

Demonic 1851

Chapter 1851 - 1851. Paranoid

The Kesier runes were almost a universal resource. Every expert who had searched methods to improve the sea of consciousness knew about them. Even the hybrids who had lived in the Outer Lands had learnt about the best training method for mental spheres.

Some might have never seen Kesier runes. Their heroic versions were quite common inside large organizations, but many divine beings might have never bothered to search for them. After all, everyone had developed personal training methods by that point, and finding suitable versions of that resource was almost impossible.

Noah had never bothered to look for the Kesier runes after his ascension. He wasn't even sure whether those resources existed in the Immortal Land.

He had ascended with the seventh Kesier rune to sell or trade it, but it had ended up becoming the parasite's base. There didn't seem to be a market for those resources in the higher plane, so he had eventually started to believe that the Kesier species simply didn't exist there.

Still, the remains of the silver city proved him wrong. A Kesier rune that had the power to put pressure on his mental sphere shone high in the sky right before the beginning of the storms. He had found what rank 8 cultivators and hybrids would kill to get. Even wars would start to seize a training method that could bring mental spheres to the ninth rank.

Noah didn't know how to feel about that resource after learning about the requirements connected to the ninth rank. His centers of power required more than simple growth to turn him into a rank 9 existence. They had to muster energy meant to express his law and create an ethereal organ that contained a new type of fuel.

Having access to such a valuable resource right from the beginning of the eighth might had hurt his law due to how easy it was to improve with the Kesier runes. However, Noah's mental sphere was close to the ninth rank. Even his existence felt ready to advance, so removing some struggles from his path wouldn't hurt him at all.

King Elbas had the others experienced a similar confusion at the sight of the ninth Kesier rune in the sky. Greed, stupor, and hesitation filled their minds as multiple thoughts about the ninth rank surged inside them.

That single rune had changed how they had initially planned to approach the silver city. They were there mostly to explore ruins, seize resources, and try to learn more about Heaven and Earth, but faint worries appeared inside them when they understood the nature of their opponents.

The world acknowledged dragons as the strongest species of magical beasts, but exceptions existed, and the Kesier species were one of them. Those apes had powerful mental attacks, and their intelligence could match humans. Their only weakness came from their species, but they remained quite threatening.

'Snakes, apes, and dragons,' Noah cursed in his mind before drawing the Demonic Sword. 'My life is a damned cycle.'

"I didn't sense anything," King Elbas frowned when he saw Noah drawing his sword.

The others quickly confirmed his statement, and Noah could only agree with it. His senses didn't pick up anything either, but he knew how powerful those creatures could be, and he didn't dare to underestimate them.

Also, Noah didn't forget about the time dragon's warnings. The fallen city could carry a piece of the old sky. That resource might have remained hidden from the previous rulers of the area, but the Kesier apes weren't a species that would leave something so powerful behind.

That was the exact reason behind Noah's worry. He respected those creatures too much to believe that they didn't improve during the millennia spent in such a good lair. Those creatures didn't have to resist the storms constantly, and no one was hunting them. They were probably thriving, which hinted at the existence of sensors that his instincts couldn't recognize.

Nothing happened as the experts remained right outside the city's edges. Noah continued to be wary of his surroundings, but it seemed that the group's sudden arrival didn't trigger any defense. The wide area between the storms and the buildings appeared safe and empty.

"You have become too paranoid after fighting Heaven and Earth for so long," King Elbas laughed. "Don't lose your ability to evaluate your opponents."

Noah continued to be alert, but his consciousness didn't sense anything even after it unfolded in the area. He couldn't find traps or living beings around him. Only the azure ground and the pressure of the ninth Kesier rune filled his surroundings.

"I might have," Noah sighed as the Demonic Sword returned inside his body and he took his first step forward.

Danger appeared inside his mind at that point. Noah didn't know what was happening, but he suddenly sensed an intense threat coming from under him.

His eyes fell on the ground while he jumped backward to escape the imminent attack. A half-transparent orange radiance had suddenly come out of the azure terrain and had illuminated the entire area. That energy continued to surge upward until it transformed into a blinding glow that released noises that Noah knew far too well.

Crackling noises filled the area as the half-transparent orange light took the shape of lightning bolts and surged to create a dangerous pillar. The attack connected the ground to the storms high above in an instant. The sparks had only managed to touch Noah's leg before he left their range.

Patches of charred skin filled Noah's charred legs. His innate defenses didn't manage to stop the lightning bolts, which had created deep injuries. That simple detail immediately warned everyone about the power of the attack. The half-transparent orange light belonged to the ninth rank.

Another dangerous sensation filled Noah's mind when he landed on the ground, but he shot forward without even inspecting the nature of that sensation. Another pillar threatened to come out of the terrain, but he shot forward before the familiar crackling noise could reach his ears.

Noah didn't step on the ground at that time, but danger spread again. A crack opened in the air and released more lightning bolts that threatened to engulf his figure.

Noah couldn't help but snap. The lightning bolts carried the same faint scent of the Heaven Tribulation, but their power showed features that didn't respect that punishment. They were different but still threatening enough to make him decide to abandon restraint.

The unstable substance flowed through his body as multiple faces appeared on his skin. Noah didn't move at all and endure the full power of the lightning bolts. His skin opened and burnt, but it didn't suffer the same severe injuries from before.

Dense dark matter seeped out of his body as he remained immersed in the intense lightning bolts. His flames even accumulated in his mouth and made the higher energy imitate their properties.

A pillar appeared among the half-transparent orange light. Blackness spread inside the attack and vanquished it as a tall slash severed the lightning bolts open. The blinding radiance soon disappeared, and Noah became visible again. As for his leg, it had completely healed during the last exchange.

Chapter 1852 - 1852. Intermediate

"Who is paranoid now?" Noah snorted, but the pressure released by his voice triggered traps hidden in the air in front of him.

Cracks opened and released their half-transparent lightning bolts. Yet, Noah was still under the effects of his empowerment. The attacks engulfed him only to burn into a wave of dense black flames.

"What the f-," Wilfred said, but cracks opened in the air in front of him before he could complete his phrase.

Everything had happened too quickly. Noah had triggered four different traps in less than a second, which didn't give time to his companions to understand the nature of the situation. Wilfred felt unable to summon enough power to launch an attack capable of stopping the incoming wave of lightning bolts, but a black mass suddenly appeared in front of him.

Noah had triggered multiple traps when he shot toward Wilfred, and they all released lightning bolts that aimed at him. The power contained in thirteen different attacks in the ninth rank fused to create something that Noah couldn't stop without showing his real might.

Bloodlust quickly expanded from his figure before two vertical black slashes cut through the dense wave of lightning bolts and created an opening where he could be safe. Wilfred didn't hold back from exploiting that opening, and his large arms soon started to move to generate an attack meant to support Noah.

"Don't do it!" Noah ordered when he sensed Wilfred accumulating his energy behind him. "You'll only set off every trap in the area!"

The soundwaves generated by Noah's shout and the dense power accumulated while Wilfred prepared his technique ended up opening new cracks in the air and ground. Countless lightning bolts shot toward the duo, but Noah promptly pointed his blades downward and stabbed the azure terrain as his consciousness expanded.

The experts in his ground sensed an intense wave of danger surrounding them, but the familiar source of that sensation made them relax and stay still. Countless slashes materialized around them just an instant after the arrival of that feeling, and everything in the area grew dark.

