

DEMONIC 1741

### **Chapter 1741 - 1741. Purpose**

The three cultivators suppressed the violent thoughts that were invading their mental spheres before throwing them out of their minds. Pure anger filled their faces as they glanced toward the broken pool, and their eyes eventually ended on Noah.

"Do you think death scares us?" One of the cultivators asked.

"We work for a higher purpose," The second cultivator exclaimed. "How can a mere law fight against the world?"

"Don't underestimate him," The third cultivator announced. "His defying power is a necessity of Heaven and Earth's system. Someone with this ability must exist among perfection."

Noah's eyes sharpened as anger filled his mind. The third cultivator was trying to give his merits to Heaven and Earth. He was describing his many achievements and struggles as a mere consequence of the ruler's pursuit of perfection.

"She is mine," Noah growled while pointing toward the third cultivator.

"I'll take the second," Robert announced from his position. "I can't stand the devoted anymore."

A wave of sharp energy flew through the battlefield and accumulated next to Noah. That power soon took Sword Saint's shape, and the expert didn't hesitate to create a silver blade.

"Just give me someone to cut," Sword Saint sighed, and Noah promptly pointed toward the first cultivator.

The experts coming out of the destroyed ground began to fill the now non-existent surface. They amassed there and stared at the existences in the sky. Fear spread inside their minds, but some hope persisted due to their leaders near the golden barriers.

"Split, or I'll do that for you," Noah sighed while rising the Demonic Sword.

His ambition surged again. A dark halo began to cover the blade and spread its influence in the area. Black spots started to appear among the white sky, and some of them even gained life.

The trio could only stare as some of the black lumps of gas began to devour each other before throwing themselves into the sky. They were hungry, and the area had a lot of energy. Nothing could stop them from eating it.

"Come on," Noah said as faint growls mixed with his human words. "We have already divided ourselves. I suggest you take different spots of the battlefield now."

Heavy pressure began to flow out of Noah's figure. His pride fused with the environment and made his voice sound like a tyrannical presence.

The three cultivators didn't know what to do. They had lost the pool, and their opponents overpowered them. King Elbas had also cut their escape routes. They had to fight, and their opponents were even offering them the chance to have one versus one battles.

The trio exchanged a glance before deciding to split. The first and second cultivators flew toward the edges of the shattered plain while the old woman remained in her position. Her eyes wanted to focus on Noah, but the pride that had filled the sky made his presence difficult to identify.

Sword Saint and Robert went after their respective opponents. King Elbas glanced at the liquid stage cultivators near the shattered surface and rolled his eyes. Instead, Wilfred, Jordan, and the other experts hidden in the mountain chain set off to reach those weaker troops.

Steven decided to remain on the sidelines. He took his place on a mountain peak and studied the battlefield. He had revealed his presence, but he only wanted to watch the various fights.

King Elbas also struggled to decide whether to join the battle or not. His companions had enough power to handle their opponents, so fighting now had no meaning. He could enjoy the sight from the sidelines and study the various laws unless something major happened.

The battles in the sky didn't begin right away. Noah and the others studied their opponents for a few seconds before getting ready for the imminent clash.

Noah's opponent had the aspect of an old woman filled with wrinkles. She barely had hair left, and her hunched back also described how ancient that expert was.

"You seem to know a lot about Heaven and Earth," Noah exclaimed as black roots and dark matter covered his figure. "What did they tell you about me? I want to hear how they masked their mistake in front of their followers."

"You might be resistant to Heaven and Earth's laws," The woman announced, "But we didn't give up on our existence just yet. We plan to fuse, not receiving."

Noah remained silent to study those words. Every piece of information he heard about Heaven and Earth became part of a puzzle inside his mind. Everything would eventually lead to a complete explanation, but he still felt far away.

"Won't you lose yourself after fusing with the sky?" Noah asked. "Why would you even give up on your individuality?"

"Heaven and Earth is only another path toward the tenth rank," The woman replied. "You might despise the rulers, but they are trying to achieve everyone's dream. Opposing them is akin to cutting the journey short."

Noah glanced toward the sky. He didn't believe that Heaven and Earth were the only existences in the entire universe aiming for the tenth rank. There had to be something else out there, especially since the "Breath" was only a consequence of the rulers.

"Heaven and Earth decided to trap this world and own the cultivation journey," Noah said while moving his eyes back on the woman. "You can't expect me to believe that they are saviors."

"They are leaders!" The woman shouted. "Underlings might lose their trust in them, but the truth behind their actions remains. You must stop thinking about yourself as a single individuality and start to consider the entire world! We can ascend in the superior realm as a combined existence!"

"I have seen what Heaven and Earth do to laws that don't belong to their system," Noah sighed. "You are only a fool to believe that they will let you keep your consciousness."

"They did," The woman continued while spreading her arms. "Can't you sense it? Can't you feel the power of my law?"

Small fiery spheres appeared on the woman's palms. They began to expand to create massive suns similar to Fergie's techniques, but they suddenly started to shrink once they reached a specific size.

The suns shrunk and returned to their shape of small spheres in the expert's palms. The power contained in their structure had surged after the process, and their scarlet color had also intensified.

'Her law doesn't involve fire or heat,' Noah thought while inspecting the fiery spheres. 'She wants to achieve light.'

"Bathe in the sun of a lower plane!" The woman shouted before throwing one of the spheres toward Noah.

The fiery sphere enlarged until it became a massive red sun. Its size almost made it reach the other battlefields, and its heat began to melt the shattered ground.

Noah stared at the scarlet radiance drawing close. He could sense the expert's d.e.s.i.r.e to illuminate the entire world with her light. She wanted to become a better version of the white sky.

Respect suddenly surged inside Noah. He could accept that feeling, but the intentions behind it were clearly off.

His arm stretched toward the nearing scarlet sun, and the flames soon enveloped his limb. The power contained by a solid stage spell could hurt his body, but he didn't care. His creation was trying to build something meant to destroy.

### **Chapter 1742 - 1742. Light**

Noah's flesh burnt as he kept his arm inside the scarlet sun. The black hole reinforced his limb with arrays of dark matter, and the parasite also did its best to help. However, the woman's spell was too strong for his abilities when they lacked the empowerment of his ambition.

Still, Noah didn't care about that pain. His focus was on his creation. His ambition empowered that feature of his existence and let it seep inside the spell's fabric.

Noah didn't want to apply simple mutations. The mere empowerment driven by his ambition wasn't enough in that situation. He d.e.s.i.r.ed to create something that could shatter his opponent's faith.

A few tongues of flames at the center of the sun started to abandon their scarlet color and gain dark shades. They didn't change shape, but the aura that they radiated transformed completely.

The cultivator's law wanted to illuminate, and Noah didn't remove that feature. Yet, he tampered with the true meaning behind that intention. Light didn't need to be bright. Darkness could reveal far more if handled correctly.

Noah's knowledge about stars and black holes flowed inside the scarlet sun as his creation burst inside the spell. The black flames started to spread their influence and taint the rest of the fire contained inside the ability.

The cultivator snorted when she noticed that event. She was already aware of Noah's abilities. That transformation didn't manage to surprise her.

The woman quickly prepared herself to launch the small sun in her other palm, but her eyes suddenly widened when the first dark glow spread through the world.

The sun had yet to turn completely black, but some tainted flames had appeared on its edges. That fire immediately spread a dark glow through the white sky, and its radiance cleared part of Heaven and Earth's laws to make room for other true meanings.

The cultivator fell in a daze as new lifeforms appeared inside the areas illuminated by the dark light. Noah was showing her a version of her spell that could give birth to light. Her flames could create living beings where Heaven and Earth didn't manage to shine.

