#### **DEMONIC 1761**

## Chapter 1761 - 1761. Stick

Noah's army has prepared a few battle formations during the years that it had taken it to reach their destination. The experts from various organizations had tried to abandon part of the previous training to focus on common techniques that they could deploy without hurting the allied offensive. However, battles of that size were mostly chaotic, and they rarely followed a set course.

Only the weaker experts could try to stick to the plans and battle formations prepared beforehand since they fought on a lower part of the battlefield. Still, the chaos of the war would eventually win over them and create small fights handled by a limited number of experts.

Noah observed as his army split to take care of the different sides of the battlefield. Divine experts instinctively knew who to fight due to the danger felt by their senses, so the many cultivators, hybrids, and magical beasts flew toward suitable opponents.

Still, the experts in the enemy army could do the same and exploit that feature. They wouldn't let their opponents gain the upper hand so easily, especially in a battle that would determine their very survival.

The experts on both sides performed feints, fake maneuvers, and battle formations hidden inside other battle formations to gain a slight advantage over their opponents, but the clash turned out to be a gory mess anyway.

Casualties happened as soon as the two frontlines crashed on each other. The sheer amount of power discharged by so many experts was enough to kill rank 8 cultivators. Some of the experts at that level suffered from that fate.

Rank 7 existences fell, burnt, crumbled, and flew away as if they were nothing more than pebbles placed among a clash of mountains. The surface shattered, and the sky bent, but space remained stable enough to prevent the arrival of cracks.

Noah and a few other experts didn't join the initial clash, but they remained inside its range out of respect for the lives lost during that exchange. The same happened with the other army, and a large group of powerful cultivators soon became visible among the bent whiteness.

'They had a few more solid stage cultivators under their sleeve,' Noah commented in his mind.

Two more solid stage cultivators had appeared next to the six leaders from the Crystal City. A small group of liquid stage existences had also joined them, but the rest of the entities in the eighth rank were in the army below.

Noah's group counted more experts, but they didn't seem to match their opponents in terms of cultivation level. Yet, they were all confident enough to take care of the solid stage experts on the other side.

"Just decide who you want," Noah sighed. "I think one of them already has his eyes on me."

An old man among the solid stage cultivators had never taken his eyes away from Noah. He was the expert who had released the blue fire that contained human faces. He didn't have hair, beard, eyebrows, and eyelashes, and his eyes shone with the same shade as his flames.

King Elbas, Divine Demon, Robert, Steven, Elsie, and the other experts who had remained out of the army chose their opponent in an instant. They partially relied on their instincts, but most of that decision came from the obvious necessity to occupy one of the fighting spots.

The various fighters left the area to occupy different spots of the battlefield since they didn't want their domains to clash with their allies. Only Noah and the hairless man remained there, but neither of them said anything for a while.

Noah revealed a cold smile as he inspected the destruction happening under him. His army was winning even if many casualties were happening on both sides. The rats soon joined the fight, and the event moved the scales of the battle even more in Noah's favor.

"You enjoy destruction," The hairless man eventually exclaimed, "But you aren't stupid. Can you understand why Heaven and Earth need to kill you?"

"I enjoy watching my enemies die," Noah replied without moving his eyes from the battlefield. "Death itself has no meaning for me, and Heaven and Earth's needs do not weigh my mind."

"How can an existence grow without understanding the world?" The cultivator asked.

"I do understand them," Noah added. "I just don't value them enough to bother thinking about their intentions."

"What are you for them then?" The cultivator continued. "Can you answer this simple question?"

"I'm one of the laws that they need to absorb," Noah laughed. "They will never achieve true perfection with a being like me sowing chaos through his mere existence. They still don't understand that no amount of absorption can lead them to the tenth rank."

"Your arrogance is stunning," The cultivator announced.

"But not wrong," Noah continued to laugh. "What did they tell you? Am I a necessary curse? Was I an inevitable mistake that the world has placed between them and perfection?"

The cultivator remained silent, but his eyes inevitably flickered. He had actually heard one of those definitions, but Noah only laughed at that.

"Open your eyes, old law!" Noah shouted. "Look at me! What do you think I am? What do you think I was on the day I was born?"

Noah's aura exploded outward. His ambition was still empowering every piece of his arsenal. He was the strongest he could ever be at his current level and with his potential.

"You were a monster!" The cultivator shouted.

"I was a man!" Noah laughed, and the world seemed to laugh with him since his ambition had taken control of most of the area. "The monster you see now is my creation. I built myself to seek and amass power."

"That's why you must die," The man replied while taking out a long brown stick that had multiple inscriptions and drawings on its surface. "You corrupted yourself way too much. The world can't tolerate your stench. I, Isaac, will take care of cleaning it."

"The world doesn't give a f.u.c.k," Noah continued to laugh, but he prepared himself for the imminent battle. "Also, I've never corrupted the world. I've only removed Heaven and Earth's control over pieces of it. You should be grateful to me if you really cared about the various planes."

Isaac couldn't handle Noah's sharp words anymore. He shot ahead and thrust his stick forward. The weapon created afterimages before materializing its tip in front of Noah.

The attack had been almost instantaneous. Isaac had moved, and the stick had reached Noah. Less than an instant had passed between the two events.

Yet, Noah had managed to follow the movements of the weapon due to his instincts. He performed a sidestep to dodge the incoming attack, and his Demonic Sword descended to cut the stick.

His sword didn't manage to hit anything. The stick had vanished before his weapon could cut it. It was back inside Isaac's grasp.

"I have something similar!" Noah laughed, and Isaac's eyes widened.

Countless Instabilities had materialized inside his body, but a wave of blue fire instantly swept him and burned all of them before they could explode. Isaac revealed a smile when he saw that his counter had worked, but a massive power suddenly flung him toward the ground.

Isaac's consciousness went dark for an instant, but he soon recovered his vision. He was on the ground, and a blue environment was surrounding him. His lifesaving technique had activated, but he didn't recall why.

### **Chapter 1762 - 1762. Theft**

'They always get distracted when they counter the Shadow Domain,' Noah snorted in his mind while descending through the battlefield.

Noah had attacked as soon as the blue fire swept Isaac's insides. He had expected the expert to have a counter ready for his Shadow Domain, so he had charged ahead to finish him in a single attack.

However, Isaac's life-saving spell had activated as soon as the Demonic Sword hit his head. Noah's sharpness didn't manage to pierce the explosion of blue flames, especially since it propelled his opponent toward the ground.

Noah descended through the weaker troops, who stopped fighting and let him pass when they noticed his arrival. It didn't matter if they were allies or enemies. They halted their abilities and performed respectful bows until he was outside their range.

A blue dome surrounded Isaac. Raging flames that featured human faces covered a large area on the surface and created a defensive shield that even Noah's instincts feared.

'Can that thing hurt me?' Noah wondered.

He could sense that the power of the flames could pierce his skin even after the empowerment generated by the unstable substance. Yet, there seemed to be more behind them. The various faces carried a strange presence that Noah couldn't completely identify.

'I'll just pretend to be Sword Saint,' Noah snorted while drawing the cursed sword from his c.h.e.s.t.

A wave of bloodl.u.s.t flowed out of his figure and covered the entire battlefield. His violent thoughts inevitably affected the weaker experts and made them engage in reckless assaults. They stopped caring about their safety and only aimed to destroy their opponents.

The bloodl.u.s.t also affected the swarm of rats coming out of the ground to jump on their flying opponents. They became even more selfless in their assault, and the deaths on both sides inevitably increased.