The light that managed to seep past the storms scattered the darkness and revealed how the area had changed after Noah's attack. A large chunk of the site had disappeared and had created a large flat pit under the group. Moreover, the air around him had completely disappeared, and the fabric of space had also turned into broken pieces divided by large cracks connected to the void.

An orange halo still lingered in the area even after Noah's massive attack, but everything converged toward him as the black hole fed on that energy.

Everything grew calm at that point. Noah had understood that the traps existed in a different dimension during the initial exchanges, so he had decided to use his knowledge of space to shatter the entire area with his attacks.

"You got lucky," King Elbas complained. "You didn't sense anything more than we did."

"It's not luck," Noah announced. "I simply believe in my constant lack of luck."

"It still doesn't make your paranoia right," King Elbas insisted.

"Forget it," Noah sighed before pointing at the city with the Demonic Sword. "Why can't we sense them?"

The other experts carefully walked toward the edges of the pit to inspect their surroundings. They prepared abilities that could fend off eventual lightning bolts, but their actions didn't trigger anything. It seemed that Noah's power had spread past the actual destruction currently shown by the area.

Some faint gales came out of the storms that surrounded the dead zone and fused with the sky to heal the many cracks opened by Noah's attack. The chaotic laws didn't rebuild the fabric of space casually either. Invisible energy guided their movements and rebuilt the area according to specific arrays.

Everyone in the group noticed that strange behavior, but only Noah, King Elbas, and Alexander understood how odd that was. After all, the invisible energy wasn't existing in their dimension. It was somewhere else, in a place that their minds couldn't reach.

The event left Noah completely speechless. The Shadow Domain could deploy similar effects, but that was one of the best techniques in the world. Its very nature put it among the most dangerous and complicated abilities that had ever appeared on the Immortal Lands.

Still, the dead zone in front of him seemed to have similar properties. Noah felt as if a wall tried to block his mental waves when he attempted to inspect the insides of the closing cracks, but his senses managed to gather information anyway. He found a slim layer right under the fabric that divided the higher plane from the void. That structure created a dimension that could affect the world without leaving traces of its power.

The discovery was incredible. Noah couldn't even begin to imagine how long it would take to create such an intermediate dimension and fill it with energy capable of affecting the chaotic laws. He only knew two experts who could give him a better explanation, but the latter was as surprised as him.

"This structure is incredible," King Elbas announced as his curiosity seeped out of his figure. "We should destroy the entire area and take it."

"No one is destroying anything," Noah ordered.

"You just destroyed this area," Robert sneered while raising his hand to show that he had already created a threatening mass. "You can't blame us if we break the path toward the city."

"No one is destroying anything randomly!" King Elbas shouted. "We need to preserve the dimension attached to the world."

"Luckily you have the best experts in special dimensions here," Divine Demon stated while pointing his hand toward the closing cracks before showing a confident smile. "Unless someone wants to challenge me for this title."

"Steven?" Wilfred asked, and the latter promptly took a step back.

"Don't even try to throw me at him," Steven complained.

"Someone must feed the beast," Alexander sighed while shaking his head. "That poor existence has starved for many years already."

"Why would you use me then?" Steven continued to complain. "Just make him fight the ground. I bet he'll challenge the very surface if he could."

Divine Demon's eyes inevitably fell toward the azure terrain as his hand rose to scratch his chin. The ground had gained an appealing aura after that suggestion, but Wilfred promptly placed a jug of wine in his line of sight.

"Don't give him ideas!" Alexander scolded before heaving a sigh of relief when he saw that the wine won against the ground.

"I just need to preserve what's behind the world's fabric, right?" Sword Saint asked before pointing his hand toward a spot high in the sky. "That might actually be interesting."

"Wait!" King Elbas exclaimed. "I need to perform calculations, study the area, the density, the types of materials, and-."

King Elbas had to stop giving voice to his list since a sharp beam came out of Sword Saint's stretched fingers and created an incredibly long blade that pierced the world's fabric in a spot high in the sky. The attack didn't even vanish after the event. It remained in its place and connected the expert to the whiteness.

"You can stop no-," King Elbas tried to stop Sword Saint again, but a wave of sharpness suddenly spread from the tip of its long sharp pillar.

Sword Saint's sharpness spread through the world's fabric until it created a square among the sky. Cracks opened at the edges of the precise shape and filled its insides before shattering everything.

A dark scene unfolded in the group's eyes as Sword Saint removed a huge chunk of the sky. The hidden dimension became clear at that point, but a few peculiar features in that image left them speechless. Noah and the others found different rank 9 magical beasts tied to that structure.

Chapter 1853 - 1853. Bet

The intermediate dimension was a tight array of thin lines that spread tremors whenever one of the rank 9 magical beasts tied to them struggled to break free of their restrictions.

Those creatures belonged to different species and had different sizes. Noah could see a huge bear with white fur and crystals instead of eyes, a purple giraffe filled with dark-green spots capable of affecting his mental sphere, and a small elephant with ears bigger than its body.

The claws of another magical beast also peeked past one of the areas still hidden by the world's fabric, but Noah didn't manage to see enough to recognize its species. Still, the scene remained stunning, to say the least. He had never seen something so incredible and strange at the same time.

The lines that made the array of the intermediate dimension tied the creatures' limbs and suppressed the flow of primary energy through their bodies. Noah could confirm that the trapped magical beasts didn't have access to their physical strength and innate abilities in that position. They could only struggle in a desperate attempt to break free due to the hope caused by Sword Saint's attack.

"What the actual f.u.c.k," King Elbas cursed, and his companions expressed the same feelings with their expressions.

The intermediate dimension didn't only suppress those rank 9 magical beasts. It also drained them of the immense power contained inside their flesh, but the process didn't seem to bring them closer to their death. Actually, it was slow enough to allow a natural regeneration fueled by energy seeping into their bodies through different lines.

Noah stored the cursed sword and waved the Demonic Sword when he noticed the energy flowing inside the imprisoned magical beasts. His attack opened another crack that ran from the square to the storms without affecting the intermediate dimension.

The attack followed the direction of the lines that sent energy to the imprisoned magical beasts, and everyone could see where the intermediate dimension took that power after the attack. The structure drained the chaotic laws of their power and sent them to the creatures before absorbing primary energy from them.

Noah remained confused even after he decided to ignore how astonishing that structure was. Making the energy pass through the magical beasts was a pointless step no matter how he looked at it. Those creatures didn't cause any special change in that fuel in the end.

Still, the world soon acted to uncover the reason behind that seemingly clunky structure. A crackling noise suddenly spread in the area and made all the experts glance toward the sky. A series of black clouds had accumulated among the storms, and the chaotic laws fueled them to create massive white lightning bolts that fell toward the imprisoned magical beasts.

Some of the lines in the intermediate dimension lit up and forced the imprisoned magical beasts to activate their innate abilities. A series of attacks flew toward the incoming lightning bolts, but the

Tribulation appeared ready to overwhelm that offensive. It pierced the techniques and slammed on their sources, causing a series of painful cries to resound in the area.

"Should we help them?" Wilfred asked as confusion still lingered on his expression.

"It depends on who you want to enrage," Noah explained. "Heaven and Earth already hate us, but we are invading the city anyway. Their rulers might be already angry at us for all we know."

