

## **Demonic 1881**

### **Chapter 1881 1881. Weapons and abilities**

The vastity of Noah's law didn't cause problems only when it came to the requirements for its growth. Its many features only increased the number of issues that could appear as his level increased.

His ambition alone made Noah unable to stop, but each aspect could cause different misconceptions. His destruction and creation could work against each other and slow down improvements on both paths. His greed could make him unable to give up on benefits accompanied by great threats. Even his understanding of space could cause dangerous overconfidence in his ability to bend a situation to his advantage.

The same could happen with his pride, and Noah had just experienced how easy it was for flaws to appear in his judgment. It didn't matter how carefully he had analyzed the issue beforehand. He had still failed to modify his approach to a battle that could only bring negative consequences.

Noah could probably defeat his opponent. The world had yet to witness the power of his final slash, but he knew of incredible it could be. Counters wouldn't matter anymore at that point.

However, defeating the cultivator wouldn't bring any benefit. Noah had already proven that his battle prowess put him in the ninth rank. Revealing one of his new trump cards would only allow Heaven and Earth to prepare a counter for the next battle. Achieving that small victory could hurt the rulers, but the damage didn't match the price he had to pay.

"Alexander!" Noah roared, and his cry transformed into a deep roar that shook the sky and left his opponent confused.

The hybrid turned toward the battle in confusion. He didn't expect Noah to disturb him when their time was so short, but the sudden expansion of the dark world made him feel even more surprised.

The rank 9 cultivator snorted and took out another white flask from his sleeve. The expert threw the item and the incoming dark matter, and the pressure carried by the higher energy shattered it to release the white liquid inside the technique.

A massive hole immediately appeared inside the dark world before that destruction continued to expand throughout its entire structure. The dark matter fell under the effects of the white liquid and revealed its insides. The white sky reappeared in everyone's vision, but surprise also spread in the area.

The rank 9 cultivator didn't find Noah in front of him anymore. Alexander had replaced his previous opponent, and the same surprise filled his expression. The hybrid turned to look at the massive cauldron and discovered that Noah had joined the offensive with the other experts.

"I thought you had to be here to control the battlefield!" Alexander complained.

"I was wrong," Noah limited himself to explain, but that simple answer managed to generate a third wave of surprise.

Noah had correctly guessed core aspects of Heaven and Earth with little more than vague clues and crazy ideas. Moreover, his battle prowess was hard to evaluate since none of his companions could calculate how long he had actually fought. Even June would struggle to recall all of them.

Noah wasn't the type to be wrong, especially when it mattered the most. However, he had admitted his mistake quickly in that situation. The matter clearly didn't come from the cultivator's dangerousness. It was something deeper that came from his very existence.

"I guess you are against me now," Alexander announced while turning toward the cultivator and spreading his arms.

The cultivator snorted before raising his arms toward the sky. The stormy area above him lit up and opened to reveal that a pillar of light was falling from the whiteness.

Alexander prepared himself to dodge the attack, but a frown appeared on his face when he saw the light engulfing the cultivator. The beam carried Heaven and Earth's aura, so the hybrid didn't lower his guard. Yet, he remained confused about the actual purpose behind that event.

The pillar slowly dispersed and revealed the same young rank 9 cultivator as before. Nothing seemed to have changed in his hair, aura, expression, and power. Only his robe had gained a series of grey marks on the edge of his sleeves.

"Don't think that Heaven and Earth have prepared counters only for Noah Balvan," The cultivator shouted while placing both hands under his sleeves and taking out two different weapons.

One of the weapons was a silver spiked mace that had lightning bolts running through its metallic surface. Its spherical head also seemed able to store those sparks and turn its spikes into fuming and scorching sharp edges.

The other was a long metal spear that radiated Heaven and Earth's aura as soon as it came into contact with the world. Its white material almost fused with the fabric of space, and its edges became blurry whenever it waved in the air.

"What would they even counter?" Alexander asked as a faint smile appeared on his face.

"Your existence is another troublesome flaw," The cultivator explained while glancing at Noah in the distance. "You used to belong to the fairness, but...."

"Do you have counters or not?" Alexander repeated.

"Of course!" The cultivator announced while pointing both weapons toward the hybrid. "Heaven and Earth have made a list of your most troublesome abilities. I'll deal with the others with my own law."

"It technically isn't yours, is it?" Alexander asked while scratching his chin. "It's a replica created by Heaven and Earth after a fundamental transformation. I'm sorry to say that you actually died when you joined the rulers."

The cultivator snorted again, and energy converged in his two weapons before attacks shot out of them. Lightning bolts came out of the spiked mace, and white bullets rained out of the spear.

Alexander raised his hands, and two different abilities activated on his palms. A dark vortex that resembled a weak black hole and a dense green jelly appeared before him and flew forward to endure the incoming attacks.

The jelly clashed with the lightning bolts and absorbed them. It didn't matter if Alexander's spell was one stage weaker than the attack. His ability blocked that enemy attack easily and continued to move forward.

Something similar happened with the black vortex. The rotating darkness generated a suction force that dragged all the white bullets in its insides.

Both attacks came from rank 9 inscribed weapons in the lower tier, while Alexander's abilities were at the peak of the eighth rank. Yet, the rank 9 cultivator never had a chance against the hybrid. The latter had simply deployed techniques that countered those attempted counters.

The cultivator felt forced to switch his weapons. A sharp rapier appeared on the hand that would have to face the green jelly, and a seemingly liquid blue shield replaced the spear.

Both weapons did really well against the incoming abilities. The rapier pierced the jelly and made it explode into a wave of lightning bolts, the same that it had absorbed before. Meanwhile, the shield made the black vortex enter its fabric and fuse with it. The weapon seemed to grow darker, but it endured the attack perfectly.

Still, Alexander had far more to offer. His hands rose toward the sky and gave birth to two more abilities. It seemed that he wanted to turn the battle into a war of counters.

#### **Chapter 1882 1882. Reward**

Noah had resumed launching an endless wave of attacks while Alexander and the rank 9 cultivator started a long exchange that saw countless different weapons and abilities facing each other.

The deep destructive understanding built inside Noah during the year spent in the relentless offensive began to grow again. Each attack taught him more about the cauldrons' fabric and made his techniques more effective. Faint black lines even started to appear on the item's surface as his bloodlust led his destruction toward new levels.

The injuries suffered during the battle against the rank 9 cultivator healed quickly. Noah had expanded the dark world behind him, and the storms that didn't manage to escape his technique transformed into energy that his body used to heal.

The surge of energy that filled his body was also important to balance the drawbacks caused by his ambition and cursed sword. Noah couldn't go all-out forever, but his resilience and smart alternation between a weaker offensive and some of his strongest attacks allowed him to assault the cauldron non-stop.

His role felt relatively easy. Noah didn't have a real opponent, so he didn't have to keep the entirety of his concentration on his attacks. He did his best to provide his Demonic Deduction technique enough attention, but part of his focus still shifted toward other aspects of the battlefield.

King Elbas was still inside Shafu, which was inside his separate space. The expert was struggling to keep going, but he had so many items and resources inside his storage items that the ghosts' peculiar aura never managed to bring him to his limits.

Instead, Alexander was doing far better. The hybrid had been at the peak of the eighth rank for a while by then, but his base power was more than enough to face a rank 9 cultivator that had countless rank 9 weapons at his disposal.

