

DEMONIC 1701

Chapter 1701 - 1701. Chance

The sudden event shocked the trio. Noah and the others were returning to their army, but a rank 9 magical beast had flown relatively near them.

The lion didn't move, but the team's instincts only felt danger at that sight. The creature had yet to awake, but the trio couldn't understand how injured it was.

Noah, the Foolery, and Wilfred were hybrids. Having rank 9 materials in their reach was the greatest temptation of their life. The lion's condition also seemed quite awful, so they wouldn't get another chance to obtain such a powerful body anytime soon.

Still, the three hybrids weren't stupid. They knew how dangerous magical beasts could be, especially when it came to one in the ninth rank. Even their joint efforts might not allow them to defeat the injured creature. Actually, their instincts were telling them that they had no chance to win.

Countless thoughts ran through Noah's mind. He considered every possible path and approach, but he couldn't come up with much in that situation. He didn't have many options when it came to rank 9 existences.

The area began to melt as the creature's mane fused with the world. The shining glow radiated from its figure was too much for the Immortal Lands. The already fragile laws of the area couldn't withstand the lion's pressure, and everything worsened when it started to struggle to stand up.

Noah could immediately understand that his time was running out. The magical beast didn't seem to care about them, but he didn't want to let go of that chance.

Talking was out of the question. The lion's pack was still fighting against the human platoon, and the creature had just suffered a massive blow. Trying to establish a conversation with such an angry and hurried magical beast was purely suicidal.

Running away was the sanest option, but it would bring Noah back to square one. He would lose his chance to gain an advantage in the incoming task, and he desperately wanted to improve his situation.

Noah had to activate the Demonic Deduction technique to find something that could work in that situation.

In theory, the lions weren't much different from the sharks. Their mutation seemed to have fewer flaws, but they were nothing more than magical beasts affected by the chaotic laws.

The lions appeared able to affect the world's laws slightly, but they lacked the Devils' overwhelming influence. They had developed a resistance to Heaven and Earth, but they weren't perfect enemies.

The creature did its best to stand up, and Noah didn't hesitate to condense a massive amount of darkness in his hand. He then grabbed his two companions and threw them backward before launching his mass of energy toward the lion.

Noah's actions had been too sudden. Wilfred and the Foolery found themselves flying backward toward their army in the distance. Meanwhile, the mass of darkness reached the lion and fused with its body.

The lion promptly turned its head toward the source of the attack. A shockwave spread through the area due to that violent movement. A large patch of the ground shattered in the process. However, the creature couldn't see anyone behind it. It could only sense three presences that were running away in the distance.

The creature couldn't bother to chase those weak existences while its pack was busy dealing with a threatening opponent. The lion leapt forward after it straightened its position, and its figure disappeared in a white flash.

Noah came out of the Shadow Domain when he saw that the lion had ignored him. His instincts were fighting inside his mind, but a satisfied smile appeared on his face nonetheless.

Wilfred and the Foolery eventually reached Noah, and their confused expressions spoke for them. They couldn't understand what had happened, especially since the attack didn't seem to affect the lion at all.

"You can't possibly hope to fight a rank 9 existence," Wilfred shouted.

"Fighting them is impossible," Noah revealed in a cold tone. "I've only given the lions a weapon that could turn the scales of the battle. I bet that Heaven and Earth wouldn't expect me to be so selfless."

"What have you done?" Wilfred asked as his gaze went on the battlefield.

"Nothing much," Noah laughed when he saw a faint dark halo appearing among the whiteness of the battlefield. "The lions didn't have the power to mutate the environment. Now they have it."

Wilfred still struggled to believe in Noah's words, but he couldn't deny the event that followed his statement. A lump of blackness had appeared among the whiteness and continued to expand.

The Demonic Deduction technique had told Noah that winning against a rank 9 magical beast was impossible. It didn't matter how injured it was. Yet, Noah's true opponents were Heaven and Earth, and his influence could counter them.

Noah had done nothing more than giving a lump of his darkness to the lion. The creature had to understand how to use that power, but Noah believed in that rank 9 existence. It would make sense for the lion to develop a quick ability that relied on that power.

The darkness wouldn't trigger any transformation either, but it could add something to the lions' offensive, especially if it spread.

Noah's guess turned out to be correct since the black patch among that whiteness intensified. Noah would never be able to do something similar at his current level, but the rank 9 magical beast was using his energy carefully.

"We must regroup now," Noah ordered. "My energy won't last for long. We have to exploit this moment when the human troops are suffering from the lions' new ability."

Wilfred and the Foolery immediately went silent and began to fly at full speed back to the army. It would take them a few months to regroup with everyone, but Noah believed that the lions were smart enough to preserve his energy.

The quick return of the trio alerted the army, but King Elbas and the others soon calmed everyone down. However, a series of shocking words followed Noah's arrival.

"The mission starts now," Noah shouted as roars mixed with his human voice. "I've managed to taint one of the rank 9 leaders on the magical beasts' side. I don't know for how long it will manage to use my energy."

"Are you crazy?" Moira complained. "What if they develop abilities similar to your law?"

"I don't care as long as it hurts Heaven and Earth," Noah coldly replied.

His glance quickly fell on King Elbas, who promptly nodded. The trio had traveled for years, so he already had a working prototype ready for the mission.

Robert, Harold, Luke, Divine Demon, and Fergie abandoned their projects and gathered around Noah. They were ready to leave, but Moira and her army hesitated.

"This is too sudden," Moira complained. "We aren't ready. You don't even have a proper plan. Do you expect us to follow you into that battlefield only because you managed to taint a lion with your energy?"

"I don't expect anything," Noah replied, "But I know what happens when I order weaklings around."

Noah roared toward the sky, and his pride intensified. Waves of his consciousness spread through the army and seeped into the experts' minds. Noah's call was oppressive and captivating at the same time, and most of the weaker troops couldn't resist it.

Moira saw most of her army breaking their ranks and gathering around Noah. They had fallen prey to his ability to control weaker existences, which left only liquid stage cultivators among her group.

"Are they enough?" Noah asked while turning toward King Elbas.

"More than enough," King Elbas announced. "Many of them will die, but we should still be able to reach the intended amount of power."

"We leave now then," Noah ordered while turning and shooting toward the white battlefield.

Noah didn't plan to enter the battlefield, but it was pointless to take a long path around it, especially since the human side seemed to pay attention to that location.

Moira and the other liquid stage leaders saw most of their entire army following Noah and leaving them behind. The tables had turned for those experts, and a simple exchange of glances made them decide to suppress their hesitation. They would also follow Noah in his crazy plan.

Chapter 1702 - 1702. Enemies

The entirety of the army ended up following Noah. The group counted more than a hundred rank 8 experts and thousands of cultivators in the seventh rank. It was a massive force that even the strongest organizations couldn't match, especially due to the powerful leaders in charge.

Still, even that massive army was nothing compared to the forces battling among the shining regions. A single rank 9 existence could lay waste to Noah's group, and the shining battlefield had three of them.

"Follow me!" Noah roared. "Don't approach the battlefield. Go around it. Ignore the external pressure. Strive forward without hesitating."

Noah roared orders that both humans and hybrids could understand. Moira and the other liquid stage cultivators could translate the meaning behind his cries without external help, and the pride that surrounded the army quickly intensified.

Everyone knew how crazy that plan was, but Noah's ambition reassured them. It didn't only improve their morale. Everything felt possible with Noah as a leader.

The experts' aura came out on their own. They fused with Noah's ambition and began to gain features that only Devils could have. That was only a temporary transformation, but it still surprised the various cultivators paying attention to the scene.

Noah saw that ability as proof that the leadership features of his law had intensified. He could immediately connect them to his improved pride, but he didn't linger on those thoughts in that situation.

A faint idea had appeared in his mind. Noah had technically evolved past the immense anger carried by the other world's will. He had absorbed that power and developed the ability to spread it. He could consider himself as the heir of one of Heaven and Earth's greatest enemies.

