

DEMONIC 1561

Chapter 1561 1561. Stories

June described to Noah what had happened in the other world after their separation. Of course, she had brought up those topics only after the two of them had taken their time to catch up.

The Hive, the Council, and the Shandal Empire had lived in peace for many centuries after the migration. They all had to divide the world and create sources of materials, so they didn't have the time to fight each other.

However, small fights eventually happened. The other world had fewer resources due to the absence of the piece of Immortal Lands. Battles were inevitable, and they soon escalated into wars.

The Hive became the target of both Council and Empire. Noah's absence had made the two organizations believe that they could topple that force.

The situation didn't go as planned. June, the Demons, and Daniel revealed their immense potential after a few setbacks. Faith also betrayed the Council and brought a new wave of experts to the Hive, eventually ending those wars.

The previous alliances didn't matter anymore in the other world, so the Hive could take complete control of the plane after June killed Great Elder Diana. God's Left Hand surrendered, but her enemies didn't forgive her betrayal.

With an entire world under their control, the powerhouses of the Hive improved quickly. They had the potential to reach the divine ranks, and they fulfilled it during those peaceful years.

June and Dreaming Demon ended up advancing almost at the same time. Daniel followed them, while Flying Demon and Faith reached the divine ranks as last. Still, they decided to ascend together since their breakthroughs had happened during the same centuries. NovelsToday.com

June's story then became grim. The Crystal City had immediately captured her group once they reached the landing zone. The five of them had been prisoners inside the palace for many years, and those fanatics forced them to fight before they could try to improve.

The Crystal City had put them through hell. The five experts spent all their time healing their injuries and never had space for their training.

After the battle on the palace, June and the others had focused on their training. Divine Demon was a madman, but he was a great Master, especially for existences as talented as Noah's friends.

The five experts had cultivated and had improved as they prepared themselves for the next battle.

When June's story ended, Noah described how his life in the Immortal Lands had been. He didn't hide anything from her, and he didn't forget to mention the inheritance in the Evolution Pit.

Noah also shared the details behind Great Builder and Supreme Thief's plan. He even gave June the notes seized from his enemies to help her in the path toward the higher ranks.

"It's becoming a habit of yours to give me inheritances," June said when she learnt about the Evolution Pit.

The political situation in the Immortal Lands didn't allow her to fly toward the Hellish Landscape. That area was under the control of the magical beasts now, and the Crystal City was quite influential there. The inheritance had to wait until she became strong enough to face those threats.

"I would have seized it if the will of the Pit didn't force me to leave," Noah snorted.

Those stories eventually ended with their reunion, and June failed to contain her amazement. Noah had seen a lot during those millennia. He had almost crossed the entire known plane and survived countless threats.

Noah also explained the requirements behind the ninth rank, but June was too weak to understand them. She had yet to learn how to deploy a proper domain, but she was on the right path.

The Legion didn't interfere with Noah and his pack. Its leaders turned a deaf ear to his claims about the separate force. They treated him as an independent part of their organization to avoid overthinking the matter.

Wilfred, Theodora, and Jordan also acknowledged the power behind Noah's underlings. Those magical beasts were quite valuable, especially when it came to the Foolery.

The pigs didn't make a great impression at the beginning, but they changed everyone's mind once they turned entire regions into blue paradises. The whole Legion could only rejoice at those resources.

The Balrow family eventually contacted the Legion to reach Noah. They sent an envoy in the seventh rank that discussed the matters concerning Great Builder's inheritance.

The envoy revealed that the Balrow family had gone further in the exploration of the pyramid. That force now had three pieces of the inheritance to offer, so Noah had to renegotiate the terms of their trade.

Noah had amassed countless materials and resources during the millennia spent exploring the magical beasts' domain. He had also seized a mine of Soul Stones with his group, so his finances were more than enough to find a reasonable agreement.

Noah's separate space contained enough wealth to build multiple guilds from scratch. Even some organizations would lust after his resources if they knew how numerous they were.

The envoy from the Balrow family pressed Noah to make the preparations for the trade immediately, but he firmly refused. Noah wanted to announce his return to the human domain before handling that matter.

Noah wasn't stupid. The human domain was different from the lands controlled by magical beasts. The Crystal City had managed to capture him during a battle in the Outer Lands. He didn't dare to imagine what that force could do among allies.

The human domain had to fear Noah before he could interact with its forces. He wanted to use the same tactic deployed during the invasion of the Outer Lands, but his target was a large organization at that time.

The envoy had to give up on his pleas and leave the Outer Lands, hoping that Noah would eventually prioritize that trade. Of course, Noah didn't reveal his plans to that cultivator, and the expert didn't dare to complain.

'I guess it's time to leave,' Noah thought after he handled everything.

Noah and June had caught up, the pact with the Balrow family still existed, and all his underlings had prepared for the imminent battle. Noah only had to give the order to start a war against the Sailbrird family.

The Legion ended up delaying his plans since it requested a meeting. Noah soon found himself in a windy region inhabited only by Theodora, Wilfred, Jordan, and Ian.

"I have looked into your mind," Theodora said to start the meeting, "So this development leaves me speechless. Why did you have to build a different force when the Legion was ready to welcome you?"

"No reason in particular," Noah replied while shrugging his shoulders. "Existences will keep following me due to the positive effects of my influence anyway. Holding that feature back after the events with the Crystal City was pointless. It was better to embrace it and let my law express its full potential."

"Couldn't you have done that inside the Legion?" Jordan asked.

"I did that," Noah replied. "I have never stopped doing that. Didn't the Legion always lose against the human side before? I arrived and guess what? You won."

Noah then pointed at Jordan and Ian. "You two were in the seventh rank before meeting me, but you are pillars of the Legion now. Your organization also lacked manpower, but you have gained many new assets."

"Do you want me to believe that this is thanks to you?" Ian asked while wearing a pissed expression. "Do you want to take credit for the countless years spent fighting before you were even born?"

"My law can't help those who don't want to grow," Noah said while spreading his arms. "I'm only saying that I did something. You can decide how much that's worth by yourselves. I have a war to run."

Noah straightened his position and turned to leave, but Wilfred exploded into a loud laugh and startled him.

"We only wanted to confirm your intentions," Wilfred explained. "Hybrids don't care about organizations anyway. We are allies, so we are good. Now, who are we going to fight?"

Chapter 1562 1562. Memories

The Legion's willingness to join the assault on the Sailbrird family delayed the beginning of the fight. There was far more to organize with the addition of those troops and powerful existences, especially when the plan involved a peculiar transport.

"Are you sure that you can make us reach the Sailbrird family?" Noah asked while studying the expert placing countless formations on the ground.

"It will be different from the attack on the Crystal City," King Elbas replied without moving his gaze from his work. "I could use the pagoda and your connection with Divine Demon back then. I can only bring us all into the right region this time around."

"No surprise effect then," Noah sighed.

"You should be grateful that I memorized how the pagoda worked before that brute destroyed it," King Elbas snorted. "I can't believe how stupid an existence can be to break such a valuable rank 8 item."

Noah left King Elbas to his complaints and returned to his cave. His pack lived in that region to benefit from his influence, and only June could go into his training area without announcing herself.

June wasn't in the cave, so Noah resumed his usual training sessions. He had to wait for King Elbas to complete the teleport anyway, so he didn't mind investing that time to increase his cultivation level.

A lump of azure mental energy came out of his mental sea whenever Noah completed one of his sessions. The images stored there were quite interesting, so he often inspected them in the hope of gaining some insight.

The world in Noah's vision changed when he inspected that lump of mental energy. His thoughts also morphed as he experienced what Sword Saint had gone through during that event.

