

Demonic 1921

Chapter 1921 1921. Role

The aura radiated by Sword Saint was terrifying. It was sharper than before but also peaceful. He existed to cut because it was in his nature. He was a living blade that the sword path had accepted into that field.

Camille didn't know what to think in front of that scene. The whiteness around her dimmed, but those effects didn't come from Noah's existence. Her connection with the rulers even made her aware of the astonishing truth. Heaven and Earth had actually grown weaker during that breakthrough.

That event wasn't only astonishing. It also felt terrifying, especially for a cultivator who belonged to Heaven and Earth's system. The rulers represented the peak of the journey in that world, but those who had managed to witness the scene could vaguely understand that something above them existed.

That understanding wasn't even the end. That stronger power had forced the sky to separate from some of its laws. Even the mighty Heaven and Earth couldn't oppose that urge. The awe and innate fear that cultivators, magical beasts, and hybrids resisting the rulers started to wane as soon as a weakness appeared.

The rulers weren't unbeatable. They could bleed in the form of white tears. Noah didn't know how many experts had managed to take a glance at that incredible event, but he exploded into a laugh anyway. It felt hilarious how such a blatant show of weakness had appeared when Heaven and Earth were so close to taking control of the world.

"Even existences belonging to the ranks that you can't reach have started to hurt you," Noah mocked as he lay on the brown alloy to enjoy the dim whiteness seeping through the storms past the range of his consciousness. "Maybe I will lose, but you won't win. There is no victory in your path."

Both Camille and Sword Saint heard Noah's relaxed insult toward the rulers, but the sky didn't react. Heaven and Earth had stopped screaming, but the entire world could study the consequences of that event. That dimness wasn't something that they could fix without sacrifices.

"All of you, hear my words!" Noah laughed. "The breakthrough of a rank 8 cultivator has managed to hurt the rulers of the world!"

His laughs were hammers that made Camille's mental sphere shake. Each insult that Heaven and Earth failed to address only worsened her condition. Leaders weren't flawless, and she knew that far too well. Even beings that could almost approach the tenth rank couldn't avoid those features. However, the rulers had suffered due to the actions of a rank 8 cultivator. That would make everyone question their actual power.

"Shut up!" Camille shouted as denial took control of her mind and tried not to make her go over those thoughts now.

"Are you for real?" Noah revealed his cold smile as he returned to a sitting position and fixed his reptilian eyes on her. "You would probably switch sides right away if I were to invite you into my organization."

Camille's eyes widened before she diverted her gaze. Still, the proofs of Heaven and Earth's weakness were everywhere now. She could see the dimmer whiteness that filled the world.

"Would you really invite me?" Camille asked with a tinge of hesitation in her voice.

"I wouldn't care too much," Noah shrugged his shoulders, "But you have another role already. Maybe in your next life."

"Role?" Camille questioned before Sword Saint's sharp aura expanded and shattered storms that even Noah's consciousness couldn't reach.

Camille slowly turned her head toward her previous opponent. She could see Sword Saint's seemingly empty gaze shining from behind his long eyebrows. Even he wasn't able to hide the piercing eyes that the breakthrough had given him.

"I need to test a few things," Sword Saint announced, and his words shattered Camille's eardrums when they reached her ears.

Blood flowed from Camille's ears as she started at the newly advanced rank 9 cultivator. His might didn't make any sense. Sword Saint had just stepped into the gaseous stage, but her body was unable to endure the power that he generated with his simplest gestures. She couldn't even dare to imagine what would happen to her once he launched a proper attack.

Moreover, there was something off with Sword Saint's cultivation level. Eventually, every existence gave birth to a personal version of the "Breath" that would further transform into a personal law. The ninth rank would improve that fuel further. However, everything still carried the world's vibe.

Noah's existence wasn't an exception. He defied every logic and had multiple features, but Camille could still somewhat feel that it had come to life in her same world. That wasn't a matter connected to Heaven and Earth. It was similar to a scent that everyone born under the unique environment illuminated by the whiteness carried.

Sword Saint didn't carry that scent. Actually, Camille wasn't sure how to describe him at all. He had a foreign aura around him that clearly stated how the world under the sky wasn't his home.

"Is everything alright?" Noah asked as he resumed to eat the piece of brown alloy in his grasp.

"I've never been better," Sword Saint laughed. "The sword has chosen me as one of its avatars."

Sword Saint's laughs opened cracks connected to the void in the area. Cuts also appeared on Camille's body. Large red spots immediately tainted her white robe, but she didn't move. She remained in a daze as she tried to understand how strong her opponent was.

"Is that even fine with you?" Noah questioned his friend without hiding the doubts in his voice.

The sword path didn't belong to Sword Saint. He had become one of its embodiments, but that meant depending on a higher power. Noah could never accept that due to the nature of his existence.

"This is what I've always desired to achieve," Sword Saint exclaimed while spreading his arms and lifting his gaze toward the sky. "I can live my life perfecting, improving, and discovering fields connected to the sword path."

"Isn't that the same as before?" Noah continued.

"I am connected to the path now," Sword Saint revealed. "I'm not a single existence wandering in the dark anymore."

Noah scratched the side of his head in confusion. It was hard for him to understand what Sword Saint meant since he didn't have access to the connection with the higher form of power.

Noah guessed that Sword Saint had established a healthier and freer version of the relationship that Heaven and Earth had with their followers. Still, he noted to question his friend properly once he was over with Camille and his tests.

"Why don't you kill me already?" Camille asked. "I'm not a training dummy. I have the pride of a cultivator who has lived following her beliefs."

Camille had suffered more injuries after Sword Saint's past movements, but nothing too serious had happened. Yet, she didn't like to be locked in that situation. Death was better than listening to two existences ready to advance in the cultivation journey while waiting for them to kill her.

"Don't hurry it!" Sword Saint snorted. "I've retained my foundation, but my understanding is far deeper. I see things in ways that I can't even describe. I don't think words could exist to explain them. For example, look at this."

Sword Saint was excited beyond reason. He lifted his arm to prepare one of his techniques, but that gesture generated a silver slash that shot ahead at high speed. Camille happened to be in its trajectory, and her figure ended up severed into two parts.

"Oh," Sword Saint uttered in a slightly disappointed tone before shooting a vague, hopeful glance toward Noah.

"Don't even think about it," Noah dismissed that silent request. "Let's go back to the others. Maybe Elbas has a puppet that suits you."

Chapter 1922 1922. Universe

Sword Saint did his best to explain his new state as the duo flew back to their companions. Noah couldn't completely understand his friend's descriptions due to his lack of knowledge for matters that went past the ninth rank. Still, a vague idea formed in his mind after the expert relied on a few metaphors.

The sword path turned out to exist as a form of energy that went beyond laws and worlds. Sword Saint couldn't exactly describe it since he remained a rank 9 cultivator. Still, his connection with that power allowed him to express how he had felt during the breakthrough when his mind had touched that realm.

"Imagine every idea and law about the sword," Sword Saint explained. "They all belong to the same vast path, and the universe resonates with them. I sensed a complicated array of notions built by brims of understanding collected from countless different existences far away, hidden in the darkness, untouchable."

The explanation made some sense. Noah's superficial understanding came from what he had learnt from the old rulers about the difference between existences and worlds. The latter seemed to have innate laws, so it felt normal for the universe as a whole to have a similar structure.

It was pointless to look for the origin of everything. Noah preferred to focus on the current state of the universe since knowing something about those fields would probably help in the breakthrough to the tenth rank. Sword Saint could grant him access to a perspective that he couldn't gain under the sky, so he didn't hesitate to pester him with questions.

