

DEMONIC 1571

### **Chapter 1571 1571. Feeling**

Noah, King Elbas, Wilfred, and Jordan met in Noah's cave to discuss the meeting with the Balrow family.

The experts had decided to accompany Noah to the meeting for different reasons. King Elbas would obtain the secret behind the path to the ninth rank, while the hybrids wanted to trade part of the resources seized during the assault to the Sailbird family.

Moreover, they shared Noah's worries. The human domain had labeled the Legion as one of its worst enemies after the attack. Noah had even become one of the most wanted existences in the entire Immortal Lands after his recent achievements.

The spies of the Legion had learnt that many organizations had agreed on placing a bounty on Noah's head. They offered enough Soul Stones to build large forces from scratch.

"Try to teleport us into a secret location this time," Noah said during the meeting. "I'd rather spend some time in the wilderness to set a way back home. I have a bad feeling about this."

"It's easier with just the four of us," King Elbas replied. "Are you sure that we can't ask the Balrow family to place a beacon for us?"

"The less they know, the safer we'll be," Noah replied. "I believe things won't go smoothly."

"I have started to feel the same since I agreed to join the meeting," Wilfred added.

"Me too," Jordan said. "Still, it's strange. Our spies have confirmed that the attack on the Sailbird family has worked as intended. I don't understand who can attempt to our life."

"Maybe the Balrow family wants to ambush us," King Elbas replied. "I'm also experiencing the same feeling, but I don't seem able to divine the nature of the threat."

The four of them were rank 8 existences. The hybrids had superior awareness, but even King Elbas' senses could feel when danger was approaching.

The group was almost sure that something big would happen soon, and the closest event was the meeting with the Balrow family. It was only normal for them to connect the two.

"This is strange," Noah explained. "An ambush shouldn't make all of us feel like this. I bet it's something deeper, maybe even connected with the higher plane."

Noah had felt something similar during the invasion of the winged beasts. It was as if the world itself was about to bring some danger, but he couldn't explain how that could happen in the middle of the human domain.

'Another invasion?' Noah wondered before sending his mental waves toward the sky. 'Don't tell me that I have to watch out for meteorites here.'

The conversation didn't bring any solution. The experts had only understood that they would be in danger if they went to the meeting.

Noah instantly stated his position. He would go to the meeting anyway since he needed to improve the workshop.

The others didn't hide their hesitation, but King Elbas eventually gave in. He wouldn't shy away from a dangerous situation. He actually desired it.

Wilfred and Jordan also agreed to come at some point. They had nothing to do among those regions, and Wilfred even had to accumulate experience for the breakthrough to the liquid stage.

As for Jordan, she justified her decision by mentioning her cultivation level. Yet, the truth was that she wanted to keep an eye on Noah since he was too valuable for the Legion.

Once the four of them made their mind, King Elbas began to work on the teleport while the others prepared for the foreshadowed crisis. Of course, they couldn't do much in that short time, but adding a few training sessions to their cultivation level never hurt.

The group completed their preparations in a few years. Noah and the others didn't need much, but King Elbas wanted to sort his inscribed items after completing the formation.

The four of them eventually left and reappeared at the base of a tall mountain. King Elbas had purposely chosen coordinates a few kilometers away from those sent by the Balrow family, so they appeared in wild regions.

The knowledge retrieved by the Sailbird family had taught them where the Balrow family had built some of their mansion. The group knew where they had to go even without following the coordinates, but they decided to explore the wilderness before approaching the meeting.

The area featured a few packs of magical beasts, but Noah's group could submit all of them. The Balrow family performed sporadic clearing operations to keep the fauna in check, so they didn't meet any creature in the middle tier.

King Elbas made sure that the area didn't feature any sensor or inscription meant to locate eventual invaders. Thus, Noah and the others could safely settle in an isolated area and build a few defenses.

Jordan and Wilfred couldn't do much in that situation, but King Elbas and Noah unleashed their whole expertise in the inscription field.

Noah's traps weren't as sophisticated as King Elbas', but they served their purpose, especially since they managed to hide his companion's defenses.

King Elbas began to prepare the teleport after the defenses were in place. He didn't destroy the formation in the Outer Lands, so he could quickly connect the two. It took him only a few months to complete that inscription.

"I guess it's time to go," Noah sighed once King Elbas completed his task.

His group had created a base in the middle of the domain of the Balrow family. They had even submitted the magical beasts in the area. They had reinforcements and an escape route ready.

Noah and the others quickly flew toward the coordinates sent by the Balrow family. Their eyes could soon see a platoon made by two rank 8 cultivators in the gaseous stage and a series of rank 7 existences in that location.

One of the rank 7 existences stepped forward when Noah's group landed in front of the small army. Noah recognized Saul Balrow and noticed that his cultivation level didn't increase by much.

"Did you spend these millennia inscribing stuff?" Noah teased Saul.

"I actually did that," Saul happily replied. "There is too much to study from Great Builder's inheritance, and new talents land on my door every day. I'm not in a hurry to reach the eighth rank, so why bother spending so much time cultivating?"

"I can't relate," Noah sighed, ending the discussion and focusing on the rest of the cultivators.

The underlings tried to maintain cold expressions, but fear appeared in their eyes whenever Noah inspected them. Even the two rank 8 cultivators seemed worried that the trade could end tragically.

'They don't appear as the types to plan an ambush,' Noah concluded in his mind before taking a few steps forward.

The two rank 8 existences also stepped forward and quickly took out a few praying mats from their space-rings. They even gestured to Noah's companions to join him, but they preferred to remain in the backlines.

"I'd rather keep this conversation private," Noah explained. "Don't worry about them."

Of course, King Elbas and the others didn't sit because they wanted to inspect the situation from a better position. Noah had never treated the topic of the meeting as a secret.

The two rank 8 cultivators filled the praying mats with wine and delicacies before revealing their names. The old-looking man with short white hair and a long beard was Irvin Balrow, while the middle-aged woman with long brown hair was Pearl Balrow.

"It's an honor to meet Defying Demon," Irvin announced. "The Balrow family has gained a lot from your discovery in Great Builder's inheritance. I don't understand why the whole human domain is so bent on taking you down."

"Grudges are hard to quench," Noah replied in a cold tone while filling a cup. "Most organizations have been in power for so long that they have forgotten how to accept a loss."

"We were happy to discover that your enmity with the Crystal City didn't ruin our relationship," Pearl continued. "We can't use Great Builder's inheritance properly since we don't know how to create a few core items."

"You mean this, right?" Noah asked while taking a fake core from his separate space.

## **Chapter 1572 1572. Crisis**

Pure greed appeared in Irvin, Pearl, and Saul's expressions. They were clearly interested in the small black sphere in Noah's palm.

"I never thought it would be like this," Pearl said while nearing the fake core to inspect it better. "We had predicted that the cores would have an oval shape."

"I modified the original product with my knowledge in centers of power," Noah explained. "It's not my first time replicating a dantian."

The experts from the Balrow family remained speechless. They knew that Noah was a talented inscription master, but they didn't expect his expertise to go so deep into the anatomy of cultivators.

A chill ran down their spine at that discovery. Noah had already shown the results of his tests with magical beasts and weapons to the Balrow family. Yet, he had now explained that his experiments had also featured humans.

The trio didn't know what to think. Noah wasn't only incredibly talented as a warrior. He was even a great inscription master who didn't care about ethics when conducting his experiments.

Of course, those thoughts went by in an instant, and their fear didn't last long on their expression. The experts quickly suppressed those emotions and wore their polite, smiling faces again.

