

DEMONIC 1581

### **Chapter 1581 1581. Sly**

Trying to find an organization that had spent its entire existence living in the shadows was far from easy. Noah had the knowledge of the Balrow family now, but he didn't manage to learn much about his target anyway.

According to Pearl Balrow, the secret organization appeared when it desired to reveal itself. It was possible to contact some of its members through specific locations in each city, but Noah had no way to approach them safely.

Moreover, Noah didn't know whether the secret organization would accept an envoy from the Balrow family. That force had different cells, but they all shared the need for secrecy.

"Let's gather the rest of the Balrow family for now," Noah eventually ordered during a meeting with the experts who wanted to follow him in the mission. "I'll spread the rumor that I want a meeting with the secret organization. I believe one of their cells will eventually decide to face me."

Noah's group didn't feature many experts. Pearl, Divine Demon, and Jordan had decided to come with him, but most beings in the seventh rank didn't like the idea of jumping into another mess.

Only June, Daniel, the two Demons, Faith, and Fergie decided to go with Noah anyway. They didn't care that they couldn't join most battles due to their poor level. They would rather risk dying than remain in seclusion any longer.

King Elbas couldn't come with them since he needed to help Alexander with the teleports, and Wilfred had to prepare for the breakthrough, so he couldn't join the mission. Theodora generally loathed battles, so she ignored Noah's invitation.

Many magical beasts wanted to come with Noah, but he ordered them to stay put. He couldn't attract unwanted attention inside the human domain, and bringing those creatures with him would only make the organizations more inclined to hunt him down.

Still, Noah gave the magical beasts an important role. The Outer Lands were big, and they featured many regions that had bearable storms. Those creatures could focus on expanding their domain while he was away.

The group left almost in a hurry. They had to travel a long way to reach the nearest city, and the absence of teleports would force them to spend years in enemy lands.

Jordan acted as a guide and led the group across the Outer Lands before making her companion enter the human domain. The experts didn't meet any danger along their path, but they still indulged in hunts and long rests.

After a while, the group reached Belsier city, one of the settlements near the Outer Lands. That place only featured two rank 8 cultivators that didn't belong to the Balrow family, but it still had an inscription hall owned by Pearl's force.

Noah and Pearl entered the city without even bothering to hide their cultivation level. The two rank 8 cultivators in charge of that settlement notified their organizations as soon as they recognized Noah, but they didn't dare to engage him.

Defying Demon had become an infamous name during the past years. Noah had fought cultivators far stronger than him on multiple occasions, and he had often come out as the winner. Even when he lost, he managed to complete his task before running away.

That made Noah one of the most dangerous existences in the Immortal Lands. The level of his battle prowess was unclear, so no gaseous stage expert dared to approach him. The two leaders in Belsier city limited themselves to raise the defenses in their buildings and wait for reinforcements.

Noah and Pearl didn't waste time inside the city. They flew directly toward the inscription hall of the Balrow family and forced all its members to join them. Pearl's authority even allowed Noah to avoid threats.

The rank 7 cultivators gathered their resources inside the inscription hall and followed the duo in the sky. However, before they could leave the city, Noah turned to give voice to a simple phrase.

"I'm looking for the secret organization," Noah shouted, and his voice spread through the entire region.

The group left the area in a hurry and rejoined Divine Demon and the others before leaving the region. Reinforcements were about to arrive, so they had to disappear among the wilderness.

Noah's group repeated the same approach in the two following cities. One of them was one of the major bases of the Balrow family, so a small army formed around Noah after their departure.

Noah didn't like how smoothly his mission was going. The members of the Balrow family rarely complained about their forceful migration, which only made Noah more paranoid.

He knew that the Balrow family had traitors, but he couldn't waste time interrogating the recruits now. Noah's priority remained the secret organization since he feared the arrival of another Tribulation.

Pearl justified their willingness to leave the human domain with the fear of another attack, but Noah couldn't believe them so easily. He remained ready to act at any time, even if those recruits couldn't overpower him and his companions.

A message eventually reached Noah's inscribed notebook. King Elbas confirmed that Alexander was unleashing chaos deep into the human domain. The diversion had finally begun.

"We can finally hit the big cities now," Noah announced after receiving that message.

The group began to dive deeper into the human domain at that point. Noah soon found himself in front of the familiar Vagona city, which didn't lose its peaceful aura in those years.

Of course, the limitations and rules in Vagona city didn't apply to Noah anymore. The five rank 8 leaders that ruled over that settlement couldn't do anything against his group, especially after they had spent their entire travel recruiting new troops.

Another small army left Vagona city and joined Noah's group. Pearl felt ecstatic, but that sheer number of new assets only made Noah more worried. Still, something finally happened and turned his mood for the better.

When the group was about to leave Vagona city, Noah noticed that a single hooded figure was staring at him from the beginning of the mountain chain.

Fergie and Pearl quickly explained the meaning behind that gesture. The secret organization did that to express its desire for a meeting. Yet, Noah had to go alone.

"Remain in the mountain chain," Noah warned before leaving to meet that envoy.

"Defying Demon of the Legion," The hooded figure announced with a female voice when Noah reached her. "The secret organization thinks that you deserve far more than a simple meeting, but we'll make it do for now."

"Do you belong to one of the cells that want to kill me?" Noah teased the envoy before landing on the ground.

The hooded woman was a simple rank 7 cultivator. Being so close to Noah made her understand how immense his aura was. His influence even generated black lines on her body.

"Let's move," Noah said while turning toward the envoy. "I have never been good at waiting."

A chill ran down the envoy's spine and forced her to move. She quickly brought Noah deeper into the mountain chain and pressed on a few inscriptions that appeared at their passage.

The scenery soon changed. A few mountains disappeared and revealed a large passage that led underground.

Noah hesitated a bit before deciding to follow the envoy into the underground structure. He kept his trump cards ready, even if his instincts were reassuring him.

The lack of danger didn't let Noah relax. Once the duo reached a large underground hall, Noah recognized one of the rank 8 cultivators sitting at the table. He saw Luke sipping some wine while wearing his iconic sly expression.

"This is an ambush then," Noah exclaimed while unleashing his aura.

His entire existence became ready to fight, but Luke promptly stood up and begged him to stop.

"My cell ended up having a change of heart," Luke explained. "We don't want to have anything to do with the Crystal City anymore. We are ready to give you full support to make up for our mistake."

"I only want to kill you," Noah exclaimed while drawing the Demonic Sword.

"Are you sure?" Luke asked as a sly smile broadened on his face. "Don't you want to know how simple cultivators have managed to trigger a Tribulation?"

**Chapter 1582 1582. Punishmen**

Noah had a firm policy about his enemies. Luke had been part of the kidnapping of his friends, so he had to die. However, he had information that Noah couldn't wait to obtain.

"Speak before I turn this place into a mess," Noah threatened without storing the Demonic Sword.

His aura expressed how serious he was about the whole situation, but Luke remained unfazed. The threat didn't ruin his sly smile.

"The secret organization has always supported powerful forces throughout its existence," Luke explained. "The Crystal City has a significant role in the whole political system of the human domain, so we had to make sure that it remained in power."

"It's always the same with humans and weak existences," Noah commented. "You want to preserve your lifestyle so badly that you end up being the very reason for your destruction."

Noah could barely contain himself. There were only three rank 8 cultivators in the gaseous stage in the underground hall. He could go off and destroy everything, but he needed his answers first.

"We do," Luke sighed. "I can only hope that what I'm about to reveal to you can still save my cell."

Noah remained silent. He didn't want to waste more words until he obtained his answers.