Sword Saint happily answered since his understanding also grew during that interaction. He and Noah were trying to gain access to a world that their current power and situation didn't allow them to study properly.

'Law isn't the exact word for that power,' Noah thought as he summarized the vague answers that Sword Saint had managed to give. 'They should have similar functions, but they don't seem to follow the same evolution of the existences.'

An existence was a law that would evolve into a world. What came after was hard to imagine since the experts had nothing around them that could give hints, but they guessed that it would involve the expansion and the thickening of their personal dimensions, at least at first.

Instead, worlds were different. They were an array of laws that executed precise functions without ever taking part in the struggles on their insides. Traces of wills would appear only during enemy attacks or similar catastrophes, but it felt pretty evident that they had no desire to improve.

Sword Saint could almost confirm that something similar existed on a far vaster level with the universe as a whole. Arrays containing all the laws connected to the same path stood somewhere among the blackness of that immense structure. As for what they meant, Noah could only guess.

However, one feature appeared almost clear after hearing Sword Saint's descriptions. Those arrays weren't like Heaven and Earth. They didn't steal nor devour other laws. They seemed to obtain them as soon as someone expanded the fields connected to their core ideas.

According to Sword Saint, the array meant for the sword path already had versions of his previous techniques since copies or originals had appeared during the eras that had proceeded his birth. His formless slash was the only ability that came directly for him.

Sword Saint didn't sense the entirety of the array, but it had been easy for him to resonate with the techniques that already belonged to his existence. That had allowed him to find his formless slash in a mighty structure that existed in hidden areas of the universe.

The arrays' seemingly harmless nature and their vastness made Noah believe that they were simple rules of the universe. They probably existed to keep track of the evolution of the different paths created by the existences. He even wondered whether they were a counterpart to cultivators and other beings meant to balance the power in the universe.

That would transform the universe into an ecosystem where worlds and existences balanced each other and kept everything stable. Noah couldn't take them as recorders of everything that happened in the

various worlds since they had given energy to Sword Saint. They had fuel, but using it didn't sound like its main purpose.

His thoughts also went on the stars that had existed in his vision since his revealing experience in the Royal Academy. They could be some of the arrays felt by Sword Saint, or they could represent existences that had become strong enough to illuminate the universe with their personal words.

It was annoying to invest time in answers Noah couldn't find, but that process felt necessary. It would give him a range of options and hypotheses ready for when his existence could understand those topics properly. Also, it fueled his ambition to wonder about how that structure could affect his path ahead.

"What if an existence finds the array that has accumulated all the different laws and aspects of the general path," Noah eventually asked while turning toward Sword Saint. "What if you find the sword array? Will it absorb you? Will you absorb it?"

"The sword array shouldn't have any reason to absorb me," Sword Saint responded while scratching his chin. "It already has me. Everything I develop will appear there if it has connections with the sword path. This happened even before my evolution to an avatar."

"Do I have to look for the destruction array after leaving this world?" Noah wondered. "But that means searching for the life, space, time, greed, hunger, ambition, and probably something else array. That's a lot of arrays."

"Maybe you need that to embody the entirety of those general ideas and reach the areas past the universe," Sword Saint added to that reasoning.

"Hopefully without turning into a giant version of Heaven and Earth in the process," Noah joked.

"Anyway, the arrays must be part of the journey after the ninth rank. I even think that we might need to give energy to the universe at some point."

"What makes you think that?" Sword Saint asked.

"We reach these levels by taking fuel from worlds until our existences become able to generate energy on our own," Noah explained. "The universe would have shattered if everyone kept taking endlessly."

"That's very vague," Sword Saint commented. "We don't know enough about the universe to define clear paths or establish answers. Who knows? Everything might be even more personal after the ninth rank?"

"Sure," Noah scoffed. "Personal while an unclear array of something everything you accomplish. I feel the need to eat them already."

Sword Saint laughed when he saw Noah's exasperated desire to become stronger and jump into that higher realm. He didn't even become a complete rank 9 expert yet, but he was already coming up with plans meant for the journey after that.

"Noah," Sword Saint eventually said in a slightly hesitant tone. "I must imitate Alexander."

"I know," Noah sighed as his mood also turned serious. "You'll probably leave after this battle. It's fine. That's how our path works."

A heavy mood was about to fall on the duo. Sword Saint had even checked the insides of his space-ring to find some wine from the orange city, but a strange scene unfolded at that point.

The two experts had never been too far away from King Elba and the others, so reaching them wasn't an issue. Yet, they didn't expect to see such a fiery and messy battlefield.

An immense nine-headed fiery hydra in the middle tier roared as winged cockroaches assaulted it from every direction. The creature was trying to reach the upper tier specimen, but it kept failing while the army pierced its body.

The golden flames released by the creature burnt most of the cockroaches, but the upper tier specimens managed to make its heads explode every time it charged ahead.

The heads grew back quickly, but the hydra clearly took its energy from external sources. Noah and Sword Saint didn't take long to notice the disc with their friends sitting cross-legged on it. However, their bodies were a mess. All of them resembled nothing more than dried-up skeletons.

"I think I've found your training dummy," Noah announced, and Sword Saint smiled coldly.

Chapter 1923 1923. Backdoors

The middle tier hydra appeared connected to the disc, but the structure wasn't losing power every time the creature regenerated one of its heads. That fuel had to come from somewhere else, and the experts' dried-up state explained everything before Noah and Sword Saint could even formulate questions.

Both of them could immediately guess that the experts had relied on King Elbas to create something that could fight back against the immense army and the upper tier leader. Still, their current condition was worrying, especially since none of them reacted to the arrival of their companions.

The hydra was a problem. The creature was keeping the flying cockroaches at bay, but the experts didn't appear able to fuel its power any longer. Its failures in killing the upper tier cockroach also increased its energy consumption.

Noah and Sword Saint had the chance to focus on the cockroaches and hope that the hydra would disappear afterward, but they didn't know how long it would take to kill the upper tier specimen. Even their incredible power had limits.

The experts might die if the duo took too long vanquishing the white army. Noah and Sword Saint had to prioritize severing the connection between their friends and the hydra to avoid taking risks. Luckily for them, severing was their specialty.

Noah and Sword Saint didn't need additional words. The former's statement had been enough to make their attention converge on the disk. Both of them drew their blades, and sharpness instantly filled the area.

"Can you see the connection?" Noah asked as he activated his many empowerments.

"Of course," Sword Saint smirked as his hands began to radiate a silver light. "Can you open a path?"

"Of course!" Noah laughed.

Sword Saint had owned techniques capable of affecting ethereal forms of energy and mental connections even before his breakthrough. Those sword arts were even stronger now that he had stepped into the ninth rank and had become an avatar of the sword path.

Noah was aware of his friend's power, so he delegated the severing of the connection between the experts and the hydra to him. Instead, he would have to handle the faint golden barrier that surrounded the experts.

King Elbas had gone all-out during the battle. The army had high chances of killing him, so the defenses deployed in the area carried the entirety of his accumulation. The hydra and the disk appeared incredibly powerful, but Noah noticed something strange when his consciousness studied them to spread his destruction.

Black lines appeared on the disk's edges as soon as Noah's metal waves landed on its surface. There seemed to be a deep flaw in the item's structure, and Noah's destruction appeared to be one of the triggers. He felt able to expand the effects of his law at an unfathomable speed. No middle tier item had ever seemed so weak.

