

DEMONIC 1541

Chapter 1541 1541. Defenses

The negotiations ended quickly. The Rat King couldn't refuse Noah's conditions after exposing its willingness to sever its ties with the Crystal City.

It turned out that the Crystal City had numerous castles situated past the edges of the human domain. Noah had already guessed that, but he didn't expect the Rats to be aware of that feature.

Still, they only knew the location of one of the castles, which was the new home of the fanatics who had survived the assault of the Legion.

The Rats weren't aware of the full power of the Crystal City. They only knew that the new location had multiple defenses capable of fending off any investigation.

'This should work in my favor,' Noah thought after assimilating that information. 'The Crystal City must have set powerful defenses for fear of a second assault. Losing the Snakes shouldn't be a problem once the battle starts.'

The Rat King appointed one of its underlings in the middle tier to lead Noah's group toward the new castle. They didn't hesitate to leave the Land of the Fallen at that point. The Snakes couldn't waste time anymore, and even Noah couldn't wait to face a rank 8 cultivator.

The journey didn't take much. The middle tier Rat even led Noah's groups through paths that wouldn't alert the Crystal City or its allies. Those creatures could only benefit from the destruction of that organization, so they tried to help Noah and the Snakes as much as possible.

In a little more than a few years, Noah and the others found themselves in front of a large forest that featured a tall palace at its center. The environment didn't have a single magical beast. Only the distant structure featured powerful entities.

"My task is complete," The middle tier Rat said. "Good luck in your battle."

The creature left the group to return to its pack. Only Noah, his underlings, the Foolery, and the Snakes remained in the area.

"What are we waiting for?" The leader of the Snakes quickly asked. "Why don't we simply charge ahead?"

Noah didn't answer. His mood worsened as he inspected the environment. He couldn't sense much from his position, but his instincts told him that the area had countless defenses.

'No clear way in,' Noah concluded. 'We can only barge into the castle. Many of us will be unable to reach the insides of the structure.'

It had taken Noah a lot to reach that secret place. He had also trained for a long time, but he still couldn't feel sure about the success of the assault.

"Can you handle the many defenses along the road?" Noah asked the leader of the Snakes. "They are quite scary. Even my instincts fear the forest."

Noah had chosen his words carefully to make sure that the Snakes would take the bait. He wanted a diversion, and only those creatures were strong enough to attract the entire attention of the Crystal City.

Their pride was the only flaw that Noah could exploit. Telling the Snakes how powerful the defenses of the palace were only made them want to charge ahead.

"What will you do if we charge ahead?" The leader of the Snakes asked.

The creature didn't let its pride blind its decisions. It knew that Noah was smart enough to understand his situation. The Snake didn't doubt that he was aware of its plan to attack him as soon as Shandal died.

"I will attack from above," Noah replied. "My pack doesn't have your healing ability. Most of us will die if we charge ahead."

"I don't believe your words," The Snake said. "How can I be sure that you won't use this chance to escape?"

Noah couldn't gain the Snake's trust in those short seconds. Words were also useless against that smart magical beast. Still, he didn't lie when he said that his pack couldn't handle the defenses.

The memories of his imprisonment in the Crystal City slowly surged inside his mind. Noah recalled the helplessness felt in front of his dying friends and the hatred gathered after Shandal's betrayal.

His aura expanded and conveyed those emotions. Intense anger and hatred enveloped the group of Snakes before taking the shape of two faces. One of them depicted Madame Canson, while the other represented Shandal.

The Snakes understood that those feelings weren't a lie. Noah's hatred ran deep into his existence. It was even more intense than their grudge against Shandal.

The leader of the Snakes remained speechless. It had never considered Noah worthy of attention, but he acknowledged him when it sensed his feelings.

After a moment of hesitation, the peak middle tier Snake nodded and gave voice to a loud hiss that made its entire pack charge ahead.

'This dumb creature!' Noah cursed in his mind at that scene. 'It didn't even let me prepare!'

Noah quickly roared before shooting toward the sky. His pack and the Foolery followed him, and they quickly reached a spot from where the forest was nothing more than a faint dot.

"It's time to go all-out," Noah said in his human voice.

His message was for Fergie. He was the only one who had suffered more than him during the events with the Crystal City.

"I can't wait," Fergie replied while Noah inspected his army.

Noah had spent entire millennia with some of those creatures, and all of them had grown in that period. Many of them had been nothing more than lower tier magical beasts at the beginning, but they stood near the peak of the upper tier now.

Even Fergie had an impressive growth. He was a fully-fledged solid stage cultivator now. His body had also advanced in the upper tier during their journey back to the human domain. Nothing of his weak past self had remained in his existence.

The Foolery also counted many upper tier creatures. They had thrived during the journey across the magical beasts' domain, and they had silently decided to follow Noah anywhere he went. They were already part of his pack, even if they had yet to realize that.

"Let's go," Noah said before diving toward the palace.

His pack followed him, and they all started to unleash their abilities to prepare for the imminent battle. Noah did the same, and his ambition ended up covering his group during the descent.

A draconic armor covered Noah's figure, and his centers of power reached the peak of the seventh rank. The dark world expanded, and the workshop activated, providing him with four additional arms and an army of six-armed dragons.

The sky darkened as the group descended. Noah's influence dimmed the white light and created a falling dark cloud. Still, the cultivators inside the palace didn't have the time to focus on them.

The Eternal Snakes slithered through the forest, releasing their silver liquid into the environment. Ice covered the terrain and the trees, but defenses suddenly activated.

A series of explosions happened. Traps placed underground detonated, shattering the ice and reducing most of those creatures into pieces. Even the specimens in the eighth rank suffered severe injuries.

The ice healed the Snakes and rendered those detonations useless. The traps wouldn't achieve anything as long as those creatures remained able to use their innate ability.

Pillars made of purple light eventually shone inside the forest. The trees and ground morphed inside that radiance and took the shape of tall golems with power in the eighth rank.

The strongest Snakes separated from the pack and clashed with the golems. The impact destroyed them, but the purple light quickly forced the environment to fix their bodies. Yet, that gave the Snakes enough time to freeze everything.

Once the golems transformed into frozen statues, the Snakes continued their advance and triggered another series of defenses. Beams of purple light shot out of the palace and pierced the incoming magical beasts.

The ice fixed their injuries in seconds. Nothing seemed able to stop the Eternal Snakes. Even the defenses of one of the strongest organizations in the human domain were useless against those nigh-immortal creatures.

Chapter 1542 1542. Pay

The Crystal City had methods to notice Noah and the others, but the Eternal Snakes claimed the full attention of their sensors. Moreover, those cultivators wouldn't mind the small pack in the air when they had middle tier magical beasts laying waste to their defenses.

A purple dome quickly covered the palace while other defenses shot out of the structure and terrain. More rank 8 golems and light appeared in the forest and clashed with the Snakes.

The Crystal City had a vast network. It gathered information both from organizations and magical beasts. Having to face a sudden assault was almost impossible.

However, the Rat had led Noah's group through secret paths. The Eternal Snakes could attack before the Crystal City could deploy its defenses in a proper formation.

The Snakes only had to defeat the few defenses that managed to appear on their paths before charging ahead. Their advance would have been far slower if the Crystal City had managed to deploy everything together.

Two powerful figures soon appeared above the palace. Madame Canson and a second rank 8 cultivator wearing the colors of the Crystal City inspected the pack of Snakes before glancing toward the sky.

The descending dark cloud carried a few threats, but they were nothing compared to the middle tier beasts slithering on the ground. The cultivators had to take care of the Snakes if they wanted their palace to survive.

Madame Canson raised her hand toward the sky, and purple crystals began to appear among the various lights surrounding the palace. Both the shield and the pillars became stronger under the influence of her law.

The second rank 8 cultivator spread his arms forward, and a series of walls grew around the structure. Sharp spikes also grew from them before they shot toward the incoming Snakes.

The golems became bigger under the enhanced purple light. A series of metallic armors also grew from the ground, and a few solid stage cultivators exited the palace to wear them.

