

DEMONIC 1731

Chapter 1731 - 1731. Mission

The celebration eventually ended, and Noah decided to start his plan right away. June and many other higher-ups chose to settle in random areas of the domain to resume their cultivation, and most of the underlings spread through the regions to resume their duties.

Noah took a few experts for himself. He needed Robert and the Foolery to spread the chaotic laws faster, but others decided to follow him even if their purposes didn't involve the transformation of the higher plane.

Kirk decided to fly with Noah to bathe in his ambition and gain insights about the realm past the seventh rank. Alexander joined the mission to handle the few remaining instabilities of his mental state. Sword Saint didn't have much to do now, so he escorted the group to exchange ideas on sword arts.

Even King Elbas decided to join the mission. He wanted to study the new materials generated by the chaotic laws, and his experiments required those mutations to touch new fields. His existence also had to find a way to counter Heaven and Earth, and helping Noah would show him the right path faster.

The group began their mission deep into the Outer Lands. They used King Elbas' items to keep track of their advance, and they opted for a methodical approach to the matter.

King Elbas also reviewed Second Prince's defenses and improved some of them. Still, a few praises escaped his mouth, and everyone remained speechless whenever they heard them.

The transformation happened rather quickly with the three experts in the same regions. The Foolery's blue bushes could also continue to spread the chaotic influence once they filled large areas, so their work proceeded faster than they expected.

The team visited every region and inspected every corner of that massive domain. Most of those lands were empty due to the defenses on the borders, but strategies to repopulate them were already ongoing.

Noah's understanding increased as the process went on. His ability to mutate matter belonging to Heaven and Earth improved as he gained a better idea about his existence.

The mutations generated by his ambition could enlighten Noah about certain aspects of the world, and his existence as a whole ended up benefitting from that understanding.

The transformations featured destruction, creation, and an innate d.e.s.i.r.e to strive for higher forms of power. That process reflected Noah's existence, and he learnt a lot about himself by studying it. He could see his greatness, but he also noticed his flaws.

Part of the mutated matter would take life as an effect of Noah's ambition. It would even naturally inherit a d.e.s.i.r.e for power that made it absorb the "Breath" around it.

The process was far from smooth. The newborns didn't have any understanding of their power or surroundings. They attacked mindlessly, without caring if something stronger than their existence in the area.

Noah's powerful mental sphere took care of every mental instability that tried to appear in his mind. His ambition was relentless energy that forced him to d.e.s.i.r.e more power, but he could preserve his reason thanks to his consciousness.

Yet, it was clear that Heaven and Earth would try to exploit his flaws during a possible punishment explicitly aimed for him. His mind was resilient, but he didn't feel completely confident when his opponents were the rulers of the world.

Alexander helped Noah improving his mental sphere. The ghosts inside the hybrid's mind could enlarge Noah's consciousness by a lot since only the strongest were still alive.

Noah saw many ethereal figures belonging to upper tier magical beasts. His power made him able to face those creatures and devour their will, but the process was inevitably slower since he could only have mental fights against them.

Still, Noah and Alexander had a lot of time to spend together, so they approached the project slowly. Noah even waited a few months among the procedures to restore part of his mental walls' firmness.

Another flaw that became evident after inspecting the transformation of the world was the scarce harmony that a region obtained after most of its matter had mutated.

Noah's ambition didn't care about the region as a whole. It influenced everything in the area and didn't mind if some parts became stronger than others.

Some regions ended up crumbling because a small area managed to devour its surroundings after the mutations. A simple unbalance of power in the land had been enough to bring all the environment near its death.

'I naturally see me as the surviving mutated spot,' Noah thought while continuing the mission, 'But what if I'm the region? What if a sudden chance to gain a quick breakthrough destabilizes my existence and kills me?'

Noah had a counter for that flaw too. His black hole handled all the issues that could bring to an eventual destabilization. The organ could even force an uncaring existence like the parasite to harmonize with the body.

Yet, the issue remained. Noah's opponents were the rulers of the world, so his certainties could turn out to be wrong during a special punishment.

Kirk went through many levels of astonishment during the travel. Noah's pace allowed him to handle part of his training while he followed the group, but he still felt the need to seclude himself after being with his Master for a few years.

That experience was priceless. Kirk piled insights inside his mind but suppressed his d.e.s.i.r.e to seclude himself. The mission would take a while to end, and he didn't want to miss a second of that travel.

Heaven Tribulations fell from time to time on the group, but the experts barely considered those events a challenge. Alexander was with them in the end. They wouldn't fear anything below the ninth rank.

The transformed regions grew darker before a blue color filled them. The entirety of the Legion's domain slowly mutated as the group continued their long journey.

Noah almost couldn't believe his eyes when he saw golden inscriptions appearing in front of him. The event marked their arrival on the other side of the domain and told the group that the mission had reached its final stages.

The experts quickly took care of mutating the few remaining regions on the border. The process only lasted for a few years. After that, Noah could claim that the entirety of the Legions' domain had turned into a blue spectacle that didn't belong to Heaven and Earth.

"You didn't need to escort us until the end of the mission," Noah said to Alexander. "You don't have mental flaws for now. You can resume eating magical beasts."

"It only seemed proper," Alexander laughed.

His mood had greatly improved after his mind stopped containing the troublesome ethereal figures of the magical beasts. Alexander had reached a peak that his innate flaw had never allowed him to touch.

"You should focus on your breakthrough now," Noah ordered when he turned toward Kirk. "This mission made you waste many years already."

"I wouldn't call them wasted, Master," Kirk politely replied. "I don't know how to repay you for this experience."

"Easy," Noah snorted. "Get strong quickly enough to help with the battle against Heaven and Earth."

Kirk nodded before shooting toward the spot that Noah had appointed to be his new training area.

"What are your plans?" Noah asked after turning toward Sword Saint. "I didn't think you would stick around for so long."

"I figured that I could wait a bit longer before returning toward the stormy regions," Sword Saint announced. "I have even started to believe that I won't go back on my own."

"I have a lot to do here," Noah replied.

"You'll see," Sword Saint continued. "I'll give you one or two projects before getting bored of this part of the Immortal Lands."

Noah wanted to answer something, but a series of figures suddenly appeared in the distance. Wilfred, Jordan, and other hybrids were carrying scared magical beasts toward the blue domain.

"You are here!" Wilfred shouted when he noticed Noah and the others. "Contact Luke. He has found something about the secret organization!"

Chapter 1732 - 1732. Spot

"It's rare for different cells of the secret organization to group up," Luke explained, "But the sudden expansion of the Legion has turned everything upside-down. The human organizations don't have enough space anymore."

Luke, Noah, and other experts interested in the imminent mission had gathered at the center of the Legion's domain to discuss the secret organization.

Apparently, the sudden shift in the political environment caused by the Legion had forced the secret organization to take a stand. That force couldn't remain outside of the human struggles anymore, but the different agendas of the various cells had inevitably created a problem.

Some of the cells wanted to side with the human forces and see where Heaven and Earth would lead them. Instead, others saw in Noah and the Legion natural allies.

That division caused a leak in the network of the secret organizations. The human forces learnt about the involvement of some of their leaders with Heaven and Earth, and chaos inevitably spread.

The matter wasn't as simple as it looked. Internal fights happened inside the human organizations. Discord started to thrive among those forces after they learnt about the hidden interests of some of their leaders.