A faint pressure eventually landed on his mind. The experts inside the battlefield had noticed that his army was moving toward the dimensional tunnel. Still, they didn't do anything to stop them.

'When will they act?' Noah wondered while continuing to roar orders.

Noah could understand that the troops from the sky couldn't divert their attention, but the situation didn't make sense anyway.

The army continued to move forward, flying across the regions as it avoided the radiance spread by the battlefield. Noah and the others weren't bothering to transform the world anymore. They had to use every second for their escape.

The black shades among the shining battlefield spread and shrunk. It seemed that the human army had begun to fight back and that only forced Noah's group to hurry.

They spent days, weeks, and months flying without breaks. Their anxiety intensified whenever they saw the black shades shrinking, and that feeling reached its peak once they crossed the battlefield.

The group only had less than a year of travel in front of them at that point. The dimensional tunnel was in one of the peaceful regions past the first floating lake, but they could reach it safely if they put enough distance from the battlefield.

Of course, the situation didn't go as the group hoped. A white flare shot out of the shining battlefield after the army crossed it. The blinding ray of light illuminated the region in front of Noah's team and teleported an entire platoon into the area.

"That's all?" Noah asked when he inspected his opponents.

Noah recognized Althea and many of the cultivators from the other side of the Immortal Lands. A few experts wearing white robes stood next to them, and many weaker troops floated behind them.

"Your arrogance won't help you," Althea announced, but Noah didn't have time to waste in pointless conversations.

Roots and dark matter accumulated in his hands before taking the shape of two blades. The Demonic Sword roared as it appeared in the open, and Noah didn't hesitate to wave it toward the newly arrived army.

Althea's eyes widened at the sight of the immense singularity. Noah's sharp but invisible energy threatened to cover the entire region, but a white figure promptly stepped forward to face the attack.

The singularity began to shrink. Noah's energy had initially covered the entire region, but it began to converge toward the white figure after its arrival. Its sharp power also started to vanish until it eventually disappeared.

'They aren't complete incompetents then,' Noah thought while inspecting his opponent.

The white figure belonged to a woman in the solid stage. She appeared old, but her azure eyes brimmed with life. Her grey hair fluttered in the wind, and her long sleeves hid items that Noah didn't manage to identify.

'She didn't take care of my attack with her law,' Noah concluded after that quick inspection. 'I didn't use the cursed sword, but I didn't sense her aura either.'

"Noah Balvan," The old woman shouted when she sensed his eyes on her figure. "Heaven and Earth have told me a lot about you. To think that such a small ant could cause so many problems."

"I like this!" Noah laughed while stepping toward the enemy army. "I bet that you have this really complicated strategy to defeat me. Come on. Show me what Heaven and Earth have learnt about my power in these millennia."

The experts behind Noah followed him. The enemy army was blocking their path toward the dimensional tunnel, so they remained stuck near the shining battlefield.

Even Moira and the other experts who still had doubts about the mission understood that they had to take care of those opponents. Hesitation and worry couldn't affect that part of the mission.

"I must admit that we didn't expect you to obtain the Devils' power," The old woman said.

"Oh no!" Noah continued to laugh. "I'm one step ahead again. Don't worry. I'm sure you'll get me next time."

"How do you dare to talk to Lady Phyllis like this-," One of the cultivators behind the woman shouted, but Lady Phyllis raised a hand to interrupt him.

"He is trying to taunt us," Lady Phyllis explained. "This demon has no regard for the world or Heaven and Earth. He aims to destroy the entire higher plane to complete his path, and the Devils' power has added another important piece to his journey."

"Give us the order," The man behind her said while most of the platoon bowed and waited for her directives.

"Lord Augustus is busy with the magical beasts," Lady Phyllis explained while shooting a cold glance toward Noah. "It's up to us to take care of this threat and kill the existences tainted by his cursed law. Mind you. Heaven and Earth are watching."

Althea and the cultivators who had come from the other side of the Immortal Lands wore a determined expression. It seemed that the battle would have a significant impact on their life.

"What am I missing?" Noah whispered to an expert behind him.

"This shouldn't be the real plan," Robert explained. "I bet Heaven and Earth are using us to get rid of their weaker troops. The real threat should still be in the dimensional tunnel."

The enemy army featured four solid stage cultivators and many weaker troops. They were theoretically stronger than Noah's team, but his influence would force his opponents to rely on weaker laws.

That put both armies on the same level of power. Noah couldn't see that as a disadvantage since he had nothing to overcome in that situation. It seemed a simple battle between two equal forces.

"Do we just kill them and move ahead?" Noah asked.

"That's our only option," Robert replied.

"Did we ever use a different approach?" King Elbas snorted while joining the conversation.

"Does he always complain?" The Foolery asked.

"Did you just notice that?" Divine Demon commented.

Noah ignored the bickering that had started behind him and shot ahead. He still had doubts, but he only had one way to uncover Heaven and Earth's plan. Something had to happen if he killed every member of the enemy army.

Chapter 1703 - 1703. Counters

"I'll take her," Noah ordered. "You handle the rest. How strong can they be if Heaven and Earth are willing to let us test them?"

Noah used those words to lift the morale of his companions, but he didn't dare to underestimate cultivators who had lived in the cities in the sky. There was something off about their laws, and even their inscribed items escaped his knowledge.

His attention was on Lady Phyllis' sleeves. Noah couldn't see her hands, but his instincts told him that the dangerous aspect of that cultivator was there.

'I should end this soon,' Noah thought as the unstable substance flowed inside his black vessels.

Flames amassed in his mouth, and the roots in his right hand opened to make room for the black handle coming out of his c.h.e.s.t. Noah drew the cursed sword without showing any hesitation, and his blood.l.u.s.t filled the entire region.

The anger inherited from the other world had transformed his bloodl.u.s.t into a wave of violent mental waves. The cultivators in the enemy army could sense Noah's feelings, and a chill instinctively ran down their spine.

"Show no hesitation," Lady Phyllis shouted. "Heaven and Earth are watching. This is the fight of your li-!"

Noah suddenly teleported in front of Lady Phyllis and interrupted her speech. His swords descended toward the expert, but a pulling force promptly came out of her sleeves.

The blades were releasing their usual energy. A curved singularity was shooting out of Noah's weapons and falling on Lady Phyllis. However, the sharpness divided itself and flowed toward her hands.

'It happened again,' Noah commented in his mind, and his cold eyes fell on his opponent's smirk.

The blades landed on Lady Phyllis' head, but a white halo covered her figure and countered Noah's physical strength. His influence managed to pierce that light, but a few metal layers materialized above her head and blocked the attack.

"We have studied you for a long time," Lady Phyllis explained. "We know about your sharpness, your corrosive aura, your companions, your insane physical strength, and your law as a whole. We didn't expect your fusion with the Devils, but that power alone can't lead you to victory."

Noah kicked Lady Phyllis on the c.h.e.s.t, but the halo stopped his leg. Her light resembled a dense membrane capable of absorbing every impact. Yet, it had connections with Heaven and Earth's laws, so Noah could destroy it with his influence.

Ambition seeped through the light and allowed Noah's leg to pierce the halo, but metal layers materialized above Lady Phyllis' skin and blocked the attack.

"Are you done?" Lady Phyllis asked, and Noah replied by engulfing her figure with flames.

The flames burnt the defensive halo, but the light transformed during the attack. It grew denser and darker, and Noah's fire soon found itself unable to affect it anymore.

"We also studied your flames," Lady Phyllis explained. "Fusing two innate abilities and empowering them with your body was smart, but we can still counter it."

Lady Phyllis then raised her arm and pointed it toward Noah's c.h.e.s.t. He tried to peek under her sleeve to understand the nature of her inscribed items, but a wave of sharpness landed on his body and pushed him backward.

The sharp energy resembled Noah's singularity, but it lacked the features usually expressed by his law. The attack was Heaven and Earth's version of Noah's offensive.