Storms filled the sky. The number of chaotic laws that filled the sky were so numerous that they could partially cover the white light. It was as if yellowish dust had taken control of those lands.

Sword Saint felt unable to expand his consciousness. His senses also suffered in that dangerous environment. The gales of chaotic laws suppressed his sight and hearing, and his aura barely managed to defend his skin.

It was clear that an existence in the eighth rank couldn't survive for long in those lands. The upper tier was the minimum requirement to live inside the stormy regions.

Sword Saint could see a mountain-sized figure moving in the distance even if the storms were clouding his senses. That creature carried so much power that even the chaotic laws couldn't stop its aura from spreading and surrounding his figure.

Sword Saint felt as if his body was about to crumble under that pressure. An instinctive fear filled his mind and spread through his existence, and a cold realization also seeped into his thoughts. He had found a rank 9 magical beast!

Few words could describe that meeting. Sword Saint had always been proud of his achievements, but his immense power couldn't do anything against that force.

His sword had always been able to cut through everything, but he had finally met a wall that no amount of sharpness could overcome. His law was meaningless. Even his domain was nothing more than energy in front of that power.

The storms suddenly stopped raging. The chaotic laws froze in the sky before flowing backward. They converged toward the mountain-sized monster and returned the area to its natural whiteness.

Sword Saint could finally lay his eyes on the monster. He saw a massive armadillo standing in the distance and keeping its mouth open.

The chaotic laws naturally flew toward the creature's mouth. The armadillo wasn't resorting to any technique. That was the amount of pulling force naturally generated by its breathing.

Sword Saint knew that the massive magical beast had noticed him. He couldn't differentiate among the various intensities of the creature's aura, but his instincts had no doubt. The armadillo had seen him and was purposely ignoring him.

The expert didn't dare to move, but an intense danger soon filled his mind. The armadillo had raised its head after completing its meal, and energy began to gather in its mouth.

That energy went through different stages. It first created a large vortex that eventually gave birth to a massive sphere. That mass enlarged until it reached a breaking point that threatened to make all the power accumulated in its structure burst outward.

Still, the pulling force generated by the armadillo was too strong. The energy couldn't leave its grasp, and it soon began to condense into something more threatening.

The sphere transformed into a minute black spot that gave birth to an immense gravitational field. Then, even more chaotic laws converged toward that structure and slowly expanded it.

The process seemed endless. Sword Saint lost track of the passage of time while he observed the magical beast gathering enough energy to power an entire army of peak rank 8 cultivators.

A crack appeared on the singularity when it gathered enough energy. Space bent as the fissure enlarged and spread through the entire black hole.

Then, Sword Saint's vision went dark. He had only been able to sense a massive discharge of energy before his whole existence went numb.

His senses eventually began to work again. Sword Saint found himself among storms of chaotic laws, with injuries filling every inch of his body.

The environment had only one unusual detail. The chaotic laws dulled his senses, but he could see the sky in the distance divided by an immense black line.

The higher plane was stable enough to fix that crack in its fabric in a few seconds, but Sword Saint committed those images to memory. That attack didn't suit his law, but it expressed the highest form of energy in the entire world.

Noah woke up from his vision after Sword Saint's memories ended. Those scenes always managed to leave him speechless due to the prowess shown by the rank 9 magical beast. Yet, they also made his ambition explode.

The power of the armadillo's innate ability seemed connected to the amount of energy it could gather. Still, it also had a feature that Noah had never dreamt of use.

'My higher energy has taken the shape of a black hole because it was the most stable structure for that amount of power,' Noah thought while going through Sword Saint's memories again. 'It's different with

my attacks. Their nature makes them generate singularities, but that's only one of the possible outcomes.'

Noah knew his attacks and centers of power enough to be sure that he wasn't expressing his peak potential. His techniques could reach a superior level even without adding more energy.

'Destabilizing a black hole on purpose to gain access to the energy amassed in its insides,' Noah let his mind wander. 'The issue isn't gathering enough power. A singularity would normally discharge its might in every direction, thus endangering the caster. I need a method to control the ejection before attempting to evolve my attacks.'

Sword Saint had been true to his word. He knew Noah enough to understand his request and fulfill his needs. He had shown to Noah the nature that his attacks had to obtain to reach the superior level.

Chapter 1563 1563. Attack

Every large organization had many branches. Those forces featured multiple rank 8 cultivators who required a personal space where to deploy their influence.

It was impossible to find all the important members of an organization gathered in the same place. The situation was even more complex for the weaker cultivators since most of them were busy completing tasks in different areas.

Yet, a tense atmosphere filled the Immortal Lands. The victories of the Legion had threatened the frail pace among the various organization. They had brought those forces on the verge of a civil war.

Those forces didn't experience a shortage of territories in millennia. The lack of proper regions where to expand and grow had created a tense political environment ready to blow.

The only thing that stopped those organizations from going after each other's domains was their common enemy. The magical beasts could invade again at any time, which forced the cultivators to do their best to preserve their forces.

That desire didn't stop the organizations from taking precautions. They began to gather countless defenses and assets in their mansions and castles to increase their foundation.

It was rare for them to have so many cultivators and wealth in one place. That behavior increased their overall defense, but it also leaked more information to the rest of the world.

The spies from the Legion could locate some gathering points of the Sailbrird family in a matter of years. That force mainly occupied large cities that featured multiple organizations, but it had a few mansions in the open.

The most popular mansion under the control of the Sailbrird family was inside a mountain chain near Pacourt city, a large town famous for its libraries.

Cultivators wearing the emblem of the Sailbrird family often moved between Pacourt city and the mountain chain to handle certain tasks. Anyone could understand that a mansion was hiding in that region.

The citizens of Pacourt city were living in peace, without minding the tense atmosphere in the human domain. Cities always had leaders from multiple organizations, so battles never happened there.

However, a series of inscriptions suddenly materialized above Pacourt city's white buildings. The weaker citizens didn't panic since they saw the rank 8 leaders coming out of their training areas, but the scene that followed gave birth to a wave of chaos.

A massive army made of hybrids, cultivators, and magical beasts appeared in the sky and began to inspect their surroundings. They immediately noticed Pacourt city, and loud curses resounded among their ranks.

"Why are we above the city?" Wilfred cursed. "I thought you said that we would have ended in the mountain chain!"

"Most likely!" King Elbas replied. "It's impossible to teleport many assets in a precise location without an inscribed item on the other side. If only we still had the pagoda!"

"Everyone knows about our attack now," Jordan added in a calm tone. "How do we find the headquarters before reinforcements arrive?"

"I know a way," Noah said before shooting toward the mountain chain and summoning Snore.

The massive winged snake appeared in the sky and released a torrent of feathers. Those weapons fell on the many mountains and generated an explosion that leveled a large chunk of the region.

The attack gave birth to shockwaves that engulfed the army and the city. Duanlong had to appear to protect Noah, and the rank 8 assets in his group deployed their techniques to defend their underlings.

The city fended off the raging waves of dark matter with its defenses, and its three rank 8 leaders didn't divert their attention from the army. They were still dumbstruck by the sudden appearance of those enemies.

"My heir!" Divine Demon shouted from among the army once the shockwaves dispersed. "One of them has the right emblem!"

"Leave her be," Noah replied. "We don't have enough time to destroy both defenses. Let's focus our assault on the mansion."

Divine Demon turned toward the city and pointed at the two leaders that didn't belong to the Sailbird family.

"You two remain here," Divine Demon said before pointing at the woman from the Sailbird family. "You can come out."

