

DEMONIC 1611

### **Chapter 1611 - 1611. Danger**

The dark world transformed during its expansion. The nature of the dark matter flowing in its insides changed as its power increased.

The dense liquid-like currents solidified until they became a black metal that filled the whole dark-yellow hall. Then, their power increased further until they exploded into a raging black storm.

A similar process happened to his companions. A pure expression of their laws flowed through the hall and improved until it reached levels of power that they had yet to touch.

King Elbas' curiosity intensified as it flew through the hall. It became a golden radiance that seeped in every material and made him understand their structures.

The world around Divine Demon fell apart under the influence of his aura. Even the bricks of the pyramid seemed unable to withstand his overbearing law.

Alexander's hunger shattered the bricks and multiplied the primary energy released in the process. He seemed able to generate power from nothing.

Theodora's mental waves became able to see the true nature inside the laws around her. She could understand the faint desires carried by that matter, and part of its power flowed inside her after obtaining that knowledge.

Luke's thoughts began to transform the matter and force it to obtain a different nature. The laws morphed according to his will without requiring additional energy.

The Foolery's influence transformed some of the weaker materials into resources full of energy without investing anything. He could generate power by simply spreading its aura.

Similar events happened for the other experts. The pyramid had copied their laws and put their consciousness inside ethereal figures to make them able to withstand that power. The structure was showing their path and was replicating its effects.

The benefits of that procedure didn't only involve their sight. Noah and the others were wielding that superior power as if it was theirs. They were experiencing those techniques in their strongest form.

The effects the techniques caused in the matter around them also gave more hints about the end of their path. Those experts could partially see what they would become at the peak of the cultivation journey.

The experience was breathtaking. The various auras didn't even affect each other. The pyramid was restraining their effects on the bricks that made the immense hall.

Noah felt that his control over his power often vanished. The pyramid automatized as many parts of the procedure as possible, so he rarely had to act.

Still, Noah didn't feel the need to do anything in front of that spectacle. He only wanted to watch and learn how his law would play out once he reached the ninth rank.

More materials began to melt or shatter while the various auras pressed on their structure. Even the sturdiest metals bent in front of influences that had become able to handle rank 9 materials.

Great Builder's corpse left the bed and flew toward the center of the three rank 9 fake cores. A vertical cut that ran from his head to his toes then opened and made everyone in the area suppress gasps.

The pyramid's aura was keeping Great Builder's corpse in the air and ready to receive the new materials. Noah and the others could only move on the three fake cores at that point, and those items transformed under their influence.

The experts' auras worked together to improve the fake cores and adapt them to Great Builder's existence. Great Builder was right in front of their eyes, so they could study him while completing the procedure.

The fake cores crumbled before regaining their original shape under the influence of those auras. They became stronger and changed form as the process continued, but they soon transformed into entirely different items.

One of the fake cores took the shape of Great Builder's body. It copied his face and various features perfectly before halting its transformations.

The second fake core transformed into a small shining sphere that reminded Noah of a dantian. It even contained rank 9 "Breath" that suited Great Builder's law.

The third lost its shape. It became a dense gas of white thoughts ready to flow inside Great Builder's mind. That material was almost as shiny as the dantian.

The experts then finished melting the materials accumulated on the floor and made their energy flow inside Great Builder. His injury slowly healed, but the pyramid opened the cut again since it needed it to complete the procedure.

The three modified fake cores then flew toward Great Builder. They fused with his centers of power and tried to give life to those organs.

The effects of the pyramid's aura slowly disappeared. The ethereal figures began to vanish as the heavy aura's attention went on Great Builder. Noah and the others slowly returned to their bodies and regained control of their actions.

The experts fell on the floor and experienced the most intense weakness of their entire life. Their centers of power were almost empty, but neither of them dared to complain about their state.

The pyramid had given them the best experience of their life. They knew where their techniques and laws would lead them at the end of the cultivation journey.

The process continued at the center of the immense hall. The pyramid closed the injury after the three fake cores fused with Great Builder's centers of power before creating a series of defensive layers around the expert.

The array of defenses gathered around Great Builder and created something like a chrysalis. His aura then vanished altogether, and even the pyramid stopped applying its heavy pressure.

Everything went silent. Only the white light radiated by the strange chrysalis in the air made the experts understand that the procedure was still ongoing.

The light radiated by the dark-yellow bricks dimmed, and the random tremors that ran through the pyramid stopped. The resurrection had reached its last phase, so the structure had to focus its entire attention on Great Builder.

Noah and the others didn't have the time to mind those changes. Their minds were still wandering through the many feelings experienced during the procedure.

They wanted to seclude themselves right away and see how beneficial that experience had been, but a series of lights suddenly ran through the floor and reached them.

The same went for their companions on the stages. White lines ran through the dark-yellow bricks and stopped only when they reached them.

Noah and the others were about to devise methods to contact the pyramid's will, but their vision suddenly changed. A heavy force enveloped their figures and dragged them away from that structure.

The white light of the sky shone on the army for the first time in decades. The experts were right outside the pyramid, but neither of them managed to return inside it.

White lines ran on the surface of the pyramid, and earthquakes spread from its area. The structure didn't tremble, but the power that it was accumulating made the air and ground around it shake.

"We should focus on recovering our energy," Alexander exclaimed once a dangerous sensation appeared in his mind.

Noah felt the same after a few seconds, and the other experts followed. They also began to sense that an immense danger was about to fall on them.

Those experts didn't have to say anything else. Their best hope to handle rank 9 threats was behind them, so they had to hold their ground until the resurrection was over.

Noah and those who had been a core part of the procedure immersed themselves in training sessions to refill their centers of power while the others began to deploy defenses in the area. Neither of them would hold back in front of an imminent threat.

### **Chapter 1612 - 1612. Poetic**

The pyramid continued to release flashes of white light as shining lines flowed through its surface. Earthquakes filled the nearby regions and shattered the air above, but the army never stopped working.

Noah and the others didn't even dare to leave that dangerous area. Their instincts told them that something dangerous was coming, and Great Builder was their best chance to survive.

The experts who had taken part in Great Builder's resurrection secluded themselves to refill their centers of power. The knowledge and experience gained during the procedure were still vivid in their minds, which benefitted their training sessions.

Noah felt as if his centers of power couldn't stand to remain at their current level anymore. They wanted to improve and reach the realms experienced during the procedure. Even his newly advanced body couldn't settle for the middle tier.

The tense situation prevented Noah from testing his new power, but he could sense that his battle prowess had taken a long step forward. The breakthrough of his body didn't only give him access to superior physical strength. It also granted him a larger amount of better primary energy.

The unstable substance and his martial arts would immensely benefit from that improvement. His new body would also allow him to endure more drawbacks from the cursed sword. It wasn't a stretch to say that Noah had stepped on a whole new level.

Months went by as the army prepared for the unknown threat. It didn't take much for the experts to come out of their training areas. King Elbas was the first to rejoin the rest of the troops, and he immediately became the leader of all the inscription masters handling the various defenses.

Noah and the others soon followed King Elbas. Alexander was the last to come out of his training area since his centers of power required more energy, but he eventually joined the rest of the army.

A tense period followed that event. Noah and the others did their best to prepare for the imminent threat, but there was a limit to how much they could do. Their power couldn't amount to much against a rank 9 existence.

The dangerous feeling intensified until it began to affect the army's mood. The magical beasts soon fell prey to that sensation, but Noah's pride managed to keep them in check.

The cultivators eventually began to suffer under that constant pressure. They became jumpy and irritated since their mind could only sense death around them.

The feeling then hit the hybrids, and they had to rely on their leaders to keep their cool. Alexander even had to rely on some of his techniques at times to keep their mood in check.

