

## **Demonic 1931**

### **Chapter 1931 1931. Curse**

A wave of memories flowed inside Noah's mind. He saw flashes of Robert's life before the first change of his law when Heaven and Earth had yet to force him to join their system. His power still had something to do with corrosive abilities, but those images were too vague for Noah to gain a clear understanding.

The second wave of memories was even worse in terms of clarity. Most of them were simple while light and vague thoughts. Robert wasn't even himself during the period under Heaven and Earth's rule. Those mighty existences had forced him to modify his very core, transforming him into something that he barely recognized.

Then, darkness cleared that blinding light and gave birth to a clear wave of memories. Noah saw everything from the events on the other side of the Immortal Lands to the last battle against the solid stage cultivator.

Intense emotions filled that part of Robert's memories. The anger toward the rulers was predominant, but Noah also found happiness. His companion could finally cultivate freely after his rebirth, and that was the best feeling in the world for someone who had to join Heaven and Earth's system unwillingly.

A tinge of awareness still existed inside those memories. Noah could feel Robert's consciousness as he searched for his core, and calm gratitude seeped out of them.

Robert had done his best and failed. That was how the cultivation journey worked, and he felt no regret about it. He had lived an incredibly long life, switched sides of the world multiple times, and his gratitude still existed now that his existence was becoming part of his leader.

Noah didn't have to look for too long to find Robert's core. His mind opened on its own to reveal what remained of his law after the deadly injury.

A cracked dark-purple core eventually came out of Robert's consciousness and entered Noah's mind. The power of the mutations gained after the rebirth still raged strong, but Heaven and Earth had become immune to them by then. Anger accompanied that feature as the main aspect of his existence, and the same went for a vague curiosity that allowed his toxic energy to evolve.

Noah couldn't turn that law into an ability. He could consider it a different version of his destruction, which would make it superfluous in his arsenal. Still, Robert was born from dark matter and ambition, so Noah could see himself inside that core.

The core melted once Noah finished studying it. His mental waves wanted to devour that power to expand his mind, but he stopped them. He couldn't treat Robert as mere energy. The expert had to become part of him and fuse his aspects with what made the ambition so powerful.

The corrosive aspect of Robert's law fused with Noah's destruction. The latter could sense his understanding deepening even if his mind was one step above his companion. The absorption had brought a new perspective that broadened that idea and granted Noah access to new uses.

The faint curiosity split to fuse with his destruction and creation. That aspect also deepened the analytical properties that often accompanied his attacks, but their addition didn't create massive

changes. Noah's law already enveloped that perspective, so the absorption only made his ability stronger.

The anger ended up creating greater changes in Noah's mindset. He had always clashed with Heaven and Earth, but that mostly happened due to their constant suppression. He wanted to pierce the sky, but only because it stood in his way. Noah had come close to feeling hate for the rulers when the Crystal City had kidnapped his companions. Still, that feeling had waned after learning more about their existence.

Noah could understand Heaven and Earth. He would have taken a different approach in front of the same failure, and he probably would have handled the control of the world more personally, but he could relate to their drive to reach the tenth rank.

Noah couldn't hate them for being willing to use the entire world to push their level forward. Part of him actually respected the rulers for remaining past the peak of the cultivation journey even after acknowledging their failure. Most experts couldn't survive a simple change in the aspects of their laws, but Heaven and Earth never stopped transforming their existence, and they still stood at the top.

Things changed when Noah felt Robert's deep anger toward the rulers. The feelings that had originated from the injustice suffered after his first defeat were impossible to ignore.

Robert's anger flowed in his greed, hunger, sharpness, and overall ambition, adding different features to those aspects. Noah was a superior existence, so that feeling transformed when it became part of his defying law.

Everything began to feel too bright, even if Noah's eyes were shut. The innate pressure radiated by the sky transformed into an annoying reminder of how easily the rulers could mess with his life. Even the air that Noah filtered through his power after Heaven and Earth made it toxic for his existence reminded him of his true nature.

Heaven and Earth cursed those who opposed their system, but that also gave them a unique status. The empty monster outside the sky was the most striking example of that effect. Noah suddenly discovered the power in his curse, and new abilities appeared as his existence finished absorbing Robert's law.

'Shatter the sky,' Robert's voice resounded for the last time inside Noah's mind before his existence vanished from the world.

Noah opened his eyes as the icy-blue color of his reptilian eyes grew darker. Robert's body turned into dust among the cloud of dark matter after losing its law. That material still contained a bit of his power, but Noah didn't want it. Still, he couldn't let it disperse in Heaven and Earth's world, so he eventually accepted that burden.

The dark matter devoured what remained of the expert. A mighty companion who had spent millennia with Noah had disappeared from the world. His force had lost one of its pillars, and his mind could only think about exacting a price from the rulers.

"Gather the others," Noah ordered while waving his hand and retracting the dark world.

Currents of dark matter entered Steven and Divine Demon. The higher energy made up for the missing organs and brought some relief to their centers of power. Noah couldn't heal them, but it could help their innate recovery and stop the worsening of their injuries.

"Is that it?" Steven asked in a disappointed tone. "Robert dies, and we-"

"You might want to be careful about your next words," Divine Demon interrupted in a chilling voice.

The arrival of the dark matter had awakened Divine Demon and had allowed him to hear Steven's doubts about Noah's leadership. That was unacceptable when their opponent contained an unclear number of experts at the same level as the sword cultivator.

"It's fine," Noah said while floating toward a seemingly random spot in the dead zone. "He is just angry. I'll make sure to convey that emotion."

Both Steven and Divine Demon felt confused, but they didn't question Noah. They couldn't imagine that he had started to feel the beings connected to Heaven and Earth more clearly, and he could see one of them standing in areas where his consciousness couldn't reach.

Noah's figure pierced the sky and reappeared near the edges of the storms. A skeletal cultivator was on the ground, wandering as he searched for the expert who had stolen laws from Heaven and Earth. His cultivation level had fallen at the bottom of the liquid stage, but he appeared more stable than before.

"Where is he?" A hoarse voice came from the skeleton when he sensed Noah.

"We will use your death to build a new home among the storms," Noah explained as roots pierced his palm and took the shape of a sword.

"The storms will never accept you," The skeleton laughed. "The foundations of these lands belong to Heaven and Earth."

"We'll find a way," Noah declared coldly while pointing the sword toward the skeleton. "We are demons. We build on corpses."

A black drop fell from the tip of the roots after the announcement. The ground melted when the liquid touched it, and the corrosion released a dark-purple gas that dispersed in the whiteness of the sky.

### **Chapter 1932 1932. Innate defense**

The skeletal cultivator was stable but not in the best mental condition. He pointed his hand at Noah when he refused to give a proper answer, and a sword shot out.

The blade was white and big. Its tip alone was three meters tall as it flew toward Noah and closed the distance between him in no time.

Noah's mind had never been sharper. It worked at full power and benefited from the anger inherited from Robert. It studied the might behind the cultivator's attack in Heaven and Earth's system, and black lines quickly covered the entirety of its structure.

The sword exploded before it could reach Noah. He didn't wave his hands nor move, but the attack detonated and released a storm of tiny shards. Some tried to land on him, but they melted and released dark-purple trails when they got close to his figure.