Most organizations didn't know about their leaders' involvement with Heaven and Earth. Only a few experts held the secret meetings, while the others continued to believe that the cultivation journey would eventually make them clash with the rulers.

The crisis that had fallen on the Balrow family didn't help Heaven and Earth's side either. The experts had learnt that some of their leaders wouldn't mind sacrificing their entire force to take out a few enemies of the world. That information only intensified the internal clashes.

Luke's team had gathered that knowledge during the expansion of the Legion. They had even found a few cells willing to share information about the new environment of the human domain in the Outer Lands.

Luke could contact those cells without revealing that Noah and the others had returned. He could inform them that a plan was in motion and that he needed their cooperation to make it work. In exchange, they could become allies of the largest organization in the world.

"How come they all want to be our friends now?" Divine Demon asked. "We should be the misfits!"

"The cultivators don't know who to trust," Luke explained. "Discovering that some of their leaders are secretly working for Heaven and Earth has spread chaos through their ranks. Instead, the Legion has always been clear about its position."

"Destroying a few castles of the Crystal City turned us into heroes," Wilfred sighed as a tinge of disgust appeared on his face.

Wilfred liked the life of a true hybrid. The changes of sides of the human forces disgusted him, but he hated the secrecy of their leaders even more.

"You don't understand," Luke continued. "The magical beasts are the greatest enemy of the human organizations, but the Legion has hybrids capable of ruling them. This is a tactical advantage that the cultivators can't ignore."

Noah remained silent while he listened to Luke's explanations. He didn't like the situation either. He felt that the human side was too untrustworthy since it was willing to switch sides only after losing its domain.

Still, he understood that the human organizations as a whole weren't to blame. Only a few experts were at fault. The others were generally too weak to understand what happened behind the scenes.

"I only want to find the place where they contact Heaven and Earth," Noah announced. "I don't care about the human forces. The talented cultivators willing to fight the rulers will eventually end up inside my organization anyway."

"That might be an issue," Luke revealed. "Only one leader in the faction that opposes Heaven and Earth knows about that place, and he will never reveal that information unless we give something in return."

"What can they even want?" King Elbas snorted. "We are all moving toward the ninth rank. Most items and resources have become useless."

"They want lands," Luke answered.

"The Legion won't give up to its territories," Ian said. "We won't sell even an inch of our domain."

"They don't want them here," Luke added. "They want the Legion to take control of part of the magical beasts' domain and clear those areas for them."

Noah's eyes sharpened. The secret organization basically wanted to see if the Legion could really handle the magical beasts' issue.

The lack of lands wouldn't be a problem if the Legion proved itself up to the task. The magical beasts' domain was far larger than the other zones. It had an immense number of regions, but the human organizations didn't dare to approach it for fear of triggering a new invasion.

"So what?" Divine Demon asked. "Do we clear a region and give it to his cell in exchange for our target? That sounds too easy."

"And arrogant," Noah added, and all the experts turned toward him.

"I don't think this leader understands how things work now," Noah explained. "We are at the top of the food chain, so he has to give up the information first."

"I've only heard rumors about him," Luke sighed. "He is stubborn. He will never give up on his sole leverage."

"We can also be stubborn!" Ian complained. "Let them rot in the Outer Lands. They aren't as resilient as us. The winds will eventually break them."

"We won't go out of these lands anytime soon," Noah explained, "But we shouldn't go silent either. I want to meet this cultivator."

"That might go poorly," Luke said.

"It will definitely go poorly," King Elbas exclaimed. "You aren't famous for your political expertise."

"I don't care," Noah announced. "The higher plane has to learn who we are. We are approaching the final battle. We have to disregard safety to establish our position."

Everyone went silent when Noah mentioned the final battle. The memories of Heaven and Earth's trap were still vivid in their minds, but their power had yet to obtain the necessary features to counter the rulers.

"When do you want this meeting to happen?" Luke asked as a helpless sigh escaped his mouth.

"I don't know yet," Noah explained. "Follow Ian's advice for now. Leave this cultivator hanging while we seclude ourselves. I won't risk going out before absorbing the recent experiences."

Luke nodded before standing and leaving the underground area. He would alternate with his team to handle the political interactions with the outside world.

"We can always launch a direct attack to every organization in the Outer Lands," Divine Demon proposed. "Some of them will decide to side with us."

"These tactics won't work," King Elbas snorted. "We would only invite spies. You can't be so reckless when building a force."

"We are a reckless bunch," Noah laughed. "Don't worry. We won't have new members for a while. I plan to cause a mess in the Outer Lands, but I want to see this cultivator first. Also, our seclusion comes first. I wouldn't even mind spending an entire millennium here after what we went through."

The atmosphere turned heavy again. Noah's words had officially marked the beginning of the training session. Everyone would have to evolve their law and turn it into something that could counter Heaven and Earth.

Those who failed in that task would most likely lose their spot in the final battle.

Chapter 1733 - 1733. Seclusion

Noah and the Legion as a whole went silent. All the experts who had faced Heaven and Earth's trap needed to cultivate and turn their experiences into part of their power. Those who had remained on that side of the Immortal Lands also had to improve. Luckily for them, the influence that flowed through those lands was the perfect fuel.

Only the weaker troops remained active inside the Legion's domain. They limited themselves to patrol the regions and take care of the magical beasts that the experts had brought from outside their borders.

The Legion's domain had transformed, but the magical beasts didn't care about those features. Noah's influence was a passive effect connected to the mutated laws that filled those regions, so those creatures ended up benefitting from his power without bothering to notice its marvelous features.

The same didn't apply to the cultivators and hybrids. King Elbas had followed Noah and the others during the previous mission, and he had made sure that every region featured a dispenser of ambition.

Those inscribed items were quite simple. They absorbed the leftovers of Noah's ambition and sent them toward the surface. The underground world would naturally mutate due to the roots of the blue bushes, so the air had to be the target of King Elbas' tools.

Noah also cultivated. He didn't need to do much during his seclusion. He barely had projects to attend at his current level, so he could focus the entirety of his attention on his centers of power.

Instead, the other experts felt far more pressure on themselves. They had to overcome one of the greatest hurdles of their cultivation journey. They had to develop powers that could make them able to counter Heaven and Earth's laws.

The process wasn't easy for them, and Noah couldn't help with it. He could rebuild experts and force them to be reborn as new existences, but that approach wouldn't work for everyone.

Fergie, Robert, and the Foolery were special situations. Fergie was nothing more than a corpse when Noah decided to transform him, while Robert belonged to Heaven and Earth's system. Both experts needed a complete rebirth to gain access to the cultivation journey again.

Instead, the Foolery didn't have laws. It was a magical beast that had slowly developed a sea of consciousness after bathing in Noah's influence for a long time. The transformation couldn't hurt its true meaning because it simply didn't have one.

King Elbas and the other experts were in a far different position. They had laws built throughout countless years of struggle and training. Asking for Noah's help would only hurt their pride and make their existence crumble.

Noah would still help them if they hit a wall in their cultivation journey, but that wasn't the issue at the moment. The experts didn't have to improve. They had to develop powers that most existences didn't even consider, abilities that didn't follow the usual path.

Even Noah would have never gotten his hands on those abilities if it weren't for the Devils. He didn't even know that laws capable of countering Heaven and Earth could exist in the Immortal Lands before the mission on the other side.

