

DEMONIC 1661

Chapter 1661 - 1661. Servants

Noah and Harold left their training areas to fly toward the next floating lake. Other natives might be waiting for them there, and Noah wanted to make sure that Heaven and Earth didn't enlarge their army.

The final battle was approaching. The human forces of the other side of the Immortal Lands had just started gathering their assets. It was only a matter of time before a massive clearing operation started and led all the existences in the world against the Devils and the mutated magical beasts.

Noah was on the Devils' side, but the human forces had yet to discover his betrayal. He would soon have to clash with those organizations, so he needed to prepare the battlefield and his existence for the fight.

Broken environments and strange sceneries crossed Noah's vision as the duo followed the map's instructions and traveled across the higher plane. Their destination wasn't far away, but they proceeded slowly due to Noah's needs.

Noah wanted to leave the training area since his companions and the cultivators from the other teams would look for him there. Traveling toward different regions would buy him some time. It would also grant him the chance to test his new understanding in a proper battle.

He was in desperate need of a fight right now. Noah had just added a breathtaking aspect to his existence, but his battle style had yet to adapt to those changes. He needed time to test his new techniques, but failures had to happen before he could reach a decent level of expertise.

The journey toward the other lake was uneventful. The duo met Devils and mutated sharks, but they decided to avoid them since their power couldn't match those groups.

Part of Noah wanted to fight since he could deal with the strongest creatures in each group, but Harold was a liability. Noah couldn't keep him in check while fighting with powerful beings.

Harold couldn't break free of Noah's spell, but he could suppress it with his law. That action always warned Noah and gave him enough time to intervene, but the situation would be different during a battle.

The lack of trust between the two experts made them arrive at the other floating lake far earlier than predicted. The duo found a familiar structure hanging from the sky, and they didn't hesitate to approach it.

White lines appeared around the floating watery shape as soon as the experts flew toward the structure. The natives seemed able to deploy those untraceable formations at will, but Noah saw them as a mark of Heaven and Earth.

In theory, inscriptions had to leave a trace of their existence. Even King Elbas couldn't create completely invisible items. His assets always triggered reactions in the experts that approached them.

Instead, the white lines were part of the world. They belonged to the very fabric of the higher plane, and rank 8 experts needed Heaven and Earth's authorization to create something like that.

Noah could even gain a deeper understanding of those inscriptions after his enlightenment in the laws of space. The fact that the fabric of the world accepted those lines meant that Heaven and Earth agreed with their existence.

King Elbas could create invisible inscriptions, but those white lines were on a different level. Part of Noah's conclusions came from that feature. King Elbas was the best inscription master in the world, so the white formations had to have a stronger backing.

"Castor, Rebecca, and Melissa have sent us to gather the human forces," Noah shouted before stopping in front of the white lines. "We have no ill intentions. Heaven and Earth have sent us to support the natives of this plane."

Harold wanted to give voice to a loud snort, but he suppressed his emotions. That wasn't the time to oppose Noah. He had to wait for a decent opportunity if he still wanted to betray him.

The white lines soon dispersed, and a large watery tunnel appeared among the floating lake. Noah and Harold became able to see faint structures inside the water, but their attention soon went on the two liquid stage cultivators that came out of the defenses.

"I didn't expect you to be so few," One of the leaders said. "Heaven and Earth have promised us strong warriors to fight this filthy threat."

"We divided ourselves to gather troops quickly," Noah explained while keeping his lies in check. "You are the first group of survivors on our path."

"Don't look at me," The same leader exclaimed before pointing at the man next to him. "I'm just a humble servant. My troops call me Fog, but I'm nothing more than an expert ready to give his life for his Master."

Noah turned toward the other man at that point. Even his instincts could sense that the second leader was far stronger than his companion. The expert was a liquid stage cultivator, but his aura managed to make Noah feel in danger.

"I'm Otto," The second leader said while joining the conversation. "I believe you were talking about me."

Noah and Harold quickly cleared the misunderstanding. Otto's aura was quite dangerous, so they preferred to deploy a peaceful approach at first.

"How did you survive here?" Noah asked while studying the inscribed map. "This shouldn't be a strong lake. Did you find a weakness in the Devils?"

"No such thing," Otto replied. "We are blessed with the strongest warriors in the plane. My force has once been the bane of the entire human domain. Now we are nothing more than survivors trying to create an army that has the faint hope to defeat the Devils."

"Are you a servant of Heaven and Earth?" Noah asked to understand Otto's political inclination.

Noah wouldn't hesitate to attack, but he wanted to make sure that Otto's forces belonged to his enemies. There was a slim chance that he could gather more followers, so he wouldn't start a slaughter without knowing the experts' position.

"I've become a true believer only recently," Otto laughed while patting his arm on his large c.h.e.s.t.

Otto was a tall man with short black hair and no beard. His eyes radiated a white light, but their irises were blue. They even had traces of purple, but Noah guessed that it came from the constant use of specific techniques.

"My law fuses with the very matter of the sky," Otto revealed. "I've always struggled to accept Heaven and Earth, but my path has led me into their realm."

The expert clearly wanted to become a hero for Heaven and Earth. Otto desired the power they hid, but he had to complete many missions before obtaining that reward.

"Can we see how the situation is inside?" Noah asked in the politest tone that he could muster.

"Of course," Otto exclaimed, and Fog turned to return inside the floating lake. Otto also followed him and gestured to the duo to come with him.

Noah and Harold entered the floating lake and expanded their consciousness. They could sense that the situation inside that structure wasn't different from the previous. The various buildings only hid weaker cultivators.

'No point hesitating now,' Noah thought before approaching Fog and Otto.

The unstable substance flowed inside his black vessels and empowered his physical strength. His fingers quickly arched, and a storm of singularities flew across the leaders.

An innate spell activated to protect Fog, but his ability shattered. The singularities ended up on his face, and death soon reached him.

Otto was different. He could sense even the slightest trace of life. His body moved on its own and made him dodge Noah's attack.

Chapter 1662 - 1662. Abilities

Noah didn't expect Otto to dodge the attack. The expert was only a liquid stage expert, while his slashes could threaten even upper tier magical beasts.

Still, Noah couldn't deny the obvious. Otto had dodged Noah's singularity with a strange movement technique. His body had moved on its own. It was as if something had pulled his waist away from the range of the singularity.

"What's the meaning of this?!" Otto shouted, but his eyes soon ended on his dead companion.

Anger filled Otto's mind. His aura expanded and tried to reach the many defenses inside the floating lake, but Noah promptly activated the dark world to stop that event.

Waves of dark matter flew through the insides of the floating lake and restrained Otto's mind. The expert wanted to activate the many defenses inside the area, but Noah's technique prevented him from reaching the triggers.

The underlings inside the various buildings had felt that sudden surge of energy and had begun to exit their training areas to inspect the situation. Yet, the waves of dark matter engulfed them and sealed their senses.

'Don't do anything stupid,' Noah threatened as his mental waves reached Harold's consciousness.

Noah didn't want to fight with such a liability, but Otto had ruined his plans. He didn't expect the expert to dodge his surprise attack so easily, so he had to fight with Harold as a bystander now.

'I surely won't, Master,' Harold teased Noah, but the latter activated part of the restraints on his centers of power.

The sword-shaped energy inside Harold seeped inside his centers of power and suppressed their abilities. A sense of weakness filled the expert and almost made him faint. His aura became unstable, but the dark matter kept him in the air anyway.

