

DEMONIC 1721

Chapter 1721 - 1721. Facts

"Stop playing around," Noah ordered and interrupted the bickering of his companions. "We have learnt a lot about Heaven and Earth during the last mission. Let's make a list to make sure that we all have a clear idea about those idiots."

The few experts from the other side of the Immortal Lands who had remained around Noah during his hibernation remained speechless. Noah was openly insulting the very rulers of the world. Their gazes instinctively shot upward to search eventual black clouds, but nothing appeared among the sky.

"The others must come too," Noah announced while moving his eyes toward the locations occupied by the experts who had left during his hibernation.

Those cultivators were too far away to hear Noah, but the latter gave voice to a deafening roar that forced them to hurry toward his position. The survivors of the large army soon gathered in the destroyed area, and they created a circle as they sat on the azure ground.

"Let's start with the facts," Noah shouted once everyone sat. "Heaven and Earth have secret armies inside cities in the sky. I don't know how to reach them, but I guess that the dimensional tunnel has led us near them."

"The fairness is stronger than we initially thought," King Elbas added. "We have always known that the Tribulations had to give a chance to survive, but we have confirmed that Heaven and Earth's entire existence depends on that rule."

Noah showed his thumbs to King Elbas, but the latter ignored that gesture. He didn't answer to get his acknowledgment.

"We know that they have designated enemies," Wilfred continued. "Heaven and Earth aren't omnipotent beings. The weaker world has managed to make a mess with its will, so we can do the same."

Everyone nodded. It didn't matter if Heaven and Earth adapted to a specific counter. Noah and the others could always deploy different abilities to gain an advantage over the rulers' laws.

"Are the facts over already?" Noah asked.

"They eat laws that don't belong to their system," The Foolery announced. "Their existence must have deep flaws, but the laws absorbed forcefully end up having even more cracks. I bet that the process has hurt them."

"How do you even know so much about laws and Heaven and Earth?" Wilfred asked. "You have stopped being a magical beast only a few years ago."

"I'm a fast learner," The Foolery replied while wearing a proud expression and raising its head toward the sky.

"Nothing else?" Noah asked.

"They are weak," Robert explained. "Heaven and Earth are incredibly frail. Their consciousness must be a mass of different thoughts that handle various parts of their power. Even their duality as Heaven and Earth might be part of a traumatic event."

"Are we in the hypotheses part already?" King Elbas asked.

"There doesn't seem to be any other fact," Robert commented before turning toward Noah, who simply shrugged his shoulders.

"Hypotheses part is open then," Robert confirmed.

"I do agree with part of your theory," Noah announced. "I don't believe in the traumatic event, but I think that Heaven and Earth belong to the same existence. Their current form is only a consequence of the countless years spent on the footsteps of the tenth rank."

"How can you be sure about this?" Wilfred asked.

"Earth has spoken about beings feeding on their body," Noah explained. "The tight connection with Heaven is evident, but I've also begun to think about something else. Let's say that they were once a powerful expert. Earth would play the mind, and Heaven the dantian. What about the body then?"

"Do you think the Immortal Lands are Heaven and Earth's body?" King Elbas asked.

"They have technically revealed that," Noah added. "I don't know how much I can trust them, but that's what they said."

Everyone fell silent at that point. That revelation was no small thing. The experts were basically living and improving on Heaven and Earth's body if Noah's hypotheses turned out to be right.

"What about their absorption?" King Elbas asked while moving his eyes among the three hybrids. "What can you tell us about that?"

Noah, the Foolery, and Wilfred exchanged a glance before leaving the speech in Noah's hands. He had the sharpest senses among the hybrids, and his cultivation level had also been far higher than theirs during the event.

"I felt disgusted," Noah revealed while placing a hand under his chin. "It was a strange feeling that didn't come from my conscious mind. My instincts didn't like that practice for some reason."

"I felt the same," Wilfred explained. "I didn't like what I saw."

"Same here," The Foolery announced. "I think the reason behind these feelings is Heaven and Earth's lack of style."

The group immediately started ignoring the pig to focus on the other two hybrids. Wilfred seemed still lost, but Noah was getting somewhere.

"Maybe the issue isn't with the practice itself," Noah explained. "Heaven and Earth are only killing experts with laws that they need in the end. The problem might be with the nature of the action compared to the actual ability."

Heaven and Earth might have been existences very similar to humans. Cultivators didn't naturally know how to devour other laws. They required special techniques that often lost power once their level advanced.

Noah believed that Heaven and Earth didn't initially have similar skills. Those existences could have resorted to techniques that didn't suit their law due to their inability to reach the tenth rank.

"Anything else?" Noah continued to ask, but no important news reached his ears.

"That's not much, but we have a basic understanding at least," Noah continued. "We have to decide our next move now. Do you have anything in mind before I make another crazy plan?"

King Elbas, Wilfred, Luke, and Fergie's eyes instantly lit up as their minds started to work faster than ever. They would do everything in their power to avoid another crazy journey, and plans eventually came out of their mouths.

"We can regroup with the Legion," Wilfred proposed. "We have amassed a lot of experience during the last mission. Seclusion is necessary."

"I do agree," King Elbas continued. "Moving now is pointless, especially since we have barely survived the last struggle. We need to improve before jumping in another adventure."

"I can deal with the organizations here and see if they still have a connection with Heaven and Earth," Luke announced. "Our nameless organization should be quite strong on this side of the Immortal Lands. Coercing some experts to give us answers might fill the black spots in our knowledge."

"I suggest you enhance the training method in the blue regions," Fergie added. "Going in seclusion is fine, but the best way for us to gain power is to benefit from your influence. Improving that aspect might give us a lot."

"I'm not planning on bringing you anywhere until you develop effective counters to Heaven and Earth," Noah revealed. "Only the pig and Robert can deal with the rulers properly for now."

"Your influence is still our best chance to gain access to that power," Fergie repeated.

Noah glanced toward Robert, and the latter shrugged his shoulders. It clearly wasn't the time to start another mess since they had barely survived the previous. They needed to improve a lot before gaining some confidence in handling Heaven and Earth.

"I have it," Noah eventually announced. "We'll regroup with the forces here and understand how the political environment has evolved. Then, we'll hunt the members of the secret organization to find connections with Heaven and Earth. Let's move!"

Chapter 1722 - 1722. Bored

It was evident that all the experts needed to spend a few centuries in seclusion to work on their power. Even those who had started training while Noah was hibernating still had a long way to go.

The sheer number of experiences gathered in a single mission could turn their existence upside down. The sole influence of the Devils could force them to change their laws completely.

Heaven and Earth had become an imminent danger for those experts now. They could sense the world's heavy gaze on them. It was only a matter of time before an even stronger punishment fell on them and took their life.

King Elbas and the others had understood their current position while Noah was hibernating. They could point the way back to the Outer Lands as soon as the group decided to move.

The group had fallen in a random spot near the edges of the old human domain, but no cultivator had tried to approach them during those centuries. The magical beasts were even scarce in that area, and Noah struggled to endure his hunger during the flight.

It felt strange to see such desolation in the higher plane. That landmass was the very apex of Heaven and Earth's system, but it seemed completely empty for some unknown reason.

'The other human organizations didn't settle back here,' Noah concluded after the group flew across multiple regions. 'The magical beasts have also opted to avoid these lands. Why is that? What can scare them so much?'

The ground carried traces of past battles, but it still contained a lot of energy. It wouldn't take much before new magical plants appeared in those areas, but no magical beast seemed interested in that feature.