The other experts had to succeed in the arduous task of developing similar powers without having access to Devils. They had Noah's influence all around them, but there was a limit to how much the simple study of chaotic laws could help.

Noah experienced a peace that the Immortal Lands had rarely offered. He cultivated for years on the surface of the higher plane. His chaotic laws fended off the harmful properties of Heaven and Earth's light, so his mind ended up improving faster than his other centers of power.

June often visited him, and she always brought powerful magical beasts defeated during her training. Noah couldn't show his face outside of the Legion yet, so she took care of filling part of the immense requirements of his body.

The rest of the weaker troops did the same, and even some of his underlings helped. Cultivators, hybrids, and magical beasts dropped corpses near Noah whenever they passed through his region.

Training in those conditions was perfect, but the stillness of those peaceful years inevitably forced Noah to move his attention elsewhere. He had never liked staying still, especially when it came to his battle prowess. The seclusion was benefitting his centers of power, but he had to do something to improve his overall might.

His thoughts inevitably fell on the technique found inside Sword Saint's memories. The two of them had even managed to deploy a proper version of that slash inside Heaven and Earth's trap, and its power had been astounding.

Noah wanted to get his hands on that power as soon as possible, but his centers of power had structural limits at their current state. They couldn't endure the massive amount of energy required by the attack and make Noah able to perform a slash at the same time.

It was something that even his incredible body couldn't overcome. Noah would lose control of some aspects of the technique whenever he focused on other features.

The mass of energy would explode if he gathered his power to perform a slash capable of piercing its surface. Something similar happened if he focused on the unstable sphere. His attack wouldn't have enough power to open a crack on the technique.

That seemed an unsolvable issue at his current level, but Noah wouldn't let go of the matter so quickly. His centers of power might not have enough energy to perform the technique, but he wasn't alone.

'Coordination is the key here,' Noah transmitted through his mental connection. 'Precision is essential. The entire technique will blow up if you fail to create the ideal crack.'

'How should I even know what type of crack I have to open?' Night complained inside Noah's mind. 'I can sense that you don't know that either.'

'We test it with weaker versions of the attack until we learn how to do it with the intended amount of power,' Noah explained. 'It's a long and tedious process, but you have seen the power of that technique. The reward is totally worth it.'

Night couldn't oppose Noah's plan, but it didn't want to contradict him in general. It wouldn't waste the chance to improve his battle prowess. It didn't matter how tedious the process was.

Noah and Night began unique training sessions that saw the two gathering data about that technique. They spent months testing their coordination and studying how the masses of energy reacted to the Pterodactyl.

The tests inevitably led to explosions. Noah wasn't a stranger to those reactions, and his body was strong enough to endure them. He was still limiting the amount of energy condensed in his technique, so he didn't need to worry about his safety just yet.

The first positive outcomes led the duo to test the ability with more energy. The experiments became more dangerous, and Noah often found himself forced to deploy the Shadow Domain to escape the detonations.

The region ended up suffering from the procedure, but Noah didn't care. His attacks could only spread even more chaotic laws. The ground could crack and vanish, but the ambition that filled the area only intensified.

Chapter 1734 - 1734. Teleport

Noah left his training area once he felt that his existence had gained as much as possible from the seclusion. He didn't know how long he had spent there, but his instincts told him that it was time to stir another mess.

Noah sent a message to all his companions through his inscribed notebook. Meanwhile, he set up a meeting with Luke and the experts who had remained in contact with the Outer Lands.

It didn't take much before a series of mental messages reached his mind. Noah felt glad to hear that most of his friends were ready to interrupt their seclusion and join him in the mission in the Outer Lands.

King Elbas, Wilfred, Divine Demon, Sword Saint, June, Robert, and Jordan quickly gathered in the appointed spot. Noah could only nod when he inspected them. Their auras didn't obtain evident new features, but his instincts went past appearances and told him that they had changed.

Noah didn't know if they had improved or had developed techniques capable of countering Heaven and Earth, but he didn't probe on that matter. His companions knew how risky it was to leave the mutated regions, but the choice had to remain in their hands.

"This should be everyone," Noah explained. "The others are still deep in their training or busy with other projects."

"I've seen the pig while flying here," Jordan exclaimed while wearing an ugly expression. "I think its underlings believe it to be the key to improve their species. We will find many little Foolery hanging around in a few years."

Noah and the others ignored Jordan. None of them dared to address the issue. The Foolery was still a magical beast at its core, so it was normal for the other specimens to see it as the perfect mating partner.

Luke eventually arrived and created a large map on the ground. He described the current layout of the Immortal Lands and the path to reach the allied cell of the secret organization. He even had coordinates for King Elbas.

"The leader of the faction liked the idea of a meeting," Luke revealed during his explanation. "He is quite restless about it."

"He is a battle maniac," June sighed while shaking her head.

"He is far from simple," Luke explained. "I think his stubbornness is part of his law, so convincing him to sell his information might turn out to be hard."

"It doesn't matter," Noah shrugged his shoulders. "Elbas, how long until the teleport is ready?"

King Elbas snorted before waving his hand. Golden lines suddenly came out of his space-ring and fell on the ground before fusing with the terrain.

"I only need to change a few lines," King Elbas announced. "Give me half a day."

Waiting half a day was nothing for beings in the eighth rank. Those hours would pass in the blink of an eye, but Luke decided to use that time to describe the cell of the secret organization.

"We are going to meet one of the main factions," Luke explained. "My sources say that its leader is behind the leak that has caused the problems in the human organizations. This cell is the biggest among those against Heaven and Earth, but I wouldn't consider it as a natural ally."

"He has leaked information once," King Elbas continued. "He will do it again if the conditions are right. I bet that many of our enemies would like to know about our return."

"We settle this matter in a single meeting then," Noah announced. "No point giving him a second leverage."

"What if he refuses to comply?" Luke asked. "I think I can bribe someone inside the cell. We might be able to check on the leader."

"Don't bother," Noah plainly replied. "We'll kill everyone if this meeting doesn't go as planned."

"How can we find our target without him?" Luke continued to ask as his confusion intensified.

"We keep killing every other organization on our path," Noah revealed a cold smirk. "Someone will talk. If they don't, we'll cover the entire Immortal Lands with chaotic laws. Something will eventually come up."

Luke didn't know what to answer, but the other experts seemed determined to follow that plan. He appeared to be the only one who still hoped to solve the matter peacefully.

King Elbas soon completed the teleport, and the experts instantly stepped inside the formation. Luke also followed the group, and golden light soon filled their vision.

The scenery had drastically changed after the light vanished. The Legion's domain had a constant blue halo above it, but the Outer Lands still preserved their natural azure color.

Light winds made of chaotic laws blew through the sky. Noah raised his hand, but the gales ignored him. He couldn't control them even with his influence as a Devil. They seemed to belong to a different realm.

Noah soon lifted his head. The sky didn't react to their exit from the protected areas of the Legion's domain. The world didn't seem interested in their presence there, and the event left everyone quite satisfied.

"This way," Luke eventually exclaimed, and the group followed him.

King Elbas handled the usual inspection of the surrounding areas. Wilfred and Jordan took care of the sidelines of the group since their senses could go further than the mental waves. Robert, Noah, and June flew right behind Luke, ready to attack if something went poorly.

Sword Saint and Divine Demon roamed freely among the group. Their character didn't make them eligible for specific roles, so the group felt satisfied as long as they didn't endanger the mission.

