

Demonic 1811

Chapter 1811 - 1811. Pillars

The large patch of void hovered under the sky and blocked its radiance. Noah, Divine Demon, and Sword Saint bathed in one of the rare nights experienced in the higher plane.

The darkness felt comfortable. The light hurt their eyes and forced their minds to endure constant pressure, but the blackness of the void gave them peace. It allowed them to relax and rest their eyes.

It didn't matter that the experts had just come back from a long journey inside the void. The situation felt completely different while inside the Immortal Lands. They could sense the light existing somewhere else, but they didn't care. The world gave off a peaceful sensation, and the three experts let it seep inside them.

"You are quite the calamity," Sword Saint commented while raising his long eyebrows to inspect the vast patch of void. "Space with sharpness can be deadly."

"I just decided to destroy everything since I didn't know how to kill the monster," Noah explained. "My effectiveness against Heaven and Earth's laws did the rest."

"You ruined my challenge," Divine Demon complained.

"You were about to ruin me," Sword Saint snorted.

"How did I end up babysitting others?" Noah sighed. "I thought the whole point of having an organization was to have others babysitting me."

"I hurt him," Divine Demon continued. "I won the challenge."

"You tried to ruin my law to win," Sword Saint exclaimed.

"A victory remains a victory," Divine Demon announced while waving an arm to perform a haughty gesture. "I'm the best swordsman in the entire higher plane."

"I think I understand Elbas now," Sword Saint commented.

"It's your fault for familiarizing with us," Noah explained. "You should have remained in the stormy regions."

Movements happened inside the patch of void while the experts cracked jokes and conversed. The last attack didn't kill the monster. It had only sent it back to its natural habitat.

Noah had created a direct connection with the void that Heaven and Earth didn't bother to fix. The world didn't even have the energy to make use of the laws in its space, so the massive passage remained open and allowed the experts to inspect the events happening on the other side.

The monster soon reappeared in their vision. It hovered among the void as different empty creatures shot toward its figure and fused with its body.

The monster grew in size and developed different features. Horns and a tail materialized on its body, and its claws stretched to give it a devilish appearance.

"I bet you didn't think this through," Sword Saint commented at that sight.

"The challenge is still on!" Divine Demon shouted happily.

"Both of you, shut up," Noah snorted while summoning Shafu.

The immense dragon materialized under Noah and opened its mouth to release part of the energy that it had absorbed during the journey through the void.

Noah quickly deployed the dark world and covered the entire patch before tinkering with that energy. The workshop activated, and his understanding of space filled his mind as he created materials that could fuse with the higher plane.

The process didn't take much, but Sword Saint still grew slightly worried when he saw that the monster continued to grow. It would eventually decide to jump back into the higher plane and resume the battle, and he didn't know if the second round would go as well as the first.

Divine Demon didn't care much about the issue. The monster could give him the chance to prolong the challenge, so he didn't mind its return. However, he understood the nature of the situation even with his crazy mind. Part of him only d.e.s.i.r.ed to go back to the black landmass and absorb the benefits amassed during the mission.

Noah ignored his surroundings as he built something that could solve the issue once and for all. The dark world slowly started to retreat and reveal that he had used a black patch to cover the passage to the void.

Noah had created a reinforced version of his space and had fused it with Heaven and Earth's higher world to close the large opening and put an end to the crisis.

His efforts didn't stop there. The empty creatures could still pierce the sky since Heaven and Earth were allowing them to pass, so Noah had to create a defensive layer that could put an end to that event.

Of course, Noah didn't bother to contact King Elbas to question him about the nature of the golden rock used to suppress the sky's corrosive nature. He only added a threatening aura to the patch of dark matter that he would let hover under that part of the white layer.

The dark world retreated once Noah completed the process. A large area under the sky had become dark, and a black layer divided it from the whiteness.

Noah had fixed the world, but he had added a personal influence when he rebuilt part of it. That patch of black space contained his greed, so it might expand on its own one day.

The monster had disappeared, and empty creatures didn't fly past the sky anymore. The black layer prevented those creatures from reaching the insides of the higher plane, and the powerful being had fallen in an unclear area of the void when Noah destroyed Heaven and Earth's space. Even he didn't know where it had remained stuck now that its way back had disappeared.

The Immortal Lands now had an area covered in the constant night. That patch of space tainted Heaven and Earth's whiteness, but the light appeared unable to affect it.

The future didn't appear too bright for the layer right under the sky. That structure was bound to fall due to the constant exposition to the purest form of whiteness inside the higher plane. It would soon crumble and potentially allow the empty creatures to seep past the white material, but Noah wouldn't care at that point. They would have no reason to perform the crossing once the experts left.

"Problem solved," Noah laughed. "Heaven and Earth didn't even send a Tribulation."

"You fixed space nicely," Sword Saint commented. "I think I'll come here to cultivate from time to time. I missed the night."

"I missed it more than you!" Divine Demon shouted.

"Isn't the competition over?" Noah asked. "I won. It's time to celebrate back at home."

Sword Saint and Divine Demon dropped their squabbles as the companions returned inside Noah's separate space. The group flew toward the black landmass at high speed, and a strange sight accompanied that scene.

It was clear that King Elbas and the others had returned already. The trio could see entire groups of magical beasts and solid stage experts gathered at the edges of the landmass. They didn't seem to do much. Most of them were simply busy cultivating.

The trio's return didn't go unnoticed, and Noah also saw how a series of pillars had appeared among the areas meant for the magical beasts. Those structures were quite crude and lacked many inscriptions, but Noah recognized some of the names written on their surface.

The pillars seemed to exist as a reminder of those who had tried to rebel. They carried details about the previous leaders of the ploys and the gruesome causes of their deaths.

Chapter 1812 - 1812. Building

The names on the pillars all belonged to cultivators. The hybrids would never betray Heaven and Earth's Cancer since their leader expressed the maximum potential of their kind, and the magical beasts shared their loyalty, even if for different reasons.

The magical beasts didn't properly belong to Noah's pack, but he had given them a home and had promised that they would get the chance to fight Heaven and Earth. Those creatures didn't d.e.s.i.r.e anything else. They only cared about their hunger and hatred.

Some names written on the pillars belonged to cultivators who had been with Noah for quite some time already. They featured experts from the Balrow and other families who had joined the Legion and the previous nameless organization in the past.

The names of the cultivators who had proposed to sacrifice part of the organization to reduce the consumption of energy also appeared on the pillars. It seemed that the rebellion had happened just like Noah and the others had predicted, but those monuments explained how the event had failed.

"How is the situation?" Noah asked after landing on the black landmass.

King Elbas and the others could immediately understand that Noah wasn't probing their condition. He wanted a summary of the rebellion, and the experts didn't hesitate to give it.

"We lost a third of our assets," King Elbas explained. "The casualties have mostly happened among the packs of magical beasts, but cultivators and hybrids have also died. Yet, Daniel has confirmed that the higher-ups had survived the rebellion, even if some have suffered severe injuries."