The expert was in the liquid stage, but the fall in his cultivation level had turned him into an existence that stood even below newly advanced entities. Noah wouldn't feel confident against a normal opponent at that level, but he saw a path toward victory there. Moreover, something didn't allow him to back down.

"Move aside already!" The skeleton screamed while raising his arm.

A giant sword materialized above Noah. The weapon started to fall as whiteness shone from its structure. Still, it vanished from his senses when the world in his vision transformed into an array of lines.

The skeleton's eyes flickered when he sensed a change in the structure of the world. He instinctively waved his hands backward, and a sword started to materialize behind him. Yet, sword-shaped roots landed on his right forearm and interrupted his attack.

The half-materialized swords continued to fly forward and triggered Noah's defenses. He had sprinted behind the expert, but he didn't manage to be quick enough to attack before him.

Black lines appeared on the unstable swords, but they crashed on the defensive aura that had started to surround Noah before his destruction could affect them properly. They shattered and melted during the clash, but shards managed to pierce that protective layer and fly toward his body.

Holes opened in Noah's figure. His body was basically in the ninth rank with all his empowerments, and it could even match magical beasts fairly deep into the lower tier. However, his opponent remained a liquid stage cultivator, and even his damaged attacks could hurt him.

The shards pierced Noah from side to side, creating holes in his chest, shoulders, and arms. Still, his gaze didn't waver. He continued to stare deep into the expert's white eyes while he let his roots go crazy.

His understanding flowed toward the parasite and empowered its corroding power. Noah had forced the plant to generate ranged attacks in the past, but the aspects of Robert's law had fused with that ability to give birth to a dense fluid that had both intense and invasive properties.

The dark-purple liquid released by the roots could instantly destroy everything unable to resist its power, but it changed its approach against stronger assets. The skeleton's innate defenses had the shape of swords piled onto each other to create an armor that hovered above its figure, but dark shades started to spread from the spot where the parasite had landed.

The parasite couldn't corrode it, but it managed to infect the powerful defensive method with its dark-purple liquid. The shard that had hit Noah tried to push him backward, but his insane physical prowess allowed him to remain in his spot, so the plant could continue applying its effects.

Noah even tried to dig his sword-shaped roots forward, but cracks opened on his weapon as he pushed the expert backward. He couldn't pierce the cultivator's innate defenses with his physical prowess, but the corrosive liquid eventually destabilized that armor of swords.

The cultivator was preparing a second attack, but Noah's weapon suddenly pierced his innate defense and landed on his bones. The parasite promptly made its roots grow, and they entangled themselves around the skeletal arm before the expert decided to jump backward.

The roots didn't want to let go of the expert, but the latter severed their connection with the parasite by making his figure released a wave of sharpness. Everything on his bodes shattered at that point, but he quickly noticed that his arm was no more. It had fallen during his retreat.

Part of the release of sharp energy hit Noah and opened multiple cuts on his figure, but that didn't stop him from charging ahead. Yet, his target wasn't the retreating cultivator. He stopped next to a spot that released dark-purple gas.

"You aren't even connected to your main body," Noah complained while picking the item releasing the toxic gas.

The parasite had learnt from Noah's destruction during the attack, so it had focused on the shoulder to sever the entire arm. Still, the small chunks of roots that had survived the sharp waves by hiding behind the bones had continued to consume the limb after falling on the ground.

Noah noticed how those roots mostly lost energy. They had no connection to the parasite, and they weren't big enough to contain that power by themselves. The bodies of the cultivators weren't too valuable, and that was even truer for that skeletal limb, but it remained a rank 9 material.

A wave of fiery dark matter came out of Noah and burnt the limb and roots to absorb their power. The energy contained inside the arm managed to close a few superficial cuts, and he could only sigh at that sight. He remained injured, but his condition didn't matter too much as long as he could destabilize the expert's mind even more.

The cultivator had grown angrier after inspecting that scene. Noah had actually managed to hurt him on his own. He couldn't let that insult go, but Noah acted before he could raise his free hand again.

The expert directly summoned a giant sword behind him, and Noah materialized there for an instant, but a crack that led to the void opened in that spot when he sprinted again. He reappeared in front of the cultivator's chest, and his sword-shaped sword landed on the part of the barrier that defended his rib cage.

"You won't have it eas-," The cultivator started to shout, but surprise filled his confused mind when he saw Noah's weapon piercing his innate defense in a matter of seconds.

The roots had required half of their previous time to overcome the defense. Noah had learnt more about that innate technique after piercing it once, so he could destroy it even faster. An array of black lines also spread further than the dark-purple liquid while the armor of swords continued to shatter.

The cultivator had to divert his attack toward the roots that landed on his rib cage. He couldn't let them apply their effects for too long, but he suffered injuries even if he retreated quickly and launched a sharp wave of energy that severed Noah's attack from the parasite again.

The expert landed in the distance, and his sternum fell apart once his feet touched the ground. His heart was in the open now, and only his ribs continued to protect his organs. He didn't know how it was possible, but Noah was actually defeating him.

## Chapter 1933 1933. Silence

Noah felt stronger than ever. Cuts and holes made him bleed, but he barely felt them. His mind was cold even if destructive thoughts and anger filled its insides.

Mere bones couldn't oppose his attacks. The cultivator couldn't do anything after Noah pierced the armor of swords. The expert's attacks also failed to deal enough damage since Noah's destruction acted as a defensive shield that was highly effective against abilities that he continued to study.

It was as if Robert's laws had reached perfection after making its aspects flow in Noah's ambition. Each of its properties had found its true path when paired with unstoppable physical strength, a mind meant to find flaws, and a true meaning that could empower everything he had. Noah had literally transformed in minutes, and the cultivator could only remain in awe in front of his relentless offensive.

The cultivator skull didn't move, but his hoarse voice still resounded in the area. "What are you? Why can you pierce me?"

Noah could explain in detail how his mind continued to study the expert's existence and increase the efficiency of his corrosiveness. He could tell him how those features didn't only apply to the parasite and the destructive aura that lingered around his figure. He could reveal how that was only part of his power, but words were useless now.

A slash shot out of the sword-shaped root in Noah's hand after a simple wave of his hand. The attack was massive and carried so many properties that even a stable mind would struggle to recognize.

The greed and hunger carried by the slash made the ground shatter and forced its energy to flow inside the curved attack to increase its size and power. Those aspects even relied on specific parts of Noah's destruction and creation to increase the dangerousness of their influence and improve the blow without destabilizing its structure.

The slash released intense sharpness capable of seeping into the very fabric of space and time. The cultivator saw it flying toward him, but he felt unable to move or dodge it. The world had already recorded his impact with the attack and had turned it into an unavoidable event.

Trails of dark smoke came out of the slash. The dark matter was the strongest and most flexible material in the world, so it replicated the effects of Noah's flames and the parasite's corrosiveness. His destruction also did its part there, and it added the knowledge gathered by his mind to make everything more effective against the cultivator.

Anger filled the slash too. Noah knew that his opponent was part of Heaven and Earth's system, so his new feeling activated and improved the effectiveness of his attack.

There was simply too much in that single attack, and Noah could add even more. He still had the companions, the dark world, his army of disposable puppets, the stronger effects that the Demonic Sword could generate, the superior power of the cursed sword, the Shadow Domain, and his ethereal center of power.

The laws of most existences that reached the ninth rank would only carry one or two aspects, but Noah had so many that he could pick which ones he considered to be more effective in each situation. Even

the liquid stage cultivator with his confused mind could acknowledge him as the strongest monster that had ever stepped on the Immortal Lands.

