

Demonic 1941

Chapter 1941 1941. Hunts

Many fights followed the decision of Noah's group to hunt Heaven and Earth's followers. The old rulers granted them access to a relatively detailed map of the areas those cultivators were trying to defend, and the experts didn't hesitate to capture them.

Fighting gaseous stage cultivators had basically become normal for Noah and the others. They weren't even alone since the old rulers' magical beasts often joined their battles, and victories started piling on.

Noah had the chance to seize multiple existences. Supreme Thief's ability was part of his greed now, so he only needed to rely on his desire to activate it. His hunger also played an important role in that field, but Heaven and Earth's cultivators couldn't do much anyway. The rulers were silent, so those assets couldn't come back to life or use specific counters.

Noah's group also approached battles that they could win. They didn't care about maximizing their damage to Heaven and Earth's system. They only wanted to expand the influence of the improved magical beasts among the storms while stealing aspects for themselves.

Heaven and Earth were silent, but Noah didn't show the entirety of his new power anyway. He limited himself to growing accustomed to the latest state of his existence while continuing to study the dragons' spheres.

The hunts led the group into strange and unique areas. The chaotic laws carried hidden meanings that made them tend toward specific creations. Some regions featured faint palaces, others had far more energy than usual in the form of lakes, and a few tried to build underground structures meant for something that even King Elbas struggled to understand.

Noah and the others had long since understood that the stormy regions weren't only a mass of power that generated lands randomly. The chaotic laws followed a vague blueprint that eventually came to life as time passed. Heaven and Earth released that energy with a plan in mind but studying it from the surface felt hard.

King Elbas did his best to keep track of the unique areas that the group crossed and cleared, but the map that came out only increased his confusion. He could find vague meanings, but he didn't understand what they had to generate once fusing with the other unique zones.

That study seemed to require a general view of the stormy regions and an understanding of the sky. Too much of the white layer remained hidden from the group's vision from their position, and that knowledge felt necessary to learn what Heaven and Earth were up to.

Of course, the sky wasn't even close to the group's range. Noah and the others were even trying to avoid it for now since they were prioritizing their improvements. However, their efforts ended up working against their growth, at least when it came to King Elbas, Noah, and Steven.

That consequence didn't surprise them. King Elbas, Noah, and Steven were the only ones relying on the stolen existences to increase their understanding and deepen their aspects, but they knew what that process caused. A stronger law required more time to improve, so none of them managed to approach the breakthrough in that period.

Divine Demon and Wilfred's existences were peculiar, which didn't allow them to rely on the stolen aspects. The former didn't make any sense while the latter took power in his simplicity, so they couldn't add foreign understanding. Still, the two also struggled to approach the breakthrough, and the only explanation was in the lack of dangers on their path.

The hunts tested their abilities, but only inside certain limits. Noah and the others never risked losing their lives during that process. The followers in the gaseous stage lost most of their dangerousness when Heaven and Earth didn't help them.

That discovery made the group feel pleased about their battle prowess, but it also forced them to accept how the ninth rank would continue to escape their grasp as long as they failed to meet proper dangers. Initially, that was fine since the hunts made them stronger anyway, but problems inevitably started to appear when all that power remained stuck in the eighth rank.

Divine Demon and Wilfred noticed how their three companions began to show unstable behaviors during their travels and hunts. Those issues weren't too troublesome since they mainly consisted of random flares of energy that expressed some of their improved aspects or similar events. Yet, they were a clear sign that their laws couldn't remain in that state anymore.

The centers of power were almost living beings in the divine ranks. They behaved according to the understanding that they carried, so their depths could force them to act as if they were already in the ninth rank.

That obviously caused problems. King Elbas slowly became unable to contain his curiosity. He fell into a daze whenever a gale carried an interesting meaning. That issue started to happen so often that he had to develop items capable of keeping him focused on his surroundings.

Steven's aura gained unique destructive properties. His determination transformed into a judge for the matter around him and forced what it found unworthy to crumble.

Noah was slightly better off. He had multiple aspects of his existence trying to apply their power on the world around him, but his ambition remained his main power. His influence didn't carry destructive effects, so his instability benefited the world and his companions.

Still, it was clear that they couldn't keep going like that. The three experts didn't want to become simple bodies that carried their influence across the world. They wanted to remain in control of their existence, and that required a breakthrough.

"We are a few possible targets," King Elbas announced as a golden light flashed in his eyes whenever he tried to move his gaze away from the map under him.

The map would be unclear to existences who had never seen a similar representation of the stormy regions. King Elbas didn't bother to describe them as a ring floating around the empty Immortal Lands. He depicted them as a tunnel that had no end or beginning.

That description allowed King Elbas and his companions to use the dead zones and the orange city as checkpoints. They helped keep track of the areas they had already crossed, even if that knowledge remained correct only for a few decades or centuries. The storms never stopped moving and transforming those areas, so the map ended up needing constant updates.

"The old rulers have confirmed the presence of three solid stage cultivators, forty liquid stage, and a few hundred gaseous stage," King Elbas continued. "We can continue hunting the gaseous stage for few more decades, but I believe our existences will reach their limits by then. We need the breakthrough to put our new understanding into use."

"We all need the breakthroughs," Divine Demon cursed while glancing at the sky hidden behind the storms in the distance. "I swear, Heaven and Earth are mocking us. They spend millennia trying to suppress us only to disappear when we actually need their help."

"They are only calculating how to restore their harmony without the laws lost during Sword Saint's breakthrough," Noah explained. "They have built their current existence in eras, so it's understandable for them to take a while."

"To think that Noah Balvan would defend the rulers," Wilfred laughed.

"Please, I need to rely on my reasonable side to keep my aspects in check," Noah sneered while fixing his hungry eyes on Wilfred. "I don't know who I might eat in this condition."

"So, we are going after liquid stage cultivators," Steven interrupted that silent threat. "We have a relatively challenging hunt and a hard one. Which one do you want to face?"

Chapter 1942 1942. Targets

Noah and the others had multiple choices when it came to their hunts. Most of them involved gaseous stage experts, but the liquid stage cultivators also offered different options.

In theory, their level wasn't enough to deal with liquid stage cultivators. The battle against the sword expert had already discovered their limits. The improvements given by the hunts had given them some confidence in the matter, but they still believed that they had to gang up on such strong existences to be confident of their victory.

Still, the group wasn't looking for victories. They wanted challenges, something that could force their existence to evolve, and only multiple liquid stage cultivators could provide that. The only doubts came from how many of them they had to fight at the same time.

Only Noah, King Elbas, and Divine Demon were crazy enough to claim that they could handle a liquid stage cultivator on their own. They wanted to have solo battles to increase their chances of advancing to the ninth rank, but they couldn't force their companions to do the same.

Wilfred and Steven didn't mind dealing with one liquid stage expert together, which led the group to pick an area with four opponents as their new destination. It turned out that only four regions met their requirements, so they only had to choose which one to attack before departing.