The dangerous feeling only became stronger. Nothing seemed able to affect that mysterious power. Even the shockwaves radiated by the pyramid didn't manage to suppress it.

It seemed that the tense situation would last forever, but a sudden event ended up bringing it to an end. An intense white radiance ran through the sky, and a human figure appeared on the ground at some distance from the army.

Noah and those who had been with Radiant Eyes during her invasion of the human domain recognized that cultivator. He was the same expert that Heaven and Earth had sent to stop Radiant Eyes, but his condition was far worse than they recalled.

The white expert's face was ashen. His robe was a torn mess, and large patches of blood covered the few pieces of fabric that still hung on his body.

His aura didn't radiate light anymore. The expert appeared extremely weak, and he didn't even care about the existences in front of him.

Noah and the others didn't know how to react at that sight. They were ready to launch their best attacks to that threat, but they weren't sure whether the expert was dangerous anymore.

The white cultivator didn't even look at the army. He only glanced behind him, and anxiety built in his expression whenever his instincts sensed something.

'Heaven and Earth are getting sloppy,' Noah said in his mind.

It was clear what had happened, but most experts in the army didn't even dare to consider that option. Noah wasn't among them, and an accurate guess played in his mind as the white expert struggled to catch his breath.

Radiant Eyes had clearly won the battle, and she had continued to chase the white expert while the army was inside the pyramid. Yet, the cultivator had grown exhausted by then. It was clear that he couldn't escape anymore.

'He should hurry up,' Noah thought while glancing at the pyramid.

A scarlet light eventually suppressed the white radiance and filled the sky. A massive humanoid giant appeared on the horizon and closed on Noah's position in mere minutes.

The army could soon inspect the giant in its true might. The inscribed item didn't feature any crack, and it had also grown during the past years. It seemed that Radiant Eyes had become stronger since the first clash with the white expert.

"You would have managed to survive for a few centuries if you didn't step outside of that building," Radiant Eyes' familiar voice came out of the faceless giant. "Everything will end now. I can't condone betrayal."

Noah and the other leaders ignored her. They had prepared for a similar situation. They were ready to fight that hopeless battle and delay their death as long as possible.

'Do you think you can hold her back?' Noah asked through his mental waves.

'Not at all,' Alexander replied. 'She is a rank 9 expert. I can only block one attack if she isn't serious.'

'Don't hold back on the disposable weapons,' Noah reminded Alexander. 'Every second count. We must survive until Great Builder comes out.'

'If he comes out,' King Elbas complained while joining that conversation.

'We would have been crazy enough to face a rank 9 expert at least,' Wilfred replied. 'They'll make songs about us.'

'Did he always have this poetic vibe?' Divine Demon asked.

'Lord Wilfred is deeper than any of you,' Ian answered.

'You are all idiots,' King Elbas sighed.

'Imagine dying with us,' Divine Demon laughed.

Noah and Alexander completely ignored that mental conversation and focused on their opponents. Radiant Eyes wasn't minding the army either. The white expert claimed the entirety of her attention.

"We can work something out!" The white expert shouted. "I am a follower of Heaven and Earth. My Masters can give you everything you want!"

"Where is the fun in that?" Radiant Eyes' voice echoed through the sky while the giant raised its massive hand. "Heaven and Earth couldn't stop me, so I'll take everything I want anyway."

The giant's hand shot downward and reduced the expert to a bloody pulp before he could say anything. A rank 9 existence died right in front of the army, but its leaders didn't flinch.

"It's your turn now," Radiant Eyes' voice echoed through the sky. "You threw away the chance to rule the Immortal Lands with me. I can't stand that offense."

"How can you be so sure that your species can rule over the higher plane?" Noah suddenly shouted. "You want perfection, right? Why don't you test your underlings against us?"

"I can understand when someone is trying to buy some time," Radiant Eyes replied.

"There is no fun in killing us with your power," Noah shrugged his shoulders. "I am trying to buy some time, but you are a rank 9 existence. What can we do to scare you?"

Noah's words seemed to have the desired effect since a series of bees came out of the giant and filled the sky. Their buzzing noise was deafening, but it was the best sound in the world in Noah's mind.

### **Chapter 1613 - 1613. Talent**

"How can you make people angry so easily?" Alexander asked without bothering to use his mental waves.

"He got his individuality all wrong," Jordan sighed. "His ambition is incredible, but he could have been far stronger in that field."

"He might have gotten that from his Master," King Elbas added.

"I won't deny it," Divine Demon said before the leaders landed on the ground in front of the army.

The bees had changed during the past years. They had become bigger, and an additional pair of legs had grown from their torso. They also had long pinchers now, and their bodies seemed sturdier than before.

Some of the bees had even gained an additional abdomen. Those improved specimens resembled an elite force capable of commanding entire platoons. They even had a unique aura flowing out of their bodies.

A platoon made of hundreds of bees shot forward as soon as the enemy leaders landed on the ground. That group contained many rank 8 specimens, but Noah's army didn't falter.

A series of golden lines lit up when the bees were about to approach the army. The light gathered in the sky and gave birth to a group of golems and puppets. They immediately flew toward the swarm and began to slaughter its specimens.

Countless bees died during the first clash, but no one cheered in front of that small victory. That platoon was only a tiny part of the enemy army, and the leaders didn't even know how many specimens were still inside the giant.

The puppets detonated when the bees were about to destroy them. Flares made of golden flames shot through the sky and killed every magical beast in their range. The first platoon died in a little less than a minute.

"I'm playing your game," Radiant Eyes' voice resounded from the giant, "But I make the rules."

The giant raised its hand before an intense buzzing noise came out of its scarlet fabric. All the magical beasts and hybrids in the area managed to understand the meaning carried by that cry. Radiant Eyes had given the order for a relentless assault.

The entire army of bees shot forward. Noah and the others saw hundreds of specimens in the eighth rank flying toward them to launch a selfless assault. None of those creatures cared about their life.

Noah and the others didn't need to exchange any word. They had already prepared a battle tactic. They limited themselves to roar toward the incoming army and prepare for the imminent clash.

Even more golden lights lit up around the army and gave birth to an army of fiery puppets. Those defenses leapt among the bees and began to kill as many specimens as they could.

The bees directly ignored those puppets. They didn't care about those defenses. Their targets were on the ground, and they would stop at nothing to take them down.

The rank 7 cultivators, hybrids, and magical beasts performed battle formations until they transformed into five nine-headed hydras in the eighth rank. They were only in the lower tier, but they could join the fight properly in that form.

Noah, Wilfred, Alexander, Jordan, Ian, and Divine Demon stepped forward and waited for their opponents to arrive. They all picked a target among the incoming swarm and prepared to face them.

A middle tier bee dived toward Noah. The creature could sense that its opponent was at its same level, but Radiant Eyes' orders made it unable to understand the actual difference in power.

Noah didn't even bother to draw his sword. He raised his hand and waited for the stinger to land on his open palm.

A clanging noise echoed through the sky when the stinger hit his palm. Noah didn't feel any pain, and he didn't even take a step back. The attack couldn't make him move nor bleed.

The bee didn't care about that show of power and continued to press forward, but Noah promptly ripped off its stinger before stabbing his hand in the injury.

The creature tried to give voice to its pain, but Noah instantly waved his hand. A singularity shot out of his fingers after that gesture, and the bee ended up divided in half.

More middle tier magical beasts tried to dive toward him, but they met the same fate. Noah tore their bodies apart with his bare hands. He didn't need anything else against creatures at that level.