"The higher plane isn't just ground and air," Luke explained. "They are part of a larger system that involves cultivators and other beings that live on their surface."

Luke took a sip from his cup before exchanging a glance with his companions. Both rank 8 existences nodded to him. Their face expressed their determination.

"Heaven and Earth need us to walk new paths," Luke continued. "They have failed in their breakthrough to the tenth rank, so they rely on cultivators to create new laws. One day they might find what they have missed and obtain the power that stands above words."

"Cut it short," Noah threatened. "I don't have all day."

"Some cultivators know how limited they are," Luke continued after clearing his throat. "You can't expect to surpass Heaven and Earth while living inside their world. So, a small group of enlightened individuals has decided to stop opposing their system and join their great plan. They will take care of generating new laws in exchange for the chance to live in the new world."

"That sounds like a weak motivation," Noah replied. "Why would existences who have worked for millennia to build their laws give up on everything over a faint promise?"

"Because Heaven and Earth is the first and largest organization," Luke answered. "You have only seen a small Tribulation. Do you think that is the full extent of their power? They can turn your entire life into a living hell."

"Heaven and Earth are petty existences," Noah replied. "Their fairness is a limit that they can't overcome."

"Of course," Luke laughed, "But where does their fairness end? What happens when you have broken their laws and they label you as a parasite? They can make the ground break under your feet and turn the air into poison. You can only submit in front of that power."

"Why did you decide to meet me?" Noah asked while giving voice to a cold laugh. "Don't tell me that you want to submit me?"

"I wouldn't dare to try anything," Luke explained. "I'm only here to tell you what will happen if you continue on this path. The world will become your enemy, and your very existence will turn into a curse."

"That's enough," Noah sighed while his aura unfolded through the room. "Let's kill each other. I'm tired of this speech."

"Good luck with the rest of your life then," Luke announced, and a humming noise suddenly followed his words.

Noah's instincts began to shout. Something strange was happening, but his consciousness couldn't understand the nature of that threat.

The air that touched Noah's body started to scream. It began to fight his very existence and self-destroy when it found itself unable to kill him.

The same happened to the ground. The terrain didn't accept that Noah could step on it. Cracks opened and forced him to float to remain in the same position.

Crackling noises spread through the world. The air generated sparks that targeted Noah's existence. An ominous aura converged on his figure and made him sense danger all around him.

'What is happening?!' Noah shouted in his mind while inspecting his surroundings.

His consciousness couldn't sense the presence of inscriptions or traps. It seemed that the world had labeled him as an enemy and was trying to get rid of his existence.

Noah found himself unable to breathe. The air would rather crumble than end up in his lungs. He had become something that the world didn't accept.

"You should be proud of yourself," Luke announced. "Very few existences have managed to obtain this treatment. You are the first rank 8 existence in history who has reached this point. All the others had to step on the ninth rank before becoming enemies of the world."

Noah unfolded the dark world. His ambition seeped into his surroundings and forced the laws around him to obey his will. He became able to breathe again, but his achievements only triggered harsher punishments.

A lightning bolt suddenly pierced the ground and fell on the dark matter that covered his figure. The attack didn't manage to reach his skin, but the danger didn't diminish.

A second lightning bolt fell into the underground hall and tried to pierce the dark world. Noah could only watch as that destructive energy filled his technique and dispersed among the currents of dark matter.

The dark world slowly condensed to create the fiendish armor. Noah was livid. Heaven and Earth wanted to punish him, but he would fight back.

"You shouldn't have done this," Noah roared.

"We didn't do anything," Luke replied. "This is all Heaven and Earth's work."

Luke and the others began to turn ethereal. Their bodies started to disappear while the world continued to attack Noah.

Noah's ambition shot forward and filled the whole hall. His violent energy disrupted the technique that was teleporting the experts away and forced their bodies to return material.

"Did you really expect that I would let you go away?" Noah roared.

"You can't stop us with your aura alone," Luke laughed while a wave of inscriptions spread through the rocky surfaces of the underground hall. "We are still willing to cooperate, but you must overcome this challenge first. We'll contact you if we learn that your existence can survive this."

Barriers and techniques activated. Luke and the others began to disappear again, but Noah promptly waved his sword to interrupt those inscriptions.

The singularity that shot out of his figure didn't manage to pierce the barriers, but Noah promptly drew the cursed sword and slashed again.

His attack made the barriers tremble, but it failed to pierce them again. Luke and the others vanished and left Noah alone.

Noah couldn't describe how angry he was. More lightning bolts fell on him, but the dark world always managed to stop them.

Noah filled the area with flames to heal the damage caused by the cursed sword. The ground burnt and gave its energy to his body. The white sky eventually appeared in his vision, and Noah could see that sparks had covered the whole region.

There was nothing to destroy. The sky didn't feature any Tribulation. The air itself had become the punishment that the world wanted to force on Noah.

### **Chapter 1583 1583. Return**

The Immortal Lands expressed their rage. Crackling noises filled the sky, and lightning bolts shot toward Noah's figure.

Noah didn't know how to handle that situation. He didn't have anything to defeat. The world had become his enemy without giving him a target.

Jordan and the others wanted to come in his aid, but Noah raised his hand to stop them.

"Don't come near me!" Noah shouted. "I need to handle this on my own!"

The world continued to launch lightning bolts that landed on his figure and destroyed part of his fiendish armor. The black hole always rebuilt it, but Noah still felt unable to find a solution to his issue.

Vagona city fell into chaos due to the crisis. The sparks didn't target its buildings. Yet, the cultivators didn't feel at ease in front of such a display of might.

'How do I solve this?!' Noah shouted in his mind, but his situation seemed helpless.

His instincts were telling him that something had broken. Noah felt exposed to Heaven and Earth's will, and nothing he did could turn his situation back.

The armor began to transform. Noah focused on suppressing his existence and hiding his aura. His dark matter created a personal space that forced only matter affected by his ambition to exist. His higher energy took care of removing every trace of Heaven and Earth's will from his surroundings.

The dark world expanded before condensing. Noah was creating a spell meant to hide his existence from Heaven and Earth. His understanding of the Immortal Lands fused with his higher energy and gave it properties that could shield him from external influences.

Noah had to remain in the same position for entire days. The experts inside Vagona city tried to summon reinforcements, but no one arrived since Alexander was taking care of that aspect of the mission.

Jordan and the others also enveloped the city in their threatening aura. They made the five leaders understand that they shouldn't do anything against Noah.

Noah had to wave his sword multiple times to fend off the incoming lightning bolts. Those attacks never put him in real danger, but they were relentless. The world never stopped assaulting him and depleting his energy.

A change happened at some point. The dark matter found a wavelength that could cover his presence from the world. The crackling noises suddenly stopped, and some peace spread through the sky.

The dark world began to condense in the shape of a thin transparent layer that covered his skin. Noah felt as if a bubble had appeared around him. He felt as if he had severed his connection with the world.

'This can't be a lasting solution,' Noah thought while inspecting his new spell.

The layer of skin relied on the black hole to work. It had a nigh-unlimited amount of energy at its disposal, and Noah's dantian always provided more darkness to refill the expended dark matter.

The spell didn't deplete much energy. Noah could keep it up for decades and stretch its duration even more through training sessions. However, it was a bother that he didn't want to withstand.

'I didn't expect this,' Noah sighed in his mind while reviewing the past events.

Noah had partially obtained the answers that he desired. Luke didn't explain much, but he had basically admitted that Heaven and Earth were working together with some cultivators.