Alexander had always been the closest to the ninth rank in Noah's group, but he needed more than expected to complete the requirements for the superior realm.

The problem came from his peculiar existence. After all, he was the strongest natural hybrid that the world had ever produced. His species had limitless potential due to its power. Alexander could learn an endless number of innate abilities and deploy them without taking into consideration normal limitations. The matching element and requirements that usually afflicted other hybrids and magical beasts didn't apply to him.

It was clear that such a powerful existence couldn't belong to Heaven and Earth's fairness without huge drawbacks. In theory, every member of Alexander's peculiar kind was fated to regress to the state of hungry beasts and fall prey to their instincts. That had also been his destiny, but the meeting with Noah had changed his life.

Noah had removed Alexander's drawback. He had cleared his mind from all the ghostly residual wills of the magical beasts and had brought clarity in an expert who had already absorbed countless innate abilities.

That process resulted in a monster who had a nigh-endless number of different attacks at his disposal. Alexander didn't even need Noah's help anymore at his current level since he had prioritized developing a technique that could clear his mind after achieving clarity. The hybrid basically belonged to a perfect species now, and he was making Heaven and Earth regret to have let him live for so long.

That change in his existence had inevitably increased his requirements and delayed his breakthrough, but the hybrid didn't care. Alexander would have paid any price to achieve his current clarity, but Noah had done everything freely.

Alexander's life had gone from being a living hell that required a periodic venting period to a stable, unreasonably powerful state. Divine Demon shared similar majestic abilities, but Alexander was better in terms of species and control over his immense might.

The rank 9 cultivator was doing his best. He used the right counters at the perfect time, but he never managed to seize the upper hand in the battle. Alexander deployed new abilities that worked against Heaven and Earth's weapons. The fight would have been already over if it weren't for the difference in their cultivation level.

Still, it was clear that the cultivator couldn't let the situation go on like that. He was only wasting Heaven and Earth's resources without managing to affect the battlefield. Noah and the others would destroy the cauldron at that pace, and the expert wouldn't weaken that side at all. The experts would even come out stronger than ever after that victory.

A series of spikes that released a toxic substance in the air shot toward the rank 9 cultivator, but a white light suddenly enveloped him and burnt the incoming attacks. The radiance didn't come from the sky at that time. It flowed out from his sleeves and covered his figure.

"I, Dwight, have served Heaven and Earth for hundreds of thousands of years," The cultivator's voice seeped through the whiteness. "I now request my reward from the mighty rulers."

The world seemed to stop after that statement. The storms didn't blow anymore, and even the other experts remained stuck in that peculiar state.

The event resembled a stronger version of Shandal's law, but it carried a far different vibe. It wasn't an attack or an ability. It was as if the world recognized it as a natural occurrence and made everyone stop moving to admire it.

The white light around Dwight was the only thing that moved on the scene. That glow flickered, rotated, and dimmed depending on the changes happening in its insides. Noah couldn't help but link those images to the chrysalis he experienced during some breakthroughs, but he could clearly feel Heaven and Earth's aura coming out of it.

The light didn't take much to complete its process. Dwight's robe soon reabsorbed it and revealed his new form. The cultivator didn't show any different features, and even his aura felt the same as before.

The world began to move again, and Alexander couldn't help but frown. He quickly activated one of his innate abilities to study Dwight, but his inspections didn't reveal anything. He was in front of the same expert that he had fought before.

"Is everything ok?" Alexander asked while scratching his head in confusion. "Do Heaven and Earth need some time to try again?"

"You always like to mock existences that you can't understand," Dwight sighed while revealing that his hands were now empty.

Alexander had never considered his weapons a threat, so he didn't notice that they had disappeared after the white chrysalis. Still, that gesture didn't solve his doubts about Dwight's power.

"Do we resume then?" Alexander asked as his confusion slowly transformed into helplessness.

"It's a bit disappointing that Heaven and Earth thought that my law wasn't enough to defeat you," Dwight revealed while ignoring his opponent's words.

His hands went inside his sleeves and took out a large cubical structure. The item was nothing more than a mass of smaller cubes attached through sparks. The weapon seemed able to open and reassemble itself at will, but it remained in its united form while it studied Alexander.

"Beware," Dwight announced in a proud tone. "Heaven and Earth have granted you the honor to be the first of your group to see your personal counter."

Those words alerted the experts in the distance, but movements suddenly happened inside the cauldron. Noah and the others couldn't help but take a step back when they saw dark figures coming out of its four edges. The item had completed its new batch of ghosts.

**Chapter 1883 1883. Permission**

Dangers appeared on both sides of the battlefield, and King Elbas wasn't doing too well either. The expert was reaching his limits, new ghosts had come out of the cauldron, and Heaven and Earth had built a final counter for Alexander. Everything had turned to the worse for Noah's group.

The ghosts crawled out of the cauldron before floating in front of the item. Their appearance forced the group busy damaging the middle tier structure to interrupt their offensive and take a step back. None of them wanted to risk touching the dark aura of those creatures.

That was the event that Noah had feared since the beginning of the battle. In theory, the appearance of the new batch of ghosts would mark the game over. The situation could only worsen from that point onward.

However, Robert stepped forward after wearing a determined expression. His aura surged as he shot toward the hundreds of ghosts and dived right through their ranks.

Noah and the others couldn't stop their companion. His actions had been too sudden, but they inspired Steven to do the same. The expert quickly chased after Robert and soon found himself next to him, with ghosts everywhere in his surroundings.

The dark aura radiated by the ghosts immediately affected the two experts. Noah and those still in the distance could see how Robert and Steven fell in a daze and lost control of their abilities. Still, it turned out that they had prepared themselves for that event.

Robert and Steven turned toward their companions and pointed their hands at them. They wanted to attack their friends, but their energy was already busy fueling other abilities.

A dense suction force seeped out of Steven's figure and forced the ghosts to converge toward his position. Even the dark aura that had started to come out of their bodies began to flow toward the two experts and made them fall deeper into the illusions.

Robert's ability activated in the middle of that process. A dark-purple substance came out of his pores to cover his skin before expanding into a giant sphere that enveloped the entire platoon of ghosts and even touched the cauldron.

Steven's skin burnt under the effects of Robert's toxic energy, but the illusions didn't make him sense that damage. His body continued to suffer injuries, but the ghosts had it far worse.

Robert had perfected a version of his law after the previous battle. He had the ideal weapon against the ghosts now, and those creatures could only turn into lumps of smoke as the toxic substance consumed them.

That smoke would normally remain a threatening material to leave on the battlefield, but the toxic substance consumed it too. It removed every trace of the ghosts in the few seconds that remained active before dispersing in the sky.

Robert found himself able to use his energy again after the attack dispersed. The illusions made him turn toward the companion at his side and point his hands at him to prepare a new ability.

Steven had fainted. The energy around his figure allowed him to hover in the sky, but his condition was awful. The toxic energy had made his skin disappear, and his muscles were now in the open. No defenses covered his body either, so another attack could directly take his life.

Yet, a dark figure suddenly arrived in front of Robert and kicked him toward the cauldron. The expert couldn't stop that attack nor his momentum. He slammed hard on the middle tier item and spat a mouthful of blood as his internal organs suffered severe injuries.

Noah reappeared in front of Robert. The expert's empty eyes converged on him as his energy surged again to create another attack. He was still under the effects of the illusions, but his movements were too slow to stop what was about to arrive.