Radiant Eyes had turned the bees into selfless creatures, but she didn't make them stupid. They didn't have the best intelligence compared to other magical beasts, but they could understand that middle tier specimens couldn't handle Noah.

One of the specimens with an additional abdomen soon left its position and dived toward Noah. His instincts warned him about that new threat. They could sense that an upper tier creature was approaching his position at high speed.

The black hole quickly started to push the unstable substance inside the black vessels. Noah felt a surge of power flowing through his entire body, and he smiled when he sensed that his tissues could now endure that technique.

The breakthrough had reinforced the black vessels since Noah often relied on the unstable substance. His existence had moved toward those fields, so his body knew where it had to improve.

The massive bee crashed on Noah in an instant. A grey cloud soon filled that part of the battlefield and hid the result of the clash.

The other experts didn't have time to worry about Noah. They had been clear when they prepared the plan. That battle had to leave only the strongest among them alive, so they couldn't neglect their fights to help others. Of course, that implied Great Builder's actual resurrection.

'I'm getting there,' Noah thought as a red radiance shone from behind his eyes.

The bee's legs had stabbed his body in multiple spots, but they had never managed to pierce past Noah's muscles. On the other hand, Noah had stopped the stinger with his bare hands again, and he couldn't help but feel elated at that sight.

The creature tried to break free, but Noah's grip wouldn't budge. The bee struggled and launched attacks, but a series of black figures appeared in its path.

Noah slammed the bee a few times on the ground before approaching its head. The creature was still trying to attack him, but he pressed his foot on its left eye and kept it in its position while he drew the Demonic Sword.

The blade flashed with a black light multiple times, and a head eventually rolled on the ground. Noah had only recently stepped into the middle tier, but he was already able to take down upper tier magical beasts.

Noah stored the corpse before jumping among the storm of bees that was engulfing his army. A series of roots spread from his figure, and countless creatures died due to their corrosive aura.

That stunt granted him special attention. Noah saw countless bees turning in his direction and interrupting the attack on his troops. A wave of winged creatures soon tried to engulf Noah, but only the middle tier specimens could survive around him at that point.

The Demonic Form had obtained a new source of food after his breakthrough in the middle tier. Noah had provided the parasite with superior primary, and the results were spectacular.

#### **Chapter 1614 - 1614. Reckless bunch**

The bees were stronger than the rats, especially after Radiant Eyes' influence had forced their bodies to evolve. Yet, they remained below the average in terms of physical prowess and innate defenses.

Noah could slaughter those creatures at ease. Even the upper tier specimens couldn't threaten him. Only the bees that were about to approach the peak of the eighth rank managed to match his blows.

The unstable substance turned his body into a perfect weapon. The Demonic Sword enhanced his physical prowess and transformed his slashes into deadly weapons. The parasite fused its corrosive aura with his techniques and gave them far more power.

Snore and the other companions also came out in the open. They couldn't handle the upper tier specimens, but they could fight and defeat the creatures in the middle tier.

Noah counted for an entire army, and his efforts inside the swarm relieved his companions by a lot of pressure. Alexander quickly imitated his approach while Wilfred and the other hybrids remained behind to handle any bee that managed to get past the monster duo.

The battle was spectacular. The swarm of bees tried to engulf the enemy army, but Noah and the others never lost their ground. They fought those creatures back and filled the battlefield with maimed corpses.

Noah decided to rely on his flames once enough magical beasts gathered around him. His ambition even surged to empower his innate ability and give it enough strength to kill the middle tier creatures in a few seconds.

A massive surge of energy flowed inside Noah every time the tiny flames fused with his body. Magical beasts in the middle tier would have to work for entire years to gain access to that immense energy, but Noah barely minded it.

His body contained an insane amount of power. Its might was beyond what middle tier creatures could wield, and his requirements matched its strength.

Noah was burning every lower and middle tier magical beast that entered his range, but he didn't feel any increase of power. His body was a bottomless pit that didn't show any reaction at that immense surge of energy.

The situation was too tense to mind those details. Noah limited himself to memorize those feelings while remaining focused on the battle. The upper tier specimens could hurt him, so he had to show part of his battle style to stay untouched.

More bees came out of the scarlet giant, but the situation on the battlefield didn't change. Those creatures could not gain the upper hand, and most of their opponents even surpassed them in terms of resilience.

That sight honestly surprised Radiant Eyes. The battle was showing her how weak her underlings were compared to other creatures. Her species needed a lot of work, especially against beings that stood at the peak of the food chain.

"You are a disappointment," Radiant Eyes sighed, and her voice shook the entire sky.

A buzzing noise came out of the giant and reached every bee. Those creatures released deafening sounds before falling to the ground.

Noah and the others wore solemn expressions when they inspected the fallen bees. Radiant Eyes had killed her army, and she had done that with her voice.

The destructive power wielded by rank 9 existences made Noah's ambition skyrocket, but he didn't let it flow into his aura. He had to gain more time, and showing his desire to obtain that battle prowess wasn't the best move.

'What can I even say at this point?' Noah wondered as the Demonic Deduction technique activated to give him violent thoughts.

Noah looked for anything that could trigger Radiant Eyes' anger and keep her outside of the battlefield at the same time. However, he couldn't find anything suitable for his situation. He could only think about childish mocks.

"Do you have something better inside that mountain?" Noah shouted, but his expression froze when a giant hand formed above one of the hydras.

Noah didn't even have the time to turn. The hand shot downward, and the hydra disappeared. His weaker companions had transformed into a pool of blood in an instant.

'This is the end then,' Noah sighed in his mind.

Sword Saint's flare was still inside his mind, but Noah had no reason to activate it. The expert was a monster, but Alexander was right next to him. A simple glance toward the leader's expression was enough to tell Noah how hopeless the situation was.

'Can we do anything?' Wilfred asked through the mental connection.

'I might be able to make a hole in the giant,' Alexander explained, 'But that won't solve anything. It's all a matter of how you want to die now.'

Noah had already gone through a similar situation. His eyes met King Elbas' gaze. The duo had been on opposite sides at that time, but they were about to die together now.

"Hitting a rank 9 existence must feel good," Noah eventually sighed.

"I bet it does," Alexander laughed as his aura expanded.

"I never thought I would fight for glory," King Elbas snorted and massaged his temples.

"You never thought many things," Divine Demon laughed.

Wilfred wanted to add something, but an even bigger hand formed above the army and shot downward. Noah didn't even have the time to lift his head. His consciousness went dark before he could have last thoughts.

A snort came out of the giant after Radiant Eyes took care of the enemy army. She had defeated all the experts that had offended her, but that left her with no real plan.

Her thoughts quickly went on the Outer Lands. Being the ruler of the human domain was appealing, but she wanted to take care of her condition first. The battle against the white expert had delayed her transformation, so she needed to gather more energy.

Her mental waves spread through the battlefield and began to gather the various corpses accumulated on the ground. She wouldn't waste those materials, and she even planned to study some of those hybrids to fix the flaws of her species.

However, Radiant Eyes noticed something odd while her consciousness studied the battlefield. Corpses would typically begin to disperse their energy, but that wasn't happening there.

Even the dead bees didn't radiate their energy. It seemed that the whole area prevented stopped the natural deterioration of those corpses.

"Body, dantian, and mind," A deep voice suddenly came out of the pyramid. "Living beings aren't so complicated. Resurrecting a few thousands of them is child's play."

A white aura flowed out of the pyramid and covered the entire battlefield. Radiant Eyes' mental waves shattered under that influence, and even her giant suffered under that halo.

Scarlet chunks and debris fell from the giant whenever the white light touched its surface. The pyramid was able to affect a rank 9 item. Radiant Eyes could only stop playing around in front of that new threat.