Only a stronger threat could force the magical beasts to abandon such promising lands, but Noah couldn't identify it. He couldn't even guess what kind of power could generate so much fear.

'We should theoretically find outposts and mansions on this path,' Noah thought. 'I don't see why the magical beasts would avoid these places otherwise.'

His confusion increased until it eventually vanished. Noah suddenly noticed an outpost hidden among a mountain chain, and he saw that the banner of the Legion occupied the sides of the structure.

Noah and the others turned to reach the outpost, but a series of hybrids came out of it. They were nothing more than rank 7 experts in the liquid stage, but they tightened their grasp on their weapons to steady their determination.

"Calm down," Wilfred stepped forward. "We are part of the Legion. I'm actually one of your leaders."

The hybrids didn't believe in Wilfred's words. They continued to point their weapons toward the group, and Noah eventually exhausted his patience.

A deafening roar came out of his mouth as his pride spread through the area. The weak hybrids couldn't oppose his aura, and they soon bowed to show their respect.

"No bowing!" Noah shouted while massaging the corner of his eyes. "How many times do I have to repeat it? No one lowers their head in my organization."

The hybrids quickly stood up as fear filled their figures. They had kneeled due to the pressure released by Noah's pride, but the latter was blaming them for that behavior.

"Just to make it clear," Wilfred resumed his questioning. "How is the Legion? Is Alexander still in charge?"

"He is," One of the hybrids replied in a timid voice, "But he never leaves the Outer Lands. He wants to defend the main headquarters of the Legion."

"Main headquarters?" Noah asked. "What happened to the Legion while we were away?"

The hybrids seemed confused by that question. They didn't know when Noah's group had left, so they had no idea what to tell them about the Legion.

"Are you asking about the battle against the Monneay family?" One of the hybrids said.

"I think they want to know about the invasion of the rats," Another hybrid guessed.

"It's definitely about the snakes running wild in our domain," A third hybrid suggested.

Noah and the others remained astonished to hear the number of significant events that had occurred while they were away. Still, an outpost of the Legion was deep into the previous human domain, so the organization couldn't be in a bad situation.

"We want to know what happened after Radiant Eyes' crisis," Noah explained. "We left for a mission with the other human organizations. We have just come back."

The hybrids' eyes widened when they heard that. They finally seemed to understand the experts' identity.

"Are you Defying Demon?" One of the hybrids asked while moving his eyes between Robert and Sword Saint.

The two experts' aura stood out among the group, so it made sense for them to be the famous Defying Demon in the hybrid's mind.

"I guess you are talking about me," Noah revealed while scratching his head. "You have talked about many battles. How did the Legion do there?"

"We won all of them," The hybrid explained. "The Legion governs what had once been the human domain now. Most of the human organizations had to move into the Outer Lands."

The news surprised Noah and the others, but they remained calm to learn as much as possible from those weak experts.

"Technically, it doesn't only belong to the Legion," Another hybrid spoke. "The members of your nameless organizations have fought most battles, so the actual ownership is unclear."

"It's really hard to divide the two organizations," A third hybrid commented. "Even their members can't tell the difference."

"Maybe giving it a name would have helped," Robert mocked Noah.

"I'm thinking about it!" Noah shouted. "My force will absorb the Legion anyway. I'll get a name soon."

"Divine Demon sect should be open," Divine Demon whispered.

"You all don't get a say on the matter," Noah snorted.

"You have to admit that you aren't reliable in that field," King Elbas commented. "Just make us decide."

"I refuse," Noah shouted. "You would only pick something that suits you."

"Isn't that what you are doing?" Wilfred asked.

"Of course," Noah replied, "But it's fine when I do it."

"Can I quit?" King Elbas asked.

"He finally accepted to be inside," The Foolery commented, and King Elbas widened his eyes when he realized his mistake.

The hybrids didn't know how to react to that scene. Noah and the others were legendary figures among the Legion. The higher-ups often told the stories about the many battles that had given the organization its foundation. The current expansion wouldn't have been possible without them.

"Let's cut it short," Noah eventually shouted. "Where are the other headquarters, and how are they different?"

The hybrids lowered their heads and tried to hold back that knowledge, but Noah growled and forced them to surrender again.

"They mostly divide the various leaders inside the organizations," One of the hybrids explained. "Our domain is too large now, so we need many platoons to handle different areas."

"Where's the closest?" Noah asked.

"It's in that direction," The hybrid pointed toward the distance. "Blue regions will appear after you fly for a few months. These are almost the edges of our domain, so you'll find the Lightning Demon there. She is quite bored lately due to the lack of battles. I suggest caution."

Chapter 1723 - 1723. Tradition

The experts who had known Noah for a long time turned toward him. They could immediately guess Lightning Demon's identity. June was the only notable battle maniac with a lightning aptitude.

"Let's go," Noah ordered before any of them could crack jokes.

The experts followed Noah, but whispers and mental messages flew among them. Everyone learnt about his relationship with June in less than a day, and surprise inevitably filled the cultivators from the other world.

It was rare for experts at that level to have relationships. Noah and June were an exception that had survived through many long separations and struggles.

'She will definitely attack me,' Noah sighed in his mind while flying across the empty regions.

The Immortal Lands continued to remain empty. It seemed that the Legion was scaring away every magical beast. Only a few scarce magical plants had started to reappear after the battles, but they didn't make the scenery any more alive.

Immense fields made of blue bushes eventually unfolded in the group's vision. The Foolery could immediately smell the familiar scent of its species in the area, and excited squeals started to come out of its mouth.

"I wonder if they'll recognize me," The Foolery wondered when it noticed that smell. "I've changed so much."

King Elbas and Wilfred turned toward the pig before putting the matter aside. They didn't want to spend the last period of travel bickering.

Powerful traces of life began to appear once the group flew for months above blue regions. Noah and the others found a pack of Foolery resting among their bushes, and happy squeals resounded from those specimens when they recognized their companions.

The evolved Foolery couldn't contain itself and shot toward its peers. The creature raised its head toward the sky as soon as its descent toward the ground began. It was unable to contain its pride in front of its old species.

"What's your task?" Noah asked after descending toward the pack that had gathered around their leader.

"We take care of filling the regions with our bushes," One of the rank 8 Foolery among the pack replied through squeals. "We plan to cover the entire domain of the Legion with our ability."

"How do you even plan on fending off the magical beasts?" Noah continued with his questions.

"The golden guy used strange techniques to seal the borders," The pig replied. "The defenses should keep most predators away."

'Second Prince is making himself useful,' Noah concluded in his mind before leaving the area.

The Foolery decided to remain behind, and King Elbas handed it a special type of inscribed notebook that the creature could use even without having great control over its mind. The pig was a core part of Noah's team now, so they had to be able to contact it in case of need.

Noah recognized some of his old underlings from the journey through the magical beasts' domain. Many of those specimens had reached the eighth rank during those years. Living among the blue bushes was extremely beneficial and could push everyone to improve.

"I'll take care of this," Fergie announced before stepping downward and meeting all the excited specimens that had flown in the sky to meet Noah.

Noah let Fergie go while continuing to fly forward. A series of buildings eventually appeared among that blue landscape and announced the presence of humans. Familiar auras expanded from those buildings and touched the group's consciousnesses before joy flowed in their fabric.

Pearl and other familiar faces came out of the buildings. Some hybrids were among them, but most of the weaker members of the Balrow family weren't there.