Noah slammed his palm on Robert's forehead, and a wave of dark matter flowed inside the expert before transforming into barriers that isolated the centers of power from the rest of the organs. Robert suddenly found himself unable to summon his energy, so the next slap made him faint.

Robert's body disappeared when Noah stored him inside his separate space. He teleported next to Steven and did the same before letting the dark matter suppress their injuries. The battle was over for the two of them, but they had done more than enough already.

"Alright, fuck it," Noah announced once he teleported back among his companions.

Sword Saint, Wilfred, and Divine Demon shot confused expressions toward him. They could see that he wasn't in the best mood, but they remained silent for the time being. They had been with Noah long enough to know that such sudden curses usually preceded crazy orders.

"I know that it's stupid to reveal out trump cards so soon," Noah confessed, "But it's also stupid planning to defeat the rulers when we have yet to reach the ninth rank. Just go all-out now and come up with something new in the next years."

"Are we betting everything on the old rulers?" Wilfred asked as a bit of worry filled his mind.

Noah had been near Robert while the expert was under the effect of the illusions. The group didn't know enough about the ghosts to confirm that they didn't affect Noah. It was even unclear whether they could make him decide to give orders that would hurt his companions.

"You do have trump cards, right? Noah questioned in a tone that expressed how obvious the matter was in his mind.

"A few," Sword Saint replied.

"More than a few," Divine Demon stated while shooting a challenging glance toward Sword Saint.

"Are you sure that this is the right path?" Wilfred expressed his worries. "We would be in Heaven and Earth's power afterward."

"Then we'll come up with something new," Noah snorted. "Alexander is already fighting his unique counter. The rulers have already started to take us seriously. No point holding back when we have the chance to mess with their plans."

"Don't tell me that you'll throw the old rulers into the stormy regions afterward," King Elbas' voice suddenly came out of Noah's chest and attracted everyone's attention.

"Can you hear us?" Noah asked in a worried tone. "Is there a leak in Shafu's separate space?"

"I managed to make a few sensors sneak past your dragon," King Elbas explained. "I'm getting bored inside here."

"How did you even pierce Shafu's defenses?" Noah questioned him again to make sure that he wasn't under the effect of the illusions.

"I'm the best," King Elbas snorted, and the topic ended there.

"I plan to throw the entire city into the open," Noah revealed as a cold smirk appeared on his face.

"That's the least the old rulers can do to repay us."

"That should give you enough time to develop something else," King Elbas commented. "Who knows? Some of us might even reach the ninth rank in that period."

"It's set then," Noah declared. "Go all-out. Let's break a middle tier item."

Wilfred could only sigh at that scene. The experts who had decided to follow that plan had been near the ghosts' dark energy. Those creatures could have affected both of them, but he was the only one with doubts about that plan. The two cultivators next to him had started smiling since they had received permission to go all-out.

"It's always a gamble with you," Wilfred sighed while shaking his head.

"Find a calm leader in your next life," Noah laughed before his aura surged and started releasing dark matter and darkness in front of him.

"Mind giving your Master a hand?" Divine Demon reminded after clearing his throat.

"Why?" Noah continued to laugh. "Can't you damage the cauldron without us?"

"Is that a challenge?" Divine Demon uttered as his eyes lit up.

"Of course," Noah shouted. "Have fun!"

The events that had unfolded near the cauldron had made the four experts unable to keep their companion in check. The situation for Alexander had turned for the worse during those short minutes. When Noah and the others glanced at him to reaffirm their resolve, they found him bent forward, with blood flowing out of his eyes, mouth, ears, and nostrils.

## **Chapter 1884 1884. Cube**

Alexander could understand what was happening, but he was struggling to accept it. Injuries filled his insides, and blood rained out of his face. He couldn't see, hear, smell, or taste, but his consciousness took the place of his occluded senses and allowed him to keep track of the menacing giant cube focusing inspecting his every move.



"It feels hopeless, doesn't it?" Dwight heaved a helpless sigh. "This is the true power of the rulers. This is what they can do after taking away your place in the world. Honestly, I don't understand how any of you still hopes to feat them."

Dwight didn't need to do much in that situation. He didn't attack nor move. His focus was on providing energy to the cube, but his mental waves didn't affect its functioning. The item moved on its own, and it was doing an exceptional job even without the cultivator's help.

"I must admit that their path can be hard to accept," Dwight continued as his eyes moved toward the sky and lost themselves in the endless whiteness. "Look at me. I've spent hundreds of thousands of years chasing the peak inside their system, but they bind me to the counter of a rank 8 hybrid. Normal experts would never accept this outcome, but that's when faith comes into play."

"The faith in a system that pretends to strive for fairness," Alexander responded, and the blood flowing out of his mouth made his words hard to understand.

"That's the whole point of owning the system, isn't it?" Dwight chuckled. "Don't be a hypocrite. All of us would have bent the rules in our favor if we had the chance. The only difference between us and Heaven and Earth is that we don't sit above the whiteness."

"And you dare to call yourself a cultivator," Alexander snorted as a pale-azure light seeped out of his skin.

His body began to absorb energy at his speed and fix some of his internal injuries, but the cube released crackling noises as soon as the ability activated.

The sparks that ran among the small cubes that made the entire item intensified and made those pieces create some distance among themselves. They started to move at that point, and the weapon condensed again after it gained a different internal arrangement.

The cube began to fill the sky with faint white energy after its structure returned to its previous size and the sparks calmed down. The white fuel fused with the air and became part of the laws that Alexander's body shattered to gain nutrients and keep his healing ability active. Still, those true meanings soon became toxic for his flesh.

Alexander's body directly rejected the energy flowing inside his figure. Pieces of his flesh exploded as the toxic power made the innate ability malfunction and caused backlashes. His skin opened on its own, and patches of muscles fell from him before he managed to stop his technique and suppress its effects.

"You just don't want to learn," Dwight sighed. "This is already the eleventh countered ability. How many more do you want to test before you understand what's going on?"

"As many as I need to!" Alexander shouted as dark-silver energy covered his figure and made his skin gain metallic properties.

The new innate ability couldn't heal his injuries, but it forced his skin to condense and reflect the white shades that fell on it. The patches of missing flesh shrunk as they experienced the same transformation. The exposed muscles changed color and obtained a tough membrane that covered their surface. The wounds remained, but they stopped bleeding and remaining weak spots on his defenses.

The cube didn't let that matter go. The pieces of its structure moved as it studied the ability, and a red lightning bolt shot out of its center once it condensed again.

Alexander was in no condition to dodge the incoming attack. The lightning bolt fell on his head and spread its energy throughout his body. The scarlet sparks destabilized the pieces of skin and flesh that had gained metallic properties and made them crack, opening a new series of injuries.

"Twelve," Dwight commented in an annoyed tone. "How long do you want to keep going before understanding that you have no chances to win?"

Dwight was the embodiment of confidence in that situation, but a wave of intense energy suddenly spread from near the cauldron and filled the entirety of the stormless area.

The cultivator couldn't help but glance at Noah and the others at that point. He had also lost track of the battlefield after the cube arrived, so the sudden discharge of power startled him and moved his focus back to the main reason behind his presence there.

Heaven and Earth had sent Dwight to protect the cauldron, but the item was in the middle tier of the ninth rank. Its materials weren't something that rank 8 experts could affect quickly, even when it came to the strongest existences in the eighth rank in the entire world.