Noah had already figured that out, but hearing it from Luke had confirmed his worries. Heaven and Earth had an assault team that could take care of the threats that their fairness didn't allow them to reach.

Jordan and the others flew toward Noah at that point. They wore worried expressions when they inspected his figure. The Tribulation didn't hurt him, but they could sense that something about his existence had changed.

The new spell made Noah's existence hard to read. The rank 7 cultivators were almost unable to sense him at all. Even their eyes struggled to focus on his figure.

"I can't continue the mission," Noah said, but only the rank 8 existences managed to hear his voice. "I need to hurry up back to the Legion."

Noah glanced toward June and his friends. They couldn't even begin to understand what was happening to him, but he trusted that Jordan would eventually explain everything.

"The world can't allow me to exist anymore," Noah explained. "It wants to kick me out of its structure. I need to find a solution before returning to you all."

Jordan and Divine Demon didn't know what to say, so they limited themselves to nod. They could see that Noah was struggling, so they didn't investigate further.

Noah left in a hurry. He shot in the direction of the Outer Lands without stopping to study his condition further.

The constant use of the new spell slowed him down and dulled his senses, but Noah didn't let his annoyance get to his head.

Noah already had a plan. He knew one existence that had suffered due to Heaven and Earth's influence. Only Supreme Thief could tell him how to get rid of that annoying condition.

The flight back to the Legion was uneventful. Noah reached his companions in no time and asked for the new location of Supreme Thief's inheritance.

The hybrids didn't hide anything from him. Noah could travel toward the inheritance right after meeting his companions.

The immense mountain soon appeared in his view. Noah directly flew toward the palace and entered the "strength" tower. The inheritance wanted to send him toward the lower layers, but Noah had no intention of surpassing trials.

Noah dispersed his new spell. The inheritance contained multiple separate dimensions that hid his presence, so his surroundings didn't turn into a mess again. Noah could finally relax and recover from the long travel, but he didn't start a training session just yet.

"Come out, Supreme Thief!" Noah shouted, scaring away all the other hybrids busy choosing trials. "I know that you are watching! I have a serious matter to discuss!"

Noah's words didn't seem to trigger any reaction in the outside world, but an azure light suddenly lit up under him and teleported him away. Noah found himself inside an underground hall with the familiar expert tinkering with an uneven orb.

"What is it?" Supreme Thief asked in an annoyed tone. "I don't like you barging in so suddenly and revealing my existence to the other challengers."



"Heaven and Earth have labeled me as a proper enemy," Noah quickly explained, ignoring the expert's annoyed tone. "I need to use a spell to hide my existence. The world goes crazy otherwise."

"Oh," Supreme Thief exclaimed while moving his attention on him. "They already did that. I think you broke some record."

"Is there a solution?" Noah asked.

"What solution do you even want?" Supreme Thief replied. "The world belongs to Heaven and Earth. They can do what they want with it."

"How did you handle it back then?" Noah continued to ask.

"I didn't handle it," Supreme Thief explained. "The world will continue to attack you until you turn into dust. Don't worry. You will become used to it soon."

Noah cursed in his mind. That was worse than having his mind assaulted by constant pressure. He would have to keep his spell active through the rest of his cultivation journey.

"Well, you can always go to the windy regions if you hate this so much," Supreme Thief added. "The storms of chaotic laws already are a Tribulation, so Heaven and Earth won't add energy to their power. They won't even target you."

#### **Chapter 1584 1584. Surprise**

Noah didn't even consider that option. He had already seen how dangerous the windy regions were at his current level. He couldn't go there only to get rid of his annoying condition.

"I guess this had to happen at some point," Noah sighed and calmed himself down.

His situation wasn't downright awful. He had already found a temporary solution to his issue, and he could polish it while he was inside Supreme Thief's inheritance.

The spell had a few drawbacks, but it could keep him safe. Moreover, it also worked as a cover for his presence. The only issue was that it worked too well.

Noah bowed toward Supreme Thief, and an azure light soon lit up under him to teleport him away from that underground hall. Noah found himself in the fourth layer after the light vanished, and he quickly dug a cave to create a training area.

Polishing the spell took a while. Noah wanted his friends in the seventh rank to be able to see him without affecting the hiding qualities of the cover.

The dark world expanded and condensed multiple times while Noah tinkered with its properties. He eventually reached a decent result and linked the ability with his black hole. Part of his dark matter would always have those properties now.

Noah felt at a loss of what to do after he completed that project. He only had to cultivate and become strong enough to live inside the windy regions in theory, but the path was still long.

Noah cultivated while he pondered about his situation. He wanted to start another mess to improve quickly, but Alexander's return had limited his options.

Alexander could take care of all the enemies of the Legion without Noah's help. Actually, Noah's presence would be superfluous since the expert was here.

The hybrid would probably attack all the known mansions belonging to Noah's enemies and force them to hide. Peace seemed about to fall on the world, and Noah despised that situation.

'Maybe I should cooperate with the secret organization,' Noah wondered without interrupting his training. 'They might give me some interesting options.'

Noah didn't want to face the trials in Supreme Thief's inheritance. He had no interest in the pyramid either. Great Builder's studies were interesting, but Noah had already obtained what he needed.

'Secret organization it is,' Noah sighed before leaving Supreme Thief's inheritance and flying toward the Legion's headquarters.

Jordan and the others were still busy gathering the experts from the Balrow family. They had decided to continue the mission after Noah's sudden departure, and Alexander's efforts made their travel uneventful.

The magical beasts had followed Noah's orders. They had transformed more regions into blue bushes and expanded his domain. Noah had a lot of space at his sole disposal now, so he enlarged his underground training area.

It was hard to expand his influence without revealing his presence to the world. Noah wanted to make his ambition reach his underlings, but he couldn't let Heaven and Earth resume their relentless destruction.

Noah had to create large spheres made of his condensed aura to solve that issue. He built portable dispensers of his influence and placed them in specific spots of his domain.

He had to cover the spheres with his dark matter to hide his aura from the world. That approach allowed him to avoid the world's destructive force while unleashing his ambition anyway.

June and the others eventually returned with most of the Balrow family. Pearl didn't manage to find a few experts even after searching all the mansions of her organization. It was as if they had disappeared from the human domain.

Theodora used her innate ability to scan those new assets. She found many biases toward the hybrids in those cultivators, but they were innocent when it came to the crisis.

The Legion decided to put that force in the outskirts of its domain. Only time would tell whether they could become trustworthy assets. For now, they had to remain unaware of the true power of the hybrids.

"What will you do now?" June asked Noah while the duo rested in his cave.

"Wait until something happens," Noah sighed. "I'm too weak for the deep areas of the Outer Lands but too powerful to bully weak forces. I don't even find Supreme Thief's inheritance interesting anymore at my current level."

Noah didn't have to wait for long. A small group of envoys soon reached the borders of his domain and requested a meeting.

Luke and other cultivators from the secret organization had flown across the entire human domain to meet Noah again. The experts wore solemn expressions when Noah and the other rank 8 experts of the Legion encircled them, but they didn't show any fear.

"You managed to put it under control," Luke exclaimed after inspecting Noah. "We weren't wrong in deciding to side with you."

"Did you come back to taunt me?" Noah asked. "Your evasive maneuvers can't keep you safe forever, especially in these lands."

"We have no intention to fight the Legion," Luke replied. "We actually helped you. Heaven and Earth wanted to label you as their enemy right after the light Tribulation. We managed to delay that event until our first meeting."

"I bet you have no way of proving that," Noah laughed.

"We can," Luke said before taking out a small dark orb from his space-ring.