Noah believed in King Elbas so much that he didn't let that apparent weakness misunderstand its nature, and the disk quickly confirmed the vague guess that had appeared in his mind. The black lines on the golden surface continued to expand until they took the shape of the horned head of the Hive.

The drawing was a clear statement. King Elbas had created a backdoor for his reckless plan, and he had even tuned it around Noah's power. The latter didn't feel the need to use the entirety of his power anymore. Various energies covered his swords as he pointed them toward the disk, but his ambition didn't take part in that process.

"Ready?" Noah voiced.

"Go already!" Sword Saint shouted happily.

Noah released his piercing slash. A torrent of dark energy came out of his swords and fell on the disk. He had made his attack wide on purpose so that all the black lines accumulated among the golden radiance could activate at the same time. A faint impact was enough to make everything explode and create a huge passage in the item's structure.

The disk lost a massive chunk of its peripheral area before opening on its own. A passage appeared on the barrier around the experts, and Sword Saint didn't hesitate to seize that chance.

Sword Saint didn't execute any special movement. The energy around his hands started to tremble until it released high-pitched noises. The expert clapped his hands at that point, and a shockwave shot forward.

Noah made sure to pay attention to the expert's attack since it could carry meaning that matched his law, but it felt hard to follow the movements of the energy. The silver radiance released by Sword Saint's hands transformed into an invisible attack after it started flying through the sky.

Sword Saint's energy changed state mid-air. It went from a simple discharge of sharp power to a current made of empowered mental waves that had the shape of a massive blade.

The secret behind the attack was in the difference of power between "Breath" and mental energy. Generally speaking, mental waves were frail and weak compared to what a dantian could generate, so Sword Saint would have had problems severing a mental connection with a middle tier creature.

However, Sword Saint's art temporarily turned the "Breath" ethereal and allowed it to affect mental realms while retaining part of its power. It used to lose a lot during the transformation, but his recent breakthrough had improved that aspect.

The attack crossed the opening created by Noah and targeted the ethereal connection that existed between the experts and the hydra. The pieces of the golden barrier that were still in one piece turned silver after Sword Saint's energy regained its previous nature, and cracks inevitably spread.

The cracks expanded even on the outside of the barrier as that silver light continued to shine. Noah and Sword Saint remained speechless when silver lines appeared on the peripheral areas of the disk. They resembled the same structures Noah created through his destruction, but they didn't carry his aura. They only featured the same purpose.

Sword Saint's energy activated the silver lines and caused even more destruction on the disk. It didn't take much before the entire structure fell apart and exploded into a mess of golden light. Flames appeared from time to time, and five figures eventually shot out of that radiance.

King Elbas, Wilfred, Divine Demon, Steven, and Robert revealed ugly expressions as they neared Noah and Sword Saint. King Elbas ended up enduring many hateful gazes shot in his direction, but he didn't matter too much. Everyone was still alive, so he had kept his part of the deal.

"Care to explain?" Noah asked without hiding how hilarious the scene of their dried-up state was when paired with their frowns.

"The idiot has connected us to the hydra without telling us all the risks," Wilfred announced before coughing to no end.

King Elbas gulped pill after pill, and his condition improved quickly. His complexion returned to a healthy state in a matter of seconds. The scene only angered his companions, but he soon handed a few drugs to all of them.

"I kept you all alive," King Elbas announced in a raspy voice. "And I seem to remember how all of you were in a bad position. Look at us now!"

The other experts couldn't deny that the plan had actually worked. They didn't manage to win, but they had stalled long enough to make Noah and Sword Saint return. Also, the pills helped their condition quickly. King Elbas had given to all of the drugs meant for their existence, so their effects ended up being quite incredible.

"We only need to kill the hydra before it-," King Elbas tried to explain, but his expression froze when his mind saw what was happening now behind him.

Noah's eyes widened when he saw the hydra finally managing to catch the upper tier cockroach unprepared and burning it with its flames. The surge of power that followed the event filled the sky with golden fire and forced Noah to bring everyone away with his dark world.

When the group came out of the darkness, they noticed how the army was no more. Only the fiery creature remained in the area, but its power had stepped into the upper tier.

Chapter 1924 1924. Connection

"Elbas, I'm going to need more explanations," Noah stated at the sight of the upper tier hydra.

"I told them that it was better if some of them died!" King Elbas announced without showing the slightest shame.

"Do you even control that thing?" Sword Saint asked.

"We never had control over it," Wilfred snorted.

"So, it has gone berserk now," Noah commented while pointing his curious gaze toward King Elbas. "Is that the reason behind your desire for the life sphere?"

"Exactly," King Elbas replied.

"Did you build backdoors?" Noah questioned.

"It's a new inscription method," King Elbas explained while moving his gaze where no one could look straight at him. "It had backdoors during the first six deaths."

The pills that King Elbas had given to the wounded experts quickly improved their conditions. A new life filled their flesh, but they remained pretty pale. Still, it seemed that their centers of power were ready to deploy their peak might. The only unclear aspect concerned their current durability, which forced Noah to avoid making plans that involved a long fight.

Everyone looked at King Elbas. His last line had hinted at a troublesome answer, but his aura revealed intense pride. The cultivator didn't care about the problems that he was causing at all. He was only enjoying the results of his new inscription method.

"Did you copy me?" Noah eventually asked as his mind sent information about the hydra in the distance.

"I didn't copy anyone!" King Elbas shouted while turning toward Noah. "Your application of the higher energy is childish! You have one of the most flexible materials in the world, and you use it to create vaguely hard-to-kill puppets!"

The Demonic Sword, Night, Snore, Duanlong, Shafu, and the parasite peeked out of Noah's body and fixed their threatening attention on King Elbas. The sight was quite hilarious due to the different sizes of each companion, especially when it came to Shafu and Snore. Still, no one dared to laugh or make jokes in front of their chilling aura.

"You only feed on dark matter," Noah complained while looking at the root that had come out of his shoulder. "Why did you even come out?"

"The plant wanted to eat," Duanlong commented.

"It does nothing but eating," The Demonic Sword added.

"Though it has good dark shades," Night praised.

"It's only a parasite," Snore scoffed.

"That thing is dangerous," Shafu said in a deep voice while moving its gaze toward the hydra.

The scene left the group speechless. They knew about Noah's companions, but they had never seen them joining their bickering. They didn't even know how intelligent they actually were, at least for some of them.

"Do you really live with so many voices in your head?" King Elbas asked as a helpless sigh escaped his mouth. "No wonder you have a death wish."

"Back inside you go," Noah announced as dark matter covered the companions and dragged them inside the separate space.

Truth be told, his companions had felt a bit bored lately. They continued to grow, and Noah even deployed them in specific battles, but they had reached the point when their power stood in-between easy fights and impossible struggles. They had to wait for the next breakthrough to become a core part of his prowess again, but the matter wasn't as immediate as it looked.

All of them were unique existences, so Noah had to personally oversee their arrival in the ninth rank. They might even require a specific process to fulfill their potential and remove their main weakness in that part of Noah's cultivation journey.

Heaven and Earth would probably be Noah's last opponent in the world, but that would involve countless counters that he had never dared to make his companions face fully. Yet, that weakness had to go away if they wanted to remain useful.

The adapting ability of the hydra felt incredibly interesting when Noah inspected it. He didn't know how King Elbas had pulled that off, but he would probably need to study that new inscription method to bring his companions' power to a superior realm.

"Noah, you can't learn that," King Elbas warned in a severe tone when he noticed Noah's interest in the hydra. "My new inscription method requires my knowledge and my plan to reach the ninth rank. You would need to change your existence to learn it."