Noah completely disregarded the effects of his influence on the weaker troops. They were fighting among existences who were almost ready to step on the last part of the cultivation journey. Those risks were necessary.

Noah pointed both his swords toward the blue fire and unleashed a powerful lunge. Darkness took control of the area as a sword-shaped slash fell toward the flames while devouring everything on its path and surroundings.

The attack clashed with the life-saving spell and caused an explosion that spread black and blue shades through the entire surface. Some of the faces even followed the fiery tongues before dispersing in the air.

Noah teleported toward one of the dispersing faces and contained it with his dark world. A few fireballs flew out of his mouth and crashed on the surface to restore part of the damage suffered by his body while he studied the strange spell.

'They feel like different existences,' Noah thought while information flowed inside his mind. 'It almost resembles Kirk's law, but it doesn't steal others' abilities. The faces become part of the flames and empower them, but there still is something strange about them.'

"Do you understand who they are?" Isaac asked while walking out of the hole that had appeared among his flames.

The blue fire followed Isaac as he flew higher in the sky. He still made sure to remain outside of the weaker cultivators' range. The flames stayed under him to avoid spreading their deadly influence upward.

'The attack with the cursed sword didn't do anything to him,' Noah commented in his mind.

The cursed sword could force his attacks to surpass their limits. The weapon was still in the middle tier, so it could only reach the upper tier. It could release slashes far stronger than his Demonic Sword, but their power wasn't enough to hurt Isaac under the protection of the blue flames.

"I'll give you a hint," Isaac continued while waving his hand to morph the flames. "They were like you."

"Did you hunt those who oppose Heaven and Earth?" Noah asked. "Is this the power of your flames? Did you found your fire on such a frail belief?"

"How can it be frail when even the world allows it to exist?" Isaac laughed. "Heaven and Earth didn't even send Tribulations against me anymore at some point. I'm a defender of the order in the Immortal Lands."

"I will shatter it then," Noah sighed before a deafening roar came out of his mouth.

His cry generated soundwaves that spread through the entire battlefield and affected the various fights, but Noah had unleashed it only to create more chaos.

The blue flames protected Isaac from the soundwaves, but a dangerous sensation suddenly appeared above him. The expert didn't hesitate to divert his fire toward the threat, but Instabilities reappeared inside him during the attack.

The counter to the Shadow Domain activated and took care of the Instabilities, but that action affected Isaac's awareness for an instant. Meanwhile, the blue flames continued to surge upward, but they missed their target.

Noah reappeared next to Isaac, and the expert promptly opened his mouth to breathe a wave of flames. Multiple faces came out of his head during the process, and they hit Noah at the center of his c.h.e.s.t.

Blood gathered in Noah's throat as the flames ravaged his armor of dark matter and pierced the black roots that had covered his figure. They would soon reach his c.h.e.s.t and dig his skin, but Noah only needed an instant to create an opening.

The Demonic Sword and the cursed sword cut the air as they converged toward Isaac, but more flames appeared on their path. Yet, they couldn't stop the attack completely. They could only protect their caster.

Heaven and Earth's laws screamed in pain as time stopped in the small area occupied by the two experts. An azure light shone from behind Noah's eyes as the cursed sword returned inside his c.h.e.s.t and he stretched his hand toward his opponent.

Isaac had barely begun to regain control of his body when Noah's hand touched his forehead and made his mind experience an ethereal pulling force. His thoughts slowly slid toward the mental walls and tried to exit their edges. They wanted to flow toward Noah's palm and fuse with his existence.

Human faces suddenly appeared on Isaac's mental walls and forced the mental energy to remain inside its ethereal center of power. Noah continued to pull through Supreme Thief's technique, but he only managed to steal small lumps of thoughts that had nothing to do with the expert's law.

Shandal's technique ended at that point, and Isaac exploded into a wave of blue flames that sent everything away. Even Noah couldn't remain attached to the expert anymore, and the separation brought Supreme Thief's technique to an end.

Noah quickly stabilized himself and inspected his body. He had suffered a few burns, and the injuries caused by the cursed sword still lingered on his c.h.e.s.t. His resilience made him virtually at his peak, but it was clear that Isaac could damage him often.

'He is good,' Noah thought as greed flowed out of his figure.

"What were you trying to do?!" Isaac's angry voice resounded from the blue hell that had spread in the distance.

The expert had initially been wary of the weaker troops in the sky, but he wasn't paying attention to them anymore. His flames spread through the surface and gave birth to tall pillars that pierced the battlefield above. He was livid, but Noah only looked at him with deep interest. He had found the next addition to his arsenal.

#### Chapter 1763 - 1763. Core

'Supreme Thief's technique was working,' Noah thought while deploying his defenses again, 'But I need to damage him a bit before using it again. I've already wasted Shandal's law for today. I can't risk exposing more of my intentions.'

The surface had transformed into a raging blue hell. Fiery pillars and tongues escaped from the array of flames flickered among the incessant noise of the battlefield. The faces on their structure added a gruesome touch to the scene, but Noah couldn't stop smiling.

It was rare for Noah to find a suitable ability. He wasn't like Supreme Thief, who stole everything that stirred his interest. Noah was a perfectionist when it came to his battle prowess, and he accepted only techniques that could make him stronger.

Noah didn't exactly know how Isaac's fire worked. Still, he had only needed to learn that it grew stronger by killing enemies to become interested. That ability seemed perfect for him, but he had to overcome Isaac's defenses to obtain it.

Noah shot ahead as his companions dispersed through the environment. Isaac waved one arm to launch a massive fiery pillar toward him, but Duanlong materialized on its path and opened its monstrous mouth to absorb its power.

Isaac poured more energy into the pillar, and Duanlong soon became unable to endure that output of power. However, Noah spread the dark world and used the dark matter to enhance the dragon's innate ability.

Duanlong managed to stand its ground for a few more seconds, which give Noah the time to change direction and leave the pillar's trajectory. Part of the flames quickly invaded the dark world to destroy its structure, but Noah and the dragon had left their previous position by then.

The flames only found an army of six-armed dragons waiting for them in the back of the destroyed dark world. A fight immediately happened, and many of the disposable puppets detonated themselves to destroy part of the fire.

The explosions didn't happen randomly. The dragons had orders to detonate whenever they entered the range of a human face. Noah had seen them vanishing in the air when the flames left the main source of power, so he believed that he could weaken Isaac with that approach.

"You can't hide!" Isaac shouted while waving both his arms toward his right. "My law is your enemy. I live to hunt you down. I can sense the corruption that you are bringing to the world!"

'Why do they never shut up?' Noah wondered while flying inside the Shadow Domain and leaking puddles of dark matter whenever Isaac seemed about to pinpoint his position.

The dark matter took the shape of clawed fiendish armors that shot forward and launched black slashes. Isaac's attention went on them as soon as they appeared, but he only found detonations waiting for him.

Noah couldn't help but feel surprised by the sheer amount of power that Isaac could discharge. He could overpower most solid stage cultivators because his attacks were the result of multiple perfected abilities enhanced through his ambition, but Isaac was different. His flames were a single technique with a very specific fuel that made their potential nearly unlimited.

They were different from the flames inherited from the Light-devouring Dragons. They also had unlimited potential, but empowering them through light was tiresome, especially after he had fused them with the Eternal Snake's innate ability. His body advanced faster than his lungs, so specific exercises had become pointless at his level.

Instead, the power of Isaac's flames came from his kills, which seemed to give a significant boost. They appeared similar to the cursed sword, which needed to defeat powerful enemies to grow.

Those requirements were perfect for Noah. After all, he was always at war or immersed in some battles.