"I mean," A half-laugh came out of the pyramid. "Rank 8 beings have managed to resurrect an existence in the ninth rank. I would consider myself a failure if I were unable to do the same for my saviors."

The white light intensified and forced Radiant Eyes to shield the giant with her consciousness. A metal layer also appeared above the puppet's skin and protected it from that blinding halo.

Noah suddenly opened his eyes. His mind quickly spread to check his body and companions, but he had no words to explain what he saw.

His centers of power were in a perfect state. Even the Demonic Sword and the rest of his companions were in a similar condition. The rest of the army was also fine. It was as if the battle against the bees had never happened!

"Do not worry, reckless bunch," A voice came out of the pyramid again. "I won't forget what you did for me. Taking care of your enemies is the least I can do."

### **Chapter 1615 - 1615. Resurrection**

"You have a unique law," Radiant Eyes said from inside the giant. "What price did you have to pay to perform these resurrections? What's your drawback?"

"There are no drawbacks," Great Builder explained from inside the pyramid. "I'm nothing more than an expert with the right tools. Living beings become quite easy to understand after you study millions of them."

Noah felt grateful to Great Builder, but the current situation didn't allow him to feel at ease. He had come back to life only to find himself between two rank 9 experts ready to fight.

The pyramid began to tremble before Noah could think about anything else. The white halo retracted and gathered into a vertical line that cut the structure in half.

Noah's instincts screamed, but he had nowhere to run. The entire army couldn't move with those two existences controlling the edges of the battlefield.

The pyramid suddenly opened. Its bricks started to separate from the main structure and reveal its insides. The various corridors and rooms became visible to everyone in the area, and a shining figure soon appeared at their center.

A middle-aged man with long white hair and no beard floated among the flying bricks. His white aura spread in every corner of the region, and a heavy pressure accompanied his show of power.

Noah could sense that the aura was heavy, but that power didn't apply any pressure on his mind. It even shielded him from the white sky and protected him from the shockwaves released by the pyramid.

"It has been too long!" Great Builder shouted as his aura expanded.

His hair fluttered in the wind generated by his figure. His overwhelming might spread violently through the regions and seeped into all the matter around him.

Great Builder's influence didn't trigger any reaction in the matter. It simply seeped inside it and became part of its fabric. It seemed that the expert was limiting himself to taint those materials.

Noah quickly inspected his body. His ambition even surged to empower his mind and give him a better understanding of what had happened.

The inspection didn't amount to anything. Noah couldn't find anything strange in his centers of power. Everything was as it was before the battle against the bees, except for his accumulated energy.

"Heaven and Earth!" Great Builder shouted while spreading his arms and looking toward the sky. "I came back! Did you miss me?"

His taunts seemed to trigger something in the sky. White sparks accumulated high above him and threatened to launch attacks carrying power that Noah couldn't even understand.

The sparks gathered to generate an intense crackling noise. Everyone in the area understood that a massive lightning bolt was about to fall on Great Builder, but the expert soon lost interest in that event.

The bricks around Great Builder began to arrange themselves in a different shape. They took the form of a huge cannon that pointed at the sky. Its muzzle even lit up to announce the arrival of an attack.

The lightning bolt eventually fell, but the cannon didn't hesitate to fire back. Two attacks wielding insane might clashed mid-air and exploded, generating intense destructive shockwaves that spread through the nearby regions.

Noah and the others wanted to escape, but their situation prevented them from moving. Still, Great Builder's white aura protected them from any shockwave or tremor that tried to reach their position.

The white sphere launched by the cannon and the lightning bolt exploded. They carried the same amount of power, so the attacks ended up destroying each other.

Heaven and Earth didn't want the tribulation to end and gathered even more sparks, but Great Builder acted faster than the sparks. His cannon shot again, and an explosion happened in the sky.

The Tribulation dispersed after the last attack, but Heaven and Earth's influence surrounded Great Builder anyway. Sparks soon began to accumulate around him and converge toward his figure. Heaven and Earth had marked him as an enemy of the world again.

Great Builder snorted, and a series of lines ran through his body. That technique quickly hid his presence and prevented his aura from triggering Heaven and Earth's punishment. The expert had developed something similar to Noah's spell.

"They are always so unforgiving," Great Builder commented while shrugging his shoulders. "I've only come back to life. It's not a big deal."

"Are you done?" Radiant Eyes snorted from inside the giant. "Can we fight already?"

"Sure, sure," Great Builder laughed. "Forgive me. It feels great to be back. I didn't think I would have missed this cursed life so much."

Radiant Eyes stopped speaking and decided to begin her offensive. The giant waved its hand, and a trail of scarlet light flew toward Great Builder.

The army between the two rank 9 experts could only remain still in front of that massive discharge of power, but Great Builder took care of protecting them.

White light ran through the ground and gave birth to shining plants covering the army with their branches. Those trees seemed able to block any shockwave running through the area. They were the perfect shield for those weaker existences.

The trail of scarlet light continued to fly toward Great Builder, but the expert snapped his fingers and surrounded himself with a white halo. The area transformed under those influences, and the laws of the world stopped working properly.

The air went through different transformations. Great Builder's influence rearranged its laws until it gave birth to a series of phantom-like living beings. Then, Radiant Eyes' aura tainted those creatures and made them grow insect wings.

The white radiance took over. It reassembled those corrupted living beings until they became humanoid figures that didn't carry insect features.

The scarlet aura then regained control over that area and applied its transformations again. The two experts didn't even touch themselves, but their auras were able to influence the whole world.

The space around the exchange twisted and transformed. Tiny living beings appeared around the duo as their auras struggled to win against their opponent. Wings soon grew behind their back, but a second series of modifications arrived before they could leave the area.

'He should have the power to send us away,' Noah thought while memorizing every aspect of the battle. 'He has chosen to let us witness the fight to teach us something.'

Noah could see through Great Builder's scheme, and he ended up appreciating him even more after that discovery. The expert had given his group the chance to study experts at the peak of the cultivation journey.

Great Builder and Radiant Eyes never touched each other. They never sent massive attacks of specific techniques aimed to kill their opponent in one blow. Instead, they studied their power to see if their existences had an advantage in the battle.

Great Builder mostly laughed. His white halo never stopped to shine, and his cannons soon transformed into a series of smaller rifles that shot bullets made of condensed light.

The leftovers of the pyramid could also become something else, but Great Builder didn't need them. He was still in the process of studying Radiant Eyes' aura, so he didn't dare to reveal all his techniques.

"Enough with these games," Radiant Eyes eventually sighed.

She didn't want to interrupt her transformation again, but Great Builder seemed strong enough to defend himself. He even appeared capable of overpowering her through the divided pyramid.

### **Chapter 1616 - 1616. Promising**

Every move of the two rank 9 existences transformed the world in ways that the weaker existences couldn't understand.

Great Builder gave birth to life. His influence transformed everything it touched into living beings that served him.

On the other hand, Radiant Eyes tainted the matter of the world and transformed it into something that reflected her deepest desire. Even the creatures born from Great Builder's law couldn't fend off her influence.

Their battle resembled a contest between domains. The two experts launched their auras and waited to see which one would take control of the world. Still, they never stopped spreading their influence, so the matter went through endless transformations.

Radiant Eyes didn't want to continue fighting like that. Great Builder had the advantage with that battle style since he used his law and pyramid. Instead, Radiant Eyes was only relying on her giant.

The giant suddenly stopped moving before its figure started to transform. The creature crouched, and its limbs fused with its torso to create a tall mountain that spread Radiant Eyes' aura.