The choice fell on King Elbas. Everyone was studying the layout of the stormy regions, but they were behind in terms of understanding. Moreover, King Elbas knew which locations would benefit his knowledge, so he was perfect for that role.

The group departed after completing every step. Their destination was a unique region where the storms had created a wonderful environment that contained a lot of energy. The old rulers had sent a

unique species of hawk-like magical beasts to seize it in the past years, but the pack had lost against the cultivators in charge of defending the area.

The old rulers didn't stop there. They had also understood that the region had a special meaning for Heaven and Earth, so they sent multiple packs with the intention of studying and finding weaknesses in the cultivators. However, those improved magical beasts didn't manage to learn much. The vast amount of energy in the area remained its most striking feature.

"It can mean many things," King Elbas explained when his companions questioned him about the area. "Heaven and Earth might have set something that the sky doesn't allow. The area might even be something that they want to absorb later on. It can also be an initial attempt to rebuild their body. There are countless possibilities as long as I remain unclear about their plan."

"We must wait until the sky enters our reach for that," Noah sighed.

"Can your unreasonable insight in the rulers come up with something?" King Elbas asked.

"I have a few ideas, but they mostly are logical conclusions," Noah announced.

"I don't know how keeping Xavier curious helps us," Wilfred laughed as a golden light flashed multiple times in King Elbas' eyes.

"We have yet to become Heaven and Earth's main targets," Noah promptly added. "The monster and the dragons are their greatest opponents, but the former is outside the sky. The rulers also want to take care of the magical beasts since their control of the world depends on that victory, so I think they are placing weapons among the storms."

"Why wouldn't they make them inside the sky?" Steven asked.

"They probably already did," King Elbas responded while nodding to express his approval toward Noah's ideas. "Still, the sky must be able to create perfect conditions and environments. Heaven and Earth must test these weapons among the storms to know whether they can affect the dragons."

"You must even consider how close they have been to defeating the dragons in the last period," Noah continued. "There is a high chance that these weapons are final prototypes or something similar."

"This if your guess is correct," Steven exclaimed before rolling his eyes, "Which usually happens when it comes to stuff connected to Heaven and Earth."

"The rulers have no reason to invest in the stormy regions," Noah stated. "They have no intention to rebuild the Immortal Lands, and they probably aren't trying to build themselves a body yet, especially since their existence is too unclear. I don't claim to know everything about Heaven and Earth, but I don't see other possible explanations."

Noah's speech made a lot of sense. Heaven and Earth's followers weren't trying to kill or hunt down rebels. They were protecting regions inside the storms, which sounded like a waste of manpower. After all, the rulers already had the sky. It felt unreasonable to use powerful assets for lands that the chaotic laws could rebuild in mere years.

Noah could guess that those regions had a special meaning for the sky, but that sounded unreasonable and disappointing. The immense and powerful white layer would lose value if it required mere lands hidden by the storms.

Another theory saw Noah being unable to gain a proper understanding of Heaven and Earth's plan. Yet, he was almost at the last step of his journey. He had learnt almost everything there was to know about existences and their functioning. He had even glanced at the structures past the ninth rank during Sword Saint's breakthrough. The rulers could still surprise him, but they had to do that within known fields.

The weapons theory fit every requirement and even respected the current situation of the world. Heaven and Earth could surprise Noah on the actual nature of those assets, but he remained pretty certain about his hypothesis.

An area that featured a peculiar structure eventually unfolded in the group's vision and told them that they had reached their destination. A vast white lake floated among dense storms. A mountain stood at its side, and a waterfall enlarged its size.

The area didn't seem to have a surface. The mountain was also standing on dense storms, and the white water in the lakes and the waterfall was the result of chaotic laws that transformed due to the meanings that they carried.

The experts could immediately sense that the amount of energy in that area was far above what the other stormy regions contained. Noah even believed that devouring the whole lake would provide the same nutrients that only upper tier creatures had. Needless to say, his hunger seeped out of his figure and generated a suction force, but four heavy auras converged on him and dispersed the effects of that ability.

Noah and his companions glanced at a spot high in the sky. Their eyes pierced the dense storms that filled the region to fix themselves on four figures that seemed to shine among the whiteness released by the water. Those four cultivators were sitting cross-legged on the mountain peak, and they didn't hesitate to stand up when they noticed those unwanted guests.

"You have over-," One of the cultivators tried to say something, but Noah interrupted him before the expert could voice the same threats that he had heard way too often.

"We have already divided ourselves," Noah announced. "Can we skip the talking part and start fighting? I need one of you to fight me, so decide quickly and get this over with."

Chapter 1943 1943. Splitting

The four experts remained speechless in front of Noah's arrogant statement. They were beings in the liquid stage, the second-last step before the peak of the cultivation journey, but they felt like training dummies when he treated them like that.

"Why would we even divide ourselves?" The same cultivator from before asked. "We only need a wave of our hands to take care of all of you."

The cultivator appeared old. A long white beard came out of his chin, thick white eyebrows stood above his half-closed eyes, but no hair grew from his head. The expert had a hunched back, but he seemed full of life.

"You can't kill us in one attack," Noah announced while pointing at the lake, "And we will destroy it before you can catch us."

"Such arrogant remarks from a puny rank-," The old cultivator began to say, but Noah forced him to fall silent with a simple wave of his hand.

A slash came out of Noah's fingers before fusing with the world. The four cultivators found a massive attack falling above them in the next instant, and their innate defensive techniques activated to stop it.

The sudden attack didn't manage to do much. It barely forced those defensive techniques to flicker. However, it showed how Noah could really destroy the lake before dying.

Unnoticed expressions appeared on the four experts' faces. Their task was to defend that area while Heaven and Earth were busy harmonizing their existence, but mere rank 8 experts were threatening the success of their mission. They felt slightly ashamed of their superior power, but resolve soon replaced that feeling. After all, Noah wouldn't be one of the rulers' special targets if he weren't so strong.

"Did you also prepare a battlefield?" The old cultivator asked.

"We can't possibly prepare a special environment for each expert that we are going to kill," Noah shrugged his shoulders. "You all die in a few attacks anyway. Where's the fun if we kill you even faster?"

"This brat," The old cultivator cursed before turning toward his companions. "Do you mind if I handle him?"

Two of his companions shook their heads uncaringly, but the woman to his right raised her hand to object before explaining her reasons. "You are letting him get into your head. His destruction has probably identified you as the weak link in our barrier."

"Are you implying that I'm weak?" The cultivator asked as a chilling aura came out of his figure.

"I was referring to your irascible character," The woman answered. "He already knows that you'll be perfect for him."

The old man's eyes widened before turning toward Noah. The latter revealed a cold smirk at that inspection, but he didn't add anything else. He already knew that his taunts had succeeded.

"You might be right," The old cultivator exclaimed. "Do you want to handle him?"

"With pleasure," The woman responded while performing a bow toward the old cultivator.

"Do you mind following me?" The woman asked when she pointed her eyes at Noah.

"Not at all," Noah laughed before rising higher in the sky and joining the woman in her departure.