Noah inspected the flames while remaining inside the Shadow Domain. The barriers between the dimensions made his senses clouded, but he could still keep track of the variations in the fire's level.

He wanted to understand if the destruction of the human faces could lower the power of the flames. Still, nothing seemed to change even after many of them had vanished into the air.

"I don't know what you are trying to do," Isaac shouted while continuing to counter the fiendish armors that appeared among his blue flames, "But my fire isn't something that you can study or counter. These faces only mark the number of rebels that I have taken care of during my life. Destroying them has no meaning either."

Noah suddenly stopped his inspection. He had no reason to believe Isaac, but the latter didn't need to lie either. His words were probably true, which left Noah with a troublesome issue that had only a straightforward solution.

'I need to overpower his flames,' Noah sighed in his mind before coming out of the Shadow Domain and drawing the cursed sword again.

Isaac smiled at that scene, but his expression froze when he sensed the amount of sharpness acc.u.mulated around Noah's figure. He had joined his two swords and placed them on his forehead while a series of black roots covered his weapons.

The armor of dark matter almost crumbled when the power acc.u.mulated on Noah's forehead shot forward and covered the entire region. His sharpness fused with the parasite's corrosive aura and created black slashes that spread through the surface while acc.u.mulating all the energy they found.

The slashes gave birth to an expanding sea that the blue flames couldn't oppose. The fire slowed down the attack, but the energy released during its destruction fueled Noah's technique and made it pick up speed.

Isaac felt the need to escape, but a massive snake suddenly materialized behind him. Snore had taken that chance to surprise its opponent and spread its wings to unleash a storm of feathers.

Isaac found himself between threatening explosions and a wave of slashes. He summoned the entirety of his energy to generate enough flames to save his life, but energy inevitably seeped past his defenses.

His body began to shatter as the attack converged on his figure, but a hand appeared from a crack next to him before the entire area fell into complete chaos.

Noah dragged Isaac inside the Shadow Domain and shot out of the area. The clash between his two abilities created shockwaves capable of seeping through the layers that divided dimensions, so he couldn't deploy his plan there.

Isaac tried to struggle, but sword-shaped dots made of dark matter entered his body and suppressed his centers of power. He had become a prisoner now, and his injuries didn't allow him to muster enough energy to free himself from Noah's restrictions.

'Time to see your core,' Noah thought once he reached a safe area inside the Shadow Domain.

An azure glow filled his eyes as his hand went on Isaac's forehead. Faces appeared on his mental walls again as his mental energy tried to leave his mind, but Noah wasn't in a hurry at that time.

Noah slowly went past the many mental defenses before gaining access to the entirety of Isaac's mind. His thoughts and emotions burnt under the effects of Supreme Thief's technique, and part of Isaac's existence also suffered the same consequences.

Then, Noah saw a blue lump of light seeping out of the mental walls and entering his palm. That energy wanted to go directly toward his mind, but the black hole activated its pulling force and dragged it inside its dense waves of dark matter.

## Chapter 1764 - 1764. Kills

Noah could sense the black hole dissecting and studying the blue core. Understanding about Isaac's law flowed toward his mind as his organ kept unraveling that foreign existence.

It soon became clear to him that he couldn't use Isaac's law in its true form. The ability might end up hurting Noah since he was one of the existences who opposed Heaven and Earth.

Noah had to transform the law by reaching its core idea and build an ability around it. The process had to go deeper than his previous modifications. Shandal's existence had only needed a few patches to grow into a proper technique, but Isaac's skill required far more.

Isaac and Noah exited the Shadow Domain after Supreme Thief's technique ended. The light generated by the various battles shone in their vision, but both of them were too busy on other matters to enjoy that spectacle.

Noah kept his eyes closed while understanding flowed inside his mind. His sea of consciousness joined the black hole in the study and transformation of Isaac's law, and the Demonic Deduction technique also activated to help in the process.

The final technique would end up having destructive purposes, but Noah was okay with that. He had d.e.s.i.r.ed another powerful attack for a while by then, and he had finally gotten the chance to develop it.

Instead, Isaac was on the verge of falling apart. His centers of power were still under the threat of Noah's restrictions, but they didn't have much energy left anyway.

His mind was empty after the effects of Supreme Thief's technique. Thoughts and emotions had burnt when Noah had taken away the core of his existence. That center of power couldn't help him during that desperate situation.

His dantian was basically powerless. Isaac had lost the core of his existence, so his "Breath" didn't have a purpose anymore. The energy grew unstable since it lacked a proper form, but the walls of the organs managed to keep it at bay.

Only his body remained somewhat stable, but tremors ran through his flesh as the instabilities intensified. Isaac was about to fall apart, and nothing seemed able to stop the process.

However, Heaven and Earth were keeping an eye on the battle. After all, the Crystal City was the last force that carried their name on that side of the Immortal Lands. Losing it would force the rulers to rely on the troops in the sky, who required a massive amount of energy to reach the surface.

A small mass of black clouds gathered high in the sky before a single white lightning bolt fell toward the surface. The attack curved and avoided the battlefield before changing direction again and falling right at the center of Isaac's c.h.e.s.t.

Isaac also started going through a transformation as Heaven and Earth's energy spread through his figure. Noah's swords shattered under the power sweeping the expert's insides, and his organs began to work again.

A new purpose filled Isaac. The expert didn't give up his law to Heaven and Earth, but he had already established a tight connection with the rulers. They knew him thoroughly, so they had a new existence ready for him.

The battles continued to rage, but a few experts had noticed that both Noah and Isaac weren't moving. Noah was standing with his eyes closed while Isaac was on the ground, shaking. They were among the strongest existences on the entire battlefield, but they appeared completely defenseless in that situation.

A few experts believed that to be their chance to earn some glory or benefit for their force had arrived. Taking out one of those existences could tilt the scales of the battles in their favor, and they didn't hesitate to shoot downward.

Two cultivators in the eighth rank from both sides left the massive battlefield and flew downward. The four of them were in the liquid stage, but they were strong enough to threaten solid stage existences who didn't deploy any defense.

The two groups noticed each other, but they silently decided not to interfere. The cultivators from Noah's army believed in his power, and the same went for the experts in Isaac's group.

The two cultivators that aimed to take Noah down were the first to enter his range, but a massive black figure filled their vision as soon as they tried to prepare spells. Snore gave voice to a loud hiss before releasing a sea of violent dark matter that forced the experts to deploy defensive abilities.

The experts had to use their life-saving abilities and other techniques to fend off the Snore's dark matter. However, the process left them exhausted and allowed the snake to eat them in a single bite.

The other two cultivators laughed when they saw Snore eating the experts, but their expressions froze when a pulling force took control of their actions. They had only neared Isaac, but a power similar to a domain suppressed their laws and brought them closer to the expert.

The two cultivators couldn't do anything to oppose that pulling force. Their life-saving techniques activated, but the pressure in the area shattered them in an instant. The experts continued to descend toward Isaac, and painful cries soon escaped from their mouths when their faces began to separate from their skulls.

The pulling force tore the experts' faces apart and brought them closer to Isaac. Those gory body parts disappeared when they touched his skin. It seemed that his new existence could feed on those materials.

The two experts fell on the ground after the process. Their eyes were empty, and their centers of power soon started to disperse their energy. It had only taken one attack to kill both of them.

Isaac stopped trembling at that point. Sparks ran through his body as he straightened his position and began to inspect the changes in his existence.

Heaven and Earth didn't only improve his cultivation level. They had also expanded his existence and added features meant to counter his opponent. Moreover, sparks still ran through his body. It seemed that his element had changed after that transformation.