Noah's eyes widened when he inspected that inscribed item. The orb seemed to radiate an aura similar to his ambition. Heaven and Earth even began to attack it as soon as it touched the air.

"It was far bigger before," Luke explained. "We had to use many valuable resources and inspect those who had interacted with you to build this. It has baited Heaven and Earth's destructive force since the Tribulation."

Lightning bolts fell on the orb and finished destroying it. The world fell silent after that, and Luke revealed his sly smile at Noah's surprised expression.

"What can you give me if I decide to cooperate with your cell?" Noah asked.

"The secret organization is one of the oldest forces in the Immortal Lands," Luke explained. "We have studied most of their known surface and have kept track of any valuable resource that came out of the windy regions. We also have experts capable of prying into Heaven and Earth's mind. I think you can come up with something that you need."

Luke's words managed to capture Noah's attention, but he couldn't trust him. The secret organization was too shady, and nothing could reassure him about its actual loyalty.

"What do the other cells say about this meeting?" Noah asked.

"Some of them agree with our new position," Luke sighed. "Others feel that only by fusing with Heaven and Earth we can unlock the tenth rank. I believe they will create countermeasures to our knowledge at some point. You might want to make use of us soon."

"Start talking then," Noah snorted. "I will decide what to do with you after listening to everything you know about the higher plane and Heaven and Earth. I also want the names of those involved in the ambush."

"As you wish," Luke said while a broad smile appeared on his face. "However, do you want to do this here, in front of so many ears?"

"I have nothing to hide from them," Noah announced.

"What about that strange existence hiding in her clothes?" Luke asked while pointing at Faith.

Noah and the others suddenly turned toward Faith. Their consciousness scanned her figure, but they couldn't find what Luke had mentioned.

"Come out," Luke said while taking out a series of mirrors that gathered around Faith. "It's commendable that you managed to hide yourself from rank 8 existences, but your methods can fool the secret organization."

"Crap," A familiar voice resounded in the area before white flames slowly came out of Faith's robe.

Noah couldn't believe his eyes. The flames condensed to take the shape of an existence that he knew far too well. Second Prince suddenly materialized among the experts and heaved a loud sigh.

"I had grown tired of pretending that I was an inscribed item anyway," Second Prince exclaimed. "Well, I can't wait to see my father now."

#### **Chapter 1585 1585. Unique**

Second Prince's appearance left everyone on the scene speechless. Those from the secret organization and the hybrids couldn't understand the whole situation, but the expert's feat managed to surprise them anyway.

"Care to explain?" Noah asked before Faith and the others could vent their anger.

Second Prince's cultivation level was in the solid stage of the seventh rank. He was as strong as June, but his presence was faint. Even in his new form, Noah could barely sense him.

"What's there to explain," Second Prince announced. "I fixed the dimensional portal and hitch-hiked a passage to the Immortal Lands. I planned to reveal myself only once I reached my father's level, but this shady guy ruined my big surprise."

"Wait," June shouted. "Have you been with us since before the ascension? Did you watch while the Crystal City tortured us?"

"What do you want me to say," Second Prince shrugged his shoulders. "You are worthy of being Noah's friends. I reached the other world when you were in the middle of a war. I decided to hide since you were too powerful for me, but your situation didn't improve in the Immortal Lands. Then, seeing that my father couldn't sense me felt good, so I continued to remain hidden."

"How did you even shield yourself from our senses?" Noah asked while disbelief still filled his mind.

"I'm not a human, remember?" Second Prince replied. "I can easily turn into an inscribed item, robe, or even something that doesn't radiate any cultivation level. The hardest part has been opening the dimensional tunnel without anyone noticing it, but the rest has been quite easy."

Noah didn't know what to say. He couldn't even understand Second Prince's motives properly.

"Were you too scared to reveal yourself?" Noah eventually asked.

"Of course!" Second Prince shouted. "You are all madmen who do nothing but fight. I didn't want to go through years of battles again, so I remained hidden while accumulating power. Everything was going so well."

"I guess you know each other," Luke exclaimed, but Noah shot an angry glance at him.

The expert fell silent, but he didn't stop smiling. Luke found the whole situation quite funny, and he didn't even try to hide his feelings.

"Did you hide on me the whole time?" Faith asked as anger seeped into her aura.

Daniel reacted in the same way. Clear anger seeped into his aura, but he managed to keep his cool.

"It has never been sexual," Second Prince snorted. "Also, I even helped with your training. Why do you think you are closer to the solid stage compared to the others?"

"Fight back there," Noah said while pointing toward the edges of the blue regions. "I need to talk about serious stuff."

"Won't you protect me?" Second Prince asked, but Noah had already begun to ignore him.

Faith, Daniel, and Second Prince eventually left that area, and the noises of a battle soon echoed through the sky. Noah didn't even bother to check the fight since Luke claimed his full attention.

"You were about to reveal why I should cooperate with the secret organization," Noah said.

"Right, right," Luke replied. "As you already know, the secret organization has the best network in the Immortal Lands. We learn about important events or resources far before other forces."

"You and the other cells," Noah contradicted him. "The other forces will learn everything anyway since the secret organization will continue to help them. You are only balancing the field here."

"Alexander is making a mess in the human domain," Luke explained. "Every organization fears you and the Legion. No force would dare to start a fight now. It's the perfect moment to turn that balance into an advantage."

"This implies that you already have something valuable at hand," Noah added.

"Of course," Luke exclaimed. "Something has appeared at the border with the windy regions. We suspect that it comes from a rank 9 existence."

"What makes you believe that?" Noah asked.

"Even the immense Immortal Lands had seen only a few rank 9 existences," Luke explained. "The secret organization had always kept track of them, so we can understand when a place carries their mark."

"Is it an inheritance?" Noah asked while some curiosity surged in his mind.

"We aren't entirely sure," Luke continued. "It resembles a lair rather than an actual building. We believe you all should be perfect for the exploration."

Noah didn't buy that. That chance sounded too perfect for him. He would rather believe that the secret organization had chosen to give up on one of its valuable locations to create that alliance with the Legion.

The noises of the battle happening in the distance eventually stopped. Noah could see that Second Prince was completely fine, while Faith appeared exhausted. Daniel seemed annoyed, but he didn't feature any injury.

"Let's go then," Noah said. "We must use this chance while Alexander is claiming the human domain's attention, right? I don't see why we should hesitate."

"Well, we have to complete a few preparations first," Luke exclaimed while his smile froze.

"No preparations," Noah rejected his offer. "I don't want to give your force time to prepare stuff. We either go now, or you leave these lands."

Luke gulped. He could sense Noah's seriousness during his speech. He was ready to depart at that exact moment.

"Hurry up!" Noah shouted. "Lead the way. You all are free to come."

Noah broke that encirclement and turned toward the depths of the Outer Lands. Divine Demon, Jordan, June, Fergie, and the others quickly imitated him, leaving Luke no chance but to follow him.

"Are we allies then?" Luke asked once he reached Noah.

"I'll think about it after this mission," Noah replied before focusing on Second Prince. "You must also come. I want a full report concerning what has happened after I ascended."

"Overbearing as always," Second Prince sighed. "There isn't much to say. I rebuilt the dimensional tunnel and remained hidden. End of the story."

"I thought you would rebuild the tunnel for my friends in the other world," Noah replied.

"Well," Second Prince hesitated while trying to find the right words to describe those past events. "You were only a newly ascended god, and my existence is quite peculiar. I broke free of your oath but respected your desires anyway. I just handled them differently."