"You are finally back," Pearl announced when she saw the group. "A lot has changed here while you were on the other side of the Immortal Lands."

"The soldiers have already explained a lot," Noah said while turning toward the faint castle in the distance. "How is June?"

Pearl's expression froze when she heard June's name. Her cultivation level was still in the gaseous stage of the eighth rank, but she trembled in fear at the sole thought of Noah's woman.

That reaction was quite peculiar, and the other experts didn't miss it. King Elbas even asked a question that made Pearl even more scared. "Is she the reason behind your current location?"

"She likes to challenge us from time to time," Pearl revealed. "Don't get me wrong. She has been a good leader during the expansion, but she isn't the best during peaceful periods. Rumors have her trying to gather an army and invade the magical beasts' domain."

"I need to reach her quickly," Noah announced before shooting toward the castle.

The other members of his group decided to remain behind. The cultivators from the other side of the Immortal Lands wanted to follow Noah, but Divine Demon promptly stopped them.

Divine Demon was wearing one of his rare serious expressions, so the experts decided to trust him right away. The group let Noah have his private reunion with his lover.

Noah was almost on top of the castle when a massive dark lightning bolt fell from the sky and enveloped his figure. The power contained in the attack was decent, but it couldn't even come close to affecting his body.

'Did she reach the peak of the gaseous stage?' Noah wondered as he inspected the lightning bolt before coming out of its sparks.

"That wasn't bad," Noah mocked from outside the castle, but an even bigger lightning bolt fell from the sky at that point.

The second lightning bolt carried far more power than the first. It began to border the edges of the liquid stage, but Noah could continue to endure the attack with his b.a.r.e skin.

"Not yet," Noah continued to mock June while walking toward the castle.

A third lightning bolt descended, but its power suddenly condensed back in its previous spot at the sound of a heartbeat. Noah felt a heavy pressure falling on his body, but his flesh fended off every negative effect.

The heartbeat returned, and the lightning bolt resumed its descent. However, it carried far more power now. It was the attack of a proper liquid stage existence.

Of course, that alone meant nothing for Noah. He limited himself to walk through the attack that tried to pierce his incredible body. The powerful sparks couldn't do anything against his skin, and his figure eventually left the range of the ability.

"We don't have to do this every time," Noah laughed, but a third heartbeat resounded in the area and forced the environment to stop.

The blue bushes stopped fluttering in the wind, the lines that ran on the outsides of the castle didn't move anymore, and the air grew stale under that influence.

Only Noah continued to walk among that stillness. Then, a fourth heartbeat resounded, and a lightning bolt suddenly appeared around him.

The attack was already falling by the time he noticed the event. Noah could endure the lightning bolt with his skin, but he wanted to show off a bit and stop that annoying tradition.

Noah raised his hand, and his influence forced the lightning bolt to mutate. The sparks condensed to evolve into something entirely different. June's law transformed during the exposure to his power, and the attack soon turned into a dense sphere of energy that didn't belong to June anymore.

Chapter 1724 - 1724. Sides

The giant lightning bolt transformed into a mass of dense raging energy that took the shape of a large sphere. The attack lost its momentum and began to float among the sky. Flares shot out of it from time to time, and the air suffered from its destructive power.

A wave of darkness came out of Noah's figure and enveloped the crackling mass of power. He absorbed that energy in an instant, and the area went silent as he waited for something to happen.

"What was that?" A familiar voice came out of the castle, and Noah couldn't help but smile when he heard it.

"Maybe stop attacking me so I can tell you what happened on the other side of the Immortal Lands," Noah shouted.

A silent second went by before the window at the top of the castle opened. Noah didn't hesitate to teleport there, and a large training area unfolded in his vision.

The size of the training area didn't reflect the top of the castle. The room in Noah's vision was far larger than the overall structure, and his expertise allowed him to understand that the inscriptions on the dark walls messed with the laws of space.

'Second Prince has definitely improved in these years,' Noah thought before his gaze focused on a familiar figure on the other side of the training area.

June had her back on the wall as she sat cross-legged on the ground. Black sparks that released an orange glow surrounded her figure and revealed her cultivation level. She was at the peak of the gaseous stage, but the energy around her was condensing and improving.

"You have been away for a really long time," June snorted. "I guess a millennium or two are nothing for us at this point."

"I had to deal with Heaven and Earth in the end," Noah replied while wearing a smile. "They sent us near the sky. I think I've touched it for an instant."

The revelation left June speechless. Her curiosity took over her annoyance and forced her to question Noah about that matter.

Noah gladly told her everything. He went from the Space Hounds inside the dimensional tunnel to the battle among the whiteness. June still lacked some key features about that knowledge, but he made sure to fill all the blank spots.

"Did you really talk with Earth while in the sky?" June asked while lying on Noah's l.a.p.

The duo had already moved past the previous scuffle. They knew how to handle the separations far too well to let the recent events affect their relationship.

"I had to learn as much as possible," Noah explained. "It's impossible to get a meeting with the rulers unless I do something crazy. I had to seize that chance."

"You always do something crazy," June snorted.

"There is crazy and crazy crazy," Noah announced. "Talking while I'm dealing with light and crackling creatures is normal."

June couldn't help but laugh at those words. Noah had survived another incredible struggle, and she felt truly happy for him. Her only regret was that she didn't have the chance to fight next to him.

"You seem happy," June eventually whispered when she inspected Noah's facial features. "Did you think about something to prolong the Devils' power?"

"It's rare for you to misunderstand what goes through my mind," Noah laughed while c.a.r.e.s.sing June's hair. "I'm just glad that you are catching up. I was afraid you would have remained behind."

June's eyes widened at those words, and their conversation ended. The two silently decided to make up for the years spent on different sides of the Immortal Lands.

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The news about the return of Noah's group spread quickly. Even June had been aware of his arrival before he actually reached the blue regions.

Mental messages containing different images that confirmed the return of the experts spread through the Legion's domain and informed every relevant character inside the organization.

The Demons, Second Prince, Daniel, Faith, Jordan, Ian, and even Alexander decided to organize an event that would bring the entire Legion together.

No one cared about the differences between Noah's organization and the actual Legion. The experts only wanted an excuse to celebrate, catch up, and plan their next move.

The news about the celebration arrived while June and Noah were still inside the castle. They didn't even notice those mental messages, but their companions took care of that matter.

Regrouping was a significant aspect of their return. The celebration would allow every expert to gain knowledge of two sides of the Immortal Lands. Even the members of enemy organizations would join that conversation if they had the chance.

Noah and June came out of the castle after sharing some other information about their last years.

Noah learnt that June had managed to gain that sharp increase of power due to the countless battles engaged by the Legion. She had chosen to lead many platoons in different areas and destroy the other organizations' hopes of recreating the human domain.

June didn't stop there. She had also fought every pack of magical beasts in the area. She had tried to approach those creatures on her own most of the time. Still, the Legion's army had always been behind her.

The many years spent fighting non-stop had forced her existence to improve. June had finally experienced a glimpse of an endless battlefield, and her law had benefited greatly from the event.

Her cultivation level had even gained a lot when Second Prince was busy placing the defenses around the new domain of the Legion. June had to keep magical beasts and cultivators away while the expert built the formations, which involved another wave of long battles.

"I told you that everything comes to life whenever you are around," June commented when Luke informed them that the Legion had planned a meeting. "I have been in this castle for centuries without seeing the slightest trace of an enemy. The Legion didn't even try to make events to appease my boredom. Yet, everything starts to move as soon as you come back."