The dark flames expanded until they took complete control of the sun. The black light began to illuminate the entire battlefield at that point, and more lifeforms appeared due to that event.

The lifeforms were simple beings born from random matter. Part of the air turned into parasite-like creatures that expanded through the sky as they devoured the energy around them. Instead, the boulders on the shattered ground grew a mouth and tiny legs before developing a suction force.

"Isn't this the reason behind the light?" Noah asked as he retracted his charred arm from the black sun. "Don't you want to illuminate to give life?"

The woman didn't answer. The scene had captured her entire attention. She almost couldn't believe how the black sun had to get rid of Heaven and Earth's influence to generate life.

Heaven and Earth didn't like the black sun. Its influence had begun to spread too far, so a Tribulation amassed in the sky.

Black clouds gathered high in the sky and began to accumulate enough power to deal with the sun. The spell had retained the cultivator's level even after Noah's creation had transformed it, so the punishment had to suit solid stage experts.

"See?" Noah sneered. "Heaven and Earth don't like when someone finds a different solution. I might be able to create only to destroy, but the rulers' restrictions apply to all of us. You could be free to generate life that doesn't devour the world, but they would suppress it anyway."

The clouds eventually released their massive lightning bolt. A raging attack that carried Heaven and Earth's whiteness fell toward the black sun, but a second star suddenly appeared on its path.

A scarlet sun expanded above the black star and stopped the lightning bolt. The red flames shot everywhere in the environment after Heaven and Earth's attack discharged its energy. Flares flew through the battlefield, but the mutated ability survived.

Noah glanced at the woman. She appeared surprised about her own actions. She had instinctively thrown her second sun toward the lightning bolt, but she had yet to realize what she had done.

"I bet it felt good," Noah laughed as he raised his charred arm.

Dark matter spread from his limb and covered the battlefield. The various lifeforms that had begun to spread through the world fell prey to the higher energy and provided nutrients to Noah.

A few patches of burnt skin healed, but Noah could sense that the energy contained in the sky wouldn't be able to fix his injuries. Still, leaving those lifeforms around was useless since Heaven and Earth could easily take care of them.

Noah disregarded his injuries and focused on the black sun once his dark matter returned inside his figure. He placed both palms on the array of black flames, and the star started to shrink.

The black sun became a small fiery sphere that could fit inside Noah's palm. He inspected it for a few seconds before throwing it toward his opponent.

The woman decided to catch the sphere when she sensed the lack of danger from its structure. The event forced her to realize the nature of her recent actions. She had actually committed an act of treason against Heaven and Earth.

Traces of panic appeared on her face, but the dark light radiated by the small sun brought some comfort to her feelings. She had the answers in her grasp. Noah had just proven that she didn't need Heaven and Earth to obtain them.

"You can't force a world to advance as a whole when you have different existences in it," Noah explained while crossing his legs and floating in the sky. "Why should Heaven and Earth be the only ones to evolve? Why should they be the only ones in charge of the light?"

Noah's words were sharp blades that stabbed the last pieces of faith that still existed inside his opponent. The woman didn't know what to say anymore. She only brought the black sun closer to her c.h.e.s.t and held it with care.

"I don't agree with your path," The woman eventually said, "But you might be right, on a few topics at least. My name is Cynthia. You can look for me in the future."

Noah nodded. He had initially wanted a battle, but his instincts had the priority, and the d.e.s.i.r.e to transform the scarlet sun had come from his very existence. Moreover, taking pawns away from Heaven and Earth's system was a double victory since it removed an opponent and added an ally.

The woman approached the golden walls to leave the area, and Noah turned toward King Elbas to make him open a path in those defenses. However, a series of white currents suddenly came out of the shattered ground and flew toward the cultivator.

The water was unstoppable. Noah tried to cut it, but it turned ethereal when his slash crossed its fabric. He couldn't stop it from reaching his previous opponent.

### **Chapter 1743 - 1743. Suppression**

The waters from the lakes fused with Cynthia's body and began to alter her figure. Her skin turned pure white, and the same happened to her eyes. White hair also grew from her bald head as her wrinkles vanished.

Her facial features changed and developed conflicting details. Part of them became smooth while others gained sharp angles. It seemed that Heaven and Earth were trying to transform her into multiple existences at the same time.

The same transformations happened to her body. The waters straightened her hunched back and gave her conflicting features. Half of her c.h.e.s.t continued to belong to a woman, while the other side flattened before bulging muscles grew.

Noah didn't hesitate to unfold his defenses and spit black fireballs toward every liquid stage expert that his companions had yet to kill. Something dangerous was about to arrive, and he couldn't let his previous battle affect his condition.

The fireballs caught by surprise a few experts and burnt entire pieces of their bodies. The flames then brought the energy back to Noah, but he didn't feel satisfied with the results.

Night took care of the matter before he could order anything. The Pterodactyl came out of the separate space and descended toward the ground, where it beheaded a series of careless experts in a few seconds.

The creature then pierced those corpses with its strange pointy head and brought them back to Noah. He could let his dark matter devour them at that point.

Cynthia continued to transform while Noah took care of restoring his power. She soon lost the ability to fly and crashed on the ground, but her body didn't suffer any injury during the impact.

Some conflicts still happened inside her figure, but they didn't come from her existence. Heaven and Earth were simply stabilizing her new state.

"Your existence is starting to annoy us," A familiar androgynous voice eventually came out of Cynthia's mouth. "Surviving our trap wasn't enough. You also had to learn how to lie to our followers."

"Lying is your specialty, Earth," Noah laughed. "It's quite funny that existences capable of suppressing an entire world have to resort to lies to gain followers."

"Your taunts have no meaning in our ears," Earth replied through Cynthia's body. "You are nothing but an existence who likes to spread chaos."

"I'm very good at it, apparently," Noah continued to laugh. "You couldn't wait to deal with me directly."

Earth stopped speaking when a powerful aura spread from Cynthia's figure. Noah could sense the rulers' auras refilling the spots that his dark light had cleared, but his instincts warned him about it nonetheless.

There was something different inside that aura. Noah still recognized it as Heaven and Earth's power, but it felt more dangerous than usual when he inspected it.

"What are you trying to do now?" Noah asked while glancing at the rest of the battlefield.

Robert was still busy fighting his opponent, even if the two had slowed down their exchanges to focus on the sudden event. Sword Saint appeared bored as he sat on the severed corpse of his opponent while

continuing to float in the air. His other friends had basically cleared the entire surface, so they could retreat whenever they wanted.

"It's been a long time since we had to think so often," Earth explained as the strange aura condensed inside Cynthia's figure. "You made us try hard to take care of you. We only have to tune some last details."

Earth pointed her palm toward Noah, and his instincts started to scream. The dark world immediately expanded and covered his figure, but the sea of dark matter crumbled as invisible energy seeped inside the technique.

Noah shot higher in the sky as his ambition exploded. His centers of power quickly reached the last stage and tier of the eighth rank, and roots gathered on his right hand to create a second sword.

"Ambition," Earth snorted. "What a troublesome but necessary law."

Earth's aura spread through the entire region in an instant. Noah couldn't dodge it, and astonishment filled his mind when he sensed that his law began to lose its effects.

His cultivation level fell as his ambition lost power. His centers of power returned to their real level and left Noah without any empowerment.

'What is even happening?' Noah shouted in his mind.

Earth didn't attack him. The strange aura didn't even hurt his existence, but his ambition felt unable to activate its effects inside that environment.