"We are getting more enemies, right?" Divine Demon asked while handing a cup full of wine to Noah.

"We are indeed," Noah sighed while picking the cup and sitting on the ground.

The other experts imitated him. They took some wine from Divine Demon and sat to admire the battle between Heaven and Earth and the strange array that did its best to defend its prisoners.

The intermediate dimension didn't only rely on the magical beasts to fight. It called upon its connection to the chaotic laws to launch attacks made of invisible energy.

The shapes taken by that energy carried properties capable of countering the lightning bolts' innate features. Noah could study the structure of those attacks with his mental waves. The array was sending masses of invisible power with multiple holes running through their structures to disperse the Tribulation's destructive might.

Still, Heaven and Earth's target changed once the array's lines themselves started launching attacks. The Tribulation stopped focusing on the imprisoned magical beasts and converge its lightning bolts on the intermediate dimension. It seemed that the rulers had just noticed that immense structure.

"They are a diversion!" King Elbas announced while raising his cup, and wine magically materialized inside it.

"The Kesier species is using these magical beasts to sway Heaven and Earth's attention away from their creation," Noah confirmed. "They can steal from the chaotic laws without making the rulers notice their work."

"Why even hide that?" Robert asked. "I understand that this structure must have some special purpose, but I don't see why going through this hassle to create scapegoats. Everyone can absorb the chaotic laws in the end."

"Maybe they are enemies that Heaven and Earth have marked," Alexander suggested. "They might be like us."

"I don't know how much you can trust the Kesier species," Noah sighed. "I don't think they had a good experience with humans on the higher plane."

"We don't know for sure if they are Kesier apes," King Elbas corrected. "I know the dragons have spoken about apes, but why would they put their own rune in the sky?"

"What would I know?" Noah complained.

"I remember that you lived among them for years," King Elbas mocked. "That's enough to learn how they behave."

"The Kesier apes are basically humans with one center of power," Noah argued while shaking his head. "Their behavior depends on their leaders."

"Do you want to bet on the identity of the city's rulers?" King Elbas laughed. "I win if they don't belong to the Kesier species."

"What can you even give to me?" Noah grinned. "What do you even want from me?"

"I have been with hybrids long enough to have countless drugs meant for your kind," King Elbas explained. "I even tried to make pills specific for your incredible state during my moments of intense curiosity."

"What do you want from me then?" Noah asked as his eyes lit up.

King Elbas undeniably had good stuff, items that cultivators would do anything to obtain. He even had them in huge numbers, and Noah trusted his claims.

"I want what the dragons gave you," King Elbas grinned.

"No way," Noah laughed. "That's all mine. I can go with replicas of small parts if you really want them."

"Replicas are good enough," King Elbas agreed. "I want life first. I need it for some projects."

"Of course you do," Noah commented as the battle continued to rage in his eyes.

Heaven and Earth were on the winning side. The array's main purpose was the transport of energy through hidden channels. The lines could hold their ground against the Tribulation, but they started to snap after a few minutes.

Yet, multiple powerful figures materialized on the intact parts of the intermediate dimension once the first imprisoned magical beast died due to the sparks running through the array.

"Pay up," Noah exclaimed when those figures appeared in his vision.

Those creatures weren't precisely as he recalled them, but they clearly belonged to the Kesier species. The three newly arrived magical beasts were four meter tall apes with black runes on their grey fur and power in the lower tier of the ninth rank. Moreover, they wore grey robes that blended perfectly with their shades.

Chapter 1854 - 1854. Tribulation

"That's arguable," King Elbas complained as his eyes sharpened at the sight of the three magical beasts. "Why are they gray? Why do they even wear clothes? Their shades and size also are totally off."

"How bad of a loser are you?" Noah laughed, but his eyes never left the scenes unfolding above the uncovered area of the intermediate dimension.

Noah kept his palm open next to King Elbas' shoulder. The two never stopped inspecting the scene, but they didn't forget about their bet either.

The three rank 9 Kesier apes that had appeared on the intermediate dimension had clearly improved their natural state. Their looks were different from what Noah had grown used to recall, but that wasn't

too surprising when it came to magical beasts that had stepped on the last level of the cultivation journey.

The magical beasts didn't experience the thorough evolutions of their existence as they advanced, but they still changed. Mutations could occur due to their character and habits, and the environment also played an important role in the process.

The three Kesier apes glanced at the storm of white lightning bolts, and shockwaves followed that faint gesture. Three columns of invisible energy surged from the magical beasts. The attacks shot toward the blinding attacks of the Tribulation, creating an explosion that forced even the experts in the distance to deploy defensive measures.

"Told you," Noah continued to laugh while waving his palm in front of King Elbas' face. "That's their innate ability."

"Xavier can't accept defeat," Wilfred sighed while snapping his fingers whenever raging waves of power tried to engulf the group.

His gesture generated explosions inside the shockwaves and dispersed them before they could reach the experts. The others didn't hesitate to give voice to similar comments meant to mock King Elbas while launching casual abilities at the incoming raging energy. Nothing could reach them, and King Elbas' expression grew darker.

"You definitely are that idiot's disciple," King Elbas snorted while taking out a dark-gold sphere that immediately attracted Noah's attention.

The item radiated quasi-rank 9 power and could float on its own due to the faint energy coming out of its structure. The number of nutrients contained in its insides also felt to be off the charts. It was astonishing how it didn't completely step into the ninth rank with so much fuel at its disposal.

"I had the idea after the fight against the jellyfish," King Elbas explained. "That creature contained enough power to push its level forward, but it didn't use it at all. Its skin could also endure internal pressure easily. It was the perfect transport device, so I tried to replicate it."

Noah's mental waves entered the sphere and studied its insides. He could sense that it contained enough power to match a few rank 9 magical beasts even if its materials were strong enough for the task. The matter was stunning, but its purpose was quite clear.

The lack of special features made the dark-gold sphere a mere pill that contained many nutrients. Noah could eat it while his body was in critical condition to heal his injuries and go back to his peak, but nothing more.

Of course, having access to such a resource as a rank 8 existence was incredible. Noah had always struggled to find suitable drugs after his ascensions since nothing seemed to satisfy the requirement of his centers of power. Yet, King Elbas had provided a solution that could save Noah's life one day.

"Do you want to make other bets?" Noah asked while his eyes lingered on the dark-gold sphere in his grasp.

King Elbas limited himself to snort again and focus the entirety of his attention on the battle ahead. The Kesier apes had covered the entire exposed area with a thick layer of invisible energy that the experts could inspect when they expanded their consciousness. Moreover, they had never stopped generating shockwaves to prevent the lightning bolts from reaching the structure.

Those creatures' sheer display of power already put them far beyond average magical beasts, but Noah suddenly noticed another feature that made their value increase. The three Kesier apes weren't limiting themselves to attack and defend at the same time. They were also using their invisible energy to rebuild the array of lines under them.

It wasn't only a matter of sheer power. Those creatures could give any feature, size, and form they wanted to their invisible energy. They appeared able to counter any ability as long as flaws existed in their structure, and they didn't seem to have a limit to the amount of invisible energy they could deploy at the same time.