The sharpness shattered roots and pierced his robe made of dark matter. It landed on his skin and opened a spiderweb of cracks that spread through his c.h.e.s.t.

Noah could quickly stop his momentum, and a tinge of annoyance appeared in his mind when he saw that Lady Phyllis didn't bother to exploit that chance. She remained still, and her smile never left her face.

'Do her abilities have something to do with her position?' Noah wondered as his reptilian eyes inspected the area.

"It's not a trick," Lady Phyllis explained. "Heaven and Earth have recorded all your abilities. You can grow stronger, but their core will always remain the same."

Noah didn't give up. He raised his blades, but his attention wasn't on those weapons. His mind was expanding through the Shadow Domain, and a series of Instabilities soon materialized inside the expert.

"Miss Void's technique," Lady Phyllis commented. "Quite a threatening ability, but creating new dimensions is part of Heaven and Earth's expertise."

Lady Phyllis opened her robe and cut her c.h.e.s.t open to show the result of Noah's technique. He could see the many spikes piercing out of her organs, but no blood seemed to flow out of those injuries.

The expert took a step forward, and the Instabilities slid through her body without injuring her insides. It was as if they weren't there at all. They didn't even react to Noah's order to detonate.

Noah's mind eventually managed to reach the Instabilities and forced their explosion. Yet, the storms of fuming spikes didn't cover the entire area. They remained inside a circular space that was unable to touch Lady Phyllis.

'She created a separate dimension as soon as I planted the Instabilities in her body,' Noah quickly concluded. 'My disposable weapons have never reached her flesh. They have only ended in a space similar to the Shadow Domain.'

The amount of control required to use such a difficult technique was incredible. Lady Phyllis had opened her separate dimension as soon as the Instabilities were about to reach her flesh.

That told something important to Noah. Lady Phyllis was a solid stage cultivator who had lived in the cities in the sky, but her achievements didn't come from her power.

It was impossible to generate a separate dimension in the exact moment when the Instabilities touched her insides. Even Noah wouldn't be able to pull something similar off.

The technique had to be automatic, and Noah began to think that the same went for her other abilities. It wouldn't make sense otherwise. No solid stage cultivator could predict his moves, not all of them at the same time, at least.

"How many inscribed items do you even have?" Noah asked while inspecting the injuries. "Do they activate as soon as I deploy an ability? I bet you can't even control them."

"It depends on the item," Lady Phyllis laughed. "I bet you can understand your situation now. You have the Devils' power, but I have an endless source of energy and items that will counter all your abilities. You have no chances of winning."

Noah admitted that the situation appeared quite ugly. He didn't have a precise plan there. Lady Phyllis basically had a set of inscribed items ready for all his techniques and spells.

'Is it the same for the dark world?' Noah quickly tested that thought.

His dark matter created a dense black sea that tried to keep Lady Phyllis suppressed. However, a white flare soon shot out of her figure and began to tear holes in the technique.

The flare continued to run through the dark world until Noah decided to disperse his technique. It was pointless to waste energy in that way.

'She should have something similar for my companions,' Noah thought.

Having more abilities actually put Noah at a disadvantage in that situation. He had to throw away his battle style focus everything on the techniques that would most likely succeed.

Noah stored the swords, the roots and suppressed the Demonic Deduction technique. Then, his ambition started to intensify, and his cultivation level suddenly rose.

The enhancement didn't feature his dantian or his mind. It involved only his body, and even Lady Phyllis began to grow wary of Noah's new power.

Chapter 1704 - 1704. Monster

Battles had started everywhere in the area. The experts on Noah's side were in a frenzy to pierce that blockade since the shining battlefield was nearby. Still, everyone noticed the explosion of Noah's ambition.

Many experts stopped fighting to observe the massive power that was flowing out of Noah's figure. Bulging veins appeared on his metallic skin as his ambition forcefully enhanced his body.

Lady Phyllis had many inscribed items meant to counter his abilities. Noah even guessed that they could endure higher levels of power since Heaven and Earth had taken into account his growth.

Wasting his energy to fuel different abilities was inefficient since most of them would still be unable to pierce Lady Phyllis' items. Noah believed that focusing his ambition on a single feature of his power was a better path.

Noah had accumulated a lot of potential during the past years. Living as a Devil and his many victories against solid stage cultivators had unlocked one of the major features of his ambition. He could forcefully boost his cultivation level or specific abilities now, and he opted for his body in that situation.

Lady Phyllis' smile remained wide as Noah's body approached the limits of the middle tier and experienced a breakthrough. His injuries instantly healed among that wave of power, and his muscles bulged as the energy inside them reached levels that he didn't even begin to fathom.

Noah had always known that his body had unreasonable requirements, but he had never once considered the idea of taking an easier path. His superior physical strength, senses, and resilience made the struggle worth it.

The empowerment given by the ambition couldn't replicate the exact breakthrough, but it came very close. Noah's ability to evolve matter had improved after the years as a Devil and the same had gone for the enhancements.

Violent waves of power ran under Noah's skin and filled his body with an immense amount of energy. He had never felt so strong and complete. Every inch of his flesh brimmed with immense power. The whiteness around him even twisted whenever he tightened his fists.

'Let's see if her items can handle this,' Noah thought before tapping on a platform of darkness under him lightly.

The scenery in his eyes immediately changed. Noah couldn't see the army anymore. He had reached areas closer to the dimensional tunnel, but a few patches of blood had appeared on his body.

Noah checked himself, but he couldn't see any injury. The blood didn't belong to him.

Noah turned to understand his situation, and he saw many pairs of eyes staring at him. The enemy army suddenly was behind him, and a tunnel had appeared in its defensive formation.

'Don't tell me that I've flown too fast,' Noah cursed in his mind.

"Don't let him escape!" Lady Phyllis' familiar voice resounded through the sky and made most of the army turn toward Noah. "He is after the dimensional tunnel!"

'I would already be there if I didn't need all those troops,' Noah sighed before taking a deep breath and deciding to test his power again.

A light tap on the platform of darkness under his feet made the scenery change again, but Noah didn't lose track of his surroundings at that time.

Noah reappeared among the enemy army. He had killed a few more experts during the initial charge, but he managed to stop in the middle of the group at that time.

A series of cultivators turned toward him before pointing their inscribed weapons forward. Dozens of rank 8 experts charged toward Noah, but many of them ended up cleaved in half when he waved his hand.

"I am your opponent!" Lady Phyllis shouted as she flew at full speed toward Noah.

"I was only having fun," Noah laughed before filling the area with black flames.

His ambition had brought his body to the upper tier. The unstable substance could enhance its innate features even more, and his flames also benefitted from that growth.

The fire that spread through the enemy army ended up being deadly for countless experts. The rank 7 cultivators couldn't even get near it since its influence could reduce their existence into dust. The same went for many rank 8 experts. Noah had gone full-monster, and they didn't know if anyone could stop him.

"No wonder Heaven and Earth want to kill me so badly," Noah laughed as he left his sea of flames to meet Lady Phyllis. "Look at this power. This isn't even the peak of the tier, but I bet that no magical beast in the eighth rank can match me."

"You aren't fighting a magical beast," Lady Phyllis replied in a cold tone, but a shadow suddenly appeared in front of her.

Her white halo promptly unfolded, but an immense force shattered a large chunk of its external area. Lady Phyllis also shot backward, but the shadow reappeared behind her and kicked her toward the ground.

Lady Phyllis barely had the time to adapt to the change in the environment. She crashed on the ground, and the shadow reappeared. Countless impacts resounded on her defenses, and they kept pushing her deeper into the terrain.

"Stop already!" Lady Phyllis shouted as metal knights materialized around her.

The knights were massive four meters tall creatures that tried to pull her out of that situation, but their upper bodies exploded in an instant. The impacts on her white defense didn't even slow down. Noah wasn't giving her time to breathe.