"Who would have thought?" Earth exclaimed when she noticed Noah's surprised expression. "We might not need to perfect the counter."

Earth suddenly shot forward. Her body seemed to fuse with the world as space bent in her favor. She didn't deploy any technique, but she still reached Noah in an instant.

Her hand quickly landed on Noah's c.h.e.s.t, and a burning sensation spread from that spot. Earth began to drain his body of dark matter, darkness, primary energy, and mental energy as that contact continued to stand.

The armor of dark matter and the black roots had been unable to stand the energy seeping out of Earth's figure. They had crumbled as soon as her influence touched them.

A resolute expression appeared on Noah's face. He wouldn't let Earth take the result of his countless struggles away so easily. She had to beat him to earn them.

The unstable substance started to flow inside his black vessels and turned Noah's body into the best middle tier weapon in the world. His fingers arched to become claws that slashed at Earth's arm and severed it with a clean move.

Noah then kicked Earth on the c.h.e.s.t, and most of her torso disappeared as she flew backward and crashed on the golden barriers. The event created a shining trail in the sky that perfectly fused with the world.

Earth released light from her open c.h.e.s.t. That power had allowed her to remain in one piece after the recent attack, and she also used it as fuel for her abilities.

"We always forget your physical strength," Earth sighed while leaving the golden barrier and focusing on Noah. "You should be ashamed of what you did to obtain it."

Earth's words made Noah's mental sphere tremble. A tinge of guilt appeared among his mental sea and tried to spread through his entire mind, but scarlet shades promptly came out of his thoughts and took care of it.

Noah raised the severed arm above his head and burned it with his black flames. The fire gave him part of the energy stolen by Heaven and Earth and brought him back near his peak, but no happiness appeared on his face.

"You don't have your tools today," Noah announced as energy flowed inside his body. "I can still destroy you."

"Destroy?" Earth asked before exploding into a loud laugh. "This body is only one of the many puppets under our control."

Earth mocked Noah by grabbing one of her legs and tearing it away. She didn't show any pain, but Noah didn't know if Heaven and Earth could still feel that sensation.

"This is only a prototype meant to counter your law," Earth laughed. "You might survive now, but you won't have a chance next time. Our new form will be over by then, and we'll also have our tools."

#### **Chapter 1744 - 1744. Taunts**

Noah showed utter coldness toward Earth. That existence had taken control of Cynthia's body, but she had already transformed herself beyond normal standards.

Pain and injuries didn't seem to affect her power. Earth had created an existence made of pure energy meant to counter Noah, and her plan seemed to work. She had managed to leave him speechless a few times in only a few attacks.

'How can I defeat her?' Noah wondered as the world in his eyes slowed down.

The Demonic Deduction technique generated violent thoughts. Noah wanted to destroy Earth, but his abilities seemed useless against that existence. His dark world and ambition had already failed to express their effects, and he didn't dare to deploy his companions since the situation was too unclear.

"Are you having second thoughts?" Earth shouted before a crazy laugh came out of her mouth.

Noah's instincts warned him about the strangeness in that laugh, but he didn't need their help to notice that feature. Earth's behavior was completely off. She almost sounded human.

"Did you develop drawbacks from your mindless absorption?" Noah taunted her as a cold smirk appeared on his face. "You suffer from your own fairness. I don't even want to imagine the price you have to pay to fuse so many different existences into your law."



"You fail to understand the nature of laws," Earth continued to laugh. "Fairness binds us, but we can always pay the price with worlds at our disposal."

Noah's instincts forced him to feel a sense of revulsion toward that existence. Earth's aura had started to give vibes that reminded him of the scenes inside the trap, and that feeling made his mind hate that behavior.

"You didn't think of absorbing other existences at first, right?" Noah asked while suppressing his disgust. "You must have developed this greed after your failure. It stinks."

"Funny of you to question our methods, Noah Balvan," Earth replied. "You are a mistake who has made his way through the cultivation journey by killing, devouring, and destroying. You are a blight, a curse that afflicts an otherwise slightly imperfect world."

"You are too far gone," Noah laughed. "What's a disease in front of an imperfect world? Did you ever stop to consider the nature of your path? Adding random laws won't change the truth. You have failed, and you'll keep doing that until you give up on your previous self."

"Words spoken from an ant won't affect the minds of gods," Earth snorted.

"I don't see ants nor gods here!" Noah roared as a sea of black flames instinctively came out of his mouth. "Your current power might be unreachable, but you are nothing more than an existence. All of us have the potential to touch your realm."

"No one has ever come near us," Earth laughed, and her gesture seemed to involve different existences since her face changed expressions as the seconds passed.

"We will," Noah promised. "That's why you are here, right? You know that we will succeed in touching your realm. You are nothing more than an ant trying to scare away other ants with pretenses and lies."

Earth was merely suppressing her worry. Noah had continued to send truths toward her, but she didn't dare to give hints. She only wanted to destroy that existence and learn from him.

On the other side, Noah was trying to learn more about Heaven and Earth. The two existences honestly interested him, but he had to accept the limits of his condition.

'I can't push my understanding past my current limits,' Noah thought while inspecting the white figure. 'They are beyond me, especially in this form.'

Noah had yet to find a proper counter to Earth's new form, but the Demonic Deduction technique had produced something. The result of his reasoning sounded quite obvious, but that only made him realize how harsh that situation was.

A wave of bloodlust spread out of Noah's figure as a black handle appeared on his chest. Earth knew what was about to happen, and her figure immediately shot forward. She wanted to interrupt that process, even if the feat would cost her temporary body.

Earth bent the space around her and reached her opponent in an instant. Her fingers tried to touch Noah, but the latter suddenly revealed a cold smile before unsheathing the cursed sword from his separate space.

"Heaven and Earth!" The cursed sword shouted in its ancient voice. "The final battlefield is calling me. Give me a good fight."

Noah slashed with the cursed sword and severed Earth's arm from the base of her shoulder. No pain appeared on her figure, but her aura seemed to fall after the event.

Noah's cuts didn't only carry mere power anymore. Chaotic fuel flowed inside them and enhanced their destructive power. Their severing didn't only affect the physical figure. They also influenced the laws that had invaded Cynthia.

"You do have a weakness," Noah suddenly exclaimed while pieces of his body exploded due to the immediate drawbacks. "How much of your actual power can you even use when you try to counter me? I thought you were broke."

Noah laughed as his figure shot toward his opponent. He had only covered a few meters, but the cursed sword managed to complete its slash before reaching Earth.

The blade touched the top of Earth's head, and the energy released during the attack severed its figure into two parts. Corrosive power even spread from the wound's edges as Noah's influence began to fill Cynthia's body.

"Don't you have any pity for your recent ally?" Earth laughed while speaking from her severed halves.

"No," Noah replied before spitting a wave of flames that covered both halves.

Earth quickly countered his innate ability. A strange aura that carried a peaceful sensation spread from her damaged body and forced the flames to quiet down. The technique didn't even try to burn anymore. It only wanted to fall toward the ground and remain there until its power vanished.

Noah didn't base the entirety of his offensive on that technique. Heaven and Earth had known his innate ability for a long time, so it wasn't a surprise that their new prototype could counter them. Still, he added attacks that no amount of preparation could stop.

A rain of slashes fell toward Earth's severed figure. The attacks didn't have much to absorb since they only flew for a few meters. The world had already gone through too many transformations, so the energy lingering in the air wasn't even enough to satisfy heroic magical beasts.