The group flew for a few days before reaching a long and deep ravine covered with strange crimson trees that had no leaves. The insides of the crack shone with azure light, but they didn't seem to contain much. Only a small river and a few magical plants stood at the bottom of the structure.

"I'll make sure to announce our arrival," Luke exclaimed, but King Elbas promptly interrupted him.

"I'll handle this," King Elbas said before condensing a golden sphere in his palm and throwing it toward the insides of the canyon.

The sphere shone and illuminated every corner of the structure with its golden light. Formations and glowing lines appeared whenever the golden flashes landed on the surfaces of the gorge. Defenses filled the insides, and even King Elbas would have to spend a while to overcome them.

"You have finally arrived!" A voice suddenly came out from the bottom of the ravine.

The defenses slowly went dark, and even the illusion that hid the buildings at the bottom of the canyon stopped working. Someone had purposely decided to reveal their cards.

A human figure slowly rose from the bottom of the valley. It belonged to a bald old man who had a long grey beard. His power also spread in the area, so Noah's team could study his cultivation level. The expert was a rank 8 existence in the solid stage. He was about to reach the peak of the journey.

"A bird told me that you wouldn't clear an area in the magical beasts' domain until I tell you where to find the connection with Heaven and Earth," The man announced. "I like your spirit. I bet our fight will be decent."

Chapter 1735 - 1735. Name

The man's announcement made most of the experts in Noah's group shake their heads. Luke had warned them about the cultivator's character, but they didn't expect him to be so straightforward about it.

"You are?" Noah asked while his superior awareness did its best to study the expert.

Noah had fought solid stage cultivators already, but they had always belonged to Heaven and Earth's system. Those opponents couldn't rely on their real power. They were always at their weakest during the battles.

"Names are a currency in the secret organization," The cultivator exclaimed, "But I'll make an exception for you. I'll tell you my name if you survive the next exchange."

Noah glanced at Luke, but the latter pretended not to see that. He had already warned Noah about the expert's personality. It was his problem to handle now.

"This sounds like a challeng-!" Divine Demon tried to shout while flying forward, but Jordan and Wilfred promptly covered his mouth and dragged him back to the sidelines.

Robert couldn't help but laugh at that scene, but a faint sharpness suddenly spread behind him. The expert turned and saw that Sword Saint had placed a hand under his chin while following the old man with his covered eyes.

"Are we all battle maniacs?" June asked at that sight.

June's cultivation level had forced her to remain behind during many missions. She had yet to know all the experts inside Noah's team properly, but she liked what she saw.

"Idiot usually describes all of them," King Elbas sighed.

"I'll take care of this," Noah said while turning toward Sword Saint.

The expert scoffed, but he retracted his sharpness. He wanted to test his blade against the solid stage cultivator, but he respected Noah's needs.

No one else could take care of that battle. The cultivator wouldn't bother to respect Noah's organization if he let his companions fight. He had to show his value as a leader to one of the heads of the secret organization.

"Nice guts," The old man exclaimed when Noah stepped forward and the Demonic Sword appeared in his hand.

"I'll cut through your attack," Noah announced. "Come."

The old man inspected Noah. He had studied the reports about Defying Demon, so he knew most of his abilities. The lack of enhancement of his cultivation level left the expert confused. It seemed that Noah wanted to face his attack without improving his centers of power.

"You shouldn't be so arrogant," The old man shouted. "I don't know what you have gone through on the other side of the Immortal Lands, but I won't accept this amount of disrespect. You'll die if you don't rely on your law."

"We are divine entities," Noah sighed. "We are laws."

The old man smirked before raising his hand. His aura expanded and created a domain that fused with the matter of the world and altered its nature.

Everything became stiff. Noah sensed the air solidifying next to him, but his eyes confirmed that it wasn't transforming. It was still air. It had only gained the same density as metal.

'This isn't an evolution,' Noah thought without moving his eyes away from the expert. 'It's not an enhancement either.'

"There is a thin line between determination and madness," The old man announced. "Do you think we have crossed it? Do you think cultivators should have accepted the eighth rank as a limit?"

"It doesn't matter what I think," Noah replied. "Ambition will appear as long as lifeforms exist. It doesn't have to be reasonable. Someone will inevitably try to climb a mountain as long as it has a peak."

"What if the journey kills you?" The old man asked as the space above his hand began to twist.

"You can always decide to stay away from the mountain," Noah laughed. "Still, you need power to stop others from approaching the journey, and only the mountain can give you power."

"What if the mountain is the very sky the shines above you?" The old man continued with his questions.

"The mountain is the sky, the ground, and the very air you breathe," Noah replied. "You are born inside the journey."

"But you can choose how to live it," The old man asked while pointing his hand toward Noah.

Space began to twist even in that spot, but Noah didn't feel anything dangerous yet. He could sense that the expert wanted to test his character, and a difference in opinions might trigger the clash.

"Can you?" Noah asked. "Do you really have the ability to choose when everything around you holds power?"

"So, you seized power to gain the ability to choose," The old man commented.

"I seized power to gain the ability to live," Noah contradicted him.

"Heaven and Earth put you in the wrong species," The old man continued as his fingers arched. "You should have been born as a magical beast."

"I fixed that part," Noah laughed. "I can assure you that Heaven and Earth messed up far worse than you think."

"How can a being that lives for power even lead other existences?" The old man asked.

"By leading to power, obviously," Noah replied.

"You only want war," The old man said.

"I only want to cut the mountain in half," Noah laughed again.

"You are pure destruction!" The cultivator shouted. "A leader can't be a mere warmonger."

"Who said that?" Noah shrugged his shoulders. "Who makes the rules? Who decides the definitions? Reach the stars if you want to apply your ideas to the world, but get in line."

"It's sad that these pointers will gain value only if your power can back them up," The cultivator sighed.

"I told you," Noah laughed. "It's all a matter of power."

The old man shook his head before closing his fingers into a fist. A gale made of dense matter shot out of his hand and twisted the space around it as it flew through the sky.

Noah's eyes sharpened as intense anger spread from his figure. The Demonic Deduction technique activated to inspect the blow, and his blade moved as he learnt about its structural weaknesses.

'I'll cut through this attack,' Noah thought as his ambition flowed toward the Demonic Sword and created a dark halo around its edge.

Noah withdrew the Demonic Sword before thrusting it forward. A small black slash came out of its edge and transformed into a minute flying blade that flew toward the dense gale.

A spiderweb of black lines spread inside the gale as soon as the small sword touched it. Noah's attack seeped inside the dense energy and triggered the power accumulated inside the black marks whenever it passed through them. It didn't take much before chunks of the cultivator's ability dispersed back into the environment.

The old man couldn't believe his eyes. Noah's attack didn't reach the solid stage, but his gale seemed unable to face it. The small sword had enhanced every instability in his spell before activating them through its power. The ability was basically falling apart due to its own energy.

The blade crossed and dispersed the entire gale before vanishing once it left the attack. The old man tried to grab the energy contained in Noah's slash, but he couldn't find it when his hand reached that spot.

Instead, the expert discovered that part of his domain had transformed. The laws in that spot didn't belong to him anymore. The air had mutated into a small rock that seemed able to generate a heavy pressure similar to his technique.

"My name is Steven," The old man announced while studying the rock. "I hope you can pull this off again."