The aura intensified until the sky turned red. Even Great Builder's radiance didn't manage to fight that light. Radiant Eyes was about to become serious, but her opponent didn't show any fear.

The red halo slowly condensed toward the peak of the mountain. Its radiance continued to intensify, and it soon solidified into a monstrous shape.

Radiant Eyes appeared on top of the mountain. Her monstrous figure didn't change much. Her insect legs, wings, and antennae had grown, but she looked like Noah recalled.

However, her aura was far more intense than before. Noah still recalled their first meeting, and he felt sure that his instincts didn't sense the same amount of danger back then.

'The transformation is working,' Noah sighed in his mind.

Noah didn't lie to Radiant Eyes during their previous meeting. He couldn't trick a rank 9 existence, so he had to advise her properly.

Radiant Eyes had then spent many years inside the human domain, and she had also perfected her transformation. She was already a self-made hybrid, but she would become even stronger if the procedure ended.

'I wonder how strong she would become at that point,' Noah thought, but he quickly suppressed his curiosity.

His expertise in the magical beasts' field made him desire to study Radiant Eyes after her transformation, but his current level didn't give him much freedom. The expert had to die now, or he wouldn't live to see another day.

"Why are you even interested in saving these weaklings?" Radiant Eyes asked while turning her monstrous face toward Great Builder. "They have served their purpose already. No point in keeping them alive."

"You fail to see the real enemy," Great Builder laughed while waving his hand to morph the dark-yellow bricks into different weapons. "Experts stronger than you have died at the hands of Heaven and Earth. I'm only preserving existences who have a chance to reach this stage."

"You lost the battle against the world," Radiant Eyes snorted. "I survived it. Your methods aren't reliable."

"I bet you hid in that inscribed item because you were too scared of Heaven and Earth," Great Builder laughed.

"I hid to accumulate power," Radiant Eyes replied while spreading her arms and the legs that didn't touch the scarlet ground. "Every living being uses the same approach. You can't blame me for doing what was necessary."

"You might not be a coward," Great Builder explained, "But you did nothing to defeat Heaven and Earth. You only want to improve and hope to avoid those enemies for the rest of your life."

"I guess words are useless at this point," Radiant Eyes sighed.

"They have always been useless," Great Builder laughed. "Come on. Show me the core of your world."

"With pleasure," Radiant Eyes said while wearing a hideous smile.

Her aura spread through the mountain, and a swarm of bees gathered around her. Her influence continued to fly through the army, and those creatures slowly transformed.

The weaker bees directly died, and their bodies fused with the stronger specimens. Additional abdomens, legs, pincers, and eyes grew on those creatures as their power increased.

Their skin also transformed. The bees' fur thickened as scarlet layers covered their exoskeleton and improved their overall structure.

"My law might be common," Radiant Eyes explained, "But I deploy it in ways that other existences can't replicate. Come, join my world. I can grant you perfection."

Great Builder arched his eyebrow before waving both his hands. The various dark-yellow bricks spread through the nearby regions and fused with the matter.

The bricks fused with the ground, air, and living beings that were still in the area. They became cores for different workshops that began to absorb the energy in the world to give birth to peculiar creatures.

A series of armored humanoid figures grew from the workshops and carried different features, depending on the materials used during their creation. Some of them were white, while others were azure. Of course, their abilities also changed.

Bigger creatures came out of the workshops after that army. A series of dragons similar to Duanlong appeared in the world and opened their mouth to affect the bees.

Magical plants also grew from the ground and began to radiate a scent that seemed to distract the bees. Great Builder had given birth to creatures meant only to defeat Radiant Eyes.

"It will be a battle of worlds then," Radiant Eyes announced. "You can give life, but I can force evolutions. It's time to see who is on the right path."

Radiant Eyes raised her hand, and the bees shot forward. Her aura continued to cover them and trigger evolutions, so the swarm had a completely different appearance when it reached Great Builder.

Great Builder glanced at the bees for a second before telling his creations to fight the enemy army. Yet, he didn't let his guard down since a dangerous sensation had suddenly appeared in his mind.

A series of wh.i.p.s made of pure white light came out of his figure and cracked at a shadow that had tried to move behind him. The attack made him understand the actual identity of that threat, but he didn't feel surprised at that sight.

The wh.i.p.s entangled themselves around Radiant Eyes' monstrous body. Her figure was still above her mountain, but she had decided to trick Great Builder and rely on her hybrid body to surprise him.

The sudden attack didn't turn out as she expected. Great Builder had predicted that Radiant Eyes would rely on her physical strength. After all, every hybrid did that.

The wh.i.p.s burnt Radiant Eyes' skin and kept her stuck in her position. Yet, she had many legs and immense physical strength. She was even in the ninth rank. There was virtually nothing stronger in the entire world.

Radiant Eyes gave voice to a buzzing noise that forced Great Builder to retreat. The many puppets that had come to finish her also shattered in front of that deafening cry.

The rest of the army fought against the swarm of bees. They had to remain there since Great Builder had to understand how to handle that situation.

Great Builder found a dangerous solution, but he preferred to avoid it since he had been away for so long. Still, he couldn't think of anything else.

Radiant Eyes' army was slightly weaker, but she had her physical strength. She had turned the tables with the last assault.

"You are really forcing me to do this," Great Builder sighed before taking out an oval item.

The aura of a rank 9 item spread through the sky and made Radiant Eyes hesitate, but her expression completely froze when she saw Great Builder absorbing the fake core.

Great Builder's aura suddenly skyrocketed after the absorption, and his size grew until he became a nine hundred meters tall giant.

### **Chapter 1617 - 1617. Upper hand**

Great Builder's existence suited the fake cores perfectly. His body accepted that new power and didn't stop it from transforming his figure.

"Let's take care of your item first," Great Builder said in a deep voice that spread for entire regions.

The expert bent his knees before shooting in the distance. He destroyed countless bees and puppets during his violent charge, and the power generated by his jump gave birth to storms of dust, debris, and wind.

Great Builder's massive figure appeared above the mountain. His fist was already descending on the item, but Radiant Eyes suddenly materialized under him and raised her hand to stop the attack.

The clash between the two attacks generated a soundwave that made the entire surface of the nearby regions shatter. Even the magical plants that protected Noah and the others shook and threatened to crumble under that pressure.

Part of the army of puppets flew toward the magical plants. Two workshops moved and began to fuse those living beings. The defenses around Noah and the others improved while gaining metallic properties that could stop the aftereffects of the battle.

The new magical plants worked perfectly, so Noah's group could focus on the battle again. Their expression froze when they saw that Radiant Eyes didn't even budge when Great Builder's massive fist slammed on her.

"Did you think you could match my physical strength by increasing your size?" Radiant Eyes asked as a hideous smile appeared on her face. "This is only a trick, a technique at best. Instead, my physical prowess comes from my species."

Great Builder didn't give up. He raised his second arm and tried to punch Radiant Eyes from her side. Yet, she moved her hand to intercept the blow again.

"You must have misunderstood," Great Builder explained without retracting his hands. "This isn't a technique. This is an inscription that adds a fourth center of power to my body."

"Calling it differently won't help you here," Radiant Eyes continued. "You have decided to challenge my physical prowess. This mistake will cost your life."

Radiant Eyes stabbed some of her legs and fingers inside Great Builder's flesh. She felt as if she was cutting through butter. The expert barely had any defense worthy of concern.

Radiant Eyes easily tore away large patches of Great Builder's skin, but the latter didn't stop smiling. He was only pretending with her to see if she had other trump cards.

"Is that it?" Great Builder asked. "Don't you have anything else?"

"This is enough to defeat you," Radiant Eyes continued.