Dwight was even aware of Heaven and Earth's calculations. He knew that the rulers had sent him to the area before the cauldron approached a critical condition. The rulers wanted to give him a long window and ensure his victory, but doubts appeared in his mind after the discharge of energy.

Noah, Divine Demon, Sword Saint, and Wilfred had noticed Alexander's injured state, but they had decided to deploy their strategy anyway. Rendering the cauldron's useless would make all their efforts worth it. Instead, moving to help Alexander would only give the item enough time to generate more ghosts.

The best choice appeared obvious when inspecting the, but the main issue remained. The four experts didn't know if they could destroy the cauldron quickly, but there didn't seem to be another solution. It was time to reveal their trump cards and show to Dwight their power of paths free of Heaven and Earth's influence.

Dwight inspected the energy that was flowing into the environment. Fear spread in his insides as he experienced the raging waves of power that the four experts could generate. Nothing made sense anymore in his mind at that point. His body shook as he sensed the pure destructive force that mere rank 8 existences could wield.

Dwight instinctively moved toward the group in the distance, but a sorry figure appeared on his path and blocked his advance. Alexander was on the verge of fainting, but determination seeped out of his bleeding eyes. He was ready to give his life to make that mission succeed.

Still, the cube never left him off the hook. The item chased after Alexander and prepared an ability that could put an end to the hybrid's life, but the latter also unleashed a massive surge of energy that made his level unclear.

A crazy laugh followed his gesture. Alexander couldn't help but feel elated. His recent exchanges with the cube had reminded him of something that his previous condition had forced him to forget a long

time ago. He felt whole for the first time in millennia, and the cube tried to prepare countermeasures when it became aware of the dangerousness of his state.

The item studied Alexander's intense aura, but it didn't discover anything specific. The cube became ready to reassemble and cast something that could counter the incoming ability. Still, an overwhelming hunger suddenly came out of the expert's mind and made cracks open in the sky around his figure.

### **Chapter 1885 1885. Gratitude**

Noah had found Alexander in a pitiful state. The hybrid made periodic trips to the stormy regions to relieve the unstable hunger and instincts that the countless ghosts inside his mind caused.

Alexander's condition had been so bad that he had initially desired for Noah to become his successor as leader of the Legion. The hybrid had lost all hopes for himself, but he didn't fall prey to his desperation. He had continued to put the well-being of his organization above him and do everything in his power to ensure its future.

Nevertheless, that behavior wasn't completely selfless. Alexander loved the Legion with every inch of his body, but many reckless and selfless decisions didn't come only from that feeling. His helpless situation and lack of hope for his condition had forced him to bring his affection toward his organization past healthy limits in a desperate attempt to justify the reason behind his existence before he completely lost his mind.

Noah's arrival had changed everything for him. Alexander had gained the chance to obtain a clear mind and regain hope for his future. Still, Noah couldn't fix the issue that his companion had developed after spending years controlled by his desperation and obsessive love.

Alexander had lost the ability to see a future for himself. He had struggled to express his desires even after his mind became empty, and that issue had continued even after the group reached the stormy regions.

That mindset had affected his growth. Alexander had always been close to the ninth rank. Yet, the thoughts in his mind had kept him away from the breakthrough. The cultivation journey simply wouldn't accept someone who had no desire to advance. It was as if his centers of power had given up on his growth since his mind didn't believe that process to be possible anymore.

However, Alexander was far from doomed. His desire returned after each adventure completed with his friends. Noah's influence also continued to affect him and brought his desire to reach the peak of the cultivation journey back among his priorities.

That change in his mindset brought back something that his mind had forgotten after the many years spent in confusion. Alexander suddenly recalled his original element, which inevitably reminded him of the aspects of his character that he had lost alongside his hope.

The return of his core brought back desires and dreams that Alexander had forgotten to have. The event caused his existence to gain a superior harmony and generate a massive surge of power that affected the sky and made it shatter. Still, it also led to other unexpected results.

A deep understanding of his nature filled him once everything returned. Alexander could review the entirety of his path in the span of a single second and learn where it led. The journey ahead of him had

never appeared clearer, and the ecstasy of the realization filled his body with energy that he didn't know to have.

The many injuries that afflicted the insides and outsides of his body didn't matter anymore. Alexander barely felt them as his existence filled his laughs and seeped out of his injured body. The power released by his figure in that situation was so scary and unreasonable that Dwight instinctively took a step back to let the cube handle that dangerous opponent.

"All those years spent trying to suppress my hunger!" Alexander shouted among his laughs. "All that time wasted escaping my true vocation! All that suffering caused by a petty desire to balance paths meant to strive beyond common understanding!"

Different roars mixed with Alexander's voice. His cries made him sound like multiple magical beasts at the same time, but they slowly fused into a deep melodic tone that made the sky shake and shatter with each word that escaped his mouth.

Dwight felt scared, but his feeling didn't come from the innate fear that his instincts generated in front of his powerful opponent. Alexander had already proven himself to be stronger than him, so he knew that his emotions were describing something different now.

His fear came from the inactivity of the cube. The mighty counter created by Heaven and Earth to put an end to that existence didn't move an inch during that event.

"Thank you, Heaven and Earth!" Alexander roared as his eyes gazed at the immensity of the sky. "Thank you for underestimating the ants that try to seize your throne!"

"What are you even saying?!" Dwight snapped in front of that clear mock toward his leaders.

"I'm telling the truth!" Alexander laughed as he brought his eyes back on his opponent. "Your rulers have so little foresight that they are incapable of predicting our growth. They can only look at who we are, but they can't see what we can achieve. That's why they strive to obtain complete control, even when it comes to their loyal underlings."

"Have you finally gone crazy?" Dwight showed an ugly smile during his response. "Did you finally reach the state that the rulers had planned for you?"

"Didn't they tell you?" Alexander laughed maniacally as he raised his hand and pointed his palm toward Dwight. "Only maniacs can strive to reach the peak. Do you think that stable existences would ever endure millennia of bloodshed, pain, and death to elevate themselves?"

A scarlet color gathered on Alexander's palm. Dense energy flowed toward that spot and intensified its shades. It didn't take much before the cracked sky around him became completely red.

The cube promptly put itself between Dwight and Alexander. The many pieces that made its structure separated before reassembling according to what it learnt of the incoming ability.

A heatwave came out of Alexander's palm, but the cube replied by freezing the area in front of it. The scorching energy crashed on the pale-azure ice and tried to melt it, but it failed to dig through it. The attack even appeared weaker than Alexander's previous abilities.

"You did go crazy," Dwight smirked as confidence returned to his expression. "You got me scared for a second. I thought you wanted to achieve true rank 9 power now."

"That's what you fail to understand," Alexander explained with his deep roars. "The potential to achieve that power is inside every living being. I don't need to look for it outside of my existence. My path had always been inside me."

The heatwave intensified as its scarlet aura gained different features. Flames with various shapes appeared in its insides, and flares even started to shoot forward.

The ice began to lose its ground against the attack, but the cube promptly rearranged itself again and added different layers of ice meant to counter all the new features carried by Alexander's technique. The frozen layer slightly reformed at that point, but Dwight remained stunned when he saw that the item appeared unable to overwhelm that ability.