"It's not like we'll separate again," Noah commented. "Your cultivation level isn't a hindrance anymore. You can follow me in every mission."

"I'll rely on your ability to cause chaos wherever you go," June smirked.

The duo followed Luke outside the castle, where King Elbas and the others were waiting for them. The group had even managed to summon the evolved Foolery, and they didn't forget to call the experts who had come from the other side of the Immortal Lands.

"The meeting is in a few months," King Elbas explained. "We should depart right away."

"Shouldn't we leave someone to defend the borders?" Noah asked.

"No, please, let them come," June almost begged. "I've tried to leave openings in our defenses on purpose, but no one wants to move. I don't know what those cowards are doing in the Outer Lands, but they have no intention to return."

Noah found the whole matter strange, and his gaze promptly fell on Luke. The latter nodded when he understood the hidden meaning in that gesture. The human organizations would never accept to live in the Outer Lands unless they had a few benefits, which usually meant Heaven and Earth.

"I have already sent baits toward different cells of the secret organization," Luke explained. "We'll know more once someone decides to talk."

"Do you think they will?" Noah asked.

"Our organization counts more than thirty rank 8 cultivators," Luke explained. "Moreover, we have some of the best experts who have ever stepped on the Immortal Lands. I bet that everyone is dying for a chance to switch sides."

Chapter 1725 - 1725. Fire

No one remained in the castle. A massive group made of cultivators, hybrids, and magical beasts moved toward the center of the new domain of the Legion.

Similar scenes unfolded in all the other outposts inside the domain. Even the existences in the seventh rank left their positions to attend the massive gathering.

An event like that had never happened after the Legion had started to expand. Some of the weaker troops had never seen their leaders. The organization had even recruited the experts who had ascended from the new landing zones under its control. Its current size had reached incredible proportions.

Multiple groups eventually appeared in the distance as Noah's army continued to march forward. The various teams decided to fuse during the rest of the journey, and Noah had the chance to meet some of his oldest friends.

"I also have a thing or two to say to Heaven and Earth," Flying Demon snorted when he heard Noah's story.

"It's a pity to have missed the chance to inspect the sky," Dreaming Demon continued.

"I wonder if I can purify Heaven and Earth's light and remove the flaws obtained through the forced absorption," Daniel commented.

"If you don't die first," Faith laughed. "I must say, you really have a talent for this. How did you even end up near the sky?"

"It was a trap," Noah explained. "I didn't mention a few complicated details, but you'll learn everything once the meeting starts. I also want to understand what has happened here since I have a few cultivators to hunt."

The Demons, Daniel, and Faith were in the gaseous stage, but their power fell behind June. The latter was close to the breakthrough, while the others would still require a few centuries of training to reach her state.

"The Crystal City didn't make any move," Flying Demon explained. "The secret organization has basically vanished."

"The human forces here didn't want to overcommit," Dreaming Demon continued. "Their priority was the battle on the other side of the Immortal Lands. Most organizations didn't know if Heaven and Earth would have asked for reinforcements, so they kept their best assets hidden. They lost the old human domain because of that."

'What can reinforcements even do when three rank 9 existences rule the battlefield?' Noah thought before focusing on a tall pyre in the distance.

An immense fire that featured multicolored flames burnt at the center of a large plain. Countless experts had occupied different spots of the region while they waited for all the members of the Legion to gather.

Noah couldn't help but note in his mind how big the Legion had become. The organization had been nothing more than a small force living in the Outer Lands. Instead, its current might could make the entire higher plane tremble.

Jordan, Ian, Alexander, and other familiar experts appeared in Noah's sight and didn't hesitate to set off to meet him. The two hybrids had started to approach the breakthrough to the liquid stage in those years, and Noah didn't miss that detail.

"I heard that you caused another mess," Ian shouted once the group approached Noah's team.

"Which isn't surprising," Jordan added.

"We have a lot to discuss," Alexander went straight to the point. "The new size of our domain requires a careful distribution of troops. We also have to reintroduce magical beasts in the environment and plan our next move."

"I think you can enjoy yourself today," Wilfred commented.

"Or we can resume clearing your mental sphere," Noah proposed before June punched his waist.

The various groups eventually landed on the plain and gathered near the massive fire. The countless experts created a horde of powerful cultivators, hybrids, and magical beasts who began drinking and eating.

Only Noah and the other higher-ups decided to occupy a slightly separated spot on the plain to discuss matters that didn't involve the underlings.

"That's a lot," Alexander commented. "Are you sure that Heaven and Earth couldn't touch you anymore? What if that's another trick?"

"I have a theory that has a few blank spots," Noah announced. "The fact that their centers of power separated into three different entities might explain a lot about Heaven and Earth."

"Are you talking about the body?" King Elbas asked.

"Exactly," Noah continued. "What if their body couldn't contain the energy required to reach the tenth rank? A center of power that is about to go past the normal cultivation journey should be enough to generate the Immortal Lands."

"So what?" Jordan asked. "Their centers of power simply split once their body gave up?"

"That's my theory," Noah replied. "I guess that they belonged to a species similar to humans. That might explain why their body failed to endure the breakthrough."

The cultivators in the area fell silent. Except for Fergie and Robert, the other humans didn't receive any physical enhancement. The issue that had afflicted Heaven and Earth could eventually land on them.

"I don't know how this helps us," Ian eventually said.

"This is Heaven and Earth's body," Noah said while placing his hands on the ground. "They will eventually need it for the new attempt to reach the tenth rank, but we have laws that can counter their existence now."

Robert and the Foolery smiled at those words. They had followed Noah's speech closely, so they could vaguely understand the nature of his plan.

"Our domain is only a small part of the higher plane," Noah explained. "The magical beasts' domain is massive, and the Outer Lands are hard to evaluate due to the storms. However, we can start to overrule these areas before slowly infecting the others."

"Do you want to mutate the entire domain?" King Elbas asked as surprise filled his voice.

"Why not?" Noah asked. "It will also help to spread my influence. The entire Legion will benefit from my law once the ground starts radiating my existence."

"The process will take years," Wilfred commented, "But we have years to use. Defeating Heaven and Earth requires drastic measures."

"I wasn't asking for your permission," Noah laughed. "I'll start the process as soon as this meeting ends. Alexander, you should also come with me to take care of the remaining instabilities inside your mind."

Alexander nodded without giving the matter a second thought. Noah was a lifesaver when it came to his innate flaw. The devouring ability of his mental waves could correct Alexander's greatest weakness.

"I only have one question at this point," Jordan announced while pointing toward Sword Saint. "How do we handle him?"

"Handle?" Sword Saint asked.

"You aren't an enemy, but you aren't an ally either," Jordan explained. "You have helped to repay a debt, but I don't know where your loyalty stands now."

"Only the blade deserves my loyalty," Sword Saint replied. "I came here because I also share my deep enmity with Heaven and Earth."

"We can vouch for him," June suddenly stepped into the conversation. "Part of his inheritance has fallen on our Mortal Lands. Noah's techniques prove that."

"I understood that," Jordan continued. "I just don't know his current position."

"I will cut everything on my path until I'm fully able to endure the stormy regions," Sword Saint announced.

"Talking about inheritances," Flying Demon said while scratching his chin. "There is this cultivator. He ascended some time ago, and the Legion didn't miss the chance to seize him. Still, he kept saying that you were his Master."