Noah limited himself to nod before summoning Shafu and making it hover in the sky above the regions. Its massive figure created a shadow that covered a large chunk of the areas at the landmass' edges, and that scene made the experts understand that it was time to leave.

The magical beasts, the hybrids, and the cultivators left those regions and returned to their respective lands. They prepared themselves to enter a long period of seclusion, but they had already decided that they would wait for the landmass to expand before starting it.

Only Noah, King Elbas, the Foolery, Robert, and Alexander remained in the area. The five of them had to complete specific roles in the expansion of the landmass, but Noah and King Elbas remained those in charge of all the crucial matters.

Shafu released the Mortal Lands absorbed during the return to the sky. The shattered planet appeared above the black landmass, and a dark sea covered the experts hiding under it to protect them from the whiteness.

The seemingly endless Heaven Tribulation had stopped, but those weak experts still couldn't endure the pressure of the higher plane, no matter how empty it was.

"Get out of the planet," Noah roared, and the experts left the shattered surface.

It didn't matter if those experts were humans, hybrids, or magical beasts. None of them could disobey Noah's order.

"Let's move them somewhere safe," Noah ordered, and King Elbas nodded.

"Come out," King Elbas eventually shouted. "You claim to be good. You can take care of these experts to prove it."

A golden light suddenly lit up on the corner of a region and condensed to take Second Prince's shape. The expert avoided King Elbas' gaze and bowed toward Noah before entering the dark world and enveloping the weaker existences in his flames.

Second Prince left at that point. He didn't manage to hide from the powerful experts at that time, but he still didn't want to spend too long with King Elbas. It seemed that the two had problems, but Noah and the others simply ignored them.

Noah also ignored the matters connected to the rebellion for the time being. He would question June about that mess later on, but he focused on his main task now.

Noah and King Elbas had already vaguely discussed the creation of their new home, but they had never detailed it too much during those conversations.

However, they shared many ideas, and they also agreed to respect each other talents. Noah could create, evolve, and mutate the ground, while King Elbas had to cover it with inscriptions and make sure that it stabilized properly.

Robert and the Foolery were there only for their influence. The pig would be able to take care of the new lands devoid of blue bushes once everything stabilized, but the process would require the entirety of its pack.

"How much do we have left?" King Elbas asked, and Noah promptly created a trail made of dark matter that connected the expert to Shafu.

"Not much," King Elbas sighed when he inspected the contents of Shafu's separate dimension. "I thought we would have much more."

"I had to use some of it before," Noah explained without bothering to summarize his experience against the empty creature. "A piece of the Immortal Lands is experiencing true night now."

"We might have to explain how to explore the void to the others," King Elbas suggested. "We need far more to cover the entire area under the sky."

"Focus on the present now," Noah snorted. "Let's start building."

Noah knew that his organization needed a lot of management right now, but he also wanted to seclude himself in a world that didn't risk falling apart whenever he didn't contain his absorption.

The Cancer would need a complete overhaul of its layout, and the weaker experts had to learn how to venture through the void since the area was the most promising source of energy in the world. The cultivators and hybrids would also need a clear hierarchy once the landmass became too big to divide it into different palaces.

Noah had to create factions inside his organization, but he didn't mind the event. He had already learnt how necessary those divisions were once a force became too big. They could help training younger recruits and create a bit of competition inside and outside the training areas.

King Elbas and the others took their position once they set everything, and Shafu began to blow the energy accumulated in its separate space into the outside world.

The dragon had already taken care of shattering the materials seized in the void into primary energy. Noah could easily modify it with the dark world and his consciousness, and he didn't hesitate to transform it into tough lands.

His ambition then took care of improving the lands that the workshop didn't have time to perfect. His law forced the ground and air to evolve and turn into materials worthy of his organization.

King Elbas arrived right after Noah. He made sure that nothing off passed his inspection, and he manipulated the inscriptions so that they would spread in the right direction.

The process appeared more delicate for King Elbas. Noah's ambition did most of the work in his situation. He had primary energy at hand, and Shafu had even kept track of the various environments generated by its separate area.

Instead, King Elbas had to deploy his many inscribed items to keep track of his work and confirm that it was proceeding correctly. The inscriptions were expanding nicely, and they were even benefiting the harmony of the new areas. Everything was going well.

Chapter 1813 - 1813. Slaughter

The Foolery and Robert limited themselves to spread their influence while following King Elbas and Noah. The ground under them continued to mutate even after the group moved forward, and only Alexander remained a bit behind to make sure that everything worked perfectly.

Alexander didn't have any unique talent suitable for that project, but his countless abilities made him able to inspect the environment far better than some of King Elbas' inscribed items.

The hybrid could use abilities with different purposes and elements to inspect the landmass from various perspectives. Moreover, Alexander had multiple skills that gave him the power to fix or complete flaws that the mutations could create.

Alexander didn't do much in the end. It was almost impossible for flaws to appear after the ground went through mutating auras, spreading inscriptions, and Noah's ambition. He limited himself to check that everything was okay, but his journey soon became quite dull.

Shafu hovered above the group and continued to send primary energy whenever the environment ran out of it. Its stashes grew scarce quickly, but the group expected much.

The group spent a few years using everything seized inside the void. Shafu returned inside the separate space when the expert turned to inspect their creation, and a massive black landmass unfolded in their vision.

The landmass featured multiple environments. Noah had used the information stored by Shafu's separate dimension to create different areas that his ambition didn't hesitate to improve.

Lakes, mountains, rivers, waterfalls, plains, and much more filled the new areas of the experts' home. Another large immense spot had appeared among the seemingly endless whiteness. That black zone would be able to set the foundation for the rebirth of the higher plane.

"We have ten times more space now," King Elbas confirmed through one of his inscribed items.

"Recovering from the recent losses won't be a problem, but another journey to the void will become necessary once the areas become overcrowded."

"Do you have an estimate already?" Noah asked.

"A few millennia," King Elbas explained. "We have too many powerful existences, and the magical beasts that you brought here don't know how to contain themselves. I bet that the rats won't hesitate to eat everything in sight."

"That's fine," Noah commented. "Let's recheck everything before moving to the other things. I can't wait to go in seclusion."

The signs of the rebellion became evident when the group flew past the areas that had seen large battles. The landmass featured large holes on its surface, and some of them even pierced the structure from side to side.

Noah became sure that he had to limit the internal struggles to preserve the landmass and delay the inevitable arrival of a second mission to the void. Still, he remained unclear about the methods that could make cultivators, hybrids, and magical beasts appease their grudges.

An idea formed in his mind by the time his group reached a tall palace. June, Daniel, and some experts who had followed him in the void were waiting for him on the structure, and his team quickly landed to prepare a meeting.

King Elbas and Noah took care of notifying everyone else about that meeting. The expert handled the humans and the hybrids, while Noah had to use the teleports of the golden inscriptions that covered the landmass to reach the various lairs.

Yet, a helpless sigh escaped his mouth when he noticed that the packs weren't in their lairs. Their traces led to the lands beyond them. Those creatures had already started to explore the new areas that Noah and the others had just finished creating.