Isaac soon moved his gaze on Noah, who was still busy taking care of his new ability. Snore, Duanlong, Night, and black roots appeared in front of him when they sensed the expert's dangerous attention. They were ready to protect their master even if their power alone clearly weren't enough to fend him off.

"It's ok," Noah suddenly said as he made his way through his companions.

His cultivation level fell and returned to its normal state. Even the companions' power went back to the middle tier. Noah had deactivated the effects of his ambition to suffer lighter drawbacks, but Isaac could only smile at that sight.

"Are you crazy?" Isaac laughed while raising his hand to materialize his stick. "Heaven and Earth have given me a stronger law that doesn't suffer from your power. You will have no advantage over me, but you still decided to withdraw your law."

"What's the point of a law when you have given me the most powerful weapon in the world," Noah scoffed before exploding into a crazy laugh. "You have founded an ability on your kills, and you even let me steal it. Do you have any idea of how many experts I've killed?"

The entire surface of the region shattered after Noah finished his line. A massive pressure had suddenly come out of his figure, and Isaac's expression froze at that sight.

# Chapter 1765 - 1765. Ecstatic

Noah had to transform Isaac's law, but he didn't want to remove the reason that made it interesting. At the same time, he had to give it a different purpose, something that matched his existence.

The kills were a feature that Noah wanted to keep. They matched his existence perfectly, but he couldn't make that requirement too general. The ability would lose power otherwise.

Noah didn't have something as specific as Isaac. He didn't have a specific enemy to target when rebuilding the ability. However, he could pick something that he had done often and respected his ambition.

Noah had spent his entire life fighting and defeating opponents that had a higher cultivation level. The potential of his ambition depended on his logic-defying achievements, so he could do something similar for his new ability.

The building of the ability became far easier after deciding its new foundation. Noah only had to call upon his memories and review all the times when he had defeated stronger opponents to complete the transformation. The process had taken longer than he expected, but that was a good thing due to the obvious connections with the final result.

Noah's hair fluttered as the power generated by his figure gave birth to raging winds. His cultivation level had fallen, but he appeared stronger than ever. Even Isaac with his new law didn't feel to have many chances against him.

"It's hilarious!" Noah roared as he passed his hands through his hair while he experienced the wave of power that was filling his existence. "One of the most devoted followers of Heaven and Earth has given me the most fitting ability for my existence."

"Don't you dare insult the rulers!" Isaac shouted. "I will defeat you with the new power that they have given me!"

"Shut up," Noah laughed before waving his hand toward the expert.

A single black slash came out of his fingers. The curved attack covered the distance that separated the two experts in an instant, but the debris and boulders that made the surface disappeared during that short period.

The energy contained on the shattered plain had flowed inside the slash in an instant, and peculiar marks had appeared on its structure before it could clash with the expert. Isaac's eyes widened when he saw that the attack now featured countless faces.

The faces didn't only belong to humans. Many magical beasts' heads also appeared on the slash before the impact. Roars and cries came out of them and spread their nefarious noise through the entire battlefield. Isaac almost lost his concentration when those sounds reached his ears.

Still, Isaac was an experienced warrior. He could sense that there was something off with Noah's slash, but its power remained at the peak of the liquid stage. After all, Noah had deactivated his ambition and was using his base power to fight.

Isaac's hand created afterimages as he waved his stick and hit the slash in multiple spots in the span of an instant. The attack seemed to slow down, but the faces suddenly screamed again and pushed it forward.

The expert could only let his stick endure the power of the blow and run away. Lightning bolts came out of his feet as he shot backward, but the explosion that followed the clash took him by surprise.

The stick shattered when the slash hit it, but it managed to serve its purpose and made the entirety of the attack's power converge on its structure.

Noah's attack discharged its power on that spot, but an explosion followed that event. Countless smaller slashes flew everywhere through the plain, and all of them carried faces that released a disturbing noise.

Some of the experts on the battlefield above ended up clashing with the slashes, and the result was quite gruesome. Those attacks pierced them from side to side and absorbed their energy to continue flying through the area. A few stronger existences even had to join their forces to stop that reckless destruction.

Most of the slashes still tried to converge toward Isaac, but his new movement technique made him too fast. The lightning bolts that he released were even the perfect bait for Noah's abilities since they carried Heaven and Earth's power. He could free himself from that chase after a few leaps, but his expression remained grim.

The attack of a liquid stage hybrid had forced Isaac to escape. That event led to unbelievable conclusions. It seemed that Noah's base power could actually match solid stage cultivators now.

"What have you done to my law?!" Isaac couldn't help to ask when he saw Noah charging ahead.

"You took pride in killing those who defied Heaven and Earth," Noah explained. "I gain power by defeating those stronger than me. Your technique has given me the chance to express it without relying on my law."

Isaac's eyes widened in disbelief. The entire world knew about Noah's abilities, his most iconic ones at least. Everyone was aware that the empowerment given by the ambition led to drawbacks, but the situation seemed to have changed now.

Meanwhile, he could feel the power generated by Isaac's law filling his body with the same might that his ambition would provide. The technique had taken the shape of a blue orb floating among his mental sea. It had become a spell that could activate his memories and draw energy from them.

"I must destroy you," Isaac whispered as a terrible realization dawned upon his mind. "You might actually...."

Isaac went silent and materialized another stick before stretching his arms forward. He joined his hands and kept his weapon among them as he pointed at the incoming Noah.

Sparks ran through his arms, and an array of lightning bolts soon covered his whole figure. That raging energy took the form of human faces that howled their pain as they flowed toward his hands and converged in his stick.

Noah didn't stop. He was ecstatic. He wanted to feel everything that his new ability was capable of offering, and the Demonic Sword roared when it understood his d.e.s.i.r.e.

The Demonic Sword and the cursed sword quickly appeared in his hands while Noah raised his arms above his head. He would face the incoming attack head-on, but his face didn't show the slightest trace of worry.

Darkness gathered around the two joined swords. Dark matter also gathered around the weapon and created a churning pillar that expanded toward the sky. Multiple human and animal faces appeared on the structure, and the wicked noises resounded on in the area again.

Isaac's discharged his attack when Noah was about to reach him. A lightning bolt that took the shape of a massive human face shot forward and tried to envelop Noah with its raging energy.

On the other hand, Noah slashed downward, and his black pillar fell. Energy from the plain flowed toward his attack and increased its power right before the clash with the face, and an explosion happened once the two techniques met.

Heaven and Earth's light tried to fill that area after the explosion, but a black membrane suddenly appeared and prevented it from expanding.

Many experts noticed that scene and inspected the dispersion of the last strand of energy to see the outcome of the clash. The area eventually became clear, and everyone could see an injured Noah standing above Isaac's lifeless body.

## **Chapter 1766 - 1766. Hunt**

'Don't even try that,' Noah thought while covering Isaac's corpse with dark matter and glancing at the sky.

Whiteness had started to condense in the sky since Heaven and Earth wanted to resurrect their follower, but Noah wouldn't just stand by. He had found too many experts of that kind to let the rulers bring them back to life.

A sense of weakness filled his body when he deactivated Isaac's ability. His new spell didn't carry any drawback, but it depleted an immense amount of energy. Moreover, Noah was already suffering from his previous activation of the ambition, so his overall situation worsened.

A deep cut that reached his internal organs had also appeared on his torso. His body wasn't in the upper tier anymore, so he had a harder time enduring the drawbacks of the cursed sword. Still, that damage was nothing when he had many sources of power around him.