The slash slammed on the cultivator and created a hole in his innate defenses. The armor of swords shattered as flames, sharpness, black lines, and a corrosive substance spread throughout his chest. He had to make one of his giant swords fall next to him and make it release its shockwaves to get rid of those abilities.

The exchange left the cultivator severely weakened. His cultivation level resumed falling as his existence started to crumble again. Noah's attacks had managed to shatter the stability that the expert's clarity had brought. It didn't take much before he reached the peak of the gaseous stage and lost even more body parts.

The cultivator didn't give up. He raised his arm toward the sky and spread his aura forward. His broken existence seemed to create a connection with the while layer far away in the distance to call for help.

Noah didn't want to test himself against Heaven and Earth's counter at that time. He had too much in his mind. He had even thought of a way to quicken the improvement of his battle prowess. He couldn't let the rulers slow him down now.

The array of lines replaced the world in his vision. Noah sprinted in front of the skeleton while leaving a large crack connected to the void behind him, but he noticed that something was off when he was about to pierce the expert with his sword-shaped root.

The skeleton didn't have facial muscles anymore. Its eyes were even completely white, so it was hard to read his expressions. However, the desperation that had seeped into his aura was impossible to miss. He was looking at the sky, but the sky wasn't looking back.

Noah stopped to look in the same direction. He felt almost able to see the connection that the cultivator had built with Heaven and Earth, but nothing was flowing toward the storms. The rulers were silent as if they didn't recognize their followers.

"Their system can't recognize you because they have lost the original laws," Noah explained quickly.

"What?" The skeleton asked while lowering his head, but the sword-shaped root pierced his heart.

Noah had used his previous line to keep the expert surprised long enough to pierce the armor of swords with the roots. The corrosive substance and the black lines spread through the cultivator's organs, and pieces of his maimed body started to fall or turn into dust.

The cultivator tried to summon his power to free himself of those substances, but Noah stabbed his other hand through the innate defenses and grabbed the skull before his opponent could release any attack. The armor of swords was too weak now, to his empowered body was more than enough to pierce it.

An azure light started to shine from behind Noah's reptilian eyes. He dived deep into the expert's confused mind and searched among messy thoughts and shards of his mental sphere for his core. That existence would have many missing spots and feature multiple instabilities, but Noah didn't care. He only wanted those ideas.

The confused thoughts were a messy cloud that made his exploration troublesome. Noah even found giant ethereal swords floating around and reacting to that foreign presence, but his black mental waves were too powerful there. He could even release his bloodlust to clear the area quickly, but he feared that he would damage the cultivator's existence due to its frail state.

A white core eventually appeared in his vision, and Noah didn't hesitate to seize it. When he opened his eyes, he found that ethereal mass of energy in his palm.

Noah couldn't absorb something created by Heaven and Earth right away. It would only self-destruct inside his mind. Still, it wasn't hard for him to start a process that could purify that energy.

A dark-purple liquid came out of his skin and forced the connection and influence of Heaven and Earth to leave the white core. Sizzling noises came out of that existence until it darkened and found a new unstable form.

Noah put that energy inside his mind and let his mental waves contain its unstable structure. He had already developed an ability due to Supreme Thief's technique, but he didn't want to limit himself there. He had other plans for that existence.

### **Chapter 1934 1934. Obelisk**

The skeleton shattered after losing his existence. The dust that came out of his already destroyed body flew toward Noah and helped fix his injuries.

The effects were barely noticeable, especially as Noah deactivated his empowerments. The unstable substance, Isaac's ability, and ambition left him with a deep sense of weakness that slowed down his requirements and forced the black hole to invest more energy in dispersing stress. Still, he didn't face any deepening of his injuries, and his body remained stable.

Those drawbacks appeared unable to affect Noah deeply. His body was advancing slowly, but each step taken forward consisted in a massive increase in power. The same went for the black hole due to its connection with his dantian. The latter's improvements would multiply after reaching the fourth center of power.

Noah's potential increased after that victory. He had gone from succeeding in forcing his breakthrough and expanding what his centers of power could achieve to fighting a middle tier puppet and a solid stage cultivator in a relatively short time. He didn't actually defeat the expert at his full power on his own, but the battle had been so out of his range that his achievements had still fueled his ambition.

'I need a bit more for my dantian,' Noah concluded in his mind after inspecting the state of his centers of power.

The experiments with his copies had shown him how his centers of power could reach the ninth rank. His dantian could technically follow a regular path and expand as energy flowed in its insides and his influence intensified. Yet, most tests saw the organ using the accumulated potential to jump into the superior realm.

Noah had already seen how much his dantian would normally need, so he had to go beyond that to achieve the same results obtained with his mind. The ethereal blackness had enough space to make it



grow after the breakthrough, but Noah wanted to establish a good foundation instead of improving it once it became a proper rank 9 center of power.

It wasn't hard to get a vague idea of how much Noah would need to execute that plan, but it was definitely scary. Truth be told, his existence was ready to step into the superior realm. Spending some time cultivating would be enough to bring him to a level where his current potential could close the gap that separated the dantian from the ninth rank. Still, his ambition didn't allow him to settle for perfection. He needed more.

'I need to fight middle tier and liquid stage opponents from now on,' Noah sighed when he thought about how steep his requirements had become. 'And I still need to use the energy in the ethereal blackness to make the last push.'

Going past his monstrous potential was only the first step. Noah's ethereal blackness had the last word on the matter. His dantian had to experience the same double empowerment as his mind and reach levels of power that even he didn't know how to describe.

Noah didn't even want to think about his body. All his copies had struggled to make it advance, and filling the requirements for the chrysalis had always required materials at an insane level.

'The closer I get, the longer the path stretches,' Noah thought as he let his mind drift away in that moment of peace, but his memories didn't let him remain in that state for long.

'And more blood gets spilled,' Noah continued his previous thought before pointing at the spot where the cultivator had died.

Dark matter seeped out of his fingers as the dark world expanded. Workshops appeared to help transform the higher energy and creating a simple structure.

Noah knew that King Elbas would have to modify that building later on, but he wanted his dark matter to stay at its core. Robert had been a good underling and companion, so Heaven and Earth needed a reminder that could resist the storms. Noah wasn't even afraid that the rulers would try to take it down since they had already shown how busy they were.

The dark matter transformed into bricks that carried the specific features dictated by his mind. Noah wanted to replicate Robert's existence while applying some modifications to prevent it from killing those who couldn't resist his toxic abilities. Ambition, anger, corrosion, and the ability to mutate Heaven and Earth's matter took the shape of walls, floors, ceilings, and roofs as a large obelisk grew from the ground and stretched toward the sky.

Familiar presences entered the dark world as Noah continued to build that monument. He recognized his companions, and King Elbas slowly approached him from the side.

King Elbas appeared fine, but his complexion was pale. He had been at some distance from the detonation of the three immense swords, but he had still suffered injuries that even his unique body couldn't hide.

The cultivator frowned and widened his eyes whenever Noah committed what he considered to be errors. However, he forced himself to remain silent, especially since the ambition radiated by each brick,

tile, and wall eventually fixed everything and even surpassed what King Elbas could do with a single energy.

"We need to stop and recover," Noah stated once the building reached its completion. "It's the perfect chance to create a lasting reminder of Robert's life."