Noah couldn't help but sigh. He had to admit that Second Prince was as unique as he claimed. The expert's existence was strange since he didn't belong to any of the three major species.

"Don't worry," Second Prince continued. "I didn't forget what you did for me. I am an ally, and I'll eventually prove it. I don't want to fight with you ever again."

Noah didn't answer. He began to ignore Second Prince and moved back to Luke. The expert was leading the group now, but Noah still wanted to probe him about that resource.

"We managed to connect that place to Radiant Eyes," Luke explained. "She has always been interested in hybrids throughout her life, but the reports about her become vague after she approached the peak of the eighth rank."

"We'll see what this is all about soon enough," Noah exclaimed while moving the focus on a different topic. "Now, tell me about the resources that you decided to keep a secret from me."

### **Chapter 1586 1586. Bees**

Noah's guess had been on point. Luke had withheld crucial information and only revealed one of the valuable locations that could interest Noah.

Yet, the higher plane was vast and had seen many powerful existences throughout the eras. All the experts who had managed to approach the ninth rank had left something important behind, and the secret organization had kept track of most of them.

The main issue behind those locations was that the entirety of the secret organization knew about them. That made every force in the human domain aware of those resources since the many cells would have different agendas.

Alexander was giving Noah the chance to inspect the location connected to Radiant Eyes, but the human domain wouldn't normally remain on the sidelines in front of those resources. Many organizations had even taken control of some of them during the past years.

Noah let go of that topic to focus on something far more important. Luke and the other two rank 8 cultivators from the secret organization knew a lot about Heaven and Earth, and Noah wanted to learn everything.

It turned out that almost every large organization had experts connected to Heaven and Earth. An existence would gain a chance to join them after approaching the solid stage. Luke's force had specific cells meant to recruit assets for that task.

Of course, joining that part of the secret organization wasn't mandatory, but Heaven and Earth's offer was quite appealing. The lack of constant punishment was tempting, but that wasn't everything.

Heaven and Earth had complete control over their system. They could help certain existences as long as they surrendered their laws. Luke didn't know the specifics behind that process, but he had gained a general idea of what it caused in cultivators.

Noah could vaguely understand that point and why certain existences couldn't ignore that offer. However, he knew that most cultivators wouldn't give up on the laws that they had built over millennia so easily.

The main issue was that cultivators had no way to escape Heaven and Earth while in the Immortal Lands, which made the whole journey harder. Even incredible existences like Supreme Thief and Great Builder had ended up dying because of that.

Luke didn't know too much on that topic. He could only repeat Supreme Thief's words and tell Noah that Heaven and Earth had powerful underlings throughout the higher plane. The expert had a personal theory about their identity, but it was only a vague hypothesis.

As for the methods to contact Heaven and Earth, Luke couldn't explain much. The secret organization had a place capable of reaching those existences, but its actual location was one of the greatest secrets of his force. Only the most powerful experts would learn about it.

The conversation left Noah with many doubts. Luke had revealed that every existence would eventually have to face Heaven and Earth's suppression at some point. The records even showed that only a few of them managed to remain alive after that.

"You can't develop proper countermeasures to that issue," Luke explained. "You are against world-builder beings. Techniques can hide your existence for a while, but you will always deplete your energy before Heaven and Earth."

"And you get the lackeys if you end up creating something that can last for a long time," Noah sighed.

"Exactly!" Luke exclaimed. "It's honestly hopeless."

"Why did you have a change of heart then?" Noah asked. "You could have lived a peaceful life."

"I'm still a cultivator," Luke snorted. "I will walk on every path before giving up. There have to be flaws in the system. It's all a matter of finding them in time."

Noah didn't know how honest Luke was, but he respected the idea behind his words. The expert's determination wasn't something that he could hide. Luke sounded driven and serious about his whole plan.

The wind intensified as the group flew through the Outer Lands. It wouldn't take them much to reach their destination, and Noah even began to sense the arrival of the dangerous regions.

A strange structure eventually appeared in his vision. A scarlet mountain that featured countless cavities stood at the center of a barren region filled by intense gales that seemed to ignore the ground.

Barren regions were a rare sight in the Immortal Lands and often featured unique environments, but the mountain seemed to be the cause for that phenomenon in that case. The structure attracted the chaotic laws and made them flow inside its cavities.

The mountain seemed alive. It wasn't an inscribed item like Supreme Thief's palace and the pyramid. It appeared as a proper living being that had taken an immense shape.

Noah could finally understand what Luke had meant before. The mountain didn't have the aspect of an inheritance, but it contained a lot of power.

"Are you sure that this isn't a mine?" Noah asked while inspecting the mountain.

"We found some Soul Stones around the edges of the cavities," Luke explained. "Yet, they stop appearing deeper in the tunnels. Something else absorbs that energy."

"Didn't you explore it any further?" Noah questioned the expert.

"We found this place only a few centuries ago," Luke revealed. "The secret organization has kept it hidden while it studied the political environment. We wanted to show this place to some powerful forces before resuming its exploration."

Noah nodded before nearing the mountain and covering it with his mental waves. His consciousness couldn't seep inside the cavities, but he could understand that the structure hid some danger.



"How did you even connect it to a cultivator?" Noah asked once Luke approached him. "What can you tell me about Radiant Eyes."

"Her interest in the hybrids had always been famous," Luke explained. "Legends say that she has eventually managed to obtain a body similar to a magical beast. She liked bees, and this has the aspect of a beehive."

Noah knew how hard it was for cultivators to alter their existence after reaching the divine ranks. He didn't believe that Radiant Eyes had managed to overcome that issue, but it was hard to predict what powerful experts were capable of.

Night appeared in the open and shot inside one of the cavities. Noah kept track of its movements through the mental connection, but the insides of the tunnels disrupted it.

"We tried something similar with a few inscribed items," Luke explained. "This whole structure isolates and absorbs energy, so you can't send and receive much."

"I guess we can't only enter it and explore its insides," Noah replied while recalling Night.

"You are free to enter whenever you want," Luke continued. "The secret organization has sent some powerful assets inside the mountain. Still, those who have reached its depths have yet to come out."

"Don't worry," Noah said. "We will have a powerful guide and a few meat shields this time around."

"Do you trust me so little?" Luke sighed when he understood the meaning behind Noah's words.

"Even less than you think," Noah promptly replied. "Now go before I start a mess. The same goes for your two companions. I will follow behind you."

Luke could only sigh again before calling the other rank 8 existences on the scene. The two cultivators joined him in the frontlines and continued to follow him even after their sense of danger told them to go back.

Noah followed closely behind them and threatened to remove his cover whenever one of them trembled. The cultivators felt danger both in front and behind their backs, but that didn't affect their overall performance.

### **Chapter 1587 1587. Swarm**

Noah's group entered the tunnels slowly. They didn't dare to seize the few Soul Stones at their entrance for fear that it could trigger a reaction in the whole mountain.

'It seems alive,' Noah thought while inspecting the rocky surface of the tunnels.

The rocks and ground seemed able to breathe the chaotic laws flowing in their insides. It felt as if those materials were actively attracting the gales to feed on their energy.

Second Prince tried to use inscribed items to learn more about the whole structure, but his inspections didn't lead to significant results. The group could only rely on their instincts and mental waves to search for dangers.

Noah felt that something was off, but he couldn't pinpoint the source of that sensation. The mountain appeared dangerous, but for reasons that he couldn't explain.

A red halo illuminated the tunnels and prevented the group from flying through complete darkness. Many branches spread through the mountain's insides, but most of them seemed to lead toward its core.