The Crystal City was getting ready to fight the Eternal Snakes face to face. As for the army in the sky, the cultivators left them to the purple shield and the two rank 8 cultivators.

'Madame Canson is enhancing every defense,' Noah thought while diving toward the structure. 'The other rank 8 cultivator seems to have a tight connection with the ground and the palace as a whole. Maybe he is even controlling the various protections.'

Noah believed that Madame Canson had yet to recognize him. After all, her attention was on the Eternal Snakes, and she had yet to see that the dark aura in the sky hid human figures.

The area around the palace fell into chaos. Countless golems and armors handled by cultivators charged toward the Eternal Snakes while a barrage of beams attacked those creatures.

The assault had yet to kill one of the Snakes, but even the middle tier specimens had to acknowledge the power behind that offensive.

The defenses illuminated by the purple light enhanced by Madame Canson's crystals had become able to overcome rank 8 magical beasts. The metallic armors handled by rank 7 cultivators weren't an exception. Those underlings could even deploy battle formations that better suited the situation.

The Eternal Snakes were among the most ruthless and powerful species that Noah had ever met, but they had to stop in front of so many defenses. Their ice shattered before reaching the ground, and injuries were slowly accumulating on their massive bodies.

A golem would crumble from time to time. The Snakes even managed to crush some of the armors with their bodies. However, they found themselves unable to advance against that barrage of powerful attacks.

Noah moved his attention away from the battlefield when his group was about to reach the defensive dome. The light reflected by the purple crystals managed to pierce his dark world and illuminate the area again, but his ambition continued to burn stronger than ever.

'This is a defensive method meant to stop rank 8 existences,' Noah thought as his ambition intensified.

His law used his potential to bring his might far beyond his previous limits. It made Noah feel more powerful than ever.

The challenge that the Crystal City had placed in front of Noah forced his law to do more. He even believed that his ambition was almost ready to bring his centers of power into the eighth rank.

'Not yet,' Noah thought before pointing his blades toward the dome. 'Let's see how far I am from actual rank 8 cultivators.'

The Demonic Form spread from his palm and covered his draconic figure. The dark world also transformed, taking pointy shape with the peak where his blades converged.

The rest of the pack was behind Noah and continued to follow him without slowing down. Those creatures had seen him fighting rank 8 magical beasts without advancing in the eighth rank. They firmly believed that the dome would crumble once it met his blades.

The impact eventually happened. Noah's blades touched the dome, and all the power accumulated around his figure fell on those purple crystals.

Noah stopped for an instant, but a spiderweb of cracks soon spread from where his blades had touched the dome. Madame Canson felt forced to raise her head to stare at the scene, but she had decided to pay attention to the pack above her one instant too late.

Before Madame Canson could send more power to the technique, the dome shattered, and a series of purple shards rained toward the palace. The other rank 8 cultivator also raised his head to stare at the scene, but his companion didn't let him diverge his attention from the battlefield.

"I will handle them," Madame Canson said, and an army of rank 7 cultivators appeared above the palace.

Noah recognized some of them. Miss Canson, Shandal, Miss Nine, God's Right Hand, and other cultivators met in his previous visit in the Crystal City were among them.

"Make these beasts understand the difference between our kinds!" Madame Canson shouted, and the army charged ahead.

A purple light shone from Madame Canson's figure, and crystals began to cover her underlings. Their power immediately increased, and some of them even began to step past the limits of the eighth rank.

Noah expanded his dark world, creating an immense descending cloud that covered the whole palace. Blackness and purple light had taken control of that area of the sky, and none of them wanted to retreat.

'Let's take care of that first,' Noah thought before moving toward a specific cultivator.

Shandal was flying ahead. His figure brimmed with azure light that slowed down the advance of the magical beasts directly above him. However, a draconic figure suddenly filled his vision, and his centers of power stopped working.

Madame Canson and the other powerful cultivators among the army didn't overlook that event. Noah radiated one of the two dangerous auras among his group. They had seen how Shandal had disappeared as soon as Noah's dark wings had enveloped his body.

A vague guess appeared in their minds, but Noah didn't give them the time to think. His figure vanished and reappeared above Madame Canson, where he launched one of his strongest attacks.

Madame Canson had been able to follow Noah's movements. The invisible sharp energy launched by him transformed into purple crystals before it could reach her face.

Noah didn't give up and teleported again, appearing right behind her. His blades flashed again, and a dark halo expanded as his sharpness flew toward Madame Canson.

His attack failed to reach his opponent again. His sharpness transformed into purple crystals that added a layer of protection to Madame Canson. She was transforming his energy into power that she could use to fuel her abilities.

"You aren't a beast," Madame Canson said in a surprised tone, "But you aren't a human either."

Noah thrust his blades, and the defenses around Madame Canson shattered. However, his sharpness transformed into purple crystals right before reaching the center of her forehead.

"You are Defying Demon!" Madame Canson exclaimed while her aura expanded. "I was waiting for you. It's time to pay for what your friends did the last time."

Chapter 1543 1543. Influence

Noah glanced at the rank 8 cultivator behind Madame Canson. The expert was ignoring the battles around him and focusing only on the fights happening around the palace.

"You don't have to worry about Monsieur Evan," Madame Canson said when she noticed where Noah's consciousness was moving. "He won't interrupt our battle."

A chill ran down Noah's spine, but he managed to suppress his instincts. Madame Canson had managed to sense his inspection without unfolding her consciousness. Her experience in the eighth rank wasn't something that Noah could underestimate.

'I lose in sheer power and experience,' Noah concluded in his mind. 'I guess I need to rely on my innate advantages.'

Noah had deployed the full potential of his ambition. His law was empowering his centers of power, companions, and abilities. Every aspect of his existence had grown to the point when he could hurt rank 8 beings.

Snore, Duanlong, and Night flew out of his figure and took their position. The Snake unfolded its massive wings, the dragon opened its monstrous mouth, and the Pterodactyl fused with the world, waiting for an opportunity.

Madame Canson wanted to maintain an aloof expression, but her eyes flickered when she sensed the power radiated by Noah's companions. Noah's strength had multiplied. She suddenly had multiple divine opponents in front of her.

"You dare to attack the human domain with an army of magical beasts," Madame Canson sighed. "Then, you rely on those despicable creatures to increase your battle prowess. You are too far gone. My victory will seal the human superiority once and for all."

Noah had enough of that speech. Power had never been good or evil in his mind. It had always been something above ethic and stupid labels.

Snore spat a wave of violent dark matter. Its attack shattered part of the palace but stopped once it reached Madame Canson. Even its destructive energy transformed into purple crystals when it touched her influence.

Duanlong's pulling force began to affect the environment. Tiles and chunks of the palace rose in the air and converged in its mouth. The various energies in the area also flew toward the dragon, and the same applied to Madame Canson's influence.

The pulling force also affected Monsieur Evan's energy. The rank 8 expert couldn't help but turn toward Noah and reveal a surprised expression. He had heard the stories about Noah, but that show of power surpassed his wildest expectations.

Madame Canson tried to raise her hand, but a layer of crystals suddenly materialized on her elbow. A large cut opened on that protection, and the force transmitted in the impact pushed her arm down.

Noah swung his blades. The invisible sharpness launched during the attack fused with the violent dark matter in the area and pierced the crystals defending the experts. A few more appeared on Madame Canson's skin, but even they crumbled under the might of Noah's offensive.

Madame Canson flew backward, but she quickly stopped herself mid-air. Her face still lacked any emotion, but her eyes were slowly starting to show how surprised she was.

Noah couldn't feel happy about that outcome. He was resorting to his full power, but Madame Canson was able to stop his offensive with basic abilities.

'I'm sure I didn't overestimate myself,' Noah thought while inspecting his opponent.

The many battles against rank 8 magical beasts had proven to Noah that he was ready to face rank 8 cultivators. His current struggle could only mean that Madame Canson was stronger than the average rank 8 expert.

"Are you done?" Madame Canson asked while floating above Noah. "Did you think that a few magical beasts and some tricks could be enough to defeat us?"