"You have seen me with a fourth center of power that mainly focuses on size." Great Builder explained. "I wonder how you'll feel after I add a fifth."

Radiant Eyes' expression froze at those words, but she couldn't stop what was about to happen. A second rank 9 fake core appeared above Great Builder and fused with his body before triggering another transformation.

Great Builder's body didn't grow at that time. Instead, his skin began to glow and radiate a white light that corroded everything it illuminated.

Radiant Eyes tried to resist that radiance, but her body began to melt under its influence. She soon had to let Great Builder's hands go and give him the chance to deliver his strike.

The massive fists slammed on the mountain and opened a series of cracks on its surface. Great Builder raised his arms again to launch a second attack, but Radiant Eyes kicked his chest and flung him away.

Great Builder fell in the army and killed countless specimens again. He also destroyed many of his troops, but he didn't even consider them as a loss.

Radiant Eyes reappeared above Great Builder and stabbed her legs on his head. A scarlet radiance began to flow into his body, but the white aura soon became too unbearable and forced his opponent to retreat.

Great Builder didn't give up on his initial plan. He leapt toward the mountain again and prepared himself to destroy the item during that dive.

Radiant Eyes appeared in his trajectory and kicked his cheek. The attack led him off-tracks and made him miss the mountain.

"So much for five centers of power," Radiant Eyes commented. "This fight would be fair if you added a few more of them."

"I might do just that," Great Builder replied after straightening his position.

Two more rank 9 fake cores appeared around his figure and fused with his body. His consciousness expanded beyond its normal limits, and a strange aura started to seep out of his skin.

Radiant Eyes didn't know how to react to that. She couldn't understand how stronger Great Builder became after each new center of power. She only knew that he gained additional abilities through them.

Great Builder jumped toward the mountain again, and Radiant Eyes tried to intercept him. However, the strange aura and the heavy consciousness managed to suppress her power for a few seconds, enough for the expert to continue his flight.

The two massive fists slammed on the mountain. Its structure had already suffered some damage, so those attacks managed to shatter its entire upper part.

Radiant Eyes tried to attack Great Builder, but his aura was enough to fend her off for a few seconds.

Great Builder could continue to attack the mountain undisturbed, and Radiant Eyes had to watch how her strongest inscribed item transformed into nothing more than dust.

"No army now," Great Builder announced while turning toward Radiant Eyes. "You'll also have to find a new place where to continue your transformation. Also, Heaven and Earth will be on you too from now on."

"Do you think that I'll let what you did slide?" Radiant Eyes replied in an angry tone.

"I think that you have no choice," Great Builder said while showing another rank 9 fake core.

Radiant Eyes' expression froze again. She had seen the five rank 9 resources with her own eyes, but she didn't believe Great Builder to have so many of them.

A massive hammer grew from the ground and ended up in Great Builder's grasp. The expert raised the weapon and waved it in the middle of the army. Countless magical beasts and puppets died, but that destruction didn't manage to satisfy him.

Killing those specimens did nothing to his situation. They were an annoying army, but they couldn't even try to touch him in that form.

Radiant Eyes limited herself to kick her enemy every once in a while. Her plan was to wait for that empowerment to go away, but it seemed that Great Builder had perfected the procedure in ways that his opponent couldn't understand.

The battle raged and left Noah's group to marvel about that spectacle. They couldn't see much about the two experts since their blinding auras made them impossible to inspect by rank 8 experts.

Still, they could understand that Great Builder had the upper hand in the battle. Radiant Eyes never managed to inflict more than a kick, but she kept losing her ground since Great Builder was relentless.

His hammer hit Radiant Eyes multiple times, but her resilience was too high. It didn't matter how many times she endured that weapon. She never backed down, and Great Builder's movements eventually started to slow down.

### **Chapter 1618 - 1618. Counter**

Great Builder didn't add other centers of power even if his movements had started to slow down. His empowerment seemed about to reach its limits, but the expert continued to swing his hammer and wear his smile.

On the other hand, Radiant Eyes wore an unsightly expression. The innate advantages given by her hybrid body were slowly tilting the scales of the battle, but she felt pretty annoyed about the whole situation.

Radiant Eyes believed that her current form was approaching perfection. In theory, she had to surpass every other existence in the world in terms of power.

However, her influence didn't manage to taint Great Builder, and her superior physical strength couldn't even leave injuries on his giant body.

The battle was damaging her belief. Her path wasn't as perfect as she thought. Even a rank 9 cultivator who had just come back to life could suppress her quite easily.

Noah and the other hybrids had a different view of the situation. Great Builder seemed overall stronger than Radiant Eyes, but she could use her innate advantages to make up for that difference in power.

The battle was relatively even, and no one could guess who would win. Yet, Noah and the other hybrids could notice how Radiant Eyes' advantages became more significant as the fight continued.

Countless thoughts ran through Noah's mind, but none of them involved a possible involvement in the fight. Noah knew that he had no place among those experts, so he limited himself to study what his senses managed to capture.

The ability to add centers of power at will was interesting, but Noah didn't know whether he could create something similar. Instead, Radiant Eyes' influence had something that resembled his ambition.

Their laws had some differences. Radiant Eyes' transformations were unnatural, while Noah's ambition forced the matter to express its true potential. Still, Noah felt that he could work something out after witnessing the battle.

'Maybe I can fuse part of the parasite's corrosive aura with my law,' Noah wondered as the spectacle of lights filled the sky.

Great Builder rarely managed to hit Radiant Eyes anymore. The hybrid was now able to dodge everything that flew in her direction. The army of puppets couldn't even attempt to restrain her without the help of their Master.

Her kicks even disrupted Great Builder's offensive. Radiant Eyes flung him away whenever her feet touched his skin, and her attacks eventually managed to open large injuries in that massive body.

"This is where tricks end!" Radiant Eyes shouted as she flew around her opponent, launching a flurry of kicks. "I acknowledge your achievements, old monster, but your life has to end here."

Great Builder didn't let those words affect his mind, but the truth was undeniable. He had gotten slow. His current power would inevitably lead to a defeat.

"Dying quietly doesn't suit rank 9 existences," Great Builder whispered, but his words reached every corner of the nearby regions.

The workshops suddenly stopped creating puppets. The chunks of terrain and air that had transformed into those techniques flew toward Great Builder and surrounded his massive body.

A white light came out of the workshops and engulfed Great Builder. That radiance fended Radiant Eyes away and prevented her from affecting the procedure.

The energy around Great Builder started to condense in the form of raging currents that flowed toward the white light. The workshops created a cocoon made of pure power, and Radiant Eyes could only wait to see what would come out of it.

A flare of whiteness eventually pierced that impenetrable light. A vertical crack spread through the whole cocoon and filled the region with a blinding radiance.

The light soon dimmed, and Noah's group could finally watch Great Builder's new transformation.

The expert had regained his normal size, but his skin radiated pure white light that killed the few remaining bees in the area.

Even Radiant Eyes struggled to keep her gaze on her opponent. She felt unable to withstand that presence. Her whole existence suffered because she was too close to Great Builder.

"Living beings are imperfect," Great Builder announced. "We often modify ourselves to strive toward a greater power, but the world always finds flaws in our new forms."

Great Builder stepped forward, and Radiant Eyes instinctively retreated. Her instincts took control of her body and made her shoot in the distance, but her opponent's mental waves forced her to stop moving.

"Fire has ice, light has darkness," Great Builder continued after he reappeared next to Radiant Eyes.

"Perfection doesn't exist in this world. Even Heaven and Earth have failed to achieve that state. You can always find something capable of countering your abilities."

Great Builder placed his hand on Radiant Eyes' head, and grey smoke came out of that spot. Pure pain appeared on the expert's expression, but she couldn't move under Great Builder's suppression.