"It seems that you are trying to fuse different innate abilities with similar features to create stronger versions of your attack," Dwight commented as his confidence intensified. "That won't work. The cube can counter each feature simultaneously. You need something stronger before even hoping to reach the rulers."

"But I have that," Alexander laughed as the many features inside his heatwave disappeared to fuse with the original scarlet aura.

His attack transformed when all the different innate abilities of the fire element in his possession fused with his heatwave and turned into a scorching blinding wave of power that destroyed the ice in an instant and engulfed the area ahead.

### **Chapter 1886 1886. Superiority**

Dwight had lived under Heaven and Earth's rule for a long time. He had seen experts rise until they almost reached the very peak of the cultivation journey, but he had also witnessed his leaders suppressing them without exception.

Many of those existences had earned the title of monster in their generation, but even their incredible power couldn't do anything once Heaven and Earth made up their mind to suppress them. It was a mere matter of available energy and expertise. A single expert couldn't compete with the vastness of the rulers.

Only unique existences could make the rulers struggle to achieve their seemingly inevitable victory. The monster outside the sky, the dragons, and the old Heaven and Earth were beings that came from greater powers, so getting rid of them would require far more than a single battle against perfect counters.

The dragons were the last desperate attempt of a dying world to oppose the invaders. They were basically immortal since they existed as counters of Heaven and Earth, but the rulers were slowly gaining the upper hand in that endless battle.

The old rulers obviously were tough opponents since they carried the original power that had put Heaven and Earth on their throne. That battle was tricky and involved issues on multiple levels due to the shared knowledge between the two sides and the various problems that their influence could cause.

The empty monster outside the sky was the son of Heaven and Earth's new approach to the cultivation journey. The rulers had created it, so it naturally expressed enough power to threaten them. Yet, it also naturally feared the whiteness due to the memories of the severing.

Only those three factions had enough power and foundation to make Heaven and Earth commit mistakes and make them face setbacks. That had been an immutable truth for eras. All the other existences that still managed to escape their counters were in hiding or had been lucky enough to find special methods to avoid attracting the rulers' attention. Still, they weren't worthy of being real threats to the sky.

Yet, Dwight was witnessing the very exception to his belief. He saw a counter explicitly made for an existence fail to suppress its opponent.

Alexander's attack didn't destroy the cube, but it destroyed the counter created for his ability. The item endured the scorching heatwave due to the high quality of its materials. Its surface turned red and created a safe conical area behind it where Dwight could float. Still, it also failed to remain in its position. The scarlet energy was slowly pushing it back and damaging the sparks that connected its many pieces.

The red light shone everywhere around Dwight. The heatwave was large enough to fill his surroundings and leave only the conical area created by the cube as a safe spot. He could only retreat in that situation, but he didn't dare to move. The scene was tearing his belief apart, and he wanted to see it until the end.

The cube was a rank 9 weapon at the peak of the lower tier. Its many components could transform the energy in the world at will and create a perfect counter for each ability. Its attacks had limits due to its immense potential, but it remained perfect for fighting someone like Alexander.

The hybrid had accumulated countless innate abilities throughout his life. He could deploy them without experiencing losses of power. It didn't matter if their elements or nature went against Alexander. He didn't have limits to the number of techniques that he could use at the same time either.

It was evident that Alexander's power was incredible and his potential theoretically unlimited, but that didn't apply to his abilities. They would retain a set power even if he used hundreds of them at the same time. At least, that was what Heaven and Earth had believed when they created the cube.

The heatwave eventually dispersed, and Alexander blew on his scorching palm while wearing a beaming smile. The cube immediately deployed cold abilities to cool down its burning surfaces, revealing that it had barely suffered damage after the clash.

"You didn't beat it," Dwight whispered as a tinge of hope reappeared in his mind.

"Of course I didn't," Alexander snorted. "Heaven and Earth are dumb, but not bad at what they do. Also, I'm still getting the hang of this."

Dwight wanted to question Alexander, but another wave of intense power surged from the expert and spread through the sky. The cultivator could clearly see that the energy wasn't "Breath" or other personal fuels created during the cultivation journey. It felt like a dense force capable of bringing harmony with its raging might.

That conflicting nature didn't seem to affect Alexander. Instead, his power continued to increase as he bathed in that energy. His existence had stagnated for a long time, but it was finally taking meaningful steps forward toward the destination that every expert wanted to reach.

"Let me try with lightning bolts," Alexander announced. "I want to see if I can get something better than Heaven and Earth."

Alexander raised his other hand and pointed two fingers at the cube. Sparks gathered on his fingertips, but no lightning bolt shot out of it. Instead, the small crackling mass continued to expand as different shades manifested inside its glow and fused to create a white color.

Dwight's eyes widened when he watched that scene. The aura radiated by the sparks was dense and overbearing, but his surprise came from its shades. Its whiteness was almost identical to Heaven and Earth, even if the attack clearly didn't have any similarity with the rulers' power.

The sparks continued to condense until they gained half-transparent properties. They seemed to go beyond their natural state and strive for a type of fabric that didn't exist in the world. They even expressed the deep desire to go forward and touch realms that no one else had ever witnessed.

"I think I get it now," Alexander announced through his deep growls. "I've spent so long relying and worrying about my many abilities that I've never focused on what could link them together. I have always been the connection, and you have made me discover my purpose today."

Alexander's power continued to increase as the sparks continued to thicken. His current cultivation level became unable to contain him and slowly expanded into the last known realm of the cultivation journey.

"Which is?" Dwight asked as genuine curiosity filled his mind.

The cultivator had long since fallen in a daze. His belief, existence, and purpose in life had vanished in front of that incredible scene. He felt utterly captivated and interested in that historical moment.

"I'm the best hybrid to ever step on the Immortal Lands," Alexander explained. "It's only normal for me to express superiority in every aspect of the cultivation journey."

The sparks released their attack at that point. They seemed to vanish for an instant before materializing in the form of a long sharp needle.

A weak smile appeared on Dwight as his eyes went on the half-transparent needle. The attack had pierced the cube and his chest at the same time. It had been so fast that he couldn't even think about dodging it.

The needle released sparks that destroyed its surrounding laws. The sky cracked, the cube started falling apart, and a hole began to expand on Dwight's chest. He became certain that death was about to arrive for him, so he didn't hesitate to voice the last doubt that still lingered in his mind.

"What about Noah Balvan?" Dwight asked. "He is artificial, but he remains a hybrid. Who is better between you two?"

"You are fools to consider Defying Demon only as a hybrid," Alexander stated, and the area around the needle vanished.

The laws touched by his sparks had crumbled to open fissures that led to the void in front of Alexander's superiority. His law made them unable to accept their inferiority, and that effect seemed to spread to Heaven and Earth since they didn't make any attempt to resurrect Dwight.

### **Chapter 1887 1887. Trump cards**

Turning time back a bit before Alexander's grand demonstration of power.

Noah, Sword Saint, Wilfred, and Divine Demon had just accepted that they had to reveal the trump cards developed in those years to ensure the destruction of the cauldron.

Robert and Steven had sacrificed themselves to stop the new batch of ghosts, so the cauldron was at its emptiest now. It would take a while to create those dangerous beings, and that gave the four experts the chance to prepare their next attacks carefully.

Noah and the others had enough time to launch multiple techniques before the arrival of the next batch of ghosts, but that wasn't their plan. They knew that numbers wouldn't help in that situation. Their attacks could have enough power to damage a rank 9 inscribed item in the middle tier or not. There was nothing in-between at that point.