Isaac's body provided an intense wave of nutrients that the black hole didn't hesitate to purify and send to the rest of his body. Noah instantly felt better, but his condition remained far from optimal. However, his innate resilience allowed him to express his peak power anyway.

'What should I do now?' Noah wondered as his gaze fell on the battlefield.

Every powerful cultivator on the Crystal City's side had a matching opponent, and the same went for the experts fighting among the army. The situation even seemed in favor of Noah's group, so he didn't find anything that required his immediate assistance.

Noah felt that the battlefield still hid something. Heaven and Earth had been willing to give another law to Isaac, which revealed their intention to spend energy on the fight. He even guessed that the rulers had already planted something in the region, but everything was still unclear for now.

'I guess I can hunt for now,' Noah thought as a cold smile appeared on his face and his weapons returned inside the separate space.

His figure disappeared as he shot toward the two clashing armies. The battlefield had many weaker rank 8 experts busy against existences at a similar level, but Noah didn't care about respecting their fights. He only made sure to avoid his companions during his hunt.

Noah reappeared behind a rank 8 cultivator in the liquid stage covered in a thick layer of water. Her technique seemed able to protect her from all the incoming attacks, but it couldn't do anything when black roots pierced it and entangled her body.

The cultivator struggled to free herself of the roots destroying her skin, but Noah's hand arrived and put an end to her sufferings. Her head fell, and a wave of dark matter covered her body to devour her.

The experts that were fighting the woman wanted to complain, but their words remained stuck in their throats when they sensed Noah's coldness. His aura radiated a chilling killing intent that couldn't possibly belong to a human. He was a beast unleashed in a field full of targets.

Noah disappeared again and materialized above another rank 8 expert. The cultivator used his flames to create multiple fiery flowers that rotated around him, but the technique dispersed as soon as Noah waved his hand.

The black slash that came out of Noah's fingers severed the expert in half, and dark matter soon covered those parts. Energy flowed inside his body as the higher energy turned the cultivator into nothing more than nutrients, but they barely managed to satisfy Noah's hunger.

Noah repeated the process multiple times. The battlefield was his hunting ground, and the experts inside it were too busy with their opponents to deploy any defense at his arrival. Those who manage to launch something saw their spells falling apart in front of his slashes before darkness filled their vision.

Liquid and gaseous stage cultivators couldn't do much to satisfy Noah's hunger, but the additional energy gathered during the hunt helped the black hole disperse the drawbacks of his ambition. His condition constantly improved and slowly returned to its peak.

Noah felt surprised that Heaven and Earth didn't activate anything even after ten rank 8 experts had died by his hand. The rulers seemed to have gone silent, but that only made him more reckless in his hunt. The battle wouldn't take much to end if the world didn't start opposing him soon.

Still, Heaven and Earth continued to remain silent, and Noah kept gathering energy. The battlefield soon started to fall apart due to the lack of powerful experts on the Crystal City's side. Noah's weaker troops took over the fight and began to overwhelm their opponents.

Only the battles high in the sky remained even, but they had also started to show signs of ending. They revealed mixed outcomes, but most of Noah's friends seemed to have the upper hand. Only Jordan was struggling a bit, but Noah didn't feel the need to intervene just yet.

'Fine,' Noah eventually sighed in his mind. 'Let everything crumble since you aren't able to put up a decent challenge.'

Noah flew back toward the surface and placed his hand on the shattered ground. His influence expanded and spread through the region, and cracks inevitably opened on the already broken terrain.

His destruction forced most of the region to continue to fall apart, but his ambition transformed the debris and boulders as they crumbled. The color of the surface changed, and dark shades spread everywhere around him.

Noah wanted to force Heaven and Earth's hand, but even the transformation of the plain didn't seem to trigger their reaction. A few doubts began to form in his mind at that point. He started to wonder whether the rulers were waiting on purpose to raise the stakes of their punishment.

'Do they want to sacrifice the entire army to send something powerful?' Noah wondered. 'Why help Isaac then?'

Noah remained confused. Part of him even thought about retreating for a moment to stop Heaven and Earth's plan, but he quickly suppressed that idea.

Making Heaven and Earth waste energy was the original plan. The war would only hurt their troops, but it wouldn't do anything to their actual power. Noah wanted to weaken the rulers, so he had to let the war continue even if his instincts were telling him that something was off.

Something spectacular happened while Noah was in the middle of transforming the area. The battles higher in the sky were still raging, but one of them reached its end faster than the others.

Divine Demon was against one of the solid stage cultivators from the Crystal City. His opponent seemed to use his voice to create quick and powerful figures capable of unleashing soundwaves.

That ability appeared quite threatening, especially since the expert didn't need much to cast it. A simple whistle was enough to create multiple creatures that ran through the sky and exploded next to his opponent.

Divine Demon had turned that fight into a whistling challenge. His sounds were able to destabilize the cultivator's creatures and make them explode next to him. He had become so good at it that some of them had ended up detonating inside the expert's mouth.

The cultivator couldn't do much with his offensive completely countered. Launching attacks ended up hurting him, so he remained silent and began to look for another opponent. However, Divine Demon started to use his whistles offensively at that point, which inevitably brought the expert closer to his death.

Divine Demon gave voice to a laugh once the expert died. He had suffered many injuries during the initial stages of the fight, but he didn't seem to care about them. Instead, the world suddenly released a humming noise and started generating energy for him.

Waves of azure energy began to converge toward Divine Demon and fuse with his body. His cultivation level rose as his influence expanded, and the world released another humming sound when he crossed the limits of the liquid stage.

## Chapter 1767 - 1767. Help

The world seemed to chant during Divine Demon's breakthrough. The event didn't happen during a long training session. One last victory had been enough to push his level into the solid stage.

Many experts among the armies stopped to admire the azure spectacle. The world transformed on its own to pour energy inside Divine Demon and fuel his breakthrough. His body, mind, and dantian were in harmony and advanced together as his existence grew and his influence intensified.

The cultivators on Heaven and Earth's side inevitably lost hope at that sight. Noah had just killed most of their weaker rank 8 experts, and their leaders were also failing to win their battles.

The experts on Noah's side were also experiencing breakthroughs in the middle of the battle. The enemy army was losing in every aspect. It was failing to seize even the easiest victories, and the outcome of the war soon became evident.

Faith vanished in the experts' eyes. Their belief disappeared in front of the clear superiority shown by Noah's army. A mixed group of cultivators, hybrids, and magical beasts had achieved what an organization that had been in power for eras couldn't.

The Legion and Noah's nameless organization could achieve miracles. They had gone from being a mere mass of wandering hybrids to the overlords of that side of the Immortal Lands. Defeating the Crystal City was only the last step before the complete control of all the areas outside of the magical beasts' domain.

The higher plane still had the windy regions, but they belonged to no one. Only existences that were about to approach the last stage of their journey would venture there to benefit from the chaotic laws. Most peak rank 8 experts and rank 9 monsters would go there to complete their growth.

Divine Demon laughed as his power increased. He could sense the world bending to his d.e.s.i.r.e to win challenges, and his influence began to attract other opponents.

Noah couldn't help but laugh when he saw a mass of weaker cultivators hoovering toward Divine Demon with the d.e.s.i.r.e to challenge him. He couldn't even begin to imagine how troublesome it would be to fly with his friend now, but pure happiness still filled his mind.

Divine Demon's breakthrough could only make Noah happy. The cultivator's inheritance was one of the main reasons behind his many achievements in the Mortal Lands, so he still felt somewhat indebted. Seeing him progressing past Wilfred could only prove his talent and mindset to the world.