Neither of them dared to move. The army counted more than five rank 8 existences, and one of them seemed close to the peak of the gaseous stage. Noah, Divine Demon, Wilfred, Jordan, Ian, King Elbas, and four rank 8 magical beasts had taken control of the sky.

"There!" Noah shouted while pointing toward one of the mountains.

Noah had studied the mountain chain before and after the explosion. His inspection made him notice an area that had resisted Snore's feathers without suffering any damage.

Night shot out of Noah's chest while the rest of the army rejoined him. The Pterodactyl soon fused with the world, and a series of inscriptions lit up on some mountains a few instants later.

"Attack!" Noah roared before shooting forward.

The rest of the army followed Noah, but only Divine Demon, Wilfred, and King Elbas could keep up with his speed. The four experts slammed on the inscriptions while releasing some of their most powerful attacks.

Noah slashed the Demonic Sword, launching a singularity covered by a thick layer of liquid dark matter. Wilfred directly punched the inscriptions and generated an earthquake that spread through the entire region. Jordan spat fire, and King Elbas snapped his fingers to create tiny fiery arrows.

The attacks made the inscriptions flicker but didn't destroy them. Yet, King Elbas quickly snapped his fingers again, and those defenses began to crumble.

An immense mansion appeared among the destroyed mountain chain while the inscriptions fell apart. The building featured countless cultivators who had already deployed battle formations.

Words became useless at that point. Noah's group charged ahead, and the cultivators from the Sailbird family activated their second line of defense.

A series of towers came out of the ground and began to attack the invaders with corrosive yellow light. That radiance came from rank 8 items in the lower tier and inflicted considerable losses on Noah's side.

"I'll handle them," Jordan roared before diving directly toward the towers.

Countless attacks flew toward her, but Divine Demon promptly appeared on their trajectory. The expert wore a broad smile as he saw those blows altering their course and converging toward his figure.

"Who is up for a challenge?!" Divine Demon shouted, and the attacks crumbled.

Their energy began to rotate around Divine Demon before transforming into azure energy that served only him. The attacks that followed ended up in the same way. The expert appeared untouchable.

"I'll help," Wilfred said before landing on the ground and slamming his massive arms.

A crack opened under his feet and spread through the whole region. The fissure even ran across the mansion and destabilized its foundation, disturbing the concentration of the weaker assets in the defensive formations.

Ian howled and accumulated soundwaves through the sky. The hybrid forced those attacks to detonate whenever his opponents' offensive was about to land on the army. He even slowed down the effects of the annoying towers.

Jordan eventually slammed her draconic head on one of the towers and shattered it. Yet, her attack activated a series of inscriptions that converged toward the mansion.

A dangerous sensation filled the rank 8 existences on Noah's side. The roof of the mansion lit up, and a rank 8 aura in the middle tier spread through the sky.

The destruction of the tower had activated an inscribed item with unfathomable power. The experts could sense energy amassing in its insides and preparing for an inevitable discharge.

Still, a beam made of golden flames landed on the roof before it could release its attack. The item immediately began to lose power, and cracks even spread through its surface.

Noah and the other rank 8 existences immediately turned toward King Elbas, who snorted and began to shout toward the mansion. "Don't you dare to make me waste another disposable weapon in the middle tier!"

Chapter 1564 1564. Brutes

Chaos spread through the battlefield. King Elbas' achievement had made the cultivators of the Sailbird family aware that their defenses wouldn't last for long.

King Elbas had been clear. No one dared to believe that he was lying. After all, he had destroyed a rank 8 inscribed defense in the middle tier while being in the gaseous stage!

A series of figures shot out of the mansion. Three rank 8 cultivators in the gaseous stage quickly appeared in the area that divided the two armies.

"What's the reason behind this attack?" One of the leaders asked.

"Don't pretend to be ignorant," Noah replied while landing next to Wilfred and walking toward the trio. "You have decided to work with the Crystal City, so I will destroy you."

"That has been a small issue pursued by a single member of the Sailbird family," The cultivator complained. "We can give you his head and the right compensation for his actions. There is no need to start a war over such a trivial matter."

The cultivator's words ended up enraging Noah. Roots spread out of his palm and covered his figure as a fiendish armor appeared on his skin. The Demonic Sword even gave voice to a roar to echo Noah's feelings.

"Can't you see?" Noah said while raising his blade. "War is already here."

Noah's blade descended, and half of the battlefield disappeared. A singularity spread through the enemy army and destroyed cultivators, formations, and inscribed items.

The trio couldn't avoid revealing their real emotions at that sight. Noah had destroyed most of the area in front of the mansion with a single attack. Fear and worry appeared on their faces.

A cold realization appeared in the trio's mind. Their defenses and army couldn't stop their enemies. The mansion wouldn't survive the sudden attack.

"Give your lives for the Sailbird family!" One of the leaders shouted. "Fight! Hold them back! Reinforcements are coming!"

The remains of the army activated a different battle formation. They performed complex moves while green lines lit up under their feet.

One of the leaders descended to join the underlings and began to perform the same moves. The lines then rose in the sky and slowly created a massive giant that wore robes featuring the emblem of the Sailbird family.

Weapons of different kinds appeared on the giant's arms. A long sword quickly materialized on its right hand, a giant jar formed under its armpit, and a horned helmet covered its head.

Protections also appeared on its legs, elbows, neck, and chest. The style of the different pieces of the weapons and armor differed. It seemed that the Sailbird family had fused multiple battle formations to create that figure.

'Worthy of the organization that holds the monopoly on the libraries,' Noah thought while inspecting the giant.

The massive figure radiated an immense aura that bordered the beginning of the middle tier. It was stabler than Heaven's manifestation, but its power had similar properties.

The giant was a mass of energy arrayed in ways that could generate the different weapons and defenses. Still, it lacked a proper harmony. Any expert in the field could almost see where the various battle formations conflicted.

"I'll take that," King Elbas sighed.

"I'll join!" Divine Demon shouted.

"Count me in," Wilfred said while raising in the sky.

"How can you two brutes even help?" King Elbas complained.

"I've already shown you who is better at...," Divine Demon snorted, but he interrupted his line mid-way since he couldn't find a word to describe the giant.

"Battle formations," King Elbas sighed and massaged his temples.

"Battle formations!" Divine Demon exclaimed. "See? Good teamwork."

"I want to see if I'm stronger than that thing," Wilfred added while shrugging his shoulders.

King Elbas almost regretted destroying the inscribed roof before it could kill his companions. Yet, the situation worsened even further when he saw that a massive pig had appeared next to Wilfred.

"I won't let you take all the glory on your own!" The rank 8 Foolery exclaimed while raising its head at the sky.

"I like this one!" Wilfred said before raising his head too.

"I can raise it even more!" Divine Demon shouted while joining the duo.

King Elbas reviewed his entire life while inspecting that scene. He wanted to see how he had ended surrounded by so many idiots, but nothing significant came up.

"Stop playing around and take it down!" Noah roared from under them. "The other rank 8 magical beasts must also help. The rest of us are enough to take care of the others."

More magical beasts joined King Elbas' group before the giant finished assembling. The battle started immediately, and the whole mansion fell apart under the shockwaves radiated by the exchanges.

Noah, Ian, and Jordan were hybrids, so they could ignore the shockwaves weighing on them. The other leaders could also ignore that pressure due to their inscribed robes, but they used that chance to retreat.

Their enemies counted ten rank 8 existences. Their mansion didn't have what it needed to stop the assault after King Elbas destroyed the roof. The massive battle formation was only a method to gain time.

Noah's group would have to retreat once the reinforcements arrived, but he still wanted to inflict as many losses as possible. He planned to fill the human organizations with pure terror.