The slashes cut Earth into multiple pieces, but they didn't manage to kill them. Earth continued to laugh as white light spread from her injuries. She seemed to enjoy that moment, and Noah could only feel pure disgust toward her.

Noah suppressed the many injuries that had appeared on his body and began to retreat. He stopped as soon as he reached the edges of the battlefield. Earth started at him with a confused expression, but he struggled to find any sense in those cubical pieces of flesh.

"Try to die, ok?" Noah announced while a mass of energy accumulated in front of him.

The cursed sword returned inside the separate space as Noah launched a simple attack with his fingers. The cuts that came out of them worsened Earth's condition, but they didn't manage to hurt her much due to the lack of sheer power in his attack.

## Chapter 1745 - 1745. Interest

Earth was in pieces, but she was still alive. It didn't matter how much Noah cut her. She still existed and laughed in her androgynous voice.

"What are you even trying to achieve?" Earth laughed. "The chaotic laws inherited from that minor world are nothing when we suppress your existence."

Noah didn't speak anymore. Energy was amassing in front of him. Earth could suppress his ambition, but he could still wield some basic abilities that came from his existence, especially after infecting his opponent with chaotic laws.

The gathering of energy felt slow since Earth's aura continued to suppress Noah's existence. He couldn't push his aura out of his figure or reveal its major effects, but it still existed somewhere inside him.

His greed fought its way out of the suppression to affect the environment. That feeling fed on the bloodl.u.s.t acc.u.mulated inside Noah's mind and created a new ability that didn't depend on his ambition.

D.e.s.i.r.e generated bloodl.u.s.t, so an abundance of that feeling could create greed. It was a cycle that Noah's mind invented on the spot and that Earth couldn't stop since she had never seen it.

'The next seconds will be dangerous,' Noah transmitted through his mental connection. 'Try to remain outside of the separate space as little as possible.'

'I won't die in front of a mere puppet,' Night snorted, but Noah could sense that the Pterodactyl had understood his worries.

A mass of energy was gathering between Noah and Earth, and it soon took the shape of a rotating black vortex that had a pulling force of its own.

"I have already seen that attack," Earth laughed. "What makes you think that it will be effective again?"

"Earth governs the minds," Noah said in a cold voice. "Heaven handles the laws, while the Immortal Lands fill the body. I'm not surprised that you are the only one capable of saying a complete line."

The pieces of Earth's body stopped moving after that remark. Noah had given voice to a good description of her existence, and the sole thought that a mere rank 8 hybrid had managed to figure them out left her speechless.

"I'm right then," Noah laughed as he spread his arms and tried to help the vortex through his black hole. "You three split during the ascension to the tenth rank. I wonder how you even think about getting back together after spending eras in different forms."

"Our understanding touches realms that you have never seen," Earth replied.

"No wonder," Noah snorted while pointing two fingers toward one of the severed chunks of flesh. "You put a damned white sky between the stars and me."

Black slashes that had the shape of piercing beams came out of his fingers and dug holes in the many pieces of flesh. Earth continued to suffer damage, but she didn't even seem to feel it in her condition.

The vortex expanded before shrinking. It soon gained pale-blue shades and generated a raging sun, but Noah kept going. That was only the first stage of the technique.

"You are wasting my time!" Earth shouted. "Killing this puppet means nothing to us. Go ahead! Show us more of your power! We'll only use this scene to create a better counter."

The absorption of energy intensified as both the sun and Noah gathered energy. The pulling force in that area was immense, and that only helped the new technique.

The sun slowly expanded and gained dark-red shades. It became a massive sphere that forced Noah to retreat, but Earth didn't move during its expansion. Its maimed body entered the fiery structure and burnt under its heat.

"Did you think a mere body could limit us?" Earth's voice resounded from inside the star. "We exist along with the world. We are the very sky! Having the ability to talk through dust is nothing more than a joke for us."

"Can you just shut up?" Noah snorted while closing his eyes to intensify the pulling force coming out of his body.

The star continued to expand until it grew unstable. An explosion soon spread through the battlefield and destroyed the many golden barriers in front of the mountain chain. Noah had to retreat again, but the fiery spectacle released by his technique forced his eyes to remain glued to the scene.

The fiery leftovers of the explosion ran through the sky and destroyed everything on their path. June and the others had already left the battlefield, and Robert and Sword Saint soon followed them.

Robert's opponent had suffered severe injuries, and many purple spots covered his figure. The cultivator seemed on the verge of dying, and his cultivation level couldn't do anything when the flares hit his figure.

A massive gravitational pull eventually appeared on Noah's previous spot. The star had transformed into a black hole, and all the energy in the region flew toward the singularity.

"We don't need dust either!" Earth's androgynous voice continued to resound through the region even if Noah had made sure to remove every trace of Cynthia's body. "Come on! Give us more! We all want to see what Noah Balvan can do."

Noah's eyes grew sharper than ever at that remark. Earth was trying to get inside his head, and she was doing an exceptional job. However, she failed to understand how stubborn his ambition was.

Earth seemed to suffer from every attack, but only in a slight part. More pieces of Noah's chaotic influence inevitably seeped inside her and intensified his mutations whenever that existence lost some power.

The black hole grew until it transformed into an unstable mass of black energy. Everything in its insides was about to explode, and Earth seemed unable to wait for the detonation since her laugh had never stopped resounding through the area.

Noah drew his Demonic Sword and pretended to launch a slash, but his arm stopped mid-air, and no attack came out of the blade. Noah limited himself to shoot forward and stretch his other arm toward the black mass to absorb its power.

Intense waves of energy flowed inside him before his black hole accepted everything and began the purification. The organ had a lot of work to do. Noah had suffered many injuries during the use of the cursed sword, but he still saw that as nothing important when he had so much energy at hand.

"What are you doing?" Earth asked when she noticed that Noah had absorbed the entirety of the energy contained inside the black hole.

Plants had wilted and terrain had cracked to create that technique, but Noah completely disregarded those features. He only cared that the rulers didn't manage to get their hands on those abilities.

"Go back!" Earth shouted. "Let me see the nature of your attack again."

"Why would I?" Noah asked while turning toward the spot from where Earth was speaking."

Earth fell silent, and a cruel smile inevitably appeared on Noah's face. He had found the weak spot in those existences. They were predictable.

"Don't tell me that you actually wanted me to spend energy for you," Noah mocked Earth. "You are less than dust now. Why would I even bother to attack you?"

Noah laughed while descending toward the ground. Earth only had her influence left in the air, but she found no reason to move due to the lack of a body. Her interest in that spot eventually waned, and she left the area to go back to more important matters.

### **Chapter 1746 - 1746. Doubts**

Noah heaved a sigh when he sensed Earth's presence vanishing from the sky. That trial was no more, but his mood felt heavy due to the recent developments.

Heaven and Earth were trying to counter the entirety of his existence. They had even managed to suppress his ambition and influence for the most part. They had already developed items capable of vanquishing most of his abilities too, so his situation appeared quite grim.

'I won't be able to face them the next time if my power doesn't evolve,' Noah sighed in his mind.

Supreme Thief, Great Builder, and every other existence who had started to annoy Heaven and Earth had to go through a similar treatment. Noah was experiencing the targeted suppression that those rulers were capable of, and his options diminished as he imagined the various tools that those powerful beings could deploy.

Noah didn't have many options at hand. The final slash was the only ability that Heaven and Earth had yet to counter properly. He knew he couldn't base his whole offensive on one technique, but he had limits, even with his broad existence.

'What can I even create?' Noah wondered while diving toward the shattered ground. 'I can't invent new techniques every time I face Heaven and Earth. Even developing a single trump card in that period is a stretch.'