The four experts were aware of Alexander's awful condition, but they had to prioritize their target. Their unfolded minds and spread concentration would only go in the way of the gathering of energy for their last attacks. Noah didn't give any order, but they all decided to retrieve their mental waves and focus everything on a single spot.

Wilfred's attacks had always been relatively simple. He wasn't a complicated existence. His power came from his physical strength. His abilities focused on turning that limited type of offensive into ranged techniques that he could apply against every opponent.

However, the cauldron didn't move and didn't have defensive methods. It was nothing more than a giant target floating in the sky. Wilfred could fly forward, plant his feet on its flawless surface, and close his eyes to accumulate his energy.

Divine Demon had used sword attacks during the previous offensive, but Noah's challenge forced him to change his approach. His existence activated and converged all its efforts to a nigh-impossible but simple task. It had to provide the expert with something that could damage an item standing two tiers above his current level.

The gaps among tiers technically were easier to fill than those involving stages due to the difference between the sheer amount of energy required in the task. Yet, that didn't improve Divine Demon's situation too much.

That theory applied only when the difference in power was of one tier or stage. It was nonsensical to think that a single expert could cover a larger difference of strength. The classification of the cultivation levels would lose its meaning otherwise.

Still, that was exactly what Noah had challenged Divine Demon to do. The words used by Noah also forced the expert to damage the cauldron on his own, and he could only consider their literal meaning.



The world had to come up with an attack capable of making Divine Demon win the challenge. The expert's influence spread through the world even if his consciousness remained on the cauldron. Pieces of the sky and parts of the storms shattered to transform into azure energy, but that power didn't immediately change.

The azure energy usually worked together with the Divine Deduction technique's conclusions to create new abilities meant to win the challenges. However, the task was too tough at that time. The world had to improve the expert's iconic ability before the latter could develop a method that could grant him victory.

The energy started flowing inside Divine Demon's mind and fill its insides with power that rushed toward the lines dug into the mental walls. The mental sphere inevitably expanded due to the internal pressure, and the light radiated by the Divine Deduction technique intensified.

The expert's mental sea started boiling as the azure light shone on its surface. Waves surged as the mental energy evaporated to quicken its flow inside the Divine Deduction technique.

Divine Demon saw more than half of his mental energy disappearing in the span of a second. The sudden consumption of his thoughts made him feel dizzy, but a radiant smile appeared on his face once he found a solution to his issue.

A spiderweb of cracks spread from his figure at that point, and strange formations came out of his palm when he stretched it toward the cauldron. The Divine Deduction technique didn't come up with a new skill. It actually made him recall the ability used against the crackling giant and had allowed him to improve it.

The cylindrical structure made of multiple rings formed in front of Divine Demon and began to absorb energy. The sky and the storms paid most of the price for that gathering of energy. The actual creation of laws meant to destroy the item didn't require a lot of power. The parts of the formations that depleted the largest share of fuel were those busy studying the cauldron.

Sword Saint glanced at Noah without raising his long eyebrows, but the latter sensed his gaze and understood the meaning behind that gesture. The expert felt curious about his new technique since it involved his blades, but he already had a vague idea of what it would involve. After all, Noah had asked his help to find something that could surpass his current realm.

The two experts had even performed the final slash together during the trap placed after returning from the other side of the Immortal Lands. It wasn't hard for Sword Saint to understand what Noah had developed in those years, but he remained curious about it anyway. Still, the expert couldn't waste time inspecting him since he also had to do his part in that situation.

Sword Saint's sharp aura surged and created an ethereal world that stretched high in the sky. The raw expression of his energy had the same appearance of a catastrophe ready to fall into the world, but the expert didn't let it disperse in that brutish form.

The aura expanded and cut the laws of the world before returning inside Sword Saint's figure. The expert eventually took it out again and repeated the process until he felt satisfied with its results. His energy grew sharper whenever it cut the laws in the environment. He was sharpening his power by sacrificing the fabric of space.

Sword Saint sat cross-legged in the air at that point and closed his eyes. His energy went silent, and nothing leaked past his skin. It seemed that the expert was preparing his existence for the imminent clash, and no one dared to interrupt him.

Noah knew exactly what to do. He had developed his final technique after being with Sword Saint's memory for a long time. He had even executed it once and tested it after completing all the minor details. He felt confident in his ability not to commit mistakes, especially in that situation.

His understanding of space helped condense his darkness and dark matter in front of him. The two energies thickened and fused before creating a rotating mass of power that soon took a circular shape. Noah had built a black sun, but that wasn't enough for him.

More energy flowed inside the rotating star and forced it to condense. Noah's understanding of space allowed him to use that ability without sending the world to ruin. Everything remained stable, even if a black hole was appearing right in front of him.

### **Chapter 1888 1888. Discharge**

The initial idea behind the final slash was simple. More energy would transform into more power released during the attack. Noah's law would take care to turn it into a carrier of the many aspects of his existence and create a massive technique that could theoretically stand above everything else.

Yet, that version of the attack was clunky, it required a long preparation, and it would often fail to express the true potential that the accumulated energy could release.

Noah was copying the final slash from a magical beast and was adapting it to his abilities, but he didn't want to leave it as a sheer discharge of power. He was more than that massive armadillo, and his attacks had to show that.

The black hole continued to accumulate his energy and seize power from its surroundings. The sky had already cracked in multiple spots due to his companions' preparations, but it still contained laws to steal. The singularity's suction force took care of taking everything it could from the environment, shattering it into the form of primary energy, and absorbing it into its structure.

The whiteness that managed to seep through the storms dimmed as the black hole and the other experts destroyed the sky. Their techniques even started to affect the gales of chaotic laws, and a silent battle for the ownership of those winds began. The cauldron remained on top, but Noah's singularity managed to take the second spot.

The forceful absorption intensified as the energy inside the black hole increased. More power caused a stronger suction force and allowed it to reach farther areas. It didn't take much before Noah's technique started affecting areas that even the cauldron couldn't touch. The singularity could match that feature of the rank 9 item even while it remained in the eighth rank.

The black hole wanted to affect the experts around Noah, but they were strong enough to fend off that force. The influence put their preparations at risk at some point, so they spread through the shattered sky to continue their work.

Noah's cold reptilian eyes kept track of the growth of the black hole until a faint smile appeared on his face. The singularity had started to sever the connection with his mind once it gained enough power. It wanted to become an independent existence, and he even started to feel its desires.

'Not this time,' Noah thought as he placed a hand on the small calamity.

The sheer power and pressure contained inside the black hole tore apart the skin on Noah's palm, but his face didn't show any pain. Instead, the energy contained inside the singularity started flowing inside his injuries and enter his body.

An unclear sound that carried a primordial meaning of pain came out of the black hole before it completely disappeared from the outside world. Noah suddenly sensed an intense pressure spreading through his insides and trying to drag them toward a specific spot. The singularity was still active inside his body, and it was trying to tear him apart to break free of that prison made of flesh.

Noah's fourth center of power activated to suppress that raw imitation. The second black hole had more energy than the first, but it lacked its intelligence, experience, and purpose. It was a simple mass of power that had gained the chance to touch the ninth rank.

The main issue in improving an ability that contained so much power was in his low level. Noah was incredibly strong, but he had clear limits regarding how much energy he could handle.