'Come on, Heaven and Earth,' Noah thought as his laugh stopped and his gaze returned on the sky. 'I know you are about to do something. Don't make me wait so long.'

Heaven and Earth disregarded Noah's feelings and continued to remain silent. The rulers didn't care that their last army on the surface was falling apart. Noah's side was even growing stronger under their gaze, but they didn't do anything.

"Clean it up," Noah growled while keeping his voice down, but the meaning behind his cry spread through the entire battlefield. "I'm tired of this."

A series of snorts, complaints, and angry reprimands reached his ears, but Noah didn't care. His friends high in the sky didn't like his aloof tone, but their battles soon forced them to ignore that previous event.

Noah sat on the ground and crossed his legs. The Demonic Sword came out of his waist and activated his cultivation technique on its own. The battlefield didn't interest him anymore. Training was a better use of his time.

Heaven and Earth's followers saw that gesture as the ultimate offense, but their leaders didn't do anything about the matter. The sky remained silent, and the solid stage cultivators on their side continued to fight their opponents. The situation up there had even worsened for them after Divine Demon's breakthrough.

The cultivators' approach grew reckless due to the severity of their situation. They began to abandon the most troublesome opponents to move toward those that felt easier to fight.

Wilfred was powerful, but he was still in the liquid stage, so he was a viable target. Jordan had just reached the liquid stage, so she also fell into that list.

The cultivators wanted to add King Elbas to their targets, but the expert's army of inscribed items was too troublesome. They aimed to reduce the power of Noah's elite group in a few exchanges, and defeating the crowned existence would take far too long.

However, Jordan was in her dragon form, which allowed her to express far more power than normal hybrids. Wilfred had also managed to keep up with Divine Demon's growth until then, so his cultivation level was at the peak of the stage. They were tough opponents even with their apparent weakness, and they had friends that didn't let the sudden assault surprise them.

A few cultivators disregarded Steven, Robert, Elsie, and the other powerful opponents to turn toward the two hybrids. Yet, a series of attacks arrived on their position before they could release their techniques.

The experts found themselves exposed at that point. They had sacrificed their position in an attempt to seize small victories, but they had failed, and that left them surrounded by their enemies.

Noah opened his eyes as soon as he sensed a considerable shift in the power contained in the sky. Half of the solid stage experts had died after failing their plan, and dark matter promptly gathered in Noah's palm.

He was ready to interrupt Heaven and Earth's attempt to resurrect those experts, but the rulers didn't react to those deaths. The cultivators died, and Noah's friends stored their corpses for their own purposes.

Everything ended quickly afterward. The sheer number of troops on the Crystal City's side was too little to even dream of stopping their opponents. Noah's army had only lost many rank 7 experts and some weaker rank 8 existences, so taking over the battle wasn't an issue.

Heaven and Earth's followers began to ask for mercy and beg for their lives. They called for the rulers' help and tried to save their lives through quick escapes. However, everything failed in front of the bloodthirsty army.

The war ended in an anticlimactic tone. The last defense on the surface died in a swift and clean final assault. The surviving experts couldn't help but give voice to happy cries and chant the names of the existences who had performed exceptional deeds, but the leaders didn't celebrate.

Noah watched the sky and felt that the whiteness was staring back at him. Something was coming. He could feel it in his bones, but the region remained silent.

'Are they trying to trick me?' Noah eventually wondered. 'What's the point? We have already won.'

"Are you enjoying your victory, my unruly children?" Earth's androgynous voice suddenly resounded through the area.

The voice didn't seem to have a clear source. The mountain chain and the sky unaffected by Noah's ambition trembled and echoed those sounds. Earth spoke through the world, but the matter didn't seem to carry her power.

"Why don't you come out?" Noah promptly replied. "You have just lost your last army on this side of the surface. What will you send now? Are you planning to use another rank 9 punishment?"

"You still see death as a mortal, my unruly child," Earth announced. "We can waste a few eras on rebuilding everything. All the lifeforms born from us are nothing more than pawns in our grand plan."

"Is your grand plan losing everything you have?" Noah laughed.

"Arrogant as always," Earth replied. "We heard that you wanted to shatter the world. Don't worry. We'll do that for you."

Noah's eyes widened at that announcement and cracks suddenly spread through the mountain chain. They expanded until they reached the tainted region, and Noah felt the need to shoot in the sky.

His new point of view allowed him to see that those events didn't only happen in the surrounding regions. Cracks were opening in every land that his consciousness could touch. It seemed that the entire surface was falling apart.

"Thank you, my unruly child," Earth continued. "It's hard to find flaws in such a vast system, even for us. You have our gratitude. We wouldn't have chosen to start again without your help."

## Chapter 1768 - 1768. Dragon

The entire surface was falling apart. Cracks stretched as far as Noah could see, and they spread deeper into the underground world to reach hidden areas of the higher plane.

The world was crumbling right in front of the army's eyes. Noah and the others couldn't do anything to stop that event. Most of the regions weren't under their control, so they could only stare helplessly as the apocalypse unfolded.

"We must return to the Legion's domain," Noah roared in a low tone before shouting, "Now!"

A wave of dark matter enveloped all the weaker experts and forced them to gather into a dense black sea. The dark world then took the shape of a massive six-armed dragon that shot forward as soon as its structure stabilized.

King Elbas and the other powerful experts sat on the dragon's back while the creature speeded forward. Noah activated Isaac's ability and made the dark matter gain a suction force that gathered the energy in the environment.

The surface was crumbling, and the ground was releasing massive waves of "Breath" into the sky, so Noah could gain a lot from deploying a suction force with the entire dragon-shaped dark world.

Noah needed that suction force to keep the dragon-shaped dark world and Isaac's ability active. He was carrying thousands of divine experts and empowering his power at the same time. His consumption of darkness and mental energy was massive.

The world continued to shatter while the massive dragon flew across the sky, but something slowly changed in its behavior. The largest boulders escaped the pulling force and gathered in multiple spots to give birth to giants that started to fight each other.

It seemed that Heaven and Earth weren't happy with simple destruction. They wanted to be thorough, even if they had to force their very world to fight against itself.

"This is crazy," King Elbas commented while studying the environment under the dragon.

Boulders flew everywhere as the giants fought against each other. The ground that made them shattered and released its energy back into the sky before flying higher. Heaven and Earth were trying to get rid of the entire higher plane, and the sight was breathtaking.

Confused packs of magical beasts appeared from time to time. The creatures that couldn't fly fell endlessly toward the depths of the shattering higher plane and disappeared from Noah's vision, but the other remained afloat while trying to avoid the dangerous giants.

Most of those giants radiated peak rank 8 power. Some of them even touched the limits of the ninth rank, but their level quickly fell as they kept clashing with their peers. Heaven and Earth didn't care about creating powerful puppets. They only wanted to make that energy disperse.

"Come with us!" Noah roared when he saw a group of flying wolves led by a middle tier specimen.

The creatures hesitated for an instant, but Noah's pride soon took control of their actions. The wolves timidly flew toward the massive dragon and pierced its dark matter after Noah roared a few reminders.

Still, Noah's condition continued to worsen as the journey continued. He kept taking every pack of magical beasts on his path inside the dragon, and he even flew to save some of the falling creatures that had managed to remain attached to the giants.

King Elbas and the others shot worried glances toward him when they saw sweat falling from his forehead. They had seen Noah in worse conditions, but that situation was different from a battle.

"You don't have to save everyone," The rat king announced while adjusting its crown and stabbing its short nails on the dragon's back to endure the high speed. "A true leader knows when to sacrifice troops."