Lady Phyllis quickly reopened her c.h.e.s.t, and blood came out of it while metal materialized among the white defense. A series of needles eventually appeared and shot toward the shadow suppressing her with his b.a.r.e hands.

The needles seemed to have some piercing effect. The relentless offensive finally stopped and allowed Lady Phyllis to gain a clear sight of Noah. Those weapons had managed to stab his skin, but they didn't go too deep.

"I'm surprised that you can hurt me with your weaker law," Noah commented. "Why would Heaven and Earth even put you through a skimming process?"

"There is no process," Lady Phyllis snorted. "You are food for Heaven and Earth. Your existence will greatly benefit them."

Noah held back his fists. Lady Phyllis' revelation had been quite shocking. He had always believed that Heaven and Earth wanted to kill him, not absorb him. That could give more insights into the rulers' existence.

Lady Phyllis widened her eyes when she saw Noah's curious expression. She immediately understood that she had said too much, but determination soon appeared in her eyes.

Her revelation wouldn't be a mistake if she defeated Noah. No one else had to know about that feature.

Metal began to materialize inside Lady Phyllis and fuse with her body. Her organs, blood, and tissues gained darker shades as her size increased.

"You must die to become Heaven and Earth's food," Lady Phyllis whispered as she tried to stand up.

Noah wouldn't let her do as she pleased. His offensive resumed and pushed her back on the ground. He even added slashes launched by his fingers and flames to his relentless attacks.

Lady Phyllis couldn't stand up, but she didn't stop her technique. The white halo was still protecting her, so she could use that time to deploy her ability and complete the transformation.

Her tissues continued to change color and nature while Noah did his best to pierce the white halo. Heaven and Earth had created a flexible and powerful defense that even his enhanced physical strength couldn't overcome in a short time. However, he could rely on his destruction.

Lady Phyllis continued to smile as she slowly transformed into a smooth humanoid dark-grey figure. A tinge of fear appeared in her mind when she noticed the scarlet light coming from behind Noah's eyes, but she didn't care about that now that her technique was complete.

The expert tried to stand up again. Her physical might and resilience had reached incredible levels after completing the transformation, but a series of cracks suddenly appeared on the white defense.

The halo fell apart. Lady Phyllis raised her arms to defend herself, but fingers quickly stabbed her body and ripped entire chunks of her metal skin apart. A few organs even flew away after Noah managed to dig his way deeper into her c.h.e.s.t.

Chapter 1705 - 1705. Drawbacks

Nothing could stop Noah. The sheer power contained in his body already made him able to match spells. The unstable substance was almost too much in that situation.

Lady Phyllis could only summon weaker laws against Noah. Her metal body didn't express her true power, and her opponent made sure to remind her about that.

Noah was relentless. His hands dug through Lady Phyllis' c.h.e.s.t and ripped away flesh, organs, and bones. It didn't take him much to reach the other side of her body and create a large hole.

Heaven and Earth's light began to shine on her figure, but Noah promptly deployed the dark world to isolate his opponent. However, a series of detonations happened above Lady Phyllis' skin whenever the dark matter tried to envelop her.

Noah found himself unable to stop Heaven and Earth. Lady Phyllis' figure began to shine, and entire pieces of her insides reformed under his gaze.

'I can't cut her connection with Heaven and Earth,' Noah quickly concluded in his mind.

Noah had already confirmed the efficiency of Lady Phyllis' items. They could counter his entire arsenal except for the chaotic laws. His physical strength was managing to overwhelm her only because Heaven and Earth couldn't predict such a sharp increase of power.

Killing Lady Phyllis would be impossible if Noah couldn't sever her connection with Heaven and Earth. The light would continue to heal her until the effects of his ambition ran out.

"Where did you hide your items?" Noah asked as a cold smirk appeared on his face.

Violent thoughts were filling his mind. Noah could think of countless ways to kill the expert, and the quickest method saw him removing the items that stopped his other abilities.

"A single existence can't win against the might of the world!" Lady Phyllis shouted as she clenched her hand on Noah's arm.

A cold sensation spread through Noah's skin. A dark patch came out of Lady Phyllis' hand and tried to cover his arm. However, the sheer power contained in his flesh suppressed that ability and prevented its expansion.

"How?" Lady Phyllis asked, but her face suddenly dug the ground as Noah punched her again.

Lady Phyllis had tried to activate a spell that required physical contact. In theory, that was one of the strongest abilities in her arsenal. She could fill her opponents with her metal and drain them of their energy once she established a stable connection.

Yet, Noah's skin appeared impenetrable. Her influence couldn't spread through his flesh. She couldn't hurt his body with her weaker law, and a sense of powerlessness ended up filling her mind.

Noah didn't stop his offensive. Light continued to fall on his opponent and heal her injuries, but his punches fell nonetheless. He had to search the annoying inscribed items among that mass of metal, and he was ready to rip Lady Phyllis apart to find them.

'She absorbed my singularities with her hands,' Noah thought, and his fingers arched to pierce the expert's shoulders.

Pieces of flesh and bones flew through the hole as Noah ripped Lady Phyllis' shoulders apart and severed her arms. Snore's face then appeared on his c.h.e.s.t and ate those limbs before returning inside the black hole.

Noah used his fingers to perform a slash, and a singularity fell on Lady Phyllis without any obstruction. The pulling force didn't appear at that time. It seemed that he had successfully taken care of the inscribed items in charge of that ability.

Noah added his slashes to his offensive after that discovery. The singularities could express more power since they also used his darkness, so his destruction quickened.

Still, something changed when Heaven and Earth managed to regrow Lady Phyllis' arms. Noah launched a singularity only to find out that the pulling force had reappeared.

'They can also rebuild the inscribed items,' Noah quickly concluded before ripping Lady Phyllis' arms again.

Noah had a plan. It was a bloody tactic, but it was better than throwing punches blindly until his ambition ran out.

Heaven and Earth could heal Lady Phyllis and rebuild her items. Noah couldn't sever her connection with the rulers in that condition, but he could continue to rip her apart until he found the weapon that handled the dark world.

Everything would be easier at that point. Noah would become able to search the other items without worrying about Heaven and Earth's light.

Noah even had a backup plan that he preferred not to deploy. His chaotic laws were already affecting Lady Phyllis, so every death would force her to revive in a weaker form. He could try to kill her until Heaven and Earth gave up on her, but he would rather avoid time-consuming approaches as long as he had other viable tactics.

Heaven and Earth managed to rebuild Lady Phyllis' arms every few seconds, and Noah used that period to destroy the rest of her body and search for her items.

Noah initially found an item meant for his Blood Companions since it seemed able to deliver blows made of mental energy. Then, he found weapons that targeted specific abilities. Some of them even involved the parasite.

It took Noah a while to find the item the triggered the explosions meant to disperse the dark world. The weapon had the shape of a slimy substance that covered the other side of Lady Phyllis' skin, and Noah had to remove all of it to get rid of its annoying effects.

Noah could envelop Lady Phyllis inside the dark world at that point. The expert could still use her abilities to destroy the technique, but Noah was suppressing her. Entering the dark matter even stopped Heaven and Earth's healing, so her body soon crumbled under the relentless offensive.

Night quickly fused with the expert's law to sever her connection with Heaven and Earth, and Noah devoured the rest of her body before spreading his influence. The two of them were basically experts in that procedure by then. They didn't even need to talk to begin the severing.

The dark world dispersed after Lady Phyllis' existence left Heaven and Earth's system. Light didn't shine on Noah anymore, but the shockwaves of the second battlefield still reached his ears.

Noah turned to inspect his army. Both groups were holding their ground, but Heaven and Earth's influence was slowly forcing Noah's group back. Only the Foolery and Robert could balance that situation, but they had two solid stage cultivators as their opponents.

'It's time to turn the scales in my favor,' Noah thought, but a sudden sense of weakness filled his body and made him stagger mid-air.

