

DEMONIC 1631

### **Chapter 1631 - 1631. Strange**

King Elbas had finally managed to isolate Divine Demons' existence. His body couldn't feed on the world's energy anymore, so the expert slowly lost power as he remained inside the golden prison.

Fergie, Luke, Wilfred, and Noah's companions focused on taking care of the azure energy that still lingered in the area. They didn't know how Divine Demon would react to that prison, so they wanted to disperse his source of power before it was too late.

Instead, Noah and King Elbas remained near the golden cocoon. They trusted Divine Demon too much to believe that those restraints could hold him. The cultivator would break free of the prison sooner or later, and they had to be there to stop him.

Minutes of silence disrupted only by the exchanges of the other experts passed while Divine Demon remained inside the golden prison. Noah and King Elbas never moved their eyes from that structure, and their hands shot whenever they saw an azure spot appearing among that blinding radiance.

Noah neared every azure spot and touched them with his right hand to send black roots. He instructed the parasite to eat Divine Demon's energy, and King Elbas helped in the process by making the prison immune to the magical plant.

The roots seeped inside the golden prison and destroyed every trace of Divine Demon's energy. Noah had to make the parasite feed on far more power to make it suitable for the task, but the magical plant ended up performing better than he expected.

The Demonic Form had evolved alongside his existence. The parasite fed on his energy, so his growth would improve the quality of its meals.

The parasite's corrosive aura also benefitted from Noah's ambition. The roots could damage liquid stage tissues if he d.e.s.i.r.ed, and the battle against Divine Demon required those features.

King Elbas and Noah continued to restrain Divine Demon, but their efforts didn't seem to lead anywhere. They could sense the expert struggling inside the prison, which confirmed that his mental instability was still in control of his body.

Their struggles intensified after their companions took care of all the azure energy in the area. Divine Demon only had the power contained inside his body at that point, but he never stopped unleashing his physical might to break free.

"How can a rank 8 existence be so unstable?" King Elbas wondered while adding inscriptions to the golden prison.

"Our flaws only intensify as we reach higher stages of the cultivation journey," Noah sighed while continuing to send black roots inside the golden prison.

The parasite didn't feed on the golden power, but its roots continued to shatter whenever they met the human figure restrained inside it. They always managed to absorb part of Divine Demon's energy, but they eventually fell apart after a few seconds.

Divine Demon was still wary of external threats even from inside the prison. His confused state didn't affect his experience as a warrior.

The blue spots eventually stopped appearing on the golden prison, but Noah and King Elbas didn't dare to relax. They could sense that Divine Demon had yet to regain his clarity, so they remained outside of the inscriptions to act as the first line of defense.

Wilfred, Fergie, and Luke quickly flew behind them. Snore, Night, and Duanlong did the same, but they waited for Noah's orders. They didn't attack nor activate their innate abilities in front of such a threat.

Tense minutes went by until a deafening silence filled the area. No sound came out of the golden prison, and even Divine Demon's aura stopped trying to surpass those restrictions.

"Did we win?" Wilfred asked, but Noah limited himself to shake his head.

Divine Demon was too strong to lose due to those poor techniques. The expert had used trump cards and secret abilities in the past. Noah could only hope that he didn't deploy them.

His hopes quickly shattered since an explosion resounded from inside the golden prison. A tremor ran through the various inscriptions and bent their shape, but nothing came out of them.

A second tremor then spread through the golden halo, but Noah ignored that event too. He had King Elbas by his side, so he would always understand whenever a formation was to fail his expectations.

The third tremor made the golden prison fall apart. Shards made of golden light fell toward the ground as those restraints crumbled. King Elbas wore a surprised expression at that scene, but his curiosity soon took the place of his arrogance.

Noah tightened his grip on the Demonic Sword and the sword-shaped roots. He was ready for Divine Demon's return, and he wouldn't hold anything back against the expert.

Wilfred, Luke, Fergie, and the companions did the same, but they remained behind Noah. They trusted him enough to have the first attack of the assault, especially since he had higher chances of sparing Divine Demon's life.

The cocoon of light soon broke. An azure crack spread through the remaining golden light and opened a passage that led to the insides of the prison. A figure soon came out of that tunnel, and the experts eventually became able to witness Divine Demon in all his might.

The world didn't give Divine Demon any energy, but azure light came out of his body and gave birth to the same amount of power that he usually gathered from the world.

His monstrous features had vanished. His nails and canines had retracted, and he had also shortened. The expert had returned the Divine Demon that they had always known, but his gaze expressed pure coldness.

"You are far from being back, right?" Noah asked while tilting his blades toward Wilfred.

"I'm always myself," Divine Demon replied, but his voice was strange.

Divine Demon wasn't speaking normally. His tone morphed and gained different features throughout his lines. No one could understand where those different voices came from.

"Don't worry," Noah replied while keeping his swords pointed toward Divine Demon. "I won't trust you so easily."

"You would be right," Divine Demon announced, and the world in their eyes changed.

"I've never seen something like this," Noah commented at that sight.

Everything in the experts' vision transformed. Azure lights filled the sky and morphed to take the shape of different techniques. Divine Demon's aura had filled the region in an instant, and his power had given birth to countless small azure spheres that floated throughout the battlefield.

"I seek victories," Divine Demon announced in his strange voice.

The lumps of azure light began to gain a purpose, and Noah's team tried to suppress them. However, those attacks detonated before Divine Demon's opponents could do anything about it.

A wave of energy forced Noah, King Elbas, Wilfred, Luke, and Fergie to slam on the ground. The two hybrids were mostly fine, and even Fergie managed to remain at his peak.

The same didn't apply to Luke and King Elbas. Luke suffered severe injuries, while King Elbas ended up with his back on the ground as he experienced the terror generated by his opponent.

Divine Demon remained high in the sky. His hand rose and gathered azure energy that created an array of azure spheres that gained different natures. Those attacks transformed into multiple abilities as they locked on the various opponents.

Noah prepared for the imminent clash, but a shadow suddenly appeared behind Divine Demon. A massive pig slammed on the expert's back and flung him far beyond the edges of the region.

### **Chapter 1632 - 1632. Teachings**

The leader of the Foolery gave voice to a proud squeal. Its aura spread through the region and announced to the audience its new power.

The magical beast had succeeded in the breakthrough to the middle tier while the experts were busy with the tournament. Its power was quite breathtaking, and even Noah had to admit that it went far beyond specimens at the same level.

"I won't remain behind!" The Foolery shouted while the battlefield was silent.

Noah and the others remained speechless at that announcement. They had never considered bringing a magical beast in the mission, but the Foolery seemed to have a different idea about the matter.

Still, the situation didn't allow them to linger on that issue. The Foolery had flung Divine Demon away, but the world was still giving him energy. That alone explained that the expert had yet to regain complete control of his mind.

"Elbas, give me a reason not to kill him!" Noah shouted while dispersing his draconic armor and making his ambition flow into his companions.

"I have something that might work," King Elbas said. "I'm not completely in control of this technique, but it should be perfect for Divine Demon."

"Perfect!" Noah shouted again. "We aim to kill him if Elbas' technique fails. Prepare yourselves to say goodbye to your friend."

Wilfred, Luke, Fergie, and the Foolery wore stern expressions at that order. They knew that Noah was right, but they still had to muster their determination.

It was hard to kill a friend who had been with them for millennia, especially when he wasn't guilty of any major crime. Divine Demon had only gone berserk, but that alone was a threat that the whole Legion couldn't underestimate.