There was no real solution. Noah was only another existence that Heaven and Earth were preparing themselves to suppress. His fate would be the same as many other powerful beings if his level didn't evolve. He would lose like everyone else.

'The chaotic laws have also been almost useless in this battle,' Noah cursed in his mind. 'I guess creating counters is easy when you have access to multiple worlds.'

The situation seemed hopeless, but Noah didn't want to give up. Heaven and Earth had to fall, but he didn't know how to succeed. Everything would have been different if the rulers had started to target his existence after the ninth rank, but now he feared that death would arrive before that checkpoint.

'Perfecting the final slash is a must,' Noah thought as his consciousness spread through the shattered ground. 'I don't know about the rest.'

Noah felt truly lost. He had never underestimated Heaven and Earth, but he had always believed to have more time. After all, his cultivation level was still in the liquid stage. He was the first expert to have suffered such targeted suppression so early on.

The ground didn't contain anything valuable. Many corpses filled the various cracks, but they barely had any power left after the battle. The destroyed underground world was also empty. That mission had taught Noah a lot, but it still felt pointless after inspecting its outcome.

"I didn't expect you to deal with Heaven and Earth so swiftly," Steven announced while flying toward Noah's figure. "You only had access to your physical strength and a spark of your influence, but you still defeated them."

"They didn't care about fighting," Noah sighed. "That was only a game meant to reinforce their foundation before a proper fight. We lost since we showed more of our power."

"It's hard to satisfy you," Steven laughed, trying to lighten the mood, but his attempts didn't lead to any result.

Silence spread through the area. June and the others slowly gathered behind Noah and created a half-circle around him, but they didn't speak to give him enough time to think.

"A single existence can't deal with the rulers," Noah eventually concluded and transmitted those ideas through his voice. "It's simply impossible. We might be amazing, but they still have access to multiple worlds. They can use massive amounts of energy to make up for their lack of talent and aptitude toward certain fields."

"They still have to take it away from somewhere," Robert explained. "The Immortal Lands are a system in constant expansion, but they have strict requirements. Maybe we can find what Heaven and Earth decide to ignore and exploit it to our benefit."

"What if they attack before that?" Noah asked. "It's only normal to think that Heaven and Earth will complete their projects before us. They have all the right cards in their hands."

"We die trying then," Steven announced. "My cell won't accept cowards. We are against Heaven and Earth until the end now."

"No one is having second thoughts," June snorted. "The issue is far deeper than you think. Heaven and Earth's followers can appear everywhere, and they only grow stronger. Normal cultivators can't overcome this treatment."

"Even monsters can't," Noah explained. "Heaven and Earth have rigged the cultivation journey. Everything starts with their "Breath" and ends with their suppression."

"Are you giving up?" King Elbas asked in a cold voice.

"Elbas, how long did it take you to counter my law back then?" Noah asked while turning toward the expert.

"Years," King Elbas honestly revealed. "Your law is too broad to require only a simple set of materials and laws."

"Did you manage to create a counter for my current state already?" Noah continued with his questions.

"I'm working on it," King Elbas revealed. "You have fused with foreign chaotic laws. The process is taking a long time, but I'm confident to reach a prototype shortly."

"Heaven and Earth have done it before you could even understand what you did wrong," Noah snorted. "They have too much at their disposal."

"We have always known that," Wilfred exclaimed.

"I didn't know how quickly they would react to my law," Noah admitted. "I was sure it would have happened soon, but not so soon. We need a solution right away, or our next battle might be the last."

The group finally began to realize how scary it was to have an entire world against them. Heaven and Earth were probably developing counters for all of them, and Noah didn't even want to imagine the amount of energy flowing into that process.

Silence filled the shattered ground. Everyone was trying to come up with a solution, but everything sounded too easy to counter.

"Can't they overload themselves?" King Elbas asked.

"They can," Robert replied. "However, their resilience makes that event almost impossible. Even rank 9 cultivators couldn't trigger that effect. We have no chances if they have failed."

Noah reviewed all his possible options with the Demonic Deduction technique. An idea eventually hit his mind, but he felt bad just by thinking about it.

"I have a solution," Noah revealed. "I don't even know if you can help with it."

His words caught everyone's attention. All the experts took a few steps forward to approach him and listen to the rest of the proposal.

"We can't change our existences," Noah explained, "But we can unite them under a sole banner. Most of Heaven and Earth's opponents are sparse, in hiding, or in the Outer Lands. We are almost on our own unless we build a team."

"We already are a team," Luke announced.

"We are too few," Noah continued. "I need an army made of threatening existences to make Heaven and Earth unable to adapt. We require more of us in this war."

### **Chapter 1747 - 1747. Idea**

Heaven and Earth could counter multiple existences at the same time, but they still had to contain their consumption of energy. They could develop perfect methods to take care of Noah and other powerful existences, but they would have to ignore other weaker beings due to their limits.

Noah didn't have much proof about that matter. He could only vaguely guess it from the current situation in the Immortal Lands.

The various organizations had multiple cultivators in the higher ranks who opposed Heaven and Earth. That was the common approach to the cultivation journey. Existences would normally fight against the rulers to push their law forward.

However, in general, Heaven and Earth decided to create counters for those experts only after they reached the ninth rank. They would start by making the world reject their existence before moving to punishments that targeted their laws.

Noah could think about different explanations to the matter, with the simplest involving the actual ability of those cultivators. Still, experts capable of reaching the ninth rank had to be special and worthy of punishments even before the actual breakthrough.

The explanation could involve other topics, like a lack of energy on Heaven and Earth's side, which sounded more reasonable. The Immortal Lands had too many experts, and the rulers couldn't take care of all of them at the same time. They could only target the most troublesome existences and let their followers deal with the others.

Another interesting possibility saw a lack of suitable rank 8 tools on Heaven and Earth's side. After all, the rulers had made Noah's group defeat a powerful defense only to trigger a stronger punishment in the ninth rank.

At last, Noah guessed that Heaven and Earth needed some of those existences to grow stronger and fulfill their laws to gain more after an eventual absorption.

Noah didn't have a solution for most of those hypotheses. He could only try to work around one of them, but the process would be far from easy.

His plan involved gathering many different existences and force their laws to evolve through his ambition. Noah wanted to create more monsters like him, but the process obviously had issues at its core.

Noah had used his ambition to affect the members of his organization and Legion for years already, but only a few existences had managed to go beyond the limits of their laws with that help. Some had even required a thorough transformation, which he couldn't apply to every expert.

King Elbas and the others evaluated the plan in their minds and reached similar conclusions. In theory, that approach was doable, especially since gathering more troops would help their situation anyway.



Yet, it was clear that obtaining other monsters would take a while, and it would even require existences who already had enough talent to step on those realms. Noah's ambition couldn't perform miracles just yet. It was enough to inspect his old companions from the Mortal Lands to understand that even his law had limits.

"Heaven and Earth would only create a massive punishment if we gather so many defying existences together," Robert announced.

His past connection with Heaven and Earth granted him a greater understanding of the rulers. The same went for Steven, who limited himself to nod to express his agreement with the expert.

"It's fine as long as they don't choose something meant to counter us," Noah explained. "We have already defeated a rank 9 punishment. Doing that again will force Heaven and Earth to waste a lot of energy."

"Did you face a rank 9 punishment?" Steven asked as astonishment filled his face.

"Heaven and Earth were ready for us," King Elbas summarized. "They had created a trap inside a trap to put us against a stronger defense."

"How did you even survive that?" Steven continued to ask.