"You overcame the lack of the other pieces of the inheritance with your expertise then," Pearl commented. "Quite commendable. I would like to discuss the possibility of tighter cooperation with you in the future."

"We can discuss future trades after the situation in the human domain calms down," Noah replied without showing any emotion.

"Can we ask about your position toward the human domain?" Saul asked, and the two rank 8 existences lowered their gaze.

It seemed that they had planned to ask that question. It wouldn't make sense for the weakest among them to tread on that difficult topic.

"I don't care about politics," Noah replied honestly without bothering to stop drinking. "I simply believe that my enemies shouldn't be alive."

A hint of coldness spread from Noah's figure. His aura carried his emotions and told the trio how serious he was about his words.

Saul and the others couldn't help but tremble again. The recent attack on the Sailbird family had told the trio that Noah had a vague definition of "enemy". He could punish an entire organization for the wrongdoing of a single asset.

"Let's start the trade," Noah eventually said. "This is still an enemy territory in the end. I don't want to remain here for too long."

The trio quickly accepted, and Noah studied their reactions from behind his cup. They didn't show any guilt nor killing intent. They appeared completely honest.

'What is this sensation about then?!' Noah cursed in his mind, but the trio quickly claimed his attention.

Pearl had taken out three thick books from her space-ring. They were old, but they had a similar style to the tome that Noah had retrieved in the pyramid. They even carried the same aura.

"We don't mind giving you the originals since we have already made copies of their contents," Irvin explained. "I believe we agreed that you would have done the same."

It was impossible to verify whether someone had tampered with the copies or omitted important information. Only the originals could do in a trade.

Noah nodded before taking out his book and placing it on the praying mat. Pearl did the same before they opened them at the same time.

Pearl and Noah had opened the books randomly. They didn't pick a specific page, and they made sure that they didn't use mental energy to alter their actions.

Noah could check that the three books explained the right topics, and the trio did the same. They could confirm that the goods matched the same inheritance and continue with the trade.

"Are you aware of the price discussed with your envoy?" Noah asked after raising his eyes toward the trio.

"Of course," Irvin replied. "We wouldn't mind if you were to change a few resources due to personal issues. We only care that the overall value remains the same."

Noah was trying to trigger unusual reactions in the experts. He was choosing his words very carefully and inspecting how they responded to see if they had anything to do with the dangerous sensation.

However, the trio appeared utterly innocent. Nothing Noah did managed to put them off. They even felt unaware of the hidden meaning behind his words.

"There's no need for that," Noah said before waving his hand.

A pile of materials and Soul Stones appeared next to the praying mats. A small mountain quickly formed as those resources accumulated on the ground.

Irvin quickly went to check the goods. He used his mental energy to inspect the various materials and even dug through the pile to have a better view of the resources hidden from his eyes.

Everything was perfect. Noah didn't even try to fall short on the Soul Stones. Irvin could return to the praying mat and complete the trade.

Noah picked the three books and stored them in his separate space. The experts did the same and even took care of the various resources accumulated next to them.

An awkward silence fell on the group at that point. Noah continued to drink, and the trio didn't know what to say after completing the trade.

"Do you want to offer something else?" Saul asked when he saw Noah's eyes darting through the environment.

"Yes," Noah replied without focusing on the trio. "We have many goods seized from the Sailbird family that we don't need. We can also sell information now. Yet, I would like to discuss another topic before that."

"What is it?" Pearl asked.

"Don't you feel it?" Noah asked while waving his hands as if trying to catch the air. "Can you sense this strange pressure, this feeling of impending danger?"

Noah could only come clean about his thoughts since the trio didn't seem guilty. He would rather ask for a second opinion at that point.

"Do you feel that too?" Pearl asked while wearing a surprised expression.

Irvin reacted like her, but Saul appeared utterly clueless about the whole situation. His cultivation level was too low to sense that danger.

"We wanted to cancel the meeting for this reason," Irvin laughed. "We thought that you were trying to rob us. However, it's reassuring to know that you also feel the same sensation."

'It doesn't reassure me,' Noah cursed in his mind. 'What do I even have to expect? What's considered a crisis in the Immortal Lands?'

The answer to his doubts arrived quickly. The experts' smile froze when they looked in the distance, and that reaction made Noah turn.

A pillar of light had appeared far away. That structure carried the same whiteness of the sky, but it seemed to have a destructive power.

A column of smoke soon covered the pillar. That structure was melting the ground, which released a grey gas that tainted that whiteness.

The pillar soon expanded. It stretched through the regions until it encircled Noah and the others. A prison of light had trapped the experts in little more than a second.

The event had been too fast. It seemed that the world was welcoming that energy and allowing it into its fabric. Even the laws in the matter had transformed to help in the process.

The prison melted the ground so quickly that storms of that grey smoke began to fly through the area. The sky above a few regions became unclear as the light in the distance started to move toward Noah's group.

### **Chapter 1573 1573. Precise**

"Elbas?" Noah asked while studying the massive barrage of light.

"What do you want me to say?" King Elbas replied. "The sky is attacking us. You can see that too."

King Elbas was right. Noah had understood the nature of that attack, but he had hoped to be wrong.

The light didn't come from a cultivator. It wasn't a spell or a technique launched by a powerful existence. It carried the same aura as the sky, which made it part of Heaven and Earth's system.

Its power was also unclear. Noah couldn't understand the level of the light. It seemed able to change its might according to the matter illuminated by that whiteness.

"You have been in the Immortal Lands far longer than me," Noah asked to all the existences around him. "Did you ever see something like this? Have your organizations ever witnessed a similar event?"

Wilfred, Jordan, Irvin, and Pearl shook their head. They knew nothing about that dangerous event.

Noah could only curse in his mind. His black hole spun faster and sent all its energy toward his consciousness. Noah wanted to find an explanation, but his knowledge didn't contain that answer.

King Elbas was as clueless as Noah. The expert had studied the records stored in the mansion of the Sailbird family, but they had never mentioned something like that.

'Think! Think!' Noah shouted in his mind. 'This is too coincidental to be a natural crisis. Yet, it sure resembles a Tribulation. How is this possible?'

Only one answer could explain that phenomenon. The laws bent in front of the light and changed their structure according to what it needed. Heaven and Earth were the sole existences capable of such feats.

An explanation eventually dawned on Noah's mind. The light was a precise attack sent by Heaven and Earth. Still, Noah remained unclear about the details behind that event.

'Why now?' Noah wondered. 'Why didn't they attack in the Outer Lands? They would have taken out most of those who fight their system.'

The situation made no sense. Heaven and Earth had other chances to send that type of attack. They could have taken care of Noah whenever he was exhausted or among enemies!

'They can't send it whenever they want,' Noah concluded before looking at the foggy sky.

That conclusion failed to satisfy Noah. There had to be something else behind that catastrophe.

'They knew that I would have been here,' Noah concluded while a strange guess formed in his mind.

Heaven and Earth were overlords capable of breathtaking power, but they had to follow the same fairness that they had created. They couldn't attack without a valid reason, and Noah didn't do anything wrong during the meeting.

The crisis had to be something more than a random event. There was a limit to how unlucky Noah could be. The light was a precise and planned attack meant to get rid of his existence once and for all.

"This is a Tribulation sent by someone," Noah exclaimed once his guess took form.

Wilfred and the others turned toward Noah and began to overwhelm him with questions, but King Elbas remained silent. Noah's explanation had forced the expert to think out of the box and consider otherwise unbelievable possibilities.

King Elbas experienced Noah's reasoning. That light belonged to Heaven and Earth, so it was a Tribulation. Yet, its timing had been too perfect. It almost resembled an ambush, which wasn't in Heaven and Earth's style.