'King Elbas and Divine Demon are there,' Noah thought while glancing at the giant. 'I can't imagine them losing. I can focus on the others.'

Noah glanced at his underlings before teleporting away. He had to check that June and the others could handle the situation before pursuing the two rank 8 cultivators.

June, Flying Demon, Dreaming Demon, Daniel, and Faith were doing their best during the battle. Ian's soundwaves were keeping them safe from the many dangerous shockwaves that filled the battlefield. The group could fight the other underlings and focus on their small battles.

Noah reappeared in front of the two escaping cultivators. The duo quickly launched a few attacks, but Noah destroyed them with a wave of his sword.

"Don't think too highly of yourself," One of the leaders said when the singularity devoured her attack. "The Sailbird family has thrived for eras. We have roots in every city of the human domain. You might win this battle, but you will never destroy us."

"You all start talking at this point," Noah sighed while slowly walking through the air toward the duo. "Let's kill each other. I can't bear another boring conversation."

"Arrogant brat!" The second leader shouted before launching a series of lightning bolts toward Noah.

A singularity devoured them again, and the first leader promptly filled the sky with a series of glass-like shards that assaulted Noah. However, he created a hole through that sharp array with a second slash.

'They aren't putting much energy in their offensive,' Noah concluded after those exchanges. 'They want to focus on their defense to stall the situation.'

Jordan was flying toward Noah. She would reach him in a matter of seconds. The two cultivators were almost inside the range of her flames.

Yet, the world in her eyes suddenly froze, and a tinge of panic spread through her mind. She couldn't understand the cause of that event, but she calmed down when she saw Noah cutting in half one of the leaders.

Chapter 1565 1565. Satisfaction

A single second could mean the difference between life and death in battles featuring rank 8 existences. Even a slight delay in the activation of a defensive technique was enough to kill them.

Noah had understood that the two leaders only wanted to buy some time. His current level made him strong enough to defeat most gaseous stage cultivators, but it was hard for him to deal with two of them simultaneously.

Overwhelming their defenses while fending off their attacks would lead to a long battle. Noah strongly believed that he could defeat both his opponents at the same time, but he didn't know if the reinforcements would arrive before the fight ended.

Noah only took an instant to make up his mind. He liked to keep his trump cards a secret unless the situation required them, but he had the chance to inflict consistent losses at that time.

Supreme Thief's technique had allowed Noah to seize Shandal's law. Noah had then transformed that true meaning into a diagram that required darkness, mental energy, and dark matter.

The world screamed in pain when Noah activated the spell. His influence seeped into the matter and took control of one of its fundamental laws.

Shandal's law was part of Heaven and Earth's system. It belonged to those mighty existences, but Noah had transformed that true meaning into a spell that could forcefully put him in charge for a second.

The area darkened, and Noah shot forward. Nothing moved in the world, but he knew that the effects of his spell wouldn't last for long. Still, the roots had already covered the Demonic Sword, which was ready to cut in half one of his opponents.

Noah could only perform a simple slash in that time. Any other attack would have required him to gather more energy, and his spell would have ended by then.

His physical strength was enough to pierce the defensive items and innate protections. The sharpness of the Demonic Sword also helped, and the corrosive aura around the roots performed an important role too.

Noah reached the cultivator who could summon storms of glass-like shards and cut her body in half. His spell ended right after his attack, and time started flowing again.

The cultivator cleaved in half was still alive after the attack, but Noah promptly covered her in black flames. The resilience of rank 8 existences was incredible, but she had suffered far too much damage by then.

The second leader had watched the whole scene. The time spell didn't affect his senses. Part of him felt glad that Noah had chosen his companion over him, but that feeling didn't manage to overcome the terror that filled his mind.

"What do you even want?!" The cultivator asked while watching his companion turning into tiny black flames that fused with Noah. "We gave you the chance to complete your vengeance. We were even willing to pay for our mistake. What else can you possibly desire from us?"

The cultivator was panicking. He didn't know how to handle that situation. He wanted to find a way out, but Noah appeared invincible after killing the other leader.

Jordan stopped right outside the battlefield. She saw that Noah was in complete control of his fight, so she didn't want to interrupt his hunt.

"What do I want?" Noah asked while taking long steps toward the leader. "I want the human domain to fear me. I want every organization to be too scared to even think about hurting my organization. You are only the first name that has come to my mind."

The leader could understand Noah's view at that point, and it even made sense in his mind. A sense of loss filled the cultivator, but he didn't let his will to fight vanish.

His body transformed into a series of sparks that spread through the sky. The leader had resorted to an evasive maneuver, but Noah could quickly identify the lightning bolt that carried his consciousness.

The lightning bolts were almost as fast as Noah, so he took a bit to reach them. Yet, his blade eventually fell on those flying sparks, and the leader reappeared in the sky.

The cultivator had lost an arm and a leg after Noah's attack, but no pain appeared on his expression. Instead, a series of sparks began to accumulate in the area as his domain spread.

The sparks soon gave birth to countless lightning bolts that converged toward Noah. Those attacks didn't even vanish since the leader never stopped filling them with his "Breath".

The attack managed to slow Noah down. He felt a violent force landing on his body from every side, but the Demonic Form, the fiendish armor, and his skin prevented it from reaching his insides.

Noah also continued to move through the storm. The leader was doing his best to injure him, but he appeared unable to leave a mark on his skin.

"How can you be a simple expert in the gaseous stage?!" The leader asked without stopping his attack. "How can you walk through this with your sheer strength?!"

Noah wasn't only relying on his body to defeat that technique. The Demonic Form was giving its corrosive aura, and the liquid dark matter was covering his skin.

The parasite alone was enough to multiply Noah's might. He was adding a rank 8 creature to his power. It was normal for his strength to surpass an average rank 8 existence.

The dark matter increased his level even further. His foundation was also far better than any other creature in the world. The leader had to go all-out if he wanted to hope to injure Noah.

'I'm wasting too much time to test my power,' Noah thought before stopping moving.

Duanlong came out of his chest and opened its mouth. Snore also materialized around his figure to give the other Blood Companion enough time to deploy its innate ability.

The lightning storm slowly crumbled as its energy converged toward the dragon. Noah could soon shoot toward the leader without meeting any obstruction.

The leader performed its evasive maneuver again, but Night cut its actual lightning bolt before he could fly too far. The expert reappeared in the sky, but he lacked another arm at that time.

Noah didn't hesitate to charge ahead again, but the expert promptly unleashed a series of inscribed items. Swords, shields, disposable weapons, and barriers of various kinds exploded in front of Noah and delayed his victory.

Snore, Duanlong, Snore, and Noah quickly dealt with those items, but the expert tried to run away again. Noah had to chase him for an entire region to reach him.

The leader was out of methods at that point. His space-ring didn't have useful resources anymore. His techniques seemed useless against Noah, and he was even slower than his opponent.

The hopeless situation didn't suppress his desire to survive. The cultivator tried to run away again, but Noah acted before his opponent could activate his evasive maneuver.

Night destabilized the expert's technique, and Noah cut off his head. The corpse tried to explode into a wave of lightning bolts to discharge its remaining energy, but Noah suppressed it with his dark matter.

When Noah turned, he noticed that Jordan had long since left to help the others. He had successfully defeated two rank 8 cultivators on his own, but that achievement didn't bring any satisfaction.

Chapter 1566 1566. Sorry

'That was disappointing,' Noah thought while inspecting the battlefield.

His opponents were two rank 8 cultivators belonging to a large organization. They had inscribed robes, defensive items, and disposable weapons, but Noah had defeated them quite easily.

'Am I finally overcoming the gap between stages?' Noah considered that option.

