body in terms of ranks. He was only bringing its prowess to the eighth rank without modifying its actual level.

That was the same use applied to his attacks and abilities. His ambition made them able to hurt stronger creatures without actually empowering their raw power.

It was something similar to what Divine Demon did with his Miracles, except that Noah didn't rely on the world to turn the impossible into possible. His ambition made him realize what his potential believed he would eventually achieve.

That second use of his ambition led to harsher drawbacks, but it also allowed Noah to surpass what the simple growth of his centers of power could achieve.

Of course, that was only true while his level remained inside the same stage and tier. The first method would lead to greater benefits once his ambition allowed Noah to step into the eighth rank.

His law had yet to become able to do that, but Noah didn't know how much he desired to experience the drawbacks connected to that empowerment. Forcefully reaching the eighth rank would make him spend decades to recover. He wouldn't even be surprised if the stress would put him into seclusion for entire centuries.

Noah burned everything around him. The endless flow of nutrients healed all the minor injuries that the rank 8 Rat managed to inflict before sending the remaining energy toward his black hole.

Those Rats were among the weakest species of magical beasts. They founded their true power on their fertility, but that put their leaders at a significant disadvantage.

They would need four to six rank 8 Rats to match the power of an actual rank 8 magical beast, and that ended up working perfectly for Noah. He could limit the amount of ambition used during the fight to maintain his empowerment as long as he desired.

The rank 8 Rat that had chosen him as its opponent soon left. It understood that Noah wasn't really fighting, and its power alone didn't make it able to do much against that enemy.

The creature joined its companions only to find out that their situation was almost the same. The rank 8 Foolery was quite resilient, and the Snakes had too many rank 8 specimens to even think about winning that battle.

The Rats had managed to kill many rank 7 specimens, but they became unable to touch them after they hid behind the ice. Even the magical beasts belonging to Noah's pack and Fergie had to resort to the Snakes' innate ability to survive in that situation.

It was clear that the Rats couldn't win in that situation. They were only wasting troops to defend an alliance with the humans. They soon expressed their feelings through loud squeaks, and the ground spoke again, telling them to retreat.

The furry sea quickly vanished, revealing the outcome of that long battle. The Rats had lost tens of thousands of rank 7 specimens, but their opponents had also suffered. Most of the rank 7 Snakes had died, and Noah could see that even his army had turned into nothing more than a small platoon.

Only the smartest creatures in his army had survived. White, Greeny, Grey, and Fergie were still alive together with less than a hundred other specimens.

The Rats didn't immediately return underground. They waited on the surface, staring at their opponents with resolute expressions. They seemed willing to resume their reckless offensive as soon as one of their enemies decided to launch an attack.

Even the Snakes understood that it was time to talk. Noah and the others waited in the sky until a throne made of Rats came out of the ground. A specimen in the middle tier sat on it and adjusted its black crown while nearing its enemies.

Chapter 1540 1540. Anger

The army of Rats created a staircase with their bodies to lift the throne higher in the sky. The crown on the leader's head kept on sliding away, but the creature repeatedly adjusted it with its claws.

The scene almost looked funny, but the threatening aura radiated by the middle tier Rat made the whole situation too tense for those kinds of thoughts.

"I am the Rat King, you hateful invaders," The middle tier Rat announced once it reached its opponents. "I suggest you leave my domain immediately. I don't mind unleashing the full power of my pack to send you away."

"You have already tried," Noah replied while spreading his arms. "We are still here."

The Rat King snorted before giving voice to a faint squeak. The beasts under it echoed its cry, and multiple powerful auras surged from different spots of the region.

Those auras carried a power that Noah knew far too well. They belonged to magical beasts in the eighth rank, and some of them were in the middle tier.

The pack of Rats had kept its true power hidden until now. Its platoons had been in different areas of the Land of the Fallen. Yet, they had managed to gather around the invaders during the previous battle.

'They are more than us now,' Noah concluded after a quick inspection of the threats that had surrounded his group.

The situation was still in his favor. There were only six auras with power in the middle tier, and less than twenty in the lower tier. The four middle tier Snakes were still enough to fend those creatures off, but the battle would be far bloodier now.

"Tell me," The Rat King continued. "How long will you take to refill these losses? My species doesn't need much to improve and give birth to new beasts. I bet your kind needs thousands of years to obtain a new creature in the seventh rank."