Chapter 1736 - 1736. Determination

"Do we finally fight for real, Steven?" Noah laughed as he placed the Demonic Sword on his shoulder.

Noah had to use his ambition to perform the previous attack. He didn't enhance his centers of power or specific abilities. He had empowered his destruction, and the effects had been incredible.

'I can fight against normal solid stage cultivators,' Noah concluded in his mind. 'I might even face them without my ambition if I go all-out with the cursed sword.'

"We have always been fighting," Steven replied. "I admit that your existence appears necessary in the battle against Heaven and Earth, but I'm not ready to give up on my leadership yet."

"Who cares?" Noah snorted. "It's your choice whether to follow me or not. I only want Heaven and Earth's location."

"You should care since I want you to become my underling!" Steven announced. "My organization can handle the human forces, while yours can take care of the magical beasts' domain. We can conquer the whole world before assaulting the sky."

"I don't care about control," Noah replied before pointing toward his companions. "I can call them underlings, but they have never lost their freedom while following me. We have different goals, but they all aim at the sky."

"It seems that you don't understand the nature of an organization," Steven contradicted him.

"You are in the corner of the Immortal Lands," Noah laughed while spreading his arms. "My organization lives in your old home. Are you sure you got that right?"

A tremor ran through Steven's expression, but a cold smile soon spread on his face. The expert's aura surged as he raised both arms toward the sky. He didn't seem in the mood to talk anymore.

Noah's expression grew cold as dark matter and black roots covered his figure. His companions also came out of the separate space and prepared for the battle.

Steven lowered his arms, and a massive wall of energy fell toward Noah. It seemed that the attack contained more than simple dense matter, but Noah still couldn't figure out its true nature.

Noah waved the Demonic Sword while his roots took the shape of a blade. The small slash shot out again and created a tight array of black lines once it touched the wall.

A series of slashes flew out of the roots even if Noah didn't perform any move. The attacks didn't contain his usual energy either. They were dense lumps of corrosive aura that had taken the shape of sharp blows.

Steven snorted before slapping his fingers. The corrosive slashes suddenly hit an invisible wall and spread their energy on that spot. Air vanished among the sky, but the attack didn't manage to get near the expert.

Steven pointed his hand toward Noah, but he suddenly noticed that he had disappeared. His aura had also vanished. He seemed to have left the battlefield.

His eyes inevitably went on the experts floating outside of his domain. They wore confused and curious expressions, but none of them tried to step into the fight. It seemed that Noah was still around somewhere.

A strange feeling spread from inside Steven's c.h.e.s.t, but the expert promptly deployed his counter to Noah's Shadow Domain. His whole body condensed and stopped the spreading of that sensation.

Noah reappeared above Steven. He had just stuffed his body with many Instabilities, but the expert seemed fine even after their detonation. Still, Noah believed that it would take Steven a few seconds to recover, and he wouldn't waste that chance.

A single black slash flew out of his swords and aimed for Steven's neck. It was a clean attack that could cut even upper tier magical beasts due to the enhancements on its destructive power.

The slash hit the back of Steven's neck, but Noah's expression froze when he saw that the attack didn't have any effect. The expert didn't suffer any injury. Not even a mark had appeared on his skin.

Noah didn't know what to think about that scene, but he didn't stop his offensive. Every ability had limits, and a relentless wave of attack usually forced the laws to reveal their weaknesses.

Steven proved him wrong. The expert didn't move at all during the attack. He accepted the arrival of the blades, but they didn't manage to pierce his skin.

"You underestimate the power of my determination," Steven whispered as he turned his head to stare at his opponent.

Noah snorted and kicked the expert, but Steven remained in the same position even after enduring the full might of his enhanced physical strength.

'Is he a hybrid?' Noah wondered as the impact with the expert's skin flung him far away in the sky. 'That doesn't seem to be the case.'

Noah could accept that Steven might have kept his status as a hybrid a secret, but his defensive abilities seemed to come from something different than his species. It wasn't a matter of spells either. It was something strange connected to his law.

Snore materialized above Steven and spread its wings. A rain of black feathers fell on the expert and generated a massive explosion that destroyed the entire domain.

Remaining in the area became almost impossible for the experts in the distance. They had to deploy techniques or directly run away to deal with the raging waves of dark matter spreading through the world.

'It's still alive,' Night transmitted through the mental connection.

'Cut him then,' Noah ordered.

Duanlong then began to advance until it reached a position where Night could fuse with the world and fly toward Steven safely. The Pterodactyl tried to enter the expert once it touched his skin, but it suddenly discovered that its innate ability didn't work in that situation.

'I can't fuse with his law!' Night transmitted to Noah.

'Get out of there,' Noah ordered. 'We'll deal with him once we regroup.'

Night had to perform a strange path to escape the chaotic area safely. It had to fuse with part of the dark matter and follow its movements until it returned into calm zones.

Noah, Night, Duanlong, and Snore gathered high in the sky and inspected the storm of dark matter. The attack slowly began to lose power, and Steven's figure eventually appeared inside the darkness.

'How is this even possible?' Noah wondered when he noticed that the expert didn't feature any injury.

Even Steven's beard had remained in its place. The raging dark matter didn't manage to touch him.

"Good power deployed without feelings is useless," Steven announced while turning toward Noah. "You can't defeat me if you don't have anything better in your arsenal. My determination isn't something that normal existences can pierce."

"Determination to do what?" Noah asked since he still didn't understand how that law worked.

Noah didn't expect Steven to reveal the secrets behind that law, but the expert proved him wrong.

"The determination to endure every blow," Steven announced as the pressure around him increase.

"The determination to test every opponent. The determination to wield power."

The pressure around Noah suddenly intensified and forced the companions to return inside the separate space. Even he struggled to move inside among that power.

Chapter 1737 - 1737. Greed

Noah didn't let panic fill his mind. He had understood something after Steven's answer. The expert seemed to found his law on determination, and its broad meaning didn't put a limit to his abilities.

'It resembles Divine Demon's law,' Noah thought while the air fought against his body and tried to limit his movements. 'I only need to find his restrictions now.'

Laws that could take multiple features and empower different abilities usually had harsh requirements and limits.

King Elbas could study and create almost everything, but he had accumulated knowledge and expertise for countless years to reach that point. His research wasn't over either. His law required constant efforts.

Noah had to build his potential through achievements. He could accumulate part of it through normal training, but only incredible feats gave him enough power to ignore the gaps among ranks.

Divine Demon could invent new abilities on the spot, but he didn't remember anything. He also had to throw away his old techniques in the past to go all-out with that approach.

Steven seemed to fall in the same field. His determination most likely had a steep price to pay. After all, the expert had reached a nigh-immortal state during the last exchanges.

"Your determination to strike doesn't seem to amount to much," Noah mocked Steven while moving his arm through the pressure.

"That's because I have yet to strike," Steven announced before snapping his fingers.

The pressure around Noah's body suddenly intensified and became a proper attack. He felt as if countless needles had suddenly appeared on his skin. The dark matter and black roots didn't even notice them. They couldn't sense it.

Noah's eyes widened when he saw many red dots appearing on his skin. The invisible needles were piercing his innate defenses. They had yet to reach the muscles, but it was clear that they had the power to hurt him.

Moving away from his position didn't help. Noah tried to fly in different directions, but the needles remained above him. They existed together with his body.