"You have traitors in your family," King Elbas explained at some point. "The Immortal Lands seem to have far more secrets than I expected."

"I agree," Noah replied. "We have to talk with the secret organization. They might explain what happens behind the flashy political environment."

Noah and King Elbas exchanged a nod. They were on the same page. They had concluded that someone had managed to trigger a Tribulation in that area to kill them.

That interaction lasted less than a minute. The light had closed on the group during that time, and a crowd eventually appeared in the distance.

Noah didn't bother to look at them. They were the other members of the Balrow family hidden inside their secret headquarters. The group had decided to evacuate their homes and reach their rank 8 leaders.

Panic filled the group. No one understood what was happening, and only the rank 8 experts managed to remain calm. Those existences kept their eyes on Noah and King Elbas since they seemed to have realized something.

"Do you think the teleport can survive this light?" Noah asked.

"It might," King Elbas explained. "The light changes its power according to what it needs to destroy. I think that our defenses will hide part of the formation. The problem is overcoming the Tribulation."

"I see no problem," Noah exclaimed. "This is a Tribulation, so the light won't have an unfair power. Those who overcome it will gain benefits. The others will die."

"We can't cooperate then," King Elbas said. "Working together will only make the Tribulation harder."

Wilfred and Jordan wore a determined expression at that point. They didn't get most of that conversation, but they understood that they had to pass through the light.

"You will all come with me," Noah shouted while turning toward the members of the Balrow family. "I want to interrogate all of you."

"But-," Irvin wanted to say something, but Noah gave voice to a roar before he could even begin his line.

"Shut up!" Noah roared. "Someone has decided to sacrifice you all to take me down. You belong to me now. Welcome to my nameless organization."

"But-," Pearl tried to say something, but Noah gave voice to another roar while grabbing one of the rank 7 cultivators behind her.

Noah then threw the cultivator toward the incoming light. The expert entered those white barriers and melted until he transformed into grey smoke. The Tribulation had killed him in an instant.

"I can do this to all of you only to test how that light works," Noah threatened, "Or we can work together to overcome this Tribulation. We will all enter the light at the same time and fight its effects. It might become weaker if we do that."

Saul opened his mouth, but Irvin and Pearl shot an angry glance toward him. The experts feared what Noah could do before the arrival of the light.

"This is a Tribulation!" Noah announced once all the experts in the area paid attention to him. "You can overcome it. Form a column and walk with me. We will cross the light and return to the Outer Lands."

The experts gulped. They couldn't oppose Noah, and they didn't have a way out of that situation. They could only follow him and hope that his orders could keep them alive.

Noah forced the rank 7 cultivators to float above him. All the rank 8 existences remained on the ground. He hoped that the light would lose a bit of power after melting the other experts.

The group synchronized. The experts stepped forward at the same time and marched toward the white barrier. Their destination was the teleportation matrix on the other side of that Tribulation.

"Remember that I will personally hunt down anyone who doesn't step into the light," Noah warned his new companions once the Tribulation was almost on the group.

No one dared to complain. All the experts fell silent and waited for the orders of their new leader.

Countless auras filled the environment. The rank 7 and 8 existences unfolded their laws and prepared for the inevitable clash. Then, a roar echoed through the sky, and the group jumped toward the barrier of light.

#### **Chapter 1574 1574. Army**

Noah felt strange. The light didn't trigger any pain. Instead, it forced his existence to change, as if it wanted to bring him back inside Heaven and Earth's system.

His ambition surged to fight that influence. The light tried to seep inside Noah's fabric, but his centers of power released their energy to fend it off.

It was a strange sensation. The black hole, the dantian, the mental sphere, and the body fought while Noah was in a trance. They expressed their value while Heaven and Earth evaluated them.

Part of Noah's hair began to melt. His existence didn't seem able to fight the light properly, but his consciousness suddenly awakened at that point.

'What is this feeling?' Noah thought while he bathed in the light.

Noah felt as if his existence wanted to become part of the light. His cultivation level and all his experiences seemed to belong to that influence. Melting was a blessing.

'Is this what Heaven and Earth felt all the time?' Noah wondered.

The light didn't manage to take over his mind. Noah recalled everything and could focus on fighting the Tribulation.

His hair stopped melting. Noah's existence burst forward as memories of his achievements surged in his mind.

Noah reviewed his whole life, from his abusive father to his latest achievements. Heaven and Earth's influence wanted him to focus on his flaws and mistakes, but they couldn't force him to regret anything.

Noah had never betrayed himself. He had followed his instincts and obtained far more power than any other existence in the world. He felt completely at peace with his current level and past experiences.

'Is this everything you can do?' Noah shouted in his mind. 'Are the mighty Heaven and Earth so caught up in their system that they can't even take care of a single rank 8 existence?'

Noah had felt similar emotions in the past. Heaven and Earth were overlords, but they also were incredibly powerless. They could only enforce trials and punishments, but they couldn't use their real might to take care of their problems.

"Don't worry," Noah spoke while the light crossed him. "I'll take care of the world."

The strange feeling suddenly vanished, and Noah found himself in the outside world. The light was still moving behind him, but he had successfully crossed the Tribulation.

A small group had managed to survive the light. Noah could see his companions, Pearl, and a few rank 7 cultivators. Saul was among them, and his expression showed pure pride.

"Let's move!" Noah roared before stepping forward.

His companions didn't hesitate to follow him, but Pearl and the others glanced behind them to inspect the light. They hoped that the rest of their team would cross the Tribulation, but no one appeared in their vision.

"Move, or I throw you back into the Tribulation," Noah threatened as growls fused with his human voice.

"The others might still come out!" Pearl complained, but she quickly understood how hopeless her statement was.

"They are all dead," Noah explained. "We better start flying. The dangerous sensation has yet to vanish."

Pearl suddenly noticed that her mind continued to sense some danger. It seemed that her problems had yet to end.

King Elbas promptly took out one of his inscribed items. A metal sphere landed on his hand and began to glow with golden shades. A blueprint that depicted the nearby regions quickly formed among that light.

"We have a powerful army coming in our way," King Elbas exclaimed once a few red spots appeared among the golden blueprint. "We were right. They knew that the Tribulation was going to fall in this area."

"Let's hurry toward the teleport," Noah ordered, and the group shot forward.

Noah and the others used their domain to force the rank 7 cultivators to move faster. The group reached the teleport in no time, but unsightly expressions appeared on their face at the sight of the leveled ground.

King Elbas quickly shot toward the ground and inspected the area. His prediction had been on point. The light had destroyed the traps, but it had left part of the teleport intact. However, it needed some work before it could activate and transport the entire group.

"How much do you need?" Noah asked when he saw King Elbas deploying countless formations with a wave of his hands.

"Not much," King Elbas replied without moving his eyes from the ground. "Hold them back until I complete everything."

Noah exchanged a glance with Wilfred, Jordan, and Pearl. The rank 8 existences limited themselves to nod. They were ready to give their everything to fend off the incoming threat.

Jordan transformed into a dragon, Noah deployed the dark world, Wilfred's muscles bulged, and Pearl took out an inscribed metal stick from her space-ring. Even King Elbas joined that show of power by deploying a series of fiery golden puppets.

The rank 7 cultivators could only imitate their leaders. They had yet to accept the whole situation, but they didn't show any hesitation in front of a threat.

The light had ended up helping them. The rank 7 assets had steeled their determination during the Tribulation. Their path appeared clearer than ever, and they even comprehended their existence far more than before.

"Let's give Elbas enough time to work his magic!" Noah shouted. "You have all proven yourself worthy in front of Heaven and Earth. You are strong enough to be enemies of the world. Don't you dare to die against these cowards!"