All the experts had gathered by then, and Noah had sensed King Elbas arriving with Steven and Divine Demon. He had to know that Robert had died.

"He might have cheated death more than you," King Elbas commented. "Can you even say that he died when his existence still lives through you?"

"Steven sure talks a lot," Noah scoffed.

"Did you miss that spot on purpose, or do you like to make me angry?" King Elbas asked while pointing at one of the bricks on the obelisk.

"Everyone likes to make you angry," Noah replied, "And I didn't miss anything."

"Do I really need to sho-?" King Elbas started to make an arrogant remark, but Noah's ambition fixed the flaw during his line and forced him to fall silent.

King Elbas' expression eventually turned serious before an obvious statement came out of his mouth.

"We weren't ready for so much. Do you think the other breakthrough will cause something similar?"

"I hope they do," Noah replied. "Do you have any idea of how much Heaven and Earth have lost because that madman managed to touch structures that go beyond worlds?"

"I definitely need to hear that story again," King Elbas responded. "Also, that will only bring more threats that we can't handle."

"Then someone else might die," Noah explained before turning toward his companion. "I know you like to be prepared for everything, but Heaven and Earth have devoured laws for ears. We are literally against everything, so you have to accept the risk of the unknown."

"I'm not Divine Demon," King Elbas snorted. "You can't push my power forward through challenges."

"My underling died today," Noah sighed. "Heaven and Earth lost a dying pawn while we lost a pillar. We still don't know how much Sword Saint has affected them, so we will consider this as our loss. Let's avoid it next time."

"You are already pushing your existence past what your centers of power can handle," King Elbas responded. "What more can you do? What more can we do? Our opponents are simply strong."

"I have a few ideas for myself," Noah declared. "So, you all should get some."

"You are going for something crazy again, aren't you?" King Elbas asked.

"We should start classifying the levels of crazy," Noah suggested. "Though I wouldn't know where to put this anyway."

**Chapter 1935 1935. Incomplete**

Noah completed the obelisk and let King Elbas step in. The structure enlarged as golden materials turned it into a proper palace with Noah's creation at its center.

Needless to say, the golden materials turned black in a matter of hours, but King Elbas had predicted that outcome. He had even helped it by adding Noah's influence to his calculation and favoring its expansion.

The pace was initially barren, and the experts would have accepted it in that state, but King Elbas didn't let anyone inside until it reached the level of perfection that had to accompany his name.

King Elbas added inscriptions to create reinforced training areas. He spread formations throughout the entire dead zone to connect the storms to the structure and provide a stable energy source. He even built multiple halls meant for each expert.

It would be hard for Noah's group to find someone who could do a better job than King Elbas, even if they explored the entirety of the storms. Still, he made sure to leave the central obelisk empty.

That structure was a symbol that no one wanted to taint with their influence. Gathering and political meetings might happen there one day, but the six experts were past that. They preferred to keep it as a monument that perfectly depicted Robert's existence.

All the experts needed to recover. Dealing with rank 9 existences was always troublesome, especially for experts who had yet to gain access to rank 9 centers of power. Their worlds could affect laws and leave lasting injuries, and something similar had happened to the group. Only King Elbas, Noah, and Sword Saint had managed to avoid those consequences.

King Elbas was simply a monster who had already studied the sword cultivator's existence and created a counter to his influence. Sword Saint carried the aspects of the sword path that the expert wanted to retrieve, and Noah had a rank 9 mind that allowed him most of the superiority that centers of power in a higher realm could apply.

Divine Demon, Steven, and Wilfred didn't have it too hard either since the sword cultivator's existence had been on the verge of falling apart since the beginning of the fight. He could affect matter and other laws, but his influence couldn't compare to stable true meanings even if he had initially been in the solid stage.

The easier process didn't shrink the time that the experts needed to recover. They had all suffered severe injuries that risked spreading to their centers of power, so they had to take care of them. Moreover, rebuilding bodies from scratch could be a pain, depending on how strong they had to be.

Only Sword Saint was virtually completely fine after the battle. His new understanding of the sword path and the role that his companions had given him had prevented him from suffering injuries. Also, he was a real rank 9 existence now, so he could express far more power than his peers.

Sword Saint had planned to leave as soon as the battle ended, but he knew that Robert's death was partially his fault. He didn't regret his actions nor blame himself, but his friends had lost one of their pillars because of him, so he delayed his departure to make sure that everyone would recover completely.

Noah ended up being one of the first among the group to recover completely. He had already healed before the battle through the remaining solid stage energy and the fuel left by the brown avatar, so his injuries only came from his clash with the already weakened cultivator.

Noah spent a bit cultivating before contacting King Elbas and confirming that he was ready to receive him. He had a lot in his mind, but he wanted to study a few things before approaching his future projects.

"Don't tell me that this is about the puppets," King Elbas asked when Noah entered his training area.

"Don't call them puppets," Noah scolded as a series of cries came out of his chest.

Warm golden light filled King Elbas' training area. Multiple brighter lines spread from under his cross-legged figure and stretched on the various surfaces.

Flames came out of the walls from time to time. It was as if King Elbas had spread his existence throughout the area to increase the amount of energy that he could gather at the same time. Still, that power didn't seem to go to his centers of power.

"Are you drawing more power than us from the palace?" Noah asked.

"I'm not you," King Elbas snorted. "Each training area gains access to the same amount of energy. I only absorb it faster, so I get the refill before all of you."

Noah laughed before disregarding the matter. He could also exploit the palace's structure, but he didn't need more energy at that level. It was almost useless for him to absorb storms.

"How did you create a puppet capable of adapting to each attack?" Noah went right to the point. "I know I did my best with my higher energy. A few arrogant comments won't distract me from what you are doing."

"You could have definitely done more with your higher energy," King Elbas commented.

"Oh, please," Noah teased. "Who came begging the darkness hybrid to create the higher energy that you couldn't make?"

"I barely remember that stuff," King Elbas exclaimed while turning his gaze.

"Can the great Xavier Elbas even forget things?" Noah teased again while sitting on a spot at some distance from the expert. "Maybe he isn't so great."

King Elbas voiced a sigh before playing with the space-ring on his finger. He appeared hesitant about revealing his new ability, which surprised Noah since his friend liked to brag about his achievements.

"You can't use this method," King Elbas eventually revealed. "Do you want to know it anyway?"

"How can I know that I won't succeed before you?" Noah scoffed.

"I'm serious," King Elbas repeated. "This isn't something that you can approach. You would need a deep understanding in every inscription field ever created just to start working on it."

"Do you have it?" Noah asked.

"Of course not," King Elbas declared. "That's impossible. Not even Heaven and Earth can achieve so much. You would have to exist since the beginning of time just to have a chance to learn everything."

"Why did you even start it then?" Noah frowned. "You are curious, not dumb."

"Because I saw a path," King Elbas explained. "My path possibly. In theory, I could have made up for the missing fields by regressing current methods and finding their origins. That has given birth to new ideas until I found something else."

"Come on, Elbas," Noah cursed. "Don't grow shy on me."

King Elbas heaved another sigh before stretching his arm forward. The golden jelly-like sphere that he had used against the swarm of flying cockroaches. Noah could study it easily, but he couldn't find anything too strange there even after inspecting it with his rank 9 mind.