His breakthrough to the eighth rank had evolved his might in ways that Noah had yet to comprehend fully. Moreover, his companions multiplied his power, making him impossible to handle by experts at the same level.

'This usually happened whenever I neared the peak of the stage,' Noah thought. 'Did it happen sooner now?'

Noah had often fought enemies stronger than him in terms of cultivation level. That had become a habit since he usually generated enough chaos to attract the attention of older existences.

Still, the exponential increase of power given by the higher stages and ranks had never allowed Noah to fill those gaps until he approached the breakthroughs. He had always needed to be relatively close to the next level to express a superior power.

The situation seemed different now. Noah felt able to defeat any existence in the gaseous stage at ease. Only monsters like Sword Saint could match his power when they suppressed their cultivation level.

Snore, Night, Duanlong, the Demonic Sword, the parasite, and the fourth center of power made Noah far more powerful than any other existence at the same stage. The five companions in the eighth rank and the black hole prevented him from being close to the average.

Noah also had powerful trump cards. The cursed sword, the Shadow Domain, and the unstable substance made him able to express far more power.

He had even added Shandal's law to his arsenal. The spell had many restrictions and requirements, but it was a powerful ability that could allow Noah to kill his opponents instantly.

'Is this my curse?' Noah wondered. 'Do I have to keep fighting stronger beings to find struggles? What will happen once I reach the solid stage? Will I have to fight rank 9 creatures?'

Noah didn't know how to feel about his situation. Part of him felt delighted by the amount of power contained in his existence. His constant struggles and countless experiences had transformed him into the strongest type of living being in the entire higher plane.

Instead, another part of Noah felt worried. He had required many rank 8 resources to reach the eighth rank, and his current prowess could only mean that his needs had become steeper.

His body didn't improve by much after devouring the two rank 8 leaders. Those cultivators didn't even exhaust themselves, so Noah had absorbed most of the energy in their centers of power. Yet, he had gained nothing more than a meager boost.

'I guess it's time to test my prowess against magical beasts in the middle tier,' Noah concluded while inspecting the area to seize his opponents' space-rings. 'I can't keep going like this. I don't know if the human domain has enough gaseous stage cultivators to meet my requirements.'

The battle above the destroyed mansion had continued while Noah was busy chasing one of the leaders. King Elbas and the others had to approach the giant carefully due to the sheer power in its fabric. A direct hit could lead to their death.

The giant slashed with its sword, cracked whips that grew from its horned helmet, and generated a pulling force through its immense jar. Its armor also provided a decent defense in its most frail spots, so it was handling the battle quite well.

On the other hand, King Elbas, Divine Demon, and Wilfred were complete monsters. King Elbas had quickly learnt how to dissolve the giant's attacks, Divine Demon's white energy could almost shatter its defenses, and Wilfred made its entire fabric shake with its punches.

The trio also had the help of four rank 8 magical beasts. The only problem in their case was to make all of them work together properly.

Divine Demon was a madman who didn't listen to anyone. Wilfred seemed only interested in punching things. The four magical beasts didn't know much about battle formations, so they limited themselves to unleash their innate abilities in random spots.

Only King Elbas had a vague idea of how the battle should proceed, but he had no power over his companions. He could only make the best out of the windows that they created.

Wilfred was busy punching the armor on the giant's chest. The jar was too close to that spot, so the hybrid was the only one who could remain powerful there. The suction force generated by the item made most spells useless, so his punches ended up being quite useful.

The magical beasts soon imitated Wilfred, but the giant could deal with them relatively easily. The whips coming out of its horned helmet often landed on their bodies and inflicted severe injuries.

Wilfred was too small for those whips. He could change his spot on the giant's chest whenever an attack was converging on his position. His punches also destabilized its structure and made it miss from time to time.

The sword mainly aimed at Divine Demon. His white energy was quite threatening since it had piercing properties that Wilfred's punches lacked.

Divine Demon could handle those attacks easily. The sword was slower than him, and King Elbas weakened those blows even further. However, Divine Demon liked challenges.

Having Wilfred, King Elbas, and the four rank 8 magical beasts made it too easy for Divine Demon. The expert wanted to put himself in danger, so he purposely entered the range of the jar at some point.

The pulling force generated by the weapon deprived Divine Demon of the energy accumulated around his figure, leaving him with nothing more than his actual cultivation level.

The jar became too strong to fend off at that point. Divine Demon was powerful, but the weapon didn't let him escape. It also countered some of the effects of his laws.

Divine Demon never stopped smiling while the jar pulled him toward its dark entrance. The weapon only needed a matter of seconds to swallow him, but he didn't care.

Divine Demon seemed about to find a way out of that situation. The pulling force weakened as the jar started to malfunction under his influence. Yet, King Elbas suddenly snapped his fingers and turned the weapon into dust.

"I'm sorry you couldn't win your challenge in time," King Elbas commented in a plain tone before moving his attention elsewhere.

The destruction of the jar allowed long-range attacks, so the battle became far safer. Only Wilfred and the magical beasts continued to bump on the giant's chest while King Elbas and Divine Demon showered the battle formation with a series of spells.

King Elbas eventually snapped his fingers again, and the crown turned into dust. That powder began to converge toward his figure, but Divine Demon promptly attracted it and altered its nature.

"I'm sorry you couldn't collect your precious materials," Divine Demon said before exploding into a laugh and resuming his offensive.

King Elbas turned the giant into dust piece by piece. Wilfred could soon focus on frail areas that destabilized its whole structure while Divine Demon limited himself to fill the battle formation with holes.

The giant began to fall apart, revealing all the cultivators involved in the battle formation. Most of them had suffered injuries, but King Elbas and the others didn't go easy on them anyway.

The attack on the mansion of the Sailbird family soon ended. Noah's army gathered all the space-rings and debris of the structure before setting a line of defense.

King Elbas needed time to recreate the teleport, so Noah and the others had to protect him if the reinforcements arrived.

Chapter 1567 1567. Plan

"How long do you need?" Noah asked King Elbas.

"Half a day," King Elbas replied without stopping placing formations on the destroyed ground.

"According to my calculations, the reinforcements will arrive when I reach the last stages of the inscription."

Noah didn't disturb King Elbas anymore at that point. His army had already secured the perimeter, and each rank 8 existence was in charge of large platoons. They only had to wait for their opponents now.

No one dared to speak. That was the tensest moment of the mission. Success in defending King Elbas would lead them home safely. Failure would keep them stuck in those foreign regions.

Divine cultivators, hybrids, and magical beasts could spend those hours in a fraction of a training session. That time was nothing more than seconds in their minds. Yet, it felt like an eternity in that situation.

"They are here," Noah whispered at some point, and his words spread through the whole army.

Wilfred and the other hybrids sensed their opponents immediately after. The other rank 8 existences also became aware of their enemies in the next seconds.

The Legion had attacked a mansion near a large city. The organizations nearby didn't take much to hear that distress call and prepare an army to fend off those invaders.

Multiple rank 8 auras spread through the regions. Mental waves flew toward Noah's army to inspect the situation, but a powerful force fended them off.

"Magical beasts behind," Noah roared, "Cultivators in front of them. The hybrids will handle the frontlines!"

That was a reminder of the plan that they had prepared before. Noah wanted to contain the casualties on his side, so he was willing to send only those who had a higher chance to survive in the frontlines.

The magical beasts were an exception. Their incredible resilience made them formidable opponents, but they were too easy to handle by an army made of experienced cultivators.

The enemy army soon appeared in the distance. Six rank 8 auras towered among the massive group of cultivators, but they weren't the strongest existences there.