"I can take you," Divine Demon declared while pointing at the old cultivator. "I like the emotional ones."

The old cultivator didn't say anything. He stepped off the mountain peak and went in the opposite direction of the other expert. Divine Demon didn't hesitate to separate from the group and follow him, and the two soon disappeared among the storms.

"Which one of you isn't a brute?" King Elbas asked while glancing at the two remaining experts. "I'd like to have a battle that isn't a simple exchange of attacks."

The young-looking woman between the two cultivators stepped forward and shot in the distance without saying anything. King Elbas snorted, but he followed her. Those two also disappeared among the storms, leaving only one expert on the mountain peak.

"Don't tell me that one of you wants to remain behind and mess with the area," The young-looking cultivator on the mountain peak warned.

"Not at all," Wilfred responded. "We aren't as crazy as our companions."

"We definitely are on the reasonable side," Steven added. "You'll have to fight both of us at the same time if you don't mind."

"Why would I?" The cultivator snorted while jumping off the mountain peak. "Follow me. Let's not affect this area."

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Noah followed the woman across the storms. Her long brown hair fluttered among the gales as she shot ahead. He also felt able to see the green glow radiated by her eyes from his position. She appeared incredibly strong, but that was exactly what he needed to improve.

The woman eventually stopped and snapped her fingers to turn the storms in a large area into dust. She created a battlefield that didn't show any hindrance. It seemed that she wanted to face Noah head-on.

"Thanks," Noah growled before letting his hunger leak out of his figure.

His hunger gave birth to a suction force that absorbed the shattered laws in the environment. A wave of power flowed inside him, but that energy barely affected his flesh.

"Don't think that we lost track of you in this period," The woman announced while showing a warm smile. "You have killed many of us. How are their laws? Does it feel good to feed on Heaven and Earth's power?"

"Please, don't insult me," Noah stated while wielding both his swords. "We both know that you didn't care about them. Are Heaven and Earth going through a cleansing period? They definitely need that. I only didn't think it would have involved their followers."

"How sharp of you," The woman chuckled while covering her mouth. "No wonder you are worthy of being a flaw of the system."

"I would have been a flaw anyway," Noah responded, "Worthy or not."

"Of course," The woman laughed again, "But your achievements define your value. Why do you think Caesar is so set on turning you into Heaven and Earth's last opponent? He knows that you have the potential to reach that state."

"Don't tell me that you agree with him," Noah sighed. "I won't define my existence as someone's opponent. I'm not as weak as you all."

"That's what you fail to see," The woman explained while raising her hand toward the sky. "We are all weak in front of Heaven and Earth."

The light lingering in the sky began to gather in her palm to create a blinding pearl. The cultivator seemed able to make use of Heaven and Earth's light to generate threatening attacks. Noah struggled to even watch about that level of blindness, but his consciousness could inspect it freely.

The attack carried more power than Noah expected, but he didn't let the event surprise him. His opponent was a liquid stage cultivator. He had chosen someone so strong on purpose.

"Let me see how you handle a cultivator who isn't falling apart," The woman grinned before the light in her palm transformed into a beam of light that shot toward Noah's figure.

The attack was incredibly fast, but Noah didn't retreat. He had enough time to perform his movement technique, but he didn't. He had a better strategy for that.

A lump of blackness appeared in front of Noah and absorbed the attack in its insides. The event left the cultivator speechless. Noah had created a minute version of the dark world that featured a stretched space. The beam ended up traveling through the dark matter until the technique managed to absorb its power.

Chapter 1944 1944. Light

Noah bathed in the ecstasy generated by absorbing the cultivator's energy. He had to rely on multiple techniques at the same time to achieve those effects, but everything felt worthy when his flesh cheered in joy.

The beam was fast, but Noah had slowed down the time around him to give a few more seconds to his mind to study the technique. His greed and hunger had activated at the same time to use the features obtained by Supreme Thief's ability and improve the inspection of that dense white light.

The small patch of dark world had adapted to the results of his inspection. Its dark matter had transformed into a substance that could remain in one piece after the beam hit it so that it could capture the attack in the stretched space.

Noah's destruction did the rest once he had enough time to apply his features. Black lines appeared on the beam while the dark world shattered it into a mass of energy that flew directly inside his body.

Noah had become able to analyze and counter the attack launched by a liquid stage cultivator in mere seconds. His abilities had basically transformed after deepening the aspects of his existence, and his opponent remained speechless in front of his power. In her eyes, Noah was still a rank 8 expert, but that power was far beyond the bottom of the ninth rank.

"What madness are you even trying to do with your existence?" The woman asked. "Don't you know that laws have limits? Do you have any idea what requirements you'll have to meet to advance now?"

"Why do you think I'm here?" Noah laughed before activating his ambition and unstable product. "Come on, mighty liquid stage expert. I hope you aren't another product that Heaven and Earth are willing to throw away at the first sign of weakness."

"It's funny to hear you mock the rulers for features that you normally approve," The woman smirked before pointing both her hands forward. "I'm Gratia, and Heaven and Earth have bestowed me with part of their light. Show me if you are more than words."

The light in the surroundings started to gather toward her palms, but complete darkness suddenly enveloped the entire area. Gratia felt unable to gather energy from the environment, but her aura promptly burst forward to destroy the dark world.

The dark matter fell apart, but an army of rank 9 six-armed dragons in the lower tier appeared around her. The workshops had built them during that short second that she had required to destroy the dark world.

"What should they even-?" Gratia began to mock Noah's attempt to hurt her but the dragons detonated before she could finish her line.

The workshops had used dark matter that had gained unique features meant to counter Gratia's light. The dragons were proper counters to her existence, but their goal wasn't to hurt her.

The dragons could probably come close to hurting Gratia if Noah invested his potential in them, but he found no point wasting his power on disposable puppets. It was better to use them as powerful sources of his destruction created specifically for his opponent.

A raging wave of dark matter engulfed Gratia, but blinding light seeped out of her skin to destroy that attack. However, black lines appeared on her figure whenever she entered the higher energy's range. It didn't take much before her entire body featured those details.

A massive shadow covered her while she tried to disperse those lines with her law. Gratia looked toward the sky and noticed that Snore had appeared above her. Its wings were already unfolded, and massive feathers were already falling toward her.

Each feather seemed to carry the power of the ninth rank. A dark aura that carried countless faces surrounded each feather and made their level reach realms that Snore had yet to touch.

Gratia felt the faint desire to dodge that attack, but an intense pulling force fell on her figure and delayed her reactions by a whole second. Duanlong had also joined the battle, and its innate ability had touched the ninth rank after Noah's empowerment.

The delay in her reactions made her unable to dodge the explosions of the feathers. Raging dark matter engulfed her and activated the destruction accumulated on her figure by the disposable dragons. Large wounds opened on her body as she felt overwhelmed by that darkness. She became almost unaware of the light in her surroundings while those attacks tried to ravage her.