Noah's ambition spread through the group during his motivational speech. His existence even managed to affect the rank 8 beings. King Elbas also noticed that he was laying inscriptions faster than ever.

An army eventually appeared in the distance. Noah and the others could quickly sense the presence of multiple rank 8 existences, and two of them were in the liquid stage.

Noah recognized Gloria Sailbird among the army. Her injuries had healed. She appeared at the peak of her power, and an angry expression also filled her face.

"I'll hold her back," Noah ordered. "You take care of the others and retreat as soon as Elbas completes the teleport. He won't hesitate to leave you behind."

"Defying Demon!" Gloria shouted as her pressure spread through the region. "I will take care of what Heaven and Earth can't do. Your life ends today!"

Noah memorized those lines, but he pushed them in the back of his mind. That wasn't the time to study her words.

The enemy army shot forward. Those cultivators didn't let Noah and the others gain the upper hand at that time. They even seemed to eye King Elbas with fervor.

'They know that he is our way out of here,' Noah concluded before shooting forward.

His companions followed him while Snore, Night, and Duanlong flew into the outside world. Roots also came out of his palm and covered his body as a layer of dark matter created the fiendish armor.

Gloria quickly waved her hand, and a flare shot out of her figure. The space twisted in a straight line between her and Noah, but he promptly drew the cursed sword.

A singularity clashed with the flare and cut through its energy. The attack didn't manage to reach Gloria, but her anger intensified at that sight. The other cultivators in her army even trembled when they understood that Noah could face existences in the liquid stage.

### **Chapter 1575 1575. Ready**

Noah's chest exploded, but he didn't let that injury slow him down. He quickly waved the cursed sword again, and a second singularity shot toward Gloria.

The cultivator appeared ecstatic. Gloria was in a frenzy. Her killing intent filled the area and affected her underlings.

Corpses began to fall toward the ground. Some of the rank 7 cultivators directly died under Gloria's pressure. Her influence even reached Noah's group, but his slash managed to dig a safe path among that energy.

The attack reached Gloria, but the space in front of her twisted and destroyed the singularity. She didn't even injure herself during the exchange, which wasn't something that Noah could claim.

A piece of Noah's skin disappeared. His spine was in the open now, but the dark matter quickly covered those missing parts and kept his organs still.

Noah knew that he couldn't express that battle prowess for long, but he didn't dare to hold back. His escape depended on his performance.

Wilfred and the others shot toward the army, and worthy opponents quickly appeared on their path. The other liquid stage cultivator didn't bother to fight those existences and flew directly toward King Elbas.

Noah gave voice to a roar when the unstable substance ran through his black vessels. A wave of black flames soon covered the army, but Gloria forced them to crumble before they could heal Noah.

"I have studied your abilities," Gloria explained. "You would be surprised by the number of reports that the Crystal City has gathered on you."

Noah barely listened to her. Bloodlust filled his mind, and pure power ran through his body. He had transformed into a weapon that surpassed the limits of his cultivation level.

Noah teleported above Gloria, but his technique ended up slamming on her twisted space. Noah had initially desired to appear a few meters from his opponent, but he had materialized far higher than expected.

Gloria turned and revealed a cruel smile. She pointed her hand at Noah, and the space began to twist. Noah tried to teleport away, but her attack reached him before he could perform the movement technique.

Pain spread through Noah's body. He had already suffered multiple injuries due to the cursed sword, and that attack ended up worsening his condition.

His skin caved in, and his centers of power started to condense. His fiendish armor couldn't fight that power, so it slowly retreated until it revealed his poor condition.

Duanlong activated its innate ability to absorb part of that energy. Noah was slowly managing to free himself from that energy, but Gloria attacked again.

A second wave of energy tried to engulf Noah, but Snore appeared on its path and blocked most of the attack. The Blood Companion crumbled, and cracks appeared on its ethereal figure, but it quickly reformed to launch its threatening feathers.

Explosions echoed through the sky and filled the area with raging black matter. Most of the underlings on the battlefield died due to the massive discharge of energy, but those shockwaves soon condensed in Gloria's palm.

"I acknowledge your power," Gloria exclaimed, "But you still can't fight me. You are paying too much to match my battle prowess. How many more exchanges can you even endure?"

Noah ignored her. He had finally got rid of Gloria's energy, so he didn't hesitate to wave his weapons. A curved singularity fell toward Gloria, but it vanished once it met the twisted space.

"Pointless," Gloria snorted before joining her hands.

The space around Noah twisted and began to close on his figure. Gloria had blocked his escape routes, so he had to slash again to open a path among that technique.

Noah teleported away, but a sense of weakness filled his mind. The last two attacks with the cursed sword and shattered the lower part of his body. His bloodlust was even about to take control of his thoughts.

'What can I even do?' Noah wondered while glancing toward King Elbas.

A series of puppets and inscribed weapons flew toward the liquid stage existence that had reached King Elbas, but his efforts only managed to delay the inevitable. His opponent's flames were slowly gaining ground. It wouldn't take much before the entire area burnt.

'I have two or three attacks left,' Noah thought. 'I guess I need to risk everything.'

Snore covered Noah's figure, but he used that chance to teleport away. He reappeared among the army and spat dense fireballs toward multiple rank 7 cultivators.

Gloria couldn't stop his entire innate ability at that time. A few flames eventually fused with Noah's body and started to rebuild pieces of his tissues.

A determined expression eventually appeared on Gloria's face. The expert pointed at all the cultivators affected by the flames and reduced their bodies into a bloody pulp. She would rather kill her allies than letting Noah recover.

Noah teleported again and reappeared above Gloria. The expert quickly waved her hand in his direction, but the space around her suddenly froze.

Shandal's ability didn't manage to stop Gloria completely. The expert's hand continued to move slowly. She was able to overpower Noah's spell with the energy contained inside her figure.

Noah didn't let that chance go to waste. He thrust his swords before activating the Shadow Domain. His initial idea was to fill Gloria with Instabilities, but her law prevented him from reaching her insides.

The Instabilities materialized around her after the singularity cut through her defenses. Gloria became able to move again at that point, but the explosions made her unable to focus on her opponent.

Noah quickly spat black fireballs toward a series of rank 7 experts while flying back toward King Elbas. The others noticed his retreat and followed him even if his destination featured a liquid stage expert.

King Elbas was using his stash of inscribed weapons to keep the cultivator away, but he was slowly losing ground. The wave of raging flames was almost on him. The heat generated by the attack almost managed to affect the inscriptions under him.

Yet, a roar soon spread through the area and forced the liquid stage expert to move his attention. The cultivator saw a singularity flying toward him, and danger quickly filled his mind.

The expert stopped firing flames under him and redirected his attack toward Noah's slash. The singularity burnt, but the fire also vanished during the process.

A shadow flew next to the cultivator. The expert quickly covered his figure with flames, but his arm fell anyway.

Night reappeared higher in the sky. Part of its black lines had disappeared during that short exchange, but the creature appeared prouder than ever.

"Out of my way!" Noah roared before slashing again.

The other experts also attacked, and a multicolored wave of spells and techniques soon flew toward the liquid stage cultivator. He had to resort to his best defensive measures to stop that assault. A heatwave soon shot out of his figure and melted the abilities flying toward him.

The cultivator wanted to make Noah pay for his arm, but the assailants had disappeared from his vision. Noah and the others had directly flown toward King Elbas after their offensive. They had never prioritized defeating the expert.

"Activate the teleport now!" Noah shouted.

"It's not ready!" King Elbas replied while continuing to add inscriptions.