A figure soon appeared in the distance. Divine Demon had regained his monstrous shape, and a massive wave of azure energy was rotating behind him.

The pressure generated by his figure was immense. Noah and the others almost struggled to keep their consciousness unfolded. Divine Demon's aura was so intense that their mental waves shattered whenever they entered his range.

"What's the plan?" Luke asked while joining his fingers to create a dense rotating sphere between his palms.

"Launch your best attacks," Noah ordered. "Divine Demon will survive, but we must weaken him enough to give Elbas a chance. Don't even try to hold back."

"A true expert never holds back!" The Foolery shouted.

Noah glanced toward the magical beast before focusing on Divine Demon again. He had felt the urge to have a proper conversation with the creature, but that wasn't the right situation.

Divine Demon ignored that conversation. The faint awareness that he had regained during the previous exchanges had vanished after he became able to affect the world again.

The expert couldn't even speak proper words. He only let out grunts and growls as if he were a hungry beast.

Noah was the first to attack. His Demonic Sword and sword-shaped roots touched his forehead, and sharpness spread through his consciousness.

Snore unleashed the full power of its feathers, and Duanlong opened its mouth to prepare for the azure energy. Night followed the snake's attack and fused with the world to exploit the moment of weakness generated by their explosions.

Wilfred closed his eyes before joining his palms. Power built around him before dispersing all of a sudden. The space in front of him bent, and an invisible attack shot forward.

Luke launched his rotating sphere, which expanded until it transformed into a storm that converged toward Divine Demon. Part of his influence removed the expert's aura from the azure energy and made it disperse into the world.

Fergie created a small version of his sun and threw it forward. The fiery sphere released massive flares far bigger than its actual structure, but the attack didn't lose power while flying toward Divine Demon.

The Foolery almost teleported at the edges of the churning azure energy and began to eat. The creature devoured anything that carried Divine Demon's aura at an unbelievable speed. It didn't even seem to care about the destructive power contained in that substance.

The attacks converged toward Divine Demon and gave birth to a massive explosion. Multiple techniques detonated on the expert and destroyed the azure energy accumulated through his law.

The whiteness of the sky vanished for a few seconds as those attacks discharged their might. The various powers in those techniques could suppress that light and fill the area with a multicolored radiance.

The aftermath of the explosions eventually vanished. The grey smoke that had filled the horizon dispersed and revealed the outcome of the exchange.

The azure aura had vanished, and Divine Demon's body was on the ground. Countless injuries covered his skin. Any expert would die after suffering so many wounds.

However, the world couldn't let Divine Demon die. Cracks opened through the sky and revealed black spaces among their edges as their energy transformed into azure power.

The energy flew toward Divine Demon and flowed inside his body. His injuries quickly healed, and his aura soon began to fill the region again.

'How can we even defeat something like this?' Noah wondered in his mind.

Divine Demon's power made no sense. The expert could do everything since he had the backing of the whole world. He seemed almost unbeatable by existences at the same level.

Noah glanced toward King Elbas and found that the cultivator had long since stopped waving his hands. The expert had his eyes closed and his arms lowered. His consciousness didn't even inspect the battlefield.

Noah could recognize when someone was gathering his power to unleash a trump card. King Elbas wasn't even the type to retreat, so Noah could feel at ease.

His instincts had also started to feel something unusual. King Elbas wasn't using his usual power. He was relying on something entirely different, and Noah couldn't help but feel curious about that.

Divine Demon slowly rose in the sky again, but King Elbas suddenly opened his eyes. His hands remained still, but a strange aura came out of his figure and began to affect the world.

The aura locked on Divine Demon before giving the world a purpose. The air then generated dark-blue inscriptions that gave birth to multiple formations. Those techniques flew toward Divine Demon and began to devour his aura.

The azure energy that had started to gather around Divine Demon shattered when the formations converged on his position. His aura also stopped spreading through the world and began to flow back into his figure.

King Elbas had created the perfect counter to Divine Demon's law. His new formations could remove the expert's aura from the "Breath" and force it to retreat. They even affected the energy inside his body.

A golden halo started to shine from the dark-blue formations once they neared Divine Demon's body. Their power increased even if they didn't draw energy from the world. They seemed attracted by Divine Demon's law.

"We will have to free him as soon as he regains consciousness," King Elbas explained. "These formations are too curious to stop. They will suck him dry if we don't break them."

"I see that you followed my teachings!" Noah shouted when he noticed that King Elbas was using a power suitable for the path toward the ninth rank.

"Shut up," King Elbas snorted before nearing Divine Demon.

The expert couldn't do anything against those formations. King Elbas had created a trump card that could counter his very existence. The expert ended up entangled in those dark-blue lines in no time.

### **Chapter 1633 - 1633. Sadness**

Divine Demon struggled, but his existence seemed useless against the dark-blue lines. King Elbas' inscriptions fed on his law and grew stronger as they restrained his powers.

Divine Demon couldn't contact the world anymore. The energy inside his body even stopped transforming his figure. The battle was over, but his mental instability continued to have control of his mind.

Noah and the others neared the expert. Fergie and Luke remained behind out of fear for an eventual outburst of energy, but they continued to hover above the battlefield.

"I won't remain behind!" The Foolery shouted as soon as it reached Noah.

"We'll talk about this later," Noah sighed before moving his focus on Divine Demon.

"Vict-!" Divine Demon wanted to shout, but the dark-blue lines covered his mouth and began to affect his insides.

His power fell as the inscriptions fed on his law. King Elbas' technique was scary. It resembled a parasite that existed only to suppress and devour Divine Demon's existence.

"You are one scary fella," Wilfred commented while patting King Elbas' shoulder.

"These are simple restraining measures created specifically for him," King Elbas explained. "It would normally take me far longer to make this technique, but Divine Demon has inspired this new power, so I could build something quickly."

"Yes, yes," Wilfred nodded and continued to pat King Elbas' shoulder, but he didn't even bother to hear the explanation.

"That's obvious," The Foolery said while imitating Wilfred.

The magical beast nodded and tried to put its short leg on King Elbas' other shoulder, but the latter shot a chilling glance toward the creature to stop it.

Noah ignored that idiotic scene and inspected Divine Demon. The expert slowly regained his clarity as the energy of the world left his existence. It seemed that his mental instability depended on that power.

Muffled noises came out of Divine Demon's mouth while the expert continued to struggle. Still, his efforts to break free of those restraints lost intensity as his mental instability vanished.

The experts watched as Divine Demon's craziness left his eyes. The cultivator began to inspect his surroundings while wearing a confused expression. He appeared unable to remember how he had ended up there.

King Elbas and Noah exchanged a glance before the cultivator waved his hand. The dark-blue lines that covered Divine Demon's mouth dispersed, so the expert could finally talk again.

"Did I win?" Divine Demon asked in a plain tone.

Wilfred felt the urge to punch him, but he restrained himself since Divine Demon was too weak to endure his attacks now.

"You lost control and tried to kill everyone," Noah explained.

"I do that at times," Divine Demon laughed. "I'm still trying to find a way to control that power."

"Did you live for millennia with that instability in your power?" King Elbas asked.

King Elbas felt shocked. He didn't expect Divine Demon to be aware of that power. It was even more surprising that the expert did nothing about it during his cultivation journey.

"What can I even do?" Divine Demon snorted. "Power is power. It doesn't matter if I can't control it. I might forget a lot of things, but my creations mark my existence. They become part of me, and they come out during these outbursts."