The Tribulation intensified when it realized that it couldn't pierce the invisible energy at its current power. More lightning bolts fell from the clouds hidden inside the storms high in the sky, but the struggle didn't lead anywhere. The Kesier apes limited themselves to release more power to match the new dangerousness of the offensive.

A deafening scream resounded among the storms at that point. The lightning bolts stopped falling, and a vortex appeared in the winds above. The chaotic laws converged toward the clouds fueled them with their power to give birth to a massive humanoid figure made of white sparks.

Noah instinctively got to his feet, and his companions imitated him. The group jumped backward while the crackling figure began to descend from the disappeared chunk of storms and pointed its right arm toward the uncovered intermediate dimension.

The group managed to escape the range of the attack right before a blinding light filled the area. A white radiance had accompanied the crackling figure's sudden discharge of energy and had shattered the mental waves accumulated around the intermediate dimension. The experts were in the dark, but they didn't fail to study the power released during the blow.

The crackling figure was in the lower tier of the ninth rank, but it appeared stronger than the three Kesier apes. The energy released during its attack even pierced the invisible energy and reached the barrier before shattering it in a few seconds.

Noah and the others could learn about those events only after the light dispersed, but King Elbas didn't accept that event. Even Divine Demon felt pissed about missing part of the spectacle. The two experts waved their hands as inscribed items and azure energy gathered in front of them to create screens that seemed able to ignore even the faint light that managed to cross the storms.

The group could sit again once the battle resumed. More chaotic laws flowed toward the crackling figure after Heaven and Earth accepted that they could only destroy part of those protections. Their champion needed more power to fight the Kesier apes, but the three magical beasts didn't wait for the rulers to prepare their next move.

"I think I need a refund," King Elbas exclaimed when the three creatures raised their arms and generated half-transparent lightning bolts that flew to intercept the descending crackling figure.

Chapter 1855 - 1855. Astonishment

Noah had understood that something was incredibly off after seeing the traps in the area, but he didn't expect something so shocking. He could accept that the Kesier apes had learnt how to harness the power of the old sky, but that scene left him speechless. Those magical beasts were deploying a second innate ability right in front of his eyes.

The orange lightning bolts fused with the shockwaves generated by the invisible energy and created a huge pillar that clashed with the crackling figure.

The impact generated an explosion that spread dangerous attacks throughout the entire area, but the sparks that flew toward the city burnt when they touched an invisible barrier that the experts had failed to sense.

The crackling figure lost pieces of its body as it flew back into the storms, but a vortex of chaotic laws followed its movements and restored its features. Its power even increased as gales fused with its sparks and intensified the noise they spread through the sky.

The three rank 9 Kesier apes used that chance to focus the entirety of their efforts on rebuilding the intermediate dimension. Their invisible energy condensed until it gained the solid shape of lines that fell on the tight array and restored the pieces destroyed by the last lightning bolts.

"Did they improve their species?" Noah wondered loudly.

It didn't matter how many times he reviewed the scene. Noah couldn't find additional items or tools on the Kesier apes. The power shown during the last exchange came from their bodies, which could only lead to an astonishing conclusion.

The experts around him couldn't answer his questions, but they shared his confusion. It didn't take an expert in the magical beasts' field to understand that something had happened to those creatures. Still, another doubt soon appeared in their minds. They didn't know if the Kesier apes had applied those modifications on their own or if an external existence had helped them in the process.

"How possible is something like that?" King Elbas asked while putting his pride away to request the opinion of an expert that surpassed him in that field. "Can they really modify their species on their own?"

Noah could only think about a loud "no", but his mind didn't let him accept that simple answer. In theory, every magical beast would have an innate pride toward their species, and their hunger often made even the smartest among them focus on food rather than long experiments and plans.

However, the Kesier species theoretically had all the right cards to pull that incredible event off. The piece of the old sky, their intelligence, the chaotic laws surrounding the area, and a safe environment created a perfect foundation that most cultivators would envy. Noah couldn't help but remain silent, even if something was telling him that he might be in front of an incredible feat.

The most surprising aspect of the lightning bolts released by the Kesier apes was that they still retained traces of Heaven and Earth's power. They also belonged to the lightning element, which went against the usual wind aptitude of those creatures.

Noah couldn't understand every detail of the creature's power from his position. He did his best to confirm that the lightning bolts came from the energy inside their bodies, but that was as far as he could go. Anything else would require a thorough inspection probably accompanied by a dissection.

The crackling figure appeared far bigger than before when the storms around it disappeared. The sparks that ran through its body had grown unstable, but they seemed unable to leave its body. Still, they had become so intense that the space around them bent whenever the soundwaves generated by their noise spread in the environment.

The Kesier apes' expression became grave at that sight, but they continued to fix the intermediate dimension even if their opponent didn't hesitate to resume its descent. The crackling figure's heavy steps on the air spread white lightning bolts everywhere in the area and created soundwaves that made the barrier defending the city tremble.

The creature resembled a natural calamity ready to destroy everything, but the magical beasts didn't care. They were ready to give up on their lives if that allowed them to complete their task. Everything else didn't matter, and Noah could read that determination in their eyes.

Noah felt almost tempted to help the creatures. After all, his group was the reason behind the Tribulation. Also, the Kesier apes seemed to be Heaven and Earth's enemies, which made them natural allies in the battle against the world.

Still, Noah didn't know how those creatures would react in front of humans and hybrids. The history of the Kesier species had never been happy due to the curse that they carried on their furs. They would become the target of powerful existences no matter where they were due to the runes drawn on their figures.

Another exchange happened during Noah's hesitation. The three Kesier apes launched a series of pillars featuring orange lightning bolts and invisible energy. Still, their attacks didn't manage to do much when they landed on the crackling figure. Instead, their opponent seemed able to absorb those blows and use them as part of its power.

"They have already adapted their punishment to their opponents," Robert commented as his expression darkened. "They took longer to adapt to us. Is it because of the complexity of our abilities?"

"Do they look simple to you?" Alexander sneered while shaking his head. "Heaven and Earth have probably fought with these creatures long enough to have counters ready."

"Take note that he called them creatures," King Elbas cheered. "Even Alexander doesn't believe them to be part of the Kesier species."

"I would have given you the replicas of the spheres anyway," Noah revealed while taking a step forward and drawing the Demonic Sword. "Let's go help them now."

His announcement surprised his companions, but they became aware of the reasons behind their words as soon as they escaped his mouth. They knew that the Kesier apes could be natural allies, and helping them during that struggle gave them a chance to make up for their previous actions.

The crackling figure raised its hand before turning it to point its palm toward the intermediate dimension. A blinding white radiance came out of it at that point, and everyone in the area became unable to rely on their vision after the attack descended.

The light suppressed the experts' mental waves, but the screens created by King Elbas and Divine Demon remained intact even after the radiance engulfed them. Yet, a dark cloud soon appeared among the experts and restored part of their vision.

Noah had deployed the dark world to improve his situation and help his companions, and the whiteness slowly retreated in front of the dense dark matter.

Noah sprinted directly toward the three Kesier apes and reached the area around them in no time. The three magical beasts suddenly became aware of the new threat, but Noah made sure to raise both hands to gesture that he had had no intention to cause problems.

The creatures didn't seem to believe in him. They limited themselves to accept his presence there while they raised their hands toward the sky. They had to face another massive attack.