"The determination to close every distance!" Steven shouted while clapping his hands.

A mouthful of blood suddenly flowed inside Noah's mouth. Something had hit his insides, but he didn't even sense the arrival of the attack.

"The determination to spread fear inside my enemies!" Steven shouted, and his voice became a shrill noise that seeped inside Noah's mind.

Part of his black mental energy started to change color. Noah saw yellow shades spreading through his thoughts and giving birth to fear. His mind didn't even see them as products of a foreign power. Steven had managed to turn part of his consciousness against him.

"You lack determination," Steven announced as a disappointed sigh escaped his mouth.

The needles continued to pierce Noah's skin, but he remained calm. He had started to understand something about that power, especially that he couldn't face it without going all-out.

Noah's ambition exploded as his centers of power started to improve. They soon stepped into the last stage and tier of the eighth rank, and the innate influence flowing out of his figure began to open cracks through Steven's domain.

"You dare to talk about determination with me," Noah growled as his mouth spat dark flames. "I'll say this only once. I need the location. I won't stop until you give it up."

"What makes you think that a mere increase of power-?" Steven wanted to ask a question, but the dark world suddenly expanded and suppressed his words.

Noah looked at his skin. The needles had disappeared, but their timing had been quite strange. They didn't vanish after deploying the dark world or when his centers of power stepped into the superior stage and tier. They stopped attacking his skin once he decided to go all-out.

'I see,' Noah thought. 'He went all-out, so I had to do the same to match his blows. He must have been willing to die during the previous exchanges. It would explain why I didn't manage to hurt him.'

Noah wasn't completely sure about his ideas, but he didn't hesitate to test them. Night quickly left the separate space and flew through the dark world to reach the expert. Meanwhile, Noah set his mind on his greed.

Nothing could beat his d.e.s.i.r.e for power. Noah was willing to sacrifice his body to increase his battle prowess. He had already done it in the past, and he wouldn't mind doing it again.

Night reached the expert in an instant, and a happy cry resounded inside Noah's mind when the creature disappeared. The Pterodactyl had successfully fused with Steven's law at that time, and the feat didn't depend on its power.

Noah had only empowered his centers of power. He didn't use his ambition for his companions, so Night was using its normal middle tier prowess. Yet, Steven's skin didn't oppose the creature.

A cut suddenly opened on Steven's c.h.e.s.t. The expert shot a surprised glance at the wound, but a satisfied expression quickly appeared on his face.

Steven clapped his hands, and a large area of the dark world fell apart. He became able to speak again, but he found no reason to do it.

An army of upper tier six-armed dragons slowly came out of the dense sea. The creatures encircled Steven before filling the entire area with black flames.

'They aren't hurting him,' Noah thought before the dark world sent a series of spectacular images to his mind.

An oval barrier had appeared around Steven. The defense protected him from the flames and gave him enough time to cast his next ability.

Steven crossed his arms around his c.h.e.s.t before spreading them with a sharp movement. The oval defense suddenly expanded and destroyed all the dragons around him before reaching the dark world and shattering its fabric.

Noah saw his technique falling apart, but his figure promptly shot ahead. He waved his swords non-stop as a rain of dark slashes converged toward Steven.

The slashes were singularities, but their nature had evolved. The training during the seclusion had forced him to prioritize the final attack contained in Sword Saint's memories, which required a change in his previous techniques.

The normal singularities were powerful, but Noah's ambition had obtained new predominant features after the fusion with the Devils. His greed and pride had become as intense as his destruction and creation, which forced him to involve them in his offensive.

The features of his law had given the singularities a new shape. They weren't all-vanquishing attacks that left nothing behind anymore. They had retained their previous power, but they had obtained a stronger influence.

Moreover, they actively devoured the energy in the sky now. Noah's pride would turn everything around them into energy that obeyed them, while his greed gave them an innate suction force. In theory, his slashes could fly forever.

The rain of slashes grew in size as it crossed the sky and devoured every speck of energy on its trail. Steven summoned the barrier again, but black lines appeared on his technique as the attacks drew near.

Noah's influence had already reached the barrier. He only needed his attacks to touch it to activate the instabilities inside it.

Steven mustered his determination, but a tinge of disbelief suddenly spread through his mind. His law made him s.e.n.s.i.t.i.v.e to his opponents' will, and staring at the slashes had given him insights into Noah's willpower.

The expert could sense that Noah's determination was incredible. He could almost see scenes from his youth materializing in his vision.

Noah's determination was undeniable. He might not be a perfect leader, but he was the best expert for the war against Heaven and Earth. Also, his character made him unable to bow, so it would be impossible to turn him into an underling.

"I'll tell you!" Steven suddenly shouted, and Noah promptly forced his slashes to disperse.

Chapter 1738 - 1738. Intricate

Steven could have continued to fight. Noah had only matched his determination, but they still had to see the outcome of a proper exchange.

However, Steven had a different plan. He needed to establish an alliance with the Legion, but he wasn't willing to become the underling of an unworthy leader.

Noah's character didn't fit his mindset, but his power and determination were undeniable. Steven couldn't accept him as a leader, but he was perfect as an ally.

"You are an odd one," Noah sighed while retracting the Demonic Sword and accepting Night back inside his separate space. "You got me excited over nothing."

Noah had actually begun to enjoy the battle. Steven was a perfect opponent at his current level. He could test his new abilities and see how far he could stretch his power.

Still, he didn't mind that outcome either. Steven was willing to give him the location that he needed. Fighting had become pointless at that point.

Noah's cultivation level fell and returned to its real level. A sense of weakness filled his figure as his flesh became unstable.

The black hole quickly activated to suppress those drawbacks. Dark matter took the shape of lines that seeped into his flesh and reinforced his overall structure.

Noah inspected the black lines that had appeared on his skin before glancing at Steven and waiting for his words. His team was a stranger to those lands, so they had to listen to his directives before issuing a meeting.

"Follow me," Steven exclaimed while flying toward the ravine.

Noah pointed at Steven before following the expert. His companions understood the meaning behind his gesture and imitated him. The entire group soon went inside the ravine and studied the hideout of Steven's cell.

The walls of the canyon featured multiple protections capable of projecting illusions and summoning defenses. The bottom of the valley and some of the cavities on the sides featured many buildings crowded with cultivators. Noah even noticed a few heroic experts, and that sight left him slightly surprised.

The same went for his companions. The heroic cultivators hinted at the presence of separate dimensions meant to groom experts. Only large organizations had something similar. It was clear that Steven's cell was important among the secret organization.

The group limited themselves to inspect the various buildings before following Steven in a large structure dug into the side of the canyon. King Elbas listed the many defenses in that area, but his team entered anyway.

There seemed to be countless branches inside that structure. Steven's cell had prepared many escape routes and fake paths in that area. Noah knew how underground organizations worked, and he couldn't help but remain speechless at the incredible intricacy of those tunnels.

'This is the divine version of the Chasing Demon sect,' Noah laughed in his mind, and a tinge of longing spread inside him.

"What is it?" June asked when she noticed the slight change in Noah's expression.

"I've only recalled something nice," Noah replied as a faint smile appeared on his face. "We created the Hive in a place like this."

Noah didn't specify the other experts involved in the "we", but June didn't need to ask to understand what he meant. After all, Noah had been a famous existence in the lower plane. Everyone knew his story.