'I see,' Noah thought after the explanation. 'He can't possibly control something like that. That's the necessary flaw of the technique.'

Divine Demon could theoretically gain access to all the techniques created throughout his life. That alone was enough to explain how powerful the ability could be.

"Can you remove these things now?" Divine Demon asked. "Unless you want to challenge me to do it."

King Elbas quickly removed the inscriptions. He didn't want to hear the word "challenge" anymore.

"We have the final team then," Noah explained after everyone gathered around him. "I guess you really want to come along."

Noah turned toward the Foolery, and the latter nodded without showing any hesitation. The middle tier pig had already made his mind.

"I can feel that something great will happen!" The Foolery shouted. "I want to evolve!"

Noah studied the creature with his mental waves. The Foolery had been under the influence of his ambition for millennia already. It wouldn't be a surprise if its existence evolved into something more than a magical beast.

'That might be interesting to watch,' Noah thought before inspecting the experts that had to join the mission.

Luke, Fergie, the Foolery, Divine Demon, Wilfred, and King Elbas were waiting for his directives. They had yet to decide when to depart. They even had to warn the forces of the human domain about their mindset.

"The human organizations won't leave right away," Noah explained. "We can ask for a few decades to prepare. We might even stretch that period to a century since they want our power."

Noah could always recognize when he had the upper hand in a situation. The human forces had to be quite desperate to ask for his help, which meant that he could act as he wished.

"Elbas and Luke will take care of buying us time," Noah concluded. "The rest of us will immediately go in seclusion and handle our stuff. Say goodbye to friends and lovers. This mission might last for entire millennia."

Those words were mostly for himself. Noah knew that he had to talk with June. The couple had to separate again, but that event was inevitable due to their difference in power.

Noah didn't waste more time in pointless words. The experts separated and went toward their training areas to prepare for the imminent mission.

The excitement generated by the tournament soon dispersed. The various underlings resumed their usual routines, and many benefitted from the powers displayed during the battles.

Those who had managed to become part of the mission were monsters among existences. They were far stronger than normal experts, and their battle prowess also made no sense at times.

All of them could express liquid stage battle prowess, even if some were still in the gaseous stage. The various underlings obviously wanted to achieve the same with their power, and only a firm foundation could lead to those heights.

Noah found a familiar figure waiting for him inside his training area. June sat at the center of the blue plain that Noah had claimed for himself, and battle intent flowed out of her body.

"Do you want to attack me already?" Noah asked while wearing a smirk.

"That would be pointless," June sighed before calming down. "You are improving quickly. I can only be happy for you."

Noah inspected his lover, and a tinge of sadness appeared in his mind. June was about to approach the breakthrough to the eighth rank, but she was still too weak.

Part of Noah had already considered the worst possible outcome. There was a chance that June would never catch up with his power, and that difference could only lead to a separation.



Noah didn't want that, but he couldn't deny that possibility either. He would continue to shoot higher in the sky, so June might lose sight of him at some point.

"I think I'll also leave once your mission starts," June revealed while glancing at the sky.

"You can't come with us," Noah sighed. "The whole mission might even be a trap. You will only slow us down."

Noah didn't hold his words back, but June didn't mind that. They had always spoken the truth to each other, and that wasn't the time to start lying.

"I didn't mean that," June shook her head. "The Legion and your organization need more lands, but the human forces will soon start expanding again. I will fight them. I want to live the millennia without you on a battlefield."

### **Chapter 1634 - 1634. Tests**

Noah and June didn't let the sadness that lingered in the area make them waste the few years they had before the mission. They cultivated and remained together without ever leaving each other's side.

King Elbas and Luke contacted the forces of the human domain, and they settled for a period of one hundred years to prepare for the mission. All the experts had to polish their techniques and plan life-saving abilities in case something went wrong.

A lot could go wrong in a mission like that. Everything could even be a trap set by Heaven and Earth. Noah and the others weren't even sure whether the human organizations would turn on them.

Other worries also lingered in their minds. There was a chance that the human organizations and Heaven and Earth had been honest about the whole matter. The troubles on the other side of the Immortal Lands could be far more threatening than anyone expected.

Noah couldn't develop life-changing abilities in that short time. His companions had already reached a perfect form, his sword-arts were incredible, and his centers of power were nowhere near breakthroughs.

Still, Noah could focus on an ability that had been in his mind since the battle between Great Builder and Radiant Eyes.

The corrosive aura radiated by the parasite was incredible and could become stronger depending on how many nutrients it absorbed. Yet, it had a short range, and Noah could only use it to support his regular slashes.

That was almost a waste of the parasite's power. The Demonic Form was a living being that could rival powerful existences on its own. Having it as a mere enhancer of his attacks didn't express its true might.

Radiant Eyes' scarlet aura had inspired Noah. The Demonic Form already had toxic properties due to the fusion with another spell, so it could theoretically act as a ranged attack if handled properly.

The parasite's nature was the main issue in that procedure. The magical plant didn't want to cooperate with Noah. It only wanted his energy.

Noah's words couldn't reach the magical plant. The parasite ignored them while continuing to feed on his energy.

'You handle this idiot before I rip it out of my c.h.e.s.t,' Noah sighed through his mental connection.

Snore, the Demonic Sword, Duanlong, and Night handled that part of the procedure. They were similar to the Demonic Form in terms of existence, so they managed to make it understand what Noah wanted to do after a few days.

The next step was trickier. Noah wanted to take control of the corrosive aura, fuse it with his ambition, and use it as a ranged attack. However, that power had no owners. Even the parasite couldn't suppress it.

That discovery forced Noah to change his approach. He couldn't transform the corrosive aura into one of his techniques, but he could give it to the parasite.

The procedure changed after that decision. Noah went from trying to suppress the corrosive aura to enhancing it. He had to improve the magical plant to obtain his new technique, but that growth had to happen inside specific limits.

Noah wanted the parasite to evolve, but only if it reached a specific state. He wouldn't accept random mutations, especially when it came to a creature that could hurt him.

The black hole took care of that part of the procedure. The organ activated the workshop and tinkered with dense currents of Noah's ambition.

Noah's law was the perfect material for the process. It naturally forced evolutions, and the workshop could push that power toward specific fields.

Of course, Noah had to perform countless tests. He could see if his ambition expressed the intended power only after the materials evolved.

Noah had to cut away roots and test his new ambitions on them. It was easy to keep those materials alive inside the dark world, so he could study the effects of the corrosive aura once they evolved.

The roots didn't change after the dense ambition seeped inside their fabric and forced them to evolve. Only the corrosive aura carried the changes that happened during the transformation.

The corrosive aura would intensify and obtain different natures depending on the type of ambition used on the roots. That power often became unstable, and it rarely met Noah's requirements even when it reached a decent form.

Noah had to waste entire decades to find the ambition that could produce the intended effects. His tests stopped when he managed to transform the corrosive aura into a dense black substance that seemed attracted by every living being.

'Now the annoying part,' Noah sighed once he completed those steps.

The last phase of the procedure would put him in danger. Noah was about to improve the Demonic Form while it was inside his body. The evolution would require a lot of energy, and the parasite would take it from his tissues.

Noah didn't let the procedure scare him. He had done worse in his life. He still recalled the time when he had to cut his arms to create blades.

The workshop created a large amount of the special ambition obtained after the many tests. That energy then flowed inside his c.h.e.s.t and fused with the parasite's core.