A heavy pressure suddenly spread through the region and threatened to suffocate Noah's army. That energy seemed able to carry a weight that pressed on all the existences in the area.

Noah and the other rank 8 existences unfolded their domains to fend off that pressure and defend their underlings. The laws in the world went crazy as those different true meanings took control of the area and merged to create a multicolored halo.

'They have a liquid stage cultivator,' Noah thought after the domains fended back the heavy aura.

Noah didn't need to warn his companions about that powerful expert. The other rank 8 existences had realized that as soon as they felt that pressure on their centers of power.

"Change of plans," Noah roared while turning toward Wilfred. "Are you up for a fight against that monster?"

"Of course," Wilfred snorted. "My hands have been itching since the battle with the giant. Will you give the order?"

Wilfred had understood the meaning hidden inside Noah's roar. Defending wasn't an option anymore. They couldn't hold their position against an opponent capable of such heavy might.

"Elbas, we'll leave you alone for a while!" Noah shouted. "Can you handle this on your own?"

"Who do you think I am?" King Elbas replied as a series of golden flames appeared around his inscriptions. "I have never planned to rely on you."

The golden flames transformed into different magical beasts. A phoenix, a nine-headed hydra, a three-headed dog, and other peculiar fiery creatures appeared around the formations.

"We aren't defenders anyway," Noah sighed while turning toward Wilfred, who limited himself to nod.

"Charge ahead!" Noah roared, and a wave of black flames shot out of his mouth to create a trail of darkness through the sky.

Roars and battle cries filled the sky as Noah and the others broke their formation and shot forward. Their opponents didn't expect such a sudden development. They believed that their enemies would turtle up and exploit their favorable position.

The reinforcements wore robes featuring different emblems. Noah recognized only the Sailbird family and the Monney family. The others belonged to organizations that he had never seen before.

The cultivator in the liquid stage belonged to the Sailbird family. She wore an expression that radiated pure anger, and her aura spread that emotion through the world.

The ground shook and shattered wherever her pressure landed. Even the air couldn't endure the power shooting out of her figure.

A cold smile appeared on the leader's face when she saw Noah and the others charging ahead. Her hand rose to point at the duo in the frontlines, and the world condensed under her attack.

The space in front of Noah and Wilfred twisted. They felt heavy, and a series of cuts opened on their skin. The mere influence of the leader was enough to injure them.

'This is how it should be!' Noah shouted in his mind before going all-out.

The dark world expanded, and his companions appeared in the open. Duanlong and Snore focused on the heavy pressure that separated Noah and Wilfred from the leader, while Night inspected the environment in an attempt to understand her law.

Massive black feathers flew toward the twisted space, but they detonated before they could reach its center. The violent dark matter even struggled to expand due to the weight applied to its fabric.

Duanlong tried to help, but its suction force didn't appear able to affect that twisted space. Every attack that entered its area escaped the companions' control.

Wilfred promptly punched the air, and a low noise spread through the sky. It was as if something had exploded, but the area didn't carry any trace of his attack.

'She can condense the laws in the world,' Night transmitted through the mental connection. 'It resembles a whirlpool capable of amassing every true meaning in the region. She is powerful.'

'I can see that,' Noah replied before placing his right hand on his chest.

The army was behind him. Noah couldn't slow down after ordering a full offensive, and the same went for Wilfred. The duo had to press forward, but the pressure on their centers of power intensified in the process.

Their companions were in the same situation, but they were leaving the matter to them. Noah and Wilfred expressed the peak of the hybrids' physical prowess. They were the only ones capable of finding a solution without interrupting their charge.

Noah didn't hesitate to draw the cursed sword in that tense moment. Unfortunately, he didn't have the time to study his opponent and test how far his base strength could push him. The twisted space had to fall now.

An intense bloodlust spread through the sky. Noah tried to redirect his violent thoughts forward, but some of them managed to seep into his army.

The existences affected by his bloodlust ended up entering into a frenzy. Drool even came out of their mouth since they could only think about killing the enemies in the distance.

Noah disregarded his negative influence on his army and performed a slash that featured both swords. His dark matter covered his weapons before he could launch his attack, and the dark world enhanced his destructive properties.

A crack suddenly opened through the sky. The edges of that fissures were hard to recognize since they divided the normal space with that affected by the leader. Still, Noah and the others could see that a path had formed, and they didn't hesitate to press ahead.

Chapter 1568 1568. Joint attack

The drawbacks of the cursed sword had blown Noah's chest off, but the black hole kept his organ in place. It created a layer of armor to replace the missing pieces of skin before generating the draconic figure.

Four additional arms grew on Noah's draconic torso, but he didn't dare to replicate the cursed sword at his current level. He only copied the Demonic Sword and let the roots handle the empty hands.

The army moved through the twisted space. Noah's attack had opened a safe path, and the experts didn't hesitate to run inside it.

"You must be crazy to enter my domain," The leader said when she looked at the army entering the twisted space. "Let me reduce you to a pulp."

The twisted space began to condense even more. Noah saw invisible walls closing on him and shrinking the safe passage. The domains that had filled that area couldn't do anything to stop the event.

Noah quickly placed his swords on his draconic forehead, Divine Demon summoned all the energy that he could gather, and Wilfred's muscles bulged until his veins exploded.

Ian gave voice to countless howls that gathered in his mouth and didn't spread through the world. At last, Jordan condensed the air inside the tunnel to fight the twisted space back.

The joint power of the five existences turned the whole area into a mess of attacks and lights. Massive singularities appeared among the twisted space, soundwaves destroyed every law in the environment, and white light mended the tunnel.

Wilfred's punches gave birth to explosions, and the air itself began to fight for Noah's army. The rank 7 existences in the area were witnessing the full might of their leaders. Still, their centers of power suffered among that destruction.

The magical beasts took care of defending the underlings. They used their bodies to absorb the shockwaves that tried to land on the army. They acted as meat shields and spat mouthfuls of blood due to the damage suffered during the attack.

The leader of the enemy army remained surprised. She saw her twisted space crumbling under that joint attack. Those five existences in the gaseous had managed to defeat her technique!

The expert felt that her pride had suffered a huge blow. She was a mighty expert in the liquid stage. She wasn't an existence that those enemies should be able to oppose.

Yet, Noah and the others reached the enemy army. Many had suffered injuries and had depleted a lot of energy, but they had succeeded in overcoming the attack.

Noah and Wilfred immediately shot toward the leader while the rest of the army dispersed to engage in multiple battles. Their arrival interrupted the cultivators preparing formations and items meant for the assault on King Elbas.

Chaos quickly spread. Divine Demon tried to take out the enemy underlings with a wave of his white light, but a rank 8 cultivator stepped forward and detonated the partial defenses to block the attack.

Jordan tried to do the same, but a second rank 8 cultivator stepped forward to fight her. Ian also used his soundwaves to target the underlings, but another rank 8 existence interrupted his offensive.

The only beings that could break into the enemy army were the magical beasts. They endured the attacks landing on their bodies and raged among the underlings.

Some of the other rank 8 cultivators joined their forces to isolate the destruction created by the magical beasts. Still, they couldn't do much now that they were already inside the army.

The rank 7 existences in Noah's army could exploit the destruction generated by the magical beasts to inflict a second wave of losses, but a rank 8 opponent soon stopped them.

Noah and Wilfred had it far harder than their companions. Twisted space surrounded the enemy leader and made it almost impossible for the duo to reach her.

Noah had lost his legs after his previous attack, but his flames had quickly covered the enemy army and had gathered enough energy to fix his body.

The bloodlust filling Noah's mind was threatening to make him go crazy, but he couldn't stop using the cursed sword. The situation didn't allow him to waste time.