"You have chosen to die," Otto shouted.

The dark world had improved after gaining an understanding of the laws of space. It became denser, and its stability increased. Moreover, its ability to suppress cultivators had improved since the overall technique had become heavier.

Otto couldn't sense his underlings. He had seen that Fog had died due to Noah's sudden attack, but he couldn't find his corpse anymore either. The anger that he felt knew no bounds. The expert wanted to make Noah pay for putting him into that situation.

Noah didn't let Otto gain the upper hand. His Demonic Sword quickly appeared in his grasp, and an even stronger singularity flew out of it. The dark world enhanced the attack and added a dense layer of dark matter to its edges.

The singularity had the shape of a massive flying wall that devoured everything on its path. Only the dark matter and the buildings survived its passage, but anything else vanished before that power.

The underlings that had come out to inspect the situation ended up facing the massive flying wall. Their bodies vanished as the singularity engulfed them. Countless cultivators died during the attack, but Noah only had eyes for the liquid stage leader.

A white light came out of Otto's figure. The singularity engulfed his figure, but he teleported away before his body began to disintegrate. The dark world tried to suppress that ability, but it only managed to limit its effects.

Otto reappeared inside the dark world, but he showed a surprised expression at that sight. He planned to escape the technique and face Noah under the white sky, but the latter had stopped that.

Noah closed his eyes and let his understanding of the laws of space flow inside the dark world. The dark matter began to create faint but dense arrays that imitated the structure of a dimensional tunnel but that also applied opposite effects.

Dimensional tunnels usually allowed existences to travel across large areas in a shorter time, but the dark world was doing the opposite. Every meter inside the technique became similar to kilometers. Otto

didn't hesitate to shoot toward the edges of the dark cloud, but he seemed unable to get close to his destination.

That was only a temporary measure to suppress the expert. The flaw of that ability was the dark matter itself. Otto was a liquid stage cultivator, so he could destroy large pieces of the dense higher energy and free himself from those restraints. However, his ugly situation made him unable to think properly.

Also, destroying a chunk of the dark world would only place Otto back into the outside world. He would still have dark matter around him, so it was better to save his strength if something else arrived.

Noah didn't deploy that suppression casually. He had to handle Harold, but he couldn't do that while fighting Otto and his underlings. He would have no chance to win against a rebellion and an entire army.

A horde of rank 7 and 8 cultivators appeared in front of Noah, but they couldn't sense him. They were gaseous stage experts at best, so his technique could make them completely unaware of their surroundings.

Noah expanded his consciousness and drew the cursed sword. Bloodl.u.s.t began to spread from his figure while he placed the weapon on his forehead.

The dark world enhanced his mental capabilities and allowed him to sense every expert inside the various buildings. His sharpness could spread freely through those structures, and a series of attacks appeared once he slid the weapon through his forehead.

His sharpness intensified and gave birth to singularities that targeted all the experts in its range. Noah could sense every expert inside the floating lake, so his attacks managed to reach everyone.

Large vertical singularities opened from the center of the experts and filled the environment with Noah's sharpness. The few cultivators who managed to survive that attack had to deal with the random cuts that spread in the area and around them.

Those weaker cultivators couldn't avoid that attack. Even those who had dodged the first wave of singularities would fail during a second attempt.

It was pure chaos. Singularities filled the insides of the various structures and killed every cultivator in sight. No one managed to survive that mad offensive, and the number of Noah's opponents soon shortened to one.

Otto was still trying to leave the dark world, but his efforts didn't lead to decent outcomes. There seemed to be an infinite sea of dark matter between his position and the edges of the technique. He appeared unable to reach it even after he had flown at full speed for so long.

"That won't help you," Noah laughed while revealing himself in front of the expert.

"Where are the others?" Otto asked, but Noah's cold smile was enough as an answer.

Otto closed his eyes and let his law expand through that suppression. A blinding light came out of his figure and pierced the dense waves of dark matter surrounding him.

His discharge of power wasn't enough to defeat the technique, but the light soon expanded and created branches that spread through the dark matter. It only took an instant before a white halo began to shine inside that darkness.

The dark matter crumbled under that influence. The expert decided to resort to the other approach to defeat Noah. He would destroy the dark world from the inside before finding Noah and killing him.

Chapter 1663 - 1663. Average

A blinding white halo spread from Otto's position and expanded through the dark world. It was cancer that spread inside Noah's technique and destroyed the currents of dark matter that were suppressing the expert.

'Is he like Sword Saint?' Noah wondered while large chunks of his dark world fell apart.

In theory, Noah's dark matter had already touched the liquid stage in terms of power. It could suppress cultivators at that level as long as Noah could focus his entire efforts on one of them.

Yet, liquid stage cultivators still had access to better "Breath". The amount of power carried by those energies was almost the same, but their quality was far different.

The dark matter was denser, but the liquid stage "Breath" had a superior structure. Experts on Sword Saint's level could rely on that quality to overpower Noah's dark world and destroy the technique with massive discharges of energy.

Noah couldn't see gaseous stage cultivators as worthy opponents anymore. His battle prowess also allowed him to overpower most liquid stage experts, but some existences were the same when it came to fighting warriors at the same level.

Noah couldn't be the only genius. Some cultivators were far above the average in terms of battle prowess. Sword Saint was one of them, and it seemed that Otto also stood near that realm.

Branches made of white light continued to spread through the dark world. Noah tried to stop them with his flames, but their energy was too intense for him.

The dark world couldn't apply its suppression on that light. It struggled to slow down the expansion of that blinding halo, and it often failed to obtain decent results.

'I need the cursed sword to stop it,' Noah concluded in his mind, but he still decided to store his weapon.

Noah's body could endure the drawbacks generated by the cursed sword far better now, but he still preferred to avoid using it blindly. He didn't want to reach his mental limit before being sure that he could kill his opponent.

'Let's see if I can do this,' Noah thought before raising his hand.

His palm landed on solid air at some point, and cracks spread from its edges. A connection to the void appeared, but Noah didn't let his hand enter that realm.

His aura promptly seeped inside that firm layer that divided the Immortal Lands from the void. A third dimension slowly opened, and the dark matter didn't hesitate to enter it.

The Shadow Domain expanded at an unfathomable speed. Miss Void's normal spell was nothing compared to Noah's new version, but the consumption of darkness was far higher.

Still, Noah didn't care as long as he could obtain better effects. Moreover, he could rely on the dark matter to fill part of the requirements.

The Shadow Domain spread in a dimension that Otto couldn't sense. It reached the areas invaded by the blinding light and eventually arrived where the cultivator was releasing his energy.

The dark world was falling into pieces, but Noah disregarded it and entered the Shadow Domain. A massive chunk of his energy vanished to perform the technique, but its activation was a success.

The light around Noah dimmed. He found himself on the same battlefield, but everything was darker there. It was as if he had entered a dark version of the Immortal Lands.

Noah shot forward. Otto's dim light didn't do anything to his figure. Noah could cross it while inside the Shadow Domain, and he eventually ended up in front of his opponent.

The Demonic Sword came out of the separate space and ended up in his hand. Noah pulled his weapon back and gathered energy on its sharp edges. Dark matter covered the blade, and roots also spread over its surface.

The dark world was suppressing Otto's senses, so he couldn't see that Noah had left the battlefield. He was completely unaware that his opponent had prepared one of his stronger attacks and was aiming for his head.