The expert respected the group's might, but the ninth rank was a completely different realm. Even the weakest being at that level would be enough to wipe out hordes of rank 8 cultivators.

"We are strong," King Elbas sighed, "But we must be stronger to survive the next Tribulation. Noah might be right. We can use other experts to force Heaven and Earth to ignore the counters."

"Where can we find other experts?" Robert asked. "It is my understanding that most of the human organizations on this side of the Immortal Lands are still going through internal fights."

"We have one of the leaders of the secret organization on our side," Noah growled. "I think it's time that he makes himself useful."

The entire group turned toward Steven. Even the bored Sword Saint glanced at the expert to join that mass stare.

"I have information on all the human organizations currently living in the Outer Lands," Steven revealed in a calm tone. "We can definitely exploit your power to gather underlings."

The experts didn't nod nor show any happiness. Steven had hinted at something that they didn't expect.

"Where are the others?" Wilfred asked. "I thought the humans had flooded the Outer Lands after the Legion expanded, and they only have stormy regions past them. Where can they even go?"

"There is an organization capable of sealing pacts with the magical beasts," Noah explained before Steven could say his piece.

"The Crystal City has disappeared for a long time," Steven added. "Even the secret organization doesn't know the new locations of its castles. However, we do know that they are recruiting."

"How do they even recruit without alerting your spies?" Noah asked. "Isn't this area under your control?"

"I honestly have no idea," Steven replied as a hint of helplessness appeared on his face. "I tried to keep track of some organization, but experts kept disappearing without triggering any reaction in my sensors. I can't find more about it if I can't see it happening."

"We'll deal with the Crystal City later," Noah eventually announced. "That force will prepare us for the fight against the true followers, but we have more impending matters now. Heaven and Earth are only a few steps away from countering my existence, so we need to move quickly."

"Do you want to unite them now?" Steven shouted when he understood Noah's plan. "We don't have enough power to deal with their defenses and cultivators."

"That's up to us to discover," Noah snorted. "I don't care if you don't want to fight. Just point us toward the nearest organization with many internal fights. Our arrival should be enough to start an internal war."

Steven didn't know what to say. Noah was giving him complete freedom, even if they were allies. He didn't request any favor. He was willing to go on his own if his companions failed to understand his reasons.

"I'll join the fight," Steven announced. "The hybrids might have roamed through the Outer Lands for far longer than humans, but you know nothing about their current layout. I'll be your guide and companion during the battle."

"Let's move then!" Noah shouted, and the entire group soon moved.

Steven took the lead of the group and flew across the regions while making sure that his companions were following him. A deadly battle was waiting for them at the end of that path, but none of them appeared worried about that.

King Elbas even managed to seize some time alone with Noah. The two had a similar mindset, so they could guess what was passing through the other's mind.

"That wasn't your only plan, right?" King Elbas whispered while flying next to Noah.

His words seemed unable to spread through the area. Their sounds vanished as soon as they reached Noah's ears.

"I have something else," Noah revealed while keeping his voice down, "But that approach is suicidal."

"Is Noah Balvan backing down from crazy plans?" King Elbas scoffed.

"Well," Noah hesitated before deciding to explain his idea. "Heaven and Earth take a lot of their power from weaker worlds. We might sever the connection with those Mortal Lands and take care of their source of energy, but the feat requires stepping into the void past the sky."

**Chapter 1748 - 1748. Mines**

King Elbas couldn't help but consider Noah's idea. His curiosity enhanced his mental faculties as countless calculations happened in his mind.

Noah was an expert in many fields, but King Elbas had an overall understanding of every topic connected to the cultivation journey. He could evaluate an idea through a broader vision, and Noah trusted his judgment because of that.

King Elbas studied that crazy plan. The layout of Heaven and Earth's system appeared in his mind and played the movements that the "Breath" performed.

Removing Mortal Lands from the system would reduce Heaven and Earth's overall amount of energy. It was unclear whether severing those connections would bring immediate damage to the rulers, but it would definitely hurt their plans.

Still, the mission needed a team of experts to pass through the holes in the sky, travel through the void, sever the Mortal Lands from the system, and returning inside the higher plane. A lot could go wrong, especially since Heaven and Earth made those worlds exist in different dimensions.

Leaving the higher plane wasn't an issue. It was enough to find a landing zone and fly in a straight line toward the sky. The hole connected to the void would eventually appear, and Heaven and Earth wouldn't even bother to deploy defenses there.

Returning inside the Immortal Lands from the void was the real problem. Sensors and beacons could work, but Heaven and Earth still had complete control of that space and could easily interfere with those items.

Moreover, finding the Mortal Lands could be troublesome unless they managed to pierce through the void. Heaven and Earth would definitely hide them, so the group would need methods that ignored those hindrances.

However, King Elbas couldn't deny the nature of his conclusions. The plan was clearly crazy, but it was far from impossible, especially with the various experts in Noah's group.

"How do you even come up with this stuff?" King Elbas asked in an honest tone.

"Destruction is part of my being," Noah laughed. "I instinctively know where I can inflict more damage, even when it comes to Heaven and Earth."

"I won't lie to you," King Elbas announced. "Our knowledge of dimensions, my inscription methods, the existences with the Devils' influence, the idiot, and the hybrids might make a great team for this mission."

"Is it possible then?" Noah asked as his eyes lit up.

"Definitely," King Elbas replied. "It only needs a lot of planning. Nothing can go wrong in a mission like that. A single mistake might leave us stranded into the void."

"We need to do something to slow down Heaven and Earth," Noah explained. "They are adapting too quickly. Even our current mission can only buy us some time. I want to do something permanent."

"Buying time for what?" King Elbas asked. "Supreme Thief and Great Builder have died after they reached the ninth rank. Increasing our cultivation level might not help."

"I'm not them," Noah announced. "We helped to revive two rank 9 existences as mere rank 8 experts. Our potential has to be higher."

Noah's confidence was quite disarming. King Elbas couldn't help but believe his words completely when he put them in that way.

"What are you two plotting?" Sword Saint suddenly said after arriving behind the duo. "I still don't understand why we aren't leaving for the stormy regions."

"I don't understand why you are still here," King Elbas honestly replied. "Are you part of this crazy bunch now?"

"I only follow the path of the sword," Sword Saint exclaimed. "The stormy regions have many valuable opponents, but I believe that following you all will lead me to better battles. We met in Heaven and Earth's trap in the end."

"He just wants stuff to cut," Noah summarized before ignoring the expert.

Sword Saint was incredible. He was one of the strongest experts that Noah had ever seen. However, he was like Divine Demon. His unrestrained character made every attempt to involve him in organizations pointless.

Noah was happy as long as Sword Saint remained, but he didn't dare to involve him in his plans. The expert wouldn't listen to them anyway.

"I'll think about the various details," King Elbas eventually exclaimed while leaving Noah. "We might follow through with the plan if Heaven and Earth fail to kill us in the imminent future."

Noah limited himself to nod before the travel became a mere series of meaningless talks with the various experts. Only Steven and Robert seemed to discuss for most of the flight, but it was clear that their topics involved Heaven and Earth.

"We are almost there," Steven announced after the group spent a few years flying.

The group had reached a mountain chain that featured multiple rivers flowing through the various valleys. Their waters carried the same whiteness that had corroded Cynthia, but Noah's instincts didn't sense anything dangerous in the area.

"One of the branches of the Rotway family is here," Steven explained. "They were one of the few families that didn't suffer while moving to the Outer Lands since most of their mines are here."

"Soul Stones?" Jordan asked.