"I can't even begin to describe how many defenses we have accumulated in these tunnels," Steven began to explain before turning to show a weak smile. "I really can't. I placed restrictions on myself to keep them a secret."

"Why would you even announce something like that?" King Elbas asked.

"I want you to understand how thorough we have been during the digging of this structure," Steven explained. "Our best experts believe that it can even trap rank 9 existences for a short time. I suggest you don't get lost."

Noah glanced toward King Elbas, but the expert couldn't feel his gaze. His curiosity was on the verge of exploding. There seemed to be hundreds of inscriptions in each tunnel, and he couldn't stop studying them.

It took an entire hour of march through the tunnels to reach a large hall where the experts could finally sit and hold the meeting. Steven even activated a few inscriptions that isolated the group from any external influence once everyone entered.

"Do you really need to be so careful?" Luke asked while inspecting the various shining lines that had appeared on the walls of the underground hall.

"We are dealing with matters that involve Heaven and Earth," Steven exclaimed while taking out a short table and placing it on the ground. "I will use every method I have to avoid risks."

The experts soon sat next to the table and took out the usual wine and delicacies that those meetings required.

"I must reveal something before starting this meeting," Steven announced. "I have let Heaven and Earth touch my law before reaching the solid stage, but my determination allowed me to get out of their system."

Noah and the others didn't know what to say. Luke even began to panic since Steven had technically trapped them inside an intricate prison.

"Why did you decide to enter Heaven and Earth's system?" Noah asked without showing any worry. "Did you have troubles advancing on your own?"

"It was a test for my determination," Steven explained. "I had to experience their benefits and decide to give them up to pursue my path."

Noah didn't have any doubt that Steven had entered the system on purpose. He had fought against the expert, so he knew that his power didn't feature any external influence.

King Elbas and Wilfred turned toward Noah before rolling their eyes. Noah had done something similar but for the opposite faction. He had fused himself with a Devil to push his power forward.

"I checked myself many times and through different methods," Steven continued. "My existence shouldn't contain any trace of Heaven and Earth, but nothing is certain with those beings. I'm telling you to avoid creating secrets since our first collaboration."

"You don't even know if we'll clear part of the magical beasts' domain for you," Noah laughed. "No need to be so serious."

"There aren't many of us still willing to face Heaven and Earth," Steven explained. "I have united as many cells as possible, but we are too few. I can't help but be honest with my future allies."

"Who else is on this side?" Jordan asked.

"The rest of the secret organization is working for Heaven and Earth," Steven said in a sad tone. "I can only offer the troops that you see here for that battle."

"The other human organizations have many experts willing to face Heaven and Earth," Steven continued, "But they have yet to understand that their time is about to end. They still want to take control of their forces, even if there isn't a political environment anymore."

"I'll handle them later on," Noah announced while taking sips from his cup. "Our focus should be on cutting the connection with Heaven and Earth, hence the information in your possession."

"There might be a problem with that," Steven sighed. "Creating a connection with Heaven and Earth requires time and resources, but some organizations have plenty of both."

Noah's eyes sharpened. He could already guess where that speech was going.

"You can destroy one location," Steven continued, "But they will simply create a new one. There is no real way to sever the connection."

"Let me worry about that part," Noah replied as growls mixed with his human words. "I want a map and a location now."

Chapter 1739 - 1739. Connection

Steven led Noah and the others outside of the intricate structure after completing his end of the deal. The group returned inside the valley, and they quickly reached the surface to begin their long travel.

"I still think that this is pointless," Steven exclaimed when he saw that the group was about to leave.

"Come with us then," Noah proposed. "You'll see how we handle Heaven and Earth."

"Isn't your plan to destroy the connection?" Steven asked as a tinge of curiosity appeared on his face.

"Fights like these must happen on multiple layers," Robert announced. "Making a few organizations waste many resources is pointless for our goals. We need to make sure that they understand the price of joining Heaven and Earth."

"We aren't ready for a war," Steven replied.

"The war has already started," Noah laughed. "It's your turn to choose what role you want to play."

Clear struggle appeared on Steven's expression. He felt curious about Noah's methods, but he also had his organization to protect.

"I can add a few defenses if you like," King Elbas added while placing a hand under his chin and moving his eyes toward the ravine. "They won't be as complicated as those tunnels, but they will improve the overall protection in this area."

"Fine," Steven exclaimed after a few seconds of silence. "I'll give orders to my troops. I'll be here shortly."

Steven dived back into the ravine, and King Elbas neared the edges of that fissure to study the inscription thoroughly. He couldn't risk triggering the defenses with his formations, so he had to create something suitable for preexisting protections.

King Elbas took a few days to place everything. Steven had already come back by then, and he felt marveled while inspecting the expert's work.

"Who exactly are you?" Steven eventually asked once King Elbas finished his task.

His question wasn't only for King Elbas. Steven wanted to understand how such a group of experts could even come to be. Each of its members seemed to be a monster in one or multiple fields. They could become leaders of large organizations, but they still followed Noah.

"We are misfits," Divine Demon announced.

"Maniacs," Noah added.

"Idiots," King Elbas concluded.

Steven didn't know how to react to that group. None of them seemed to take the battle against Heaven and Earth seriously. They wasted time joking around even when they had to approach a protected location.

"You'll understand soon enough," June eventually said to awaken Steven from his astonishment. "They all do."

Steven didn't say anything and began to follow the group once they started moving. His curiosity had intensified after June's words. He was actually looking forward to reaching their target now.

The group moved quickly. They flew across the Outer Lands and explored deeper areas. The winds intensified during their travel, but all of them could endure the pressure generated by those chaotic laws.

A series of lakes eventually unfolded in their vision. The group reached a massive land filled with white water and few sparse pieces of ground. It would almost resemble a sea with islands if it didn't have a mountain chain surrounding the entire area.

"Who can we expect to find under the lakes?" Noah asked once the group took position inside the mountain chain.

"A few solid stage cultivators and many defenses," Steven replied. "The organizations in charge of defending this place don't even know that I'm aware of its location. Their protections should be at their lowest."

"I'll take one of the solid stages!" Sword Saint promptly exclaimed. "I won't remain on the sidelines again."

"I also must take one of them," Robert added. "My cultivation level forces me to take care of one leader."

"I shall ta-!" Divine Demon wanted to say something, but Jordan and Wilfred grabbed him and closed his mouth.

"Can't we just improvise?" King Elbas asked. "Most of us can't follow plans anyway. Let's attack and see how it goes."

"We should at least plan the entrance," Noah suggested before summoning Snore and closing his eyes to call upon his ambition.

Robert, King Elbas, and Wilfred revealed a cold smirk as they began to prepare their offensive. They would launch a joint attack before diving toward the lakes.

"What are they doing?" Steven asked when he saw the various experts working on their techniques.

"They are preparing the initial offensive," June explained. "You should do the same since your cultivation level won't get in their way."

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The region with the lakes had a large underground structure under its surface. The human organizations had dug it for many years and had created a layout similar to the ravine recently visited by Noah's group.

The reason behind those similarities was quite simple. One of the organizations involved in the building of the underground structure was the secret organization. The cells that worked for Heaven and Earth had ideated that layout.

Most of the tunnels led to other lakes. A maze that often forced experts to end up among chaotic laws protected the central hall that featured a large underground pool. A white radiance covered its waters, and a few powerful cultivators stood nearby to bathe in that light.