"Do it anyway!" Noah roared. "We can't hold them back anymore."

The liquid stage cultivator quickly threw a wave of flames, and King Elbas gave voice to a loud curse at that sight. Then, the inscriptions under him activated, and a golden light covered the entire group.

Noah and the others disappeared before the flames could hit them, but their expressions didn't relax after the golden light vanished. They had teleported in the wrong location. Storms of raging chaotic laws filled the sky and forced them to activate their defenses.

### **Chapter 1576 1576. Dive**

"Dive underground!" Noah roared before punching the terrain.

The storms almost suppressed his voice. His companions barely managed to hear Noah, but they imitated him once they realized how dangerous that environment was.

Thick currents of chaotic laws were dense. They crashed on Noah and the others and shattered their skin. Even their centers of power felt unable to express their might under that suppression.

Noah managed to create a deep cavern with Jordan and Wilfred's help. The chaotic laws seeped in that hole, but the experts promptly dug multiple branches that dispersed those currents.

The group eventually gathered in a large underground hall that Noah had by shattering one of the tunnels. That quick contact with the storms had killed most of the rank 7 experts and injured their leaders. Their overall condition was awful, especially since they had yet to recover from the ambush.

"I told you that the teleport wasn't ready!" King Elbas complained.

"Possible death is better than certain death," Noah sighed. "How far can we even be from the Legion? I don't think you messed up with the amount of energy."

"Teleports work strangely in the Immortal Lands," King Elbas explained. "They don't send our bodies to another location. They allow us to cut through space itself, similar to what I did with the dimensional tunnel."

"What are you trying to say?" Noah asked as a bad feeling surged in his mind.

"I'm saying that we might be lost," King Elbas replied before taking a few items from his space-ring and placing them on the ground. "I will try to understand where we are, but creating a teleport here is impossible at my level. The chaotic laws will disturb my inscriptions."

"You heard Elbas," Noah shouted to the group. "Focus on recovering for now. These lands are incredibly dangerous."

The images of Sword Saint's memory flashed in Noah's mind, but he quickly suppressed them. He didn't even want to consider the possibility of meeting a rank 9 existence.

The experts followed his orders and began to deploy healing techniques. The cultivators didn't manage to take away much from their headquarters since they didn't plan to migrate, but they had a few potions and pills at their disposal.

King Elbas used that chance to take out his inscribed habitations. Jordan and the other rank 8 cultivators entered them to accelerate their recovery, and Noah didn't mind using those structures.

The ground was tough and full of energy. Noah could use his flames, but he preferred to avoid using attacks until he felt sure that the area was safe. It didn't hurt him to resort to normal healing sessions for the time being.

The experts recovered and let King Elbas think with his inscribed items. Unfortunately, he seemed unable to pinpoint their exact location due to the interference of the chaotic laws, so he eventually started to build other tools that could ignore that hindrance.

No threat appeared on their path. The experts could recover in peace and discuss their situation after a few years spent in seclusion.

"I have understood where we have to go," King Elbas explained once all the experts gathered around him. "Still, we have a problem with the distance of the travel. We are so far away that my inscribed notebook can't reach the Legion."

"This I already good," Noah added. "We can start moving then. No point remaining here any longer."

"How do you plan on making this journey?" Pearl asked. "We can't travel on the surface. The voices about you must be true. You bring chaos and destruction wherever you go."

Noah would normally contest those complaints, especially since he technically was Pearl's leader now. However, the expert had lost too much in the last period. Most of her friends and underlings had died. Her entire world had turned upside down after a single meeting.

Noah decided to ignore the complaints and show Pearl how he intended to handle the situation. He neared a wall and threw a punch on its rocky surface.

The wall crumbled, and a large hole appeared. Noah turned and pointed at the cavity before explaining the meaning behind his actions.

"We'll punch our way back to the Legion," Noah announced. "Don't worry. This isn't my first time."

Pearl had no idea how to react to that gesture. She didn't feel surprised about Noah's physical strength. She remained speechless at the thought that Noah was willing to dig under entire regions to return home.

"I'm an expert in the magical beasts' field, but you surpass me there," King Elbas said while looking at the hole. "I guess I need to rely on you for this task."

Noah nodded before explaining all the precautions that he had in mind. He didn't mind punching thousands of kilometers of tough ground for years, but the group had to take care of containing their presence.

The expert had to hide their auras, create something that could contain the noises generated by their attacks, and avoid leaving traces.

Avoiding magical beasts was a must in that environment. The fauna of the stormy regions was something that the group couldn't face at their level.

King Elbas took care of the technicalities. He deployed a golden gas around Noah, Wilfred, and Jordan to absorb all the sounds around them. A series of puppets also appeared behind him and began to burn any trace left by his companions.

At last, King Elbas took out an inscribed drill to help the three hybrids in the task. Of course, he covered the item with the same golden smoke used on the trio.

Noah, Wilfred, and Jordan began their annoying task at that point. The tough rocks prevented them from picking up speed, but they still managed to advance at a decent pace.

Pearl and the few rank 7 cultivators who had survived the chaotic laws couldn't believe their eyes. They saw the three hybrids punching the rocks for entire months without ever taking a break. Their stamina was otherworldly!

Noah and the others didn't dig all the time. They had to take multiple breaks to perform training sessions. Their centers of power needed that constant maintenance.

Noah used those breaks to study the new pieces of Great Builder's inheritance. A quick read to the three books immediately allowed him to solve his issue with the rank 8 creations. Noah realized that he had ignored an important aspect of those powerful beings.

'I'm so blind at times,' Noah exclaimed in his mind while holding the fourth piece of Great Builder's inheritance. 'Rank 7 magical beasts are easy because they don't need specific laws. Mines are perfectly fine for the task. However, those in the eighth rank need something more specific.'

Noah had created the structure and the insides of a rank 8 magical beast, but he didn't give them domains. His approach would have never worked because his products were no more than simple puppets rather than actual replicas of rank 8 creatures.

'I see,' Noah thought while continuing to study the tomes. 'Great Builder describes two approaches to solve that issue. The first is to inscribe your materials beforehand. The second is to improve the fake cores.'

Noah could immediately understand what he had to do. The first approach couldn't work in his case because he used dark matter as his sole material. However, the second was quite feasible.

### **Chapter 1577 1577. Digging**

Years went by, but the situation of Noah's group didn't change. Their constant efforts couldn't make them ignore the vastity of the Immortal Lands.

Creating a tunnel throughout an entire region took weeks, even when the three hybrids worked together. Moreover, they had to stop multiple times to check their current position and reestablish their precautions.

Noah used his breaks to improve the workshop. He had many materials and time, so his expertise with that technique steadily grew.

He even had valid blueprints already. His focus was on the fake cores now. Noah had to improve those items to finally get his hands on an endless army of rank 8 magical beasts.

The journey was uneventful. The underground area was almost uninhabited since only existences interested in the chaotic laws decided to settle there. Living under the surface would defeat that purpose.

The faint grievances that had appeared in Pearl's mind after the tragedy vanished during those years. The expert learnt to accept that Noah was completely innocent. Instead, it became even clearer that someone in her organization had betrayed her.

"We never kept your meeting a secret," Pearl explained, "But we didn't spread the information outside of our organization either. The traitor has to be one of us. I wonder who would even decide to sacrifice an entire secret base to defeat you."

"It's honestly strange," Noah said without stopping punching the rocks in front of him. "I understand that I can be a pain for many organizations, but sacrificing you all requires a deep enmity."

"Or a complete lack of care," King Elbas added. "It might even connect to fanatics and zealots, but that would require the existence of superior power. We are all divine existences. I don't understand who could turn gods into sacrificial pawns."