The sky around the raging cloud of dark matter began to shine and prepared its energy for the expert, but a shadow flew at full speed through those spots. Night left a large dark patch wherever it passed, so the darkness continued to expand instead of shrinking.

It felt good to use all his companions against a cultivator in Heaven and Earth's system. Noah had always been too scared to make his assets face the rulers' counters, so he had rarely relied on them in those battles. However, the sky was silent now, so he could use every weapon in his arsenal without worrying about potential repercussions.

Noah shot through the raging storms of dark matter. His body was more than enough to survive in that environment. Some wounds would appear on his figure anyway, but he didn't care since his opponent was already enduring worse.

The world made of lines replaced the environment seen from inside the raging dark matter. Noah tampered with space and time to appear behind Gratia and slash both his swords at her back.

Gratia only saw a fissure connected to the void expanding in front of her before a sharp force landed on her back and tried to cut her into two parts. Her innate defensive ability had to act to save her from that unavoidable slash.

A blinding light came out of her skin as soon as Noah cut her back open. The wave of energy pushed him away and destroyed the darkness that had accumulated due to the various assets deployed by her opponent.

Gratia found herself under the sky. Her existence could finally express its true power again, and she didn't hesitate to turn toward her opponent. Noah had flown in the distance, but no injury had appeared on his body. She had clearly hit him, but Duanlong had never failed to give him energy meant to heal him.

Gratia pointed her hands at Noah, but the mirror-sized dark world material appeared on the path of her attack. She had launched two larger beams toward him, but the dark matter managed to stop them. However, the technique crumbled before he could gain power from them.

Noah let his bloodlust fill the environment and open cracks in the sky. He became the embodiment of destruction as his hunger overflowed. His aura became a heavy force that almost made Gratia take a step back, but she eventually decided to force herself to remain in her position.

Noah pointed both swords toward Gratia, and the latter did the same with her hands. Dark matter began to rotate around the weapons as roots grew above them, and something similar happened to the expert's arms. Light spun to transform her arms into a blinding force that soon discharged their attack.

Whiteness and blackness met mid-air, and their impact shook the very sky.

Chapter 1945 1945. Monster

Gratia couldn't explain what was happening. Noah was clearly using multiple abilities, but the sole fact that his blows could match hers left her stunned.

The difference between the eighth and the ninth rank was immense, but Noah touched the liquid stage with his abilities. That wasn't something that the world could allow. The very meaning of the ranks, tiers, and stages would disappear otherwise.

Still, Gratia couldn't deny what she was witnessing. Noah's assets didn't even reach the liquid stage. His companions remained in the lower tier and his attacks in the gaseous stage in terms of sheer power, but he could face her on an even field.

Noah's aura was the main problem in that battle. It could make his attacks very effective against Gratia's abilities and turn even a weak attack into a force that she had to take seriously. Moreover, it was unclear whether that was a temporary boost. She could sense his ambition, but everything else was part of his existence. His anger, hunger, greed, and destruction were aspects that had become strong enough to affect rank 9 experts.

The sky around them had started to fall apart after the many exchanges. Noah opened massive cracks whenever he used his movement technique, and his destruction only enlarged those passages to the void. Gratia even used Heaven and Earth's light to empower her attacks, so the area grew weaker whenever she absorbed light.

"Nonsense!" Gratia shouted when she saw a straight slash piercing her beams and forcing her to dodge.

A crack opened at her side, and she instinctively turned to generate a blinding explosion. Noah materialized behind her, but he quickly sprinted again when he saw that Gratia had predicted his attack.

Another crack opened on her other side, but she used her free hand to create a blinding explosion there too. Noah had to sprint above her, and fire accumulated in his mouth before he released a fiery wave of blackness that mixed with his dark matter to maximize its destructive power.

The flames burnt Gratia's light, but the halo that seeped out of her figure eventually pierced that energy and shattered it. She shone with the full power of her cultivation level as she placed a hand on her right elbow while pointing her right palm at her opponent.

Noah's instincts roared, and the world in his vision soon took the shape of the space-time array, but a wall of light hit him before he could perform his sprint. Large wounds appeared on his body as blood came out from his eyes, mouth, ears, and nostrils. His flesh felt the need to fall apart, but a sea of dark matter filled the area before Gratia could aim another attack at him.

Gratia snorted, and the sole pressure generated by her voice made the dark world fall apart. The expert rolled her eyes when she saw an army of six-armed dragons surrounding her, but she couldn't do anything to stop the imminent explosion.

A storm of dense dark matter engulfed her and filled her figure with black lines. Gratia prepared herself to shine again, but she suddenly felt something moving at high speed among the higher energy.

Gratia interrupted her technique to aim her palm at the faint movements that she sensed among the dark matter, and multiple beams flew through the black storm as she tried to hit that fast shadow. The opponent drew near, but one of her attacks eventually managed to pierce its chest and clear the area in that spot.

The dark matter fell apart to reveal a fiendish armor dispersing among the invading whiteness of the sky. That figure was pure energy and didn't contain anyone, which immediately made Gratia think about a decoy.

Her guess turned out to be on point since multiple fiendish armors and six-armed dragons suddenly punched at her from the darkness. They were about to discharge the full power of lower tier magical beasts on her, but her skin became blinding before they could reach their target.

The black storm and the army dispersed, but a shadow survived her attack. Gratia couldn't even inspect it since that dark dot disappeared as soon as her eyes managed to notice it. Her left arm separated from her body an instant later before vanishing without leaving any trace.

Light came out of Gratia's severed limb and created an ethereal white arm while she glanced high in the sky. Anger appeared on her face when she saw Noah taking bloody bites out of her severed arm while a huge Pterodactyl sat on his head.

Night had managed to sever the light defending the insides of Gratia's body due to the black lines that had accumulated during the explosion of the dragon army. Noah could absorb that energy and heal the injuries that her previous attack had inflicted.

Of course, Noah could use the dark matter to absorb the arm and the energy inside it. The process would even be smoother like that, but he wanted to intensify the monstrous aura that surrounded him, and he succeeded in his plan.

Gratia couldn't help but experience fear for the first time since the beginning of the battle when glancing at that scene. Noah was among the whiteness, but his sole presence could darken the powerful light that gave her power. His icy-blue reptilian eyes shone with bloodthirsty power as they stared at their opponent, and blood fell from his mouth as he ate the severed arm.

The rank 8 aura that Noah radiated only increased the defiant power that he seemed able to wield. He was weak. The very labels of the world told Gratia that Noah was weak. However, he was there, staring at her from a higher spot in the sky, and she couldn't make him step down.

Gratia opened her mouth to speak, but her eyes widened when a dangerous sensation spread inside her. Defenses that she had prepared a long time ago activated to counter the Shadow Domain, but no explosions happened. Instead, she felt something slithering in her insides and piercing the light that had to protect her.

Black roots suddenly pierced her abdomen and tainted her robe with a dark-purple toxin liquid. Patches that carried similar shades appeared everywhere on her figure as those branches of the parasite continued to feed on her flesh and aura. They had become incredibly effective after Noah had eaten her arm, so she struggled to suppress them.