Chapter 1856 - 1856. Negotiation

Crackling whiteness filled the area again. Noah was close enough to the three Kesier apes to see how they reacted to the attack now. His senses could even study the nature of their energy before the light shattered his mental waves.

His astonishment couldn't help but increase when he sensed the two different elements contained in the creatures' energy. The Kesier apes mustered their power and used it to create a massive crackling shield that covered the uncovered part of the intermediate dimension. Noah felt forced to retreat to avoid the expansion of that defensive technique.

His dark world condensed once the whiteness threatened to reach him. The dark matter shattered as the intense power contained by the crackling light seeped past the higher energy and tried to fill its insides. Yet, a series of faces suddenly appeared among the blackness and made it able to stop the radiance after a few seconds.

Noah's companions had started to fly toward him, but the arrival of the light had forced them to stop and deploy defensive abilities. Still, they didn't hesitate to go back inside the dark world once the attack ended.

"What did they say?" Wilfred asked while glancing at the three rank 9 Kesier apes that had reappeared once the light vanished. "They seem interested in cooperating with us."

Noah ignored that comment and approached the three creatures. The crackling shield had crumbled after the previous attack, and parts of the intermediate dimension had shattered again. It was evident that their efforts weren't giving the d.e.s.i.r.ed effects, but they still prepared themselves to fight against him if he turned out to be hostile.

"We also are Heaven and Earth's enemies," Noah announced. "Let us help."

The three apes didn't reveal any expression, and they didn't bother to answer either. They continued to stare at Noah with their cold dark eyes and divide their attentions between the huge crackling figure in the sky and him.

"Come on," Noah continued. "We destroyed this piece of the sky by mistake, pure mistake. We can fix it in no time."

One of the Kesier apes finally reacted but only to give voice to a snort. They seemed completely unwilling to trust Noah and his companions. Not even the massive threat in the sky could make them decide to cooperate.

'Are they waiting for reinforcements?' Noah wondered as his eyes moved toward the city.

Noah had come up with a vague idea of how the area worked. The Kesier apes had created diversions and plans to defend their home and their intermediate dimension. They were probably smart enough to fuse Heaven and Earth's old powers to their species even. Yet, that only made the situation stranger.

It didn't make sense for such smart and prepared creatures to jump in a fight that they couldn't win. Noah didn't believe for even an instant that they had underestimated the power of Heaven and Earth's punishment. The various defenses and covers proved that they knew how scary the rulers could be. Still, that raised questions in his mind.

Why did the city send only three rank 9 creatures? Did the pack lack powerful specimens? Were the others busy in some mission? Did they have a secret weapon to use on these occasions? Was he overstepping into something that he didn't understand?

The crackling giant wanted to attack again. Everyone in the area sensed its energy condensing and giving birth to shining lightning bolts. Still, the tense situation created by the meeting of the two groups delayed the preparations of defensive techniques or attacks.

"Sword Saint, Divine Demon, Alexander, Elbas," Noah listed, "Come with me. This thing is annoying."

The four experts revealed cold smiles, but the three left behind couldn't contain their complaints.

"Are we too weak to fight Heaven and Earth now?" Wilfred snorted.

"My anger toward the rulers can surpass all of them," Robert stated.

"I won't remain behind after what they did to my organization," Steven insisted.

"You three have a higher chance to gain their trust," Noah explained while pointing at the three Kesier apes who had started to build the crackling shield while shooting glances toward the experts. "Do you really want to leave the negotiations to us?"

Wilfred, Robert, and Steven moved their eyes away from Noah and started inspecting the experts. Their minds could even imagine the consequences of a conversation between the three Keiser apes and them.

King Elbas would probably try to be polite at the beginning, but his arrogance would take over in the middle of the conversation. Then, his curiosity would fill his mind, leading him to dismantle the intermediate dimension right in front of the magical beasts.

Noah was a great leader once you learnt to know him. His first impressions were quite awful, and that situation wasn't any different. After all, he had taken part in destroying the sky to reveal the intermediate dimension. He had even single-handedly removed many traps.

Alexander wasn't actually bad, but he had eaten far too many magical beasts throughout his life. His natural aura carried an intense pride that would naturally threaten strangers.

Sword Saint never bothered to join conversations or events unless they involved the path of the blade or cutting something. He would probably ignore Noah's orders even, and that would even be the best outcome.

Divine Demon didn't need explanations. The three experts left behind didn't even know what he would be capable of doing in that situation. Challenging him to be a good ambassador wouldn't work either since he could interpret the situation too personally.

"We are the only sane-minded in our group," Wilfred sighed as a hand went on his forehead. "When did this even happen?"

"The requirements weren't so high," Robert uttered. "I believe we have the craziest in the world among them."

"Will they be fine?" Steven asked while looking at the departing group. "Heaven and Earth aren't playing around here."

"It means that the city has something worth destroying," Wilfred whispered, making sure that the Kesier apes behind him couldn't hear him. "And taking."

Noah and the others flew toward the crackling giant while the trio turned toward the Kesier apes. Everyone in the group had drawn their weapons or prepared their abilities for the imminent clash, and stern expressions inevitably appeared on their faces as the threatening creature grew bigger in their vision.

"The apes must have something stronger inside the city," King Elbas warned.

"Of course," Noah replied. "That's why we'll appear as the strongest rank 8 existences in the entire world."

"We are the strongest rank 8 existences in the world," Divine Demon grinned as he experienced one of his rare serious moments.

"What if they don't want to let us in even after we show our worth?" Alexander asked.

"We cut them," Sword Saint announced. "We cut them all."

"One problem at the time," Noah reminded. "I have someth-."

"No," King Elbas said before Noah could finish his line.

"No," Divine Demon followed suit.

"Don't even think about that," Sword Saint threatened.

"I'm afraid you can't win this time," Alexander laughed.

"You don't even know what I was about to say!" Noah complained.

"You wanted to fight alone again," King Elbas explained. "Don't even try to hide it."

"These subordinates have so little faith in me," Noah sighed and shook his head, but the crackling giant released its attack at that point.

The crackling light expanded, but a series of attacks pierced it and created a conical safe area that contained the uncovered intermediate dimension below. Multiple lights had shone among the giant's technique and had destroyed the power that it carried before landing on its body.

Chapter 1857 - 1857. Stunning

The crackling giant could suppress three rank 9 Kesier apes in the lower tier. Its power forced the five experts to go all out since the beginning of the fight, and their joint efforts destroyed part of the massive attack.

Their techniques even reached their opponent, but they had lost too much energy by then. The attacks couldn't hurt the thick sparks that made the crackling figure's giant body. Still, they opened a path where Noah and Alexander could pass.

The unstable substance was flowing inside Noah's black veins, and his empowerments had already affected some of his abilities. His centers of power and his two blades surpassed their limits as faces appeared on the dark aura that covered them.

A red aura covered Alexander, and the smell of blood filled the area. The expert's power seemed to surge to levels that went far beyond Noah as he raised his palm and neared the giant.

The two experts were the best type of hybrids in the entire world. They were the only ones who could come so close to the threatening lightning bolts without deploying defensive abilities. The approach was dangerous, but it allowed them to increase the efficiency of their offensive.

The intense pressure that covered the crackling sparks almost pushed the experts away, but the duo moved forward even after their blood vessels exploded and wounds opened on their figures.