The jelly seemed a regular lump of King Elbas' higher energy. It was denser than his usual flames, but the expert had experimented so much with his golden power that nothing could surprise Noah anymore.

"This is incomplete," King Elbas stated, "But it's on the right path. On the way to recreate forgotten fields, I've found a power capable of uniting them all. The energy of the magical beasts is the primordial fuel capable of becoming everything, so something that contains everything must exist. I'm trying to create the realm above the higher energy."

### **Chapter 1936 1936. Systems**

Noah gasped in surprise before wearing a pensive expression. His mind quickly analyzed King Elbas' words to see if he could find some sense in them, but everything felt out of his reach.

The primary energy could turn into everything. Noah had created his first version of the darkness with it. He had even used that fuel in many techniques, and his hybrid status had taught him its remarkable properties.

The lack of nature of the primary energy was the very reason why magical beasts could absorb different types of "Breath" without requiring special techniques or similar methods. Yet, those were rules that applied to the human and heroic ranks. Noah and King Elbas were gods. They dealt with laws. They had already abandoned their search for stronger energies to focus on deeper meanings since that was the source of true power.

Noah treated the higher energy as a superior fuel and the main material for his creations. The dark world's ability to modify the environment surpassed the power applied by domains, and Noah could even adapt it to different situations.

Still, the nature of his dark matter had some value only if it reached a decent level. The fact that it was a higher form of energy didn't matter on its own, and the same would apply to anything superior.

Noah could see the benefits of gaining access to something even stronger than the higher energy, but he didn't know how it could become a path toward the ninth rank. Moreover, he couldn't understand how it could gain what King Elbas was claiming. It was one thing for a fuel to have no limits in the number of shapes it could achieve, but the opposite sounded impossible.

"I know what you are thinking," King Elbas announced. "I have no actual proof that the state above the higher energy will generate the effects that I hope. I've only seen it for a brief moment. I know it's possible, and that's enough."

Noah inspected King Elbas' expression with blank eyes. He didn't want to show anything, but the expert knew what was going through his mind. King Elbas could see Noah's doubts and worries.

"If I die, I die," King Elbas added as determination filled his gaze. "I can't deny my nature."

"So, the hydra was only a test?" Noah asked.

"Indeed," King Elbas confirmed. "I can't approach this path arrogantly. I have to recall how it was back then when I first started cultivating. I need to start with small things and perform countless tests until I can finally seize results."

Noah scratched the side of his head as everything became clear in his mind. He couldn't use King Elbas' method to improve his companions. He had struggled for a long time to push his attacks past the state of singularities. The sole idea of doing the same for his dark matter without ruining his existence sounded impossible.

Noah wouldn't even know how to approach that project. He couldn't use King Elbas' tactic because his knowledge in the inscription methods was non-existent compared to the expert. Moreover, he didn't even feel curious about that path. His ambition usually pushed him to jump on everything that could give him more power, but it found that experiment too unrealistic even to appear interesting.

"You have actually managed to leave my ambition speechless," Noah commented.

"The sky might shatter if you said that again," King Elbas laughed.

"How would it even work?" Noah asked while standing up and releasing part of his primary energy.

Darkness and dark matter followed before creating three spheres that contained the different fuels. Noah saw only a simple difference in density and power level there, but King Elbas thought of that as a system that ended with something above the higher energy.

"The energy of the magical beasts existed before Heaven and Earth forced the "Breath" to be the new baseline," King Elbas explained. "The initial energy gained elements on its own and acted as the foundation of laws.

"The higher energy goes beyond that. It might be too young as a branch to study a general functioning, but I believe it can touch the realm of laws even if its base power shouldn't allow that."

The suppression that Noah could apply with the dark world in the heroic ranks resembled a weaker version of the domains. He could accept King Elbas' statement, but the latter was still far away from connecting everything to his idea.

"I've noticed a common trend in the higher energy," King Elbas continued. "It gets more general and tries to envelop more aspects of the world in most cases. You have your dark matter, but my flames are quite flexible too. I don't know how much I can use Divine Demon since power goes against everything I exist for, but I have found something similar in your woman."

June's black lightning was an energy that allowed her Perfect Circuit to generate more power. The desire for an endless battle existed inside that power, but King Elbas' statement sounded on point. It was definitely more general than the "Breath".

"This trend should lead to something even broader," King Elbas concluded. "It should be the final energy in the field created by the magical beasts' energy, and I believe it will have opposite but similar properties due to its position in the system."

King Elbas talked about primary energy as if it were only one of the possible basic fuels in the universe. The topic felt completely normal to him, but Noah found himself reevaluating his ideas on the matter.

"Sword Saint's breakthrough has only proven me right," King Elbas exclaimed when he recalled something. "He has shown how there are rules that go beyond laws, systems inside systems. I'm trying to gain full mastery over this one, to put it simply."

"And you dare to call me crazy," Noah smirked while dispersing the energies in front of him. "Maybe I affected you after all these years spent together."

"You definitely did," King Elbas said in a tone that sounded like a curse, "But you don't get to call anyone crazy. I know that what you have in mind is even worse than my idea."

Noah limited himself to smile and check the insides of his mind. His thoughts went on the sword cultivator's cracked and flawed existence, Shandal's ability, and Isaac's skill. He looked at Supreme Thief's technique too, but he didn't linger there for too long.

"I told you mine," King Elbas stated. "You tell me yours."

"You know I can absorb core abilities from cultivators that prove themselves unworthy of their power, right?" Noah began to explain.

"It comes from Supreme Thief's power," King Elbas responded. "I know. It wasn't hard to connect everything once seeing it in action. Though those requirements are strange."

"Most abilities are expressions of an expert's existence," Noah said while ignoring King Elbas. "My stronger mind gives me access to proper aspects of a law. In theory, I can steal aspects and existences that suit my ambition and use them to deepen my understanding. It won't be random like with Heaven and Earth. I plan to bring a stable and constant improvement to my foundation by hunting down rank 9 experts."

"That might actually fit you," King Elbas revealed after an initial moment of surprise. "You have managed to help Alexander with your mental waves too."

"Another thing," Noah added. "I can simply throw away the aspects or existences that I get, so I can potentially give them to you all."

### **Chapter 1937 1937. Abilities**

King Elbas remained silent in front of that tempting offer. The aspects of a law usually had limits since they covered only powers directly connected to each existence. For example, Noah's understanding of destruction was deep, but it couldn't compare to the death dragon since the creature was born to carry all the laws connected to that true meaning.

"That might hurt us all," King Elbas immediately stated. "It can work for you due to your unique existence, but each improvement will slow down your journey. Also, you have to make sure to keep everything connected to your ambition and don't stray away from your path."

"I know the risks," Noah commented, "But what can we do? Heaven and Earth have armies amassed throughout eras, and we can't hope in another Sword Saint. I've seen them ignoring a solid stage cultivator as if he were nothing more than a pawn meant to die. How much power do you think they hold?"

"We are the best experts who have ever walked on these lands," King Elbas proudly announced. "Each one of us will be as strong as ten of them once we reach the peak."

"What if they have hundreds of disposable assets?" Noah asked. "What if they get too scared and kick us of the sky before we can become a real danger?"

"What are you even suggesting?" King Elbas replied. "We have always known how difficult it was. That's why we are pushing our limits past every reasonable level."