Noah's eyes grew cold as the unstable substance flowed inside his black vessels. His superior awareness could make him find the packs even in the vastity of the new lands, and he didn't hesitate to shoot toward them.

A group of hyenas froze in their spot when they sensed Noah's aura. The upper tier leader tried to give voice to loud excuses in the human language, but Noah never stopped above the pack. He only waved a hand before crossing them and hurrying toward the next group of magical beasts.

A wave of sharpness flew out of Noah's hand and killed half of the pack, uncaring if some of those specimens were creatures in the eighth rank. He had made sure to save the upper tier leader, but the others didn't deserve his mercy.

The second pack had the familiar rats that were following a rank 8 specimen in the middle tier. Yet, Noah's arrival made them feel despair. His raging aura didn't stop even after crossing those creatures, and a few of them exploded under his sheer pressure.

King Elbas limited himself to give him free access to the inscriptions on the ground. He only needed to touch Noah to create a connection between the golden lines and him.

Noah could directly use his mental waves to activate the teleports at that point. The packs of magical beasts barely managed to make out his figure before half of them died and Noah disappeared again.

The process went on until Noah took care of all the magical beasts that had fallen prey to their instincts and had disregarded the organization. He had been harsh and ruthless, but that approach felt necessary in that situation.

The magical beasts could be the main reason behind an eventual early shattering of the landmass. Noah wasn't considering their unrestrained hunger in that idea. His worries came from their instincts.

It was clear that battles among rank 8 existences could hurt the landmass and damage the entire organization in the process. Convincing the cultivators and hybrids not to fight on the black ground would be easy, but making those packs understand it might take a while.

The harsh approach had that exact purpose. It was a reminder to those creatures that Noah was in charge and that he wouldn't show any mercy in front of those who didn't follow his orders.

Some of the stronger packs gathered after the event and decided to charge at Noah. The Eternal Snakes, the rats, and a group of fiery blue lions didn't accept that outcome and wanted to remind him that they were more than simple underlings.

However, their instincts began to scream in fear when they saw Noah activating the teleport and gazing at the three packs. He wasn't unfolding his aura, and his unstable substance had also stopped flowing out of his black hole. He was basically at his weakest in that situation, but all the magical beasts saw him as unbeatable.

The magical beasts could immediately realize that their attacks wouldn't be able to pierce his upper tier body. His skin felt like the strongest material in the entire higher plane.

Noah disappeared among the lights of the teleport while the creatures remained in their spots. They were still angry about the sudden slaughter, but everything became simpler when they thought about themselves. They could rebuild their packs, but they couldn't find another place like the black landmass in the entirety of the higher plane.

Chapter 1814 - 1814. Goals

Noah teleported near the palace and activated the inscriptions that ran through the entire landmass to transmit a roar meant to summon the leaders of the magical beasts.

The creatures didn't dare to disobey his orders after the recent slaughter, but they would still need months to reach their destination, so Noah and the others could use that chance to learn the details of the rebellion.

It turned out that the rebellious forces had initially tried to take control of part of the landmass. They knew that their army couldn't match the number of experts loyal to Noah, so they wanted to focus on defending their borders and exhaust the energy in the area until their enemies felt forced to go along with their plan.

Yet, the experts loyal to Noah had Second Prince, who could control the inscriptions freely. They had hordes of magical beasts that didn't hesitate to act as cannon fodder with the hope of taking a bite at the solid stage experts in the enemy army. They even had spies placed behind the rebels' borders who provided a constant stream of information.

The rebellion couldn't succeed, but everyone knew that. Even the rebels were aware that victory couldn't arrive. They had the upper hand in the number of solid stage experts, but that wasn't enough to win the war.

Still, their goal had never been to win. The rebels only wanted the landmass to survive as long as possible. The journey to the void even cut every form of communication with the other leaders, so the mission's outcome would remain unclear until their return. That situation only intensified the rebels' worries, which ultimately led them to deploy their plan.

June and the other experts who had remained in charge of the organization were far from stupid, and they had even gathered a lot of experience in the Mortal Lands. They could immediately understand the rebels' goals, and they quickly responded to ruin their plans.

A short but bloody war unfolded after June and the others decided to launch an offensive that carried the full power of their side. The rebels' defensive position gave them an initial advantage, but the sheer number of troops of their enemies eventually overwhelmed them.

Countless magical beasts had died in the war. Many cultivators had even grown moody after fighting against experts who had been their allies for many years. Still, everyone could understand that the event was inevitable, and its outcome even brought multiple benefits.

The death of the rebels and the troops lost by the loyal side made the landmass deplete far less energy while Noah and the others were away. The rebellion had been a success in that sense, but the benefits didn't end there.

The resolve shown by June, Jordan, and Noah's old friends during the war solidified their position as leaders. Even the magical beasts started listening to their orders after the rebellion. Heaven and Earth's Cancer had groomed commanders during that crisis, and the force had benefitted from that.

Noah found it easy to decide how to divide the various areas of the new landmass since his organization already had a good foundation. He could appoint different leaders and multiple tasks depending on the type of region and position without affecting their overall importance in the force's eyes.

The main topics that the experts and magical beasts' leaders discussed once everyone reached the meeting concerned the internal fights. The ground under them was the most valuable resource in the entire world, so they had to do everything in their power to preserve it.

Noah didn't want to forbid internal battles and minor scuffles completely, especially since the magical beasts would never be able to follow his orders. Their instincts would take over their minds from time to time, which would obviously lead to battles meant to expand their lairs.

Still, he had to put restrictions on those events, especially when it came to rank 8 existences since they could inflict immense damage to the landmass.

The rules turned out to be quite tolerant. Noah heard everyone's opinion before declaring that only the rank 7 existences could fight above the landmass. Everyone else had to fly into the empty areas to have those battles.

Those restrictions didn't apply only to magical beasts. Noah felt the need to remind the creatures about that feature often, but he did that only because they could easily forget those rules.

Noah also established tournaments among the various factions meant to take care of the grudges that could appear during the cultivation journey. Those events could only put patches on those intense feelings, but Noah didn't care as long as he delayed the inevitable outbursts.

The meeting grew more interesting when it reached the topics that involved the experts near the peak of the eighth rank. In theory, all of them could start approaching the stormy regions, but that wasn't the only option available now that they had confirmed how they void didn't mean certain doom.

Noah tasked King Elbas to write a thorough description of the journey that involved his memories and final consideration. Noah wanted his organization to study that branch of the cultivation journey and make it evolve.

Journeying through the void to seize energy was a revolutionary approach that could make his organization able to survive in that situation for eras. It was only normal that Noah wanted everyone to memorize that method.

Assigning specific tasks to experts near the end of the eighth rank turned out to be rather tricky, and Noah eventually decided to ignore the matter. Those cultivators, hybrids, and magical beasts only wanted to eat and improve their power.

Noah had to accept that leaving those powerful experts outside of the organization's management was for the best. The others could learn to handle everything quickly, while Noah could focus on his training and June.

The meeting eventually ended, and Noah accompanied June in the area he had assigned her to. Her domain was near the new center of the landmass, and it gave her direct access to the teleports even without King Elbas' permit.