Crystals grew on Madame Canson's skin. They transformed her figure into a shining armor that empowered her base power. Even her aura thickened and intensified the effects applied on her underlings.

Noah saw the army of cultivators pushing back his pack and the Foolery. A small platoon took care of isolating the rank 8 pig while the others relied on their superior battle tactics to defeat the other magical beasts.

Only Fergie was managing to endure that clever assault. A raging sun rotated above his head and launched massive fireballs toward any cultivator that tried to approach him.

Fergie had already understood that he couldn't let the battle continue like that. He had to do something to regain the upper hand, but his power didn't allow him to do much in that situation.

Miss Nine and the other cultivators who had received Madame Canson's blessing were too powerful. Their power was almost beyond the limits of the seventh rank. They were the strongest existences under the eighth rank.

Fergie could handle one of them, but they would quickly overwhelm him if he didn't let his companions share that burden. Madame Canson's law even worsened his situation since Noah's ambition couldn't keep up with her influence.

Noah was losing on every field. He wasn't inferior only in experience and sheer power. His pack and law were also weaker than Madame Canson and her army.

'She is still playing with me,' Noah concluded while glancing at the crystal armor floating in the air. 'She has yet to launch a single attack. I bet she wants me to watch my army falling apart.'

Noah dispersed his draconic armor and revealed his real body. The copies of the swords also vanished, leaving him with nothing more than a layer of dark matter covering his skin.

The Demonic Form expanded. Its roots thickened as Noah forced the black hole to remove its restrictions.

'I can also play this game,' Noah suppressed the sense of weakness surging inside his mind before teleporting.

His figure reappeared among the enemy army and attracted the attention of the underlings. They all turned toward Noah and launched a reckless offensive, hoping to get rid of that threat.

"No, wait!" Madame Canson tried to warn her troops, but her words were too slow.

The expert tried to intensify her empowerment, but there was a limit to how much she could improve her underlings. Her law couldn't create other rank 8 existences, and that was enough for Noah.

The dense array of attacks vanished when it neared Noah. The roots coming out of his right palm spread further and created an area when even the air couldn't exist.

The corrosive aura radiated by the Demonic Form intensified. The roots tightened on Noah's swords while he lifted his arms. The blades then released a black flash, and the battlefield went silent.

Tens of solid stage cultivators empowered by Madame Canson had neared Noah in the hope to kill him. They had created an encirclement that could even threaten some weaker rank 8 existences.

However, Noah was different. Those cultivators had Madame Canson's crystals, but they couldn't generate them without her power. Noah could kill them as long as his offensive pierced their defenses.

The cultivators around Noah seemed to multiply, but Madame Canson didn't fail to understand the true nature of that gruesome scene. Noah's attack had cut all of them in half, and the corrosive energy that had accompanied his sharpness also devoured their tissues.

In little more than a few seconds, that group of elite peak rank 7 cultivators vanished without leaving anything behind. Noah's cold eyes landed on Madame Canson at that point, and the expert understood the meaning behind his glare.

Madame Canson retracted her purple radiance, dispersing the empowerment applied to her underlings. Noah's ambition couldn't match her influence, but he could force her to focus only on him.

"You have lost the only chance of draining my energy," Madame Canson announced in a cold tone. "I can focus all my power on you now. How long can you last with centers of power in the seventh rank?"

Madame Canson was right, but her aloof expression froze when she sensed that Noah's aura went past the limits of the seventh rank. Noah was stepping in the eighth rank right in front of her eyes.

Chapter 1544 1544. Evolution

Noah had acknowledged his powerlessness in those short exchanges. His best efforts couldn't even force Madame Canson to attack. He would only run out of darkness if he kept launching a pointless offensive.

His battle prowess was almost there. The fusion of his enhanced centers of power, companions, and abilities placed him near Madame Canson's level, but he needed to take another step forward.

Noah knew that his potential could bring him into the eighth rank, but his worries had held him back. The fear of the drawbacks had applied limits on his law.

Those limits mostly came from his survival instincts. Noah knew that his ambition would exact an immense price once his empowerment ran out. Still, he didn't know what else he could do to defeat Madame Canson.

Noah had three trump cards in his arsenal, but one of them was too dangerous, and the other required time to activate. Only his ambition could give him the chance to fight Madame Canson on an even field without ensuring his death.

Noah felt his mind, dantian, and body crossing a limit that he knew far too well. His ambition stopped empowering his many abilities to focus its entire influence on his centers of power, finally bringing them to a level that Noah had sought for millennia.

Of course, the ambition couldn't replicate the power that Noah would obtain after real breakthroughs. It could only guess what his strength would be according to the experience gained throughout his life.

His mind expanded, and his mental waves managed to seep into the matter of the world. Noah felt able to change the laws that ruled the sky at will. He could alter the environment as he wished.

A wave of power filled his body. Noah couldn't help but tighten his fist for fear of exploding due to the immense energy running through his tissues. He had never felt so powerful. Even his strongest attack couldn't match that incredible sensation.

His dantian emptied while his ambition pushed him into the eighth rank. His darkness vanished in an instant, but an unstable gas quickly replaced it.

That new energy began to fuel his ambition, which completed the empowerment without needing external power. Noah's law was improving his foundation so that it could continue to intensify.

Noah felt whole once his centers of power stepped into the eighth rank. His ambition shot in every direction and transformed the white light into dense trails of smoke. The sky couldn't fight him back anymore and let his influence taint its fabric.

Madame Canson wanted to stop that evolution, but Noah's companions promptly appeared on her path. They were also passively benefitting from his ambition, so nothing managed to reach their Master.

The expert tried to launch waves of light that gave birth to purple crystals, but most of them ended inside Duanlong's mouth. Night also cut them into countless pieces to quicken their destruction, and Snore never stopped filling the area with its violent dark matter.

Noah's eyes fell on his opponent once his evolution ended. Madame Canson sensed an immense pressure landing on her mind and trying to suppress her consciousness.

Surprise finally appeared in her expression. Madame Canson had met rank 8 cultivators stronger than her throughout her life, but she had never seen a newly advanced existence capable of exerting such intense pressure.

The reports of her underlings were on point. Noah was a monster that didn't respect the power level of the three species. He was in a different league, far above magical beasts, humans, and hybrids.

"I must stop you!" Madame Canson shouted while pointing her hands at her opponent. "You embody the unbalance that fills the world. You can't be allowed to grow further!"

The lumps of black smoke surrounding Noah transformed into crystals before taking the shape of humanoid armors. Those puppets grew as Madame Canson sent more energy toward her technique, and they soon became as tall as the whole palace.

The roof began to crumble, but Madame Canson didn't care about the palace. The Crystal City could always rebuild them. Killing Noah before he became strong enough to threaten her organization was the priority.

"You should wait for the explosion," Noah said without minding the giants.

"The what?" Madame Canson asked while the giants tried to slam their massive arms on Noah.

The space around Noah suddenly twisted. The laws of the world stopped working as a dense aura covered his figure. Madame Canson could sense that Noah didn't activate any technique, but she didn't care about the matter enough to stop her offensive.

The puppets' arms stopped moving as soon as they landed on that dense aura. The crystals that made their limbs also shattered when the density of that energy increased.

Madame Canson didn't know what to think. She could even see that Noah was curious about that power as well. It seemed that they were both waiting for that technique to show its might.

Noah's black hole went out of control. The new darkness that filled his dantian flowed toward his fourth center of power and transformed the higher energy.

A blinding dark light seeped out of Noah's figure. The purple and white glow in the sky vanished in front of that radiance.

A black gas slowly flowed out of Noah's skin. It seemed on the verge of obtaining a liquid state, but it also appeared unable to reach that form. The higher energy expanded around Noah and created a series of raging currents that gave birth to a rotating sphere.

The abilities of the weaker underlings in the sky stopped working. Noah's black hole absorbed their energy before it could flow into their techniques.

The same happened to Madame Canson and Monsieur Evan. Their "Breath" escaped from their control and flowed toward the black hole that had enveloped Noah.