Noah thrust the weapon forward, and a crack appeared inside the Shadow Domain. The fissure was inside Otto's head, and the Demonic Sword pierced his mind when it reappeared in the outside world.

A straight singularity shot out of the Demonic Sword and destroyed Otto's head. Most of his upper body also vanished during the attack.

The white light suddenly stopped expanding. It lost its source of power, so its structure began to crumble under the suppression of the dark world.

Noah transferred himself into the real world. The dark matter in the distance began to pierce the crumbling branches of light and reach for what remained of Otto's body.

It only took a second to devour Otto's lower body. The dark matter transformed it into energy before that flesh could disperse anything.

'I bet Sword Saint was stronger than this,' Noah laughed in his mind.

Noah felt that he had overestimated Otto. Dodging a surprise attack and being able to deal with the dark world were average achievements in Noah's mind.

The effects related to the Shadow Domain were hard to handle, but many experts could easily develop countermeasures. The other side of the Immortal Lands was unaware of Noah, but that still didn't justify such an easy killing of a rank 8 cultivator.

'The dark world alone would have deployed countermeasures to these techniques,' Noah thought while inspecting the battlefield. 'Doing something about the Shadow Domain during the seventh rank is almost impossible, but the eighth rank should feature only the best of the best. Heaven and Earth have created a weak system founded only on laws.'

Noah couldn't help but consider Heaven and Earth's system as a whole. The various organizations, forces, and teams in the Immortal Lands often featured experts that had reached that level due to external resources.

That obviously led to weaker experts, but Heaven and Earth seemed to agree with that behavior. They didn't care about the human domain as long as they obtained new laws.

'What are they even trying to accomplish?' Noah wondered while dispersing the dark world and glaring at the sky.

Noah knew almost nothing certain about Heaven and Earth. His knowledge about those existences came from rumors and deductions, but he could question every single piece of information.

Still, it was clear that Heaven and Earth had a goal. The Tribulations and the many harsh environments of the Immortal Lands would have no meaning otherwise. Those mighty existences were looking for something, and Noah felt disappointed to learn that they settled for such weak experts.

'Maybe I can handle solid stage cultivators,' Noah sighed in his mind.

The Shadow Domain gave Noah the chance to kill every expert in the world. Miss Void was right. Her technique was perfect, and Noah's understanding had even managed to remove its only drawback.

Yet, the sky began to behave strangely after Noah won his battle. Lumps of light condensed among that whiteness and gave birth to uneven shapes gathered in the same spot.

Noah felt the need to attack that mass of light, but his instincts soon sensed a massive barrier between him and that structure. He didn't know when that defense had appeared, but something told him that it was better to avoid launching singularities there.

Light continued to accumulate until it took the shape of a humanoid figure. Noah almost opened his mouth at the sight of his previous opponent. The whiteness had given birth to Otto, and even his existence seemed to match the expert.

Chapter 1664 - 1664. Light

The light was giving birth to an exact copy of Otto. Noah didn't know how to react to that scene. His grasp tightened and relaxed as he waited to understand more about that event.

Otto condensed and opened his eyes. His aura spread through the sky and fused with the world. It seemed that his law could match the whiteness that filled the area.

'Is Heaven and Earth playing tricks with me?' Noah wondered, but his consciousness could barely sense anything.

The world was working as usual. The only strange feature came from the whiteness of the sky since part of it was transforming into Otto's law.

"That technique was quite tricky," Otto announced, and the white sky echoed his voice.

"Are you even alive?" Noah asked while pointing the Demonic Sword toward his opponent.

His previous victory wasn't an illusion. Noah had really killed Otto through his Shadow Domain. Still, Heaven and Earth had intervened.

"I'm part of Heaven and Earth's system," Otto explained. "My existence belongs to them. They have the power to rebuild me if the situation requires it."

That revelation left Noah speechless. He had never considered that aspect of Heaven and Earth's power, even if his life came from that ability.

Otto was a proper member of Heaven and Earth's system. His law belonged to them, so they could deploy him whenever they wanted. Seeing him again made Noah feel strange, but it also rekindled his determination.

Heaven and Earth were able to resurrect rank 8 cultivators. That news was incredible, especially when it came to experts that opposed them. Noah was among them, and his facial expressions were enough to describe his feelings.

Noah could barely accept that outcome, but he understood its functioning. Otto had sacrificed his individuality to fuse with Heaven and Earth's system. His law was part of the world now. Heaven and Earth could deploy it depending on the situation.

"Did you search for immortality?" Noah asked. "Did you sacrifice your whole existence to become part of these groups?"

His question wasn't all over the place, but Otto didn't answer anyway. He felt complete at his current level. Heaven and Earth had given him far more than he needed, but he had to wait for them to advance.

"You fail to understand Heaven and Earth's greatness," Otto exclaimed. "What can you even know about it? You lack the determination to enter their system and become an immortal existence."

"Nothing is immortal in this world," Noah snorted. "We are energies hanging around. Having a stronger backer doesn't make you better."

"And yet, here I am," Otto replied. "You might deny it, but Heaven and Earth are capable of giving you a second life. Moreover, I've never succeeded in escaping them. I'm nothing but a light cultivator with poor defense, so I don't have anything special to give."

'How do I even kill that thing?' Noah wondered while looking at the human figure in the sky.

Lumps of whiteness soon converged near the other, but Noah promptly stopped them through the dark world. His higher energy created currents that enveloped the area and crushed Heaven and Earth's power.

"This won't be enough," Otto laughed. "I'm in contact with the endless light now. My power is infinite!"

Light condensed outside of the dark world. Glowing spheres appeared around the technique and discharged their power in the form of piercing beams.

Holes appeared inside the dark world. Noah's dark matter couldn't do anything to stop those attacks. The beams didn't even damage Otto, who could simply laugh and float among that darkness.

Light soon spread through the dark world and dispersed the dark matter. The sky shone on Otto again and increased his power. His figure became a blinding humanoid shape that continued to absorb whiteness and transform it into his law.

"Light is everywhere in the world!" Otto shouted, and blinding spheres gathered around Noah. "You can't oppose it. You can't overcome it. It will exist as long as the sky hangs above us all!"

The spheres released beams that targeted Noah. He quickly pierced the dimension to enter the Shadow Domain, and his cursed sword promptly ended in his right hand once he was in a safe environment.

The beams crossed his position and allowed him to study them. Some of those attacks even pierced his figure, but he was in a different dimension now. Noah could inspect them while his many techniques covered his body and weapons.

'He is still in the liquid stage,' Noah sighed. 'These attacks are slightly stronger than before, but it seems that Heaven and Earth didn't increase his cultivation level. The issue is in the amount of energy at his disposal.'

Otto wasn't using his "Breath" to cast those attacks. The sky itself was providing the energy required to create that dense light. In theory, he could have an endless source of power.

'I will only lose my momentum if I start defending,' Noah concluded in his mind. 'Heaven and Earth might have memorized his law, but there must be a limit to how much it can endure before being permanently damaged.'

Noah shot forward. The dark environment ran past his vision before he arrived in front of his opponent. The Demonic Sword and the cursed sword quickly stabbed forward, and a crack opened in the spot where their tip converged.

The crack was inside Otto's head once again, but something strange happened at that time. A wave of blinding light came out of his injury and flung Noah backward, making the attack failed.

Rays of light also invaded the Shadow Domain through the crack. They spread inside the dimension and destabilized its structure. Fissures soon covered the edges of Noah's technique and destroyed them to bring everything back into the real world.