"I bet you are going to leave soon," June announced once the two entered a reinforced room build on the top floor of a palace.

"Relatively soon," Noah explained, without ignoring the tinge of annoyance in her voice. "I think I need rank 9 existences now. Only the stormy regions can give me that."

Noah had already partially decided that his next destination would be the stormy regions. It was time to approach the areas filled with chaotic laws and meant to generate new lands, but he wouldn't go there unprepared.

Seclusion was necessary to absorb everything he had learnt during the long journey. Noah had even gone through two breakthroughs, so he needed to spend some time with himself and his centers of power.

Of course, June could be around during that process. She had long since learnt when she could disturb him, and she appeared pretty busy too. Managing her region required constant attention and punishments if the situation required it, so she had to build a proper network of spies before feeling free from that task.

Chapter 1815 - 1815. Couples

The short period spent inside King Elbas' mansion couldn't give Noah a complete understanding of his new power. Even the battles that had followed the breakthroughs could only make him rely on old techniques that used more power since he didn't have the chance and ability to test new skills.

The void could be the best place to test abilities due to the lack of things to destroy. However, the absence of energy made it the worst environment where to develop new techniques.

Noah's next targets were the stormy regions, and he couldn't approach them unprepared. His current level would allow him to survive there if he behaved carefully. Yet, the rank 9 resources were the real reason behind his d.e.s.i.r.e to approach the areas filled by chaotic laws.

Noah had to arrive in the stormy regions with enough confidence to hunt rank 9 creatures. His only proper experiences against existences at that level came from the void, but he had the backing of his entire group there. Those victories didn't mean much.

A silent understanding spread through the black landmass while the various factions started thriving and the leaders trained in almost complete solitude. The exploration of the stormy regions usually was a mission that existences near on into the ninth rank approached on their own, but Noah's team was an exception in that sense.

It was almost impossible for a normal organization to have multiple experts ready for the journey across the stormy regions. However, Heaven and Earth's Cancer rarely fit common standards, especially when it came to the battle prowess of its members.

Noah's force had multiple existences capable of deploying peak rank 8 battle prowess. Even most of the magical beasts could accomplish such a feat. In theory, he could recreate the group who had explored the void and bring it to the stormy region to start another journey.

Still, he liked the idea of having a relatively solitary experience. Noah accepted that exploring the stormy regions with a small group was better than doing that alone, but he didn't want to bring an entire army there.

Those thoughts appeared and disappeared in his mind whenever he moved from a project to another. The peculiar state of the world often forced Noah to leave the black landmass to perform tests among the white emptiness, so he found himself with a lot of time to consider his options.

His training was going poorly. His advancements were almost non-existent. His body appeared unable to grow without rank 9 materials, and he was unable to hunt peak rank 8 creatures because the world didn't have them.

The hunger couldn't take control of his mind, but it was an annoying feeling that fused with his helplessness toward his centers of power. Even his dantian showed almost no signs of improvements after spending centuries feeding on the energy of the landmass. It almost felt as if the organ ate that fuel only out of necessity.

Only his mind gave him some satisfaction. Noah had stopped using protections against the white halo for millennia already. His mental sphere lived under constant internal and external pressure, which only benefited the center of power.

The ninth rank was still far away, but it wasn't a dream anymore when Noah looked at his sea of consciousness. The peak of the cultivation journey appeared right behind the corner, and Noah couldn't help but review his life whenever he thought about that.

His journey had been shorter than others but still incredibly long. Many existences encountered on his path were dead, and most of those who had survived had remained behind.

Everything felt unreal when Noah thought about that. He had been nothing more than a transmigrated soul, but he had arrived right below the ultimate battlefield. He had become so crucial that Heaven and Earth had started to teach his name to their followers.

"The bastard of the Balvan family has gone far," June commented when Noah talked to her about his nostalgic thoughts. "Life inside the Mortal Lands was easier. We had our issues, but they were nothing compared to the complete destruction of the world."

"I wonder how much of ourselves we lost along the way," Noah wondered. "I remember almost everything, but some things barely have any value at this point. I have gone from carrying "Breath" blessings in my space-ring to stealing entire lower worlds from Heaven and Earth's system."

"I remember that too!" June exclaimed before exploding into a loud laugh. "You were so addicted to your training schedule that you delayed your own breakthroughs."

"You have taught me how to rest," Noah exclaimed while looking at his lover.

"I did," June snorted. "Right before you left me for hundreds of years."

The two joked around while recalling the past, and they could only heave complicated sighs when they inspected their current situation. It was hard to find the happiest period of their lives when they had gone through so much.

"We have spent so many millennia together in the Immortal Lands," June eventually announced. "Even our love has grown old."

"You still don't lose the chance to jump on me whenever you can," Noah commented and gave voice to a laugh when he felt June's kick landing on his side.

"I was talking about maturity, you cultivation maniac," June snorted. "I know that you will leave again and that I'll have to search for you this time, but I don't feel bad about it. I even consider it normal."

"I might have left you behind too often," Noah commented, but June shook her head.

"That was our agreement," June explained. "We are both maniacs among maniacs. Our love would have turned into hatred if we let it hinder our cultivation journey. The many separations actually made me become more confident in my ability. I know that I'll catch up with you."

"Don't you dare remaining behind," Noah scoffed before his eyes lost themselves into the black wall in front of him. "Daniel said that he wouldn't catch up with us."

"He is right," June exclaimed. "His character has always been unsuitable for the cultivation journey. Faith is the same. She has almost given up to pursue higher ranks."

"What about the Demons?" Noah asked. "I thought they would have done something more after finding their Master."

June still talked with those experts often, while Noah barely stopped to nourish his friendship anymore. His status and many important tasks made him too busy and too detached from those matters.

"Dreaming Demon told me something," June revealed while diverting her gaze, "But you can't speak with Flying Demon about it. You would ruin them."

"I won't," Noah replied.

"She can advance already," June continued. "Dreaming Demon told me that the understanding of her law could make her advance and land right below my level."

"I bet the same doesn't go for Flying Demon," Noah sighed, and the faint sadness that had appeared in his mind spread when she saw June nodding.

"His law is too murky to advance," June revealed. "Reaching the eighth rank has already been a miracle. His devotion toward his lover has made him able to advance and follow her closely, but that power has reached its limits."

"And Dreaming Demon is willing to ruin her potential to remain with him," Noah concluded.

"They are a beautiful couple," June sighed. "A beautiful couple of idiots."

"That's their path," Noah commented. "They have chosen how to live. It's not bad."

"It isn't bad," June added. "It's just sad."

Noah could only agree with her on that point. It was rare for couples to survive the cultivation journey due to the many hindrances and differences in potential issues that could appear.

Noah and June had been lucky enough to see their very opposite making a decision they would never accept if they were in their shoes. Both of them could understand the Demons, but they still disagreed with their decision. Yet, they could only feel sad about their situation.

Chapter 1816 - 1816. Waiting

Noah had owned many abilities throughout his long life, but most of them had failed to keep up with his improvements. Many had the potential to reach higher levels, but their nature had stopped matching his evolving law along the way.