"This speech doesn't apply to the Crystal City," Wilfred contradicted King Elbas.

"The Crystal City is a special case," King Elbas explained. "Those fanatics idolize the human species. Their superior power is an idea."

"Do you think that a rank 9 existence is behind the attack?" Jordan asked.

"No," King Elbas promptly replied. "I don't have a real explanation. I have a few hypotheses, but their sound too unreal for now. We need more information. The Immortal Lands still hide too much."

Jordan didn't seem satisfied with that explanation. She wanted to listen to those hypotheses and see if they made any sense. Luckily for her, Noah rejoined the conversation and told her what King Elbas had in mind.

"Who is in control of the Tribulations?" Noah asked.

"Heaven and Earth," Jordan replied.

"Do you think rank 9 existences would bother to mess with Heaven and Earth to trigger a Tribulation?" Noah asked. "That's pointless since they could directly kill us with their own hands."

"Wait," Jordan exclaimed once a strange idea started to form in her mind. "You aren't suggesting that Heaven and Earth are behind the attack, right? We saw cultivators ready to kill those who managed to survive the Tribulation. They had to be the reason behind the light."

"They are suggesting that those cultivators worked with Heaven and Earth," Wilfred explained.

"But, but," Jordan stammered a bit before sorting her thoughts. "How is that even possible? Every god should theoretically be against Heaven and Earth's system. How can you suggest that some cultivators are cooperating with them?"

'Supreme Thief said that Heaven and Earth have followers,' Noah thought, but he kept that information for himself. 'Is it possible that we already met them?'

"That's why I didn't want to speak about it yet," King Elbas sighed. "The most logical explanation features a connection with Heaven and Earth, but I don't know what a god would desire from that."

That was the major flaw in his reasoning. Gods often compromised to obtain a chance to gain more power, but Heaven and Earth were clear enemies of the cultivation journey.

King Elbas couldn't explain how a cultivator could decide to bow in front of those existences. The Tribulations should be enough to scare everyone away from Heaven and Earth.

Those conversations happened often. The entire group was inside a tunnel in the end. They had to do something to kill time.

Noah threw a punch at some point, and the rocky wall crumbled, revealing an enormous crack that reached far deeper than his current position.

The fissure seemed to spread for multiple regions, and chaotic laws filled its insides. Noah had to make the tunnel crumble to keep those storms outside, but that only solved part of his problems.

"We have to go around it," Noah ordered before changing direction.

The group would dig a tunnel next to the cavity and proceed in the right direction only after they surpassed the fissure. The chaotic laws made it impossible to cross, so that was their only approach.

The troubles didn't end there since Noah soon found another immense cavity. It seemed that a battle among powerful existences had happened in that area, and the ground was still carrying its aftereffects.

Noah felt forced to turn again. His group wasted months of travel to avoid the fissures, and they soon found themselves in front of a large underground hall.

The hall didn't reach the surface, so Noah and the others didn't need to change direction again. The chaotic laws couldn't fly into that place. The group could cross the area and press forward.

Noah double-checked the area, but he didn't sense any danger. He quickly jumped in the air and led his group to the other side of the hall.

Noah and the others didn't expect anything. Their consciousness, sensors, and instincts didn't pick up any danger. Yet, an earthquake soon ran through that area, and a few rocks began to move.

Two tall columns of rocks moved to reveal a yellow reptilian eye. Noah, Jordan, and Wilfred sensed an innate suppression landing on their minds. They were in front of a superior specimen that could submit them with a single cry.

"Shut up and don't panic," Noah said while suppressing his instincts. "Don't attack. Just keep going."

The group still had King Elbas' techniques around them. In theory, their presence was nothing more than a faint whiff of air moving through the world.

Moreover, Noah had the faint sensation that the creature wouldn't attack them. They were too weak for its level.

The creature blinked a few times before deciding to move. The earthquake intensified, and boulders began to fall inside the underground hall.

A crack soon spread through the ceiling and uncovered the outside world on the other side. The fissure eventually became a proper hole due to the earthquake and revealed the entirety of the massive creature that had awakened at Noah's passage.

Noah couldn't believe his eyes. An immense dragon filled his view and stared back at him. The creature was as tall as a mountain. It had a long, scaled neck and a fat body.

Rocks covered most of its scales. It seemed that the creature had slept inside the ground for too long.

'This is a rank 9 magical beast,' Noah thought. 'I've actually managed to find an existence at that level.'

The chaotic laws began to ravage their bodies, but the dragon suddenly breathed and absorbed the storms in the whole region. It would take them a while to return to a normal state.

Then, the dragon lowered its head and inspected Noah and Jordan. It appeared clearly interested in those two experts who radiated a dragon-like aura.

"Cubs shouldn't be in these lands," A female human voice suddenly came out of the dragon and stunned the experts.

#### **Chapter 1578 1578. Mercy**

Noah didn't know how to answer. The dragon had surprised him, and his brain had yet to process that event. Yet, his survival instincts soon took over and made him perform a polite bow.

"We have lost our way," Noah said. "It has never been our intention to invade your territory."

The dragon didn't answer. Instead, it continued to stare at Noah and Jordan without even bothering to check the rest of their group. The creature seemed interested only in the two hybrids that had dragon's blood in their veins.

"I see," The dragon said. "This is the right direction. The storms will start to lose power in a bit."

Noah had so many questions. The dragon was a proper rank 9 creature. It was a magical beast at the peak of the cultivation journey. It would definitely know many secrets about the Immortal Lands.

Still, Noah was scared that his questions could trigger the creature's anger. The fact that it didn't have any interest in his group was already enough for him.

"We will proceed in our journey then," Noah said while bowing again and proceeding to walk forward.

His group followed him, but the dragon continued to keep its eyes on the duo. It didn't even raise its head once they all left.

"I can give you a farewell gift, my children," The dragon said before raising its head and breathing with more intensity than before.

The chaotic laws in the distant regions began to fly toward the creature's mouth. The dragon had taken care of many storms in an instant. Noah and the others could approach the last part of their return on the surface.

"Farewell, cubs," The dragon said before turning to stare at the depths of the Outer Lands. "Do not come back here until you are strong enough to survive on the surface. These lands have no mercy."

Noah didn't turn to bow at those words. He continued to march forward until he felt that the dragon's attention had finally moved away from his figure. Then, he set off and accelerated to cover as much distance as possible.

Sweat began to accumulate on his forehead. That encounter had scared him. Talking with a rank 9 creature was something that had required his complete concentration, and the effort had left him exhausted.

'The ninth rank is incredible,' Noah thought once he managed to suppress the aftereffects of his previous conversation. 'That level of power isn't something that I can describe with words, and that was only a magical beast.'

The dragon could breathe to devour storms capable of hurting rank 8 existences. That threat was nothing more than a quick meal for the creature. The creature's power was in another world, something far superior to anything that Noah had ever met.

'I wonder if Supreme Thief was also like this when he was alive,' Noah thought as his imagination went off. 'He should have been stronger, in theory. Still, I didn't expect magical beasts at that level to be so powerful. They could stomp their feet to destroy a distant region.'

Noah couldn't even come close to evaluate the dragon's power. His mind was unable to sense its energy. The creature appeared in a separate league that Noah couldn't approach, touch, or see.

"Why did it even spare us?" Pearl asked.

"Because we aren't worthy of its time," Noah explained. "Also, it should have something to do with our species."

"Such a lucky encounter," Pearl commented while enjoying her flight.

The dragon had cleared many regions, so the experts could finally fly again and make up for part of the time lost digging underground.