The dark world expanded again and suppressed Gratia even more. She saw her efforts to get rid of the parasite slowing down before an army of dragons detonated around her.

Black lines covered her figure, and the roots didn't hesitate to exploit them. Gratia felt on the verge of falling apart. She would die if that trend continued, so she decided to rip away her entire abdomen.

Roots and blood spread in the sky as Gratia made her light explode in specific spots of her body. Her torso transformed into a gory mess, and everything worsened when a crack connected to the void opened before her.

Gratia immediately began to shine with blinding light to protect herself from the incoming attack, but a path opened among her halo. Night severed the light and created a passage where Noah could release his slash.

The expert almost couldn't believe her eyes when she saw her figure splitting in half as a diagonal black line passed through her.

Chapter 1946 1946. World

Gratia's body split. Her light couldn't stop Noah's slash and Night. Her power was unable to deal with the monstrous existence who was rewriting the limits that each rank had to respect.

The apparent severing of her connection with her dantian didn't affect the control over her energy. Gratia had one of Heaven and Earth's existences, but she remained a rank 9 cultivator. She was a personal world, even if her edges blended with the environment around her due to the connection with the rulers.

Gratia could call upon more power, but she couldn't see the point behind that effort. Noah had shown his superiority. His techniques, assets, and existence were above her. She even suspected that the difference between their powers came from a radically different approach to the cultivation journey.

Noah didn't give up on his freedom. He was even resorting to every reckless method that came up in his mind to find a way out of Heaven and Earth's oppression. Instead, Gratia had given up on that part of her drive. She didn't even recall her existence before the rulers at that point in her life.

Noah wasn't the type to speak during battles. Gratia's existence was still in one piece after he had cut her in half, so he didn't hesitate to slash again. His two swords performed a vertical attack that opened two deep cuts into her already maimed body.

Gratia's light continued to shine even after that attack, so Noah continued to cut her into pieces. Her existence didn't seem to contain any unique aspect that could interest him, so he preferred to turn her into pure energy.

Liquid stage cultivators turned out to be far tougher to kill even after reaching that stage of the battle. Noah had relied on the stealing ability to shatter the existences of the gaseous stage experts hunted in the previous years, but killing without it turned out to be somewhat annoying.

Noah couldn't even force himself to activate the ability obtained by absorbing Supreme Thief's technique. His greed was the foundation of the skill, and he felt no interest in Gratia. He only wanted her nutrients.

The light in Gratia's body tried to disperse into the world, but Noah made sure to absorb everything. His dark world even expanded to prevent any attempt of the sleeping rulers to save her. That victory had to happen now.

Waves of power flowed inside Noah and healed every injury that the cursed sword tried to activate. The amount of energy carried by a liquid stage cultivator was immense. His body cheered as the black hole purified that fuel and sent everything to his flesh. Growing stronger eased the instabilities generated by the deepening of his existence, but that didn't seem enough to fix his issue.

The stronger centers of power allowed Noah to express the expanded aspects of his existence better, but they remained bound to the innate limits of his level.

Noah could ignore those limits by piling on different techniques and relying on his ambition, but that didn't involve the actual state of his centers of power. His body probably was the most resilient material in the world, but his dantian had different requirements, and its structure didn't determine how easily it could shatter. An existence too heavy for a rank 8 organ would turn that flesh into a bloody pulp.

"You are amazing," Gratia eventually admitted as her voice resounded from the bloody pieces floating among the dark world. "The world will never forget that you have existed. However, you must die for everyone's sake. A rank 8 cultivator can't have so much power."

Noah almost ignored Gratia's words. She had turned into nothing more than gory pieces, so he didn't want to let her tempt him when victory was so close. However, his dark matter suddenly became unable to devour her light.

"I'm an avatar of the sky," Gratia explained through her gory pieces. "You might overwhelm me, but can you keep up?"

Noah didn't even snort. It didn't matter that his dark matter couldn't pierce her light anymore. Gratia would still turn into food once he transformed her existence into primary energy.

His swords continued to fall and worsen Gratia's condition, but she didn't die. Instead, her light started to intensify. She was relying on the resilience given by her rank 9 status to gather power and increase its density.

Noah's relentless offensive eventually came to an end. He slashed with his swords only to find that the light didn't let them go further. They remained stuck in the air as the whiteness started to expand and push the dark world backward.

Noah didn't give up so easily. A dark aura covered his skin and joined the empowerment on the swords to push his offensive power to the limit. His physical strength reached levels that most lower tier magical beasts would struggle to face, but the light didn't budge. His new power only allowed him to retract his weapons.

"Your existence is simply weaker," Gratia exclaimed before flares started to shoot out of her light.

The flares ran through the dark world and transformed the dark matter into blinding whiteness. Noah directly lost control of that higher energy, but his technique instinctively compensated for the lost power.

Noah launched a piercing slash, but the light became solid and released a clanging noise when the sharp tips slammed on it. The weapons couldn't pierce it at all now. They didn't even manage to leave marks on that white crystal.

The crystal suddenly released a wave of white light. Noah instinctively retreated through his movement technique and opened a long crack in the sky, but the whiteness didn't stop expanding even after it fell into the void.

The entirety of the dark world transformed into Heaven and Earth's whiteness. The rulers of the world went back to normality. The sky even appeared stabler than usual.

Every trace of darkness had disappeared from the area illuminated by the new light radiated by Gratia's existence, and Noah felt unable to pierce it. Even his mental sphere couldn't go past that domain. She had expanded her personal world, and he could see how it blended perfectly with the sky.

'That's the power of her world,' Noah commented in his mind as the gory pieces inside the light started to grow.

Gratia appeared quite simple as an existence. Her abilities were mostly discharges of energy that used light as their foundation, but her world brought that power further. She wasn't only part of the whiteness. She could spread it and absorb the matter affected by her influence.

"Your darkness has to reach the sky," Gratia stated as her voice made the sky tremble. "The rulers must learn from you before you become a problem."

Gratia slowly rebuilt herself inside the light. Her eyes opened after a white robe covered her body again. The event made the area affected by her influence expand, and more of the world stabilized under her glow.

The cracks that Noah had opened everywhere started to close as Gratia drew energy from the storms far away in the distance. She seemed in control of the world, but that power felt borrowed. Still, she didn't even try to pretend to own it.

"You made me call on the power that Heaven and Earth have bestowed on me," Gratia announced. "Be proud."

Chapter 1947 1947. Idea

The whiteness radiated by Gratia's figure resembled a domain, but Noah could sense the different depths that her power reached. She wasn't simply modifying the matter to turn it into her personal world. That energy was the world that her existence created.

The only difference in her case was that her existence belonged to Heaven and Earth, so her world mixed perfectly with the environment. She was part of the rulers' whiteness. The edges of her personal space opened in front of the natural light radiated by the sky.