His current abilities expressed iconic features of his law. The Shadow Domain and the movement techniques used his understanding of space to work. His companions, the workshop, and the dark world came from his creation. The Demonic Deduction technique, the unstable substance, his bloodl.u.s.t, and the entirety of his offensive relied on his destruction.

His greed had also become part of that list after inheriting Supreme Thief's ability. Having the chance to steal suitable powers had given Noah Isaac and Shandal's law, even if the latter didn't really match his true meaning.

In the end, Noah had his ambition, which could perform miracles and solve situations otherwise doomed. His entire existence and all his abilities could benefit from the main aspect of his law and reach states that made him able to ignore the gaps among the ranks.

Developing better abilities that could express his features was hard at his level since his current techniques were already the result of constant improvements. Yet, Noah didn't need to change the pillars on which he founded his power. He only had to enhance his attacks.

His attacks relied on multiple aspects of his law, so they didn't need changes on their cores to improve. They only required a few modifications to express the new power contained in Noah's centers of power and touch the realms that he had been unable to reach until then.

Noah obviously thought about the final slash learnt in Sword Saint's memories. The two of them had managed to deploy the attack on their own, but that wasn't enough. Noah wanted to own a version of that technique and make it a core part of his offensive.

Noah had other techniques that could have better effects now that his cultivation level was in the last part of the eighth rank. His movement techniques could improve, his workshop could choose to go in a completely different direction compared to Great Builder's teachings, and Supreme Thief's ability also needed something else to become truly effective.

Heaven and Earth's system didn't have many destinations left. Noah could only consider the stormy regions and the cities inside the sky as his goals, which put at least half of his future opponents under the rulers' influence.

Supreme Thief's ability didn't work against Heaven and Earth's laws, at least in its original version. Noah understood why the technique couldn't touch those true meanings, but he believed that his many talents could make him ignore those flaws at some point.

Noah even had another aspect of his battle prowess that had yet to reach the intended level. The cursed sword was still in the middle tier, but his bloodl.u.s.t could fuse with its structure and make it ready for the breakthrough.

His companions had evolved after gaining energy from the jellyfish, but the cursed sword still needed some time since its breakthroughs depended on the defeated enemies. Noah could still give bloodl.u.s.t, but he required actual kills to make it advance.

In theory, the weapon would become able to launch attacks that bordered the ninth rank after the breakthrough, and Noah badly needed that. The whole point of a trump card was its power, and the cursed sword was falling behind his other assets now.

It was starting to feel pointless to have a blade that would hurt him without generating effects that the rest of his arsenal lacked. Noah wanted to improve it right away, but the lack of suitable opponents put an end to his research. He had to delay the matter until he stepped into the stormy regions.

The tests and improvements proceeded slowly due to the annoying situation inside the sky, but Noah didn't mind that. His next departure could very well be his last, so he wanted to make sure that his organization had everything under control before leaving.

The new official leadership handled their respective factions well, and the studies about the void were also proceeding quickly. The organization would soon have a team ready to set off and steal sources of energy from Heaven and Earth. Success in the first mission would declare that the underlings were fine on their own.

The packs of magical beasts were a potential threat to the current official leaders due to the upper tier specimens in their ranks. Cultivators and hybrids were generally stronger than those creatures, but the difference in power was quite substantial. They had a chance at taking over the black landmass once Noah and the others left for the stormy regions.

Of course, Noah couldn't take care of everything, but he had taken in the magical beasts, so that was his problem to handle. The landmass was even his creation, and he didn't want to see it crumble right after his departure.

Time inevitably flowed as life on the landmass thrived. King Elbas and Second Prince built separate dimensions meant as breeding grounds where weaker beings could live until they reached the divine ranks. The factions expanded and hosted multiple tournaments among them to reinforce relationships and competitiveness.

The lack of proper enemies reduced the losses to the minimum, and the only crises always involved weak groups of magical beasts going crazy due to their hunger.

The successful mission inside the void eventually happened, and the organization poured all its resources into perfecting that procedure. The experts had a reliable method to gather energy so that immediately became a priority.

Multiple missions into the void followed that initial success. Proper schools that taught different approaches appeared everywhere on the landmass, and maps of the blackness became mainstream in the entire organization.

Noah's force was expanding in fields that no one else had touched, but it was doing that without him. Yet, that was the whole point. The underlings had to learn how to gather energy on their own since he wouldn't be there to find another crazy method.

The passage of time brought the experts with battle prowess near the peak of the eighth rank closer to their departure. They all felt cramped inside the landmass since it couldn't offer them any motivation to get stronger. They didn't even have dangers at hand. Everything was far too peaceful.

The underlings would be able to expand the landmass even after their departure with the new set of inscriptions. The process would be slower since the new areas had to rely on the black regions' influence to gain the effects of Noah's ambition and mutations. Still, the lack of better solutions made that method as perfect as it could be.

The turning point eventually arrived. The leaders who had been in seclusion until then didn't talk with each other during their training, but they started to leave their training areas around the same time once they felt ready for the journey. Noah turned out to be the last of them, and he found seven experts waiting for him once he returned to the surface.

Chapter 1817 - 1817. Storms

Alexander, Sword Saint, Wilfred, Divine Demon, Robert, and Steven greeted Noah in the sky above his training. They had waited there for a while. Yet, all of them had felt that he would have come out in that period.

"Don't tell me that you have to spend another century here," King Elbas scoffed.

"My heir won't waste more time," Divine Demon snorted. "I can see the boredom in his eyes."

"You'll kill me before the chaotic laws," Steven sighed.

"You wish," Wilfred shook his head. "None of us will take the easy way out."

"That's us then," Noah exclaimed while his eyes moved among the experts. "Eight of us will go to the stormy regions together."

"We figured that having more existences would only slow us down," Alexander explained. "There is no room for mistakes there. We couldn't let everyone in."

"Which is the nice way to say that they are still too weak for those areas," Sword Saint commented. "We also barely meet the requirements on our own, but we should be fine together."

Alexander and Sword Saint were the only experts among the group who had explored part of the stormy regions. Their knowledge about the areas would be crucial, but Noah didn't feel the need to question them yet.

June flew out of Noah's training area when she sensed that he had stopped to talk with the experts. She wore a complicated smile when she realized that the time had finally arrived. Her lover would leave, and he probably won't come back.

"I'll find you," June whispered when she saw Noah descending toward her.

"I won't forgive you otherwise," Noah announced while wearing a smile and grabbing her robe to pull her closer.

King Elbas and the others diverted their gaze when Noah and June kissed. The two remained at it for a while, but waiting a few minutes wasn't a problem when the group was about to depart.

"Leave at ease," June whispered when the two separated. "We'll be fine here. We have also set an escape route toward the stormy regions in case everything falls apart."

Noah's gaze went on the black landmass. The structure had expanded a lot in those years. The missions into the void were going so well that many habitable areas were still empty.

"I'll see you at the end of the journey then," Noah smiled while gazing back at June. "Don't be late."