Noah was the first to reach the giant. Dark matter covered his two swords as he mustered the entirety of his physical strength to stab them into the lightning bolts. His higher energy shattered as the raging sparks tried to reach his weapons, but the black hole made sure to restore those protections every time they fell.

Information flowed inside his mind as his bloodl.u.s.t fueled the Demonic Deduction technique and made his destruction skyrocket. Noah could instinctively sense every unstable part and flaw in his opponent's structure, and his weapons released his power after focusing on some of them.

Black flares came out of Noah's weapons and spread through the crackling giant. The lightning bolts that made the creature's body crumbled whenever the destructive energy seeped inside them. Even those powerful sparks couldn't stop his destruction.

Alexander arrived after sparks left the giant's body and created a white rain. His red halo converged toward his hand as he raised it to reach the sparks, and a massive hole opened in the creature once his palm touched them.

An angry feeling started to permeate through the crackling noise released by the sparks as the giant tilted its head toward the two experts. A crack opened on the lower part of its head to create a mouth, but a silver slash suddenly slammed on that spot.

"Finally!" Sword Saint shouted as he madly waved the ethereal blade in his hand.

Each movement launched rains of slashes toward the giant that severed its lightning bolts. Sword Saint wasn't boosting his power nor relying on special techniques to obtain those effects. His b.a.r.e sharpness simply was enough to hurt those sparks.

Multiple golden lights appeared around the giant after it endured those blows. King Elbas flew above its head and scratched his chin as his eyes moved between the creature and the storms.

"Focus on the will," King Elbas ordered before snapping his fingers.

The many golden lights shot inside the lightning bolts and seeped deep into the giant's body before detonating. More sparks shot into the environment and filled the area. Still, many of them converged toward an azure halo that had appeared in the distance.

Divine Demon showed a cold expression as the sparks converged into his position and transformed into a mass of energy that rotated around his figure. His eyes seemed to carry deep understanding as they reflected the white light radiated by the giant. His usual uncaring face was nowhere to be seen as firm concentration filled his expression.

A chill ran down Noah, Alexander, and King Elbas' spines. They instinctively turned toward the azure glow in the distance, and their eyes widened in surprise when they understood what was about to happen.

The three experts deployed their best techniques to leave the area and give Divine Demon a complete view of the scene. The cultivator raised his hand at that point. The energy around him flowed in front of his palm to give birth to a series of rings.

King Elbas' face revealed pure shock when he saw the lines stretching in the insides of the rings. Divine Demon was giving birth to a series of small formations that created a cylindrical structure after all of them harmonized. A humming noise even echoed in the sky as the azure energy completed the technique.

King Elbas took out countless sensors meant to study and record the event. His curiosity even flowed out of his body as he lost interest in the battle. He couldn't believe that Divine Demon could have created something like that without knowledge over formations and inscriptions.

"What is it?" Noah asked while teleporting next to King Elbas.

Alexander also arrived next to the expert and waited for him to describe the nature of the situation. It was hard to trigger such intense reactions inside him, so his curiosity had made him approach the only

cultivator who could know something about Divine Demon's power. Noah was there for the same reasons.

"I don't even know how to describe it to two brutes like you," King Elbas revealed while pointing toward the formations in front of Divine Demon's raised palm. "He is trying to reverse the laws."

"What does that even mean?" Alexander asked.

"Who challenged him to do that?" Noah asked, but King Elbas shook his head after heaving a helpless sigh caused by Alexander's question.

'Is he improving?' Noah wondered as he fixed his eyes on the azure formations in the distance.

Soft gales broke out of the storms that surrounded the dead zone and flew toward the giant. The chaotic laws transformed into lightning bolts that restored the broken parts of its body and made it whole again. Still, the creature didn't stop moving even in its damaged state. Its massive arm rose to point toward the Kesier apes in the distance, but its face turned toward Divine Demon when it heard the humming sound.

The giant seemed to freeze when it noticed the azure rings. Its lightning bolts running through its body even slowed down at that sight. The creature appeared stunned, but it soon moved its arm toward Divine Demon since it recognized him as the greatest threat.

The giant lost three-quarters of its body after the attack. Its head and right shoulder floated above the crack and struggled to fend off the pulling force generated by the connection to the void.

Meanwhile, Noah and Alexander finally understood what King Elbas meant with his explanation. Divine Demon's attack had released energy directly opposed to the laws on its path, which had led to the complete annihilation of part of the world.

Chapter 1858 - 1858. Will

Divine Demon's attack left everyone speechless. His technique didn't make any sense, and even King Elbas struggled to keep up with the theory behind it.

The rings depicted formations that went beyond his entire knowledge but that also featured parts of old schools. King Elbas had managed to gain an idea of ability's nature only due to those similarities, but the actual power or effects of the technique had left him dumbfounded.

Divine Demon's attack wasn't powerful. It didn't even carry destructive might. However, it featured energy that was the exact opposite of the laws on its path, and the impact made those true meanings directly disappear.

It was a proper annihilation generated by the impact between opposite energies, and everyone in the scene could understand that reaction. Still, only a few could realize how difficult it was to pull that off.

The laws moved, and the energy that flowed through the area made them everchanging. It was impossible to know exactly which true meanings would occupy one precise spot once an eventual attack arrived.

Still, Divine Demon wasn't alone. He had the world helping him. He didn't need formations, knowledge, and understanding when the energy in the sky allowed him to accomplish miracles.

The experts in the area snapped back to reality when the rings started to crumble. A disappointed expression appeared on Divine Demons' face when he noticed that his technique would disappear in a matter of seconds. Even the faint understanding obtained when building the formations began to vanish from his mind as the world stopped helping him.

King Elbas retracted his sensors and turned toward the maimed crackling giant. Alexander imitated him, and the two inspected how the storms had already started to send chaotic laws toward the creature.

Noah didn't immediately focus on the giant. His eyes remained on Divine Demon since his expressions felt off. They didn't match his usual resolute and uncaring face. Noah could see faint confusion and struggle there.

It was clear that Divine Demon was going through something. It was nothing too evident, but Noah didn't fail to miss it. The expert almost appeared unwilling to let go of his ability. He wanted to keep the techniques generated by the inscriptions in his mind.

'Is he taking steps toward the ninth rank?' Noah wondered, but the crackling noise in the area suddenly intensified and forced him to focus on the giant.

The chaotic laws were disregarding the massive opening in the world's fabric and were sending all their energy to the giant to rebuild its body. The creature gradually gained enough power to escape the cracks' pulling force, but Sword Saint did his best to slow down that process.

Alexander and King Elbas quickly arrived to help Sword Saint. The three experts started assaulting the giant with powerful abilities, but their efforts felt pointless since the storms continued to heal it. Sending the creature to the void also appeared impossible since it simply severed the lightning bolts that it couldn't drag out of the pulling force.

"Are you okay?" Noah asked after teleporting next to Divine Demon.

"It feels as if awakening from a dream," Divine Demon replied while inspecting the hand that had created the rings. "Some challenges are coming back."

"They never left you," Noah explained. "You have proven that twice even."

"Will the ninth rank give me access to everything I've created with the help of the world?" Divine Demon wondered without waiting for a real answer.

The cultivation journey was solitary and personal. Noah's answers probably wouldn't work for Divine Demon, and the same applied to every cultivator or existence trying to elevate their laws. Divine Demon had to find the answers on his own.