"Many of them," Steven continued. "The Rotway family has always been outside of the political environment because it had never needed to interact with the other forces. It rarely became the target of attacks and similar events due to the secrecy of these locations."

"How did you even find it then?" Wilfred asked.

"The secret organization has helped to find these spots," Steven explained. "We even noted them down since the human domain always offers you a chance to gain a profit from this knowledge. I didn't think they would have been useful for these missions."

"How do we attack?" Luke asked while stepping into the conversation.

"I need a few instants to cross-reference my information with this current layout," Steven announced. "I should be able to find the location quickly."

Everyone nodded, but Noah, Sword Saint, and Divine Demon exchanged a helpless glance. The trio drew their weapons under the stunned gaze of their friends and quickly unleashed attacks toward the protected area.

Sword Saint placed his sword-shaped silver energy on his forehead as his consciousness expanded. An array of slashes materialized as soon as his mental waves reached those areas, and the whole mountain chain soon experienced those attacks.

Noah summoned Snore before pointing toward the mountain chain, and the snake promptly unleashed the full might of its black feathers.

Three different attacks flew toward the ground and unleashed unfathomable destruction.

Divine Demon's beam transformed into white energy that spread through the area after touching the ground. The mountains inevitably shook as that power crossed them, and many cracks appeared on their surface.

Sword Saint's energy had the shape of a blade. His sharpness spread through the area while mountains started to fall. His last attack severed those motionless structures into halves.

Then, Snore's feathers arrived, and everything fell into chaos. Their attacks flattened entire areas, burnt the rivers, and revealed which spots featured protections.

'Found them,' Noah thought as he fixed his eyes on a series of mountains that didn't shake during the impact of the spells.

It was clear that the area featured protections, and he couldn't wait to dive toward them.

### **Chapter 1749 - 1749. Beliefs**

The entire mountain chain shook as the three powerful attacks spread their power through the lands. The grounds, the rivers, and the mountains vanished as the different abilities unleashed their destructive might.

A storm of violent dark matter continued to rage through the mountain chain even after Divine Demon and Sword Saint's abilities finished discharging their power. Still, a small area in the region appeared unaffected by that phenomenon.

"Why did you attack?!" Steven shouted while looking at the trio.

"It's quicker to find them like this," Noah answered.

"I wanted to cut something," Sword Saint added.

"I just went along," Divine Demon said while shrugging his shoulders.

"Shouldn't you try to recruit them?" Steven complained. "How is launching deadly attacks helping the mission?"

"That's usually how I recruit experts," Noah replied, and Steven remained speechless when a few members of the group nodded to confirm his answer.

"We almost killed each other in the Mortal Lands," King Elbas explained.

"I love him," June replied while wearing an annoyed expression, "So I launch a few lightning bolts at him every once in a while. Isn't that how relationships work?"

"I almost killed him when I cooperated with the Crystal City," Luke continued.

Steven turned toward the other experts almost expecting similar answers, but they didn't follow that trend. Yet, their words didn't make him feel any better.

"He is my heir!" Divine Demon shouted. "I only throw him into other fights."

"I fought him only after his ascension," Sword Saint continued. "Cutting him before he learnt decent sword arts would have been pointless."

"The Legion only tested his physical strength back then," Jordan explained.

"I did try to kill him now that I think about it," Robert added, "But I died a few times after that. Does it still count? It's not the same life in the end."

Steven firmly believed that he had ended up in the most dysfunctional team in the entire higher plane after watching that scene. All of them seemed completely crazy. Even the most stable among them had done something that would normally prevent a peaceful relationship with their current companions.

"Something is coming," Noah announced while the storms on the ground started to disperse.

The previous attacks had ended up destroying many inscriptions. The Rotway family had a large mansion hidden near one of the mountains in the area, but the offensive forced the building to reveal itself.

'The mines must be there,' Noah concluded in his mind, and his companions shared his thoughts.

A series of figures suddenly came out of the mansion and shot toward the sky. They didn't immediately attack Noah's group. Instead, they stopped at some distance from the experts to hold a conversation.

Five cultivators appeared in the sky. Most of them were old, but two of them had a solid stage cultivation level. The others were liquid stage experts who couldn't help but stare at the enemy group in fear.

"Why did you even attack us?" One of the solid stage cultivators asked. "I didn't leave the human domain for too long. The other forces should still remember the name Elmer Rotway."

One of his companions inspected the enemy group before whispering something in Elmer's ear. The cultivator's eyes widened at those words, and a confused expression soon appeared on his face.

"Why is Defying Demon here?" Elmer asked. "I thought you had gone to the other side of the Immortal Lands with one of my promising descendants. Where is Harold?"

"We don't know anything about any Harold!" Divine Demon shouted, but Noah patted his shoulder and took control of that conversation.

"Harold is one of my underlings now," Noah revealed. "He lives in the Legion's domain."

"How can we even believe you?" Elmer asked. "We didn't receive any word from him, and you are here attacking us now. How do you explain this behavior?"

"It was quicker than waiting for Steven to complete his inspection," Noah replied.

"Steven?" Elmer asked. "Steven from the secret organization?"

"Why did you even expose my identity?!" Steven shouted.

"Who cares?" Noah snorted. "They'll become allies or corpses anyway. What's the point of keeping your name a secret?"

"Let me decide that!" Steven complained.

"You lost that chance when you became my underling," Noah exclaimed.

"I have never become your underling!" Steven yelled, but King Elbas promptly nodded to confirm that line.

Moreover, a tinge of helplessness came out of King Elbas' figure during that gesture. Steven could sense that his recruitment didn't go smoothly either.

"Are you done?" Elmer asked. "I won't listen to the non-sensical words of my enemies."

"You might want to hear me first," Noah announced. "I'm creating a large army to fight against Heaven and Earth. Are some of you interested?"

The sudden question left the five cultivators speechless. Noah had gone from attacking their home to trying to recruit them for a massive battle in an instant. His words didn't respect any political tradition.

"The Rotway family won't bend itself to your request," Elmer explained. "Our beliefs are none of your business."

"I don't care about them either," Noah laughed. "I only want experts willing to break free of this intricate social array."

"Do it somewhere else then," Elmer proposed. "Creating wars over these topics is pointless."

"How would I know that you aren't failures otherwise?" Noah asked.

Noah had chosen his words casually. He could sense the experts' auras, and his instincts began to inspect their figures.

It was hard to understand whether an expert was Heaven and Earth's follower, but Noah had access to a powerful tool in his arsenal for that task. His anger could detect the rulers even if the cultivators tried to

hide their influence, and that feeling inevitably found something among the group from the Rotway family.

"I guess you all know that three of you work for Heaven and Earth, right?" Noah asked as a cold smirk appeared on his face.

His instincts had never failed to gain a clear picture of his opponents, and his anger had only helped in that situation. Three members of that group carried faint traces of Heaven and Earth, and they were even trying to hide them with multiple abilities.

"Our beliefs don't change the fact that we are an organization," Elmer continued. "It doesn't matter who we worship. We are still members of the Rotway family."

"Harold didn't think the same," Noah laughed before pointing toward Elmer. "It's easy to defend your position when you are one of those worshipping Heaven and Earth."

A tremor ran through the faces of the five cultivators. Elmer's companions inevitably turned toward him, but Noah wasn't over.

"The woman there is the same," Noah explained. "The young-looking guy also is Heaven and Earth's follower. The Rotway family must have many of them if its upper echelon is in this state."

"Your words can't break the trust built through generations," Elmer shouted. "Look at my companions! Do you think any of them will ever start to doubt my worth over mere words?"