Chapter 1726 - 1726. Kirk

Noah had almost forgotten about his inheritance after spending millennial in the Immortal Lands. Someone had to find it sooner or later, but he had never fully prepared himself for the arrival of an heir.

"Where is he now?" Noah asked, uncaring that the meeting had yet to end. "I would like to meet him."

"He should be here," Flying Demon revealed while expanding his consciousness. "Found him. He's near the edge of the region. I guess he doesn't like to celebrate."

Flying Demon sent the location to Noah's mind through his consciousness, and the latter promptly shot in the air to identify the cultivator with his own eyes.

A few figures followed Noah. King Elbas, June, and Divine Demon appeared near him and waited for him to move.

"This should be personal," Noah commented while diving toward the edges of the region.

"I'm not going to miss your first meeting with your heir," June replied.

"He must meet the Master of his Master," Divine Demon added.

"I'm curious," King Elbas limited himself to say before the group reached their destination.

A tall cultivator who had a young face, short blonde hair, and azure eyes was cultivating next to a group of hybrids. The latter enjoyed the celebration and releasing cries toward the sky, but the man didn't seem interested in the event.

The cultivator wore a sleeveless ragged robe, and his expression managed to remain cold even during his training. He was only a rank 7 expert in the liquid stage, but his power seemed about to approach the breakthrough.

Four figures suddenly appeared around the cultivator. The event snapped him out of his cultivation and alerted his senses, but the oppressive power released by Noah's group didn't allow him to move.

The attack created shockwaves that tried to spread through the area, but the pressure released by four experts suppressed that power. The punch ended up landing on Noah's c.h.e.s.t, where it didn't cause the slightest damage.

'Almost as strong as a hybrid,' Noah thought before pulling the man from his arm and inspecting the dark mark.

The elephant depicted by the mark seemed alive, but the technique was clearly different from the Body-inscription spell. Noah could sense life coming out of that spot, but he also noticed the dense "Breath" that filled its insides.

"It must be higher energy," King Elbas suddenly said while bending toward the mark. "Definitely earth element. His law probably involves imitating and improving existing features. The requirements for its activation must be quite devilish."

"Do you need to kill the magical beasts to obtain some of their features?" Noah asked while glancing at the scared expert. "I can smell their blood from here."

"Your heir had to be another admirer of the magical beasts," June commented. "I'm starting to think that Heaven and Earth have planned this out."

"I suggest we throw him in a pack of dragons and see how he does," Divine Demon proposed, but his three companions silently chose to ignore him for the rest of the inspection.

The man didn't have the time to inspect Noah's group at the beginning. Their arrival had been too sudden, and he didn't want to risk getting caught by those unknown existences.

However, his consciousness ended up inspecting Noah and the others after they captured him. A mixture of astonishment and fear filled his mind when he realized that the four figures belonged to rank 8 experts.

Noah sensed the man's gaze and decided to place a finger on his forehead. His influence began to envelop the expert's mental sphere, but it didn't pierce it. He only wanted to make part of those memories resonate with his ambition.

Part of the man's mental sea began to shine with a dark light before surging upward and flowing out of the mental sphere. Those memories entered Noah's finger and made him aware of the events that happened inside his inheritance.

Noah didn't leave something that could instantly make him aware of the expert's life in his inheritance. Yet, he had filled the structure with his will and emotions. Part of them had inevitably flowed inside the man.

Vague images entered Noah's mind. He could see a slightly younger version of the cultivator inside the darkness of his inheritance. The man fought barehanded to defeat the creatures protecting the structure, and a name eventually became clear among his thoughts.

"Kirk, no last name or title," Noah announced. "He is definitely my heir."

Noah removed his finger from the expert's forehead and let go of his arm. Kirk could straighten his position and kowtow toward his Master, and the other three experts ended up laughing at that scene.

Kirk immediately raised his head and inspected the experts. He didn't know why they were laughing. Kowtowing was only proper in front of his Master.

"The first rule of my organization forbids kneeling," Noah explained. "I'll let it go this time. On your feet now."

Kirk quickly straightened his position again, and King Elbas began to walk around him. His curiosity shot faint flares of mental energy from time to time that seeped inside the expert and studied his body. He appeared really interested in the matter.

"He is an Elbas," King Elbas eventually explained. "I can sense that he belongs to my bloodline, but his connection with me is basically non-existent. His generation is too distant from me."

"Luckily," Divine Demon commented, but everyone ignored him again.

"I'm no Elbas!" Kirk spoke for the first time. "I know their kind. They are arrogant incompetents. I take pride in those that I have killed throughout the years."

"He is the reason why the Elbas bloodline exists," June revealed while pointing toward King Elbas. "He is the Patriarch and main source of power of that blood."

Kirk's expression froze when he heard that. His eyes tried to find King Elbas, but the latter had completely disregarded his words and had resumed his inspection.

"Don't worry," Noah winked toward Kirk. "I've also killed many of them. Actually, the Elbas family has continued to live because they were the only humans left in the world. You couldn't avoid that blood."

Kirk nodded before performing a bow to thank Noah for those words.

"He is different from you," June said when she noticed that polite gesture.

"He is lying," Noah laughed. "He is probably hoping to get something if he pleases me."

Kirk's expression froze again. Noah had seen right through him, but he didn't appear angry about the matter.

"He is definitely like you then," June commented. "What's the nature of your law anyway? I hope you can't just make yourself slightly stronger."

Kirk glanced toward Noah, and the latter nodded. The man then lowered the upper part of his robe and revealed his burly body filled with scars.

Dark marks that featured many magical beasts slowly materialized on his skin. Kirk's power increased as those drawings appeared, and Noah couldn't help but sense multiple traces of life coming for him.

"I absorb other living beings to take their best features," Kirk revealed. "The process to obtain that power is long, but I wouldn't trade my law for anything else. I know that my existence has the strongest ability."

Chapter 1727 - 1727. Marks

"I can see the Elbas' blood now," June commented after Kirk's line.

Noah and King Elbas ignored her to study those marks. They could sense that the various traces of life belonged to different creatures, but Kirk's existence seemed to be the core of their life.

"It's a special feature of his higher energy," King Elbas explained while placing his hand on one of the marks. "Interesting. His earth can replicate life and trap it into his existence. It's similar to Alexander's ability, except for the drawbacks. He pays them before obtaining a new power."

Kirk couldn't help but feel surprised at the accuracy of King Elbas' explanation. The expert had inspected him for mere seconds, but he had already understood many core parts of his law.

"Higher energy that learns from lifeforms," Noah said. "A power that imitates features of the world and turns them into your abilities. Can you ignore the limits of your element?"

"Partially," Kirk revealed. "The earth element is still stronger since my existence naturally tends toward that power. Also, my centers of power can't endure too many marks, so I have to choose which abilities to keep carefully."

"I bet you use the Elemental Forging method to imprint them into your body," Noah said while sniffing the various marks. "I can smell your greed for power. Do you want to turn yourself into the perfect being?"

"The higher plane is the perfect hunting ground," Kirk announced. "I can find the best abilities here and fuse them with my existence while my capacity increases."

Kirk seemed unable to hide the secrets behind his existence under Noah's probing. He respected his Master too much to attempt to lie to him. The inheritance had changed his life, so Noah would get all the answers he wanted.

"I'm glad that you didn't rely too much on my techniques," Noah announced. "Developing a law that completely reflects your existence is crucial for the cultivation journey."

Kirk nodded. He felt as if he was in a dream. His Master was praising his efforts. The meeting couldn't have gone better.