Noah dreaded the idea of Divine Demon gaining access to everything that the world had allowed him to create in the past. He would obviously be happy for his friend, but it also gave him a faint idea of what he had to accomplish to touch the peak.

His species and law probably made him the existence with the highest potential in the entire world. His friends were monsters who could keep up with him, but he had always known the he would surpass them.

Thinking about Divine Demon achieving perfect control over his ability gave Noah an idea of what he had to surpass to reach the peak. The matter suddenly appeared exceptionally hard, but everything worsened when he thought about the requirements of his centers of power.

Gaining power wasn't an issue for Noah. His existence would normally make him walk on paths that led to the very peak. The problem was with the cost of the journey. He could already eat rank 9 materials without feeling too ecstatic about it, and those requirements would only worsen as he progressed.

'Does this world even hold enough energy to make me surpass Heaven and Earth?' Noah wondered as he inspected the battlefield.

The three experts were slowly losing their ground as the storms continued to heal the giant. The Tribulation basically had unlimited fuel with all the chaotic laws in the environment. Destroying the lightning bolts wouldn't make it stop.

Noah heaved a helpless sigh before stepping forward. His figure disappeared as Divine Demon raised his hand to gather azure energy again.

The dark world suddenly expanded around the healing giant. The dark matter enveloped the three experts, and part of it even fell into the crack nearby.

"Let's destroy it thoroughly once," Noah announced as his ambition spread to his companions and enhanced them. "I'll handle the rest."

Snore, Night, Duanlong, and the parasite came out of the separate space as Alexander, Sword Saint, and King Elbas prepared their best abilities. Divine Demon soon entered the dark world with his amassed energy and did the same.

Noah raised his swords, and everyone inside the dark world released their attacks once his weapons descended to create a massive slash. The crackling giant could easily endure some of them, but it couldn't even try to stop the wave of abilities that fell on its body.

The giant exploded into a rain of sparks that destroyed the dark world during their flight. Many of them even fell into the void, but storms soon used the damages in Noah's technique to send chaotic laws and start rebuilding the Tribulation.

However, the nature of the dark world suddenly changed. Its dark matter became lighter and gained some ethereal properties before attacking the invisible will that drove the Tribulation.

Noah felt forced to close his eyes to endure the process. He had transformed the dark world into an extension of his mind and given the dark matter the same abilities as his mental energy. The technique could now devour the piece of Heaven and Earth's will that kept rebuilding the giant and put an end to that struggle.

The world seemed to scream in pain as the dark matter converged toward the few sparks that had managed to gather. They carried enough power to destroy most of the higher energy flying toward them, but Noah only needed small pieces of it to touch the will.

The will shrunk as the tiny chunks of dark matter that managed to get past the storms took bites at it. An immense pressure even spread inside Noah's mind and forced his mental walls to expand. Still, a figure

also materialized inside his mind as that process continued. The crackling giant reappeared inside his sea of consciousness.

Chapter 1859 - 1859. Mocks

The loud crackling noise released by the giant inside Noah's mind threatened to make everything shake. Yet, the dense sea of mental energy and the firm mental walls remaining still under that foreign influence.

Noah's ethereal figure opened his eyes and neared the powerful creature. The insides of his mind were usually dark and only had the scarlet light of the Demonic Deduction technique as a source of light. Still, intense whiteness had appeared after the giant materialized over the mental sea.

Noah had stopped shielding his mental sea for millennia already. His mind had endured Heaven and Earth's light for many years, and he had even refrained from eating wills with his mental energy. His mental walls had reached an unbelievable level of firmness, and they could remain still while that foreign pressure fell on them.

"Die quietly," Noah said in an uncaring voice.

The giant was only a simple will. Its previous power came from the amount of energy accumulated in its structure, but Heaven and Earth didn't have to put much effort into the mental aspect. After all, the system already had the Tribulations programmed in its code. The rulers only needed to trigger the punishment, and the world would do the rest.

The creature only carried Heaven and Earth's decision to activate the Tribulation. The will was pure and heavy, but it couldn't scare Noah at all. He felt confident in defeating it in a few waves of attacks.

The will seemed to reach the same conclusions since the crackling noise released by its figure softened and stopped trying to break free of that ethereal prison. Noah's dense mental energy could start covering its feet to devour it, and he inspected the process.

The crackling giant turned its featureless face toward Noah and opened its mouth, but no words came out of it. He wasn't even sure the creature could speak. Earth usually did the talk.

"Do the Kesier apes hide something important?" Noah asked as he inspected the movements of the creature's mouth.

No noticeable reaction appeared on the creature, but Noah didn't let the matter go. It was rare for him to have access to something that could give him insights into Heaven and Earth. That Tribulation didn't have much, but it was still a connection to the rulers' system. It expressed their feelings and intentions.

"You have tried to attack the apes even after we got in your way," Noah mocked. "Does it scare you that they gained access to your sky?"

The corners of the crackling figure's mouth turned upward to show a devilish smile. It was clear that it didn't want to reveal anything.

The scarlet light inside Noah's mind intensified and suppressed the white radiance. Even his ethereal eyes started to release a red halo. He had activated the Demonic Deduction technique, but the thoughts that it generated didn't involve the giant's structure. He wanted to find a way past its poker face.

"It's not their power, right?" Noah laughed as understanding suddenly dawned upon his mind. "You must hate that sky. It's the proof of your failure."

The giant continued to smile, but Noah noticed a flicker in the ethereal lightning bolts that ran across its figure. He had touched a delicate topic, and he didn't hesitate to talk more about it.

"It's understandable, you know?" Noah continued to laugh. "A bunch of magical beasts has almost defeated the great Heaven and Earth. You didn't even win right away after transforming your existence. No wonder you have yet to reach the tenth rank. I don't think you are ready."

The lightning bolts flickered whenever Noah made a sharp comment. Their rhythm even changed at some point. He was getting somewhere, but he didn't know how that process could help him but getting Heaven and Earth angry sounded enough anyway.

"How could you even lose to those creatures?" Noah openly mocked Heaven and Earth. "You didn't only fail to predict their arrival. You also had to give up on the same law that made you conquer the world. It's quite lame when you think about it."

The crackling noise almost disappeared during Noah's derisions. Instead, the scarlet halo intensified as violent thoughts filled his mind. A red radiance also seeped out of the black mental sea as the process continued.

"How sure are you that your current path is correct this time?" Noah asked. "Your new form might work against the magical beasts but fail on the cultivation path. You might have turned yourself into the best enemy of those creatures at the expense of your potential."

Noah was trying to get something out of that interaction, but he had to admit that mocking Heaven and Earth felt nice when he could study their reactions. Most existences in the world saw the rulers as unreachable monsters, but he knew their true nature. They were nothing more than living beings who had managed to approach the tenth rank before everyone else.

"So," Noah eventually announced as he stopped laughing, "What was it? What did the Kesier apes do to make you so angry? It can't be only the old sky unless you really hate your previous self."

"Have fun while you can, ant," Rough and unclear words suddenly came out of the crackling figure. "Thrive, play, and feel strong, but remember that the sky will always be above you."

The giant's words sounded like thunder. They didn't have a proper voice behind them, but Noah understood their meaning anyway. It was as if Heaven was speaking in a universal language.