The magical plant grew restless when Noah's ambition forced it to evolve. Its roots spread inside his body and began to drain tissues, muscles, and organs to obtain the energy required in the transformation.

A sense of weakness filled Noah's mind, but he discarded that feeling. His body contained enough energy to sustain the evolution. He wasn't scared of the parasite's hunger.

The magical plant improved as the evolution took place. The parasite was in the lower tier like the other companions, but its power increased during the transformation.

Noah's body was far above the standards of the middle tier. His physical prowess could match some of the weaker upper tier magical beasts. A magical plant in the gaseous stage saw the primary energy inside his tissues as the best nutrient in the entire world.

The black hole helped in the process by shattering part of its dark matter and create more primary energy. The parasite had an endless flow of nutrients at that point, so its growth met no obstructions.

The parasite slowly reached the middle tier as its corrosive aura transformed. A black substance began to cover its roots, and its overall shape grew. It began to fill more of Noah's c.h.e.s.t, but he didn't feel its weight.

The magical plant eventually stopped requiring that massive amount of energy. Its form stabilized, and its hunger also decreased. Noah felt surprised by its new requirements, but he decided to ignore that matter.

Noah could only be happy that the parasite required so much energy. That was a clear sign that its power was incredible.

'I finally have a new weapon,' Noah sighed in his mind after the procedure ended, but a familiar aura suddenly appeared near his training area.

"Noah," King Elbas whispered through his mental waves, "It's time. Everyone is ready."

Noah turned toward June. His lover smiled as battle intent built inside her figure. His departure would mark the beginning of her mission. She couldn't wait to jump into the human domain and create an endless battlefield that could keep her company during their separation.

June and Noah didn't need words. They exchanged a kiss and separated. Noah flew toward King Elbas to join the rest of the team, while June contacted the weaker troops to start the invasion.

### **Chapter 1635 - 1635. Space Hounds**

Noah and the others left the domes and blue lands right away. They were already late, but they didn't care about that issue. They simply couldn't wait to start the mission and explore the other side of the Immortal Lands.

King Elbas, Wilfred, Divine Demon, Fergie, Luke, Noah, and the Foolery left and flew across countless regions to reach their destination. They could teleport, but they didn't trust the human forces enough to go there without inspecting the environment.

Noah also wanted to fly across the sky to let Heaven and Earth's pressure improve his mind. Devouring Alexander's ethereal creatures had made his mental sphere quite frail, and Noah wanted to get rid of that flaw right away.

The human forces waited patiently for the experts' arrival. Noah's evaluation had been on point. Those organizations were quite desperate for the Legion's help in the mission.

King Elbas made sure that the regions didn't have any trap or sensor. The group could safely fly toward their destination and inspect the power deployed by the human organizations.

Multiple families had decided to join the mission, and Luke described all of them before the experts met. They had also agreed to send only three liquid stage existences each, so there were less than thirty cultivators in the area.

"I thought we said that the mission was dangerous," One expert from the Rotway family shouted when it gazed at Noah's group.

'He is Harold Rotway,' Luke explained through his mental waves. 'It's rare to see him out in the human domain since he takes care of few mines of Soul Stones.'

Harold's eyes were on the Foolery. He could accept that Noah brought existences in the gaseous stage, but he didn't understand how a magical beast could help.

Moreover, the magical beasts were Heaven and Earth's enemies, while the mission required them to help those rulers. Harold obviously had doubts about that creature.

"You can try to convince it to remain behind," Noah sighed. "We all tried."

The Foolery took that remark as a compliment and raised its head. The gesture left the human experts confused, but Noah's group acted as if nothing unusual was happening.

"We are ready to leave then," Gloria Sailbird announced once Noah's group landed on the ground.

"Yes, but I'd like to say something before the mission," Noah said and claimed the experts' attention.

"I still have my doubts about this whole quest," Noah explained. "I don't trust you, and I have every reason to treat you as enemies. I wouldn't even decide to cooperate with you if the mission weren't so interesting."

Coldness seeped into his aura, and the same happened to his companions. King Elbas and the others wore stern expressions as they eyed the human experts.

"We have already proved our worth," Noah continued. "The human domain couldn't stop us. The Crystal City has also failed to win after resorting to petty schemes."

The human experts began to understand where Noah was going. He was giving voice to a threat meant to remind them about his power.

"We will kill all of you if this is a trap," Noah concluded. "We will remove your name from the historical records and destroy every trace of your existence. You will fail if you dare to test us."

The atmosphere turned tense. The human experts could immediately understand that Noah was serious, and a chill ran down their spine when they sensed his cold aura.

Noah was still a gaseous stage expert, but it was clear that his battle prowess went far beyond that. Those cultivators were theoretically stronger than him, but they felt weaker in front of his might.

A few snorts and a couple of laughs eventually resounded among the human experts. They decided to remain silent in front of that threat. Accepting Noah's words was the only way to make him cooperate.

"The passage to the other side is nearby," Gloria explained. "We don't know when it opened, but we are certain that Heaven and Earth are behind that."

"How can you even decide to side with Heaven and Earth after living for so long?" Wilfred complained.

"We didn't," Gloria replied. "Our organizations have experts connected to that power, but we merely exploit it. We aren't so crazy to curse our lives before hitting the ninth rank."

"What about them?" Noah asked while glancing at the trio without emblems.

Those three experts came from the secret organization, and Luke recognized only one of them.

'The red-haired woman is Althea,' Luke explained through his mental waves. 'She is strong even among the liquid stage.'

"Heaven and Earth are the very world," Althea replied while wearing a peaceful smile. The cultivation journey forces us to fight them, but it doesn't prevent us from seeking their help. They are power, and power is innocent."

Noah and the others couldn't see Heaven and Earth in the same way, and even some experts among the cultivators didn't agree with Althea's words. They had experienced those rulers' suppression throughout their life, so they couldn't consider them innocent.

Silence fell among the group after those short exchanges. The experts flew through the regions and eventually reached a deep ravine filled with white light.

The ground of the Immortal Lands usually had azure shades, but that whiteness matched the sky's color. It was almost obvious that Heaven and Earth had something to do with that structure.

"Did you explore something already?" King Elbas asked as a series of inscribed items came out of his space-ring.

Sensors and items meant to study the ravine spread through the structure and sent data back to his mind. King Elbas could instantly learn some important information, and he even confirmed the presence of Heaven and Earth's aura.

Yet, King Elbas couldn't sense anything past the edges of that massive hole. Something was blocking his items. It was as if the insides of the ravine led to a different dimension.

"We didn't dare to go past its edges," Gloria explained. "I believe you can sense it too. Heaven and Earth want us to reach the other side quickly."

Noah glanced toward King Elbas, but the expert could only shrug his shoulders. Gloria had spoken the truth, but the problem remained. He couldn't understand what was waiting for them.

"It's similar to a dimensional passage," King Elbas said. "It won't lead us directly on the other side, but it will shorten our journey consistently. I can't speak about eventual threats, sadly."

'A dimensional tunnel shouldn't have a fauna,' Noah thought before landing on the edges of the ravine.

His consciousness spread, and his instincts took over his senses. Noah tried to understand whether the dimensional tunnel leaked something that could clear his doubts, but nothing came out of it.

"We tried everything already," Harold snorted. "How could you discover something that we couldn't find?"

A laugh followed his comment, and a tense aura began to build between the experts from the Rotway family and Noah's group.