A bright fissure eventually appeared in their vision. The tunnels had led to an underground hall that featured a large scarlet crack that tore space itself.

'This does look like an inheritance,' Noah thought while studying the crack.

The fissure seemed to lead to a separate dimension. That portal never closed since the mountain took care of absorbing energy from the storms, but Second Prince quickly understood that there was more to it.

The mountain used most of the chaotic laws to keep the portal open. The space in the Immortal Lands was incredibly resilient, so that crack consumed a lot of energy.

Yet, Second Prince calculated that part of that energy ended up inside the separate dimension. Something on the other side of the crack consumed that power, but the expert couldn't understand much from his position.

"It's probably something for rank 8 experts or above," Noah commented while glancing at his rank 7 companions.

His words didn't manage to scare them away. June and the others wanted to see the other side of the crack. Their existence badly needed those adventures.

"We respected our side of the deal," Luke announced. "I don't see a reason to linger any further. I wish you good luck and a series of meaningful reward-."

"You first," Noah said, interrupting the expert's line.

"I think I prefer this spot," Luke replied.

"I don't think you do," Noah contradicted him, and his companions supported him by shooting glares toward the expert.

Luke suddenly found Divine Demon, Jordan, and Noah glaring at him while wearing severe expressions. It was clear that they wouldn't let the expert back off now that they were so close.

"Off you go," Noah said, and Luke sighed before jumping inside the crack.

The other two rank 8 cultivators from the secret organization did the same, and Noah studied the reaction of the portal before feeling confident about its functioning.

The passage of the three experts didn't seem to affect the crack at all. Noah could even sense their existence disappearing as they traveled through that area of unique space.

Noah didn't manage to suppress his curiosity any longer. He nodded at his companions and jumped inside the dimensional tunnel before his vision became a mess.

The familiar sensation of a teleport filled Noah's mind before a bright scarlet light appeared in his vision. Noah suddenly found himself inside a barren red world that rarely featured different shades.

Luke and his companions were there. They were inspecting the separate dimension, but they couldn't find anything interesting.

The separate dimension was nothing more than a charred red ground and a scarlet sky that radiated a bright red light. It was a simple world that seemed to lack any trace of life.

Noah glanced above his head. The crack was still there. The separate dimension had a clear exit that made the disappearance of the other experts somewhat worrying.

The separate dimension didn't force them to remain inside that world. There had to be something else, but Noah couldn't understand it from his position.

The other experts soon arrived and landed next to Noah. The density of laws in the area was relatively lacking, but they all managed to become used to that new environment.

"What now?" Luke asked as a tinge of annoyance entered his voice.

"Thorough exploration," Noah limited himself to answer before starting to walk forward.

The separate dimension featured a few mountains in the distance. They were the only logical target during that exploration, so Noah quickly moved toward them.

The rest of his group could only follow him. Luke and the others from the secret organization had lost any meaning now, so Noah had instantly become the new guide.

The separate dimension seemed empty, but Noah couldn't shake away the constant dangerous sensation that tried to take control of his mind. The scenery rarely changed, but the mountains drew closer.

It took the group a while to reach the mountains, and a few peculiar features appeared on their surface when the group arrived at their base. Those structures had the same cavities seen outside, only smaller and without the absorbing properties.

Noah and the others quickly climbed the mountains, but they didn't see anything meaningful after reaching their peaks. The separate dimension seemed to end there, but a buzzing noise soon spread through the area.

The noise came from underground. Cracks suddenly opened on the terrain and the surface of the mountains, and large creatures came out of them.

An army of giant bees quickly filled the sky and began to point their stings toward Noah and the others. The experts activated defenses at that point, but Noah's loud cry made them almost forget where they were.

Noah roared as the unstable substance spread through his black veins. The swarm of bees featured multiple rank 8 specimens in the lower tier, but Noah didn't care.

He had already tested that he could handle that danger. It didn't matter that the bees were nimble and had three meters long stings. Noah had transformed into the best lower tier weapon in the world.

Noah leapt forward without relying on movement techniques. The sheer strength generated through the unstable substance made him arrive among the specimens in an instant.

A wave of black flames soon spread among the bees. The rank 7 specimens among the swarm died as soon as they touched Noah's innate ability. Meanwhile, he launched singularities toward the rank 8 creatures.

Noah's decision to attack made his companions far more confident about the whole situation. The bees were big and hideous, but they were relatively easy to kill as long as attacks went past their tough exoskeleton.

Divine Demon and the others began to assault the swarm, even if Noah seemed able to handle the situation by himself. Snore and Duanlong appeared among the bees while Night severed countless heads in seconds.

The rank 7 cultivators tried to help, but their spells appeared lacking compared to Noah's offensive. His flames, slashes, companions, and sheer physical strength inflicted massive damage to the swarm. Noah was unstoppable among that army of powerless magical beasts.

The bees tried to hit Noah with their stings, but their body parts would always stop before piercing his skin. He ended up taking care of the whole army almost by himself.

### **Chapter 1588 1588. Chrysalises**

Divine Demon and the others wanted to help, but they soon lowered their hands. Noah was giving them a spectacle that they didn't want to miss.

Noah was an exceptional warrior. He could fight without allowing those bees to touch him. However, the situation didn't require him to be so careful.

The bees' stings often landed on his body, but they never managed to leave marks. The clash with his skin generated clanging noises that spread through the red sky but never led to injuries.

The unstable substance turned Noah's body into something more than simple skin and flesh. It allowed him to step past perfection and become almost immune to magical beasts in the lower tier.

Bees would shatter whenever his sword flashed. Night was an untouchable shadow that severed heads whenever its figure reappeared. Snore was an all-devouring monster that covered the sky with violent dark matter. Duanlong's innate ability weakened most of those creatures and dragged them into its mouth.

It was a massacre. The bees never managed to gain the upper hand, but they didn't retreat either. They continued to assault Noah until he exterminated all of them.

Noah slowly landed back on the ground. His eyes didn't end up on his companions. He was busy reviewing the battle since there was something off with the bees' behavior.

'Why didn't they try to escape?' Noah wondered while using his dark matter to devour the various corpses that had accumulated on the ground.

It was rare for divine creatures to keep fighting a battle that they had no hope to win. Only the orders of a powerful leader could force them to be so selfless.

"This place is strange," Noah commented when he noticed that his companions were waiting for his evaluation.

"You can't expect rank 9 existences to be normal," Luke commented, but Noah didn't feel at ease anyway.

Inheritances had specific structures and layers. They put rewards behind trials meant to find a suitable heir. Yet, the separate dimension seemed to have a different purpose.

"The surface shouldn't have much," Noah eventually said. "I say we dig until we meet creatures in the middle tier. We can't face anything more than that."

Doubts had appeared in Noah's mind after the battle. The strange layout of the mountain made it a danger zone rather than an inheritance. That small adventure had instantly become far riskier after that realization.

The others didn't challenge Noah's evaluation. They trusted his expertise, and the sight of so many rank 8 magical beasts had also made them aware of how dangerous the separate dimension could be.

Noah and the others began to enlarge the cracks opened by the bees. They dug the red terrain and performed multiple inspections to remain aware of their surroundings until the journey led them into a large underground structure.

A series of underground halls connected by tunnels appeared in their vision. Multiple chrysalises covered those scarlet walls, but most of them were open.

Only a few of the chrysalises were still intact, even if they appeared wilted and dead. It seemed that the magical beasts inside them had failed in the breakthrough.

'These are fresh,' Noah thought while inspecting the open chrysalises.