"I'm playing in your hand," Noah replied. "I don't deny it, but it's funny to see how helpless you are about all your rebels. What's the point of being in control of the world if you can't even get rid of its ants?"

"A world needs ants," Thunders came out of the creature's mouth. "You'll understand when you'll become me."

"You won't get my law," Noah laughed. "You didn't even manage to remain silent in front of a few mocks."

"Your words have forced a mere spawn of our power to speak," Heaven replied through its thunders, "But you have never affected me. Have fun playing on our hand. Enjoy yourself while you still can."

The figure raised its hand toward its c.h.e.s.t at that point, and its grasp tightened. Noah saw the will shattering into a wave of ethereal sparks spread through his mind.

The spark fused with his mental energy and sent their power to Noah at the same time. His mental sphere experienced a sudden enlargement that generated a sharp pain, and he had to crouch in the real world to endure it.

'They have always had the chance to commit suicide,' Noah cursed as the pain dispersed, but a faint laugh eventually escaped his real mouth.

Heaven and Earth had decided to remain under the influence of his words on purpose. They were testing his power for reasons that he couldn't confirm. Noah could come up with a few hypotheses, but he didn't care much about them. His focus was on the only explanation that could cover all those guesses.

'They know I'll remain alive until the end,' Noah thought as he opened his real eyes and saw his companions inspecting him while wearing confused expressions. 'They know that I will be one of their last opponents before the breakthrough to the tenth rank.'

Chapter 1860 - 1860. Close

"Is it over?" Noah asked when he saw his companions inspecting him.

"The storms are retreating," Alexander announced while pointing at the waves of chaotic laws converging toward the massive crack and restoring the fabric of space.

"Did you talk with Heaven and Earth?" King Elbas asked as his eyes sharpened.

It wasn't a secret that Noah's mental energy could devour wills, and the latest nature of the dark world had shown those features to everyone anyway. The only reason behind his last laugh was a mental conversation that King Elbas quickly connected to Heaven and Earth.

"They didn't say much," Noah summarized. "It was mostly me insulting them."

"Did you find anything interesting?" King Elbas continued with his questions.

"No," Noah replied before correcting himself. "Maybe."

The five experts glanced at their companions near the Kesier apes. They were still in the middle of the negotiations, but the magical beasts appeared slightly gentler after the defeat of the crackling giant. They paid attention to the trio now.

"Heaven and Earth might be scared," Noah revealed after confirming that they had time to talk.

"Even Divine Demon would be scared in front of the breakthrough to the tenth rank," Alexander commented.

"Fear is part of the path," Sword Saint added. "Gods aren't immune to that feeling. Actually, it's more intense for them, for us."

"Imagine working your entire life to reach the peak of your plane and conquer it," Noah explained. "Now imagine losing against the natural repercussions of your actions and changing your law just to counter the counters."

His four companions could quickly understand where the speech was going. Noah's insights felt actually scary to consider, but they stood on a decent foundation at that time. Even King Elbas couldn't completely contradict them.

"What if they lost their path in their desperate attempt to defeat the magical beasts?" Noah asked.

"What if their next attempt to reach the tenth rank fails?" King Elbas wondered.

"What if defeating the magical beasts only turns them into the world without providing additional power?" Alexander joined that reasoning.

"They have already destroyed the higher plane," Sword Saint added. "Does someone know how long do we have?"

"Don't look at me," King Elbas sighed while glancing at Divine Demon. "This is stuff for the miraculous brute."

"My existence feels too unstable now," Divine Demon admitted while looking at the hand that had created the rings. "Trying to inspect Heaven and Earth now feels too dangerous."

A wave of surprise spread inside the experts around Divine Demon. Only Noah managed to remain calm in front of his friend's seriousness. It was highly unusual for the expert to answer properly and without his forgetfulness.

"We have to hurry up and step into the ninth rank," Noah said before other questions could arrive toward the expert. "We can't keep fighting like this anymore."

"I'm close," Alexander revealed. "Completing the ethereal center of power isn't an issue. I just don't know how to fill it."

"I'll get there smoothly," Sword Saint announced. "Though, I think I need to cut something important first."

Divine Demon had already stated his position, so the three experts turned toward King Elbas and Noah. Still, the two could only show complicated expressions at that gaze.

"We have a few issues," King Elbas tried to explain shortly.

"More than a few," Noah sighed, "But I don't see us failing to reach the ninth rank. The only issue appears to be our time."

The moment when Heaven and Earth defeated the magical beasts and took complete control of the world would mark the game over. It didn't matter if the rulers succeeded in the breakthrough to the tenth rank at that point. Everything and everyone inside the sky would die.

Heaven and Earth would simply remove every unwanted existence if they succeeded in reaching the tenth rank. On the other hand, the white sky would probably crumble if the rulers failed in the

breakthrough again, and nothing would be able to survive the event. Noah and others might use special abilities to avoid the catastrophe, but they would still find themselves in the void after that, which could only lead to death.

"Our priority must be to keep as many enemies of Heaven and Earth as possible alive," Noah concluded after his reasoning. "That will slow down their progress and give us more time."

"What if that's not enough?" Alexander asked.

"We make catastrophes happen to make the rulers waste energy," Noah snorted. "Then, we'll find something else that can slow them down. I don't care if I have to sacrifice everything I have to gain a few seconds. I'll fight as long as I'm alive."

"Of course," King Elbas laughed. "What other choice do we have?"

"Mess after mess just to make the rulers waste energy," Sword Saint smirked. "I like the idea."

"We have to destroy the sky anyway at some point," Noah shrugged his shoulders. "The issue is in being able to live inside the void. We can't do much even after the knowledge accumulated during our previous mission. That place is simply too vast for our methods to work."

"And they even have a guarding dog," King Elbas laughed. "I must say, those techniques are interesting. We should find a way to seize the monster."

"I thought about that too," Noah revealed. "I planned to unleash the monster inside the sky and let it go all-out, but it's hard to make it change target when I don't know how they choose their opponents. I get that it envies those who oppose Heaven and Earth, so there has to be a way to exploit its power."

"It might fear the sky," King Elbas suggested.

"We only need to make it fear us more than," Noah suggested.

"We need the ninth rank for that," King Elbas complained.

"Wasn't that the plan since the beginning?" Noah smirked.

"It's not even a proper plan," King Elbas scoffed. "It's just doing our best against existences stronger than us."

"Isn't that what we did throughout our lives?" Noah sneered, and the three experts couldn't help but show a smile at that question.

"I think they are done," King Elbas suddenly announced when he looked toward the bottom of the region.

Everyone turned at that point and noticed how the Kesier apes had dropped the defenses around them. Space had even appeared above the uncovered piece of the intermediate dimension. It seemed that the creatures had decided to give the experts a chance after fixing their problems.

Noah and the others exchanged a gaze before descending toward the surface. The magical beasts felt timid in front of existences that had managed to destroy a rank 9 punishment even if their actual power

remained in the eighth rank. Their worry was justified, and the group didn't dare to put pressure on them for that exact reason.

"How did it go?" Noah asked in a calm voice when the two groups reunited.

"They agreed to bring us inside the city," Robert explained. "We only have to wait for their superiors. Apparently, something big is happening, but they won't tell us more."

"Let's wait then," Noah announced while performing a polite bow toward the three lower tier creatures.