"I'm just saying that it might not be enough," Noah sighed. "The next time Heaven and Earth throw a solid stage cultivator at us, we are dead. We need to be more."

"We risk becoming Heaven and Earth with your plan," King Elbas complained.

"That's the point," Noah explained while standing up. "You don't have to accept anything unless you find it suitable for your existence. Moreover, we wouldn't take Heaven and Earth's path. They need many laws to become a world, but we must remain loyal to our true meanings. Deepening our aspects is the only way to increase our potential."

Noah believed in those words. He had decided to push his ethereal blackness to be more than his centers of power would have initially built for that same reason. Heaven and Earth were too strong, and even the best among the best couldn't face them.

The same weakness that Noah believed to have afflicted his companions. They were strong, incredibly so, but they remained existences. His group counted seven experts now that Robert had died. They would probably become the best warriors the world had ever seen, but they remained seven against an uncountable army.

Noah had considered every option, and victory was achievable. In the best option, his group would manage to make Heaven and Earth lose a lot of power, continue to defeat their punishments, and bring all their enemies together in a grand final battle. The other view saw the rulers finding a way to ignore their fairness and throwing something too strong for them.

Noah didn't want to rely on others, but he acknowledged when he had to compromise. He couldn't win on his own, but the dragons and the monster outside the sky were unreliable. If possible, he preferred to rely only on his companions, but that meant that they had to become stronger than the other potential allies.

However, existences had limits that everyone built throughout their cultivation journey. Even someone like Noah had found himself feeling short of power when he found himself in front of the ninth rank. The others had to be worse than him, and he couldn't ignore that issue.



King Elbas could only heave a sigh when Noah's explanation ended. His leader wasn't wrong, but everything felt too unreasonable. Even his path had turned into a mad search for something that he had only gazed at once.

"We don't have much to do anyway," King Elbas eventually announced. "Finding opponents is what we do. Maybe we'll find something that we can't refuse and join your crazy plan. How confident are you that it won't affect our journey?"

"I have no idea," Noah shrugged his shoulders, and his gesture left King Elbas speechless. "I only tried with Robert's existence, but he doesn't count since he is a child of my dark matter. I wanted to test everything after learning about the hydra, but alas."

"Get out and don't come back unless you have clear data!" King Elbas shouted.

"It will work," Noah promised while walking outside the training hall and waving his hand.

King Elbas shook his head once Noah finally left alone. He felt pissed after going through that long discussion when Noah was only going over his ideas. Yet, his thought eventually went on his impossible project, and he found himself staring at the golden jelly.

King Elbas had relied on the understanding contained inside the life sphere to move forward in his experiment. He would have probably reached similar results if he spent enough time studying those laws, but the first process was simply faster. The difference in terms of millennia of training would be immense.

An idea that King Elbas instinctively tried to suppress spread through his mind at some point. His existence might not be enough to concoct the final energy. That power could be something that simple existences shouldn't reach.

Noah wore a cold expression while he moved toward the training hall. He didn't speak about his idea to King Elbas randomly. The expert had often helped him understand if his ambition was leading him astray. Noah needed a second opinion, and he had obtained it. He only needed to prove King Elbas right now.

Noah reached his training area in no time. His hall was dark, reinforced with every type of shield that King Elbas could imagine. It could also expand at will since the expert had tuned it with Noah's understanding of space. It was basically a separate dimension that didn't need to leave the actual world.

His mind had already decided where to start. Noah currently had three foreign techniques in his mind belonging to Supreme Thief, Isaac, and Shandal. They appeared suitable for some aspects of his law and his general true meaning. In theory, he could already improve his existence.

'Slow and steady,' Noah thought while sitting at the center of his training hall. 'Just like I hate it.'

Noah had time to test a few projects while his companions recovered, and he didn't hesitate to approach that pressing idea. His focus converged on Shandal's ability, and its functioning unfolded in his mind. His understanding of time had long since become good enough to study the differences in the laws that his existence and Shandal had approached during their journeys.

The actual effects of Shandal's ability involved the halting of time in a small area, while Noah's understanding focused on bending it. They belonged to the same field of laws, but they were pretty different. Still, Shandal's ability was raw, basic, and Noah had even needed to complete it back then.

Supreme Thief's ability activated and used its effects on Shandal's understanding. Noah could study that power in ways he had never done before, but everything felt too weak. He barely noticed when his mind threw those ideas in his aspect of time.

Noah didn't feel different either after the absorption. He had gained a vague idea, but he would have to expand his understanding to bring its power to the ninth rank.

His focus went on his remaining two skills at that point. Supreme Thief's ability involved his greed, hunger, and pride, while Isaac's technique would affect his pride and his ambition as a whole. Noah needed to pick one of them to see what to fuse with his existence first, but even his mind couldn't find a perfect answer.

### **Chapter 1938 1938. Resul**

Supreme Thief's ability felt like the obvious choice in Noah's project to deepen the aspects of his laws. He wouldn't be able to use the actual stealing skill during the process, but he wouldn't need it anymore afterward since it would belong to his existence.

Moreover, Supreme Thief's ability affected only the aspects of his law, not the actual ambition. Greed, pride, and hunger were part of his true meaning, but not its foundation.

Noah would prefer to affect his ambition only after gaining a bit of experience in the process and confirming once more that everything was working well. Also, approaching Isaac's ability would be far easier after he gained access to the entirety of Supreme Thief's understanding.

Yet, the decision had a completely different perspective that involved the depth of the understanding of those abilities. Isaac was a mere rank 8 cultivator in the solid stage who had joined Heaven and Earth's system. Instead, Supreme Thief was a rank 9 monster who had been able to come back to life. The difference between their power was immense, which would definitely affect the procedure, especially in its length.

Truth be told, Noah wasn't even sure he could absorb Supreme Thief's ability into his existence without affecting himself due to the difference in understanding. His greed, pride, and hunger might change into something that his ambition didn't accept if he let the process transform those aspects, and Noah didn't want to end up like Heaven and Earth.

The procedure already carried inherent risks, and Noah wasn't famous for his safe approaches. Still, he had to put limits in front of him when it came to such important parts of his journey. One mistake would ruin his path forever. He would see millennia of struggles falling apart in mere seconds.

'Isaac it is,' Noah eventually concluded.

The choice didn't bother Noah too much since Isaac's ability was incredibly similar to his ambition. They actually appeared to be born from the same core idea.

His ambition could amass potential capable of boosting the level of every aspect of his existence after he succeeded in an incredible feat. Noah's existence wasn't only that, especially when it came to the influence that he could spread in the environment and the benefits received by those around him, but its core ability remained the empowerment.

Isaac was similar. His existence founded its power on the enemies he defeated and created an energy that could boost most of his attacks. It worked as a limited version of the ambition's potential, and Noah found fusing them quite reasonable.

The effects that two different abilities would usually lead to something inferior to the power that a single superior technique could generate. The issue was in the conflicting properties between the skills. It didn't matter how similar they were. A few features would always differ, and that alone would cause problems.

'I wonder how strong my ambition can become after this,' Noah thought as he prepared his mind for the process.

Noah didn't even need to think about the preparations that his mind needed. He had completed so many experiments and mental battles in that ethereal environment that the dark matter almost acted on its own after entering his center of power to provide its help.

The process was quite important for Noah. Deepening his aspects and absorbing new abilities were almost a necessity in his mind. Still, the part regarding his ambition was far more significant, not only because it was the core, foundation, and authentic expression of his existence.