"Divine Demon," Noah suddenly said without moving his eyes from the white depths of the ravine, "I bet you can't tell me whether magical beasts live inside this tunnel."

"Everyone knows that my divinatory techniques stand at the peak of the higher plane," Divine Demon shouted before closing his eyes.

The world began to send energy toward his mind, and an ethereal cloud soon appeared around his head. An azure light also seeped out of Divine Demon's closed eyes and illuminated the area.

"A species capable of moving through dimension is currently in control of the dimensional tunnel," Divine Demon revealed in an ancient voice. "The species' name is Space Hounds. They might also have a rank 9 specimen among them."

### **Chapter 1636 - 1636. Exploration**

The group from the human forces didn't believe Divine Demon's claims. They couldn't trust a rank 8 cultivator when it came to that inspection. Their best inscription masters had tried and failed in studying the dimensional tunnel. In their minds, an expert couldn't reach better conclusions in such a short amount of time.

On the other hand, Noah and the others wore stern expressions. They knew how powerful Divine Demon could be, especially when challenged. They immediately covered themselves in defensive techniques and inscriptions since he had confirmed the presence of an enemy pack inside the dimensional tunnel.

That serious reaction made some of the experts from the human organization wonder whether that scene was an act. They could guess that Noah and the others wanted to give the Legion some credit, but they didn't believe that their companions would go to such lengths to prove it.

After all, Noah's team didn't need to brag. Their fame had already spread through the whole higher plane. Defeating the Crystal City on multiple occasions had been enough to turn them into the most famous experts in the Immortal Lands.

The human organizations had also learnt about Radiant Eyes' defeat. They didn't know the details behind that feat, but they were aware that Noah's group had something to do with it.

Having experts who had managed to take care of a rank 9 threat as their companions was incredible. Some of the cultivators from the human organizations even wanted to use the mission to establish a friendly relationship with Noah's organization.

The oldest forces could understand how the political environment would evolve. Siding with the organization containing the higher number of monsters was the best approach in any situation.

Noah was one of the few experts who didn't activate any defensive technique. Wilfred and the Foolery imitated him, but their actions had no connection with those events. They simply didn't need inscriptions or protections.

"We are ready when you are," Noah eventually said without moving his eyes from the ravine.

Gloria, Harold, and Althea soon tried to push the other experts to cooperate. Someone had to lead the group inside the dimensional tunnel, and Noah's team had no intention to take the vanguard role.

The team from the Monney family eventually took the lead and crossed the edges of the ravine. The trio's figures disappeared once they entered that whiteness, and their auras even stopped reaching the surface.

Gloria glanced at Noah, but the latter only pointed at the ravine. His team would be the last to enter the dimensional tunnel. He wanted that group to think that Divine Demon could also sense the imminent threats.

Some experts wanted to complain. Noah and the others were the less trustworthy existences among them. Yet, they couldn't say anything on the matter, especially since Noah's force was a guest among those teams.

The experts slowly began to enter the ravine, and Noah's team soon remained alone on the surface. Everyone else had gone inside the dimensional tunnel, leaving only his experts on the outside world.

"We can still turn back," Noah teased his companions, who gave voice to snorts and loud complaints.

The experts had no intention to leave. They knew that they had to play along to maintain their stern scene, but the dimensional tunnel was too interesting to ignore.

The Foolery quickly shot toward the whiteness, but Wilfred stopped its flight. The magical beast was reckless, but the hybrid couldn't let it take all the risks on itself.

Wilfred and the Foolery ended up crossing the edges of the crack together. Fergie and Luke followed them, and the rest of the group soon imitated their companions.

Noah was the last to enter the whiteness. The scenery in his vision changed as soon as he crossed those edges. His consciousness also became able to sense the difference between the two environments.

The outside world was calm but also full of life. Instead, the dimensional tunnel appeared as a dead environment that couldn't offer anything.

Dark rocky walls filled Noah's vision. He found himself in an underground structure that resembled the lands in the lower planes. He couldn't see any white light or higher power in that terrain.

King Elbas and the others experienced a similar surprise. Even the experts from the human domain felt the same. The dimensional tunnel didn't seem to have anything interesting, but the existences ignored that feature due to the possible rewards on the other side of the Immortal Lands.

Noah's senses began to send strange signals toward his mind. His mental waves could pick the traces of unique magical beasts inside that environment, but he couldn't understand where they lived.

King Elbas and the other inscription masters reached similar conclusions, and they didn't hesitate to convey them to their companions. They were in a foreign environment filled with empty areas, but danger lingered in the air. A strange tension also fell among them, but they couldn't pinpoint the source of that sensation.

Noah felt quite happy about that. He wanted the mission to be hard since he needed to improve faster, and only troubles could give him that.

"Divine Demon was right," One of the experts in Harold's team announced. "We are entering a pack's domain. Some of these areas might hide spies in special spots that we have yet to recognize. We need to spread to cover more ground."

"No spreading," Noah firmly replied. "Your organizations didn't even bother to send a decent number of troops. I won't listen to your orders."

His remark made a series of angry glances turn toward him. Noah ignored the stares and abided by his role. He wanted to make it clear that his group was more important than the other experts.

It wasn't hard to find the right direction in that place. The experts only had to go down to dive deeper into the Immortal Lands.

The group began to descend, and the first part of their journey went smoothly. The experts even decided to take a few breaks and focus on their cultivation during that exploration.

Noah didn't mind using those extra days to cultivate. His centers of power always needed improvements, and his friends had the same idea about the matter.

Cultivating in that area slowed down the mission, but a careful approach was the best path in a foreign environment. The tunnel also came from Heaven and Earth, so Noah had no reason to hurry.

The team eventually found actual traces of the fauna. The exploration of the underground structure had continued smoothly, but chunks of fur and distorted space soon appeared in their vision.

Noah immediately put his expertise into use. The fur couldn't tell him much about those magical beasts, but the areas of distorted space spoke for their innate ability. They were clear clues about the magical beasts sensed by Divine Demon.



The dimensional tunnel barely had any flaw. The terrain inside it wasn't the product of inscriptions or similar techniques. It was actual ground that didn't contain much power. The environment was also stable and could endure the pressure radiated by the group.

However, those few spots could tell Noah about the passage of creatures that could ignore the boundaries among dimensions. Only that conclusion could explain why the tunnel featured those clear marks in such a stable environment.

### **Chapter 1637 - 1637. Assault**

Having distorted space inside a dimensional tunnel wouldn't typically force the experts to worry about their surroundings. However, Divine Demon had already confirmed the species of the pack in charge of that environment, and Noah knew something about those magical beasts.

The Space Hounds were unusual creatures. Very few records kept track of their existence. Noah had learnt about them inside the libraries of the Sailbird family. Still, he had guessed the rest of their features through his expertise.

The areas of distorted space completed the puzzle about his idea of those magical beasts. It became clear that the Space Hounds could walk freely through the edges of the dimensions, and that led to a scary conclusion.

Those magical beasts could already be around the group. Noah had no way of confirming the presence of that threat from inside the dimensional tunnel, but he could guess that some scout had already noticed their arrival.

The Space Hounds weren't famous for their intelligence, but Noah's worry came from the usual behavior of the magical beasts. The arrival of an external threat inside a lair would often force the entire pack to act, and that meant attracting dangerous specimens.

"Prepare for battle," Noah whispered, but all the experts in the area heard him.