"You can throw him in a pack of dragons now," Noah said while clenching his grip on Kirk's arm.

"What?!" Kirk's expression froze for the third time, and worry filled his mind when he saw Divine Demon getting close.

"Why would you want to do that?" King Elbas asked while wearing a blank expression.

"I want to see what he is really like," Noah snorted. "Words are useless."

Noah gave voice to a roar, and Jordan quickly flew toward him. The two of them exchanged a few words before she rose in the sky and started summoning a few hybrids and magical beasts.

"Make way!" Noah roared to force the various experts busy celebrating away. "I'm going to punch the ground even if you are still here."

Cries began to fill the regions but laughs eventually spread when the massive group saw Noah dragging Kirk toward an empty spot.

Noah punched the ground, making sure that the shockwaves of his attack didn't spread through the region. A large area immediately crumbled, and his higher energy covered the hole to define the borders of that battlefield.

"Good luck!" Noah said in his human voice before throwing Kirk into the hole.

Kirk wanted to complain and use his abilities, but Noah's pressure prevented his attempts to leave the hole. The expert had to go through that event before regaining his freedom.

Divine Demon laughed as he sat next to Noah. June shook her head before imitating the expert and taking out a few jugs of wine. Alexander and the other existences who had known Noah for a long time quickly arrived on the edges of the hole and joined the trio.

Cups and more jugs came out of the storage spaces. The experts began to drink while Jordan made sure to create a trail for the cultivator. Meanwhile, Kirk stared at the tall edges of the hole in confusion. He didn't expect that development at all.

Jordan eventually returned, and a small group of hybrids, cultivators, and magical beasts followed her. They were all experts in the liquid stage of the seventh rank, and they didn't hesitate to descend into the hole to prepare for the imminent battle.

"Dragons have more style," Divine Demon commented while emptying his cup.

"These areas are completely devoid of magical beasts," June sighed. "Did you even listen to our summary?"

"I have never listened in my life!" Divine Demon shouted.

"That's literally impossib-," June tried to complain, but Noah placed a hand on her shoulder and shook his head.

"Battle!" The Foolery shouted from the edges of the hole, and Kirk didn't know what to think when he saw that a tall winged pig was part of the audience.

"Master?" Kirk said in a pleading voice, but Noah didn't budge.

"I want to see how strong you are," Noah explained. "Also, lone cultivators aren't so polite. You can drop your act now. Don't worry. You are among maniacs."

Kirk remained speechless when he noticed that more existences had started to amass on the edges of the hole. Some even took their place in the air since the ground became full. Everyone couldn't wait for the battle to begin.

"Are you all crazy?!" Kirk eventually shouted as his respectful face vanished. "I'm alone against ten experts at my same level!"

"Shut up and fight!"

"Stop complaining!"

"You are lucky they aren't dragons!"

A series of shouts resounded from the stages, with the latter belonging to Divine Demon. Noah limited himself to laugh and drink his wine while he brought June closer to his c.h.e.s.t.

"Go get them, my heir!" Noah shouted while June found a comfortable position on his c.h.e.s.t.

"Does it feel good?" Divine Demon asked.

"It's not bad," Noah laughed. "I hope he can match my expectations."

"You are the best talent in the entire world," June snorted. "How can he even match you?"

King Elbas cleared his throat, but he didn't add anything when he noticed the Foolery looking at him. The pig was waiting for his line, and he wouldn't satisfy him.

"Did he go silent due to the pig?" Jordan asked as astonishment seeped into her voice.

"We found the perfect counter," Wilfred laughed.

"What has even happened to you on the other side?" Flying Demon asked as a tinge of regret appeared on his face.

"We definitely missed a good spectacle," Faith sighed when she saw how tight the relationship among the various experts had become.

"Enough!" Noah roared. "Fight!"

"You damned leaders!" Kirk complained as a few marks appeared on his back. "No one will laugh once I absorb the world and force you all to eat my shi-."

Kirk wanted to finish his line, but a hybrid with the shape of a three-headed wolf suddenly appeared at his side and tried to bite him.

Kirk snorted. He raised his face toward the sky, and a new mark appeared on his throat. A shrill cry eventually came out of his mouth, and the soundwaves generated by his voice forced all his opponents to interrupt their offensive.

The three-headed wolf had to pull back its maws to endure the soundwaves, but Kirk didn't let it go. His leg shot toward the creature's chest and flung it into the wall.

The attack made the creature faint. A single physical blow delivered by a cultivator had defeated a hybrid at the same level.

Chapter 1728 - 1728. Fight

"He isn't bad!" Noah laughed.

"You would have done it with a finger back then," King Elbas snorted.

"He said something!" The Foolery shouted, but everyone wanted to pay attention to the battle, so they ignored the pig.

Kirk turned toward the remaining nine existences. Two cultivators, six magical beasts of various species, and a humanoid hybrid had remained on the battlefield, but Kirk didn't seem scared about them.

Jordan had purposely chosen opponents that didn't benefit much from Noah's influence. She had understood that the group only wanted to test Kirk's power, and she tried to avoid creating a deadly battle.

One of the magical beasts, a massive rhino with metal skin, charged ahead and made the whole hole tremble. An eagle from behind the creature shot high in the sky and pointed its beak toward Kirk. One of the two white apes decided to follow the rhino, and ice spread under its feet.

Kirk pointed two fingers toward the incoming rhino. He closed his eyes and began to gather his power. Noah and King Elbas immediately recognized the higher energy flowing through his hand and creating a black mark on his fingertips.

The rhino didn't stop even when Kirk's fingers began to glow with a brown light. A low noise then filled the area, and the ground in front of him began to shatter.

Invisible energy was marching toward the rhino. The ground opened, and its shards began to rotate around the attack. Space also wanted to bend, but the Immortal Lands were too stable for that.

The rhino suddenly vanished from the battlefield, but Kirk showed a surprised expression at that sight. His attack shouldn't have caused that effect, and his gaze soon went on the stages.

Noah shrugged his shoulders when Kirk's eyes landed on him, and an explanation soon escaped his mouth. "Go all-out. I'll make sure that none of them gets killed."

A chill ran down Kirk's spine at those words. Noah didn't affect the fight before, but he had decided to save the rhino. He could instantly understand which attacks would cause more damage or lead to the death of one of the fighters.

The scariest aspect of that feat was his ability to make the creature disappear without leaving any trace. Noah didn't even move from his position, but he had managed to affect the battle without interrupting its normal flow.

The shrill cry of the eagle forced Kirk to snap back to reality. The creature dived toward the cultivator while the ape continued its march. Both magical beasts were about to release their attacks, but Kirk's confusion didn't affect his reaction time.

Kirk leapt toward the eagle in an instant. His movements were swift and quick, and his hands reached the creature's neck before the effects of his previous ability ended.

The cultivator enhanced his physical strength and tried to tear the neck with a swift movement, but the eagle suddenly disappeared from his grasp.

"He likes to challenge you," June commented.

"I would be surprised if he didn't test my ability," Noah laughed.

Kirk could have taken care of the eagle and the ape at the same time, but the technique ended after the magical beast disappeared from his grasp. His d.e.s.i.r.e to deliver a deadly blow to test Noah's power had allowed the ape to break free.

The ape stomped its feet on the ground, and the ice accumulated behind it rose in the air before transforming into spikes that flew toward Kirk.

Kirk's feet started to perform strange movements. Their shapes became blurry as the cultivator stepped on the air and began to walk among the sharp spikes.