Noah waved his six arms and created a tunnel through the expanding distorted space. The leader's technique seemed unable to stop him when he used the cursed sword. Wilfred could use that path to send his physical strength directly to the leader.

The leader saw attacks coming in her direction. Wilfred was able to transform his physical attacks into shockwaves that flew through the sky. The expert had to activate her defenses for fear that her body would shatter under that might.

The space twisted above her figure and blocked Wilfred's long-range punches, but the defense tore chunks of her skin apart. The leader's ability had clear drawbacks, but it allowed her to remain in one piece.

'Can we even win?' Noah wondered while suppressing his violent thoughts.

It had taken Noah two attacks with the cursed sword to destroy the previous technique. He had needed a third slash to pierce the expert's innate defenses. His black flames were keeping him alive, but his mind was already about to give in to his bloodlust.

'Elbas needs more time,' Noah thought before storing the cursed sword and creating more roots on his empty hand.

A storm of singularities quickly shot out of his blades. The attacks pierced the twisted space, but they remained stuck in its density. They didn't even cross half of that area.

"Enough playing around," The leader said while inspecting her injuries. "You have managed to hurt me, Gloria Sailbird. You can die happily."

Her aura suddenly burst out of her figure and spread her pressure. Countless rank 7 existences died when her law filled every corner of the region. Her offensive didn't even spare her underlings.

Noah and Wilfred's bodies became heavy again. Their centers of power raged in pain under the suppression, and Noah soon drew the cursed sword to get rid of those restraints.

"Not so fast," Gloria exclaimed while joining her hand.

The pressure suddenly intensified. Noah felt unable to move and perform his techniques in that area. Even Wilfred seemed to struggle against that power.

Noah's mouth slowly opened before a roar came out of his mouth. His cry gave birth to a soundwave that destroyed a small part of the twisted space and gave Noah enough room to move.

Black vessels popped out of his skin as the unstable substance flew through them. Noah converged most of that power toward his draconic arms and performed the strongest slash that he was capable of.

Gloria watched the draconic figure pulling back its arms before thrusting them forward. An intense sensation of danger filled her mind and forced her to reactivate the protection around her skin.

The six arms gave birth to a straight singularity that cut through the twisted space and reached Gloria. The attack even pierced her defenses and landed on her skin before depleting its power.

Gloria didn't suffer many injuries. A series of shallow cuts appeared on her hands and face, but she quickly healed them with her energy.

Noah's efforts appeared useless, but Wilfred didn't let his suffering go to waste. The last attack had forced Gloria to divert her attention for an instant, and that had been enough for Wilfred.

The hybrid neared Noah and threw a punch through the tunnel that he created. The attacks ran through the safe path and landed on Gloria right after Noah's thrust.

The lack of new defenses allowed the punches to land on Gloria's body. Her left shoulder exploded and took away a large chunk of her chest.

Chapter 1569 1569. Retrea

Gloria had the aspect of a youthful woman. She had long blonde hair and green eyes, and her face had delicate features.

However, the leader's face had twisted into an unsightly expression. Her hatred toward her enemies had overcome her rage and had started to overflow.

Flares of energy shot out of her figure and cut the battlefield. Gloria appeared out of control. Her existence was attacking both friends and foes without caring about their cultivation level.

Gloria's existence was aflame. The whole sky seemed about to fall on the battlefield. The laws in the area condensed and shot toward her figure, applying pressure on every existence in her range.

"Did we break her?" Wilfred asked while veins burst on his bulging muscles.

'Is she crazy?' Noah wondered while relying on the unstable substance to fend off the pressure landing on his body.

Cultivators, magical beasts, and hybrids died whenever a flare cut the battlefield. Gloria's kill count had surpassed five hundred in a few seconds and kept increasing with every discharge of energy.

'We can't fight in these conditions,' Noah concluded before giving voice to a roar that managed to seep through the twisted space closing on the battlefield.

Everyone could understand the meaning behind his cry. The cultivators in his army even heard a translation into human words in their minds.

Noah had ordered a full retreat. He had expected to lose many underlings during the attack, but remaining near Gloria could lead to the destruction of his army.

Everyone except the rank 8 existences started to retreat. Noah and the other experts were the only ones who could prevent their opponents from chasing their underlings, so they had to be the last to leave.

The cultivators in Gloria's army didn't have any intention to chase their enemies. The flares of energy were too dangerous for them, and some of the weaker leaders even called for a retreat.

"Where do you think you are going?!" Gloria shouted while glaring at her opponents.

Her eyes moved between Noah and Wilfred. Her whole hatred came from those two hybrids, and a flare soon shot out of her figure to fly toward them.

"Go!" Noah roared, but Wilfred remained behind.

Divine Demon imitated him while the others left to escort the rest of the army away. The three experts promptly launched their strongest attacks to fend off that flare, but the exchange didn't go as planned.

Wilfred's long-distance punches exploded before reaching the flare. The aura carried by that dense energy destabilized the attack and made it waste its power.

Something similar happened to Divine Demon's white energy. The expert had gathered that mass of higher energy into a beam, but his attack ended up falling apart before reaching the flare.

Only Noah's slash could clash with the flare. A singularity opened at its center and cut its structure, but its remaining energy continued to fly toward the trio and eventually engulfed them.

Noah and the others felt as if their bodies were going to implode. Their skin caved in, and their bones released screeching noises as that pressure forced them to condense.

'Give me more!' Noah shouted in his mind before letting the Demonic Form absorb a massive amount of energy.

The parasite's corrosive aura began to fend off that pressure. Noah soon managed to free himself from that energy and could focus on his companions.

Wilfred was doing his best to endure the attack. His physical prowess was far above normal hybrids, so he could protect his centers of power for a while.

The situation was far different for Divine Demon. Noah saw his limbs transforming into a pulp. Gloria's flare didn't kill him on the spot because the expert had gathered all his energy around his important organs. Yet, his defenses were about to give in to the pressure.

Noah promptly grabbed Divine Demon and threw him toward the rest of his army. The expert suffered a few injuries during the flight due to the immense strength used by Noah, but that also helped to fend off Gloria's energy.

The roots then spread to cover Wilfred. The hybrid suffered a few injuries, but he quickly recovered once the corrosive aura helped him get rid of Gloria's energy.

"You come in here and decide to attack organizations that have lasted for eras!" Gloria shouted as another flare shot toward the duo. "You have no idea how strong we are. You don't know what kind of forces you have decided to fight."

Noah placed a hand on Wilfred's shoulder, and they disappeared before the flare could hit them. Then, they reappeared a few kilometers away in the direction of their army.

"What was-," Wilfred began to ask, but Noah threw him before he could complete his question.

Noah had to rely on the Shadow Domain to dodge the flare, and carrying Wilfred with him had almost depleted his stash of special darkness.

'Come closer,' Noah thought while watching Gloria walking through the air between them.

"Do you think I don't know about your dimensional ability?" Gloria asked as an ugly grin appeared on her face. "Come on! Show me what Defying Demon can do!"

'It seems that I'm quite popular in the human domain,' Noah thought while taking a few steps back.

Gloria didn't hesitate to walk toward Noah, and she even accelerated. Another flare eventually shot out of her figure, and Noah quickly teleported away to resume his retreat.

Noah's attention remained on the piece of the sky behind him. Once Gloria reached a specific spot, Noah activated the Shadow Domain and teleported what it contained around her.

Gloria suddenly found thousands of spiked spheres around her. Noah's rank 8 Instabilities filled the sky and threatened to detonate as soon as she moved.

Of course, Noah didn't put any condition on those disposable weapons. He had already activated them, and they would explode in the following instant.