"What about letting me see it properly?" Noah asked.

"You know how I feel about showing imperfect methods," King Elbas replied.

"Dragons' spheres," Noah mentioned.

"I agree!" King Elbas promptly shouted, but his voice soon turned serious again as he changed the topic. "You might need to leave behind some of them."

"Nonsense," Noah asserted. "They are part of me."

Noah was wearing the cold and driven expression that he usually showed whenever he was ready to do something crazy, so King Elbas didn't add anything. The other experts around them also remained silent as their eyes moved between the duo and the hydra. The creature was still busy stabilizing its new power, but it would soon turn toward them.

"Do we run?" Robert asked to break the silence that had fallen after Noah's statement.

"It has an innate connection with my power," King Elbas explained while shaking his head. "It would find me even inside the orange city."

"What a pity!" Wilfred dramatically shouted. "I guess we have to part ways."

"It has been fun teasing you with the pig," Divine Demon announced.

"Do you remember stuff now?" Wilfred asked Divine Demon. "It's hard to keep track of your behavior."

"A demon never reveals his secrets," Divine Demon proudly announced, but Robert and Steven showed skeptical expressions at that statement.

"He probably doesn't know either," Robert whispered.

"Is it bad if we tell him?" Steven asked in the same low voice.

"You have also fueled its power," King Elbas continued to explain, doing his best to ignore everything happening around him. "The hydra will find all of you."

The explanation forced everyone to turn serious. Only Noah and Sword Saint would be safe there, but they had no intentions to run away. Noah had already started to radiate a faint hunger, and Sword Saint's eyes shone to no end when he thought about the possibility of facing an upper tier creature.

"Do you think we can defeat it?" Noah honestly asked.

"It will depend on how strong Sword Saint has become," King Elbas revealed. "It's not a proper magical beast. It's only a mass of energy with an intense attraction toward life. It's like the winged cockroaches, just bigger, stronger, faster, smarter, better, and definitely created by someone with a more artistic sense."

"Can we skip to the part when I cut it?" Sword Saint pleaded.

King Elbas had to give up on his bragging at that remark. "Fine. First of all-."

A rumbling noise cut the explanation short. Something that resembled a lightning bolt fell from the sky and filled the area with blinding light. The experts couldn't see anything for a few seconds, but they felt a wave of dense power sweeping them. That force tried to push them away for a bit, but it didn't inflict any injury.

The experts had to wait for their eyes to grow used to the light since something was preventing their mental waves from expanding toward the spot where the light fell. Even Noah found it hard to push his consciousness forward. There seemed to be a similar power blocking it.

Once their vision returned, the experts could see how an immense white sword had pierced the hydra and had stabbed the ground far away under them. A cultivator sat cross-legged on the blinding handle of that colossal blade, and his angry eyes didn't hesitate to point at Sword Saint.

Chapter 1925 1925. Pill

Understanding what was happening felt almost too easy. The immense blade, the anger in the cultivator's eyes, and his fixed stare toward Sword Saint hinted at the expert's recent breakthrough.

'He suffered when the array sword path forced its laws to go to Sword Saint,' Noah concluded in an instant as his eyes coldly studied the expert.

The cultivator was tall and skinny. His cheeks were so caved in that everyone could see the shape of his skull. Long grey hair fell from his head, but it seemed to lack multiple patches since completely bald spots appeared when it fluttered in the soft wind lingering in the area.

The expert's eyes were completely white. They didn't have pupils or irises, but the cultivator didn't appear blind. Everyone could feel the direction of the organs' focus and the emotion that they carried.

The cultivators that descended from the sky usually had haughty figures, but the expert sitting on the immense sword appeared on the verge of death, at least when it came to his physical features. His cultivation level still raged firmly, which revealed its stable position in the solid stage of the ninth rank.

The immense sword had severed the hydra in half, but the creature's flames tried to link the two pieces back together. Still, their attempt attracted the cultivator's attention, and he limited himself to slam his palm on the blade's handle.

The simple gesture made the blade radiate blinding white light again, but Noah was ready at that time. Dark matter promptly appeared in front of the group and created a transparent cover that could block the radiance while allowing them to see the events unfolding in the distance.

The light gathered at the bottom of the sword before flowing toward its tip stabbed in the ground. The event lasted less than a second and generated a sharp shockwave around the weapon that replicated those movements.

The entirety of the hydra ended up being on the path of that sharp descending force. The creature had enough time to raise its nine heads and spit flames, but its struggles turned out to be pointless. The shockwave cut through everything and severed King Elbas' creation into a series of tiny golden flames.

The small flames tried to fuse back together and give birth to a weaker version of the hydra, but they found themselves unable to restore their previous connection. They even started burning each other due to the different nature obtained after the attack.

The tiny flames had a deep desire to live. They tried to shoot toward the storms, but the cultivator had spread the empty area even more during his arrival. Those fiery dots dispersed before they could even cover half of the path required to reach the chaotic laws.

The cultivator snorted once the last flame disappeared. He stood up and pointed its angry eyes toward Sword Saint again, but he didn't say anything. He seemed to study the expert for reasons that the group couldn't understand.

The joking mood of Noah's group had vanished as soon as the solid stage had landed on the area. They wouldn't fear an upper tier creature created by King Elbas because they knew that their companion knew how to counter it.

Moreover, the hydra had advanced to the upper tier after burning the army of flying cockroaches, which meant that its requirements were relatively poor. All its power probably went on its offensive and regenerative ability, but its innate defenses appeared far below average.

Instead, the sole idea that they had to face a proper cultivator in the solid stage made their mood grow solemn. They weren't ready for that situation on multiple levels. Most of them were exhausted after the previous fights, and the sheer difference in their power was enough to prove how hopeless that situation could be.

"You ants have overstepped," The cultivator announced in a hoarse voice. "You shouldn't have touched the sky."

King Elbas and the experts who had fought against the swarm slowly moved their eyes toward Sword Saint and Noah, but the latter tilted his head to point at his companion. The others cursed internally to learn that they were really guilty of messing with the sky, and countless plans tried to form inside their minds.

The situation didn't improve even when they inspected it from different perspectives. Doom awaited those who dared to face a solid stage cultivator. That was the true peak of the world, while most experts had yet to step on the last rank of the cultivation journey.

Plans, defiance, and luck couldn't do anything in front of pure power. Noah saw the very reason why he had embarked on the cultivation journey standing in front of him. In his mind, the threat that the solid stage cultivator posed to his group proved that everything was pointless without strength.

Noah prepared himself to deploy everything he had, and similar resolves filled his friends. Holding trump cards back was pointless in front of the threat of death, but their eyes sharpened when a tremor ran through their opponent.

The cultivator's power flickered for an instant. It moved from the solid stage to the bottom of the gaseous stage. It even threatened to drop into the eighth rank, but the expert quickly regained control of himself. However, the scene that unfolded in his vision had changed drastically.

Noah and the others were still standing in the sky. They didn't deploy their weapons nor prepared techniques during that short moment of weakness. Yet, their mood was completely different, and the same went for their expression.

Seven cold smiles filled the cultivator's vision. The hopelessness that his arrival had spread was nowhere to be seen. Instead, a chilling feeling replaced that tension.

"Elbas, give me something capable of awakening my mind," Noah ordered.

"We are talking about one of the best drugs in the world here," King Elbas complained.

Noah didn't add anything else. He limited himself to stretch his hand toward the expert, who heaved an annoyed sigh while taking out something from his space-ring and placing it in his friend's palm.