Gratia wasn't joking when she claimed to be an avatar of the sky. Her whiteness wasn't a simple influence. It absorbed the matter that Noah had tainted and brought it back inside Heaven and Earth's system. It almost looked like a cleansing process, but it was different from Daniel's purification.

The cultivator used the same absorption that Heaven and Earth applied to every law. The tainted true meanings didn't return to their original state. They became something similar but different that suited the current condition of the world.

"Your power can touch my level," Gratia admitted, "But what can you do when its quality fails to meet the requirements that you need to achieve victory? You have taken part in the resurrection of two rank 9 experts. You should know how resilient we can be."

Noah continued to remain silent. His mind inspected the new influence that Gratia was releasing, but he felt unable to find ways to defeat it with his normal power. His destruction could slowly dig a hole inside it, but the expert could directly refill that space at a faster pace.

A few solutions to the issue had already appeared in his mind. His base power had been enough to deal with the worlds of the gaseous stage cultivators, but that wasn't enough against Gratia. He couldn't hurt her deeply enough with his attacks when she relied on her power, but he had ways around that.

Noah could wait until Gratia depleted the energy contained in her world. She didn't use it before, so there had to be restrictions to that power, and he vaguely connected those issues to the resemblances with Heaven and Earth.

Gratia seemed to borrow those abilities from the rulers, which would explain her hesitation in deploying them. Heaven and Earth had probably applied restrictions. Her faith in them might even be the reason behind such delayed activation, and Noah could work with that.

Yet, Noah didn't know how his existence could match Gratia's power in terms of quantity of energy. He had improved his ambition and turned it into a denser fuel that would make his empowerments last longer, but he was against a liquid stage cultivator connected to Heaven and Earth. She might have access to the entirety of the sky as far as he knew.

The obvious and reasonable choice in that situation was to call upon a power that matched the depths of Gratia's ability. Noah had access to the ethereal blackness, which marked his rightful step inside the ninth rank, but he hesitated to use it. The drawbacks were too heavy to endure in a battle. A single activation might lead to his defeat.

'Do I have to run away?' Noah wondered as Gratia remained in the middle of her light.

Noah could take a gamble and hope that his mind wouldn't fall into a coma after calling upon the power contained in the ethereal blackness, but his problems wouldn't end there.

Noah would still have to apply the results of his inspection. A deeper understanding of Gratia's power would give him the chance to destroy everything faster and by deploying less energy, but he didn't know whether that would be enough.

Running away seemed to be the best solution. Noah would probably meet no hindrances on his way back. Still, the event would force him to admit that liquid stage cultivators remained outside of his reach. That would put him back on the hunts for weaker assets, which he couldn't accept.

'All or nothing then,' Noah made up his mind as he prepared to activate the energy inside the ethereal blackness. Yet, a voice suddenly resounded among his mental walls and made him interrupt his actions.

'Use me!' Night shouted through the mental connection.

'How should I even use you?' Noah asked. 'I can make you slightly stronger than now, but that power will remain outside your range.'

'It's not my role to think about that complicated stuff!' Night complained. 'Do your stuff and make me able to kill that shiny thing.'

'You have reduced millennia of training to stuff,' Noah declared.

'Who cares?' Night stated. 'You call me when you have a problem with Heaven and Earth's white light. That's my role. You built me for that.'

Noah was ready to crack another joke, but an idea suddenly appeared in his mind. The mental coma after the activation of the ethereal darkness was a big problem, but he could ignore it if he didn't use himself as the main asset in the offensive.

Night was right. The Pterodactyl was perfect for destroying light. It could even benefit from Robert's existence to be more effective against the rulers' followers. The problem was with the time required to make it reach a decent level of power.

"Did you come up with something?" Gratia mocked. "I probably can't stop you if you decide to run away, but you shouldn't abuse my patience. Decide if you want to fight quickly."

The indifference that Gratia showed made Noah feel even angrier. A liquid stage cultivator was actually bragging about her success against him, who was a mere rank 8 expert. Noah had been shameless in his life, but that was simply lame.

'It will be painful,' Noah warned as the ambition left most of his assets and converged on the dark world, his creation, and Night.

'Will it make me able to defeat the light?' Night asked.

'It will turn you into its bane,' Noah explained, 'If you remain alive.'

'Do it!' Night voiced a resolute cry, and Noah didn't hesitate to expand the dark world.

The dark world appeared mostly solid and carried power in the ninth rank after Noah used most of his ambition to empower it. Gratia could still affect it with her light, but Noah made sure to keep it outside her range.

Noah didn't need the offensive power of the dark world now. He had to create to force Night to reach its new state. The Pterodactyl would have probably evolved normally in time, but the situation required something drastic. Moreover, Gratia embodied the sky, so she fit the role of a target perfectly.

Night flew at the center of the dark world and let the mechanical arms that represented the workshop surround it. It was ready to undergo the modifications. That structure only lacked one last requirement.

Noah took a deep breath before expanding his mind. His mental waves would transform into energy meant for Heaven and Earth if they touched the whiteness, so he only prepared them. His consciousness surrounded the area under Gratia's control and waited.

The black energy contained inside the ethereal darkness flowed toward his mind, and his consciousness expanded. Noah's mental waves became so strong that Gratia's whiteness couldn't stop them anymore. They inspected everything about the power released by the expert and came up with multiple conclusions that the dark world didn't hesitate to apply to Night.

Chapter 1948 1948. Nigh

The dark world transformed Night on its own while Noah fell into a mental coma. The true power of his mind had remained active for mere seconds, but that had been enough to decide on which path the Pterodactyl had to evolve.

Of course, the evolution had taken into consideration Night's innate abilities, character, and its preferred opponents. Gratia had been the perfect target to study since her existence embodied the essence of the sky, so everything that Noah had learnt could become part of the process.

Gratia didn't attack. She had fought back the mental waves that had managed to seep inside her whiteness, but she had remained still once Noah's consciousness had retreated. The expert knew that her opponent was up to something, but she didn't attack anyway.

Gratia was peculiar. Her unique existence gave her a deeper understanding and connection of the sky and Heaven and Earth's system as a whole. She didn't mind being a disposable asset since she already considered herself as part of the rulers.

Her unique status allowed her to understand what the rulers needed the most. Assets could fall, the world could crumble, and solid stage cultivators could die, but Heaven and Earth had to gain something from each sacrifice, which often involved understanding over their opponents.

Noah was an immense threat to the system. Heaven and Earth had to deal with the dragons, the monster outside the sky, the old rulers, and the recent instability caused by Sword Saint's breakthrough, so they couldn't focus on him. Hence, it was Gratia's job to gather the necessary information about Noah's power so that her leaders could develop something against him once they regained complete control of their faculties.

Gratia was basically willing to risk dying against Noah's power-up to improve the chances of the assets which would replace her. Her drive was pure and firm. Yet, she would still try her best against everything that her opponent unleashed.

Night cried in pain inside the dark world while the workshops modified its structure. Pure creation controlled the arms that represented the Great Builder's technique as understanding flowed inside them. They had a clear plan in mind, but the process couldn't be painless.