"My world is everchanging," Great Builder explained. "Everything I build leads me one step closer to perfection. I want to surpass these flawed rulers. How can I even lose against someone who spends her life hiding from them?"

Great Builder raised his hand and revealed that a deep mark had appeared on Radiant Eyes' face. His influence had managed to scorch her skin and reach her bones. Her hybrid status couldn't do anything against that nefarious light.

"You have been a decent adversary," Great Builder said while clasping his hand around Radiant Eyes' neck, "But I can't respect you."

Radiant Eyes slowly regained control of her body. Her instincts begged her to run away, but she couldn't satisfy them. Great Builder's light made her too weak to escape from his grasp.

"Turn into one of my puppets already!" Radiant Eyes shouted as her limbs stabbed Great Builder's body.

The limbs didn't manage to go past the expert's skin. The white radiance weakened their power and forced them to melt. Still, they succeeded in sending her scarlet aura into Great Builder's body.

The white halo radiated by Great Builder's figure dimmed in the spots tainted by the scarlet aura, but the expert didn't let go of his opponent. Radiant Eyes had to die against that technique, or she would win the battle.

"I can't become immune to your influence," Great Builder explained, "But this form is quite resistant against your aura. I should prevail, but you still have a chance."

Great Builder exploded into a laugh even if Radiant Eyes continued to stab her limbs into his body. The scarlet substance spread through the whiteness, but the expert didn't even bother to defend himself.

"You are almost there!" Great Builder laughed. "I can feel your influence reaching my mind. Come on! You can do it!"

The scene left the army dumbfounded. Noah had seen Divine Demon performing idiotic deeds, but Great Builder belonged to a superior league.

The leader of the Foolery and Divine Demon didn't share Noah's feelings. The scene seemed to inspire them. Their eyes shone, and their mouths hung open. They were utterly captivated by Great Builder's brazen gesture.

"Let me go already!" Radiant Eyes shouted before her eyes lit up.

An intense scarlet light came out of her eyes and illuminated the whole region. Her radiance carried her law and forced all the matter in the area to transform.

The ground turned red, the air lost its whiteness, and the few puppets still in the area transformed to resemble Radiant Eyes' underlings. The light also tried to affect Great Builder, but it failed to get past his aura.

Radiant Eyes' insect features began to shrink. They retreated into her body while she spread her law through the regions. It seemed that the technique used her mutation to obtain stronger effects.

However, that trump card couldn't surpass Great Builder's defenses. His hand never left her throat, and grey smoke continuously flowed out of that spot.

### **Chapter 1619 - 1619. Save**

Radiant Eyes struggled as her body reverted to a normal human form. Even her eyes shrunk at some point and became small red dots immersed in Great Builder's whiteness.

Shouts, curses, and, eventually, pleas filled the sky. Radiant Eyes expressed her desire to live and tried to seal deals with Great Builder, but her opponent never let her go.

Great Builder's grasp tightened as his aura succeeded in corroding her skin. His fingers then went past her muscles until they reached her bones.

It was hard to kill rank 9 existences, especially those with a hybrid body. Yet, Great Builder seemed able to suppress Radiant Eyes' entire existence in his final form. He had transformed into her worst enemy, and he didn't show any mercy.

Her bones eventually gave in, and Radiant Eyes' body separated from her head. Great Builder didn't bother to stop it from falling. He only raised his free hand and continued his corrosion on his opponent's face.

Radiant Eyes was still alive even if most of her body had fallen on the ground. She was nothing more than a talking head, but Great Builder soon took care of that issue.

Great Builder's hands dug through her face until they turned it into nothing more than dust. A sigh then escaped his mouth as his whiteness dimmed, and his peculiar aura vanished.

His new transformation had allowed him to suppress a hybrid and kill it with his bare hands. However, that was only a temporary form obtained after gathering information on his opponent.

Great Builder had managed to turn his existence into Radiant Eyes' worst enemy, and he had used his new advantages to kill her in a few moves.

The workshops and puppets stopped working after Radiant Eyes died. The few remaining bees also collapsed on the ground and died on the destroyed surface. Their bodies even started to lose all the empowerment obtained through their leader's aura.

Something strange happened to the world. A large chunk of the sky shattered as Radiant Eyes' influence vanished. That tainted matter couldn't keep existing after their core died.

"Some of them can't live past death," Great Builder sighed while turning toward Noah and the others. "It's incredible that she had reached this level without leaving a permanent trace of her life. I guess that inscribed item was her whole world."

The magical plants that had protected the army retreated into the ground. Noah and the others were finally free to leave the area, but most of them didn't dare to move.

Only the magical beasts leapt over the cracks left by the magical plants and shot toward Radiant Eyes' corpse. They couldn't contain their instincts in front of such a priceless meal.

"Where are you even going?" Noah said through a chilling roar.

His pride flew inside his mental waves and reached the running magical beasts. Those creatures suddenly stopped when they sensed how angry Noah was about that development. They could immediately realize that Noah wouldn't hesitate to kill them if they took another step.

"Come back here," Noah roared, and most of the magical beasts flew back.

A few creatures remained in the distance. Their instincts were a mess, and a violent battle between their hunger and Noah's pride happened in their mind.

Noah quickly teleported among those magical beasts. The creatures lowered their head, but some of them continued to glance toward the rank 9 corpse.

"Evolve past your hunger," Noah said through a growl. "You can't eat that body anyway."

His ambition flowed inside those hesitant creatures and brought some clarity to their mind. All of them managed to calm down, but none of them raised their head even at that point.

"What did I tell you about bowing?" Noah snorted, and a second wave of chilling aura spread from his figure.

Noah was ready to take care of those magical beasts. He valued stability a lot, but those creatures had already demonstrated their loyalty. One of them had even offered itself to refill his centers of power during the events inside the pyramid.

Noah wanted to try a peaceful approach before resorting to his usual slashing. He preferred to save those magical beasts if possible. After all, they were his underlings.

The magical beasts slowly raised their head. Noah could finally notice their expressions, and he saw nothing more than shame on their faces.

"Go back to the army," Noah ordered. "I have the faint feeling that someone wants to talk."

Noah glanced toward the descending Great Builder. The expert was slowly losing all the empowerment obtained during the battle. His body reverted to a normal human figure, but the white light continued to flow out of his skin anyway.

"Your feeling is on point," Great Builder announced while landing on the ground next to him.

"Do all rank 9 existences become invincible during a long battle?" Noah probed the expert's law.

"No one is invincible," Great Builder explained. "Even Heaven and Earth can fall."

The hungry magical beasts eventually turned to run back toward the army. Instead, the various leaders in Noah's group left their underlings and flew toward him.

Wilfred, Theodora, King Elbas, Jordan, Ian, Alexander, Fergie, and all the other rank 8 existences in the army flew toward Noah. They wouldn't miss that chance to talk with a rank 9 cultivator out of fear.

"I'm surprised you managed to clear the pyramid," Great Builder announced once everyone gathered around him. "Part of me only wanted to protect my items."

Jokes appeared in the expert's mind, but no one dared to speak. Great Builder seemed friendly, but Noah and the others didn't know how much they could trust him.

"Heaven and Earth won't let this slide," Great Builder continued. "One of you has already attracted their wrath without reaching the ninth rank. I expect all of you to get the permanent curse in the next months."

"Why months?" Noah suddenly asked. "Why won't Heaven and Earth activate the curse immediately?"

"Do you think they have been unfair toward you?" Great Builder asked while revealing a smile.

"I only want to understand them better," Noah calmly replied. "You aren't the only one who wants to destroy them."