Noah studied the pitch-black pill in the lower tier at the center of his palm. Its shades and the aura that it radiated showed how King Elbas didn't make that drug while having himself in mind. It had created it for Noah, and the latter could even guess when that had happened.

"Did you make it when you saw the new level of my mind?" Noah teased.

"It just happened," King Elbas dismissed. "Do what you have to do before he decides to attack."

Noah didn't need King Elbas' reminder. He threw the pill in the air and tilted his head back as his consciousness shot toward the enemy cultivator. A small brim of the energy contained inside his ethereal darkness flowed toward his mental sphere at that point, and the world sensed by him transformed.

Countless inspections followed by a sea of destructive ideas filled his thoughts for a period he could easily misjudge as millennia. In truth, only one second went by between the activation and end of his superior mental state. Yet, that time was enough to understand everything he needed to know to win that battle. It would be brutal and bloody, but it was doable, and that was enough for someone like him.

His mind tried to fall into a coma due to the side effects of that immense boost in its capabilities. Still, the black pill fell inside his open mouth at that point. The drug melted, and a scorching sensation filled his mental walls. They quickly restored his mental sea under the effects of that urge, which prevented his sea of consciousness from going limp.

Chapter 1926 1926. Unstable

The sense of weakness that followed the use of the ethereal center of power didn't stop Noah from remaining at his peak. He knew what he had to do to win that battle. Everything else depended on his resilience.

His ambition surged as the dark world expanded. Mental waves flowed toward his companion as the workshops activated and the dark matter created a unique environment.

The study of the solid stage cultivator had involved many of his features. Noah's mind instinctively tried to find ways to destroy that threat, which required thorough inspections of the various elements of his existence and state.

That knowledge allowed Noah to deploy techniques meant to counter the expert. His dark world and workshop could adjust their power freely, so he didn't wait to activate them.

"What do you think you are doing?" The cultivator's hoarse voice resounded through the dark world, even if the technique should have prevented the spreading of soundwaves.

The expert's words transformed into sharp waves of energy that made the entirety of the dark world crumble. Noah had boosted the technique's power with his ambition and had forced it to touch the ninth rank, but he couldn't stretch its life for even a second. The dark matter and the workshops shattered, but a dense layer of higher energy made sure to protect the important assets contained among the black liquid.

A different view unfolded in front of the cultivator's eyes. There had been only seven experts before, but he found an entire army of peak rank 8 six-armed dragons in front of them now. Hundreds of magical beasts with bodies that leaked dense black trails acted as the first line of defense, and some even carried the cuts caused by the sharp words that had managed to pierce the protections created by the dark world.

Truth be told, those creatures were what had remained of all the dragons that the workshop had managed to build during the short instant gained by the dark world. Noah's ambition had empowered that process too, giving it the ability to create almost a thousand disposable magical beasts, but only a tenth managed to survive those casual words.

Noah had deployed every counter that his mind could generate in the second right after his inspection. His dark matter, dragons, and dark world were carrying features that the cultivator would theoretically struggle to pierce. Yet, nothing mattered in front of that sheer difference in power.

Noah didn't show any fear, but his instincts screamed. They reminded him about something that he had understood as soon as his consciousness had failed to inspect the cultivator in its normal state. That battle was out of his reach. His power couldn't make him win, but he wasn't alone.

Wide and astonished gazes converged toward Noah. He had sent the contents of his plan through his mental waves before. His friends had learnt how everything had to go, and their first reaction was to meet his eyes and check that he had really meant that. His nod gave birth to gasps, but determination soon appeared on the experts' faces.

Divine Demon and Wilfred stepped forward to fly next to Noah. Robert, Steven, and Sword Saint unleashed their auras to prepare their abilities, and King Elbas retreated while deploying a series of inscribed items that filled the area with golden light.

Everyone knew what they had to do. The plan could work. The experts had seen it unfolding in their minds when Noah's mental waves had reached them. However, they couldn't be happy about it because their chances of survival remained low.

"How is your mind?" Noah growled.

"I can use that ability without challenges," Divine Demon responded. "I can use many of them now."

"We have a plan then," Noah nodded.

"A plan fitting of a Demon," Divine Demon smirked.

"Can you not be happy about your role?" Wilfred sighed while glancing at King Elbas in the backlines. "I should have spent more time on the inscription methods."

"It's too late for regret," Noah announced. "Your place is among the cannon fodder now."

"I would have picked a different name to describe us," Divine Demon commented.

"Let me guess," Wilfred joked. "It has divine demon in it."

"Can you summon your energy before this guy remembers how to attack?" Noah reminded.

The inspection had revealed how the solid stage cultivator wasn't stable, but the sudden drop in his cultivation level had already hinted at that. Yet, Noah had discovered how deeply that instability affected the expert.

Heaven and Earth had lost part of the laws connected to the sword path during Sword Saint's breakthrough. The lack of that foundation in their existence made them unable to keep some of their copied true meanings active, especially those with a deep connection to blades.

The solid stage cultivator was one of them, and his existence had appeared quite chaotic during the inspection. The expert basically couldn't summon powers that he had used for most of his life. Heaven and Earth weren't even focusing on him, so he was experiencing a constant weakening and destabilization.

Rank 9 cultivators were worlds. They didn't have differences when it came to centers of power if something was affecting their existence as a whole. The group's opponent was in the same situation, and his mind was suffering from the same instabilities that afflicted his law. He wasn't letting Noah and the others prepare for the battle. He was simply unable to recall how to attack.

Noah didn't summon his companions or Demonic Sword. He couldn't deploy anything so weak in that battle. Only his body and disposable resources had to do.

His unstable substance flowed through the black vessels as his ambition and empowering technique spread through the dark world, the disposable puppets, and his body.

Multiple rank 9 auras spread through the world, with the most intense flowing out of Noah's body. His empowerments could bring various assets to the ninth rank, and he limited himself to those he could afford to lose or survive the imminent clash.

Wilfred had nothing to lose except for his life, so he put everything into his body. His muscles budged, his veins popped, and his size seemed to increase. His belly even expanded as his centers of power tried to bring his overall physical prowess beyond his normal limits.

Divine Demon waved his hand, and pieces of the world separated on their own to transform into energy that he could use. Large openings connected to the void covered the area while the expert wore his fiendish figure. He became bigger than Wilfred, but he didn't seem to have lost his reason at that time.

The three of them were the only member of the group with bodies strong enough to have a slim chance to resist the expert's abilities. They had to be the frontline in the battle until King Elbas, Sword Saint, or the others found a way out of that situation. Their role was the most dangerous among their group, but none of them dared to back down.

Noah didn't need to wait for a gesture from his companions. He knew exactly when they were ready to fight, and he didn't hesitate to unfold the dark world again at that point.

The sea of dark matter appeared almost solid now. It created an oval area that covered a long chunk of the sky. Still, Noah's instincts warned him before he could make the dragons shoot forward.

The dark matter enveloped the group and made it teleport into a different part of the dark world before a second immense sword fell in the middle of the technique and shattered everything. Even the movement ability suffered from the simple weight that the blade carried with it.

Chapter 1927 1927. Mirrors

The empowered dragons, the dark world, and the teleport fell apart when the blade descended into the environment. Its sheer weight released a sharp pressure that didn't let anything survive. All the disposable creatures crumbled and the almost solid dark matter shattered during that simple attack.