Otto had defeated the Shadow Domain. Experts on the other side of the Immortal Lands had found countermeasures to that technique in the past, but no one had ever come close to destroying the actual personal dimension.

Instead, Otto had utterly overwhelmed the technique, and Noah could only fly backward while countless thoughts filled his mind. It had been a long time since he had felt so lost. It seemed that nothing in his arsenal could make him defeat that expert.

Of course, Noah wouldn't admit defeat so easily. Otto appeared made of Heaven and Earth's light, but Noah had always d.e.s.i.r.ed to destroy those rulers. He actually felt happy about that chance to test his power.

Lumps of light filled the sky and released countless white beams. A rain of attacks covered entire regions and converged toward Noah, but he quickly entered the Shadow Domain again.

The beams were extremely fast. Some of them managed to reach Noah while he deployed his movement technique. Light invaded the Shadow Domain again, and part of it crashed on Noah's body.

Fuming holes appeared on Noah's back. The light created a scorching sensation that seemed about to reach his very existence. Part of his darkness vanished after those attacks seeped inside his body.

'Can it even affect my existence?!' Noah shouted in his mind without stopping his charge.

His instincts felt intense danger. Everything about Otto appeared meant to counter his existence. Noah was against a law belonging to Heaven and Earth's light!

Chapter 1665 - 1665. Blackness

Noah didn't want to send attacks directly inside Otto's body. It was clear that his figure had only light to offer, and he didn't want to endure that threatening damage anymore.

Roots and dark matter covered Noah's figure and gave him his usual fiendish shape. A dark halo also spread inside the Shadow Domain as the parasite's corrosive aura flowed through the dimension.

The parasite's influence enlarged the Shadow Domain. The pressure generated by the magical plant could push the edges of the dimension backward and spread the technique until it reached Noah's opponent.

Otto didn't seem to care about the invisible threat. Lumps of dense light continued to accumulate around him and send piercing beams that destroyed everything in the environment.

Harold was still suffering from Noah's suppression, but he had managed to hide inside the underground world before Otto unleashed his destructive attack. Needless to say, Harold was cursing Noah to no end.

A crack eventually appeared behind Otto. The expert didn't bother to turn, but a diagonal cut suddenly divided his figure in half.

A burst of light exploded from the injury. Noah didn't have the time to retreat, and the attack ended up engulfing him. His figure shot backward, but the radiant energy didn't manage to touch his skin.

The light was trying to reach Noah's body, but the parasite's corrosive energy destroyed it before it could touch the fiendish armor. The dark matter remained intact, but some roots crumbled during the exchange.

The parasite absorbed more of Noah's energy to grow. His figure obtained sharper features after more roots joined the defensive array.

Noah became a dark spot immersed inside Heaven and Earth's whiteness. He was a flaw that tainted that pure perfection.

Dense spheres of light continued to gather above him and discharge their piercing attacks. A rain of blinding beams fell toward the ground and tried to converge in his position. Otto's offensive had never stopped, and it seemed to have no end.

The corrosive aura kept Noah safe, but he had to wave his swords whenever too many beams converged on his position. His abilities could fend off part of those attacks, but he couldn't handle the full power of the sky.

Noah entered the Shadow Domain when he found an opening among the barrage of light. Otto's body had healed, but Noah quickly appeared above him and cut his figure in half.

'I can't continue like this!' Noah shouted in his mind while waving his blades to destroy the beams of light that flew toward his figure.

His flames came out of his mouth as the dark world expanded. Noah didn't dare to summon his companions for fear that the light could affect their existence, but they were screaming to come out. Night's voice was the loudest among them due to his deep hatred toward that whiteness.

'Let me out!' Night roared through the mental connection. 'Give me the chance to fight!'

A rain of beams pierced the dark world and his sea of flames. Noah watched as light invaded his domain and tried to find him among that blackness.

His situation was far from good. His attacks were useless, and he suffered injuries whenever he landed a blow. Noah didn't even know if Otto had a limit, but he could understand that the battle would end in a loss if it continued like that.

'My existence seems useless here,' Noah sighed while light invaded the dark world.

A heavy presence eventually landed on his mind. Heaven and Earth had found him. They redirected Otto's attacks toward him and released a tight array of beams.

The darkness that had tried to cover the sky quickly disappeared. Noah could see blinding light invading his vision. The attacks were about to land on his figure, but he didn't activate the Shadow Domain again.

'Take my potential,' Noah thought right before the beams could land on his figure.

The beams stopped right above his skin. They didn't move anymore. The strange event managed to attract Otto's attention, who turned to show a confused expression.

Otto raised his hands, and more light condensed in the sky. Noah was out in the open, so the expert could send the entirety of his attack toward him.

A wave of whiteness flew toward Noah. The beams fused to create a raging sea of light that tried to crash on his figure. However, the attack stopped before reaching his figure.

Otto didn't know what was happening, but the answer to his doubts arrived in the next instant. Dense ambition spread from Noah's figure, but that power didn't affect his cultivation level.

"Destroy this place," Noah whispered as growls fused with his human voice.

The bloodlust that had accumulated in his mind retracted as a large figure materialized above his head. The Pterodactyl gave voice to a roar that sent sharp soundwaves through the white array and destroyed its structure.

Noah's potential and bloodlust flowed inside Night and increased its power. The violent thoughts generated by the Demonic Deduction technique also amassed in his mind before reaching the Pterodactyl.

Night reached the middle tier in an instant, and its power continued to increase. It soon touched the edges of the tier and stopping before spreading into the next level.

"With pleasure," Night roared, and its figure disappeared.

The light around Noah shattered at that point. A series of black cuts opened through its structure and filled the entire area with darkness.

A black patch had appeared among the sky, and that color didn't come from techniques or spells. Night had destroyed the light while it was inside Noah's figure, so the area turned dark on its own.

Otto tried to wave his hands, but he soon discovered that his limbs were falling toward the ground. A burst of light came out of his figure, but cuts opened through its structure and generated another black patch.

"What is happening?!" Otto shouted, but his head disappeared after he finished his line.

Light tried to come out of his injury again, but Night destroyed it before it could spread in the environment. Black patches continued to accumulate around Otto, and his body soon vanished among that blackness.

Heaven and Earth immediately began to rebuild the expert, but Night was relentless. The Pterodactyl shot toward the lumps of light condensing high in the sky and severed the laws in their fabric.

Then, Night flew across the sky and opened a long cut in the very whiteness of the sky. A black patch that spread through entire regions began to float among Heaven and Earth's shining light.

It seemed that the creature could bring the Immortal Lands to a state where light didn't exist. Night was forcefully severing the whiteness to make room for the darkness.

"This won't be enough to defeat me!" Otto shouted. "I can hear Heaven and Earth whispering your name into my ears. Noah Balvan! The world wants you dead!"

"You aren't fighting me," Noah laughed while sitting cross-legged in the air and filling the area with black flames.

Noah had used his potential to force Night to grow. He had even given his bloodlust to the creature, and he was continuing to provide violent thoughts to its mind.

It was clear that his existence couldn't handle Otto's power, but Night was a different being. It was a magical beast, one of Heaven and Earth's sworn enemies, and Noah's existence had even tainted its species.

The Pterodactyl was the perfect creature to deal with Heaven and Earth's light, and Noah could sense its ecstasy through the mental connection. Night was having the time of its life on the battlefield.