Intense ambition filled the Pterodactyl and the dark matter around it. The creature was already in the ninth rank in its current form, but it didn't express the entirety of its existence since the breakthrough had happened through Noah's law. Still, the workshop was fixing that issue, and the dark world was even providing an endless stream of rank 9 materials to aid with the procedure.

The entirety of the process was happening while Noah struggled to wake up from his mental coma. Snore had appeared under him to make sure that he remained in the sky, and information continued to flow inside his mind, but he didn't move. The snake kept him inside the dark world in the hope that his technique would quicken his awakening.

Night transformed. Dark matter filled with ambition and understanding about its most hated opponents replaced entire chunks of its body and made sure to make its current power permanent.

The dark world started to flow toward Night when its transformation reached a critical state. The workshops helped modify and adapt the higher energy entering its body at that point, and a cry came out of the Pterodactyl once its figure reappeared among the whiteness.

Gratia couldn't find many differences in Night's body. The creature had retained its peculiar shape and its previous level. It was nothing more than black edges and empty insides, but her instincts told her that something had changed.

The lines were darker, and light appeared unable to shine on their surface. The Pterodactyl almost seemed to be part of a painting that an artist had drawn with a large brush soaked in pitch-black paint. It didn't belong to the sky. It was merely flying over it with a body that never interacted with the matter around it.

Night didn't leave traces of its presence in the world. The sky wasn't aware that it existed in its current form, and even Gratia struggled to focus her gaze on its lines. Her eyes seemed unable to find the creature even if it were right in front of her.

"This is my peak then," Night said through roars that Gratia couldn't hear.

Night turned toward his master in a coma on Snore's back. It struggled to recall the life before meeting him. The Pterodactyl felt as if its true path had begun when Noah had found it inside the Dark Gorge.

Night had been nothing more than a rank 7 magical beast back then. It had incredible offensive capabilities, but the light of the sky had forced it to hide underground like a worm. Its life there didn't continue for too long either since it had fallen prey to one human organization.

However, Night could now stand freely among the sky. Its level had reached the last stage of the journey, and the light had become unable to touch its lines. The Pterodactyl was finally free of its curse, and everything had come from Noah.

"I lost my first life due to my arrogance, hunger, and anger," Night announced even if only Noah and the other companions could hear its words. "You gave me the chance to stand on the peak in my second. I once claimed to have the best offensive ability in the world. May I die again if I can't abide by those words."

Night turned toward Gratia as its figure shot forward the most chilling aura that she had ever experienced in her life. The Pterodactyl's attention seemed able to pierce her whiteness, which was something that even Noah had failed to accomplish. Yet, it didn't immediately attack. It remained among the sky as its power increased.

The workshop had built Night's new body with matter empowered by Noah's ambition. The same law also filled its previous lines during the modifications. It didn't need Noah's influence to improve its level anymore since it had become part of his existence.

Night's level grew until it reached the peak of the lower tier. The creature lowered its head and pointed its sharp tip at the center of Gratia's chest, but the latter smiled when she saw that its power had stopped growing.

"You fall short," Gratia announced. "Noah Balvan has limits then."

Faint anger seeped out of Night's lines, and Gratia sensed it filling the chilling aura that the creature continued to send forward. That feeling was deep, but she couldn't feel fear in front of a magical beast in the lower tier. It didn't matter that Noah had improved it. The cultivators stood far above those animals in terms of power.

"You white things," Night growled through words that Gratia could hear and understand, "You should stop calling his name so easily."

Gratia was about to laugh, but a vertical black patch suddenly appeared on her vision. The darkness made her unable to focus on Night, but a strange realization hit her mind while she studied that odd event.

The black patch didn't only appear in her vision. A tall black wall had grown right in the middle of her whiteness. That membrane pierced the area under her control from side to side, and it even crossed her body, dividing it precisely into two halves.

Then the two sides split. Gratia's figure and the circular area under her control slid on the vertical wall and revealed how Night had cut everything in half without moving from its position.

Chapter 1949 1949. Dumb

A crack appeared on Gratia's existence. The whiteness that was blending with the world was an expression of her world, but Night had cut it in half. Her figure didn't survive the event either. Her vision became strange as the two sides of her body split.

Noah's previous battle prowess had left Gratia speechless, but Night made her astonishment reach a new realm. She didn't even see its attack, and she struggled to sense its presence even with the thin black wall at her side. The Pterodactyl seemed a black spot in her perception, meaning that Heaven and Earth's senses would also fail to find it.

The black wall left by the attack transformed into a trail of darkness that flowed toward Night and fused with its lines. It had tainted that part of the world, so it could absorb it.

Night's level remained the same, but it stored that power for future drawbacks. It had become an avatar of Noah's existence, so it could activate his ambition on its own. However, its peculiar status didn't make it avoid the backlashes. It would pay the price for its current peak lower tier prowess, but that would come after it took care of that expert.

A blinding light filled the sky as the whiteness released by Gratia condensed to intensify her influence on her surroundings. The two halves of her power fused back together and restored her body, but they lost their spherical shape. Her glow transformed into an octagon that created a defensive area right around her figure.

"A white shield," Night whispered through cries that only Noah and the other companions could hear.

Gratia wore a resolute expression as she pointed her palms forward and accumulated light, but a diagonal black cut severed her octagon and her body. She found herself sliding on the black surface created by Night's attack again as astonishment replaced her resolve.

"I won't die at the hands of a magical beast!" Both sides of Gratia's body shouted as power seeped out of her figure.

The blinding light of her existence filled the area and covered the sky with a more intense layer of whiteness. Her radiance reached the black wall next to her, but it felt unable to absorb it. The matter there seemed to have transformed into something that Heaven and Earth couldn't touch through normal methods.

Night suddenly appeared next to one of the sides. The half octagon and Gratia's maimed figure stopped falling when the Pterodactyl placed its sharp head on the solid whiteness, and a spiderweb of black openings covered those materials when it raised its beak.

The left half of the power previously released by Gratia shattered into a mass of black energy that Night didn't hesitate to eat. The Pterodactyl then turned toward the other side, and Gratia understood that she had to call upon the entirety of her power to defend herself from such a powerful creature.

Another wave of whiteness came out of Gratia's figure, but she didn't use only use her true power. She had understood that Night was too strong for her after its attacks. However, having a connection with the rulers gave her the chance to call upon superior power, something that her existence alone couldn't even hope to summon.

Her light intensified until the sky reacted to her power. A blinding pillar fell and pierced the storms to land on the area that her existence was affecting.

The pillar's radiance didn't go past the expression of Gratia's world. It flowed inside it and brought it to the very peak of its potential. She reached the apex of the liquid stage before all the whiteness of the area converged into her intact figure.

"You are an interesting creature," Gratia announced while inspecting her new body.

Her skin was completely white and radiated a faint glow capable of illuminating the sky around her. Her eyes resembled torches that spread Heaven and Earth's light, and her aura was one with the world.