Noah flew as fast as he could. A series of detonations and a massive storm had appeared in the sky. The waves of power radiated by the explosions threatened to reach him, but his experience with Snore's feathers had taught him how to avoid them in time.

Those who had retreated before Noah and the others reached King Elbas and waited for him to finish the matrix. Frantic expressions filled their face, but they didn't dare say a word to let the expert concentrate.

Noah wasn't as polite as them. He began to shout as soon as he rejoined his army. "How long, Elbas?"

"I need to finish the detail," King Elbas replied. "This is the moment when I decided whether to reappear in one or many pieces."

"Send your puppets forward," Noah ordered before crossing his legs and sitting right outside his formation. "I believe she is alive and angry."

Gloria proved Noah to be right since the storm of spikes soon began to amass into a small metal orb. Some of the shockwaves even started to flow back to condense near her figure.

King Elbas ordered his puppets to gain some time. They were his powerful creations, but even they couldn't do anything against Gloria. She could destroy them with a single attack.

The puppets detonated before dying and made King Elbas gain a bit more time. All the existences in Noah's army began to attack Gloria at that point. They unleashed their strongest attacks in the hope of delaying her advance.

Yet, nothing seemed able to stop her. Gloria's power was useful both in attack and defense. She was invincible in that situation.

Gloria reached the enemy army and raised her remaining arm, but a golden light quickly covered the area. It took less than an instant, but Noah and the others saw a different scenery when the radiance generated by the teleport ran out.

Chapter 1570 1570. Loo

Familiar lands appeared in Noah's vision. King Elbas' formation had worked, even if it had teleported the army slightly deeper into the Outer Lands.

Noah expanded his consciousness to study his army. The attack on the Sailbird family had been a huge success, but his underlings had paid a hefty price.

The four rank 8 magical beasts had suffered severe injuries. They would need years to heal, and some of them might even need to hibernate to fix their body completely.

Divine Demon's condition was even worse, and his species didn't help his situation. He had lost his limbs, and his internal organs had suffered a lot. Only his centers of power were almost entirely fine, which hinted at a quick recovery.

Ian and Jordan were ok. Wilfred had suffered a bit, but his condition wasn't bad. All the rank 8 existences in Noah's army would eventually recover, so his group didn't lose any valuable asset.

The situation wasn't as good for the underlings. The rank 8 existences in Noah's army had tried to shield them from the shockwaves generated by their battles, but there was a limit to how much they could do.

Many rank 7 existences had died during the last confrontation and Gloria's chaotic outburst. Almost everyone who survived had suffered severe injuries, and some even found themselves with destroyed centers of power.

Noah knew that those losses were inevitable. His decision to face Gloria head-on had even limited that number and saved many lives. Still, that wasn't enough for him.

'I can't do much more,' Noah thought while inspecting his army. 'They have to overcome these difficulties by themselves. This skimming process is necessary. I will only recreate the pampered environment of the large organizations otherwise.'

Noah raised his eyes toward the sky. The cultivation journey was ruthless, and even his power couldn't affect that feature. He could only make sure that his underlings benefitted from his ambition as much as possible, but the rest had to come from them.

'At least June and the others are fine,' Noah sighed before covering the entire army with his dark world.

The dark world gained nourishing properties that accelerated the healing process of every existence affected by its currents. Noah couldn't do much for the rank 8 cultivators and hybrids, but the others benefitted from his technique.

The army soon set off to return to the Legion's headquarters. Blue lands eventually filled their vision and marked the beginning of their domain.

The Foolery and the other magical beasts reunited with the rest of the pack. The hybrids returned to their cities, and the cultivators created caves where to recover.

Noah returned to his cave at the center of the lands filled with blue bushes, but June didn't come with him. She had to prioritize the well-being of her centers of power, and long seclusions often followed such intense battles.

'What can I do now?' Noah wondered while reviewing the battle in his mind.

Gloria Sailbird was a monster, but Noah could fight her techniques back when he activated his trump cards. Yet, he didn't know whether going all-out would have allowed him to defeat her.

'Too strong for average gaseous stage existences, and too weak for those in the liquid stage,' Noah concluded. 'Do I need to plunder every mansion and city in the human domain to push my battle prowess even further?'

The army had gained many resources after the attack. The Sailbird family was famous for its libraries, so the amount of knowledge and wealth contained in its mansion was incredible.

A meeting would come after every rank 8 existence recovered. Noah and the others had to inspect those resources and decide how to deploy them.

Noah hoped to find something valuable, but he didn't let his expectation go out of control. It was hard to obtain helpful techniques or new weapons at his level. The best he could hope for was to gain a few ideas on how to improve without relying on external abilities.

The meeting eventually happened, and Noah found that his low expectations were on point. The amount of wealth seized in the attack was immense. Piles of Soul Stones and valuable materials had filled the mansion and the cultivators' space-rings, but their inventory didn't have techniques that Noah found worthy of his time.

Noah's standards were spectacularly high. His current techniques came for rank 9 existences or geniuses. Moreover, his abilities were often better than those seized in the attack since he had spent a long time polishing them.

The most valuable aspect of the loot was the copy of the knowledge stored inside the libraries. The Legion and the other rank 8 existences could learn a lot from those notes and books, especially when it came to the complex political environment of the human domain.

Noah focused only on the notes that involved appealing resources or peculiar creatures. He didn't care about the political side of the human domain since he believed that the last attack had turned every organization into enemies.

'I guess it's time to get my hands on the rest of Great Builder's inheritance,' Noah concluded once the leaders finished sorting through the resources. 'I need to improve the workshop. My experiments with the rank 8 creatures aren't going anywhere.'

Noah was a rank 8 existence now. His dark matter had evolved and improved all the techniques connected to its power.

In theory, the workshop was able to mass-produce rank 8 creatures now. Noah had enough knowledge in the magical beasts' field to know how to recreate a rank 8 magical beast, but his products didn't meet his expectations.

Noah had tested that procedure with multiple blueprints. He had tried to create simple and complex magical beasts through the workshop, but his products barely met the minimum requirements to be proper rank 8 beings.

Adding fake cores to those creations didn't help. Noah had wasted many valuable resources to create fake centers of power that could fuel those creatures, but he only managed to obtain a slight improvement in their structure.

Creating those magical beasts also required a lot of time, making the technique unsuited for battles against existences in the eighth rank. Noah had tried to smoothen the procedure, but he didn't obtain great results.

His failures led Noah to a simple conclusion. His expertise made him sure that the issue wasn't in his knowledge or tests. He lacked important information about the superior levels of the workshop.

'The second and third pieces of the inheritance shouldn't help me much,' Noah thought while contacting a few experts, 'But the fourth should finally explain to me how to turn the workshop into a valuable asset again.'

The sole idea of becoming able to mass-produce rank 8 beings during a battle made Noah's ambition skyrocket. He could gain the power to take on an entire organization by himself if he managed to get his hands on that technique.

Yet, Noah didn't trust the Balrow family enough to fly toward its domain without planning a way out. Saul Balrow seemed trustworthy, but he was only a rank 7 asset in his organization. He didn't hold enough authority to reassure Noah.

'I guess I need to rely on that guy,' Noah sighed before his inscribed notebook rang.

"What do you want?" King Elbas' voice resounded in Noah's mind.

"I need you to accompany me in a meeting with the Balrow family," Noah replied.

"What do I gain out of it?" King Elbas asked. "I have an entire library to browse here since I'm not a brute interested only in improving my battle prowess."

Noah hesitated a bit before sending an answer that he knew would appeal to King Elbas' curiosity.

"What do you know about the ninth rank?"