The ape fell in a daze when it watched that scene. Kirk appeared weightless as he walked through the attack and reached his opponent.

Kirk placed his feet on the creature before an immense pressure fell on its shoulder. Both figures immediately dived into the ground. The attack had made them dig a hole inside the battlefield.

The ape covered the area with ice as the elephant began to charge forward while waving its tusks. The cat disappeared, and the two cultivators rose in the air to point their hands toward Kirk.

The hybrid also stepped forward, but she remained behind the group. She spread her arms and gathered flames in front of her c.h.e.s.t while she waited for her companions' offensive to unfold.

Kirk sprinted toward the elephant and grabbed its tusks. The magical beast tried to stomp its feet on the ground to generate a shockwave that could destabilize the cultivator, but it suddenly found itself unable to reach the terrain.

Kirk lifted the elephant and threw it toward the incoming storm of ice-shards. Then, he sprinted under the magical beast to block the cultivators' vision.

The expert reappeared in front of the ape, where he promptly punched its belly. The attack flung the creature away and slammed it on the rocky wall.

His senses suddenly warned him about a potential danger. Dark marks appeared around Kirk's eyes and enhanced his vision, allowing him to identify the creature hidden in the fabric of the world.

Kirk's hand suddenly shot forward, and the tiny cat materialized in his grasp. The expert wanted to squeeze it to death, but the creature disappeared and left him empty-handed.

The attacks landed on Kirk at that point. A lightning bolt with the shape of a snake and a series of unstable boulders fell on the cultivator.

The hole fell into chaos. Waves of grey smoke and azure shards rose toward the sky as the lightning bolt dug the ground and the boulders detonated. The two cultivators had used some of their best attacks, but Noah didn't feel the need to intervene.

The defensive layer returned inside his skin and revealed that Kirk had virtually suffered no damage. His figure then disappeared, and one of the cultivators replaced him.

The cultivator that had remained in the sky turned, and his worries ended up being true. Kirk had switched places with the other expert, and he was already moving his arm to deploy an attack.

Noah put the cultivator in the air inside the Shadow Domain before sending him among the audience. Only three opponents remained at that point. Kirk had yet to defeat a cultivator, the injured elephant, and the hybrid.

Kirk didn't let his opponents gain the initiative. He shot toward the elephant and delivered a powerful kick toward its head.

The magical beast endured the blow, but that only made Kirk deploy more power. The elephant fainted at that point, but the hybrid released her attack before he could get away from the creature.

The elephant's figure disappeared when the fire spread through the area. The dense and raging flames flew in every direction and tried to burn every trace of life that still existed inside the hole.

Noah had to use the Shadow Domain to save the two fainted creatures and the last cultivator. The hybrid had understood that power, so she felt no reason to hold back.

However, a human figure walked through the flames. Kirk had summoned his silver defense again, but he seemed to struggle among that fire.

Chapter 1729 - 1729. Proud

Kirk staggered through the flames. The hybrid didn't seem able to pierce his silver defense, but he struggled to advance.

A determined expression appeared on Kirk's face when the flames intensified. He wouldn't be able to reach his opponent in that condition, so he had to push his power forward.

A mark appeared on his right hand. The symbol depicted a simple sphere, but Noah and the other experts could sense that it contained far more power than the others.

Strange waves of power began to flow out of Kirk's figure. The cultivator became able to straighten his position after his power spread through the flames, and the hybrid could only shoot a surprised glance at that sight.

The flames suddenly shattered. The few tongues of fire that managed to survive Kirk's attack fell on the ground before crumbling due to the pressure that had landed on the area.

The pressure also fell on the hybrid at some point. Her physical strength was decent for her species, but she fell on her knees anyway.

Kirk neared the hybrid and joined his hands above his head. He was about to deliver a killing blow, but Noah teleported his opponent away.

"I didn't even start to attack," Kirk complained while turning toward the stages.

"That ended a bit too soon," Noah announced while scratching his chin. "Let's try something different."

Noah waved his hand, and a small dark cloud spread from his fingers. The dark matter then expanded and took the shape of a tall six-armed dragon that landed on the hole and roared while lifting its head toward the sky.

"I won't teleport this one away," Noah shouted. "Do your best."

Kirk snorted before pointing his fingers toward the dragon. Dark marks covered his hand before a dense invisible beam shot toward the creature.

A hole suddenly opened on the dragon's c.h.e.s.t. The invisible energy had dug through the dark matter in an instant, and the audience cheered at that scene.

However, the dragon spat a sea of black flames that covered the entire battlefield. The hole in its c.h.e.s.t even began to close as the fire destroyed the ground and absorbed its energy.

Kirk had covered his figure with the silver skin to endure the fire, but cracks had started to appear on the defensive technique. Shards continued to leave his body and burn among the flames, and pieces of charred flesh inevitably appeared.

"He isn't much if he can't defeat your dragon," Divine Demon commented.

"He is still hiding things," Noah commented. "I bet he has a set of abilities meant only for the serious battles. The gravitational attack from before must be one of them."

"Are you sure it was gravity?" Fergie asked from the side of the stages.

"It was gravity," Noah and King Elbas replied at the same time.

Noah had clearly sensed the laws of space condensing after Kirk activated his ability. The hybrid's flames couldn't endure the pressure that had fallen on their fabric, and the same went for their owner.

Kirk watched his silver layer falling apart under the black flames. His defense wouldn't endure any longer. He had to do something to turn the situation in his favor.

The sphere-shaped mark reappeared on the back of his hand. A massive pressure flowed out of Kirk's figure and filled the entire battlefield. The black flames struggled against the ability for a while, but they eventually crumbled.

The dragon also suffered from that pressure. Its body melted in multiple spots, but it managed to remain on its legs. The creature endured Kirk's ability and began to charge toward its opponent.

Kirk saw the tall dragon pointing its clawed arms toward him. Only one instant separated him from the inevitable clash. He had the time to summon only one mark, and his previous enhanced physical strength wouldn't make him match the dragon.

Kirk closed his eyes before his entire figure turned dark. He summoned a mark that covered his whole body, and even his aura began to change after that event.

The few chunks of silver skin flowed back into his flesh before the dragon slashed its arms toward him. Claws closed on his figure, but no sound resounded in the area.

All the rank 8 experts who could spread their consciousness without affecting the battle revealed surprised expressions. Even Noah felt interested in the new ability showed by his heir.

Kirk didn't dodge the attack, but his flesh didn't endure the blow either. The dragon's claws had seeped into his body, but no blood came out of his now dark skin.

"He became immune to physical blows!" Faith shouted, but the other rank 8 existences on the stage soon contradicted her.

"Immunity doesn't exist in this world," King Elbas explained.

"It's a strange material," Sword Saint whispered, "But a sword can cut right through it."

"He has developed a resistance to physical blows," Wilfred commented, "But those abilities always have a limit. He would die if any of us were to punch him now."

The dragon's claws remained stuck inside Kirk's body. The creature didn't manage to take them out. The cultivator had the time to prepare his next ability, and he had every intention to defeat his opponent in the next blow.

Part of Kirk's skin returned to its previous color before dark marks appeared on the sides of his jaws. His mouth opened, and it quickly enlarged until it surpassed what human bodies should be able to perform.

Kirk's mouth spread until it reached the ground. Noah couldn't help but find some similarities with Duanlong, but his heir's technique clearly came from a different species.