Yet, Noah didn't need to control that vast mass of power. He only needed to deploy it during his attack, which was entirely different from using it to fuel one of his techniques.

The fourth center of power absorbed the black hole and made Noah desire to roar toward the sky. His body felt the need to vent par to that massive energy. It could contain it only because his black heart was one of the most incredible organs in the entire world.

Even thinking about controlling so much energy to perform an attack felt nonsensical. Noah could hear his instincts begging him to release part of it to appease the internal pressure that threatened to make his chest explode. His body had stepped on a unique realm, but that power was too much at its current level.

Of course, Noah had no intention to keep that energy sealed inside him. His many empowerments were still active, so pointing his blades forward was enough to complete the preparations for his attack. He only had to activate one last process to end that gathering of energy and unleash his offensive.

Noah allowed himself to focus on his surroundings at that point. His friends sensed his gaze and turned to nod. Only Alexander didn't bother looking at him, but he appeared busy suppressing a giant cubical item with a scarlet heatwave.

Wilfred had joined his hands above his head and was ready to hammer them down on the cauldron. Divine Demon had risked falling into the void multiple times due to all the energy that his formations had absorbed from his surroundings. Still, he smiled happily as he looked at his complete cylindrical structure. Sword Saint was sitting cross-legged in the distance, but his eyes opened a series of cracks in the sky when they opened to glance at Noah before moving toward the cauldron.

Everyone was ready, so Noah didn't hesitate to start that offensive. The fourth center of power lowered its barriers and let the energy forcefully contained in its insides flow toward different parts of Noah's body.

The raging energy filled Noah's dantian, muscles, and mind. It forced his centers of power to overload and go further beyond their already empowered state. Damages inevitably spread on their surface, but Noah's resilience gave him the chance to endure that damage and continued releasing his technique.

Noah had already prepared everything else for his technique. His position and intentions were already in place. He only needed the energy to activate it, and the arrival of the raging waves of power covered that part.

His swords suddenly lit up and released a blinding black light that quickly flowed toward their sharp tips before discharging a slash with the shape of a beam. The attack crossed the sky that separated Noah from the cauldron in an instant, and a painful cry spread throughout the whiteness when his technique touched that metal surface.

Noah's companions released their attacks as soon as they saw their vision growing dark due to the slash's preparations. Divine Demon activated the energy accumulated inside his cylindrical formations, Sword Saint closed his eyes, and Wilfred lowered his arms to deliver a powerful blow toward the cauldron.

The effects of the clash spread far farther than the empty area. An explosion happened on the side of the cauldron and flung Wilfred away before the other attacks could discharge the entirety of their power.

The entire item shook due to the sheer might released by Wilfred's attack. His condensed physical prowess allowed him to make the whole structure tremble and weakened its innate resilience.

The other attacks showed their true might at that point, and Heaven and Earth roared. Even the rulers couldn't believe that their precious cauldron could suffer so much against mere rank 8 experts.

### **Chapter 1889 1889. Record**

Wilfred's attack had brought the cauldron's stability at its weakest, so the discharge of power of his companion's abilities caused far more damage than expected. Still, they would have been enough to ruin the inscriptions even without the hybrid's help.

Divine Demon's cylindrical formation released laws that were the direct opposite of those contained in the cauldron. Of course, his current cultivation level didn't allow him to consider the item as a whole during his attack. Even if his law was incredible, he had to limit the effects of his technique to a small spot.

The cylindrical cannon made of formations ended up releasing a condensed bullet instead of a wave capable of covering the massive item. Moreover, the laws carried by the attack appeared slightly different compared to the last time. They weren't only the opposite of the true meaning inside their target. There was something else in their fabric, but it seemed that Divine Demon had yet to completely manifest that feature.

The bullet didn't create any explosion when it touched the cauldron. The impact opened a fist-sized hole in its structure. The long preparation and the immense amount of energy stolen from the world could only lead to that small effect, but that was already incredible when considering the situation.

Divine Demon had launched an attack capable of cutting a rank 9 item in the middle tier from side to side. He had opened a circular hole in something that had been near the very peak of the cultivation journey, and he had done that without even stepping into the ninth rank.

Sword Saint didn't use any special move. He embodied sharpness. He was the realization of the sword path. Techniques, spells, and complicated preparations meant to enhance his power were useless with his existence. He only had to express more of himself to become able to cut more things.

The method through which Sword Saint decided to release his energy didn't matter. A blink, a sigh, or the simple flicker of his pinky were enough to bring out the entirety of his power and launch his strongest attack yet. At that time, the expert limited himself to close his eyes to attack.

His energy was too fast to appear in the space between him and the cauldron. The fabric of the world was also in pieces in that area. His attack simply cut through laws before opening a long cut on the item.

The cut wasn't deep. Some would even struggle to notice it from a distance. However, it clearly existed in the form of a long, vertical, and narrow line that ran connected two of the cauldron's openings. Sword Saint's sharpness even continued to linger over that cut after the energy carried by the attack dispersed. His understanding of the sword path was too profound to disappear due to a mere lack of power.

Noah's slash was a piercing beam that carried an amount of energy that his centers of power couldn't generate yet. They could barely endure that intense discharge even.

No other existence at his level would be able to endure so much energy and even force it to flow into an attack. Still, Noah's centers of power had reached realms that the world could only envy. His structural limits had reached the ninth rank a long time ago.

Moreover, that massive wave of energy had flown through his centers of power and had executed his technique. It had gained Noah's features and had abandoned its state as a raw mass of fuel, ultimately surpassing the quality of the original idea behind the final slash.

The attack slammed on the tough surface before unleashing its effects. The features of Noah's existences became unstoppable when energy capable of touching the ninth rank fueled them. His destruction and creation even fused to enhance the amount of damage that the ability could inflict.

Noah's destruction dug small holes before his creations condensed the former and generated black lines on the cauldron. The destruction activated again at that point, and the cycle continued until the attack exhausted its energy.

The result of that powerful piercing slash was a spiderweb of deep cracks that spread for a few meters. The damage was more profound at the center of that spot, but Noah's attack didn't manage to reach the other side even there.

Heaven and Earth's angry roar followed that event. The sky shook and reformed as the storms blew back into the area and echoed the rulers' deafening voice.

Alexander had seized his victory by then, and his cultivation level continued to increase, but the arrival of the storms forced him to focus on those chaotic laws. The same went for Noah, Sword Saint, Divine Demon, and Wilfred in the distance. The echoed cry tried to seep inside their mental spheres and crack the rebellious minds that hosted those troublesome plans.

However, Noah and the others had fought against the cauldron fairly. Heaven and Earth had even sent reinforcements to balance the event. The experts had managed to win even after two batches of ghosts, a rank 9 cultivator armed with counters, and a perfect counter had gone against them. The rulers couldn't find any loophole in their fairness to kill those annoying ants on the spot.

Moreover, Noah and the others were even holding their ground against their pressure. Heaven and Earth had limited their power in the hope of finding a loophole in their restrictions, but everything ended up being in vain. The experts endured the cry long enough to make the rulers accept that they had to recall their voice.

The storms slowly lost their deafening voice and returned to a wild state. They slammed on the experts and tried to taint their laws, but their power couldn't even make a dent in those existences, especially after their last achievement.

That seemingly random day had gained a profound meaning that every existence connected to Heaven and Earth could sense. Both allies and enemies of the rulers could hear from the world that something incredible had happened.