Chapter 1666 - 1666. Winner

Otto didn't know how to stop Night. His senses couldn't keep track of the Pterodactyl's movements, and even Heaven and Earth's enhancements failed to make him understand where the creature was.

It wasn't only a matter of speed. Night never stopped destroying light. It severed laws even as it flew from one spot to another.

Heaven and Earth didn't manage to pinpoint its position because the creature destroyed the light before it could gather information. Night seemed able to counter the whiteness perfectly, and the world couldn't do anything to stop it.

"This is for all the years that you have forced me to spend underground!" Night roared while blackness opened behind it.

Heaven and Earth tried to send more light and rebuild Otto, but Night was too fast. It attacked every radiant sphere that tried to gather in the sky before resuming its relentless destruction.

Noah didn't need to do anything in that situation. He had unleashed the perfect creature for the job, so he could relax and focus on his recovery while he bathed in the darkness that spread through the area.

The sky crackled in anger, but it didn't resort to the Heaven Tribulation. The world was already spending an immense amount of energy to rebuild Otto, and it had learnt by now how useless that punishment was with Noah.

Otto didn't know what to think. He had sacrificed his existence to become part of Heaven and Earth's system. He had achieved immortality, and his power could go beyond the limits of liquid stage cultivators.

However, Night lived to destroy light. Its entire existence was a source of darkness. It even generated blackness whenever it severed laws.

Noah's ambition and his violent thoughts improved Night's innate ability. The Pterodactyl could use Noah's blood to strengthen its ability to destroy the light.

The result of that empowerment was an overwhelming performance. Night had filled the sky with large black cuts that covered entire regions. Whiteness still spread for most of the area, but Night wouldn't let even a tiny brim of light go.

Noah let Night's emotions flow inside his mind, but he didn't forget his position. Heaven and Earth had managed to suppress him. He would have been forced to flee if it weren't for his companion.

'This was only a case,' Noah thought as black spots spread in the immense whiteness. 'I've casually met an opponent who could counter my abilities due to Heaven and Earth's help. It wasn't a punishment made for me.'

Great Builder's words were still vivid in his mind. Noah knew that Heaven and Earth would eventually create a punishment meant for his existence. His very law could become his enemy on that occasion, and it was clear that he wasn't ready to face that.

Moreover, normal projects wouldn't work against Heaven and Earth. Everything would be pointless if those existences created something able to counter his law. After all, they had managed to kill monsters like Great Builder and Supreme Thief through those punishments.

Noah needed something more. He couldn't allow himself to die like those rank 9 experts, but the only path that could solve his issue involved the experiments with the Devils.

His law would become able to counter Heaven and Earth's suppression if he managed to obtain the Devils' power. Yet, the procedure could be the very end of his existence.

'What's the best path?' Noah wondered without moving his eyes from the sky.

Noah had already decided to experiment with the Devils, but he didn't feel any pressure toward that procedure. However, Otto had shown him how Heaven and Earth could exploit his flaws, and that forced him to consider approaching the transformation sooner.

'I need to speed up the testing phase,' Noah sighed. 'I need to get reckless again.'

King Elbas' pellets helped Noah with the experiments, but they were also a safe approach. They could only absorb and express Noah's law, but there was a limit to how close it was to the original.

'Right,' Noah suddenly recalled before turning toward the ground. 'I forgot about Harold.'

Noah glanced at the sky one last time before shooting downward. Countless cracks had opened on the uneven ground of the other side of the Immortal Lands due to Otto's offensive. The environment had transformed, but Harold's presence was still strong in Noah's mind.

Noah moved away boulders and large pieces of shattered ground before finding a tunnel that led deeper into the terrain. His connection with the spell that restrained Harold led him deeper into that path, and a sorry human figure soon appeared in his view.

"Curse you!" Harold shouted as tremors ran through his body. "You could have lifted my restraints at least!"

"I honestly forgot about you," Noah shrugged his shoulders before lifting the suppression.

Power finally flowed back into Harold's tissues. His centers of power resumed their usual functioning, and the tremors quickly stopped. Noah had made him too weak for that battlefield, but the expert could calm down now.

"Is this how you treat your underlings?!" Harold complained. "How did your organization even survive until now?"

"You are fine," Noah laughed. "I don't see the problem. Just get stronger before this happens again."

Harold's complexion paled. He had seen part of Otto's power, so he could understand how dangerous experts who had a connection with Heaven and Earth were.

The sole thought of facing another immortal expert made Harold shudder. Those were matters that involved the rulers of the world. Any cultivator would hesitate before fighting them.

Still, Noah seemed at ease with the whole situation. It didn't matter how powerful his opponents were. He wouldn't retreat as long as he had a chance to win.

"Do you think that there are others of them?" Harold asked as he calmed himself down.

"There must be," Noah sighed. "Heaven and Earth have maintained control over the Immortal Lands even after many experts reached the ninth rank. I expect them to have a few immortal armies."

Noah's thoughts went on the cities inside the sky, but he didn't reveal their existence to Harold. It was better to keep a few secrets, especially when it came to an expert he couldn't trust.

Harold went silent. He lowered his eyes as countless thoughts ran through his mind.

The expert had to admit that joining Heaven and Earth's faction sounded like the only reasonable option. They could grant immortality. That alone would be enough to make many organizations lose their will to fight.

His force knew a lot about Heaven and Earth, but Harold had consistently failed to understand how powerful they were. Otto's battle had made him realize how influential they could be, and the situation appeared doomed for those who wanted to oppose them.

"Thinking about switching sides?" Noah asked while giving voice to a laugh.

Harold quickly raised his eyes, but a tinge of surprise appeared on his face when he noticed that Noah wasn't mad. He seemed pretty relaxed, as if he didn't care about that topic at all.

"How can you be so at ease?" Harold asked. "Heaven and Earth can resurrect cultivators, and we are walking inside their world! No one can win this fight. The cultivation journey has always been rigged!"

"Every system has flaws," Noah said while digging his way back to the surface. "Perfection doesn't exist in this world. There is always something that you can exploit, a path that can lead you to victory. It's only about how hard it is to walk through it."

"Did you find the path to defeat Heaven and Earth?" Harold asked while following Noah.

Harold wanted to ask more questions, but the sight of the outside world left him speechless. He couldn't find the light of the sky anywhere. The entire area was dark, and only the azure light of the ground illuminated the environment.

The expert found himself unable to move his eyes from the black sky. It was theoretically impossible to obtain such a strange scenery in the Immortal Lands, but Harold couldn't reject his senses. Noah had defeated Heaven and Earth's light, even if only in a small area.

"Maybe," Noah answered while glancing at the sky, and a huge figure soon landed next to him.

Night had come back as the winner of the fight.

Chapter 1667 - 1667. Taunt

The large patch of black sky and the sight of the Pterodactyl reassured Noah. Night had done it. The creature had defeated Heaven and Earth's cultivator, and it had brought a tinge of darkness into the world.

Harold didn't know how to express himself. The night was filling his vision. He had never seen a world so dark, but the scene was too captivating to divert his eyes.

Instead, Noah watched that scene with a tinge of melancholy. His eyes saw the blackness, but that only depicted a small victory. He aimed to destroy the very essence of the whiteness, so he couldn't feel satisfied with the small achievement.

Still, Noah patted Night's strange body. The creature's cultivation level fell, but it remained inside the middle tier. The Pterodactyl had advanced due to Noah's potential, but its power couldn't stay at the peak of the middle tier. It fell at the bottom of the level until it stabilized.