His words were for his companions, but some of the experts from the human organizations listened to his advice. His friends did the same, while the most arrogant cultivators decided to ignore that warning.

It was hard to believe in such a warning when the group only found pieces of fur. The distorted space didn't even classify as a clue to the Hounds' presence since it could be a common sight inside dimensional tunnels.

The layers among the dimensions prevented Noah from learning more about that fauna, but his instincts told him that a threat was approaching him. His dangerous sensation also intensified as the group continued to dive through the dimensional tunnel.

The Demonic Sword and his companions came out of the separate space on their own after the dangerous sensation reached a critical intensity. Those creatures were almost sure that something was about to fall on Noah, so they prepared for a fierce battle.

Mocks resounded through the dimensional tunnel when the arrogant experts saw that scene. They couldn't understand why Noah was so scared, but an explanation soon appeared in their vision.

The space around the group suddenly began to bend. The terrain and air in the area twisted until it gained dark features. It seemed that something had broken, but that was only the beginning of the event.

A series of tall figures slowly flew out of that distorted space. Dog-like creatures with silverish fur and a series of black signs on their back came out of those spots and leapt toward the experts without bothering to launch battle cries.

Noah's senses immediately screamed. Most of those rank 8 magical beasts were in the lower and middle tier, but two were in the upper tier.

'This is a proper platoon!' Noah shouted in his mind at that sight.

The pack wasn't underestimating the invading team. Those magical beasts had sent enough troops to wipe them away, but those creatures appeared far below the average in terms of pure battle prowess.

The ability to travel through dimensions was an incredible tool that Heaven and Earth had definitely punished. Noah didn't believe that such unique magical beasts could keep their innate skills without having serious drawbacks in other fields.

Heaven and Earth usually lowered the fertility of a species to punish it, but they took drastic measures when certain innate abilities went overboard. They had done the same with the Light-devouring Dragons, so Noah guessed that his opponents had to be inside specific standards to remain outside those rulers' radar.

The tall Hounds shot forward, and their figures turned ethereal while flying across the dimensional tunnel. The experts quickly launched attacks, but their spells crossed those magical beasts and landed on the dark walls behind the distorted space.

The two upper tier specimens immediately went after the experts from the Monneay family. The three cultivators were in the group's lead, so they became the target of those magical beasts.

The rest of the pack assaulted the group. Small teams of lower and middle tier Space Hounds charged at the other experts while showing their fangs to the world.

Noah studied the creatures flying toward him. He waited until those magical beasts turned material, and his blade immediately flashed at that sight.

The four magical beasts in the lower tier that had decided to attack Noah quickly regained a material form, but a storm of singularities landed on their figures. Their bodies almost disappeared after those attacks crossed them.

The rest of the group handled that threat quite well. The Space Hounds were nothing more than hungry magical beasts after their bodies returned material, so a few spells could take them down.

That didn't apply to the two upper tier specimens. They appeared able to turn specific spots of their body ethereal and dodge most of the attacks that flew in their direction.

The exchange for the experts of the Monneay family turned out poorly. Their opponents were quite threatening, and one of them managed to reach one of the cultivators.

The expert found the creature's teeth stabbed on her arm before she even had a chance to retreat. The cultivator had tried all her techniques to keep the Space Hound away, but the magical beast didn't let those abilities reach it.

The creature turned most of its body ethereal before materializing its teeth and ripping away the cultivator's arm. Nothing could stop that attack. Even King Elbas would struggle in the task.

Noah's focus returned to his friends after he witnessed the cultivator losing her arm. His Demonic Sword cut the air non-stop, and sharpness accumulated on his surroundings.

Noah could make singularities appear whenever one of the magical beasts in the area turned material, but one of the experts from the human forces seemed to do better than him.

The cultivator had created a gravitational pull around him. The force attracted the creatures even in their ethereal form, and it seemed able to damage them in that status.

The technique ended up backfiring on the expert since a horde of magical beasts gathered around him and tried to jump on his figure at the same time. Noah had to handle that issue, and his companions soon supported him.

A series of singularities that carried a dark aura opened around the expert and allowed him to ignore the imminent threats. The cultivator couldn't sense much among that destruction, but he quickly turned toward Noah to nod.

The expert was expressing his gratitude, and Luke didn't hesitate to describe him. The cultivator knew him as Isaac from the Putgan family. He wasn't famous, but he wasn't unknown either.

Harold, Althea, and other experts who had benefitted from Noah's calculated destruction tried to exploit that event and seize a few intact corpses. The Space Hounds could lead to the next discoveries regarding teleports and separate dimensions, so all the group members wanted those creatures.

Still, when the experts were about to contend the few intact corpses, King Elbas appeared among them and stored those bodies before returning near Noah.

### **Chapter 1638 - 1638. Important**

"I need them for my research," King Elbas commented before focusing on the battle again.

Harold and Althea could only ignore that event and resume their relentless discharge of abilities. There were too many magical beasts in the area, and they had yet to decide how to handle the two upper tier creatures. That wasn't the time to overthink petty thefts.

The battle grew harsher even if the number of specimens diminished. The Space Hounds had a limited fighting style, but they could adapt to the experts' abilities and become material only after making sure they were safe.

The unusual battle style of that species made most experts struggle to keep up. Even Noah's team didn't expect something like that. Wilfred and the Foolery didn't manage to do much since their abilities were predictable.

Noah limited himself to spread his sharpness throughout the battlefield. He let the others fight and waited for the perfect moment when to unleash his singularities. His attacks could kill many magical beasts at the same time, so he didn't waste his efforts chasing single specimens.

His slashes were even quite effective against middle tier specimens. Noah's physical prowess surpassed those creatures by leaps and bounds, so his attacks were deadly abilities capable of severing their bodies in half.

The trio from the secret organization ended up joining the experts from the Monneay family against the upper tier Space Hounds. Instead, the others took care of the rest of the horde and made sure not to suffer any significant injury during the battle.

Noah eventually found a good chance when to unleash his sharpness. Many Space Hounds had decided to attack the trio from the Putgan family, but a series of singularities opened around them and killed multiple creatures.

Harold tried to seize a few corpses again, but Noah unfolded the dark world and took those corpses for himself. He wouldn't let others grab such peculiar magical beasts without storing many of them inside his separate space first.

"I need them for my hunger," Noah explained before resuming his role in the battle.

Harold couldn't say much, but it was clear that his mood had darkened. He was fighting like everyone else, but Noah's team had already stolen his loot twice.

Still, complaining during the battle was pointless. Noah and King Elbas were even quite helpful against those creatures due to their experience and ability with formations. Arguing now would only put the whole group in danger.

The trio from the Saibrird family eventually joined the cultivators fighting the upper tier specimens. Those nine experts were doing their best to defend themselves while waiting for openings, and their cultivation level barely allowed them to match those powerful opponents.

Noah felt relieved when he noticed that his companions weren't leaving everything on his team. The experts from the other families had started to understand those magical beasts, and their battle style adapted to their abilities.

A large group of Space Hounds soon tried to help their leaders. They didn't want to fight Gloria and the others. Their purpose was to distract the cultivators enough to let the two upper tier creatures escape the relentless assault.

Noah took that chance to unleash his sharpness again. Waves of singularities and dark matter filled the area and saved the nine cultivators from that new threat.

Strange expressions appeared on those experts after they realized what Noah had done. They didn't like to feel indebted to an enemy of the human domain, but they couldn't deny that his role was crucial in the battle.