"Lucky indeed," Noah commented. "We have a power level to strive for now."

The group flew as fast as possible and felt forced to return underground once the storms resumed blowing through the sky. Still, they had covered a lot of land by then, so they could soon resurface again and finish the last part of their journey in the air.

Various emotions appeared on the experts' expression at the sight of the blue regions. They were the most beautiful scenery in the world after spending entire years underground.

However, Noah and the others could soon sense that something was off. A battle was happening in the distance. It seemed that someone was attacking the Legion.

The experts had accumulated a lot of stress during the past years. The sudden Tribulation, the ambush, the failed teleport, the long time spent underground, and the meeting with the rank 9 magical beast had brought their mind to their limits.

They all wanted to vent their emotions, and an enemy was right in front of them. Noah and the others shot forward, creating a small challenge to decide who of them could have that battle.

Noah reached the battlefield before his companions. Cheers and cries had echoed through the sky after his underlings recognized him.

The battlefield appeared quite messy. Cultivators belonging to the Crystal City, the secret organization, and the Sailbird family were fighting against Theodora and all the assets who had been too injured to follow Noah.

Theodora and the others had long since lost the upper hand in the battle. The enemy army featured one rank 8 cultivator in the liquid stage who wore the robes of the Crystal City.

The enemies didn't fail to notice Noah's arrival. Surprised expressions appeared on their face, but ecstasy soon replaced those emotions.

The cultivators didn't expect Noah there, but they felt happy now that he had arrived. The expert from the Crystal City had a lot to avenge.

The liquid stage expert stopped attacking Theodora and turned toward Noah. The ground under the cultivator rose in the sky, and a few metal spears began to rotate around his figure.

"It's finally time to put an end to these hostilities," The cultivator shouted. "I will bless you with my strongest attack. Remember that you have died at the hand of Arthur-."

The expert couldn't finish his line since a hooded figure had suddenly appeared on the small mountain that had formed under him.

"Who would you be?" Arthur asked, but the figure limited itself to raise its hand and point it toward the expert.

A wave of flames came out of its palm and burnt everything in the sky. Only those who had been on the ground could escape that spell.

'What is happening?' Noah wondered as his eyes went on Wilfred and Jordan.

Nothing came out of the flames after they vanished. Arthur and all the cultivators behind him had turned into ashes. A single ability from that hooded figure had been enough to defeat many enemies.

Wilfred and Jordan wore solemn expressions. Noah had never seen them so serious. It seemed that they had understood what was happening. Still, the duo was too interested in the spectacle to answer.

"Maybe I returned too soon," A male voice came out of the hooded figure. "Why are you attacking us?"

The single rank 8 cultivator that had remained on the ground raised his hand to point a finger toward Noah.

"Who is he, Wilfred?" The man hidden by the hood asked.

"A new powerful asset," Wilfred explained. "His physical strength is a match to mine. He might even surpass you in terms of hybrid quality."

"He is a friend then," The hooded man said before stretching his hand and launching a storm of lightning bolts that hit all the enemies and had killed them on the spot.

Noah couldn't help but feel confused at that sight. He had seen the expert launching fire at the beginning of the fight, but he had now used lightning bolts.

### **Chapter 1579 1579. Faces**

The hooded cultivator had taken care of the assault in no time. Two attacks had been enough to kill all the invaders and clean up the battlefield.

"Who exactly is he?" Noah asked while his mental waves spread through the destroyed battlefield to study the nature of the expert's attack.

Noah knew that the Legion had other leaders among the Immortal Lands. The hooded expert was clearly one of them, but he seemed to be more special than most hybrids.

His mental waves didn't manage to understand much. The expert had an unclear cultivation level, but it was high enough to confuse Noah's senses. Yet, Noah could see that mental energy still lingered both in the sky and on the ground.

'They were spells,' Noah concluded in his mind.

The hooded expert had used spells with two different elements. He wasn't like Jordan, who could spat flames even if she had a wind aptitude.

A strange guess formed in Noah's mind. He had heard about a type of hybrids who could gain different abilities depending on the creatures that they ate. He couldn't help but wonder whether the expert belonged to that kind.

"He is the true leader of the Legion," Wilfred explained. "At least when it comes to battle prowess and cultivation level."

"I can see that," Noah replied while focusing back on the hooded expert.

The man glanced at the battlefield one last time before lowering his hood. Long golden hair and a pair of glowing red eyes became visible to everyone in the area. The expert had a youthful face, but his aloof expression gave him a faint maturity.

"It's been a long time," The man said while flying toward Noah's group. "I'm Alexander. It's nice to see that the Legion has grown so much while I was gone."

Alexander wanted to shake Noah's hand, but the latter sensed that something was off. Noah didn't know how to explain that feeling. His instincts were telling him that he shouldn't touch Alexander so easily.

"Good instincts!" Alexander exclaimed while wearing a surprised expression. "Most hybrids can't feel anything after I deploy my cover. You must be as good as Wilfred says."

That compliment didn't make Noah happy. His senses were still unable to understand Alexander's cultivation level. He had felt a faint danger, but that was it.

"Don't be so serious," Alexander laughed. "I only wanted to check your power. This ability requires physical contact, but I guess your instincts know how much you like to keep your secrets."

"How many abilities do you even have?" Noah asked.

"I have forgotten that a long time ago," Alexander replied. "I can't bother to keep track of them anymore. At least I can always recall what my aptitude is."

Noah didn't ask that question randomly. He wanted to make sure that his guess was on point, and Alexander had confirmed his suspects.

"I didn't think that your kind could be so stable," Noah said. "I knew that hybrids like you ended up caught in their hunger."

Alexander's eyes widened. He didn't expect Noah to know so much about his species. Even the human domain was unaware of most of his features.

"I let myself go every once in a while," Alexander explained. "I travel deep into the Outer Lands and let my instincts go wild for years. That keeps me stable for some time."

"How does it even work?" Noah asked. "Do you just eat magical beasts to develop their abilities?"

"Well, it's not so simple," Alexander replied. "Maybe this will make you understand more about my kind."

Dark shades suddenly materialized above Alexander's figure and slid away. That darkness transformed into a black gas that dispersed into the sky and stopped covering his cultivation level.

An intense surge of energy shot out of Alexander's figure and engulfed the entire area. Noah could finally inspect the expert's power, and what he discovered left him speechless.

Alexander was a hybrid in the solid stage. Both his mind and body neared the peak of the eighth rank, but that wasn't his most peculiar feature.

His aura was a mass of chaotic energy that featured countless faces. Noah could almost hear the cries of all the magical beasts that the expert had eaten throughout his life.

Those faces were screaming in pain. Their cries intensified Alexander's instincts and made his pride overflow with power.

Noah could sense the innate desire to bow in front of that existence. Alexander alone wasn't strong enough to trigger that reaction, but the countless faces in his aura made his influence impossible to match by a single being.

'Incredible,' Noah thought while bathing in that chaotic aura. 'The sole fact that he is partially stable proves his value.'

Anyone would go crazy with so many creatures screaming inside their head. Even Noah didn't know for how long he would be able to suppress those cries.

However, Alexander appeared entirely in control of his functions. He could even make sure that his aura didn't hurt anyone.

"What do you usually do after returning to the Legion?" Noah asked as a faint smile appeared on his face.

"The human side has dared to attack my dear organization," Alexander replied. "I can't let that slide, can I?"

"Can I suggest a few names?" Noah asked as his smile broadened. "I don't mind using you as a diversion while I pursue my own interests."

"Are you asking me to be your diversion?" Alexander laughed while a similar smile appeared on his face.

"Why not?" Noah coldly replied. "You don't seem the type to stay put anyway."