Night didn't mind that. It knew that its power came from Noah's ambition, so it accepted the decrease in cultivation level. It even remained with its head raised toward the sky while it watched the area remaining dark.

'The Demonic Sword will advance with me,' Noah thought while summarizing the state of his companions. 'Snore still needs a bit, but Duanlong should be close. I need more energy. This world must grant me enough to improve my companions.'

Two of his companions had reached the middle tier. The parasite was an exception since it depended on Noah's power, but Night and the others followed a normal cultivation journey.

Night had taken Noah's potential to reach the middle tier and settle at that level. The process was necessary to defeat the light, and Noah didn't regret using his law for that empowerment.

It didn't matter how Noah used his law. He was already stronger than any gaseous stage hybrid and cultivator. His ambition could provide potential whenever he wanted.

"This is only the second lake," Noah exclaimed at some point. "We have far more to explore."

"Do you plan to destroy every settlement that follows Heaven and Earth?" Harold asked, but his voice carried doubts.

Harold didn't know where he belonged. He wanted to join Heaven and Earth due to the immortality related to that action, but he had also seen Noah's power.

The dark sky was a scene that very few experts recalled. It was almost impossible to fill the Immortal Lands with that blackness, but Noah had succeeded in the task.

Moreover, Noah didn't use any trick. The blackness in the sky came from the pure absence of whiteness. Night had ensured that Heaven and Earth couldn't reach that environment anytime soon, and Harold could only respect that feature.

"You are free," Noah eventually sighed while withdrawing the sword-shaped energy from Harold's body. "I don't care about your intentions. Just go if you want to remain within Heaven and Earth's system."

Harold didn't know how to answer that. He had almost made up his mind about being a slave, but Noah had suddenly freed him.

"Why?" Harold asked.

He couldn't utter any other word. Harold was speechless. Noah had done far more than any other leader. He had given total freedom to his underling, even if he knew that his action could lead to crises.

"It's pointless to have puppets," Noah explained without moving his eyes from the sky. "You are yourself. Do what you want and join my organization when you feel like it. I don't even mind if you turn me to the others. You can put the whole world against me as long as you force my existence to evolve."

Harold had no idea how to express himself. Conflicting feelings filled his mind. Part of him wanted to see where Noah's path led, but other instincts only d.e.s.i.r.ed to obey Heaven and Earth.

The conflict in his mind ended up in a draw. Harold couldn't decide which faction to support, so he followed his instincts. It only took an instant before he found himself filling cups of wine on the crumbled surface.

"I shall drink one to you, Noah Balvan," Harold exclaimed while raising his cup. "I want to oppose you, but you have given me experiences that my family couldn't offer. I wish our situation were different."

Noah glanced toward Harold before taking one of the cups. The wine couldn't do anything to his mental sphere, but Noah still hoped that the exchange could lead to something interesting.

Still, Noah felt disappointed to discover that nothing came in his direction. Heaven and Earth's energy dispersed in the air and returned as part of the world. They didn't care that Noah had won against Otto.

"How was it?" Noah asked while turning toward the Pterodactyl.

"I feel complete," Night replied. "I can destroy everything as long as it's light. My hatred runs too deeply to know when to stop."

Noah didn't know how to feel at that exclamation. His thoughts went in far different fields. He wanted to know how possible it was to transform his existence while being a rank 8 living hybrid.

The answer was obviously unclear. Noah knew far too well how dangerous it was to affect his existence. His very law and path depended on that, but he still wanted to change it.

"Let's move," Noah eventually ordered, and the duo left.

Harold decided to explore cracks, but he didn't find anything. The other side couldn't offer much in its destroyed state, and Noah knew that far too well to waste time.

Noah watched as Harold made up his mind and followed him. Noah didn't know what to say to his new underling, especially when it came to inspiring him. Still, he decided to be himself and let his existence flow into Harold.

"Let's make a mess," Noah exclaimed while shooting forward.

He had nothing else to offer. Noah was chaos that Heaven and Earth had to fix, and he intended to remain like that. His existence also spread, and the world couldn't do anything about that. Night had already created a black area where living beings could experience life without light.

"The sky here is clear," Noah announced, "But there are far more places in the world with whiteness. Let's cover the sky with darkness until something big comes in our way. Actually, let's do that in a few years."

"Are you serious?" Harold asked. "Why would you even test Heaven and Earth?"

"Challenges lead to improvements," Noah explained. "Also, I have something in mind already. I expect the world to give me a punishment once I complete my new project."

"How can you be so sure of that?" Harold asked.

"Heaven and Earth must be fair, even in their unfairness," Noah continued. "They can give you unsurmountable challenges, but they must give you enough time to prepare for that punishment. You see them as powerful existences, but they are nothing more than broken rulers in my mind."

Harold understood Noah's speech. It was crazy, and it had countless flaws that only experts in Heaven and Earth's system could accept. Yet, he made sense, and it also managed to inspire Harold.

Noah had seen an immortal liquid stage cultivator, but he had found a way out of that situation. The world had even suffered from his offensive. It was as if the higher plane had confirmed that Noah was right about his ideas, and Harold could only choose to follow him for the time being.

Chapter 1668 - 1668. Hurry

Harold followed Noah without giving voice to complaints. The expert had recognized Noah's worth, so he was willing to see where his existence led.

Noah didn't have anything set in mind. He was only following the map toward the next floating lake. Everything else depended on what he found in his destination.

The duo flew for years until they reached their third destination. They avoided Devils and sharks as usual, but the scenery they found once they found their target left them disappointed.

Noah and Harold found a floating lake, but its structure had crumbled. The inscriptions and water were in pieces. It was clear that something or someone had attacked those defenses and had won the battle.

The duo still inspected the insides of the broken structure, but they didn't find anything interesting. The assailants had even destroyed the experts' space-rings during the attack. The place was empty.

"Let's go," Noah ordered after confirming that the broken floating lake was empty.

Harold could only oblige with his orders. He still imagined himself as a slave, but part of him felt glad that Noah was in charge of that mission.

Noah was clearly trying to create a plan against Heaven and Earth, and his recent victories made him the perfect existence for the task. Harold had seen a dark sky for the first time in eras thanks to him, and he wouldn't forget that scene.

The duo continued to fly. Noah had to take his usual breaks from time to time since he had long since abandoned any form of protection against the white sky. His mind was under constant pressure, but he had eventually become used to that pain.

Still, he needed to dispel the accumulated stress every few years. Noah's mind didn't really need that treatment, but it only benefitted the center of power in the end. Investing a few years in that process wasn't an issue for rank 8 existences.

The breaks gave Noah and Harold time to focus on their projects. Noah was unaware of his underling's intentions, but he had too many experiments to complete. He didn't have the time to mind an expert that he had already defeated.

Noah moved his main project toward the next stage even if his experiments didn't give promising results. Heaven and Earth were too powerful to care about his safety. Noah felt the need to transform his existence, so he didn't hesitate to test the chaotic laws with his existence.

Of course, the tests happened in a safe environment. Noah didn't use King Elbas' pellets anymore. He let his ambition fill part of the dark world before releasing the Devils' aura and studying its effects.

It was hard to force such chaotic energy to follow a precise path. Noah failed even when it came to simple purposes that didn't match his existence. He needed something far more influential to force that power to follow his desires, but he could only test different combinations of laws for the time being.

Noah tried his various features, but he always obtained random transformations. He even decided to fight a pack of sharks at some point to study their innate abilities, but he didn't find anything that could tell him how to force the mutations to work for him.