His potential would play a crucial part in making his dantian reach the intended level that surpassed what his talent and accumulation wanted it to obtain. Increasing the quality of that power would slow down his future advancements, but it would also give him a stronger fuel that would help in his main project.

Noah activated Supreme Thief's ability, but he didn't immediately focus on Isaac's skill. He let the dark matter accumulated inside his mind copy the properties of the azure light and enhance its effects.

The dark matter didn't take much to complete the task. It even managed to isolate the properties of the mental walls to make sure that the process was as smooth as possible. After all, Supreme Thief's technique targeted abilities, not existences, so Noah had to keep the light active and dig deeper into what he had stolen to obtain what he wanted. The understanding was everything.

Azure light shone on the ethereal area isolated by the dark matter. Intense greed seeped out of Noah's figure as his concentration reached its peak.

The piece of Isaac's existence that caused its ability slowly melted and fell on the radiant barrier of dark matter. Pure understanding tried to fuse with Noah's higher energy, but he let it pass and reach the mental sea downward.

Noah immediately felt hot. His dantian churned, sweat appeared on his body, and the black hole started to rotate at full speed. His consciousness struggled to keep track of what was happening in his surroundings mental sphere. His entire existence felt dizzy as understanding poured inside his ambition and pride.

The pride's aspect deepened. It gained understanding in areas that Noah had never studied since that feeling had always been deeply connected to his magical beasts' side. Instead, he was gaining a similar power but expanded on the pure cultivator's side, which gave Noah a complete view of the field.

Still, his existence shook whenever the drops of understanding fell on his ambition. Noah sensed a foreign force touching him deeply and giving him power as it tried to change what it was.

Isaac had based his ability on the rebels of Heaven and Earth's system killed, while Noah had given it a broader purpose when he turned it into his technique. The dark matter purified that understanding further, but something belonging to the original meaning remained, so it obviously tried to fight or change Noah's ambition.

However, Noah had access to a rank 9 mind. His mental sea started to radiate his intense pride and act as a second filter for Isaac's understanding as soon as problems arrived.

Noah's condition slowly stabilized as his existence managed to limit the effects of Isaac's understanding to his potential. His ambition almost split to give more room to that energy, and the process eventually ended.

Deep breaths came out of Noah's mouth as he inspected his body after he opened his eyes. He was fine. His figure didn't change, his existence had also remained the same, and his centers of power were okay. He continued to feel dizzy, but the feeling came from his insides since everything had yet to adapt to the new state.

Noah even checked his potential. He initially remained surprised when he saw that it had shrunk, but he quickly understood the reason behind that event. His power didn't diminish. That fuel had simply gained a denser state that expressed its new ability better.

'That's also complete,' Noah thought as he used part of his potential to empower a chunk of dark matter in his palm.

Noah recalled exactly how much potential his higher energy needed to reach its solid state, so he felt pleasantly surprised to confirm that the requirements had almost halved. He didn't manage to multiply the effects of his ambition, but that result was already incredible.

### **Chapter 1939 1939. Potential**

The hard part was over. The more challenging part was about to begin, but Noah approached it only after gaining confidence in the new power of his potential.

Countless tests went by as Noah grew used to his new potential. The drawbacks were harsher due to the almost double power that the fuel carried, but that didn't scare him. The process would mainly require his mind, so eventual empowerments wouldn't hurt him too much due to its rank 9 status.

Noah spent the rest of his time perfecting his imitation of Supreme Thief's ability. His black hole was also peculiar as a center of power, so it could endure the drawbacks fairly well, but he wanted to know exactly what he was doing.

It turned out that simply copying the technique wasn't enough to obtain satisfying effects, but that was almost expected considering Supreme Thief's level. Noah had to spend some time and tinker with the workshop to create a diagram capable of activating a spell practically identical to the expert's ability.

Noah could succeed in the task relatively easily since he could let the lines shape themselves while the light of Supreme Thief's ability shone on them. He used a foundation of greed, pride, hunger, and ambition to make sure that his version would have the same features without losing power.

The replica's power couldn't match Supreme Thief's technique completely, but Noah felt confident that everything would be fine once his potential activated. His priority was on confirming that his version worked flawlessly and expressed similar meanings, and he had achieved those results.

Supreme Thief didn't have only greed in his existence. Those features didn't end at his pride either. The expert expressed curiosity, carelessness, and other aspects that Noah didn't want, or, rather, he couldn't accept for fear of hurting his law.

The next step after confirming the power of his copy consisted in the creation of a filter made of dark matter. Noah had to make sure that nothing dangerous flowed toward his existence. That would make the ability part of its power, but he couldn't find better solutions.

It was even better to apply the filters after the ability melted rather than trying to removing them before the technique activated to avoid remnants and similar issues.

The creations of filters took longer than the last task, but the testing phase was at fault there. Creating the actual membrane of dark matter wasn't hard. The problem was confirming that it worked as intended without testing it by melting Supreme Thief's ability.

Noah had to create multiple versions of his copy and test them with the filter. Each different technique tried to imitate and highlight the features that he didn't want his existence to absorb, so everything took a while.

Night also had to patrol the membrane of dark matter inside his mind to make sure that the undesired features didn't reach the mental sea. The Pterodactyl's keen senses when it came to laws were perfect for the task, especially if the ambition empowered it. The creature would obviously suffer severe drawbacks, but it was willing to pay that price to help Noah.

Noah eventually started the procedure. The dark matter created a special environment inside his mental sphere before activating the copy of the ability. Supreme Thief's technique began to melt, and his ethereal figure even materialized at some point, but that didn't make Noah stop. He felt pretty sure that the old monster would have approved his methods.

Part of the melted understanding managed to seep past the filter while the rest remained above the dark matter, condensing and storing it in a different part of the mental sphere. It was a pity to throw away those aspects, especially since some seemed to suit his friends.

Noah felt a scorching sensation as understanding flowed inside his greed, pride, and hunger. The procedure didn't touch him as deeply as before, but the feeling was more intense now.

It turned out to suit his hunger far more than he had initially expected. Supreme Thief had made his law seem like an independent force that escaped his control at times, but it was far more than that. Noah could only describe it as something as unreasonable as the magical beasts' instincts.

The absorption eventually began to slow down. The understanding inside Supreme Thief's technique appeared immense now that he was trying to seize it, but dividing the process into multiple phases would only make him lose part of it. The ambition activated, and new power spread throughout his mind, black hole, and Night.

The new state didn't make Noah's mind nearly as strong as when he used the ethereal blackness, but it met his requirements. Its consumption of potential wasn't even troublesome, so he felt confident in keeping those effects active for a long time.

The process went smoothly for a while, but a few issues eventually appeared. Supreme Thief was strong. His rank 9 cultivation level wasn't just for show, and the same went for his aspects. That single ability that he had given to Noah contained so much that he started to fear the arrival of changes.

The procedure had gone on for a while when that problem appeared. Noah could interrupt it and work on what he had absorbed. He had already replicated Supreme Thief's ability in the end. Creating something even better wouldn't be a problem even without his entire understanding.

The same went for his greed, pride, and hunger. They had deepened by a lot. Noah already felt stronger than ever. He could stop everything and settle for what he had gained.