The pressure forced Noah and the others out of the teleport, but he made sure that the three meant to endure most of the blows ended up blocking part of the attack. Noah, Divine Demon, and Wilfred saw massive wounds opening on their bodies. Chunks of their flesh directly disappeared, and the same went for their internal organs.

'I guess that's the best I can do,' Noah thought as pain spread from every inch of his body.

The dark hole sent dark matter to cover his injuries and slow down the weakening of his tissues. It even copied the missing organs and black vessels that would affect his battle prowess in his absence. Part of that energy also flew toward his two heavily injured companions, but it couldn't be so thorough with its patches since it didn't know how the experts worked.

The experts under the trio ended up suffering only slight injuries since their companions had endured most of the blow that had reached that position. Their eyes wanted to go on their three friends, but they didn't waste that chance and focused their attacks on the solid stage cultivator.

Noah didn't joke when he called the trio cannon fodder. Their role in that impossible battle was to endure blows that would kill their friends or leave them with long-lasting injuries. Noah and Wilfred's hybrid status made them the best for that task, which Divine Demon's power was simply unreasonable. He could replicate the superior resilience that only magical beasts should have through his fiendish form.

Robert threw a massive dark-purple sphere toward the solid stage cultivator, and Steven surrounded the attack with his invisible energy. Instead, Sword Saint waited as his hands glowed with a silver light. He wanted to attack, but he had sensed that King Elbas was up to something, so he let him go first.

The massive sphere of toxic energy was incredibly slow in the solid stage expert's eyes. He raised his hand and failed to launch an attack, but the event didn't faze him. His mind wasn't working well enough to produce emotions of actual reactions, so it remained stuck on its initial desire to cast an ability.

The solid stage expert could try to launch an attack many times in the time that the toxic sphere would take to reach him. There was a high chance that he would succeed in stopping it, but a series of golden mirrors suddenly materialized around the expert and released golden beams that converged on his body.

Many of King Elbas' items had crumbled during the second swords descent, but some had survived, especially those with annoying abilities. The golden mirrors could turn ethereal and affect the stability of every material, but their actual offensive power wasn't exceptional.

The golden beams pierced the cultivator's figure without opening any injure on his body. They almost appeared harmless due to the lack of evident effects on the solid stage cultivator, but their purpose soon became clear.

The solid stage expert's cultivation level fell again. More hair fell from his head as patches of his scalp separated from his skin. The moment of weakness made it lower his hand and gave the toxic sphere the chance to reach its target without meeting any hindrance.

Dark-purple light filled the area without managing to get past the golden radiance that lingered in safe spots of the battlefield. That direct hit gave the experts hope, but their expressions turned dark when they saw that toxic energy shattering.

Robert and Steven spat multiple mouthfuls of blood as that violent destruction of their abilities spread until their existence. Robert managed to disperse those adverse effects by throwing away part of the tainted purple energy inside his body, but Steven had it far worse. His determination didn't come in different aspects, so that backlash ended up affecting his core.

Steven suddenly grew weaker. His cultivation level felt the need to fall from the peak of the eighth rank, but Sword Saint attacked at that point. He discharged the silver energy in his hands to create a wave of sharp power that fused with the environment.

The solid stage cultivator walked past the rain of dark-purple drops that had surrounded him after destroying the sphere. Those toxic beads shattered to transform into primary energy when they touched his skin. His innate defenses seemed to protect him even when his level fell, but they couldn't stop the next attack.

Silver light began to shine on the cultivator's skin. The sharpness radiated by Sword Saint seeped inside his flesh and started to sever everything in its range. The expert's innate defenses didn't seem to activate at all against that attack.

The sharpness peeled off the cultivator's skin and made his flesh explode into a gory spectacle. Confusion appeared on his face before even that body part transformed into a skull that only had a few bloodied patches hanging from it.

The cultivator transformed into a skeleton that made Noah remember at his first meeting with Skully, but he didn't take any satisfaction in that event. He could still see a few muscles, organs, and the centers of power sending energy to the expert's existence. The battle appeared far from over, but his group had confirmed that Sword Saint's techniques were effective.

Steven gasped for air as the force spreading through his insides vanished. The last attack had forced the solid stage expert to lose control of his aura in the distance, so Steven could finally stabilize his existence. He felt the need to hide and seclude himself for centuries to fix the damage suffered in that exchange, but the power released by his figure intensified when he decided otherwise.

King Elbas controlled his mirrors and made them take their place around the expert again, but they crumbled when a surge of sharpness flowed out of his figure. The few muscles still lingering on the expert's skull twisted to create a wicked smile, and the same hoarse voice from before resounded in the sky even if that skeletal body didn't have vocal cords anymore.

"That's what you have stolen," The cultivator announced. "Give me more. Give it back!"

The recent weakening didn't make the cultivator's level fall into the liquid stage, so the attack that followed his announcement forced everyone to deploy defensive abilities again.

Lights with different purposes filled the confers of Noah's eyes before his darkness shrouded everything. The dark world expanded as soon as his instincts alerted him of the incoming threat, and he immediately teleported everyone away.

A third immense sword fell on the environment and forced Noah, Divine Demon, and Wilfred to endure most of the shockwaves that the event generated. Their bodies fell into pieces, but warm golden light enveloped them and aided their healing properties. King Ebas had even made those items perfect for each existence in his group, so their power was technically incredible.

The shockwave sent everyone backward, but Sword Saint didn't hesitate to launch another attack. He relied on a simple wave of silver energy at that time before creating a blade that flew forward and dug a huge hole in the cultivator's chest. The latter's level fell again, and it finally abandoned the solid stage.

Chapter 1928 1928. Charge

The sudden fall of the expert's cultivation level wasn't a temporary weakness caused by instabilities. His existence had continued to destabilize due to the absence of core aspects of his law, and the exchanges with Noah's group only quickened that process.

Moreover, Heaven and Earth seemed to have no intention of fixing his state. Noah believed that the expert had gone rogue and was attacking them on his own since Sword Saint naturally attracted his existence, but he didn't know whether to expect something afterward. It felt strange for the rulers to ignore his group after what had happened, but he could also justify their decision to remain silent.

Noah couldn't even imagine how Heaven and Earth must feel after losing important laws gathered throughout the eras. Their existence was already unstable, so he guessed that Sword Saint's breakthrough had worsened that feature. The rulers would probably need to go through a long period of stabilization that involved throwing away laws that opposed their new state, but the chaos of the battlefield didn't let him remain deep in his thoughts for too long.

His body was still falling apart, and his two companions tasked to be part of the cannon fodder were in the same situation, if not worse. King Elbas' light was enveloping them, but there was a limit to how much power it could provide to three experts that had immense requirements.

Divine Demon was the only one who could vaguely stabilize his shape since the world kept shattering on its own to give him energy. The whiteness that made the battlefield was nothing more than a mass of tiles full of fuel for his technique, and he seemed able to affect it intentionally now.

Seeing the only real weakness behind Divine Demon's law disappearing as he approached the ninth rank felt scary. His companions couldn't even begin to think what he would be able to do without limits applied to his miraculous ability.

Wilfred struggled to absorb enough energy from the golden light. He even ate pieces of magical beasts that he had stored throughout the years, but his innate healing abilities had never been great. His species was incredibly strong and resilient, but it fell off when it came to other features.

Noah ended up being the worst of the three. His condition appeared decent due to all the dark matter covering his injuries, but he was feeling the structural limits of his body in that situation.

The issue wasn't with the sheer power released by the cultivator's attacks. He would suffer less damage than his companions because his body was stronger. Yet, his incredibly high requirements made him unable to recover since he never had access to enough energy.