"I'm not saving anyone," Noah snorted. "Heaven and Earth want to get rid of the products of a flawed system. Ensuring their survival is only a method to make the rulers' plan fail."

"But you can't burn yourself just to insult them," Wilfred commented.

"True leaders do whatever they want," Noah laughed as calculations happened in his mind.

Noah believed that the Legion's domain was still in one piece since it was too big to fall from the cracks opening in its surrounding areas. The transformation had also been more thorough there, and the many dispensers placed by King Elbas had made his influence nourish the surface for a long time.

The Legion's domain probably had the toughest terrain of the entire higher plane. Its depths still belonged to Heaven and Earth since Noah had preferred to move most of his influence toward his troops on the surface, but there was a high chance that the mutated landmass was surviving the apocalypse.

The Demonic Deduction technique couldn't help Noah with those calculations. He wanted to understand if his power would last long enough to reach the Legions' domain, and his conclusions didn't seem to give positive answers.

Yet, Noah could still push his speed forward. He didn't initially activate his ambition due to the poor duration of its effects. Still, that feature wouldn't be a problem if he reached his destination before his potential depleted its power.

'I'm still looking at months of travel,' Noah cursed in his mind. 'I can't keep my ambition up for so long. I need to wait as much as I can.'

The shockwaves released by the clashes of the giants tried to land on the dragon, but Noah's companions took care of fending them off. They couldn't help Noah with his technique, but they didn't hesitate to use everything they had to improve his situation.

Noah's mind grew heavy even if the black hole was diverting most of its energy toward that center of power. It was hard to manage the dragon, keep Isaac's ability active, and recruit the sparse packs of magical beasts on the road at the same time. He was reaching his limits, but his eyes never stopped looking ahead.

The suction force flowing out of the dragon gave Noah the entirety of the gathered energy, but his centers of power kept on growing empty.

Even the massive waves of energy taken from the environment weren't enough for that feat. Noah was depleting too much power too quickly, but he didn't have other options.

The black hole couldn't do miracles. It tried to increase the efficiency between the output and consumption of power, but Noah's situation remained grim. Still, his calculations told him that everything would improve soon. He only had to cover enough distance.

'Now!' Noah shouted in his mind at some point during the flight, and his aura intensified.

His ambition skyrocketed and gave the entirety of its potential to the techniques involved with his journey. The dragon accelerated, the amount of energy generated by Isaac's ability increased, and the condition of his centers of power improved.

The ambition was taking the weight of part of that insane quest, and Noah would have to pay the price later on. Yet, he didn't care for now. His mind could only think about returning to the Legion's domain.

Noah gave voice to roars from time to time to submit the trapped magical beasts, and the dragon inevitably grew crowded even if he kept enlarging its size.

Then, a black landmass covered by a blue halo eventually unfolded in his vision. Noah mustered his strength to cross the last kilometers that separated him from the Legion's domain. He almost fainted during the process, but he remained in control of the dragon until it reached its destination.

The creature of dark matter shattered at that point, and Noah's vision went dark. Everyone fell from the sky, and the various experts ensured that the non-flying magical beasts landed safely.

As for Noah, Snore materialized among the sky and let him lie on its back before reaching the black ground.

## Chapter 1769 - 1769. Discussions

The army gathered around Snore, which was protecting Noah with its massive body. Most of the magical beasts recruited during the flight salivated when they looked and the blue environment, but Snore promptly hissed to force them to behave.

Duanlong and Night also came out of Noah's body and started giving voice to cries to handle the new troops. They knew Noah well enough to understand how he would manage them.

Yet, it soon became clear that they didn't need to work so hard since a heavy aura fell on the region and suppressed all the new magical beasts. Alexander, the Foolery, and the other rank 8 existences that had remained behind appeared in the sky and inspected the mess on the black surface.

"What did you even do out there?" Alexander asked while descending toward his companions. "You have been away for mere decades. How did you even break the entire world?"

"Heaven and Earth have decided to reset the world," Wilfred explained. "I believed this is the only surviving landmass in the entire higher plane."

"Didn't you transform many regions on the other side too?" Alexander asked, but Wilfred pointed his fingers at the giants fighting right outside the black landmass.

"You can look for them if you want," Wilfred scoffed.

A tense atmosphere had fallen on the entire army. The experts had won the last battle for the higher plane, but Heaven and Earth had decided to sacrifice the world. Their victory had lost every meaning. The Legion and Noah's nameless organization didn't gain anything.

"Where are you going?" King Elbas asked when he saw Wilfred leaving the area.

"The idiot advanced to the solid stage," Wilfred snorted. "I can't fall behind. We can't help Defying Demon in this state anyway. It's better to grow stronger until he wakes up."

"Why do you have so much faith in him anyway?" Steven asked in an angry tone. "You have heard Heaven and Earth. The destruction of the world is his fault."

Steven's cells were in the Outer Lands when the apocalypse happened. There was a high chance that he had lost the entirety of his force during the crisis. He couldn't even contact his underlings at that distance, and trying to travel across the giants on his own was pure madness.

"I'd be careful of how you talk about my heir," Divine Demon threatened as his aura unfolded in the environment. "It's not his fault if Heaven and Earth are so powerful. Blaming him for their actions is even worse than serving them."

Steven wanted to complain, but he quickly understood that his anger was misplaced. Still, that feeling remained, and he didn't know how to get rid of it.

"When did the idiot become so smart?" The Foolery asked.

"This isn't the time to crack jokes," King Elbas lectured the pig. "The situation is serious. We should gather up and create a few plans."

"I actually agree with Steven" Elsie suddenly joined the conversation. "We were fine in the Outer Lands. We weren't safe, but we had a home and the power to defend it."

"It didn't seem so," June commented. "The Crystal City has stolen your troops right under your nose."

"You are lucky that you are Defying Demon's woman," Elsie snorted. "Why would gaseous stage cultivators even be so arrogant otherwise?"

"You-!" June was about to snap, but Dreaming Demon promptly placed a hand under her shoulder to calm her down.

More experts joined those complaints. They started to argue with each other, and their discussions mostly involved Noah's behavior.

None of them tried to disregard his achievements. Still, many believed that he had gone too far in his taunts toward Heaven and Earth. Those complaints mostly came from the cultivators belonging to the human organizations, but a few new magical beasts even added their roars to those voices.

"Can you all shut up?" Noah's weak roar suddenly came out from the center of Snore's coiled body. "You should say this stuff to my face. Don't say it at all otherwise."

The entire army fell silent. The complainers couldn't sense Noah's aura nor see his condition, but he was awake, and that was enough to make them fear for their life.

Everyone had seen how Noah had taken care of Isaac. His efforts were also the reason behind their safe location. No one dared to be so ungrateful out of fear of eventual repercussions.

"Good," Noah growled. "I expect never to hear this stuff again. I can't deal with traitors either, so throw yourselves outside my domain if you feel like betraying me in the future."

"I'll leave a few orders before going back to sleep," Noah continued after a few seconds of silence.
"Sword Saint, take someone and fly past the previous Outer Lands. See if the windy regions still exist.

"Robert, see if you can gather some boulders from around the landmass and transform them. We need to save as much ground as we can. Also, try to deepen our domain. I've seen a few pieces of normal terrain underground on the way here.

"Alexander, handle the magical beasts. They will listen to you. Just eat those that don't comply.

"Pig, you must accelerate the creation of blue bushes. I don't care about the stench. Just create enough nutrients for the new troops.

"Divine Demon, don't create a mess.

"Elbas, learn as much as you can about this situation. I think that Heaven and Earth only want to make us starve, but try to discover if they have other plans in motion. Also, lay protections all around the landmass. I bet something will come once they realize that the last rebels are here.