Harold tried to seize some corpses again. He didn't even try to take all of them at that time, but a figure still appeared on his path and made him curse loudly.

"I don't need them," Wilfred said while waving his hand and storing those corpses. "I just want to piss you off."

That statement left Harold speechless, but Wilfred retreated before the cultivator could find a proper answer. The hybrid's role was also quite crucial in the battle. He had to make sure that no Space Hound had the chance to attack Noah and the others.

The battlefield had quickly divided the experts into two sides. Part of them could invent or modify techniques to counter the Space Hounds' innate ability. Others had to limit their efforts on defending their companions since they couldn't touch those creatures.

Wilfred, the Foolery, and Fergie belonged to the second side. Their techniques weren't flexible, so they could only focus on defending their companions.

Instead, Divine Demon, King Elbas, and Luke could adapt to that threat. Their abilities also allowed them to affect the Space Hounds in their ethereal form. They were the core part of that battle.

Noah was between the two sides. He could try to affect the Space Hounds in their ethereal form, but he preferred to hold back and attack the magical beasts only when they turned material.

He didn't want to launch attacks that had no chance to kill those creatures to disrupt their innate ability. He preferred to unleash deadly slashes and take out of the battle as many specimens as possible.

The pack quickly shrunk as the battle continued. The cultivators didn't suffer many injuries, and they could mostly ignore the few wounds that appeared on their bodies.

Only those fighting against the upper tier specimens had a harsher time remaining safe, but their condition had improved by a lot after the reinforcements arrived.

The experts could soon turn their attention on the two leaders after they took care of the pack. Yet, the magical beasts decided to leave the battlefield once they understood their position.

Noah and the others had taken care of tens of specimens without suffering any loss. The Space Hounds' intelligence was below the average, but they could understand when a battle was over.

The experts gave voice to loud curses and taunts once the two upper tier creatures opened a path through the distorted space and disappeared from the area. Their departure marked the end of the battle and made all the existences relax.

Most of those experts turned toward Noah. They had to admit that he had been able to sense that threat before the space showed signs of distortion. His senses were too reliable to ignore.

Everyone had noticed Noah's behavior toward Harold, but no one talked about it. Even Harold decided to let go of the matter to avoid pointless discussions.

The battle had shown how Noah and his companions were necessary to that mission. They could even take care of important roles that only hybrids could fulfill.

Moreover, King Elbas was an inscription master that even liquid stage experts had to respect. Those who knew about formations had seen how the cultivator had handled the Space Hounds, and they could only approve his approach.

Noah didn't care about that acknowledgment. An obvious conclusion had appeared in his mind during the battle, and he couldn't help but worry about it.

The pack of Space Hounds had managed to send two upper tier specimens and an entire army of creatures in the eighth rank during the first attack.

Only a powerful pack could deploy so many specimens at the same time, and that high number of rank 8 creatures hinted at the presence of an even stronger magical beast.

Noah felt almost sure that the dimensional tunnel hid a rank 9 specimen, and he had no idea how to handle that issue.

### **Chapter 1639 - 1639. Strategy**

The group decided to rest after the battle. Those experts didn't suffer many injuries, but the fight had been tiring nonetheless.

The sheer number of Space Hounds and their annoying power had forced Noah and the others to fight for a long time to defeat the entire pack. A simple platoon had also threatened their safety, so the experts needed to reorganize and create battle plans.

The magical beasts were theoretically easy to fight, especially for a group that featured multiple experts. Every species had specific flaws that existences who wielded many abilities could exploit.

The Space Hounds weren't an exception, but their innate ability was quite annoying to counter. Only some experts had attacks that could touch those creatures once their bodies became ethereal.

The battle didn't only clear eventual doubts about the Space Hounds. It also made the group gain an idea of the overall strength of its members.

The cultivators from the Monneay family had proven themselves worthy after keeping the two upper tier magical beasts busy, but other experts also gained a decent reputation during those exchanges.

Everyone acknowledged Divine Demon and Wilfred's power, and the same went for their weaker companions. The cultivators almost couldn't believe how Noah and the others could do so well in a battle against hordes of rank 8 magical beasts.

Noah's battle prowess wasn't a surprise since those cultivators had heard stories about him, and seeing him in an actual fight made them understand that he deserved that fame.

Instead, the others came out as a surprise, especially when it came to King Elbas. The cultivator had quickly understood the Space Hounds' flaws, and he had adapted his abilities to counter those creatures.

That battle prowess and Noah's judgment made his group gain a decent reputation among the cultivators. The initial arrogance showed by some of those experts vanished after the fight. It was clear that Noah's team could help them greatly.

"Are you sure that this place holds a rank 9 specimen?" Isaac Putgan asked after the experts healed and gathered on the dark ground.

"I don't see how such a large pack can exist without a rank 9 leader," Noah explained.

Noah's judgment had been on point before, so the cultivators began to value his opinion when it came to the fauna in the dimensional tunnel. Accepting the presence of a rank 9 magical beast wasn't easy, but the situation wasn't completely hopeless.

"We might be lucky enough to avoid it," Harold said to disrupt the tension that had fallen among the group.

"Weaker species usually have a tight control over their lair," Noah explained while shaking his head. "We even have to make this path twice. Missing the leader is impossible."

"What do you suggest?" Althea asked while turning toward the experts of the Legion. "Can you repeat what you did with Radiant Eyes? My team will give you full support in that matter."

"The Putgan family will do the same," Isaac announced.

"The Sailbird family won't retreat if you have an actual plan," Gloria continued.

"Same goes for my group," Harold added. "I only wish that your plan is solid. I like to be alive."

The other teams followed that trend and expressed their willingness to follow the Legion against the rank 9 leader, but Noah and his friends could only exchange awkward smiles at that scene.

The human organizations had already left the human domain when Noah and the others teleported on the pyramid. Their sensors didn't even work with rank 9 existences since their power disrupted the correct functioning of those inscribed items.

Most forces ignored how the Legion had escaped from Radiant Eyes. They knew that Heaven and Earth had intervened at some point, but they could understand that they didn't manage to take care of that threat. Noah and the others wouldn't be alive otherwise.

"We can't use the same method," Noah explained shortly. "We might need to face the rank 9 leader with our own forces."

"Which is impossible," Gloria commented.

Noah glanced at King Elbas, but the expert appeared distracted. His mind was elsewhere as he pondered about that issue and tried to find a solution.

"I can't create something to stop the leader," King Elbas eventually sighed. "We don't have the power to face a magical beast at that level. The task would be hard even if we were in the solid stage."

"Is that it?" Fay Sinnell asked. "Do we retreat before the situation becomes too dangerous?"

"I don't want to give up on the mission so easily," Althea complained. "Heaven and Earth have issued this mission. There has to be a way to get past this problem."

"We might need to get creative to reach the other side," Noah sighed, and the other experts soon turned toward him.

Even his friends felt surprised about those words. They studied Noah while wearing questioning gazes. Wilfred and the others knew how amazing Noah was, but the matter involved a rank 9 magical beast. He couldn't have weapons against a creature at that level.

Noah took one of the dead Space Hounds from his separate space. Harold snorted at the sight of that almost intact corpse, but he didn't give voice to complaints.

"These marks should work like the runes of the Kesier species," Noah explained while pointing at the Hound's back. "A higher number of marks describes a better proficiency in the dimensional travel."

"Many of us have noticed that feature," Daisy Newhall complained. "You aren't the only expert in the magical beasts' field here."