The Devils were pure chaotic beings. They existed to transform laws, and their fuel was the other world's will.

'I've already confirmed that I can't suppress that will,' Noah thought during the travel. 'The other world's will is too massive. My existence can't handle it.'

Noah had felt the other world's will the first time he had interacted with the chaotic laws. He had quickly severed his connection with that power. Still, it seemed that the key to the success of his procedure came from that detail.

Noah didn't feel good about that discovery. He was arrogant, but he knew that he couldn't fight the will generated by an entire plane. His existence was powerful, but there was a limit to how much he could do.

'This feels like a leap of faith,' Noah concluded in his mind.

There was no science behind the procedure. Even King Elbas would find it almost impossible to perform. The power of change came from an entire lower plane, which meant that he had to seize that will before even thinking about using its power.

Noah soon understood that he would approach the final phase of that procedure only when his existence reached a bottleneck or Heaven and Earth became too hard to handle. That decision didn't

leave him disappointed. It actually satisfied him to the point that he decided to reach other foreign forces again.

An intact floating lake soon appeared in their vision. Noah and Harold didn't do anything different from the usual. They approached the structure and stopped once white lines appeared around the uneven azure sphere.

The environment was identical to the previous intact lakes. The inscriptions were part of the world, and the experts could barely sense them.

Noah even prepared his offensive at that sight. He firmly suspected that the lake would contain Heaven and Earth's followers, and he didn't want to fight experts at Otto's level again. He wanted to go for a clean kill, which meant drawing the cursed sword if necessary.

"Castor, Rebecca, and Melissa have sent us to gather experts for a great army," Noah shouted while remaining at the edges of the inscriptions. "I don't want to fight. An envoy should be enough to settle this matter."

Noah had been honest, but the experts living inside the floating lake took his announcement far more seriously.

A tunnel appeared among the floating lake, and four experts came out of it. They were all rank 8 cultivators in the liquid stage, but their power seemed to linger near the might of the upper tier.

"I have never seen you around," One of the three women exclaimed.

"I haven't been around for long," Noah replied while ignoring the expert.

Noah had no intention to indulge in those trivial conversations. He felt too out of place to be among those people. He had a few good friends there, but they were far away, probably exploring other floating lakes.

"Do you follow Heaven and Earth?" Noah promptly asked while placing a hand on one of the leaders' shoulders.

The leader didn't sense the danger generated by Noah's figure. Noah was doing his best to suppress his existence, and the laws of space that he had recently obtained made him able to fake any ill intention that he harbored.

Noah wanted to be ready to deal with the leader immediately, but the expert didn't show any fear. He kept his eyes fixed on Noah, and an unexpected answer came out of his mouth.

"We actually are against Heaven and Earth," The man among the leaders said.

Noah didn't know if he could trust them, but his senses told him that he couldn't be paranoid. It would take a long conversation to unravel their real intentions, and he wasn't in a hurry to return.

Chapter 1669 - 1669. Paranoia

The announcement of the four leaders made Noah hesitate. He accepted their hospitality and followed them inside on the buildings meant to accommodate powerful experts.

Harold was with Noah the whole time, but the expert managed to remain calm even when the duo entered the lair of potential enemies.

In theory, it was better to attack before asking questions. Gaining the upper hand over those natives would grant Noah and Harold the chance to understand their real intentions. Moreover, it would also put them in a favorable position since they wouldn't be in the middle of multiple defensive arrays.

"Why were you so keen on asking if we belonged to Heaven and Earth's system?" The man, Delbert, asked while pouring strong wine and offering cups to Noah and Harold.

Noah still felt that he could be slightly overbearing due to his new movement technique, but it would be hard to discern the leaders' true intentions anyway.

He couldn't help but feel paranoid. Heaven and Earth were too powerful and influential. Everything could belong to a scheme meant to get rid of existences who opposed their system.

"Because I kill Heaven and Earth's followers," Noah replied while studying the leaders' reactions.

Delbert gave voice to a faint laugh. One of the women, Delia, imitated him, while the other two widened their eyes. The two experts felt surprised that a gaseous stage existence could be so brazen about such a tricky topic.

"Does this mean that you would have attacked us if our answer were different?" Iris, one of the women, asked.

"Of course," Noah laughed. "I would have destroyed the entire lake and all its inhabitants. I plan to make this side of the Immortal Lands escape Heaven and Earth's system."

"How can you even talk like this when your power barely meets the requirements to affect this world?" Moira, the last leader, asked.

"I'll gladly show you if you don't mind," Noah said in a cold tone. "I need more followers anyway. I still can't make the whole world fall on my own."

Harold coughed when he heard about Noah's organization. He was free now, but he had tested Noah's recruitment methods first-hand, and the process was far from pleasant.

"What makes you think that you can barge into our home and act all bossy?" Moira snorted.

"This is a prison," Noah growled, "Not a home."

The growl alerted the four leaders about Noah's species. He had done that on purpose to gain more value in their eyes and test their reactions once again.

The leaders appeared surprised but in a pleasant way. The fact that Noah was a hybrid didn't scare them away nor trigger ill intentions. A tinge of respect even appeared in their eyes.

After all, Noah wasn't only a gaseous stage cultivator anymore. His hybrid status gave more value to his body, which granted him liquid stage battle prowess since it was in the middle tier.

The four leaders glanced at Harold, but the expert shook his head. He was a normal human, and that short gesture was enough to remove their doubts.

"A prison is better than the outside world," Moira eventually continued. "Heaven and Earth have messed up big time during the absorption of the other plane. They have doomed most of the population of the Immortal Lands."

"The other side is still thriving," Noah added, "But I don't understand how this information failed to surprise you. How can you know that Heaven and Earth have sent reinforcements if you aren't their followers?"

Noah had mentioned that information twice already, but the leaders didn't react at all. He could let it pass the first time, but he understood that something was up now.

"Why would we reveal our secrets to strangers?" Moira laughed. "You are right. We are aware that Heaven and Earth have asked for reinforcements, and it was clear that you weren't from here. Still, we won't reveal anything to potential enemies."

Noah could finally understand what was happening. He felt almost sure that the four leaders weren't Heaven and Earth's followers after studying their reactions, but that led to an obvious issue.

The leaders shared his paranoia. They couldn't understand if Noah and Harold were spies sent by Heaven and Earth to remove them from the floating lake.

It was hard to confirm anything when they had Heaven and Earth as opponents. Everything could be a trick, and both sides hesitated to trust each other.

Silence fell among the group. Noah and the others limited themselves to take sips from their cups while they let their mind study the issue. They couldn't find a solution right away, but Noah eventually had an idea that could work.

"Heaven and Earth's followers can express their previous existence, even if in a weaker form," Noah explained. "We should just fight and see if our laws are up to our cultivation level."

"Do you really want to fight us?" Moira asked. "We might be in the liquid stage, but our battle prowess is almost about to touch the higher level. Don't underestimate our laws."

"Don't underestimate me," Noah replied coldly, and silence followed his words.

Noah's idea made sense, but the leaders didn't know if it were part of a trap. They were still wary of Heaven and Earth's tactics, so they didn't want to reveal anything to those guests.

However, they wouldn't accomplish anything if they remained still. Noah had given an option at least, and the conditions were in the leaders' favor. After all, the fight would happen inside the floating lake under their control.