"The others must focus on getting stronger. I want to see a few breakthroughs by the time I wake up, or I'll kick you out of the landmass myself."

Everyone was speechless. The experts didn't know how to react to those sudden orders, but they all made sense, especially those concerning the windy regions. None of the experts had thought about the chaotic laws after witnessing the apocalypse.

"I'll sleep now," Noah continued. "Don't worry about the world. I'll rebuild it after I handle some matters."

The various experts exchanged awkward gazes. They had discussed only a few seconds ago, but now they had to work together under the same banner.

King Elbas, Wilfred, Jordan, Alexander, Dreaming Demon, and the experts who knew how to manage large organizations silently gathered to converse in private. The fate of the Legion had inevitably fallen on their shoulder, and they had to make sure that the newcomers didn't cause any problem.

Most of the other troops dispersed after the orders. Many wanted to explore the black landmass before choosing a place where to cultivate, while others were simply curious about Noah's domain.

Meanwhile, a lone figure neared Snore without causing any adverse reaction in the snake. Actually, the Blood Companion unraveled part of its body to let that cultivator inside.

"You really had to save everyone," June sighed when she saw Noah sleeping inside a layer of fiendish armor.

June sat on the ground, and Snore placed its body behind her to make her position more comfortable. She began to cultivate at that point, and no one dared to disturb her for decades.

## Chapter 1770 - 1770. Gathering

The noise of lightning bolts crashing on a metal wall welcomed Noah when he opened his eyes. Complete darkness filled his vision, but that energy felt too familiar to leave him confused.

'Thanks, Snore,' Noah transmitted through the mental connection, and the snake gave voice to a happy hiss before flowing back inside the black hole.

Night and Duanlong also went back inside his body. The dragon even rubbed its head on his side before flowing into him.

"You took your time," June exclaimed when the whiteness of the world fell on her face and interrupted her training. "Everyone has come back. I'll start the gathering."

June picked her inscribed notebook, but Noah bent toward her and moved her arm away before making her lie on the black ground. Their lips touched before she could say anything and send the mental message, so no one inside the Legion learnt about Noah's awakening for a whole week.

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"We need a meeting now," June whispered while snuggling closer to Noah's n.a.k.e.d c.h.e.s.t. "The world is a mess right now, and the newcomers need a plan to see that you didn't lose your way."

"My only regret is not destroying the Immortal Lands myself," Noah sighed while c.a.r.e.s.sing June's hair and staring at the golden dome that covered the entire black landmass.

June had described part of the key changes and discoveries that had happened during his sleep when the two weren't busy enjoying each other. Some of Noah's fears had come true, but the situation had yet to become completely helpless.

Heaven and Earth had sent a massive Tribulation once they discovered that the Legion's domain had survived the apocalypse. Yet, King Elbas had completed the second array of defenses by then, and he had spent the following years improving his formation.

The Heaven Tribulation was relentless. Its lightning bolts never stopped falling toward the black landmass, so King Elbas had devised a method to channel part of their energy and turn it into fuel for the formation.

Heaven and Earth changed the composition of their lightning bolts every now and then to get past that feature, but King Elbas also adjusted the formation to keep its consumption of energy to the minimum. Yet, his efforts never managed to solve the issue. His inscription would always draw a bit of power from the landmass.

Destroying the Tribulation was also out of the question. Some experts had dispersed the black clouds high in the sky once, but Heaven and Earth had created a new one, making the whole effort pointless.

Alexander and the other experts who managed the whole organization had decreed to remain inside the golden dome after that event. No existence had to waste energy to pursue pointless tasks since that topic had become a major issue.

Some giants were still fighting in the vast nothingness of the space inside the white sky. Most of them had successfully turned their bodies into dust and dispersed the entirety of their energy, but others were too tough to die in the span of a few hundreds of years. The materials that made them were simply too resilient.

The energy dispersed by the giant flew toward the sky instead of lingering among the currents of debris. Heaven and Earth were calling it back into the white layer covering the entire Immortal Lands, so its insides lost most of its power.

The experts needed energy to cultivate. The Immortal Lands had never lacked fuel for their bodies and dantians, but Heaven and Earth had changed that situation.

The energy contained in the black landmass would eventually end since the world didn't offer ways to replenish it. Even the mutated regions would crumble at that point, and the experts would find themselves unable to improve.

King Elbas had tried to take care of that matter by creating multiple devices that generated a pulling force and placing them all around the black landmass, but his efforts had clear limits. The Legion's domain was immense, but it didn't cover the entire space inside the sky. Most energy still flowed toward the whiteness and escaped its reach.

The situation was stable now since the giants were still busy fighting, but everything would end once King Elbas' devices and the golden dome stopped obtaining energy. The black landmass would start losing power at that point, leaving the experts living on it without any nutrients.

Still, there had been some good developments in that seemingly catastrophic situation, which were the very reason why Noah didn't fall into despair.

Sword Saint had traveled with a small group of experts toward the windy regions and had discovered that the storms of chaotic laws still lingered in those areas. Heaven and Earth's decision to make the world crumble didn't affect their state. Even the lands inside them had remained intact.

In theory, the storms could offer an immense source of energy that could refill the black landmass for eras. After all, they were an environment meant for rank 9 existences and carried the power to rebuild the world.

However, the very nature of those lands explained why the experts didn't try to steal their energy. Sword Saint and the others didn't want to anger the rank 9 beings living there since they didn't respect the limits of Heaven and Earth's fairness.

The overall situation was grim. The Legion's domain was moving toward certain doom, and rank 9 existences guarded the only solution to that issue. Heaven and Earth were even accelerating energy consumption with their Tribulation, so there didn't seem to be a proper way out.

Noah had a different view about the matter, but he wanted to wait for everyone to gather in his region before revealing his grand plan. He spent the period waiting for the others enjoying his time with his lover and admiring the broken spectacle past the black edges.

Another positive event that made his mood improve concerned the various breakthrough experienced by his troops. Those who had been close to the peak of their stage had advanced, and June had been among them.

Seeing his lover catching up with his cultivation level put a smile on Noah's face. The requirements of their laws were on completely different realms. However, Noah still felt happy that June was showing her talent after bathing in his ambition for centuries and gaining experience in crazy battles.

The various leaders eventually began to arrive, and they found a peaceful scene in that region at the edges of the black landmass. June was resting in Noah's arms, and the two exchanged many silent gazes and understanding smiles as they enjoyed each other's warmth.

The arrival of the various higher-ups allowed Noah to understand the new level of his force. His friends from the lower plane were still in the gaseous stage, but Wilfred had successfully stepped into the solid stage in those years. Fergie had also experienced a breakthrough and had reached Noah's cultivation level.

Only existences with power in the eighth rank or above could join that meeting, but the region became crowded anyway. The Legion and Noah's nameless organization counted hundreds of experts at that level, and many of them were even in the higher stages and tiers of the rank.

The only exception among that powerful group was Kirk. The expert had reached the solid stage of the seventh rank, but his presence in the gathering didn't depend on his cultivation level. His status as Noah's heir made it possible for him to be there.

Seeing Noah and June calmly enjoying their time together made most experts recall their anger and annoyance about the whole situation. The couple wasn't even cultivating. They felt happy even if the world had fallen apart.

A storm of questions flew toward Noah. Angry, tired, and curious experts gathered around him to probe his intentions, and the chaos forced him to release a deafening roar that silenced everyone.

"I'll make it short," Noah explained once everyone fell silent. "We won't steal from the storms, but we won't let our home die either. Our target lives outside the sky."