The black hole had absorbed many of Lady Phyllis' body parts. Noah had even eaten her dantian, so his body had an immense amount of energy at its disposal.

The fourth center of power knew how to handle the drawbacks of his ambition, and it was even aware of his situation. The organ depleted a large chunk of the absorbed energy to disperse the stress and stabilize his flesh. The process didn't bring Noah's body back to its peak, but it isolated the temporary weakness.

Chapter 1706 - 1706. Winged

The black hole had absorbed enough energy during the fight to take care of the drawbacks and suppress most of their adverse effects. Noah only felt a faint weakness, but he could fight as usual.

'Using my ambition again will only cause injuries,' Noah thought as his attention moved between his body and the battlefield.

The three solid stage cultivators that had remained on Heaven and Earth's side didn't use any special item. They were using weaker laws for the time being since they had to disperse Noah's influence from their opponents' aura. Still, it wouldn't take much before they could rely on their real power.

The fact that Lady Phyllis had died didn't go unnoticed. Heaven and Earth's army could sense that Noah had come out of the hole on his own. No light tried to reach that spot either. The rulers didn't have anything to resurrect there.

A vague idea had formed inside Noah's mind after the battle with Lady Phyllis. The quick dispersion of his drawbacks fused with his violent thoughts had given birth to a ruthless plan that he could deploy as long as the fight didn't oppose him.

'It's pointless to win for my allies,' Noah thought as his eyes darted among the various battles.

The experts in the sky would all join his organization once they reached the other side of the Immortal Lands. Noah didn't want to fill his force with useless cultivators, but the mission didn't allow him to lose too many troops.

'I guess a little help won't ruin everything,' Noah sighed in his mind. 'Many of them will die in one of the next crazy plans anyway.'

Noah shot in the sky and ignored the various battles to reach the solid stage cultivators. The army only had three of them left, but only Robert was managing to suppress one of them.

The Foolery and Divine Demon were taking care of another solid stage cultivator, and the same went for Wilfred and King Elbas. That disposition wasn't casual since the experts had chosen to send the most resilient of them toward the cultivator that they couldn't kill.

The cultivators moved away when they saw Noah flying right through the battlefield. A path opened among the army and brought him directly next to Robert.

The expert had just dodged a massive winged fireball. The attack curved mid-air and tried to fly back at him, but invisible energy engulfed it and made it disappear.

"I didn't need your help," Robert snorted.

"I didn't do that to help you," Noah explained while arriving next to the expert. "I'll take it from here. You should help the others."

Robert didn't complain since the situation didn't allow them to waste time, but he still shot a curious glance toward Noah. The latter seemed too calm. It was clear that he had something in mind.

"Your confidence is disarming," Robert's opponent announced from the edges of the battlefield.

The solid stage expert had the aspect of a middle-aged man with long black hair a pair of green eyes. He was quite slender, and patches of charred skin covered his body.

His appearance was quite peculiar for an expert at that level. It was rare for a cultivator in the eighth rank to carry such evident injuries, especially for someone who could rely on Heaven and Earth's miraculous healing abilities.

"I'm Lord Ethan," The man announced while performing a polite bow. "I can't wait to face the great Noah Balvan."

"You don't have to put up this pretense to hide your fear," Noah sighed. "I've just killed your leader. You don't have inscribed items meant to counter my abilities either. I'll accept your surrender if you are smart enough to acknowledge the difference between our power."

"Arrogant little shit," Lord Ethan said in a low tone while forsaking his polite expression.

"You had your chance," Noah laughed, and his ambition expanded to cover the entire battlefield.

The influence that Heaven and Earth's army had fought for so long to disperse returned stronger than ever. Noah gave the Devils' abilities to his companions. The enemy cultivators suddenly found themselves forced to switch to weaker laws, and their opponents didn't let that opening go to waste.

"How long do you think it will take to Heaven and Earth to counter this ability?" Lord Ethan asked. "This power comes from the anger of a weaker world. It's only normal for a superior plane to suppress it."

Noah had already stopped listening to Lord Ethan. The dark world expanded from his figure as two blades appeared in his hands. A fiendish armor covered his skin, and black roots spread above his body. The companions also left the black hole and prepared for the imminent battle.

Lord Ethan snorted when the wave of dark matter tried to engulf his figure. Flames amassed above his skin and gave birth to a series of winged fireballs that began to devour Noah's technique.

The dark world didn't manage to touch Lord Ethan, but a shadow suddenly materialized next to him. Noah waved his blades, and a large chunk of the area vanished.

Noah's singularity made everything disappear, be it air, "Breath", or spells. Even the few cultivators that had been too slow to leave the area died due to his massive attack.

Lord Ethan didn't have specific items to counter Noah's abilities, but he knew them well. He had developed techniques that could counter them, so the singularity didn't take him by surprise.

One of Lord Ethan's winged fireballs had flown out of the range of the singularity. The mass of fire morphed until it took the expert's shape, and a loud laugh soon came out of his mouth.

"You must be quite exhausted after killing Lady Phyllis," Lord Ethan commented. "Don't worry. I'll go easy on you."

Noah revealed a cold smile before placing both blades on his forehead. Pieces of his torso had vanished due to the cursed sword, but he didn't hesitate to attack again.

A chill ran down Lord Ethan's spine when a wave of sharpness spread along with Noah's consciousness. His figure separated to give birth to multiple winged fireballs that flew in different directions, but only a few of them managed to escape the threatening attack.

Lord Ethan reformed at some distance in the sky. His hand quickly went to grab a patch of charred flesh. The expert tore it apart to release a wave of denser scarlet flames that took the shape of a large creature.

The scene left Noah slightly surprised. Three massive fireballs had fused through scarlet channels, and two pairs of fiery wings grew from their side.

The creature didn't seem much different from the previous winged fireballs, but it carried enough power to alert Noah's instincts. It didn't matter that it radiated weaker laws. Lord Ethan had still summoned something capable of hurting Noah.

Waves of energy flew toward Noah as pieces of his dark world fused with his figure. The power accumulated in the battles inside his technique became part of his innate ability and partially healed his injuries.

The dark world was allowing his companions to obtain a few victories, and Night was flying through the technique to sever the dead from Heaven and Earth's system. It was only normal for Noah to take his share of energy due to his role.

"I won't let you heal!" Lord Ethan suddenly shouted when he understood what was happening.

A fourth sphere gathered at the center of the creature's structure before a scarlet beam shot toward the dark world behind Noah. The expert didn't care that he could hurt his companions in the process. He only wanted to stop the technique.

The beam lost part of its power as a massive mouth came out of the dark world and applied a pulling force to its structure. A giant snake also flew out of the black sea and sent a few black feathers to block the attack.

The impact with the beam ended up destroying a part of the dark world anyway, but Noah could use that chance to land above the creature and sever its structure in half.

Chapter 1707 - 1707. Burn

The creature released violent flares of scarlet flames once its structure destabilized. Noah spat his black fire while deploying the dark world again. The dark matter managed to burn the remains of the spell, and Noah's injuries closed in a matter of seconds.

Lord Ethan quickly tore away another patch of charred skin. Dense scarlet flames came out of his figure and gathered behind him to give birth to an even bigger creature. The spell featured four winged fireballs connected by fiery tunnels at that time.

The expert was about to give an order, but a wave of bloodlust suddenly flew past him. Noah's violent thoughts seeped into his mind and made him understand part of his plan. Lord Ethan even saw scenes that depicted his opponent's imagination.

"You can't do that," Lord Ethan said in a broken voice while taking a step back.

Noah stepped out of the dark world. His cold reptilian eyes never left Lord Ethan. They seemed unable to see him as a real opponent. The expert was only food for him.

"Heaven and Earth will never allow that!" Lord Ethan continued to shout before stepping inside his spell.

Pure fear had filled Lord Ethan. He couldn't believe that Noah would think about such a cruel plan. He knew about his history, but his current thoughts were a clear insult to Heaven and Earth's might.