The leader of the Snakes wanted to hiss in anger. The creature hated Shandal because he had managed to steal a valuable egg from its pack. It had the same feelings toward Noah since he had killed two powerful underlings. The Rats had entered that list, but the Snake would only suffer significant losses if it were to attack now.

Noah had long since reached the same conclusions. The Eternal Snakes were nigh-immortal creatures capable of insane physical might and a threatening innate ability, so they had to have heavy limits on their fertility. Their pride had even forced them to pursue Shandal, which had led them to that situation.

Noah didn't know the details behind Shandal's achievement, but he could understand how mad the Snakes were. Their situation kept worsening and continued to put them into spots where their superior prowess was useless.

The leader of the Snakes could only glance at Noah again. The creature didn't know how to handle that situation. It could only rely on its canny companion to get what it wanted.

"You would have already attacked if you felt confident in defeating us," Noah said, ignoring the pressure radiated by Snake. "It's clear that you want us to cooperate on a certain level. What's your price?"

The Rat King's eyes sharpened when Noah's words reached its ears. He was right. An all-out battle wouldn't benefit its pack either. It might even force those creatures to abandon the Land of the Fallen.

Many packs sought to conquer the Land of the Fallen due to its strong foundation. The energy leaked by the many Inheritances kept the environment rich in resources and allowed the Rats to expand almost endlessly.

Any other region would have already transformed into a wasteland. The Crystal City also helped the Rats keeping their domain intact. Their cooperation served multiple purposes, especially when it came to preserving those areas.

Still, the magical beasts were prideful beings. No number of benefits could force them into submission for longer than a few millennia. The Rats had endured that cooperation to build a pack capable of running freely through the Immortal Lands, but they had reached the point when they wanted to separate themselves from those fanatics.

An all-out battle against Noah's group would delay their plan by many millennia. The Rat King could lose the support of its underlings if it forced them to wait for so long before reclaiming complete freedom. It was a risky approach that the leader didn't want to test.

"What makes you think that we know the new location of the Crystal City?" The Rat King asked.

"I wasn't sure that they had changed location," Noah replied while wearing a cold smile. "Thank you for confirming that."

The Rat King immediately recognized its mistake. The news of the attack on the Crystal City had spread throughout the whole human domain and many bordering regions. Any magical beast interested in an invasion knew about that.

"You are a tricky one," The Rat King said.

"And you have yet to name a price," Noah replied.

Noah and the Rat King stared at each other in silence for a few seconds before the latter heaved a helpless sigh. A squeak escaped its mouth, and the rank 8 auras in its pack disappeared.

"How can you be sure that we know their location?" The Rat King asked even if it had already accepted to negotiate.

"I know that you have spies in the nearby regions," Noah replied honestly. "I would be disappointed if you didn't send a few of them to follow your human allies."

"It seems that we aren't ready to devour the human domain," The Rat King sighed. "It would be a problem if we were to meet other smart existences like you."

"You can always give me that crown and make me your new leader," Noah replied, but the Rat ignored his words before descending toward the surface.

The army of Rats opened an ample space on the terrain, and Noah nodded at the rest of his group. They descended toward that empty spot and waited for the enemy leader to name its desires.

"We don't need much to thrive," The Rat King said once everyone landed, "But I have many mouths to feed. Satisfy our hunger for a while, and I'll give you what you need."

Noah took out the corpses of the two rank 8 Eternal Snakes. Those creatures were so big that they could probably meet the Rat King's requests.

The leader of the Snakes shot a hateful glance toward Noah, but he ignored the creature. That wasn't the time to be angry about the dead.

"Wonderfu-!" The Rat King exclaimed before suppressing its excited voice. "This satisfies us. Go, my children. Eat, reproduce, and grow!"

The army of Rats jumped toward the two corpses, but Noah promptly stored them back inside his separate space. The creatures remained dumbfounded, and countless questioning gazes landed on him.

"First, you need to tell me the new location of the Crystal City," Noah said in a cold tone. "Second, I want one of your middle tier underlings as a guide."

"Do you dare to question the value of my word?!" The Rat King shouted, and its underlings echoed its angry cry.

A series of soundwaves engulfed Noah's group, but they didn't carry any harm. The Rats were trying to scare their opponents, but they failed in the task.

"These are my conditions," Noah said once the angry cries went silent. "Also, you might want to consider your current situation before attempting something like this again. My friend there doesn't like this behavior."

The Rat King turned toward the leader of the Snakes and realized how angry that creature was. It appeared on the verge of exploding. The slightest push would make it forsake those negotiations and resume a mindless assault.