The black hole didn't directly absorb that energy. It shattered and reassembled it to create Noah's darkness before fusing it with its fabric.

The gas rotating inside its spherical shape slowly condensed and eventually transformed into a dense liquid that continued to churn inside the massive black hole. Its gravitational pull began to affect the defenses outside of the palace at that point. Rivers of debris, ground, and energy flowed toward its raging waters and fused with its fabric.

Noah had no control over that process, but he did nothing to stop it. The evolution of the black hole was happening right in front of his eyes, and his desire to become stronger only intensified.

The black hole had catastrophic effects on the environment, and that wasn't its true form. The rank 8 darkness reached through Noah's ambition was a weaker version of what he would eventually obtain. His fourth center of power could become even stronger than that.

The sphere enlarged as energy continued to flow into its shape. Madame Canson tried to launch attacks for a while, but everything seemed pointless against those raging waters. Her crystals always ended up fueling the black hole rather than hurting it.

The black hole stabilized once all the energy in its insides had taken a liquid form. The organ began to shrink and took its place at the center of Noah's chest again.

Noah had to crouch to endure the wave of energy that had flowed through his tissues as soon as the black hole resumed its normal functions. Every inch of his body went through a second empowerment that brought his overall power to a superior level.

The same went for his companions, even if Snore and Duanlong obtained the greatest benefits. They were creatures made of dark matter, so their entire body transformed once the new higher energy flowed into their fabric.

Noah gave voice to a roar that made the whole area tremble. The damaged palace began to crumble, and soundwaves spread in every direction. His voice carried his ecstasy and his desire to defy the very rulers of the world.

Sparks began to accumulate high in the sky. No lightning bolt fell on the battlefield, but it was clear that Heaven and Earth were paying attention to that fight. They even seemed ready to intervene.

Chapter 1545 1545. Virus

Noah could sense Heaven and Earth's influence above him. He felt their intentions, and part of his mind prepared for the inevitable clash. Yet, most of his focus remained on Madame Canson.

'One problem at the time,' Noah thought before glancing at his blades.

The Demonic Sword had benefitted from his growth. It was in the quasi-rank 8 stage now. Instead, the white sword didn't improve. It remained a rank 7 inscribed weapon in the upper tier.

'I guess I'm going to lose you,' Noah thought while inspecting the white blade.

He had already fixed it with his dark matter multiple times, but the blade was about to reach its limits. Noah's higher energy had almost replaced more than half of its original structure.

Madame Canson didn't waste time with words. The all-absorbing black sphere had disappeared, so she could finally start attacking her dangerous opponent.

A series of three meters tall crystal armors grew around her. It didn't matter that the palace was crumbling under her feet. Madame Canson could create those puppets from the very air that surrounded her.

The puppets intensified Madame Canson's aura and allowed her to take control of her surroundings. Her influence gave birth to more crystals, which continued to generate humanoid armors.

Madame Canson's power multiplied once the army formed. She seemed able to increase her influence at will and draw energy from the potential contained in the matter around her.

'What's her individuality?' Noah wondered at the sight of the puppets.

He had initially thought that she could only boost the power of her underlings, but the truth appeared to be far different.

'She is spreading her existence into the area,' Noah concluded. 'She plants seeds that can generate copies of her law.'

The memories of his battle against Miss Nine surged in his mind. Noah couldn't help but find similarities between Madame Canson and her. It seemed that the rank 8 expert had infected her underling, transforming her power into her weaker copy.

"Did you get it?" Madame Canson asked in a voice that carried no emotions. "I am the puppet master. I can transform anything in the world into my copy. My underlings even gain a share of my understanding."

"You are a virus," Noah replied.

"No," Madame Canson snorted. "I show the path to those with no hope to reach the higher ranks. I'm a savior capable of turning even the most useless asset into a valuable resource."

Noah and Madame Canson had similar laws, but their effects differed on how they empowered their surroundings. Madame Canson created copies of her existence and implanted them into her underlings, while Noah forced the matter to evolve and reach its true potential.

Defeating Madame Canson had suddenly gained a second meaning. Noah had to kill her to obtain his revenge, but he also wanted to prove that his law was superior.

'Don't hold anything back,' Noah ordered through the mental connection. 'We need to have enough power to face Heaven and Earth afterward.'

His companions followed his orders and prepared for the imminent clash. Snore filled the area with a sea of violent dark matter, Duanlong activated its pulling force, and the Demonic Sword covered itself with higher energy.

The army of puppets surrounding Madame Canson lifted their arms to create a wall of crystals, but Noah's Blood Companions destroyed it in a matter of instants.

The new dark matter had empowered Snore and Duanlong far beyond Madame Canson's expectations. Their innate abilities could shatter and destroy her crystals in seconds, and even her puppets began to suffer from the same fate.

Madame Canson tried to join her hands, but a series of crystals suddenly materialized in front of her. Night became visible for a fraction of an instant before shattering her defense and merging with the world again.

The expert tried to attack again, but a shadow materialized in front of her. Madame Canson promptly covered her surroundings with crystals, but a sharp force cut through them and reached her skin.

Crystals had tried to shield her from that attack, but they had been unable to stop Noah's sharpness. Madame Canson's eyes widened when she saw a long vertical cut opening on her torso.

Madame Canson's robe was a rank 8 defensive item in the lower tier. She had created crystals in front of her, and a series of crystals also covered her skin.

However, Noah's simple slash had cut through all her defenses and had reached her skin. Nothing in Madame Canson's arsenal had managed to stop that attack.

A chill ran down Madame Canson's spine. She had never underestimated Noah, even after he had pushed his power inside the eighth rank. Still, she was supposedly stronger than any other newly advanced existence!

That belief didn't apply to Noah. His techniques and companions were already able to hurt rank 8 magical beasts when he was in the seventh rank. The power that they could express now was insane.

Madame Canson tried to jump backward and use her puppets as meat shields, but a series of roots spread from Noah's figure and corroded everything on his path.

Noah had a clean line of sight. The roots entangled themselves around his swords, and a dense layer of liquid dark matter covered his entire figure while he pulled his blades back.

Before Madame Canson could escape, Noah thrust his weapons, making their tips converge on the same spot. A clanging noise resounded in the environment, and a wave of sharpness spread through the entire area, reducing most of the puppets into debris.

That was only one of the consequences of Noah's attack. His real blow had consisted of a straight singularity that had connected his blades to Madame Canson.

A storm of purple crystals raged through the sky, but Noah didn't move his gaze away from his opponent. Madame Canson wore an angry expression while she looked at the hole in her body. Noah's attack had pierced the right part of her chest from side to side, severing her right arm in the process.

Purple crystals covered Madame Canson's insides. Blood flowed normally, but she had deployed a defensive spell meant to protect her internal organs.

Noah's eyes sharpened at that sight. That technique could counter his Shadow Domain. It seemed that Madame Canson had studied Miss Nine's reports and had deployed a countermeasure to his trump card.

The liquid dark matter around Noah took the shape of the fiendish armor, and a cold grin appeared on his helmet. He was taunting the expert. He wouldn't even need the Shadow Domain if the battle continued like that.

Madame Canson soon dispersed her anger and called back all the crystals that she had spread into the environment. Even a few cultivators fighting high in the sky saw their power falling when their crystals left their bodies to return to their leader.

Duanlong landed in front of Noah and raised its monstrous mouth. The dragon captured part of the crystals with its pulling force, but they seemed able to resist that type of power.

It was as if they wanted to reunite with Madame Canson. That desire made them ignore any external force and hindrance.

The storm of crystals engulfed Noah, but Snore soon appeared above him and spread its wings to protect him from the event. He could safely observe Madame Canson's transformation once the creature blocked that waterfall of power.

Madame Canson's skin morphed. It gained glass-like properties and began to radiate purple light. Her eyes started to shine, and her size increased as more crystals fused with her figure.

The expert transformed into one of her puppets, but she maintained her facial features. Still, her existence seemed on the verge of exploding now. Noah could see how her influence had begun to crystalize the entire region.