That forced Noah to remain injured while his companions healed little by little. His condition was the best after the first exchange, but it had reached the last spot now, and he could only delay the worst possible outcome for now.

The life-saving pill won in the bet with King Elbas came out of the separate space and melted among the waves of dark matter. The same happened to most of the resources that he could quickly recover with a few hunts. His only regret came from the brown avatar contained inside Shafu since he had no way to turn it into energy quickly. Even the dragon could barely contain it.

The sacrifice of most of his stash activated Noah's instant healing and brought some relief to his condition. King Elbas' pill turned out to be so amazing that layers of muscles reappeared above the torn and damaged organs. His state remained awful, but that was enough to keep him at his peak for a bit longer.

'This should be enough to kill the cultivator,' Noah thought after sensing the drop in his opponent's cultivation level.

The three experts exchanged a nod before shooting ahead and approaching the liquid stage cultivator. They didn't have to stick to the cannon fodder's role now. It was finally time to pay their opponent back for what they had to suffer.

Robert and Steven joined their three companions when they saw them charging ahead. Only King Elbas and Sword Saint remained behind since they were more important in that battle.

Steven shone with a newfound power that covered the charging group with an invisible barrier. Large bullets made of the same energy shot forward to converge toward the liquid stage cultivator, and the other experts didn't hesitate to join that offensive.

Divine Demon opened his monstrous mouth as a blue light gathered in his throat, and a beam soon shot forward. Robert created a rain made of toxic drops that engulfed the area, and Wilfred accumulated his physical to prepare for the imminent clash.

Noah didn't want to use even more of his ambition or summon his companions against an opponent with unclear power. His abilities were empowering his body, dark world, and workshop, so he limited his offensive to them.

The dark world expanded and recreated the previous favorable environment. The new power of Noah's mental sphere and the empowered state of his technique allowed him to adapt different patches of dark matter to the various abilities flying through it without removing the weakening effects on the cultivators.

Steven saw his determination intensify, the rain's drops became bigger and released toxic gas, and patches of additional muscles appeared on Wilfred's arms to increase his peak power output. Moreover, an army of peak rank 8 dragons appeared due to the workshops set all around the dark world. Some even materialized in Noah's hands so that he could throw them.

The liquid stage cultivator was still trapped in his confused state. His centers of power simply stopped working at times, and his level continued to fall since his existence didn't stop crumbling.

The storm of attacks converged on his body before he could even realize that something was flying in his direction. A series of explosions resounded in the area once their attacks slammed on the cultivator, but the experts didn't feel satisfied. They could sense that their techniques had failed to pierce past the innate defenses. They had only weakened them.

King Elbas seemed to understand their mental state since a series of golden swords suddenly entered the dark world. Noah didn't even study those weapons. He directly used the dark matter to transport them right before the liquid stage cultivator, where they immediately activated their effects.

The swords stabbed the cultivator, but they didn't open injuries. Instead, they pierced past his innate defenses and created openings that led directly to the internal organs still hanging from that skeleton.

The experts didn't hesitate to launch another wave of attacks that converged in those spots, but the cultivator's eyes became aware of his surroundings before the offensive could reach him. Activating abilities in time to stop those techniques seemed impossible, so the skeleton decided to detonate the three immense swords stabbed on the ground.

The event had been too sudden. The three swords weren't inscribed weapons. They were part of the cultivator shattered existence. They probably were one of his strongest abilities when his law still existed, and the expert had even created them when his cultivation level was still in the solid stage.

The world in Noah's eyes slowed down when the wave of power radiated by the detonation was about to engulf him. Calculations happened in his mind, but he didn't reach any promising conclusion. He didn't have enough influence on space and time to dodge that attack or teleport himself away. His centers of power instinctively activated all the defenses they were capable of, but his consciousness went dark anyway.

Chapter 1929 1929. Aftermath

Noah felt vague sensations reaching his mind and spreading through his body. His sea of consciousness was too powerful to leave him completely unaware of his surroundings, but he couldn't understand much anyway.

White light slowly appeared in his vision as his mind forced itself to wake up. His destruction felt at home when his senses regained some clarity and allowed him to inspect the environment.

The new dim whiteness of the sky filled his surroundings, but black patches tainted it. Space had shattered in multiple spots, but Noah couldn't see any storm around him. They were nothing more than vague images far away in the distance, but even his powerful eyes couldn't study them.

Still, Noah could see how those storms felt unable to fill the massive empty area that had formed due to the detonation of the three swords. It was as if the attack carrying solid stage power had created a new dead zone among those regions, and the reason behind that emptiness felt close to Noah's existence.

Destruction and sharpness filled the sky. That dead zone seemed perfect for Noah's existence, but he didn't feel any happiness when gazing at it. His group had just faced one of the strongest attacks that the cultivation journey had to offer. It sounded strange for him to be alive.

His body was a mess of torn flesh, shattered bones, and missing organs, but his centers of power were fine. Those severe injuries would annoy many cultivators and even some hybrids, but they were only a matter of energy for Noah. That damage felt too little for what he had to face.

A second inspection of the environment and the words of his companions revealed how he had accomplished that. It turned out that Noah didn't do much. His empowerments were already boosting his body when his consciousness turned dark. His black hole and companions had to handle everything from that point.

The black hole had given birth to a unique layered dark world meant to weaken the cultivator's sharp energy. The technique didn't do much, but it managed to taint a small part of that array of power with Noah's destruction.

Duanlong and Shafu had activated their pulling force to draw as much energy as possible from the sharp waves engulfing Noah, and the parasite had even decided to throw roots forward relentlessly. His chest was even in the open, so the plant didn't have skin to pierce.

The sharp energy managed to get past that almost in perfect state, but those abilities didn't just disappear. Shafu, Duanlong, and the parasite continued to apply their weakening effects whenever they found a chance to expand their power. The same went for the dark world, which never stopped sending dark matter forward.

Snore became part of the main offensive there, even if its power fell short too. The raging dark matter coming out of its mouth and contained in its feathers tried to stop the wave of sharp energy, but it crumbled in less than a second. It managed to gain an instant for the other abilities and spread Noah's destruction even more, but that was it.

Night and the Demonic Sword were willing to come out and die if the situation required it. Their lives wouldn't have made Noah gain much, but delaying the main force of the sharp wave by even an instant felt worth it. Luckily for them, the struggle didn't require their sacrifice.

Noah's abilities didn't allow him to face a solid stage attack head-on, but he had just gotten a powerful item from his previous battle. Shafu didn't hesitate to throw the maimed brown avatar out of its separate space and use it to shield its Master from part of the sharp energy's power.

Those abilities expanded and crumbled in an endless cycle that pushed Noah high in the sky as the middle tier avatar worked as a shield. Yet, the brown giant eventually shattered, and his body had to endure the remaining power discharged during the detonation of the immense swords.

Noah could only be happy about the outcome of that exchange of abilities. He had faced something that he didn't have the power to survive, but he was still alive. Everything accumulated until then and the nature of the sharp energy had given him the chance to overcome that challenge.

Noah had been lucky that the sharp energy had expanded in every direction. He wouldn't even come close to surviving it otherwise. Still, he was aware that even monsters among monsters would struggle to live through that threat if they didn't have his accumulation, and that made him think about his companions.

The area around Noah was full of primary energy. It contained part of the power that the sharp wave dispersed in the attack and the brown avatar had released during its destruction. The storms didn't even dare to fly there, so most of the fuel was still around him.