"Heaven and Earth rarely care about us," Noah snorted. "Look! Your army is dying because your laws have found a perfect opponent. My companions are even making sure that none of them comes back to life, but the rulers have yet to make an appearance."

"You don't know anything," Lord Ethan shouted again, and his figure slowly fused with his spell.

"I know that they will notice my plan too late," Noah whispered before shooting forward.

Lord Ethan's spell morphed after he fused with the scarlet flames. More winged fireballs appeared among that creature and generated multiple fiery channels to connect them.

The spell transformed into a massive creature that featured ten winged fireballs. The structure even obtained a strange aura that released a heavy pressure in the environment.

Noah reappeared at the center of the creature, and a dark light flashed as his dark blades released a horizontal slash. A singularity quickly tried to divide the spell into two halves, but a scarlet line appeared on its trajectory.

Scarlet light shot out of the line. Scorching energy clashed with Noah's singularity and tried to fight it back. However, the attack was too powerful since it involved the cursed sword, so the dark halo soon took over that redness.

'It's quite tough,' Noah thought when he noticed that his attack didn't manage to divide the spell into two parts.

His singularity had vanished before piercing the winged fireballs from side to side. The scarlet attack from before had made it deplete too much energy. The cuts that had appeared on the spell quickly reformed before another sphere gathered in front of Noah.

The sphere quickly released a scarlet beam that Noah struggled to dodge. He entered the Shadow Domain as soon as he sensed the threat, but the attack still managed to hit the right side of his body.

Noah reappeared above the structure. Grey smoke came out of his charred skin, but his movements seemed unaffected by those injuries.

His swords flashed again, but another line appeared on their path. The singularity shot forward to meet a scarlet attack that made it deplete a lot of energy before reaching the large spell.

The singularity didn't manage to do anything against the creature, and Noah felt forced to reconsider his approach. The injuries obtained from the cursed sword had accumulated again, and he even had to consider his charred skin now.

'Can he actually match the cursed sword with weaker laws?' Noah wondered as he retreated through the sky.

The dark world that covered his allies sent the energy accumulated in its insides. Noah could partially heal his injuries, but the situation continued to surprise him.

'How strong was he before joining Heaven and Earth?' Noah wondered. 'Maybe he obtained this power in the cities in the sky. I should visit them sooner or later.'

Noah revealed a cold smile before activating his ambition again. He didn't have time to waste, and his plan would even take care of eventual injuries. Still, he took precautions to avoid ruining his centers of power.

His body couldn't endure another forced empowerment, so he focused everything on his next attack. His ambition couldn't last for long due to its previous use, and he preferred to avoid abusing his power.

Noah's aura seemed to vanish when he raised his blades toward the sky. Lord Ethan didn't wait for his opponent to be ready to attack, and ten dense beams shot out from the winged fireball.

The scarlet beams converged toward Noah and fused into a single, massive wave of scorching energy. Noah could hear his instincts' screams, but he ignored them to focus on his next slash.

'This attack will kill him,' Noah thought before lowering his blades.

The scarlet beam divided itself in half as invisible energy flew across it. The singularity pierced the scarlet power and reached the main spell. A massive fissure opened on the creature and cut it into two parts.

The creature's flames dispersed and revealed a human figure. Noah quickly covered the area with his fire before appearing next to the cultivator. Lord Ethan was still alive, but his last attack had rendered him powerless.

'He even survived my attack,' Noah commented in his head. 'He must be quite strong among the solid stage. Perfect!'

Noah quickly covered the expert with dark matter that seeped inside his skin and blocked the connection with his centers of power. Lord Ethan was basically a prisoner now, and Noah had grand plans in mind for him.

Both swords returned inside the separate space while Noah spat flames toward the membrane of dark matter. His higher energy replicated his innate ability and burnt Lord Ethan's body until nothing remained of him.

Noah could summon Night and begin the severing from Heaven and earth's system now, but he had other plans for the expert.

A hole suddenly appeared in the layer of dark matter and allowed the sky to shine on Lord Ethan's law. Heaven and Earth quickly restored the expert's body and energy, but Noah made sure that the connections among his centers of power remained sealed.

Noah closed the membrane of dark matter once Heaven and Earth had sent a satisfying amount of energy. His flames promptly landed on the prison, and Lord Ethan burnt once again.

"No!" Lord Ethan managed to shout before dying for the second time, but only Noah could hear him.

The expert had seen what Noah had in mind. He had gained that idea after absorbing Lady Phyllis' body parts. Noah could theoretically continue to kill and absorb his opponents. He would obtain a nigh-endless energy source as long as Heaven and Earth continued to restore their centers of power.

Noah opened the membrane again, and Heaven and Earth promptly rebuilt Lord Ethan. However, the dark matter cut the connection with the sky before the expert could regain his full power, and Noah didn't hesitate to burn him for the third time.

Chapter 1708 - 1708. Food

Lord Ethan couldn't do anything in that situation. Noah's dark matter made sure that Heaven and Earth never restored the connection with his centers of power. The expert couldn't summon his energy to break free from the dark world, so he continued to burn.

'His cultivation level is decreasing,' Noah noted in his mind while inspecting his prisoner.

Night wasn't severing Lord Ethan's connection with Heaven and Earth, but the ambition continued to taint his existence. Noah stole pieces of his law every time the expert died, and his cultivation level inevitably fell during the process.

Noah benefitted a lot from that procedure. Solid stage experts contained a lot of energy, but they were hard to find and kill. Instead, his tactic allowed him to reuse the same cultivator over and over again, providing him with a nigh-endless source of power.

'I can deal with the insane requirements of my body like this,' Noah happily confirmed in his mind while turning toward the battlefield.

Lord Ethan continued to burn, but Noah didn't need to check the process. His dark world could take care of that on its own, so he focused on other important matters.

The black hole drove most of the absorbed energy toward his centers of power. The last use of his potential had forced them to accumulate a massive amount of stress. The fourth center of power had to focus on dispersing the drawbacks before moving to actual empowerments.

The battlefield was still raging, but his allies were benefitting from the dark matter that enveloped the entire area. Noah's technique suppressed his opponents, and his companions ran through the dark matter to help everyone in need.

'This should be enough for now,' Noah thought while sitting cross-legged among the sky.

The scales of the battle quickly tilted in favor of Noah's allies. His side had Robert, the Foolery, and his aura that could render Heaven and Earth's laws useless. The enemy army did their best, but the many advantages of their opponents eventually overwhelmed them.

Noah kept track of Lord Ethan's cultivation level. His power continued to fall, and it soon reached the liquid stage. Still, Noah didn't stop the relentless burning and absorbed as much energy as possible.

Lord Ethan eventually reached the gaseous stage, but his existence began to shatter at that point. Heaven and Earth seemed unable to restore it to a stable state, and light stopped falling on him whenever the black membrane opened.

'Is this his limit?' Noah wondered when Lord Ethan burnt for the last time.

The black membrane dispersed, and Heaven and Earth remained silent. Noah had killed Lord Ethan without requiring Night's help. The mutations generated by his existence had brought the expert's law to its limits.

Noah quickly calculated in his mind the amount of energy absorbed during the process. Heaven and Earth had provided him with enough power to rebuild four to five solid stage cultivators. The result of his new approach was terrific, and his flesh cheered whenever the black hole released part of the purified power.

'Heaven and Earth are paying the interests for their annoying punishments,' Noah laughed in his mind. 'I like it!'

His attention moved on the battlefield again. Robert had joined King Elbas and Wilfred in their fight against another solid stage cultivator, and their teamwork had eventually forced their opponent to die.

"I'll take it from here," Noah announced before covering the expert's corpse with his dark matter and replicating the previous process.

Robert, King Elbas, and Wilfred limited themselves to nod before dispersing through the battlefield. They still had many experts to defeat, and time wasn't on their side.