Chapter 1546 1546. Prison

Madame Canson transformed into a giant made entirely of purple crystals. Her size continued to increase as her influence spread through the region. The pieces of the environment that she managed to affect flew toward her figure to force her existence to grow even further.

Noah's instincts screamed. That wasn't the power of an average rank 8 existence. Even powerful cultivators in the gaseous stage would struggle to radiate such breathtaking pressure.

His blades flashed with a dark light, and a massive cut opened on Madame Canson's giant leg, but her crystalized fabric stopped the attack almost immediately.

"Divine Demon and Wilfred didn't get the chance to see this form," Madame Canson's deafening voice echoed through the sky. "Luke's escape has forced me to abandon the old palace, but you are different."

Madame Canson lifted her massive hand before cracking it downward. Her movements were incredibly fast, uncaring that she had transformed into a five hundred meters tall giant. Noah barely had the time to activate his teleport before a shockwave crashed on his previous position.

The aura sent with the attack forced the air to give birth to purple crystals that quickly flew toward Madame Canson. She continued to grow, and even the cut on her leg closed under that nourishment.

Noah reappeared above his opponent. His consciousness expanded, and the dark world spread to cover the entire battlefield. His technique began to suppress Madame Canson's law while his blades landed on his forehead.

Madame Canson suddenly stopped growing. Cracks also spread on her crystalized skin as her law lost power.

The dark world could finally express its original purpose now that Noah's dark matter had evolved. It could transform into an extension of Noah's domain and enhance his already incredible properties.

The blades slid on Noah's forehead, filling the dark world with a high-pitched noise. Waves of dark matter followed the sharpness released during the attack and gave it the shape of a massive dragon that fell on Madame Canson's giant figure.

The waterfall of sharpness and dark matter featured singularities in multiple spots. The attack pierced Madame Canson in many areas, but those spherical and curved invisible blows made entire pieces of her body disappear.

Noah retracted his blades, but his right hand suddenly felt empty. His white sword had crumbled during the last attack. Even his liquid dark matter couldn't prevent the weapon from crumbling.

The sudden event didn't delay his offensive. Thick roots gathered on Noah's right palm and took the shape of a long blade that he quickly thrust together with the Demonic Sword.

The dark matter began to rotate around the straight singularity that had come out of Noah's blades. The higher energy followed the attack and crashed on Madame Canson's chest, piercing it from side to side.

'I can do this! Snore!' Noah shouted in his mind, and the Blood Companion quickly formed above his head.

Snore's power had skyrocketed inside the dark world. The creature was in its natural habitat. It had access to as much dark matter as it wanted.

The snake unfolded its wings and released all its feathers. Those sharp missiles fell on Madame Canson and exploded, preventing her from activating any countermeasure.

The space seemed on the verge of crumbling. Even the dark world couldn't withstand the shockwaves generated by those explosions.

The liquid dark matter began to shatter, revealing the outside world once again. Those shockwaves also threatened to engulf Noah, but Duanlong promptly appeared in front of him and used its monstrous mouth to absorb that violent force.

Noah wanted to attack again, but he couldn't leave his spot behind Duanlong's back. Even his consciousness couldn't expand while the aftermath of the explosions raged through the sky.

Night quickly appeared behind Noah. The creature snorted when it glanced at its injured wings. Snore's attack had been so powerful that it had damaged its companion.

Liquid dark matter came out of Noah's chest and covered the Pterodactyl. The higher energy stabilized its structure and made it able to continue fighting, but the sky was still inaccessible for the creature.

Once the shockwaves dispersed, Noah shot forward, and Night fused with the world. Dark matter began to fill the environment once again, but crystals covered the entire area before he could deploy his technique.

Noah felt unable to move. Everything in his view had transformed into purple crystals. A third of the region and the sky above it had fallen prey to Madame Canson's technique.

A massive shape moved freely through that mass of crystal. Noah couldn't make out its features in that environment, but he recognized a giant fist when the attack was about to land on him.

His internal organs shook. The small trails of dark matter around Noah shattered. He couldn't move inside the prison, but an unstoppable force still slammed him on those crystallized walls.

"It's ironic, don't you think?" Madame Canson's voice echoed through the whole mass of crystals. "My techniques allow me to hurt you with physical attacks. I hope you didn't think that your hybrid status gave you the monopoly over this type of offensive."

Another punch ran through the crystals and slammed on Noah's trapped figure. A wave of blood tried to flow out of his mouth, but crystals filled it as soon as he opened it.

The crystals tried to seep into his throat. They wanted to transform Noah into another puppet under Madame Canson's control. He could even sense her desire to infect his existence.

'Do something, damned plant!' Noah cursed in his mind, and a massive number of nutrients flowed into the Demonic Form.

The corrosive aura covering the roots skyrocketed and enlarged Noah's prison. The crystals around him transformed into nothing more than dust, but a third massive punch landed on his body nonetheless.

Noah slammed on the purple wall, but blood could flow out of his mouth now. The crystals attempted to expand again, but the Demonic Form's corrosive aura destroyed them whenever they entered its influence.

His struggles didn't stop Madame Canson's offensive. She promptly launched a fourth attack, and the world in Noah's eyes seemed to slow down while he followed her punch running through the mass of crystals.

Noah had activated the Demonic Deduction technique. The red lines illuminating his mental sea led him to a solution in less than an instant, and a cold determination soon filled his expression.

His bloodlust exploded. Noah suddenly felt like giving up on any strategy. An intense desire to tear Madame Canson apart replaced his thoughts and began to cloud his mind.

A dark handle came out of his chest while the fourth fist was about to land on his position. Noah's right hand moved faster than it had even done in his life. It quickly drew the cursed sword and performed a simple slash.

Everything seemed to stop for an instant. Noah and Madame Canson didn't move anymore. Still, once the first crack opened on the mass of crystals, the world fell into chaos, and the duo's consciousness became unable to keep track of their surroundings.

Noah regained control of his senses when he slammed on Duanlong's tough back. He found himself on the ground, free of the restraints. The mass of crystals had also disappeared, and only the giant Madame Canson remained in the scenery.

His chest had turned into a mass of blood and torn tissues, but the black hole quickly covered those injuries with dark matter. Noah even launched his flames, but the environment didn't have enough nutrients to fix the wounds suffered by a rank 8 body.

Chapter 1547 1547. War

Noah's flames had the same power as his body. They turned an entire chunk of the ground into ashes while sending its nutrients toward him. However, that wasn't enough to fix his shattered chest.

'I can't continue fighting like this,' Noah thought while storing the cursed sword and straightening his position.

Madame Canson felt confused. The previous technique was one of her strongest attacks, but Noah had managed to destroy it in one blow.

A series of deep cracks covered her giant body. The attack had hurt her even while she had hundreds of meters of crystals defending her. Noah had simply overwhelmed her.

Madame Canson glanced at Noah, and anger filled her mind. She joined her palms, and a straight wave of crystals rose from the ground. The attack moved toward Noah, and he closed his eyes to focus on the insides of his dark world.

His energies fused among the currents of dark matter. His primary energy, darkness, mental energy, and higher energy merged to create an unstable substance that the black hole sent toward his black vessels.

The spears of crystals were about to reach Noah, but a roar escaped his mouth and created a soundwave that shattered the attack. Flames also flew together with his cry, and the countless shards floating in front of him couldn't resist his innate ability.

His chest slowly began to heal, but Noah didn't wait for that process to end. His dark matter was containing his injuries. He could unleash his full power even if his organs didn't have skin and muscles covering them.

Noah stomped the ground before shooting forward. The charred ground under him shattered due to the massive physical strength released by his legs. He didn't teleport, but Madame Canson couldn't follow his movements anyway.

The giant's purple eyes darted among the environment, but an unstoppable force landed on her chest before she could notice that threat.

Noah stabbed his Demonic Sword and sword-shaped roots into Madame Canson's body. The might carried by his momentum made her massive chest cave in and filled her crystalized skin with cracks.

A rain of purple shards fell from her torso, but the corrosive aura covering the Demonic Form destroyed them before Noah could even launch his flames.