A group made of eight rank 8 existences had just established a new record. Noah and the others had surpassed everything and everyone in terms of potential that day. Their joint power had allowed them to defeat something that they should have never been able to approach.

Cultivation levels and labels lost meaning. Noah's team existed, so the world had to invent a new classification. It wasn't a matter of exceptions anymore. The group was creating a new standard that even Heaven and Earth failed to conceive.

Wilfred slowly flew back toward his companions. Blood flowed out of his nose and ears after facing part of the shockwaves of the trio's attack, but he appeared mostly fine.

Noah made Shafu come out of his separate space. The six-armed dragon spat the energy from the ghosts contained in its insides in the distance and allowed it to disperse among the storms. A sorry-looking King Elbas came out of the creature's fabric, but his bloodshot eyes regained some life when he glanced at the inactive cauldron still floating in the sky.

A wave of dark matter came out of Noah's chest when Shafu went back inside the separate space. Robert and Steven were still unconscious, but the higher energy had patched up their external injuries. It was only a matter of time before they woke up and started to handle their wounds on their own.

Alexander also rejoined the group, and his growing cultivation level immediately attracted the experts' attention. They all wanted to comment about his new state and injuries, but the hybrid spoke before they could. "I need to approach the breakthrough to the ninth rank."

"Do it inside the city," Noah promptly suggested. "We also need to have a talk with the old rulers."

Noah glanced toward King Elbas afterward. An understanding smile appeared on his face when he saw that the cultivator had never moved his gaze away from the floating cauldron. The expert was completely captivated by that powerful but inactive item.

"Do you need a hand storing it?" Noah asked, and the expert limited himself to shake his head before revealing the insides of his palm.

His curiosity had gathered there on its own. It had created a proper rank 9 space-ring at the peak of the lower tier while he was in a daze.

### **Chapter 1890 1890. Reques**

The group didn't remain among the storms and moved as soon as they seized what they could. The cauldron wasn't the only valuable item. The ghosts' aura that had remained inside that structure and the chaotic laws affected by Heaven and Earth's cry were materials that King Elbas couldn't leave behind.

Moreover, the team had to wait for Steven and Robert to wake up, but that didn't take long. The group departed once they took care of looting and resting, and the old rulers' tracker led them back to the pale-orange city in a matter of years.

The improved Kesier apes let the experts pass without even bothering to check them. The sensors among the buildings were enough to confirm that Heaven and Earth didn't tamper with their existence, so the creatures opened the path for the center of the city right away.

Noah wanted to attend the meeting with the old rulers immediately since he didn't have pressing projects at hand, but the same wasn't valid for some of his companions.

Steven and Robert had yet to recover completely, and their battle against the ghosts had even brought a new understanding over Heaven and Earth's laws and their existence as a whole. Steven had proven his determination and hatred toward the rulers, and Robert could directly improve his true meaning after studying the ghosts so accurately.

Alexander required a unique area for the breakthrough to the ninth rank. Heaven and Earth would probably send a Tribulation to hinder the event, so he had to prepare for the event. He could also use specific buildings inside the city to improve his situation, and he didn't hesitate to request them.

King Elbas had a lot to study after his battle inside Shafu and seizing the cauldron. He had ancient and powerful inscription methods at hand, and he couldn't postpone their inspection for a mere talk that he could already imagine in his mind.

Sword Saint didn't care about talking. He preferred to spend his time in seclusion and review the previous battle to deepen his understanding of the sword path. Everything else in his cultivation journey was simply pointless.

Divine Demon was the same, but he didn't want to spend his time cultivating. The city offered him something far more interesting than training. He could become part of the production of wine made from Kesier runes.

In the end, only Noah and Wilfred ended up attending the meeting with the old rulers. They returned to the orange pit and reached the separate space inside the mineral to arrive inside the white area and talk face to face with a humanoid representation of the old Heaven and Earth.

"The ghosts did leave the areas under our control," The old rulers revealed when Noah suggested that they left the city and caused some mess, "But what you are asking will take some time. Besides, we don't really exist either."

"I thought you would have fixed that by now," Noah scoffed. "What's the point of being able to conquer the world when you have so many restrictions? Why even desiring the plane at all?"

"You can't go against yourself," The old rulers sighed as their orange humanoid figure trembled. "It was the same for us. We wanted the world, so we took it."

"Well, do something with the freedom that we have given you," Noah ordered. "Using the city is nice and everything, but I want to slow down Heaven and Earth. That has always been the main plan."

"We don't need too long," Wilfred added. "One of us is already approaching the ninth rank. It's only a matter of time before we all go through the breakthrough."

"Reaching the ninth rank won't fix your problems," The old rulers explained. "It will only worsen them. It will give Heaven and Earth the chance to use more of their arsenal against you."

"We are already aware of that," Noah snorted. "That's not the point. Facing the breakthrough will enhance our superiority. The growth in the cultivation journey is exponential, so we'll be far stronger in comparison with their methods."

"Is that the confidence that wants us to risk our life in the outside world?" The old rulers chuckled.

"Confidence comes from achievements," Noah replied. "You know how off the charts we are."

"Indeed, you are extraordinary both in numbers and quality of achievements," The rulers stated. "The idea of joining you almost makes us feel something again,"

"They have yet to realize that they are already in," Wilfred sighed while shaking his head. "It takes a while with newbies."

"They always try not to mention the issue," Noah shrugged his shoulders. "It was the same with Elbas. All his arrogance gone to waste in front of a madman and a pig."

"I think I can't get enough of their talks," Wilfred laughed. "I miss the Foolery already."

"It made its choice," Noah smirked. "You can't blame it either. Its singular existence gives hope to its entire species."

"What do you even want us to do in the world?" The old rulers asked, interrupting that change of the topic.

"You know the world better than almost anyone else," Noah announced. "You even know the rulers in ways that we can only hope to understand. I only want you to go outside and cause as much damage as



you can. I'll fine with everything as long as you can make Heaven and Earth divert their focus from the dragons and us."

The old Heaven and Earth seemed to consider the matter seriously. Noah's words had been on point in the end. The dragons might be the sworn enemies of the world, but they couldn't be as dangerous as a previous version of the very rulers.

The only issue was with the old rulers' existence. They were almost empty and vague. Their power consisted of knowledge and meaningless energy. They could achieve a lot even in that state, but Noah couldn't even begin to imagine the power that they could wield as actual independent beings.

"I bet you also want us to regain our existence in the meantime," The old rulers commented. "Your greed doesn't fail to appear in your actions."

"We had to reveal our trump cards in the last battle," Noah emphasized. "We didn't only need time to approach the ninth rank. We must also hurry to create new secret techniques that can keep Heaven and Earth surprised."

The old rulers were about to say something, but Noah interrupted them by continuing his explanation. "I know that we can be safe inside the city, but I don't want to remove threats from the world. I wish for more of them to appear, countless even. I don't care about their nature as long as it doesn't let Heaven and Earth's keep their focus on the dragons."

Noah's enthusiasm and confidence in his methods continued to make the old rulers recall part of their old memories. The old Heaven and Earth didn't even know if those visions and the emotions that accompanied them were real parts of their existence or were something entirely new.

The old Heaven and Earth knew about Noah's ability to force everything to evolve, so its state was unclear. However, they didn't hate the idea of developing new features, especially if that could get them out of their awful condition. They would gladly cause a mess if that were the price to pay.