June continued to hold Noah's hand until he turned and flew back to the experts. The eight of them disappeared at that point. They had started their mission, and the landmass immediately felt emptier without their auras flowing through its fabric.

"The pig decided not to come in the end," Robert explained once the group reappeared in the white emptiness past the landmass. "Its level isn't ideal for the mission, but it could have helped anyway."

"That creature likes its harem," King Elbas snorted. "It's living like a king among its species. Only a few would give that up to spend time with us."

"How so?" Steven asked in a sarcastic tone. "Who would ever lose the chance to spend time with us in the most dangerous place in the entire higher plane?"

"Don't forget about the sky," Noah reminded him. "We don't know enough about its cities to declare the most dangerous place in the Immortal Lands."

"I believe I can find the answer," Divine Demon announced while waving his arm to express his pride.

"Don't even think about that," Wilfred snorted. "Try to avoid challenging us once we are inside the stormy regions."

"Does that mean that I can do it now?" Divine Demon asked as his eyes lit up.

"Keep your challenges for those living inside the stormy regions," Noah ordered. "Don't try them on us."

"You made my heir boring," Divine Demon shook his head. "He was far funnier before meeting you all."

The group moved through the whiteness quickly, but Heaven and Earth didn't react to their passage. Everything was silent as they approached the chaotic areas far in the distance.

Their expressions relaxed when winds blew in their faces. The experts couldn't help but appreciate sensing those weak gales of energy enveloping their figures and flying past them. They were about to enter a world where they could absorb everything freely. That sensation was refreshing after spending millennia worrying whether the landmass would be able to sustain them.

The storms eventually unfolded in their eyes. Multicolored chaotic laws raged among the whiteness and created a vast area that covered a large chunk of their vision. Entire worlds could hide inside those zones, and the experts couldn't wait to explore them.

"Heaven and Earth come right after this," Steven reminded the group.

Steven had never been on Heaven and Earth's side, but his feelings had transformed into a silent hatred after the apocalypse. The rulers had destroyed his cells. Avenging his fallen companions was the least he could do.

"I must admit that it feels strange to be here," King Elbas commented. "It feels final."

"Don't get emotional on me," Noah snorted. "The path is still long. We have only stepped on its last phase."

"Path isn't the exact word to describe the storms," Sword Saint added.

"They even hold a special place in Heaven and Earth's mind," Robert sighed. "I don't know much more. They felt necessary whenever I tried to probe about them."

"Theories are pointless at this point," Divine Demon announced. "The answers are right in front of us. We only have to find them."

"The storms have everything but answers," Alexander sighed. "You'll understand once you spend some time inside them. Chaos thrives here."

"Do you want to make speeches now?" Wilfred asked.

"No," Noah promptly replied. "We are going inside."

Noah stepped forward, and the other experts followed closely next to him. The storms quickly intensified as the group dived inside them. Those chaotic laws had hurt some of them in the past, but their existences could endure them now. Actually, part of their energy even fused with their auras without the need for cultivation techniques.

The eight experts on the scene naturally forced that energy to become part of their existence. The stormy regions were basically accepting them as worthy members of those areas.

"This is quite amazing," Wilfred commented while staring at his hands.

Waves of power raged through him and made his cultivation level increase. His existence experienced pure ecstasy, and his companions shared his feelings.

"Don't get too carried away," Sword Saint warned. "You might lose yourself if the chaotic laws take over your existence. You'll become part of the storms if you don't pay attention."

"We all know as much," Steven snorted. "I believe all of us had to deal with chaotic laws at some poin-."

Steven didn't have the chance to complete his line since a massive black spike pierced the thick gales and materialized in front of his face. The attack had been sudden, and the peculiar environment had prevented part of the group from noticing it. However, Noah, Sword Saint, and Alexander acted before the weapon could hit their companion.

Black and silver piercing slashes flew out of Noah and Sword Saint figures while Steven's body teleported next to Alexander. The attacks crashed on the spike and modified its trajectory, but they didn't manage to shatter it.

Cold sweat ran down Steven's forehead. He didn't know if his determination would have saved him from that sudden attack, but it was clear that his journey through the storms would have ended if it weren't for his companions.

Chapter 1818 - 1818. Centipede

The experts immediately understood that they were in front of a rank 9 threat. The nature of their opponent was unclear since the storms blocked most of their vision and mental waves, but they prepared for the fight nonetheless. They wouldn't run away at the first sign of danger.

King Elbas raised his arm, and a golden orb came out of his palm. A blinding radiance shot out of the item and seeped inside the storms in the area. The chaotic laws began to slow down under that influence, which enlarged the visible zone.

Alexander placed a hand on his forehead, and a purple eye opened in that spot when he removed his palm. The light that came out of the new organ shone on the calmer storms and tried to reach the hidden areas behind them, but it couldn't go too far.

Fear filled Steven's mind, but a resolute expression soon appeared on his face, and an invisible aura spread out of his body. The energy generated by his determination created an oval shield that surrounded the eight experts and tried to push the chaotic laws back.

Robert waved his hands multiple times, and tiny purple orbs shot out of his fingers whenever he completed his movements. Those spheres entered the storms and expanded to create massive toxic areas among the blind zones.

Wilfred's abilities didn't suit that unclear situation, so he moved to the center of the group and prepared to attack at the first sign of danger. His muscles bulged as veins popped on his large arms, neck, and forehead. He appeared ready to explode, but he contained his power since the area remained silent.

Divine Demon snorted. He didn't have anyone to challenge, and the unknown opponent made his annoyance intensify. The energy inside the storms separated and fused with his figure before a series of azure flares shot forward and illuminated large covered areas.

Sword Saint remained calmer than the others. A silver blade materialized in his grasp, and slashes flew out of it in random directions while he remained still. He was only studying the environment, but each of those attacks carried almost peak rank 8 power.

Noah made the unstable substance flow inside his black veins, and the Demonic Sword materialized in his palm. A layer of dark matter covered his skin, and black roots entangled themselves around his body while he took a step back to get away from his companions. The parasite's corrosive aura could weaken their abilities, and Noah wanted to avoid that.

The noise generated by the howling winds made of chaotic laws filled the area and covered the other sounds. Even the echoes of the experts' abilities became nothing more than muffled commotions among that mess.

The environment of the stormy lands was perfect for ambushes as long as the attackers could pinpoint the eventual targets' location. The group's opponent seemed to fit in that category after witnessing how precise the spike aimed at Steven had been.

'What is it waiting for?' Noah wondered, but a massive shape suddenly became visible among the storms behind him.

Noah didn't have the time to turn. The immense figure pierced the wave of storms and fell toward the group. Everyone could see a black exoskeleton moving at an unfathomable speed toward them and threatening to flatten all of them with a single attack.

The exoskeleton embodied pure doom. It was so fast that the experts struggled to study its features. The structure seemed to belong to a massive insect-like magical beast, and countless spikes filled its sides, but everything was vague due to its speed and size.

Wilfred released the energy accumulated in his muscles. His arms appeared as heavy as mountains as they bent and made each other's knuckles clash.