Noah's whole existence was aflame. The unstable product was bringing his physical prowess at levels that Madame Canson couldn't comprehend. He had turned his body into the best lower tier weapon in the entire Immortal Lands!

"Crumble already!" Noah roared.

His bloodlust exploded and enhanced his attack further. Night also joined the offensive and seeped inside the cracks, destabilizing Madame Canson's massive body and destroying every weak spot in its range.

Madame Canson tried to slam her hands on Noah, but he pointed his feet on a crack under him before forcing his way upward. A storm of purple shards engulfed him as he cut his opponent's chest, but nothing managed to reach him.

The expert's right palm managed to slam on Noah's back. He didn't manage to escape its range while cutting her body. Yet, the attack didn't even force him to crouch. Noah endured the blow with his bare body and kept stomping on her chest to move upward.

"Where is your physical strength now?!" Noah shouted as his bloodlust clouded his thoughts.

Noah didn't know if he were using human words or roars, but he didn't care. He wanted to vent his bloodlust and hatred, and his desire to destroy his opponent took control of his mental functions.

Madame Canson shouted and threw a barrage of punches toward Noah. The attacks always managed to hit him, but they couldn't slow down his advance.

Desperation filled the expert when she saw that nothing in her arsenal seemed able to stop her opponent. Noah continued to move toward her head, and his blades never stopped digging through her crystalized body.

Night and the sword-shaped roots also filled her insides with injuries. The Pterodactyl launched a relentless offensive that enlarged any crack, and the corrosive aura turned everything it touched into pure nothingness.

"Enough!" Madame Canson shouted while opening her giant mouth.

Purple light gathered in her mouth, but a draconic figure appeared in front of her before she could release her attack. Duanlong deployed its pulling force and endured the full power of that technique.

The dragon's innate ability didn't seem able to contain Madame Canson's beam of light. Yet, the creature was a Blood Companion, so it shattered and reformed without ever forsaking its position.

Nothing but a few flashes landed on Noah's body, and his skin easily fended them off. He had transformed into an unstoppable monster that lived to bring destruction.

"Stop!" Madame Canson shouted again, but a hint of fear had seeped into her voice at that time.

Her fingers transformed into massive pointy crystals that she didn't hesitate to use to attack Noah. Her arms resembled two small mountains ready to crush the ant moving on her chest.

Raging currents suddenly came out of Noah's chest. The liquid dark matter transformed into scales that took Snore's shape. The snake entangled its massive body on Madame Canson's arms and did its best to slow down her attack.

Noah managed to dodge that attack. Walls of crystals, sharp purple spears, and flashes of intense light continued to land on his body, but they were nothing more than frail hindrances in his current state.

The "embodiment of power" had reached its highest peak while Noah was in the eighth rank. Even the creator of that technique couldn't predict that someone would bring its power to such heights.

"I said crumble already!" Noah roared once he reached the giant's neck.

His blades left Madame Canson's body, but they launched a singularity toward her face in the process. A chunk of her chin disappeared, and Noah promptly leapt to stomp his feet on that destroyed spot.

Madame Canson's massive body rose in the air after the impact. Noah's kick had managed to make her figure leave the ground, and countless purple shards rained on him due to the cracks that spread on her face.

Noah wielded the Demonic Sword with both hands. Roots spread over the blade while he swung his weapon, backing it with his entire physical strength.

Madame Canson only saw a flash of dark light before a diagonal slash cut her head in half. Her whole figure crumbled at that point, and a few crystals slowly converged to recreate her original body.

Noah instantly teleported in front of Madame Canson. His free hand grabbed her throat, and corrosive energy seeped into her exhausted body. He could sense that his opponent was at her limit, but he didn't dare to underestimate her anyway.

"You win," Madame Canson exhaled while giving voice to a short laugh. "Good job. The Crystal City officially recognizes you as an organization-level threat. We are ready to negotiate the conditions of our surrender."

"Negotiate?" Noah asked while tightening his grasp.

His consciousness seeped inside Madame Canson's centers of power and confirmed that she almost had no energy left. She could barely keep herself awake in that condition.

"Oh, my naïve demon," Madame Canson said. "The Crystal City is one of the strongest organizations in the entire higher plane. We have thrived for eras under the support of the human domain. Killing me won't solve anything. You will have to face entire armies led by cultivators far stronger than me if you don't put an end to this hostility now."

Noah could sense that Madame Canson wasn't lying. She truly believed what she was saying.

'Right,' Noah thought as some clarity returned in his mind. 'This is the moment when I can announce my political position toward the human domain.'

Madame Canson relaxed when she saw that her opponent hesitated, but fear took control of her mind as soon as Noah's expression broke into a cold smile.

Flames flowed out of Noah's mouth and covered Madame Canson. Her body began to burn, and she couldn't do anything to stop that process since Noah never moved his attention away from her.

"Why?!" Madame Canson asked as panic filled her eyes. "Do you really want to declare war on the entire human domain?"

"No," Noah replied honestly. "My opponent is the whole higher plane. You are simply in the way."

Chapter 1548 1548. Taunts

Noah didn't take that decision lightly. He had already considered that the Crystal City and its allies would do everything in their power to hunt him down.

Yet, that partially worked in his favor. Noah didn't want his return into the human domain to mark the beginning of a peaceful period. He needed struggles to continue growing.

Moreover, Noah had finally touched the eighth rank. It was time to step up his game and start messing with organizations. It was impossible to seize resources that mattered at his new level without affecting other large forces.

Noah also was in desperate need of energy. His unstable substance was almost about to run out, and the weakness that he felt affected the empowerment given by his ambition.

The insane might expressed by the Demonic Form even worsened his condition. The ambition had covered most of the expenses of his superior power, but his time was running out.

Madame Canson tried to free herself from Noah's grasp and the energies that suppressed her existence, but her efforts amounted to nothing. The black flames consumed her figure and brought her nutrients to Noah.

The black hole quickly absorbed those nutrients and began to purify them. Madame Canson was almost exhausted, but the power carried by her existence managed to bring Noah some comfort.

Still, that wasn't enough. Noah's cultivation level began to fall even after his black hole started to send the new energy toward his tissues. His fourth center of power didn't know how it could fix his condition.

'I can't return to the seventh rank,' Noah calculated before glancing at the sky.

The battle against Madame Canson had dispersed the darkness accumulated in the sky. Noah could see the remains of his pack fighting against the few cultivators left, but his eyes didn't stop at that scene.

His gaze went higher and landed on the sparks accumulated in the sky. Heaven and Earth were still ready to unleash their might, but they didn't do anything even after the battle ended.

'What are you waiting for?' Noah wondered as anxiety built in his mind.

The battlefield was a mess. Noah's pack had almost defeated the cultivators. Those underlings couldn't match Fergie and the other magical beasts after losing Madame Canson's empowerment.

The Eternal Snakes were even better off. Noah's battle had turned the palace into dust, so Monsieur Evan couldn't draw power from the many defenses anymore. He had to rely on his existence to fend off the enemy pack, but he was inevitably suffering from the difference in numbers and power.

Noah didn't dare to jump among the Eternal Snakes. Monsieur Evan was their prey and trying to steal it was akin to turning those magical beasts into enemies.

Noah couldn't even decide to fight the Eternal Snakes. He didn't feel powerless against them anymore, but his ambition was running out. He didn't know if his current power would last long enough to kill a few of them and escape.

His only real chance to gain a massive amount of energy was a sudden Tribulation, but Heaven and Earth had yet to attack. They even seemed about to retreat when they sensed that Noah's cultivation level was falling.

Noah knew that he couldn't let that happen. Falling back into the seventh rank would trigger drawbacks that he had no hope to endure. He had to find a way to force Heaven and Earth's hand.

"Heaven! Earth!" Noah shouted in a desperate attempt to attract the sparks' attention. "Did you forget about me? I thought you wanted to destroy me!"

The sparks continued to disperse. Noah's taunt had no effects on the Tribulation, but that only made him chose sharper words.

"Heaven! Earth!" Noah shouted again. "What do you think about my current power? I thought you wanted me to be a counselor!"