A dense fluid still flowed out of those silky spherical structures. It covered the walls and seeped into the floor. The scarlet rocks and terrain didn't stop it. Instead, they absorbed that material until it completely disappeared from the hall.

It didn't take an expert to understand what had happened. The previous bees had flown toward the sky right after coming out of the chrysalises.

'Is this a defense mechanism?' Noah wondered. 'Did the separate dimension force them to wake up?'

The chrysalises were also strange. They didn't resemble the nourishing materials that usually preceded a breakthrough.

'Luke described this place as a beehive,' Noah thought while pointing at the floor.

His companions quickly understood his intentions. They began to punch or launch spells at the terrain to dig toward deeper parts of the separate dimension.

The experts had to dig the ground for hundreds of meters before they could find something interesting. A second series of underground halls and tunnels appeared under them, and their walls even featured chrysalises.

'There are almost five hundred chrysalises here,' Noah counted after expanding his consciousness. 'They didn't react to our arrival.'

Noah could see the bees inside the chrysalises in the second layer. His inspection revealed that the creatures weren't ready to appear in the world yet. They weren't even completely alive.

The chrysalises didn't come from breakthroughs. They were breeding new specimens that could directly be born as divine beings.

"I don't think we should remain here for too long," Noah suggested. "Let's take these chrysalises and leave. I don't want to enrage the existence behind such a spectacular structure."

Noah felt in awe of that separate dimension. Radiant Eyes had created a breeding ground for those bees and had also removed certain limitations.

Certain species of magical beasts could give birth to rank 7 specimens. Yet, Noah had fought multiple creatures in the eighth rank before, and they had come from similar chrysalises.

'What was she trying to create here?' Noah wondered. 'Why even bother with this structure?'

Noah had many doubts that he couldn't appease, but they didn't slow him down. He seized a few chrysalises and stored them inside his separate space before setting off.

His companions imitated him, but a buzzing noise suddenly echoed through the second layer of halls. The chrysalises that they had left behind broke in front of their eyes. They gave birth to hundreds of almost dead specimens in a matter of seconds.

Noah glanced at that swarm before flying back to the surface. That army didn't feature any middle tier specimen, but he didn't want to fight them underground.

A second battle happened on the surface. Noah quickly overwhelmed those creatures and made sure to absorb their energy. That type of training was quite beneficial for his body, but Noah didn't know how long he could stretch it.

"Are you sure that leaving is a good idea?" Divine Demon asked after the battle ended. "I think we can dig far deeper."

"I'd rather avoid seeing the true power of this separate dimension," Noah explained. "Also, this place doesn't have any valuable resource except for the magical beasts. The mountain itself is the treasure here, but we can't seize it."

Noah wanted to play it safe. He didn't need to dig deeper into the separate dimension to test his power. He could find middle tier magical beasts in the outside world, where he didn't have to fear for the secret abilities of a separate dimension.

Yet, his plan to leave immediately ended up facing a hindrance. A large crack opened on the ground, and a series of human figures slowly came out of it.

Noah and the others couldn't miss the appearance of those experts. Their auras had unfolded right after they returned to the surface. They had announced themselves to Noah's group.

"Duke, Ava!" Luke shouted while performing a bow. "It's nice to see that you are fine."

The new group featured three rank 8 cultivators, with two of them in the liquid stage. The two leaders were among some of the experts that the secret organization had lost during the previous explorations.

The trio didn't answer. A scarlet radiance flashed behind their eyes while buzzing noises came out of their figures. A pair of insect wings also grew out of their back before they shot toward Noah's group.

### **Chapter 1589 1589. Copies**

"Jordan and I will face the two liquid stage experts," Noah roared. "The others will take care of the gaseous stage before supporting us!"

Noah had understood that his group couldn't escape that threat as soon as the trio started moving. The two liquid stage experts were faster than him, while the third cultivator seemed able to match his speed.

The unstable substance flowed inside his black veins before a wave of dark matter covered his figure. A draconic armor that featured six arms enveloped him before roots spread around his higher energy.

The roots gave birth to three blades in his empty hands. Night, Snore, and Duanlong also came out of his separate space. Noah was going all-out from the beginning of the fight.

Noah didn't divide the opponents casually. The cultivation level of the two liquid stage existences was too high for normal humans. Only hybrids could endure the inevitable beating that had to follow.

The trio didn't appear human anymore. Their glowing eyes and the insect wings gave them a monstrous appearance, but Noah could sense that they still had mental energy at their disposal.

The three of them were using spells to fly forward. That partial transformation didn't remove their ability to rely on centers of power that magical beasts didn't have. Yet, the process had clearly affected their mind since they didn't even bother to speak in front of a friend.

Duke clapped his hands before his aura exploded forward. A wave of azure light blinded Noah for an instant, but it didn't manage to suppress his mental waves.

Noah could sense Duke multiplying inside that radiance. When the light vanished, he saw that the expert had created three exact copies of himself.

Duke didn't suffer any drawback to activate that technique. His copies carried the same cultivation level and aura. Noah suddenly had four liquid stage cultivators to take care of.

The sword-shaped roots on one of his right hands opened while a black handle came out of his draconic chest. Noah drew the cursed sword and slashed toward his four opponents, backing his attack with everything he had.

A massive singularity came out of his figure. The whole area became empty of air, energy, and terrain as his destructive attack filled the land.

Azure shields appeared in front of the four Duke. They tried to block the singularity, but Noah's attack ended up piercing those spells and landing on their body.

The four Duke shot backward until they crashed on the ground. Limbs and pieces of their torso had disappeared after the clash. One of them had even lost his head, but his body continued to move.

'What the fuck?' Noah cursed in his mind at the sight of the headless human figure standing up and clapping his hands.

The other three Duke did the same, and an azure halo soon shone in the area again. When the light disappeared, Noah could see that the expert had created four more copies that didn't have any injury.

Noah covered the area with flames before launching another attack. The expert didn't manage to avoid that singularity, but he tried to block it with shields again.

The eight figures suffered fewer injuries during that clash since Noah's singularity didn't manage to pierce many shields. Still, the expert clapped his hands and multiplied himself again.

Noah remained speechless. He now had twelve liquid stage opponents ready to unleash their full power. The expert's ability didn't make any sense, but Noah didn't let that sight scare him.

Duke had gone through a transformation, but only severe drawbacks could justify that amount of power. Cultivators couldn't just multiply themselves. Noah would have already done it otherwise.

'I need to push him until the drawbacks take over,' Noah concluded in his mind while storing the cursed sword.

Noah couldn't overpower so many liquid stage experts, but he had something that could delay them. It was time to use his new ability.

The dark world expanded and covered the whole battlefield. The workshop activated while Noah remained hidden inside his currents of dark matter.

Duke sent some of his copies forward, but the dark world suppressed their power and made them unable to find Noah. The expert snapped his fingers to launch shockwaves that destroyed entire chunks of the technique, but he still failed in uncovering Noah.

Dark matter constantly refilled those destroyed areas and gave Noah more space to find a safe position. He never stopped moving and planned his new destination according to where his opponents were.

'It's still too slow,' Noah sighed in his mind while inspecting the twelve copies laying waste to his technique.

The dark world managed to suppress the expert and his attacks, but the latter remained a liquid stage cultivator. It only took him three series of attacks to destroy most of the technique and corner Noah.



A massive six-armed dragons came out of the last lump of dark matter when the twelve copies approached that area. The creature had the power of a magical beast in the lower tier, but its figure radiated Noah's energy.

The twelve copies quickly attacked the dragon and destroyed it in a single wave of attacks. They only had to snap their fingers to shatter the dark matter that made its body.