Noah happily confirmed that Heaven and Earth didn't learn anything from Lord Ethan's death. They tried to rebuild the expert in Noah's grasp whenever he lifted the black membrane. He had basically gained four solid stage cultivators worth of energy in a single move again.

'This is way too easy,' Noah laughed in his mind, but a quick inspection of his body soon suppressed his ecstatic mood.

Cultivators provided more energy than magical beasts, but they were still unable to satisfy Noah's requirements. His body was a bottomless pit that radiated hunger whenever the black hole stopped filling it with power.

'How much do you even need now?' Noah sighed. 'Don't tell me that I have to start hunting rank 9 existences once I reach the upper tier.'

Thinking about the requirements of his body put Noah in a foul mood, but he decided to suppress those feelings for the time being. He always managed to find a solution to those issues, and worrying about them now would only endanger his mission.

The expert in Noah's grasp burnt until her cultivation level fell into the gaseous stage. Heaven and Earth didn't react to her existence anymore at that point, so he could disperse the dark matter and focus on the fourth solid stage expert.

The Foolery, Divine Demon, and Robert had ended up killing the last solid stage cultivator multiple times by then. The expert's power had also started to fall due to the many deaths.

Noah managed to seize the expert's corpse when he reached the bottom of the solid stage. His friends looked at him in surprise when they saw Noah stealing their prey, but his roars soon forced them to focus on other battles.

The enemy army crumbled when it lost its leaders. The weaker cultivators tried their best, but they couldn't do anything against Noah's force. Some of them even gave up and asked for mercy.

Noah didn't show any mercy. Some of them were cultivators from the other side of the Immortal Lands, but he didn't care. They had their chance to fight Heaven and Earth, but they refused to believe in him.

It didn't take much for the entire enemy army to fall. Noah repeated the burning process with liquid stage cultivators a few times, but he didn't let his hunger delay the victory. He only had the time to kill a few experts before losing other possible targets.

"Let's move," Noah roared, and his army followed him.

The group resumed their journey back to the dimensional tunnel. The army's mood had significantly improved after the overwhelming victory, but Noah couldn't feel happy yet.

The shining battlefield didn't react to their departure, but Noah knew that they had yet to face the real threat. Heaven and Earth were waiting for them in the dimensional tunnel, and he could only hope that their power could handle those rulers.

The journey back toward the dimensional tunnel ended up being surprisingly smooth. The army didn't meet any additional threat, and even the faint pressure released by the shining battlefield vanished at some point.

The shining crack in the terrain unfolded in Noah's vision, and his army quickly gathered around its edges. His eyes rose to meet King Elbas' glance, and the expert nodded to confirm his determination.

"This is where the real challenge begins," Noah roared, and even the cultivators understood his words. "Heaven and Earth are waiting for us down there. We will have to face the very power that rules this world. I hope you aren't scared."

Some experts couldn't hold back their laughs when they understood how little Noah cared about life and death. The cultivation journey was about expressing an existence, and Noah would be happy as long as he managed to remain true to himself.

The sole fact that his behavior had attracted Heaven and Earth's existence made the whole matter hilarious. Noah was nothing more than a rank 8 hybrid, but the entire world had to create a scheme to put him in a dangerous situation.

Some of his companions shared his view, and they didn't hesitate to jump with him inside the blinding crack. The rest of the army soon followed, and the dark environment of the dimensional tunnel quickly unfolded in their vision.

Chapter 1709 - 1709. Trap

'We are finally back,' Noah thought as he inspected his surroundings.

The cultivators who had never seen that environment took their time to study it. They had only heard about the Space Hounds from Noah and the others, but they didn't dare to rely only on their words in that situation.

The tension that had filled the army slightly dispersed. They were theoretically safe from the rank 9 existences on the outside in there. Still, they also felt partially trapped since they didn't know what Heaven and Earth had in store for them.

"Let's dive deeper into the tunnel before choosing where to rest," Noah ordered, and the rest of the army followed him.

Diving wasn't the exact word in that environment. Noah's group had descended through the tunnel during the first part of the mission, but they had to climb it now. Yet, the territory remained familiar, so they advanced smoothly.

No Space Hound appeared on their path. Noah couldn't even feel the faint danger that his instincts usually perceived in that environment. It was strange, but he couldn't do anything to find clues.

The army eventually stopped after a few months of travel. Almost everyone needed to rest and disperse part of their stress. Also, none of them believed that a short break would influence Heaven and Earth's plan.

Noah visited King Elbas after announcing the break. The expert felt surprised to see him entering his cave, but Noah quickly took out an item that left him speechless.

"What is that?" King Elbas asked as his curiosity flowed out of his figure and converged toward Noah's hand.

Noah was holding a white pinwheel. The item barely released any aura, but its power was undeniable. It was an inscribed weapon in the upper tier that seemed able to fuse with the world.

"I took this from Lady Phyllis," Noah explained. "It should come from the cities in the sky. I bet they use different inscription methods up there."

"That might open the path to inscribed methods that have never reached the surface," King Elbas happily exclaimed.

"I managed to seize a few of them," Noah revealed. "I'll obviously keep most of them for me, but I don't mind giving you this one."

"In exchange for?" King Elbas asked.

The expert knew that Noah wanted something in return for that present. The answer to that question was even quite obvious, but King Elbas wanted to hear it clearly.

"Heaven and Earth can counter most of my abilities now," Noah explained. "I can still overwhelm them, but I don't know how long this will last. I bet the same will happen to all of you, so we need an alternative to my influence. We require a weapon meant to counter Heaven and Earth."

"Do you fear that they'll learn how to counter your chaotic laws?" King Elbas asked.

Noah reviewed Lord Ethan's words in his mind. The expert was right. The other world's will came from a weaker plane. There was a high chance that Heaven and Earth would eventually become immune to its power.

"I always want to be one step ahead of them," Noah said. "I'll also study these items, but you have a better chance to find flaws that escape my expertise."

"Of course I do," King Elbas smirked. "Hand it over and don't destroy the other items. Leave me the scraps even if you do."

The break gave Noah the time to inspect his gains. He had killed a few experts that didn't have Heaven and Earth's protection, so he could seize space-rings and the resources inside them.

Noah didn't expect to find much there, and the space-rings confirmed his thoughts. It was rare to find experts that relied on inscribed items or similar tools at his level. Those storage spaces mostly contained

Soul Stones, various potions that couldn't do anything to him, and a few notes on the cultivation journey.

'Why do I even bother plundering anymore?' Noah sighed in his mind while feeding the items containing some energy to his black hole.

The cultivation journey forced the expert to move on personal paths, and that trend intensified in the higher ranks. Only some inscription masters like King Elbas continued to build items that every existence could use. The others would simply ignore that aspect of their expertise.

Noah could mass-produce living weapons and destructive items, but he found no point in doing that. His efforts to reinforce his allies would only weaken them in the long-run. He would turn his organization into one of the human forces if he spoiled his underlings.

The items seized by Lady Phyllis were peculiar. The laws that made them seemed similar to the abilities that they countered. Noah could see familiar true meanings inside them, but he also noticed the slight differences from his powers.

'I guess this is the aspect of my law in Heaven and Earth's system.' Noah concluded in his mind.

Thoroughly studying those inscribed items required time that Noah didn't have at the moment. He would resume the experiments once back in the safety of the Outer Lands since he had to focus on other matters now.

The break didn't last long. Noah summoned everyone after making sure that they had all returned to a decent level of power.

The environment of the dimensional tunnel also helped in that field. The absence of Space Hounds and Heaven and Earth's silence made many experts believe that their mission had been a success. After all, nothing in the area hinted at the presence of traps.

Noah didn't let his guard down, but doubts inevitably filled his mind. He could vaguely understand that his army had crossed the halfway mark of the tunnel, but dangers had yet to appear on his path.

'Did Heaven and Earth forget about the trap?' Noah wondered. 'I thought they wanted to absorb our laws.'