His words failed to trigger any effect in the sparks again. Noah was running out of options, and even his cultivation level was dangerously approaching the bottom of the eighth rank.

The Demonic Deduction technique lit up. Bloodlust filled Noah's mind and gave him ideas on how to taunt Heaven and Earth better. He had something that they hated to the core, and his bloody thoughts gave him an idea on how to exploit that.

His aura expanded. His mental energy seeped inside the fabric of the world, and his dark world spread under him to create a dark cloud.

The matter of the world evolved under the effects of Noah's law. The dark world also helped in the process. The sky grew darker, and the whiteness that usually filled the area transformed into lumps of black smoke that began to fight with the air.

It seemed that the matter affected by Noah's ambition couldn't stand the sight of Heaven and Earth's world. It wanted to fight it for the ownership of that space. It wasn't willing to share anything. It only desired to spread its influence.

The existences that weren't busy fighting turned toward Noah, but they couldn't understand the reason behind his actions. Still, they could see the world transforming under their very eyes.

Noah wasn't transforming that matter into an extension of himself. His ambition was freeing it of Heaven and Earth's laws and forcing it to develop its own true meanings.

The air didn't have a will, but Noah's ambition forced it to obtain basic instincts. That matter suddenly began to desire, as if it were a living being of the world.

The lumps of darkness eventually sensed the energy around them, and desire filled their simple minds. They started to spread in a desperate attempt to devour that power. They even began to fight each other for the ownership of a chunk of the sky.

Those events had only involved a small area at the beginning, but they started to happen everywhere in the region as Noah's influence expanded. He was giving the matter freedom, and that gave birth to the innate desire to grow stronger inside it.

"Heaven! Earth!" Noah shouted while roars fused with his human voice. "Do you recall what I represent? I am your greatest mistake, and I will make sure that the whole higher plane becomes aware of how flawed your existence is!"

Heaven and Earth couldn't retreat anymore. Noah's words couldn't really taunt those mighty existences, but his actions had defied their rules enough to trigger a punishment.

A crackling noise soon filled the area. The sparks stopped dispersing and began to accumulate again. Flashes of orange light also pierced the whiteness of the sky and marked the beginning of the Heaven Tribulation.

'This isn't enough,' Noah concluded while his eyes sharpened and landed on the lumps of darkness in the region. 'They aren't aiming for me. These sparks barely have rank 8 power.'

Noah needed to gather enough nutrients to fulfill the requirements of three centers of power. In his case, he necessitated far more energy than any other rank 7 existence in the world. Even some rank 8 beings couldn't match his needs.

"You idiots!" Noah exploded into an open critique of Heaven and Earth. "They are nothing more than children of my ambition. I am the true enemy of the world. I am your first mistake!"

Noah's aura shot upward and created a trail of darkness that connected his figure with the layer of sparks. Part of that violent power transformed into black lumps that detonated, destroying a large chunk of the Tribulation.

A heavy pressure fell on Noah at that point. He could sense an intense destructive desire enveloping his figure and triggering a change in the scene high in the sky.

A new wave of energy seeped into the sparks and altered their nature. They slowly turned white, but they were so bright that they didn't manage to hide in the sky.

The white sparks condensed to give birth to four lightning bolts that fell around Noah. Four rank 8 auras filled the environment at that point, and Noah couldn't help but smile when his consciousness enveloped the four humanoid crackling figures that had surrounded him.

"Hello, Heaven," Noah welcomed his opponent while his smile broadened. "What took you so long?"

Chapter 1549 1549. Angrier

The four humanoid crackling figures surrounded Noah from every side. The whiteness radiated by their sparks was blinding, but their halo dimmed when it entered Noah's range.

'Even this might not be enough,' Noah calculated while studying his opponents.

Noah had a vague idea of how much energy he needed to complete the breakthroughs. He had kept track of his ambition's efforts, which gave him a general understanding of his requirements.

Still, he had to add a few variables to his math. Noah didn't only need to gather enough energy to establish his cultivation level in the eighth rank. He also had to make up for his drawbacks and keep in mind that his current status didn't reflect the actual breakthroughs.

'I guess I need to make them angrier,' Noah thought while his cold smile broadened.

Heaven started the fight at that gesture. The four figures raised their arms and released white lightning bolts that converged on Noah. Those attacks carried the full power of the eighth rank, but they felt weak after the battle against Madame Canson.

Noah didn't even bother to perform a slash. He placed the Demonic Sword on his shoulder, and four singularities shot out of his figure. The attacks dug through the lightning bolts and reached Heaven's bodies, dividing them in half.

Noah shot forward before Heaven could do anything. He stabbed his free hand inside one of the crackling masses and bit at those white sparks. A wave of energy flowed inside his body before black flames covered the whole area.

Whiteness soon shone among that blackness, but Heaven noticed that Noah had disappeared once it fended off his flames. One of its figures had also vanished during that short exchange.

Noah reappeared behind one of the figures. Its sparks were slowly merging its two halves to recreate a whole humanoid body, but a punch forced them to separate again.

A storm of lightning bolts exploded, but those sparks didn't manage to escape in the environment. Duanlong had appeared next to Noah, and its innate ability forced that energy to converge in its mouth.

'I'll reward you later,' Noah said through the mental connection. 'I need even the slightest brim of energy now.'

Duanlong could use the energy absorbed by its innate ability to nourish its body, but it decided to send everything to Noah. The creature could sense how dire his situation was, so it didn't hesitate to forsake its greed for the time being.

Noah and Duanlong had yet to establish a proper friendship. The dragon had fought by his side for a long time, but its greed still made it take most of the absorbed energy for itself.

Yet, Duanlong wasn't stupid. Noah's death would also put an end to its life, so it prioritized his well-being for now. Moreover, every magical beast felt an innate hatred toward Heaven and Earth due to the restraints applied to their species. The dragon's desire to defy them even surpassed its greed.

The connection with Noah's existence also intensified that innate defiance. Duanlong shared Noah's feelings, and his desire to topple those rulers made it prioritize the greater good of its Master.

The two remaining humanoid figures tried to launch lightning bolts, but Noah teleported above one of them before they could complete their attack. His sword released a dark flash, and the sparks under him shattered into a storm of "Breath" and primary energy.

Flames covered the environment again and brought that energy back to Noah. The results of that absorption disappointed him, so he decided to resort to even sharper taunts to force Heaven and Earth's hand.

A lightning bolt crashed on Noah's chest, but his body endured the blow. The attack only managed to burn a piece of his torso, but it didn't reach his insides.

"I just finished healing this," Noah roared while shooting toward the last figure. "Don't bother attacking if you lack the power to kill me!"

A wave of dark matter enveloped the crackling humanoid figure while Noah sealed his grasp on its neck. The sparks tried to break free of that prison, but the liquid higher energy wasn't something that they could pierce at their current power.

Noah shot high in the sky, dragging the cracking figure with him. The whiteness of the world tried to weigh on his mind, but his mental waves weakened those effects and kept his mind safe.

When Noah reached the array of white sparks in the sky, he unfolded his ambition and forced the crackling figure in his grasp to evolve.

Black shades appeared on its white lightning bolts and destabilized its structure. Noah glanced at his prisoner before throwing it toward the barrage of sparks.

The instabilities accumulated in the figure reached their apex when they touched the sparks and generated an explosion. The detonation almost put an end to the Tribulation, but Noah was far from done.

"Come on!" Noah roared. "You should be the rulers of this world, but look at yourselves. How did you even seize your throne? Was the previous leader more incompetent than you?"

Noah's words seemed to trigger something. He didn't know if the change were the result of his offense or his actions. Still, dense energy began to flow into the sparks and transform their array.

The Tribulation's power skyrocketed. It quickly rose to the peak of the lower tier before barging into the next level. Noah's instincts couldn't help but scream at that sight.

Noah unfolded the dark world and deployed both Duanlong and Snore in his defense. The white sparks quickly condensed before a white flash blinded him and flung him back on the ground.