The dragon tried to use its head to push Kirk away. It bit on the cultivator's upper torso, but he promptly tilted his face and made the creature end up in his mouth.

A suction force then came out of Kirk's throat. The dragon tried to run away from that ability, but it seemed unable to free itself.

The dark matter that made the creature began to separate from its body and flow inside Kirk's mouth. The dragon couldn't oppose the process. Chunks of its flesh fell prey to the technique, and its physical strength didn't help in that situation.

The dragon tried to spit a wave of flames, but Kirk endured the blow and continued the absorption. The creature soon lost the entirety of its neck, but the suction force didn't stop affecting its figure.

"Why am I not surprised that he eats magical beasts?" June laughed.

"He must have perfected his set of abilities before reaching the higher plane," Noah commented. "I'm actually disappointed that he couldn't deal with an upper tier creature faster."

"You shouldn't place impossible expectations on him," June continued. "He is far stronger than his peers. He is resourceful, and powerful creatures don't scare him. He is good material."

"You can test him again after he gets a taste of your influence," Divine Demon said in one of his rare serious moments. "Just throw him in the magical beasts' domain if he remains a failure after that."

All the dark matter contained in the dragon eventually flowed inside Kirk's mouth. His body then reverted to its normal human figure, and the cultivators showed a proud expression when he turned toward the stages.

Chapter 1730 - 1730. Reckless

"Do you want to test him some more?" Divine Demon asked. "I can always invent something."

"There's no point," Noah announced before patting June's shoulder.

June left his c.h.e.s.t, and Noah teleported next to Kirk. He grabbed his arm, and the duo vanished from the battlefield.

The audience didn't have the time to cheer for Kirk's spectacle, but the Foolery suddenly gave voice to a loud squeal that made everyone go back to the celebrations.

Meanwhile, Noah reappeared in a nearby region and let Kirk fall on the ground. The cultivator lost his balance when his feet touched the terrain, but he quickly straightened his position and took a battle stance.

"You can lower your arms," Noah laughed. "Your techniques are interesting, but I have my own path to follow."

"Is this another test?" Kirk asked without lowering his arms.

"That was only to kill time," Noah smirked. "We only wanted to understand if you could match our expectations."

"And?" Kirk asked.

Noah shot a cold glance toward Kirk. His reptilian eyes studied the expert while his instincts tried to gain a clear understanding of his power.

"You aren't bad," Noah revealed, "But you have a long way to go. Try to follow me from now on. My influence will help you."

"Help me how?" Kirk asked.

The cultivator still didn't believe Noah. The last test had ruined part of the blind trust that he had toward his Master.

Noah scoffed before unfolding his aura. His energy ignored Kirk and focused on the rest of the region.

The world began to change right in front of Kirk's eyes. The ground grew darker, and its fabric evolved. It transformed into a metal that radiated a black light. Instead, the air turned into a dense gas that began to devour the "Breath" in the area.

Kirk didn't know what to think. He had learnt how resilient the higher plane was, but Noah could transform it easily. The simple decision to spread his influence could force everything to evolve.

Heaven and Earth didn't like that event. Noah was stealing pieces of the higher plane from their domain, so their defenses had to activate. It didn't matter if they knew that Noah could take care of them easily.

Black clouds that contained enough power to threaten rank 8 existences accumulated high in the sky. A massive lightning bolt fell, but Noah limited himself to wave his hand to destroy it.

Kirk remained speechless as an invisible slash pierced the lightning bolt and forced its energy to disperse. The attack flew until it reached the clouds, and the Tribulation crumbled.

"Don't look so surprised," Noah said while looking toward the sky. "The Tribulation was in the lower tier. I bet that Heaven and Earth have no control over them."

"Heaven and Earth?" Kirk repeated.

"They don't have much energy to waste on battles they can't win," Noah explained. "We just took care of a trial in the ninth rank. Do you think that they would send something in the eighth rank if they had control over it?"

"Why did they send it then?" Kirk asked.

"Because they have to limit the amount of control over the world," Noah continued. "Part of their Tribulations have to activate on their own. They would waste too much energy to keep their consciousness spread all the time otherwise."

"You are talking as if Heaven and Earth were normal cultivators," Kirk complained. "They are in control of the entire world! They don't get tired or reckless."

"They are existences like everyone else," Noah sighed. "They are the strongest in the world, but that doesn't make them omnipotent. You'll learn about their flaws during your life in the Immortal Lands."

"Tell me one now," Kirk asked, but his expression froze when Noah shot a cold glance toward him.

"They can't understand what they did wrong," Noah revealed after Kirk lowered his head. "They don't know why their centers of power couldn't reach the tenth rank. They use their light to take new laws, but they aren't getting closer to their goal."

"How can you know all of this?!" Kirk asked as astonishment filled his face. "How can you be so sure about this knowledge?"

"I'm only sixty percent sure about part of it," Noah winked toward Kirk. "I know that they failed the breakthrough and that they absorb laws. Everything else is just theory for now."

Kirk couldn't take so much in such a short time. He had basically just stepped on the higher plane compared to Noah and other rank 8 experts. He had yet to develop a proper domain even.

"Sit," Noah said while pointing at a random spot on the ground. "I'll tell you what I know about the Immortal Lands and Heaven and Earth's system in general. I might even add some information about the cultivation journey. You'll decide what to do with it."

Kirk immediately forgot about the previous test. He didn't care about that battle anymore. A rank 8 existence wanted to explain the world to him, so he sat and remained silent.

Noah started from the beginning. He described the same details that he had learnt from Great Builder before moving to other features. His speech eventually started to involve his theories, and Kirk's mouth inevitably hung from his jaw once the talk ended.

Noah then dragged Kirk back in the celebration and threw him among hybrids engaged in far from proper activities. The party was nearing its end, so everyone was trying to enjoy their last moments of peace.

It wasn't a secret that Noah's return would bring chaos. Almost every higher-up in all the organizations of the higher plane knew that his actions often generated battles, wars, or crises.

The Legion had an advantage over the other organizations. The latter didn't know that Noah had returned with a series of rank 8 cultivators willing to follow him in battle.

Noah intended to exploit that advantage, but he had another project to complete first. Heaven and Earth were his true enemies, and stealing pieces of their body could hurt them. He had to transform the Legion's domain before creating a training area and working on his power for a while.

"How did it go?" June asked when Noah landed behind her.

"He is still young," Noah sighed while sitting next to his lover. "I'll keep him around to improve his growth, but I don't think he will become relevant in our battles."

Noah didn't mean the battles of the Legion with his last statement, and June understood the meaning behind his words. He was talking about the struggles against Heaven and Earth. His cultivation level also fell a bit short, but he had taken the first step into the final battlefield at least.

"I bet they didn't expect you to become such a problem," June commented. "Their last plan failed, so the next one will be even harsher."

"I'll be ready," Noah exclaimed while taking his lover in his arms. "I'll make Heaven and Earth feel that I'm getting close."

"Why is that?" June asked as a puzzled expression fell on her face.

Remaining unnoticed as long as possible was the proper approach when dealing with existences in control of the entire world. Buying time until your power reached the intended level was the best path in those situations.

"I want them to feel fear," Noah revealed. "Their worry will make them commit mistakes that we can exploit."

"What if you can't exploit them?" June wondered. "What if you end up bringing the rage of the world on us?"

"That's exactly what I want," Noah laughed. "How much energy do you think they'll have to waste for something like that? How reckless will they get if we end up surviving that challenge?"