Some of those cultivators even moved their lips during their inspection of the pool's waters. No sound came out of their mouths, but they were clearly talking with someone.

However, a sudden earthquake disrupted that situation and forced the experts to snap back to reality. Anger immediately filled their faces, but they couldn't give voice to shouts since boulders began to fall from the ceiling.

The cultivators activated their abilities to destroy those boulders. The ground of the Immortal Lands was tough and rich in energy, but the experts only needed a wave of their hands to shatter it.

"Who dares?!" One of the cultivators shouted, and his voice seeped inside the ceiling before spreading in the sky above.

The expert received a series of explosions as an answer. The whole sky above the region had gone dark, and abilities of different nature continued to fall toward the ground.

King Elbas used long spears that exploded as soon as they triggered the defenses on the surface. The golden flames that they released carried his curiosity, which made them able to destroy most of the enemy inscriptions.

Wilfred's arms seemed on the verge of exploding as he used his entire physical strength to join his palms and creating a massive strike directly inside the ground.

Robert launched giant masses of toxic energy that fused with the terrain and tainted the lakes. Everything seemed to crumble after the first attack. The expert had learnt the nature of that region and could already target its weaknesses.

Steven decided not to involve himself in that attack, but he remained on the sidelines to inspect the other experts. His focus often went on Noah, but the latter limited himself to float among the sky. A massive snake with power in the upper tier flew behind him, but the creature had yet to attack.

Chapter 1740 - 1740. Pool

The surface crumbled as the experts' attacks continued to fall. Even the mountains in the distance shook as the relentless offensive turned the entire area into a mess.

Noah remained high in the sky. His dark world and influence had already expanded in the area. His technique had created a dense sea above him, while his ambition had turned the entire scenery under him dark.

Flashes of light spread through the region as King Elbas, Robert, and Wilfred continued to release massive attacks capable of destroying the reinforced surface and ignoring the defenses in the area.

None of them knew what was under the surface, but they decided to find out only after creating a mess. They had even begun to sense the powerful presences hidden in the underground world after they pierced the terrain. Part of them hoped that the offensive would kill a few experts, but they didn't delude themselves.

Powerful auras soon surged past the surface. Noah could count three solid stage cultivators and multiple experts in the liquid stage with his consciousness. A fierce battle was waiting for him, but his group seemed to hold the numerical advantage.

The entire surface of the region eventually crumbled. The white water of the lakes seeped through the cracks that had opened on the entire area. Those lands were quite beautiful, but the arrival of Noah's group had ruined that marvelous scenery.

The trio never stopped launching attacks, but a silver halo eventually seeped through the various abilities and shot toward the mountain chain.

Golden inscriptions rose from the mountains and blocked the silver halo. The experts inside that light could understand that they were under attack, but they didn't expect their opponents to be so prepared.

King Elbas had created an array of barriers around their target. The mountain chain now isolated Heaven and Earth's followers. Their chance to escape from that sudden attack had disappeared in an instant.

The silver halo didn't hide the experts inside it. Noah's group could inspect those cultivators, and surprised expressions inevitably appeared on their faces.

Three hooded solid stage cultivators were carrying a massive pool made of polished marble. Noah's group couldn't see its insides since the experts had covered its opening with a metal layer, but that material didn't mask the influence seeping out of the object.

'Heaven and Earth!' Noah exclaimed in his mind before giving a mental order.

Snore unfolded its wings before flying inside the dark world above it. A rain of giant feathers soon fell from the technique, and the trio couldn't help but stop their offensive when they sensed the power contained in the attack.

Noah had used his ambition to boost Snore's power. The creature had reached the upper tier, and its strongest attack was falling after the empowerment of the dark world.

Noah's friends knew that the real mess was about to arrive. The entire area would disappear once the feathers exploded.

The feathers didn't only fly toward the solid stage cultivators. Some of them fell toward the center of the region, where weaker experts were still coming out of the ground.

A slaughter was about to unfold, but Noah inspected the scene with utter coldness. Those cultivators were Heaven and Earth's followers. They were his sworn enemies.

The three solid stage cultivators in the distance inspected the power contained in Snore's feathers before exchanging a glance. Determination appeared in their eyes as they removed the metal lid from the pool and uncovered the white waters that filled its insides.

The entire pool shone when it came into contact with the air filled with Noah's influence. Its waters started to boil as its radiance intensified.

A sudden beam of light came out of the pool. That radiance didn't follow a straight line. It chased after every feather flying through the sky and enveloped them in its blinding power.

Part of the light also tried to fly toward Snore. The white radiance didn't know where the creature was since the dark world was covering it, but Noah still worried about his companion.

Noah made Snore disperse and reappear inside his separate space. The light then reached the dark world and spread through its insides, absorbing every trace of dark matter in the area.

'This isn't the same absorption,' Noah thought when he felt how the light interacted with the dark matter. 'They are simply shattering its fabric without releasing energy. I bet that part of it fuels the pool.'

The light stopped spreading after it took care of the dark world. Its radiance dispersed through the sky and brought back some of the glow that Noah's influence had dimmed.

A small platoon made of liquid stage cultivators and weaker experts eventually came out of the ground. Most of those under the liquid stage featured severe injuries due to the recent offensive. Their poor mood even explained how many companions they had lost during the event.

Noah didn't move his eyes from the pool, but he stopped empowering Snore with his ambition. The drawbacks arrived, but the black hole suppressed them for the time being. The organ knew that it couldn't waste power now.

The pool remained inactive after the previous attack. It seemed that even the three solid stage cultivators didn't know how that item behaved since they shot curious glances at its waters.

A mocking expression appeared on Noah's face when he saw the concern in those three solid stage cultivators. The trio almost felt lost since they couldn't rely on Heaven and Earth anymore.

However, their next move left Noah quite surprised. The three experts placed their hands inside the pool and closed their eyes to experience Heaven and Earth's words.

Their faces experienced different emotions. They went from complete bliss to confusion until they eventually revealed only anger.

"Noah Balvan," One of the cultivators suddenly said without bothering to open his eyes. "Your recent success doesn't justify this action."

'Are they serious?' Noah wondered before the Demonic Sword appeared in his hand and a slash came out of its edge.

The slash transformed while it flew toward the three experts. Noah's ambition covered its structure and made it obtain insane levels of destructiveness. Meanwhile, the attack began to absorb the energy of the world.

The simple slash generated a vortex around its structure. The lingering energy in the sky created currents that flew toward Noah's attack and empowered its effects.

The three cultivators were still in a daze. They couldn't sense the outside world anymore, so they didn't move when the slash pierced the silver halo and fell inside the white waters.

The experts suddenly frowned. Something was happening inside the pool, but they couldn't understand the nature behind that event.

One of them decided to open her eyes and look at the pool, and her expression froze. A black spot had appeared among the white waters, and its darkness was spreading through the entire structure.

Noah's attack spread his chaotic influence and separated the white waters from Heaven and Earth's domain. The insides of the pool soon grew dark, and the other experts began to experience Noah's thoughts.

A wave of bloodthirsty thoughts filled the three cultivators. Noah's dense mental energy was poison for their minds. It was too heavy, and the anger that it carried seemed about to hurt their mental walls.

The experts quickly removed their hands from the pool. They even stopped carrying it with their mental energy. The item fell toward the ground and shattered into countless pieces. Its dark waters also spread through the ground and began to evolve its nature.