The liquid dark matter, Snore, and Duanlong were in pieces. Noah opened his eyes and saw that most of his chest and arms featured charred skin.

The Tribulation's power kept growing until it stabilized in the middle tier. The sparks then morphed into a human shape that looked more powerful than the previous ones.

Heaven's new form barely had empty spots. Dense arrays of lightning bolts ran through its body and gave them the appearance of proper skin. Some of them even took the faint shape of a long robe that hid its hands.

The laws of the world seemed to bend in front of that figure. Heaven's aura could force them to shatter and flow toward its body. That energy added power to its sparks, which made its shape even more human.

Heaven didn't appear as a dense mass of sparks anymore. It resembled a proper human being who shone with a blinding white light. Even the crackling noises didn't resound as often anymore. That form was almost entirely stable.

'Does it slowly gain its original form as I force it to express more power?' Noah thought while flames spread under him, and Duanlong activated its innate ability.

The last attack wasn't completely in the middle tier. Heaven had launched the lightning bolt only to gain enough time to complete that manifestation. Still, it had stabilized its power now. Its next ability would carry its full might.

The fall of Noah's cultivation level had slowed down after absorbing the energy contained in the three crackling figures, but it was picking up speed now. The injuries had forced his centers of power to recall how awful his condition was.

'I guess I have to destroy a rank 8 being in the middle tier without suffering severe injuries,' Noah concluded after a thorough inspection of his condition.

Chapter 1550 1550. Blackness

'The amount of power contained in this form surpasses the middle tier Snakes,' Noah calculated in his mind. 'Still, its fabric should be unstable. I wonder if I can force it to turn into primary energy with my destruction.'

In theory, Noah didn't have many chances against that opponent. His cultivation level was still falling, and he remained an existence near the bottom of the eighth rank even without that weakness.

However, his opponent was a manifestation of Heaven's power. It wasn't a proper living being. It was a mass of power that had taken a humanoid shape. It simply had enough energy to make its level reach the middle tier.

'I can't let it touch me,' Noah concluded before deploying his companions and covering them with multiple layers of dark matter.

His time was running out. Noah had to maximize the energy absorbed in his next exchanges, or the drawbacks would arrive.

Noah transformed into a black sword that shot toward the sky. His companions spread through the area and prepared to seize any window that he created.

The scene was breathtaking. Heaven hovered in the sky, radiating a whiteness capable of surpassing the natural light in the air. Instead, Noah was a flying blade that spread currents of darkness wherever it went.

Some of Noah's underlings stopped fighting to admire that scene. A group among the few remaining cultivators did the same, and even a couple of rank 8 Eternal Snakes halted their offensive to watch Noah's fight.

Heaven's body was the embodiment of the rules of the world. The matter around that figure sacrificed itself to fuel its structure. The higher plane was its playground, and everything was in its control.

Instead, Noah embodied a primary act of defiance. His flight represented a stark opposition against the laws of the world and its ruler. His gesture expressed pure rebellion against that system.

Of course, Noah was only doing minding his cultivation level. He was nothing more than a starving beast that saw Heaven as its chance to survive.

Still, his influence had intensified after the forced breakthroughs. His existence seeped in all his actions and made him express his feelings even when he was only chasing after energy.

Heaven lifted its arm, and a massive lightning bolt fell toward the black blade. A wave of violent whiteness raged from the sky and tried to envelop Noah in its destructive might.

The attack was far faster than Noah. It enveloped his figure and landed on the region, giving birth to shockwaves that attracted the attention of the existences still busy fighting.

The ground shattered as a spiderweb of deep cracks spread through the entire region. The destruction released by the attack crushed the dust before it could even rise in the air.

The spectators couldn't find any trace of Noah's figure after the whiteness dispersed. Even his dark matter had disappeared, but his Blood Companions continued to fly in the sky and used the higher energy around them to keep their structure from crumbling.

Snore and Duanlong were the only proof that Noah was still alive. Most of the audience ignored that aspect of his power, but Fergie heaved a sigh of relief at that sight.

Heaven moved its attention to the massive winged snake since Noah was nowhere to be seen. Yet, a figure suddenly appeared above its head, and tiny slashes seeped into its structure.

Those slashes were far different from Noah's usual attacks. They were small, but their size didn't affect the amount of power that they contained.

A red light shone from Noah's reptilian eyes. The Demonic Deduction technique was working at full speed to maximize the number of destructive ideas generated through his mental energy.

Noah didn't want to overwhelm Heaven. He wasn't even sure that his current power made him able to pierce its thick array of lightning bolts. Yet, he might have a chance to destabilize its structure by letting his destruction guiding his moves.

The previous lightning bolt had proven to Noah that he couldn't endure a frontal blow. Heaven was a pure mass of power, so he had to dodge anything it unleashed.

'I only have two uses of the Shadow Domain left,' Noah cursed in his mind while inspecting his tiny slashes seeping into Heaven's body.

Noah had to rely on the Shadow Domain to dodge the previous attack. The lightning bolt had been too fast for his movement techniques. Still, his new power had removed his past limitation on Miss Void's ability.

The black hole had evolved, so the same had applied to the workshop. Noah could create the special darkness far faster than before. It allowed him to teleport his body into the separate dimension three times before running out of that energy.

Most of the tiny slashes burnt when they seeped inside Heaven's body, but Noah focused only on the attacks that managed to unleash their destructive power.

A few detonations happened inside Heaven. Its white fabric inflated before shrinking again. It seemed that Noah's attack had amounted to nothing, but excitement shone in his eyes anyway.

Noah couldn't destabilize Heaven in a single attack. He had to accumulate enough destruction inside its structure to force its energy to fall apart.

Heaven suddenly turned, and a wave of lightning bolts followed its movement. Noah had to rely on the Shadow Domain again to dodge that attack, but he quickly reappeared under his opponent.

"Stop wasting my energy!" Noah roared, and a wave of flames shot out of his mouth.

His Demonic Sword flashed, and a storm of minute slashes flew out of his weapon. The attacks clashed inside Heaven and the same scene as before unfolded in Noah's view. Some of the blows burnt while others managed to seep inside that white figure before giving birth to loud detonations.

Heaven's figure inflated before returning to its normal size. Noah had poured more energy into that attack, but he didn't manage to achieve anything once again. Heaven seemed immune to everything he did.

'One use left,' Noah counted in his mind before finalizing his plan.

His previous attacks were only a test. Noah had to find openings in Heaven's figure to know where to make his last offensive converge.

Snore and Duanlong began to fly near Noah. They only had one shot at getting rid of that Tribulation. They had to wait until Noah was ready to launch his finishing blow to join the battle.

Heaven didn't hesitate to turn again. A flash of white light covered the environment, but Noah entered the Shadow Domain before the attack could reach him.

Noah reappeared next to Heaven and covered the area with flames again. His innate ability shattered before reaching the figure's skin, but Noah only wanted to fill the environment with fire.

His Demonic Sword flashed, and tiny slashes seeped inside Heaven's figure. Almost all of them managed to avoid the dangerous sparks, but no explosion followed that event.

That unusual outcome didn't faze Heaven. The figure immediately prepared another attack, but a pulling force enveloped the area and delayed its movements by an instant.

Snore then tried to restrain Heaven with its massive body, and a wave of pain reached Noah's mind. The white lightning bolts were shattering the snake's scales. The Blood Companion managed to resist for a whole second only due to its spectacular fabric.

Heaven switched target. His figure released lightning bolts in every direction and shattered Snore's body. Cracks appeared on the snake's ethereal figure, but the creature dissolved before Heaven could destroy its existence.

The black hole promptly sent the unstable substance inside the black vessels. A wave of power filled Noah and brought his physical prowess to its very peak.

The black vessels began to crumble, but Noah didn't care. His Demonic Sword flashed, and a storm of singularities flew out of his blade. Those invisible attacks flew inside the weak spots in Heaven's structure and enhanced all the destructive aura accumulated in its fabric.

The audience held their breath, but their vision went dark. The whiteness covering the sky suddenly disappeared. Complete blackness suddenly took control of the area.