'I wonder how much energy they can use in this state,' Noah thought while commanding the workshop to send the second specimen.

A second six-armed dragon came out of that lump of dark matter, and the twelve copies quickly took care of the creature. However, the dark world expanded during that time and engulfed them again.

The twelve copies launched shockwaves, but they found out that two lower tier dragons had appeared in front of them. Duke didn't hesitate to shot toward the creatures, but a series of tentacles came out of the dark world and cracked at them.

The tentacles hit the surprised copies and flung them on the ground. Large pieces of their body had disappeared after the exchange, but they all stood up and clapped their hands to multiply.

'How many times can he even do it?' Noah wondered when he saw twenty Duke watching toward the dark world. 'Well, this should reduce his time, at least.'

More tentacles cracked out of the dark world while the copies tried to shot toward the sky. The expert quickly created shields that blocked those attacks, but he soon found the two dragons on top of him.

The twenty copies destroyed the dragons in a matter of seconds. Those creatures were stronger than the average magical beast due to the dark matter, but Duke was too powerful. He was a one-man-army ready to unleash his full might in an instant.

Yet, the twenty copies didn't manage to go far. Noah kept expanding the dark world and put them into a position where he could surprise them with the tentacles and send them back on the ground.

'This doesn't seem the arsenal of a liquid stage cultivator,' Noah thought while inspecting his battle and the other fights.

Noah noticed that the winged cultivators didn't use many spells. They only relied on their iconic ability before limiting themselves to less powerful techniques.

The gaseous stage cultivator was even alone against Luke's companions and the rest of the rank 7 experts. It didn't take much to take the expert down, and Second Prince didn't hesitate to study him.

### **Chapter 1590 1590. Chase**

Noah used the dark world to run away and buy time for the workshop. Facing Duke in that state was suicide, so he had to rely on petty tactics to keep himself safe.

Duke's assault was relentless. Noah had to give up on creating dragons to maximize his number of tentacles since they were the only weapons capable of slowing down his opponent.

The twenty copies charged toward the dark world and destroyed huge chunks of dark matter with the shockwaves generated by their fingers. Yet, Noah continued to retreat while forcing the workshop to give birth to more octopuses.

'When will he finish his energy?' Noah cursed in his mind.

Noah's battle prowess was incredible, and the expert didn't even seem able to use his full power. However, Duke continued to gain ground.

Noah had long since stopped hurting his opponent. Duke had too many shields at his disposal, and his lower tier magical beasts couldn't pierce those spells.

The sky had become a mess of dark matter and tentacles, but Duke continued to advance. It wouldn't take him much to reach Noah.

The inevitable eventually happened. Duke's twenty copies cornered Noah in a lump of dark matter and forced him to activate the Shadow Domain to dodge the incoming attack.

Noah reappeared higher in the sky. He was almost back at the exit, but he couldn't fly away in a straight line since his opponents would reach him in no time.

His only shot at survival was to exhaust the expert slowly. Noah didn't know how much energy a liquid stage cultivator had, but he guessed that it was almost time for Duke to reach his limit.

Duke continued to press forward until he forced Noah to activate the Shadow Domain again. Noah unfolded the dark world once he reappeared high in the sky, and the expert resumed his chase.

Noah didn't bother to keep track of the number of rank 8 fake cores consumed during the chase. He was wasting countless priceless items during the battle, but he had no other choice.

Duke eventually managed to corner Noah, but a singularity shot out of the last lump of dark matter and bought him enough time to retreat. Then, the dark world expanded again, and the chase continued.

Noah had almost reached the exit when something happened. Duke's copies began to slow down, and their assault lost power. Some of them even stopped relying on the shields when the tentacles cracked in their direction.

'Almost there!' Noah shouted in his mind while forcing the workshop to produce even more octopuses.

The tentacles created a storm that the twenty copies seemed unable to overcome. They managed to destroy those creatures in a couple of attacks, but Noah always had new beasts to throw at them.

The copies slowly grew unstable. Their skin started to radiate an azure light that dispersed part of the energy contained inside their centers of power.

Noah began to use the cursed sword more often at that point. His new limit was around ten attacks, and he didn't hesitate to use all of them to increase the amount of damage that those copies had to suffer.

Then, some copies detonated and released a massive wave of energy that forced Noah to use the Shadow Domain. He decided to reappear closer to his companions at that time, and his dark world promptly followed that event.

The copies continued to detonate, but Noah was aware of that ability now. He stayed away from Duke and let his magical beasts handle the rest.

That safe approach forced Noah to waste more fake cores, but he ignored that loss. The bloodlust that filled his mind made that task easy since he could only think about destroying Duke.

The copies continued to explode until only one of them remained. Duke appeared exhausted after that long chase, but the buzzing noise still came out of his figure.

'It's similar to what has happened with the bees,' Noah thought. 'Something forces him to fight even if his dantian is mostly empty.'

Noah was quite fine even if he had gone all-out. He had mostly relied on the dark world and workshop during the chase, so his dantian and mental sphere didn't waste much energy.

'How do I kill him now?' Noah wondered before summoning Snore inside the dark world.

Duke flew inside the currents of dark matter even if the technique suppressed his influence. The expert didn't even have the power to fight against those restrictions, so Noah could wait until he was deep inside the dark world to launch his attack.

Snore unleashed the full power of its wings and gave birth to a series of explosions that destroyed the dark world and generated shockwaves. The violent dark matter spread in every corner of the battlefield, but Noah was too far away to affect his companions.

Duke had reactivated his shield to face that attack, but his defenses eventually shattered due to his lack of energy. The violent dark matter managed to land on his body and crush him piece by piece.

The expert tried to use his remaining brim of energy to fend off that power, but Night cut off his head before he could change his approach. Of course, his body continued to move even after the beheading.

Noah didn't know how to handle that existence, so he limited himself to launch everything he had on Duke. Night could finally show its actual value in that battle since the expert didn't activate defenses anymore, but Noah also relied on Snore and Duanlong.

Night cut Duke piece by piece while the other companions assaulted him or ravaged his energy. Noah also relied on the Demonic Sword and the sword-shaped roots to launch more attacks.

Duke eventually crumbled under Noah's relentless offensive. The expert crashed on the terrain and slowly transformed into the dense liquid that Noah had seen underground.

Noah didn't let that happen. His flames, dark matter, and Duanlong flew toward Duke and used their destructive power to absorb the energy contained in the dense liquid.

Part of the dark world even seized that liquid and stored it inside Noah's black hole. He wanted to study what had caused the transformation. He was very curious about the story behind that mountain, and only the corpse could give him answers.

Most of the corpse ended up fusing with the ground, but Noah managed to obtain a large chunk of energy for his centers of power and Duanlong. He even seized a second sample of the liquid, so he considered himself lucky.

'I did it,' Noah exclaimed in his mind before dispersing the dark world and inspecting the outcome of his battle.

Duke wasn't at his best, and his ability had evident drawbacks. However, Noah had managed to hold his ground against a being capable of liquid stage might. That was something that even his ambition acknowledged.

Noah felt his potential surging whenever he reviewed the scenes of the battle. His Shadow Domain, unstable substance, workshop, and cursed sword gave him great flexibility in a fight, and the base power of those abilities almost granted him the chance to make his might step on the next stage.

Noah wasn't sure whether his battle prowess had reached the liquid stage since his opponent had many flaws. Still, he had finally killed an expert at that level. He felt as if his ambition could burst out of his waist and fill the entire world.

'They should end their battle soon,' Noah eventually thought while glancing at the fight happening in the distance.