The leaders exchanged a series of mental messages before reaching a conclusion. A curious expression appeared on Moira's face before she explained what they had decided.

"I will fight you," Moira announced. "I must warn you. I won't hold back, and my allies will activate the defenses as soon as they sense something tricky. You should reconsider your position if you have something to hide."

"I should say the same to you," Noah smiled. "Don't let me touch you."

His battle intent seeped through his words, and a chill ran down Delbert's spine. He had let Noah touch his shoulder during the initial meeting. That short exchange could have been fatal to him.

The leaders led Noah and Harold into an isolated area of the floating lake. The duo couldn't see any cultivator on their path since Moira and the others had cleared the way beforehand.

Noah and Harold couldn't understand the actual power of that force since the leaders kept hiding their underlings. Yet, Noah believed that everything would improve once both sides proved that they didn't belong to Heaven and Earth.

A large training area soon unfolded in their vision. Walls made of a sturdy black metal that seemed able to absorb "Breath" covered the whole hall and created the perfect battlefield for experts that didn't want to go all-out.

"We don't have this metal on the other side of the Immortal Lands," Noah said while studying the walls.

"It's quite useful when you want to contain "Breath" or specific dangerous existences," Moira explained. "We managed to contain a Devil for some time with this metal."

"Some time?" Noah asked.

"The Devil eventually transformed the metal," Moira sighed. "We lost many valuable cultivators on that day."

Chapter 1670 - 1670. Name

Noah and Moira went on opposite sides of the training area. Harold and the other leaders remained on the sidelines, near the black walls, but they still activated defensive spells to prepare for the imminent exchanges.

"Do what you want," Moira shouted. "I won't be the first to attack against a gaseous stage existence."

'How much should I hide?' Noah wondered before waving his hand.

A torrent of slashes came out of his fingers. Still, the attacks transformed into singularities while they flew toward their target. Noah's sharpness also intensified and filled the training area, creating an environment where his blows could reach their peak.

The singularities surprised the leaders. Noah's slashes were peculiar attacks that featured a strange structure. They seemed empty, but they contained Noah's broad law.

The leaders felt strange at that sight. They could sense that Noah's law didn't only contain sharpness. It featured multiple details that they couldn't understand during that short exchange.

The fact that Noah had reached the eighth rank even if his law were so complex spoke for his talent. Everyone knew how arduous the cultivation journey was, so Noah immediately became a genius in their eyes.

Moira had to deploy a defensive spell to block the singularities. She snapped her fingers, and a series of sparks appeared in front of the attacks. She seemed able to generate them directly in front of the slashes, and a loud explosion followed the impact.

The sparks stopped the singularities before dispersing into the training area. The black metal absorbed the energy that flowed toward them, and peace returned on the battlefield.

"You definitely are worthy of the gaseous stage," Moira commented. "However, I don't see how you hoped to defeat all of us with this little power. We are leagues above you."

'She sure likes to taunt,' Noah sighed in his mind before crouching forward.

His figure suddenly disappeared. Noah didn't deploy his new movement technique. The sheer power discharged by his legs had been enough to make him disappear from the experts' senses.

Noah's figure reappeared above Moira. He slashed his leg downward and launched a straight singularity that fell toward his opponent.

Moira had managed to sense Noah after he stopped to attack. She promptly snapped her fingers, and sparks gathered in front of the singularity to stop its descent.

The slash and the sparks dispersed, but Noah moved in front of Moira during the clash. His hands took the shape of swords while he thrust them forward.

That was a finishing move. Noah only needed to touch Moira to destroy her figure. However, a crackling noise suddenly filled the training area. His hands had clashed with a series of sparks that floated in front of his opponent.

The sparks ravaged his skin and opened long cracks on his fingers, but his hands remained mostly intact. Noah didn't even retract them. He used his physical strength to push them deeper into the crackling defensive array in an attempt to reach his opponent.

The sheer strength contained in Noah's body left Moira speechless. She had fought many middle tier magical beasts throughout her life, but none of them featured such sturdy skin.

Her cultivation level fueled that defensive spell. Her sparks were techniques with power in the liquid stage. In theory, they had to blow away Noah's arms at that distance.

Yet, Noah's limbs remained intact. He was even succeeding in pushing them deeper into the crackling array. His physical strength and resilience didn't seem to belong to the middle tier at all!

"That's as far as you'll go," Moira snorted as the sparks that protected her grew unstable.

The crackling noise intensified until a massive wave of energy exploded outward and engulfed Noah. He found himself back on the other side of the training hall when his vision recovered, and a series of cracks now covered his whole body.

"I hope you don't mind my previous attack," Moira politely explained. "I knew that you would be able to endure it."

Noah scratched the side of his head before pointing at her cheek. Moira's attention suddenly went on that spot. A cut had opened on her face, and a few drops of blood were flowing out of it.

"I hope you don't mind that I've decided to hold back until you take me seriously," Noah shrugged his shoulders. "I could have taken your head before. It's simply too easy when my opponents underestimate me."

Three different auras surged forward. The leaders on the sidelines immediately deployed their laws when they saw that Noah could actually kill their companion, but Moira waved her hand to make them stop.

"Don't dishonor me like this!" Moira shouted to her companions. "This is my fault. I didn't think that he could be so strong."

The three leaders shot hateful glances toward Noah before retracting their auras. The latter laughed at that gesture, but a cold expression soon appeared on his face.

Moira wasn't weak, but she didn't use even a quarter of her power during those exchanges. She didn't feel the need to rely on all her abilities against an expert in the gaseous stage.

It didn't even matter that Noah was a hybrid. Moira was ready for his physical attacks. Yet, she had to rethink her whole strategy after Noah showed that he wasn't a normal expert.

Moira glanced toward Harold before focusing on Noah again. The expert didn't try to do anything when the other leaders released their auras. Harold had no intention to help Noah, and she saw that as proof of his power.

Of course, she couldn't know that Harold still had doubts about Noah and his organization. He would probably help him in specific situations, but the fight with the leaders wasn't something that concerned him.

The misunderstanding made Moira take the matter more seriously. Her consciousness expanded and covered the entire training hall. Her dense mental waves enveloped Noah, but they couldn't go past his skin.

"What do you even hope to find?" Noah asked while stretching his fingers to taunt his opponent.

"I want to know how much of your existence you are holding back," Moira replied.

"You can find it out if you are as strong as you promised," Noah added.

His last reply put an end to the time for words. Moira's consciousness grew unstable before a series of sparks appeared above Noah's skin. The attack discharged lightning bolts before he could even think about dodging the attack.

Moira wasn't holding back now. The lightning bolts pierced Noah's skin and tried to dig inside his body. Yet, the black hole promptly filled his insides with dark matter and stopped that foreign energy.

The parasite also helped in the matter. Its roots attacked the lightning bolts that fought against the dark matter and absorbed their power. The magical plant wouldn't let go of the chance to obtain free energy.

Moira felt surprised once again. She couldn't understand what Noah had done, but she knew that his insides contained powerful defenses. He could get rid of some of her strongest attacks at ease.

"I'm inclined to think that you don't belong to Heaven and Earth's system," Moira announced.

"How so?" Noah asked while inspecting his injuries.

"You are far too strong for your level," Moira explained. "Heaven and Earth would never let someone like you roam freely through their world."

"Right, the speech about Heaven and Earth's fairness," Noah replied as the unstable substance flowed inside his black vessels and filled his body with power. "I think they will invent a new name for that once I reach the ninth rank."