Elmer turned at that point, but his expression froze when he looked at his companions. They were inspecting each other and him while keeping their heads lowered. It seemed that Noah's taunts had worked.

### **Chapter 1750 - 1750. Prisoners**

Elmer and the other five experts glared at each other. Noah had pointed at the three cultivators who served Heaven and Earth, and the event had worsened the internal fights that ran through their family.

"How can you serve Heaven and Earth?" One of the cultivators asked. "They have tried to vanquish the Balrow family due to a mere gathering with the Legion."

"What about the cultivation journey?" The other cultivator who didn't serve Heaven and Earth said. "Are you willing to give up on everything?"

"You know nothing about Heaven and Earth," Elmer announced. "You are young laws who didn't get the chance to experience the desperation hidden inside the world. Rejecting the rulers is pure madness."

"You will understand once your cultivation level reaches the edges of the ninth rank," The second solid stage cultivator announced. "The faint threat of the punishments in store for you will make your back shake."

"The help they provide to the cultivation journey is also incredible," The woman exclaimed. "Your existence will connect to the sky. You will become part of the entire world and expand as the system envelops new planes."



The trio who worked with Heaven and Earth didn't hide the benefits of connecting their existence to the rulers. The group had actually started to argue about their beliefs while forgetting that Noah his team were inspecting the scene.

"What's the plan now?" Steven asked while turning toward Noah. "Do we watch until they come up with a decision?"

Noah remained silent. He had created the internal conflict, but he had to exploit it now. The Rotway family could provide a good boost to his organization, but handling rank 8 cultivators was far from easy.

Noah didn't even want to change their minds. Gaining allies that could betray him due to their fear of Heaven and Earth was pointless. His plan required monsters that could reach a decent level even without his ambition.

"Do you plan on turning toward us at some point?" Noah asked while the Demonic Sword materialized in his hand. "We have to go through all the organizations in the Outer Lands before Heaven and Earth launch their next punishment. Can you make it quick?"

The five cultivators interrupted their discussion to turn toward Noah. They didn't want to handle that invasion before getting their internal situation straight. Still, it was clear that their opponents couldn't wait for that to happen.

"Defying Demon!" Elmer shouted. "You came here to stir a mess, but the human organizations are far stronger than you think. We might have lost our domain, but we still preserve our pride as previous rulers of the world."

"What rulers?" Noah laughed. "You have lived in constant fear of the magical beasts for eras. Your only shield against those creatures was an organization made of fanatics."

"The Crystal City has served its purpose," Elmer continued. "It will come back once your organization stops tainting the higher plane."

"You are too late for that," Robert laughed. "I bet you didn't take a look at your old domain in a while."

"What have you done to the Immortal Lands?" Elmer asked as disbelief filled his expression.

"We gave them the chance to exist outside of the system," Noah explained. "Enough talking now. My organization is recruiting. Choose on which side you are in the next seconds."

Noah raised his blade, and the sharpness released by his figure intensified. His companions did the same. They prepared themselves to attack as they waited for an answer.

The battle stance forced the cultivators to face the reality of their situation. They didn't have time to sort their internal struggles now. Handling the impending threat came before their political status.

"I can't remain in an organization that wants to cut my cultivation journey short," One of the cultivators eventually announced. "You have failed as laws."

The cultivator separated from the group neared Noah's team. Still, he didn't get too close due to the obvious danger that those cultivators radiated.

"Are you really willing to betray the Rotway family?" Elmer asked. "What can they even offer? You are nothing but a rat who fears death."

"That's better than serving Heaven and Earth," Another cultivator exclaimed before separating from the group and joining his companion. "This is for our very survival. You'll only sacrifice us if the situation requires it."

The trio couldn't help but start to fear for their lives. They couldn't face Noah's group without the defenses of their mansions, and the situation appeared grim even in that situation.

Just Robert and Sword Saint were enough to match the higher-ups of that branch of the Rotway family. The other experts in that team weren't easy opponents either. Noah alone had too many incredible achievements.

Elmer glanced at the sky before heaving a loud sigh. It was clear that the Rotway family didn't have any chance to overcome that trial. He could only surrender and hope in Noah's mercy since Heaven and Earth didn't seem willing to help.

"I can give you insights on Heaven and Earth and other forces," Elmer eventually announced. "The mines here are yours to take. I'll make sure that my underlings cooperate with the Legion."

Noah didn't expect the experts to surrender. He wasn't ready to take prisoners, and part of him wanted to avoid that approach to weaken Heaven and Earth's side.

However, taking prisoners could help his plan. Noah would get the chance to turn some of those experts into allies if they remained immersed in his ambition long enough. The matter was even truer for the weaker cultivators since they had found on Heaven and Earth's side due to the influence of their leaders.

'Is it actually better to show mercy?' Noah thought while scratching his head.

His companions waited for his orders, but they shared his hesitation. Getting rid of enemies usually was the best approach, but they had the chance to maximize their gains there.

"My law has yet to enter Heaven and Earth's system," Elmer continued when he noticed that Noah was struggling to make up his mind. "You won't need to fear the rulers if you keep us alive."

"You also need my mercy to remain alive," Noah snorted before turning toward King Elbas. "Elbas, how quickly can you build restraints?"

"I already have a few ready," King Elbas replied, "But I need to make some changes for the two in the solid stage."

"Make all your troops come out," Noah ordered while turning back toward the experts. "Lower the defenses of your mansion and accept our restraints. I won't hesitate to kill all of you if I sense that something is off."

Elmer limited himself to nod and give a few orders through his inscribed notebook. He didn't dare to whisper or use methods to cover his words, so Noah and the others could confirm that he wasn't using codes when talking to his underlings.

The various buildings on the ground lit up before going completely dark. A few cracks even appeared on their surface since some inscriptions were a core part of their fabric. Turning them off had disrupted their stability.

A wave of cultivators came out of the buildings. Hundreds of rank 7 experts accompanied by weak rank 8 existences. Their force was quite stunning for a simple branch, but everything paled in front of Noah's group.

The cultivators silently removed their storage devices and lowered their innate defenses. They exposed themselves to Noah and his group without even attempting to preserve some dignity.

It felt strange to take so many prisoners. Noah rarely cared about the political side of his actions, but he couldn't deny their current meaning. He didn't like to become a proper gear in that environment, but it seemed impossible to remain outside of it at that point.

"I'm almost done," Elbas announced after tinkering with a series of formations.

The expert already had upper tier inscriptions that could target solid stage cultivators, but he wanted to make them specific for his prisoners. He could adapt his formations to their laws and make them far more effective.

Noah waited patiently. King Elbas had to go toward every expert and check their laws before creating a formation that could restrain their centers of power. He approached the rank 7 cultivators first before moving to the stronger existences.

The members of Noah's group shot glances toward the sky from time to time, but Heaven and Earth didn't seem interested in the matter. Noah's instincts also remained silent during the entire procedure.

The group descended toward the ground after King Elbas put restraints on every member of the Rotway family. Sword Saint and Robert remained outside to check on their prisoners while their companions inspected the various buildings.

'This is a lot,' Noah thought when he descended through one of the structures connected to a mountain.

Piles of Soul Stones unfolded in his view, but they were only the tip of the wealth hidden in those buildings. Noah saw entire tunnels made of Soul Stones as he explored the insides of the mountain. It seemed that those materials had replaced the azure ground of the Immortal Lands in that area.

Then, a shining lake appeared when he approached the center of the mountain. The chaotic laws flowing out of those white waters tainted the Soul Stones and increased their value. A few of them had even abandoned their grey shades and had started to glow.