A detonation happened right under the exoskeleton falling on the group. Part of the gales ended up shattering when the shockwaves released by Wilfred's attack spread through the area. His technique even managed to slow down the enemy offensive, but that effect lasted for less than an instant.

An instant was enough to perform many actions when it came to rank 8 experts. The group only featured existences who could express peak rank 8 prowess, so Wilfred's attack created a chance to dodge.

Everyone except Noah retreated, but the experts noticed that he had remained in his position too late. He had already lost his chance to escape the incoming attack by then, and they were too far away to interrupt their escape. They couldn't reach him in time, so they continued to fly away.

'This thing lives at the edges of the stormy regions,' Noah thought as the Demonic Sword disappeared and a dark aura surrounded his figure. 'I can't explore this place yet if I can't handle such a weak creature.'

Multiple faces appeared on Noah's skin, but his body didn't go through any sudden change. His ambition didn't come out either. He retained his normal cultivation level as his arms rose and prepared themselves to face the attack.

The massive exoskeleton fell on Noah's body and sent an immense force inside him. Noah wanted to hold his position, but he inevitably fell after struggling for a few seconds. He flew across the storms as cracking noises spread from his insides, but his back eventually landed on a sandy area and made him stop.

Storms continued to rage around him, but they were thinner in that spot. Noah could stare at distant areas with his b.a.r.e eyes, and the creature's true nature became evident in his mind when he inspected that scene.

The red sand had countless black spikes stabbed on its surface, but Noah only paid attention to the immense creature in the distance. The opponent was a massive centipede that could cover the entire region with its body.

Noah stood up and checked his condition. His arms, shoulders, and back hurt. Multiple bones had broken across his torso, and entire patches of skin had disappeared after the impact. His defensive techniques had also vanished, but the outcome of the clash was undisputable. He had endured the attack of a rank 9 magical beast without relying on his ambition.

A wave of bloodlust came out of his figure as Noah drew the cursed sword out of his chest. Dark matter that replicated the structure of his flames covered the weapon and expanded in the area.

Intense waves of energy flowed inside his body as the dark matter burnt the sand and part of the storms. That fuel didn't manage to heal his bones, but the black hole used it to stabilize his condition and make him able to express his full power.

'Enough playing around,' Noah thought as his ambition surged.

No additional technique appeared on his body. Noah didn't need anything else when he used his ambition. Even the assets currently deployed in his offensive were nothing more than a necessary tool.

After all, the cursed sword needed to kill stronger enemies to advance, and Noah required the centipede's energy to fix his injuries and gain more power.

One of the spikes on the centipede's side stretched and transformed into a perfect copy of its body. Noah could see the creature staring at him. Its black eyes expressed only hunger, and its pincers released noises that the storms couldn't stop when they opened and closed.

Chapter 1819 - 1819. Branches

Noah's eyes sharpened when the centipede showed its strange innate ability. He could see the rest of the creature's body still immersed in the layer of thicker laws, but another head had grown out of its body and had become ready to fight him.

The centipede didn't let Noah prepare his attack. It shot forward, and that branch of its body stretched as it flew toward its opponent at an unfathomable speed.

The creature would take no time to reach Noah. Its fast movements would resemble a teleport if it weren't for the immense body standing still behind the branch.

Noah didn't have the time to launch a slash, but he didn't need moves in his current state. His bloodlust spiked, and a massive crack suddenly opened on the side of the creature's head.

The ambition could make attacks happen even if Noah didn't perform actual techniques. He only needed to think that his law was enough to activate the ability, and the blow would land.

Black shards flew everywhere in the environment and dispersed among the storms, and the attack threw the centipede out of its trajectory and made it miss Noah by mere meters.

The massive creature crashed on the ground and slid through the sand to stop its incredible momentum. Noah saw the giant exoskeleton moving next to him, and his power increased as the fiery dark matter burnt part of the creature's insides and black shards.

Noah couldn't get enough of the sensations that he felt. The energy of a rank 9 creature was incredibly pure, and the power that it carried could make every rank 8 existence feel as if they were swimming among a sea that they had no hope to absorb.

Of course, that didn't apply to Noah due to his insane requirements. He felt ecstatic after his injuries completely healed, and his body could absorb the accumulated energy. Yet, a tinge of helplessness soon vanquished those feelings and filled his mind.

Noah had realized something that would make most experts give up on the cultivation journey during the absorption. The energy contained in the centipede was incredible, but his body only took it as the best meal for its level. It didn't go through any sudden increase in power.

It felt hard to accept that rank 9 creatures had become nothing more than excellent food. Noah had hoped for something more, but his hopes had shattered in no time.

Luckily for Noah, he had a target ready to endure his venting, and he didn't mind losing himself in the battle. His arms rose as he wielded the cursed sword with both hands.

The storms seemed to stop when Noah's arms fell. He performed a simple slash, and the world held its breath for a second after he completed the technique.

Everything started to move again when a huge black pillar appeared on the centipede's back. Fiery dark matter and sharpness gave birth to a wave of energy that shot upward whenever the exoskeleton successfully blocked part of their power.

'Down again,' Noah ordered in his mind, and the energy accumulated on the pillar fell toward the centipede.

The creature tried to turn its head, but the branch of its body dived deeper into the red sand every time the pillar sent the energy back on its exoskeleton.

Noah's attack appeared endless. The energy blocked by the exoskeleton remained part of his technique and fell on the creature whenever he gave the order. Moreover, the dark matter spread his influence in the area, and some gales inevitably fused with its structure to intensify the blow.

Noah didn't need to wave his cursed sword again. Loud explosions resounded among the storms whenever the pillar fell on the creature. Injuries appeared on his torso multiple times due to the weapon's drawbacks, but the energy burnt by the fiery dark matter fixed them in no time.

The process continued until massive cracks opened on the exoskeleton's branch and left the way open toward the creature's soft insides. The effects of Noah's attack became devastating at that point. A large chunk of the centipede's organs turned into dust once Noah's energy spread through them.

The creature eventually pulled back its branch, but only half of it returned to the main body and transformed into a cracked spike. The other half remained next to Noah, and he didn't hesitate to store it inside his separate space before shooting back toward the denser storms.

Finding his companions in that environment would normally be a harsh challenge, but they were deploying their best abilities against the centipede. Noah could see flares and multicolored explosions seeping past the dense storms and giving him a path back to his group.

A terrifying scene unfolded in his vision when he reunited with his group. The centipede had created seven branches that were fighting his companions separately. Its main head remained behind and inspected the situation in the meantime.

The creature seemed on the verge of shooting ahead due to the intense hunger that it felt, but it showed its self-restraint in that situation. The centipede didn't send its main body forward and limited itself to prepare for the exhaustion of one of the experts.

Noah's appearance made the centipede create another branch, but he didn't let it complete the activation of its innate ability. A piercing slash came out of the cursed sword. The attack landed on the spike that was transforming right in front of his eyes.

The branch appeared weak during the transformation since it would lose part of the exoskeleton's protection for a while. The centipede's soft insides were in the open, so Noah's piercing attack ended up having incredible effects.