"The power of the Kesier species comes from similar marks," Noah continued, ignoring Daisy's words. "It's safe to assume that the same goes from the Space Hounds. These spots might be the key behind their dimensional travel, so they can also be the core to a weapon that counters that ability."

His words immediately made King Elbas widen his eyes, and the same went for the other inscription masters in the area. They had understood something that Noah had yet to explain, so they quickly took out their sensors to study the marks.

"The fabric of space is quite firm here," Noah continued. "Piercing it requires a lot of power, even from species that can travel through it. I wonder if we can create something to stop the Space Hounds before they reach our position."

Space bent before the arrival of the Space Hounds. Those creatures left distorted areas after their passage, so their travel through dimensions wasn't completely natural.

Noah wanted to exploit that feature. The marks could contain deep secrets about the laws connected to space, and the experts could turn them into weapons that made the environment even sturdier.

Fighting an endless horde of rank 8 magical beasts led by a rank 9 specimen was impossible. However, preventing them from reaching their surroundings was doable, especially since space would work against them.

"We can go past that," King Elbas explained as ideas finally surged in his mind. "Sealing the space around us is a good plan, but we have to take into consideration that the rank 9 leader will have nigh-endless physical strength. It might enter this dimension anyway."

"What do you suggest?" Noah asked.

"We can turn space itself into a weapon," King Elbas continued. "I can recreate the Space Hounds' innate ability and close the distortions at will. I believe even rank 9 specimens won't be able to enter a dimension when their power works against them."

### **Chapter 1640 - 1640. Weapon**

Noah didn't know how to turn those marks into an inscribed item that could control the Space Hounds' innate ability. His expertise covered different fields, and ideas on how to fuse those materials with his techniques already filled his mind.



Yet, Noah also had a vast experience facing threats that his cultivation level didn't allow him to overcome. He had often relied on tricks and shameless tactics to win certain battles, especially when it came to his time in the lower plane.

His idea to turn the runes into a weapon was crucial to developing a strategy to give the group a chance against the rank 9 leader. King Elbas and the other inscription masters immediately began to work on those marks, but the experts didn't stop their advance.

The inscription masters required materials to create the intended weapon. Most Space Hounds only had three to four marks, and they weren't enough to cover the needs of the tests.

Noah, King Elbas, and Wilfred also didn't want to give up on their loot for the team's sake. They preferred to advance through the dimensional tunnel and hope in new attacks to gather more materials.

The dimensional tunnel seemed to have checkpoints. Noah and the others would travel for months without meeting magical beasts, only to find a massive army waiting for them in the following areas.

Noah guessed that the dimensional innate ability didn't give the Space Hounds complete control over that area. That power probably had limits, which would even explain how that species had decent fertility.

King Elbas and the other inscription masters soon confirmed his guess. Studying those marks gave them a deeper understanding of the laws concerning space. The experts could eventually find weaker spots in the fabric of the dimensional tunnel that the Space Hounds used for their attacks.

The inscription masters didn't hide their discoveries from the rest of the group. They passed their understanding to their companions so that all of them could learn to find where the Space Hounds were likely to appear.

The development of the inscribed weapons proceeded smoothly since the group always found new materials. Those experts ended up having so many corpses that they started side-projects while the inscription masters handled the main aspect of the plan.

The marks interested Noah. He could sense that the laws contained inside those materials would help his movement techniques, but his ideas didn't stop there.

The dark world had always been a powerful technique, but his opponents rarely gave him the chance to use it properly. Noah often fought experts stronger than him, so the dark matter failed to affect their laws.

That weakness was inevitable, but the evolution of the dark matter limited those flaws. The dark world could affect liquid stage experts at its current power, but it was too frail to be important in those battles.

Noah mostly used the dark world to support his other techniques, but he didn't dare to forget about it. The ability was a natural evolution of the domains, and it could still improve.

'The six elements can't be the limits of the dark world,' Noah thought during one of the usual breaks. 'It can't have light due to my nature, but I should be able to add something else. I wonder if I can create a dark space after studying these marks.'

Noah would never waste time learning how to wield Heaven and Earth's laws. He preferred to copy and transform them into personal versions of the same true meanings and add them to his existence.

'Maybe I can even add time to the dark world,' Noah wondered. 'I already have a first version of dark time thanks to Shandal's existence, but it needs far more work to become something that belongs only to me.'

Limits that had always afflicted his existence began to vanish as his power increased. Noah was already a rank 8 expert who knew the path toward the ninth rank. His influence naturally started to flow into fields that he had never dared to affect before.

The travel resumed before the experts took another break. The group had developed a silent cooperation during that period, and tension built as they dived deeper into the dimensional tunnel.

The number of upper tier magical beasts continuously increased. Every new battle featured more creatures at that level. The group was clearly about to approach the center of the pack, and they even began to expect the rank 9 leader to appear soon.

That tension forced the inscription masters to work even harder and eventually led the entire group to stop the exploration until those experts developed the weapon. They had reached the point when it was too dangerous to proceed without their trump card.

Noah lost himself in his tests while King Elbas and the other experts continued their project. He had to give up on part of his loot to help the team, but he kept most of those corpses for himself.

'This ability is far different from Miss Void's technique,' Noah thought during his tests. 'It affects a different aspect of space, something that I've only destroyed in the past.'

It was normal to face those difficulties, especially since Noah didn't want to copy the Space Hounds. He only d.e.s.i.r.ed to understand how they affected the space before creating his version of that power.

His studies remained inconclusive since King Elbas and the others eventually completed their procedure. They created a series of disposable upper tier orbs that could force the space to stabilize and reinforce the barriers among the dimensions.

King Elbas even believed that the distorted areas would close on their own after the items activated, but he couldn't test that. He had spots with distorted space at hand, but he lacked enough materials to make new disposable weapons.

The group decided to resume their travel after the inscription masters succeeded in their feat. The tension didn't vanish since they still had to face a rank 9 creature, but their fears lost intensity. The experts even took fewer breaks since they didn't need to focus on their strategy anymore.

A few battles without any trace of the rank 9 leader followed their departure. The experts took that chance to gather as many corpses as possible, but they didn't have much success in that field.

The platoons of Space Hounds now featured almost ten upper tier specimens, and they required most of the experts to suppress them. Only the few existences that avoided that battle could gather corpses, but they failed to reach a decent number most of the time.

The Space Hounds didn't even remain in those areas for a long time. They mostly tried to inflict some damage with their sudden attacks, but they always retreated when they saw their numbers falling.

Fighting those magical beasts had almost become a habit for the experts. Their studies had led them to develop battle tactics that could ignore the overwhelming difference in numbers.

Everything seemed to go smoothly, even better than the first part of the journey. The Space Hounds' attacks also stopped being a reckless charge but turned into precise assaults meant to weaken the group.

That situation didn't last since the group eventually met what they feared.

The dimensional tunnel shook as areas of distorted space appeared around the group. The experts had reached another checkpoint, and they had predicted that outcome.

Yet, something different happened during that event. The distorted space in one area expanded until it covered half of the tunnel. A silverish halo also seeped out of that twisted air and announced the arrival of something powerful.

A dense aura spread through the dimensional tunnel as the rank 9 leader peeked out of its twisted space and moved its hungry eyes on the group. Drool even fell from the creature's mouth, and a deafening growl filled the area.

The terrain and rocky walls trembled as those loud growls spread through the air and reached Noah's group. The experts had to recall their consciousness to resist the pressure that its voice carried.