"This explains why they gave you this punishment so soon," Great Builder laughed. "It will only get worse. The sparks are only the beginning of the curse."

"I have also faced humanoid beings made of lightning bolts," Noah added.

Great Builder arched his eyebrow. He had to admit that Noah appeared unique even among experts who had managed to clear his pyramid.

"You are the existence with four centers of power!" Great Builder eventually shouted. "The addition of the organ is flawless. You managed to surprise me."

Noah didn't know what to answer. He had vaguely suspected that Great Builder knew about his existence since he had resurrected him. Still, Noah didn't expect the cultivator to talk about that so openly.

"Perks of being a hybrid," Noah limited himself to reply.

"Indeed, but you lose something once you reach the peak of the food chain," Great Builder sighed. "I could have transformed myself long ago, but my existence focuses on the various aspects of life. Gaining access to your physical strength would only make me lose interest in that."

"Are you afraid that you could lose your path?" Noah asked.

"We grow stronger by fixing our weaknesses," Great Builder explained. "Reaching a stable state near perfection is the doom of every researcher. I need my human flaws to remain an amazing cultivator."

Noah fell silent, but he didn't move his gaze away from Great Builder. He had asked a different question before, but the expert had yet to answer it.

"Oh, right," Great Builder said. "Well, they have many worlds to sustain. The lower planes don't require much energy, but the Immortal Lands and the Cities in the sky put a lot of pressure on Heaven and Earth. They need to save power for a few months before applying another curse."

### **Chapter 1620 - 1620. Obviously**

Great Builder's words made the experts widen their eyes. The fact that Heaven and Earth needed to accumulate energy every once in a while was quite surprising, but his lines contained something far more interesting.

'What in the world are the Cities in the sky?' Noah shouted in his mind, even if the name already described a lot.

"You must consider that Heaven and Earth deplete most of their power in the constant expansion," Great Builder explained after noticing the surprised faces. "These lands only get the leftovers of their full might. Conquering planes and filling them with "Breath" is the real deal."

His explanation only made the experts more surprised. The structure of the planes and Heaven and Earth's projects had always been a vague topic in the cultivation world, but Great Builder seemed to know everything.

"What did you expect?" Great Builder continued. "Heaven and Earth need to capture planes for their survival and goals. They still want to reach the tenth rank. I guess they sacrifice a plane or two every few eras. The Immortal Lands always become a mess during those periods."

"Slow down!" King Elbas suddenly shouted while lowering his gaze to show his respect for the expert. "Can you repeat everything from the Cities in the sky?"

The others didn't hesitate to nod, and Great Builder finally understood the reason behind their amazement. A shameless smile then appeared on his face, and an awkward laugh soon resounded through the area.

"I forgot what it was to speak with existences under the ninth rank," Great Builder explained while scratching his cheek. "You shouldn't have learnt about this so soon. This knowledge shouldn't be free."

"Too late," Noah announced while sitting closer to the expert. "Explain now."

Great Builder wanted to refuse, but he felt awkward in front of so many curious faces. Moreover, those experts had been a crucial part of his resurrection. He didn't know how right it was to keep them in the dark.

A sigh eventually escaped from his mouth. Great Builder opened his palm to create a series of white orbs that began to float in front of him.

"We all know that Heaven and Earth have blessed us with their "Breath" and all the other stories," Great Builder explained. "Their energy goes both ways. Part of it flows into their planes, while most of it spreads outside the sky, toward the worlds that they have yet to discover."

His spheres morphed to match his explanation. Great Builder represented Heaven and Earth's domain as a circular area with the Mortal Lands at its edges.

The lower planes were right outside the white sky, even if its radiance enveloped them in a massive spherical structure. Instead, the Immortal Lands were inside that barrier.

Worlds would enter the white aura from time to time. Some fell apart and sent their energy toward the sky, while others remained outside the sky to serve as a new lower plane.

"I don't know everything," Great Builder reminded. "A lot of this knowledge is purely theoretical, but this should be the exact structure of Heaven and Earth's domain."

"Can we return into a lower plane if we leave the sky?" King Elbas immediately asked.

"The lower planes might be outside of the sky," Great Builder replied, "But they are inside Heaven and Earth domain. Space itself belongs to them in that area. Traveling through it without the proper tools or an adequate cultivation level is impossible."

"Did you try to do it?" Alexander asked.

"I did, a long time ago," Great Builder revealed. "I left from one of the holes above the landing zones and ventured through the void. It wasn't a nice experience. I never managed to make it past Heaven and Earth's domain."

Everyone fell silent. The idea of returning to lower planes was interesting, but the dangers that accompanied that mission outweighed the possible rewards.

"How did you find your way back?" Noah asked.

"My group had a rank 9 inscribed item that remained attached to the hole to remind us of its position," Great Builder explained. "Yet, it's easy to lose yourself in the void, especially when Heaven and Earth control it. My team lost two powerful cultivators during the mission."

"Why did you make the journey?" King Elbas asked.

"I was bored, and Heaven and Earth continued to annoy me with their Tribulations," Great Builder snorted. "Also, lower planes have resources limited by their environment. Heaven and Earth had even cursed a few of them. Bringing them into the Immortal Lands and pushing their power to the divine ranks could lead to decent benefits."

Noah could immediately think of a few things that he would bring into the Immortal Lands. The Kesier species was his first idea. He could finally have the best training method for his mind with those creatures up there.

"We never made it to a lower plane," Great Builder revealed before the experts could let their minds run too far away. "Heaven and Earth don't want us to leave. It keeps you spinning in circles until you are ready to surrender your existence."

Noah had already had a conversation about the lands past the sky. He knew that they were hard to explore, but he didn't expect Heaven and Earth to be against him even there.

"What about the Cities in the sky?" Alexander eventually asked.

"They are nothing more than cities inside the immense large barrier," Great Builder said while pointing at the sky. "Only Heaven and Earth's followers can live there. I tried to interrogate a few of them, but I didn't learn much."

"How many followers do they have?" Noah asked.

"I don't know," Great Builder replied while shrugging his shoulders. "Going there is also suicide. I bet Heaven and Earth have multiple rank 9 existences under their rule. That part of the sky is too dangerous for forces of your size and a few decent experts."

Sparks gathered in the sky during the conversation. They flew toward the group and amassed around Divine Demon. Heaven and Earth had cursed him on the spot.

"It has already begun," Great Builder sighed when he inspected that scene. "It seems that Heaven and Earth have a lot of energy to waste on you. You shouldn't remain here for too long."

Great Builder stood up, but Noah imitated him and attracted his attention again.

"Where are you going?" Noah quickly asked, and Great Builder appeared quite displeased by that question.

"I can't protect you forever," Great Builder said in a cold voice. "I think I have already repaid my debt. I have to wake up an old friend before flying back into the stormy regions. These places are too calm."

"Are you talking about Supreme Thief?" Noah asked again, but Great Builder's reaction was completely different at that point.

"How do you know that name?" Great Builder asked, and Noah revealed a shameless smile.

"I will give you the location of his inheritance if you give me part of Radiant Eyes after transforming her into something edible." Noah proposed while trying to play the expert and obtaining part of the loot.

Great Builder limited himself to smile and turn toward a different speech, but Noah felt forced to interrupt him again.

"Give us some resources and far more knowledge," Noah said. "Supreme Thief's inheritance is in a secret location, but I bet we seal a deal. We will even show you the way if the negotiation satisfies us."

"What could you even want?" Great Builder snorted. "Your body is too strong already. You will explode if you add anything more than that."

"You are a rank 9 cultivator capable of creating marvelous items," Noah replied. "I obviously want everything."