"Remember that I am your leader," Alexander said while a hint of coldness seeped into his aura. "You should show some respect. Maybe even bow a little."

"Technically, I'm not part of the Legion," Noah contradicted Alexander while shrugging his shoulders. "I plan to submit you all and destroy the higher plane one day."

"Why would you even want to destroy the Immortal Lands?" Alexander asked as a confused expression appeared on his face.

"Heaven and Earth care about it," Noah replied while shrugging his shoulders again. "I don't see how I can surpass them without destroying their creation."

Alexander didn't know what to say. Noah's claims sounded crazy. He was nothing more than a rank 8 existence, but his desires already stretched far past the ninth rank.

"You are a crazy one," Alexander eventually sighed while reactivating the technique that hid his cultivation level. "Who do you want me to attack?"

"The Crystal City, the Sailbird family, the Monney family," Noah counted. "I think you can attack every force except for the Balrow family and the secret organization. I need to save the former and interrogate the latter."

"How did you manage to make so many enemies?" Alexander asked while glancing at his companions.

Wilfred and Jordan avoided his gaze. They didn't want to admit that they were partially at fault for the current situation.

"Don't worry!" Noah exclaimed while pointing toward King Elbas. "He will take care of teleporting you in every important location."

King Elbas and Alexander wanted to say something, but Noah quickly turned to fly toward his cave. He only stopped to add a few words that left all the experts speechless.

"Elbas, make sure to retrieve him if he dies," Noah exclaimed. "I don't want to miss the chance to study him."

Noah disappeared from the experts' view after those last words. Wilfred and Jordan revealed awkward smiles, but they didn't dare to say anything. As for Alexander and King Elbas, they exchanged a series of confused glances.

Alexander almost didn't notice what had happened. He only knew that Noah had involved him in his plan against the human domain.

### **Chapter 1580 1580. Pity**

"Is he serious?" Alexander eventually asked once the awkward silence became unbearable. "Does he always order around existences stronger than him?"

Jordan and Wilfred wanted to deny that statement, but they limited themselves to sigh. Noah could be overbearing at times, but he had brought indisputable benefits to the Legion.

"Let's talk for a while," Wilfred sighed. "I will tell you who Defying Demon is. You can choose whether to listen to him afterward."

.  
. .  
.

Noah ignored the events happening in the sky. He didn't care too much about them. Alexander was an incredible existence, but he had to focus on his power and targets.

'I must improve the workshop before searching for the secret organization,' Noah thought while sitting cross-legged inside his cave. 'I need more trump cards. I can't rely on the cursed sword as often as before.'

Gloria Sailbird had shown that she could restrain Noah's flames. Her actions had proved that the human domain was aware of the healing properties of that innate ability.

Noah couldn't let his enemies understand the entirety of his arsenal. He always had to be one step ahead to surprise them and seize otherwise impossible victories.

June flew inside the cave a few weeks after his return. The duo talked about the trade with the Balrow family and the events that followed that meeting. Noah didn't hide anything, and he didn't hold back to express how lucky he had been with the rank 9 dragon.

"The windy regions sound like a fun place," June said once Noah's stories ended. "I can't wait to be strong enough to face those creatures."

"There is a lot that I don't understand," Noah sighed. "I want to interrogate the secret organization right away, but I'm afraid that my current power isn't good enough for another exploration of the human domain."

"You never stop placing these impossible standards on your growth," June complained while taking his hands. "Look at yourself. You have reached Divine Demon, you are on the right path for the ninth rank,

and the whole human domain fears your potential. Give yourself some time to stabilize your power and improve properly."

"You know that I can't stop," Noah sighed. "You are also unable to restrain your battle intent. Moreover, I can't stay put after witnessing that Tribulation. The sole thought that Heaven and Earth can attack at any time is annoying, to say the least."

June understood Noah better than everyone else. She could see the determination in his eyes. Noah would leave those lands as soon as he completed his project, and nothing could make him change his mind.

"Laws can be troublesome," Alexander's voice suddenly resounded through the cave. "Our species even worsen our condition. Believe me when I say that I understand your unrest."

Alexander slowly materialized inside the cave. The dark matter around the structure couldn't do anything to stop that ability. Noah was powerless against that expert.

"Can we have a word, leader to leader?" Alexander asked, and June let go of Noah's hands before walking toward a corner of the cave.

"Wilfred and Jordan told me a bit about you," Alexander continued once he landed in front of Noah. "I bet you don't care about the Legion, but I can't deny how much you have helped it. Your victories against the Crystal City are also commendable. You are definitely an ally, even if you tried to order me around."

"You gave me the chance to inspect your aura," Noah said while fixing his eyes on Alexander. "I heard the cries that fill your existence. You need to hunt, so I gave you targets."

"I won't fight a war for you," Alexander exclaimed.

"Fight it for the Legion then," Noah replied. "You can keep all of them safe for a few years, but your instabilities will return at some point. You have to make sure that the human domain doesn't dare to attack these lands even after your departure."

Alexander remained silent. Noah's words made sense, but his pride prevented him from accepting those words so easily. Alexander couldn't let a weaker hybrid give him orders.

"I can't accept your orders," Alexander eventually announced, "But we can seal a pact. I can give you the diversion that you need, but I want something in return."

"What can you possibly want from me?" Noah asked.

"It's pretty simple," Alexander laughed. "The drawbacks of my species will eventually kill me. I managed to survive in the windy regions for so long because I have countless survival instincts fused in my mind, but I will definitely die someday. I want you to promise me that you will take care of the Legion at that point."

Noah's eyes widened. It was rare for experts at that level to care so much about their organizations. Those powerful existences usually severed their ties with the political world to focus on reaching the ninth rank at that point. Yet, Alexander seemed different.

"I would have done it anyway," Noah answered. "They are allies, and I already consider them part of my pack."

"That's good to hear," Alexander sighed before standing up. "The human organizations will focus their full firepower on me once they learn about my return. Don't waste this chance."

Alexander appeared strange. His words resembled a farewell, and Noah almost took pity in that cursed existence.

Alexander was one of the strongest hybrids that Noah had ever met, but his existence was a mess. The expert had amassed so many abilities that his law had begun to vanish under their pressure.

"You know," Noah said while the expert started to become ethereal. "I might be able to find a solution to your drawbacks one day. Try to stay alive until then. I want to add your battle prowess to my organization."

"I thought you wanted to dissect me," Alexander laughed.

"I only hate to waste materials," Noah replied. "You probably are the best rank 8 resource in the world. It's better to keep you away from the large organizations."

"That might be true," Alexander laughed again before wearing a serious expression. "I will attack as soon as you leave these lands. I will take your friend with me."

Noah nodded, and Alexander vanished. His departure left only June and Noah in the cave, but none of them spoke.

'An existence cursed by the same features that make him amazing,' Noah thought while trying to imagine Alexander's life. 'We are similar under some aspects. I wonder if that's why I want to help him.'

Noah had already solved issues connected to the hybrid status. Alexander's situation was a bit outside of his expertise, but Noah wanted to help him anyway.

"How long will it take you to be ready to go out?" June asked and disrupted the silence.

"Will you come with me?" Noah asked after sensing the meaning behind her question.

"Of course," June replied. "The secret organization has hurt us. I want to vent the feelings accumulated in those years."

"Give me a few decades," Noah said after calculating how much he needed to improve the workshop. "We'll leave as soon as my technique is complete. We should be quite safe with it."

"Another crazy technique?" June asked while inspecting the waves of dark matter flowing out of his chest.

"You have no idea," Noah explained. "I should become unbeatable after I finish devising this new weapon."