Noah was almost certain that Heaven and Earth were inept. He knew that those rulers couldn't waste their entire time on him, but that still didn't explain why they would wait so long to activate a trap.

A strange phenomenon eventually happened inside the tunnel. The event alerted the army, but it seemed harmless in its current form.

A series of faint lights would flash from time to time on the dark walls of the dimensional tunnel. King Elbas and the other inscription masters didn't manage to find the cause behind that event, but Noah came up with an explanation without bothering to check those glows.

"Heaven and Earth are almost ready," Noah announced. "Be sure to do the same."

His announcement brought back the tension that the peaceful journey had almost managed to disperse, but he didn't care. Noah only cared about survival in that situation, and keeping his allies anxious could improve their condition.

The faint lights shone more often, but no threats appeared on the army's path. The shining exit of the tunnel even arrived at some point, and Noah could only remain speechless.

'Did they really forget?' Noah exclaimed in his mind.

Noah couldn't believe that Heaven and Earth could let him go so easily. He had created countless tactics in advance for a trap that didn't exist. All his paranoia seemed wasted due to the absence of threats.

'Better than fighting,' Noah sighed before giving a few orders.

King Elbas tried to study the exit, but everything appeared normal. The group also challenged Divine Demon to divine whether traps waited for them on the other side, but the expert couldn't come up with anything.

Noah could only order to cross the exit at that point. The mission on the other side of the Immortal Lands seemed about to end on an anticlimactic note, but he accepted that positive outcome.

However, something immediately felt off once Noah crossed the exit. The tunnel didn't lead them to the surface of the Immortal Lands. Complete whiteness filled his vision and made him unable to see anything.

Chapter 1710 - 1710. Flaws

'Where are we?' Noah wondered as surprise filled his mind.

Noah clearly recalled where the exit had to lead, but that place was completely different. He couldn't sense ground anywhere, even when he expanded his consciousness.

The whiteness also hurt like never before. Even the experts who had defenses against the sky suffered from that blinding light. Their mental sphere inevitably shook as heavy pressure fell on them.

The experts had to deplete massive amounts of mental energy to keep their consciousness stable and expand them to find their companions. Noah, the Foolery, and Fergie suffered more than the others, but the former had the dark matter on his side.

'Can everyone hear me?' Noah conveyed through his consciousness as layers of dark matter covered the outside of his mental walls and shielded him from the external force.

The other experts came up with similar techniques to suppress the blinding power. They couldn't sustain that consumption of mental energy. They preferred to dull their senses rather than emptying their minds.

A series of answers reached Noah's mind. All the experts seemed able to reply to his question and confirm their presence among that whiteness.

Utter confusion filled the whole army, but a strange idea appeared in the minds of two cultivators. Robert and Luke couldn't confirm their guess, but they seemed to be the only ones capable of giving hypotheses.

'The surface can't have this intensity of whiteness,' Luke explained through his consciousness. 'Even higher areas of the sky lack it. I have an idea, but it sounds quite unreasonable.'

'I guess we have the same idea,' Robert continued. 'No place on the higher plane should be like this. I bet that the dimensional tunnel led us directly into a trap.'

'Did Heaven and Earth create this area for us?' Noah asked.

'I believe so,' Robert replied. 'The other option is too unrealistic.'

'Let us judge that,' King Elbas shouted through his mind. 'What's this other possibility?'

A moment of silence followed that question, but Robert eventually revealed what he was trying to hide in his mind. 'I've never been there, but the cities in the sky should have a similar environment.'

The consciousnesses of all the cultivators in Noah's army had expanded in the same area. Everyone could hear and sense the thoughts and feelings that ran through their companions.

Confusion was the main emotion after that revelation. Most experts weren't aware that the sky held cities. Noah's group had to learn about them from Great Builder in the end.

Then, terror spread through the various minds. The lack of knowledge about the cities in the sky wasn't enough to render those experts ignorant. They could immediately guess how dangerous those areas could be.

'Panicking is useless,' Noah roared through his consciousness. 'Remain calm and study the situation. Can any of you sense a path through this light?'

Countless disappointing answers reached Noah's mind. There seemed to be nothing but whiteness in that area. The whole world had transformed into a mass of light for the army.

'I've had enough of this,' Noah kept that thought for himself as his aura expanded and spread his influence in the area.

His law had always carried a dark halo, and the addition of the Devils' power had made it far more efficient in an environment filled with Heaven and Earth's true meanings.

His dark aura didn't manage to overcome the whiteness, but it succeeded in toning down its blinding power. The environment slowly became more bearable, and the expert could eventually start to see each other.

The army's ranks inevitably tightened around Noah. His existence could deal with the whiteness, so everyone wanted to be next to him.

'What is this place?' Noah wondered while ignoring the troops around him.

Noah couldn't see anything even after the light dimmed. The purest white color filled his vision, but he couldn't find much inside it. The place was basically empty.

"Your law meets our expectations," An androgynous voice suddenly spread through the area. "We welcome you here, Noah Balvan."

Noah initially thought that the voice was powerful enough to make the whiteness tremble, but he soon understood that those words came from the light itself.

"I must admit that I didn't expect this, Earth," Noah replied as growls fused with his human words.

His companions immediately turned toward Noah. The word "Earth" had left them speechless. It seemed that his companion had already met the existence capable of speaking in that environment.

"Catching you has been quite troublesome," Earth continued. "You have always been so careful, and you have grown far past our expectations during these years."

Noah's eyes sharpened. He had sensed something familiar inside the voice radiated through the light. Earth's words hid greed.

"So, is this your plan?" Noah asked. "Do you lead existences that continue to oppose you here to absorb them? I don't understand your plan. I thought you wanted the tenth rank."

"You know nothing," Earth replied. "We have watched ants growing and dying on our body for countless years. We have let them take our energy and destroy the fruits of our journey for eons. The journey culminates here."

The radiance intensified. The experts had to close their eyes and reinforce their minds with a second layer of defenses. Noah's aura became unable to suppress that phenomenon, and whiteness soon engulfed the army again.

"Your existence will be of great help," Earth continued. "Everything you have touched carries some of our flaws, but absorbing you will fix them. Thank you, my child from another world. You'll help us achieving perfection."

Screams began to resound among the whiteness. Noah kept his consciousness unfolded, so he could sense what was happening around him.

The experts on the external areas of the group began to disappear. The process wasn't immediate either. Pieces of their bodies would destabilize and shatter before fusing with the light.

The instability would spread through their entire body and eventually affect their law. Their existences vanished as the light devoured them.

Noah inspected that process closely. He didn't let panic assault his mind. He had to understand how Heaven and Earth worked to find a way out of that situation.

'They are clearly devouring those laws,' Noah thought. 'Yet, the process isn't a simple absorption of energy. It seems to go way deeper into the existence.'

It seemed that Heaven and Earth had invented a superior form of absorption. That technique allowed them to take entire laws and fuse them with their existence. Still, Noah felt sure that there had to be drawbacks to the ability.

Parts of the laws shattered forever during that forceful absorption. Everything depended on the prey's struggle. Heaven and Earth could overpower the cultivators, but they couldn't compel them to accept their death.

'That's why they prefer cultivators to go on their side willingly,' Noah concluded in his mind. 'The laws gained through this process are far from perfect. They always have to mend them afterward.'

Noah felt that he had seen enough at that point. He had uncovered a great secret concerning Heaven and Earth's nature, but he had to focus on his escape now.

His ambition surged and went to empower a specific feature of his existence. Bloodlust and anger spread out of his mind as Noah decided to use his potential to intensify the ability inherited by the Devils.

A dark halo shone on the whiteness and forced it to retreat. Angry screeches filled the area as Heaven and Earth's light lost power against Noah's influence.

Noah was succeeding in clearing a large area from Heaven and Earth's influence, but a loud chuckle suddenly resounded through the light. His instincts screamed in fear as more than twenty crackling humanoid figures with power in the upper tier came out of the whiteness and pointed their hands toward the army.