His consciousness expanded and dragged even the slightest brim of energy inside him. Noah didn't spare even the shattering space. Every trace of power in his surroundings had to belong to him.

The shards of space and the vast cloud of primary energy contained enough power to restore most of his body. Noah almost went back to his peak, but he felt weak, especially mentally. His muscles could fight, but his mental sphere felt heavy after that near-death event.

'Where are they?' Noah thought once he managed to stabilize his condition and trigger his innate recovery.

King Elbas and Sword Saint had been relatively far away from the center of the explosion, so Noah believed them to be quite fine. They probably were farther away even, so he soon stopped looking for them.

Divine Demon was a monster, memories or not. Noah didn't know if he could actually survive the sharp wave, but the expert had his complete trust.

His other companions were an issue. Wilfred would probably survive due to his hybrid status, but that wouldn't prevent him from suffering serious injuries. A quick look at his previous condition would have been enough to explain how deeply that energy had affected him. It was only normal for those with weaker bodies to suffer more.

Instead, Robert and Steven were among the weakest in the group, and they probably didn't have enough advantages of items that could give them a chance to survive the threat. They weren't even in the ninth rank, so damages to their centers of power could put an end to their cultivation journey.

Noah descended at full speed while checking every corner of the environment. The dead zone appeared immense, but he didn't have problems making sure that everyone was safe. His body had just recovered, so his consciousness expanded even past its normal limits. He had overcome the attack of the solid stage cultivator in the end. His ambition had intensified, and that forced his other centers of power to express more energy.

Nothing interesting had entered his range even when he was about to reach the ground, but he eventually noticed a familiar face. He found Robert, and his poor condition made him wear a dark expression.

The expert was a gory mess, and a side of his head had completely disappeared. Noah checked how deep that injury was with his consciousness, and his expression darkened even more when he saw a mental sphere with cracks and holes.

Chapter 1930 1930. Fun

Dark matter immediately flowed out of Noah's chest to envelop Robert with properties that could benefit his existence. However, that sent more information to Noah, and his expression gained a peculiar coldness.

Robert was floating in the sky close to the ground. The energy that lingered in the environment and the power flowing out of his organs were keeping him afloat. Noah had even found him moving toward the storms due to that slow momentum.

The expert was still alive, but his body was beyond recovery. Everything outside and inside of Robert was in pieces, cracked, or simply non-existent. Only his face still carried human features, but that didn't feel too true since almost a third of it had completely disappeared.

His centers of power weren't better either. His mental sphere was about to fall apart. Cracks spread throughout his mental walls, and many holes leaked the evaporating mental sea. His dantian had multiple cuts that left a path for his "Breath". The organ was even slightly flat due to the clash with the sharp energy.

The layers of dark matter managed to put an end to Robert's weakening, but Noah soon noticed that he couldn't stop him from falling apart. He would have to rebuild too much. His destroyed body was only the last of the problems. His dantian and mental sphere required a complete rebirth.

Robert woke up while Noah inspected him. The sole return of his awareness widened the cracks on his mental sphere. His center of power seemed unable to handle life anymore.

"It's not too bad," Robert voiced a weak laugh. "I've come back from worse."

"Don't talk," Noah ordered when he saw shards of Robert's mental sphere falling inside his dark matter during his phrase.

"I'm afraid I won't follow the orders this time," Robert laughed again before frowning due to the pain that his shattering mind sent.

Countless ideas appeared in Noah's mind. He reviewed the entirety of his cultivation journey in an instant to search for something that could tell him how to save Robert.

A few ideas could work as long as Noah only focused on keeping Robert alive and disregarded his current cultivation level and potential. He could absorb his consciousness inside his mind, record the current state of his existence, and replicate it later on when building another body.

Noah could replace all the matter in his centers of power to create temporary organs that would save his consciousness and existence. Then, a long session with his ambition might make Robert able to go through a second rebirth. The process didn't have many chances to succeed, but it was better than nothing.

Noah could turn Robert into a Blood Companion before freeing him. The expert would lose his current existence, but Noah felt confident in creating something quite similar. After all, Robert had experienced his rebirth under his guidance.

Noah even considered activating the ability of his ethereal center of power to find better answers or expand his consciousness even further. Finding King Elbas wouldn't be a problem at that point, and he might be able to help him figure out a solution.

Even Divine Demon could play his part in that process with his miraculous law, but wasting time to summon others was a risk since it was very likely that most experts had fainted or were recovering. Noah didn't want to gamble away precious seconds when he was already there.

"Noah, stop," Robert begged when he understood what his leader's cold expression hid.

"My underlings aren't allowed to die," Noah stated. "That's between rule three or four of my organization. Pick the number you like the most."

"Only the first rule is important," Robert laughed, "And I broke it for a long time."

"Robert," Noah said in a serious tone.

"How many laws do you want me to throw away?" Robert asked. "How many chances do I even need to have before I decide to give up?"

"This was bad luck," Noah announced. "You can't expect to face a solid stage cultivator before the breakthrough to the ninth rank."

"Yet, you are in perfect shape," Robert smirked without putting the slightest envy in his tone, "And I'm floating aimlessly while I wait for my death. Is your power luck?"

Noah remained silent. He could answer, but he didn't want to destroy Robert's last hope to live either. Still, he had to admit that his companion was right. Robert had already switched existence many times. Even Noah didn't know how much potential he would have left after another rebirth.

"Are you asking me to let you die?" Noah questioned him while the Demonic Sword appeared in his hand. "I can make it quick."

"I want you to make it quick," Robert explained, "But don't kill me with your words. My existence lives because of you. Take it. I know it will fit your law."

Noah's expression became even colder, but two existences suddenly entered the range of his consciousness and made him focus on those areas. His dark world immediately expanded and sent waves of dark matter toward those presences before teleporting them next to him.

Steven puked blood after materializing next to Noah. The teleport didn't cause that event. His abdomen had a large hole that stretched from his dantian until his heart. He was also missing an arm, and the other was busy carrying a fainted Divine Demon.

Divine Demon was still in his monstrous form, but he had lost most of his body. His figure was nothing more than a head attached to a triangular chunk of flesh that stretched until his dantian. Everything else had disappeared, but an invisible aura was keeping his insides in place.

"He managed to make part of the energy turn," Steven explained with a tinge of shame. "I-, I hid behind him when everything exploded again."

"He would probably praise you for that," Noah scoffed. "That monster lives for wine, dragons, and demons."

Steven wanted to complain, but his voice failed to come out of his mouth when he saw Robert's state. Studying the amount of dark matter enveloping his body and filling his injuries was enough to explain how terrible his condition was, especially when it came to his head.

"Xavier won't come and perform a miracle just to brag for a few days," Robert mocked. "Stop buying time."

Steven could understand most of the situation after that short interaction, and sadness inevitably filled his face. He and Robert had ended up getting close in those years since they shared their position at the bottom of the group. He felt unable to say anything when Noah sighed and stored the Demonic Sword.

"Are you sure?" Noah asked. "Losing yourself among the darkness isn't too bad."

"I have faced the darkness twice already!" Robert shouted. "Heaven and Earth have forced me to abandon my first law, and you have given me the chance to abandon their true meaning. Hurry up now. I want to experience becoming part of the monster that will destroy the sky with my last moment of awareness."

"As you wish," Noah whispered as an azure light came out of his eyes.

"It has been fun," Robert exclaimed when Noah placed his palm on his maimed head.

"It has been incredibly fun," Noah repeated, and the two exchanged one last smile before Supreme Thief's ability activated.