However, Noah had played it safe before, and his current opponent was a mere shadow of a rank 9 expert who carried similar aspects. Stopping everything now would only declare how his existence wasn't ready for that level of power.

Noah wore a resolute expression while his eyes remained closed. His potential started to flow toward his greed, hunger, and pride to give them a chance against that mere shadow of Supreme Thief.

The arrival of the potential stopped the slight changes that Supreme Thief's aspects were trying to apply. His understanding continued to flow smoothly into Noah's mental sea, but it didn't manage to transform anything anymore.

Noah kept going for quite some time. His denser potential could keep him empowered for far longer than before. He almost struggled to realize how powerful he was getting with those procedures, but the battle against Supreme Thief's ability made sure to give him an idea.

A struggle that seemed to last centuries ended with the azure light vanishing from the insides of Noah's consciousness. He suddenly didn't find his target anymore, but his mind promptly made him aware of the outcome of the procedure. He had won. His aspects had absorbed Supreme Thief's understanding without changing.

The effects of the potential vanished as Noah relaxed. His back ended up on the floor as the assets affected by his ambition started to experience drawbacks.

His mental walls tried to tremble, but they appeared too stable to fall prey to that power. The same went for the dark world. The gales of dark matter in its insides became wild in some spots, but the other areas suppressed them.

Instead, Night cried in pain as its unique body began to change shades. The drawbacks almost seemed to push the Pterodactyl to a state when it couldn't keep its material form anymore.

Noah found himself unable to help Night because his mind grew confused after his pride, greed, and anger lost power and went limp. He could only store the Pterodactyl inside the black hole and let the organ handle it. He needed to rest right now, but a cold smile never left his face due to his recent success.

### **Chapter 1940 1940. Plan**

Noah let his aspects, companion, and centers of power disperse the stress that the procedure had brought. He couldn't wait to study his new abilities and adapt his attacks to the deepening of his existence, but the stability of the palace concerned him. The obelisk and the buildings next to it were rank 9 items, but Noah felt that his battle prowess had stepped forward once again.

Time flowed quickly as everyone inside the palace recovered. Noah focused on his power to let his mind predict what his new understanding could generate, but he didn't test any attack. His existence wanted to own that new understanding properly, and only long periods spent studying himself could provide that.

Noah didn't need to invest too long studying his gains from Shandal's ability, but he couldn't underestimate the changes the other two techniques had brought. They weren't actual modifications, but they required a thorough inspection anyway.

The procedure had affected his pride, greed, hunger, destruction, creation, and overall ambition, which had deepened and gained new powers. They had preserved their nature, but Noah could sense how he was different. The world in his eyes had acquired new meanings, and the same went for his ability to affect it. He could express more, and his actual limits remained unclear while he held back from testing attacks.

The experts eventually started contacting each other and leaving their training hall. Recovering at their level took a long time, but the palace had helped them enormously, finally bringing them back to their peaks.

Noah found himself in one of the large halls inside the palace at some point. His companions had created a circle on the floor after sitting and taking out wine to accompany the meeting. They had a few important topics to discuss, and Noah didn't hesitate to explain his project.

"That's not something that everyone can do," Wilfred explained.

"I understand the potential benefits behind this project," Steven stated, "But mere leftovers won't be enough. We would need to hunt Heaven and Earth's followers to improve significantly."

"That's the plan," Noah responded. "I've thought about it for a long time. We can't improve faster than Heaven and Earth. They will always have counters ready for us. We can avoid it a few times, but I don't think we'll last until the peak of the ninth rank at this pace."

"Remember that it's a deepening, not a change," King Elbas remarked. "It's about embodying the strongest version of ourselves by seizing the experience that our lives couldn't offer."

Noah and King Elbas exchanged a meaningful glance. The cultivator had expressed his doubts during their last meeting, but he now seemed to have changed his mind.

"We are at the edges of the end," Divine Demon commented while staring at the booze in his cup. "I agree with your idea, but I can't use it. My existence doesn't allow it."

"That's not surprising," Noah laughed before turning toward his other companions. "You have aspects that make sense, so we'll eventually meet experts that share understanding in similar fields. I can take it and give it to you, but everything else has to come from your techniques. I can't affect the procedure too much when it has to become part of your existence."

Noah took out something from his mind to prove his point. The azure curiosity taken from Supreme Thief's technique appeared in his palm and attracted his companions' attention. They could see how that energy could instantly bring deep understanding, but they could also sense its source.

King Elbas looked at that understanding for a few seconds before stretching his hand. He and Noah exchanged a nod before passing that azure energy. King Elbas glanced at the azure lump with hesitant eyes once it reached his palm, but he stored it before falling prey to his own curiosity.

"How are we going to attract Heaven and Earth's followers?" Steven asked. "The rulers are bound to understand something at some point."

"With the same method that has brought us at this level," Noah explained. "We come up with crazier plans once the previous ones stop working. I believe we can still exploit the old rulers' magical beasts for now. Once that fails, I'll think about something else."

No one complained about that approach. The experts didn't have many options anyway, so continuing to affect the stormy regions remained the only viable plan. Their only hope was that more tactics would become available after their power increased.

Sword Saint remained silent throughout the entirety of the meeting. His breakthrough had been peculiar, so he knew that he couldn't use that training method. Also, his departure was imminent, so it didn't feel right to affect that meeting.

"Are we ready to depart?" Noah eventually asked, and the unwavering glances of his companions were enough to answer.

The group quickly left the palace. King Elbas contacted the old rulers to gain an idea of the current state of the expansion plan while everyone else turned toward their rank 9 companion.

"This is a goodbye then," Sword Saint announced in front of those smiling faces.

"Don't cut the sky before me," Noah joked.

"Hurry up then," Sword Saint scoffed.

A series of salutes happened, but Sword Saint's figure eventually left the area to return among the storms. The group had lost another powerful asset. Only five of them had remained, and they knew that their numbers would continue to decrease.



"Heaven and Earth are still silent," King Elbas explained after his conversation with the old rulers ended. "Their followers have started to appear in specific areas, but the modified magical beasts have mostly expanded their influence. The plan is going well."

"Is there something special with those locations?" Noah asked.

"They seem to hold chaotic laws that Heaven and Earth want to preserve," King Elbas replied. "Do we destroy them?"

"Yes, let's piss them off," Noah confirmed, and the group didn't hesitate to depart.

The five experts left the palace behind as they entered the storms again to fly toward specific targets. They believed that Heaven and Earth couldn't send proper punishments now, but that wouldn't stop them from messing with their plans.

Noah didn't say anything, but everyone knew that his plan was in motion. The hunt for Heaven and Earth's followers had begun, and the rulers' temporary weakness was a perfect chance for them. They could become stronger before the next Tribulation arrived.

Years had to pass before the group could reach their destination. A peculiar region where the storms blew in a precise path eventually unfolded in their eyes. The chaotic laws seemed in the process of creating a palace of some sort, but Noah and the others didn't bother to inspect it for too long. Their attention was on the flying cockroaches that filled the area with their white radiance.

"The rulers knew you would have come," An ancient male voice resounded in the area as soon as Noah's group left the storms. "Rats always try to attack when the real predators look away."

Four experts in the gaseous stage appeared above the unstable structure made of gales and pointed their confident gazes at the group. Noah and the others didn't show any fear at that sight, but a wave of coldness quickly enveloped their figures. That was only the first of the many battles that they had to win to succeed in their plan.