The whole transforming spike exploded after Noah's fiery energy seeped inside its fabric. The creature gave voice to an angry screech, but the group could barely hear it due to the storms raging around them.

Sword Saint and Alexander were the first to free themselves of the centipede's attacks.

Sword Saint covered the entire branch with silver sharpness that slowly devoured the exoskeleton and reached its soft insides. Everything fell apart at that point, and the creature's head shrunk until it returned to its previous form.

Alexander deployed multiple innate abilities at the same time. His third eye allowed him to predict the incoming attacks and deploy accurate counters, which created an array of ethereal skills that could seep past the tough exoskeleton. That seemed to be the only flaw in the creature's power.

The branch fighting against him eventually collapsed and transformed back into a spike. The other experts slowly managed to succeed in getting free or destroying their branches. The group could finally move forward now, but they opted to set a plan before charging recklessly.

"We were already planning your successor." King Elbas mocked Noah after restraining the creature among fiery arms.

"I don't know if destroying the main body will help," Noah explained, "But we should at least try that out before fighting against every spike. I've seen its body. It's quite immense."

"I'll open a path then," Sword Saint announced as the ethereal silver blade in his hands stretched.

"Let me join," Robert commented as his corrosive substance landed on the main body and expanded to create a massive purple sphere that enveloped the creature.

Chapter 1820 - 1820. Insides

Many spikes stretched to create multiple branches as the centipede's angry screech resounded past the toxic substance. Hundreds of heads charged toward the eight experts and tried to overwhelm them with a superior offensive that relied on sheer power.

Steven stepped forward, and many branches converged toward his position. The expert took a deep breath before his domain expanded and forced the chaotic laws around him to create a world where only determination mattered.

The centipede was probably older than all the experts put together, but it remained a magical beast driven by hunger. The intelligence developed during its growth only applied to its hunting methods and techniques, but it didn't improve its overall tactics.

Many branches converged toward Steven and submerged its figure with their massive shapes. Even Noah would struggle to face such a powerful attack, but Steven only snorted when the various pincers failed to go past his skin.

The other branches flew toward the other experts, but the storms forced them to reunite when an azure glow spread through them. Pinpointing the source of that power turned out to be relatively easy. The centipede could see Divine Demon standing in an empty spot above the creature and controlled the suppressed copies of its body to shoot toward him.

Alexander appeared on their path, and his size increased as he activated another innate ability. Its purple eye disappeared as horns and claws grew together with his figure.

The many heads slammed on its growing figure and pushed him backward. Alexander spat blood and suffered internal injuries, but Divine Demon remained untouched due to his sacrifice.

Wilfred threw a few punches toward the branches trying to get past Alexander's defenses. His relentless offensive landed on those copies until they left Alexander's c.h.e.s.t and gave him time to breathe.

Noah waited for Sword Saint's signal to shoot ahead. Robert was covering the creature's main body with his toxic substance, and a wall of branches was blocking his path. He would never reach his target on his own, so he needed the expert's help.

Sword Saint closed his eyes as his sharpness gathered before his figure and gave birth to a minute rotating silver sphere. Noah couldn't help but feel astonished at that sight. He knew that technique far too well. It was the same ability that he had perfected during the last seclusion.

'He has also created a personal version of the technique,' Noah exclaimed in his mind as the Demonic Sword appeared in his grasp.

His companions were doing their best, so he had to do the same. He didn't want to reveal all his trump cards since Heaven and Earth were always watching. Yet, he didn't want to hold his abilities back either.

His ambition made his cultivation level grow until it crossed the halfway mark of the solid stage. His blades were ready to release a thrust, but he had yet to get a clear shot at his opponent.

Faces appeared on the dark aura that covered his blades, and multiple layers of dark matter and corrosive roots also formed around his weapons. He was ready to unleash an attack that contained most of his techniques, but he had to wait for Sword Saint to complete his offensive.

Sword Saint's ethereal blade shattered as its power flew toward the sphere. The orb didn't enlarge, but its might continued to increase as it fed on the expert's sharpness.

The expert eventually waved his hand toward a seemingly random spot behind him. A tiny slash appeared on the sphere that stopped rotating and pointed its opening toward the array of branches.

The metallic shards that made the creature's exoskeleton flew through the area. The storms would usually eat them, but they had remained stunned after Sword Saint's attack.

The massive attack threatened to make the group retreat, but King Elbas promptly threw a golden spear toward the massive shockwaves and forced it to detonate.

The explosion spread a golden radiance that made the shockwave freeze for a few instants. Noah's mental waves could expand forward at that point, and a path formed in his mind when he understood the amount of destruction that Sword Saint had created.

Noah shot ahead once the path formed in his mind. His figure materialized and disappeared as he flew among the shattered and wounded branches to reach the centipede's main body.

The shockwaves returned when Noah reached the main head, but his attack shot forward before they could touch his body. Two piercing slashes fell toward the creature and flew toward its head before disappearing all of a sudden.

Even the centipede remained surprised about that event. The attacks had been in front of its eyes just an instant ago, but everything had suddenly disappeared.

The creature felt tricked. It prepared to give voice to a loud screech, but it suddenly discovered that it couldn't speak anymore. Something was moving inside its body. The centipede felt an energy that its insides couldn't stop destroying everything contained by its exoskeleton and moving forward through the rest of its main figure.

The shockwaves hit Noah at that point, but he made sure to store his blades and expand a fiery dark world. Those attacks still shattered his dark matter and landed on his body, but their effects were far weaker at that point.

Noah shot forward while spreading his arms to use the chaotic laws to stop his momentum. He didn't care about the internal injuries that he was suffering. He preferred to suffer more wounds rather than getting lost inside the stormy regions.

Noah had used the Shadow Domain to teleport his slash inside the centipede's body. The recent exchanges had shown how the creature's internal organs were quite frail, so he had planned to end the battle in a single attack.

The piercing slashes carried many features. They had the parasite's corrosive energy, intense sharpness, the empowerment of his ambition and achievements, and fiery dark matter. They had even grown stronger after flying through the chaotic laws for a short distance.

The centipede couldn't defend its insides since the exoskeleton was the true asset of that magical beast. That incredibly tough material could protect the creature against powerful attacks and create hundreds of copies of its body. Yet, it couldn't do anything about its internal organs.

Noah's attack ran through the creature's insides and ravaged everything on its path. The centipede was immense, but the slashes didn't lose energy so easily. They successfully crossed the beast from head to tail while Noah did his best to stop his momentum.

The centipede fell after it turned into nothing more than an empty exoskeleton. The experts instinctively went after the creature and gathered right above the region with the red sand to inspect the outcome of their battle.

The creature was lying dead on the sand. The chaotic laws had even started to devour its exoskeleton already. The experts had defeated their first real opponent in the stormy regions, but the sheer might of the centipede made them feel worried about the rest of their journey.

After all, the centipede was only a rank 9 magical beast in the lower tier that lived at the edges of the stormy region. It was only normal for the insides of those areas to have stronger opponents.