That state left Gratia surprised and grateful. The rulers had noticed her even if their condition wasn't ideal. It was clear how they wanted her to win against the Pterodactyl, and she would do everything in her power to make them proud.

"The rulers send their compliments," Gratia declared while transforming into a white flash that made her teleport right above Night. "You have forced them to awaken for a brief moment, but your life ends here."

Gratia quickly transformed into a blinding nova that radiated an unstoppable light in the area. Her glow engulfed Night and forced Snore to absorb Noah into its body to protect him from the attack.

Snore's scales started to melt and transform into laws of the world as the glow shone on its body. The snake tried to fly out of the range of Gratia's ability, but a pulling force kept it stuck in its position.

The black hole inside Noah instinctively sent dark matter into Snore to refill the missing spots in its body, but the corrosion of the light was faster. The snake continued to vanish, but it made sure to surround

Noah with multiple layers of dark matter before hissing words that Gratia couldn't translate. "Stop playing with your food!"

Gratia wasn't even looking at her opponents. She was wearing a beaming smile as Heaven and Earth's light flowed out of her. She was fulfilling the purpose of her existence. Gratia had finally transformed into a living beacon that spread her leaders' power into their world.

"I'm just testing my limits, you stupid snake," Night replied. "I won't take orders by a creature that Noah rebuilds every time he gets a new idea."

Gratia couldn't hear those words, but her light allowed her to sense the movements of Night's mouth. Her eyes opened in surprise as she stared under her. She struggled to see past her own light, but the Pterodactyl's figure eventually appeared in her vision, and disbelief inevitably filled her face.

Night wasn't fine in that environment. The light was transforming its lines too. The only difference with the rest of the matter in the world was that Night's body appeared incredibly resilient. It had barely suffered injuries during those seconds.

"This is Heaven and Earth's light," Gratia explained as her eyes remained wide in disbelief. "I might not have enough power to express their greatness, but you shouldn't be strong enough to defy it either!"

"Are you dumb?" Night asked, allowing Gratia to hear its voice.

Gratia frowned in front of those human words. They felt strange when they reached her ears. It was as if Night's voice existed in a world that she couldn't completely hear.

"My master's title is Defying Demon," Night continued. "It is in his nature to defy."

"B-but you aren't him," Gratia weakly complained.

"Then you aren't Heaven and Earth," Night exclaimed before raising its head and pointing its sharp tip and the cultivator.

Gratia was speechless, but she didn't lose her faith. She was the embodiment of how strong the rulers could be. They had enough power to fill the entirety of the lands under the sky, and she trusted those abilities loyally. Yet, Night was almost immune to that power, and another slash soon came out of its figure.

Gratia couldn't believe her eyes when she saw many openings appearing on her body. Her influence suffered, and the same went for her existence. Her world began to fall apart as a force that escaped her understanding ravaged everything she had built throughout the eras.

Chapter 1950 1950. Cutie pie

"How are you doing this?!" Gratia shouted in disbelief. "How are you destroying a power that comes directly from Heaven and Earth?!"

Night didn't move, but invisible attacks continued to shoot out of its figure. Cuts and cracks opened on Gratia's world whenever the Pterodactyl hit her, and her existence soon surpassed the point when Heaven and Earth could heal her without a complete rebirth.

Night stared at the disbelief, reluctance, and unwillingness on Gratia's face. It knew those emotions far too well. They were the same feelings it had experienced during its first life when it had ascended only to find a world full of light.

Heaven and Earth set the system and the fairness, but it didn't involve feelings in their calculations. Everything was a matter of balance between potential and punishments, but they had never cared about the obvious flaws of that environment.

A constant suppression gave birth to stronger existences. Heaven and Earth had partially done that on purpose since they wanted to absorb laws capable of surviving their punishments, but they had also generated monsters with that method.

The existences that managed to resist their punishments and temptations even after reaching the ninth rank became members of an elite group that surpassed what Heaven and Earth could comprehend with their corrupted fairness.

The rulers had taken them as unavoidable flaws that their success in taking control over the world would eventually fix. Still, they didn't consider the emotions that their followers would experience in front of them. They simply didn't care enough to think about that issue.

Instead, Night had stood on both sides of the fairness. It had been the clueless magical beast that Heaven and Earth's system had forced to live in a world where it couldn't survive and the mistake capable of surpassing their comprehension.

Night could confirm its achievements in Gratia's crumbling face, but it felt no happiness in that event. That cultivator was only a mere pawn. It had taken the first step toward its goal, but the sky still shone on its body.

The Pterodactyl looked at the sky as the expert above it fell apart and transformed into a darkness that couldn't blend with Heaven and Earth's world. The white layer felt so close when looked from that position, but Night knew that the path was still long. However, a glance at Snore's regrowing body filled it with confidence. Noah would bring everyone there. It was only a matter of time.

"Why?" Gratia continued to complain as her voice broke. "I had the power of the rule-."

Gratia couldn't complete her line since her figure crumbled and her whiteness transformed into a current of dark energy that flowed inside Night. The Pterodactyl stared at the temporary dark area that its previous attack had created before diverting its gaze once the world filled it with new laws.

The storms returned to fill the area, but Night barely noticed them. Its body drew black lines on the sky as the sharp lines of its body cut the chaotic laws that it crossed, and that energy naturally flew inside it.

Snore voiced an angry hiss as its body completely regrew. It wanted to complain and bicker, but it remained silent since Noah's well-being had the priority.

The dark matter that made Snore's body opened and brought Noah into the outside world. The snake let him rest on its scales, and Night neared him while pointing its pointy head toward his chest.

Snore didn't feel any worry. Night could potentially have the power to sever every connection it had with Noah and become a separate existence. Yet, the companions knew each other too well not to

understand what they were thinking. They had literally lived inside the same mind for millennia, so a simple glance was enough to study each other's intentions.

Dark currents flowed out of Night's lines and entered Noah's chest. That was the power absorbed from Gratia's existence after Heaven and Earth had filled her world. It contained the amount of energy that only liquid stage cultivators could have, which made it immensely valuable for Noah.

Still, the black hole refused to absorb that energy. It pushed it outside Noah's chest through currents of dark matter that flowed back inside Night's lines.

Noah was still in the middle of his mental coma, but the black hole knew him well enough to make decisions in his place. However, both Snore and Night were also aware of their master's character, so they immediately understood the reason behind that refusal.

"This is only the first of the white things that I'll kill," Night solemnly announced. "Let me offer my first victim to you, the existence who has made all of this possible."

"Besides, you need more power," Snore continued through a hiss. "You might have to evolve some more of us, and I won't tolerate you leaving the Pterodactyl above us."

Night waited for a few seconds before sending that energy back into Noah's chest. The process went smoothly that time. The black hole let those dark currents flow into its insides where it could purify and turn them into power to send toward the organs in need.

Even Noah's insane requirements had to bow in front of the energy of a peak liquid stage cultivator. Gratia had reached the step right before the apex of the cultivation journey during the last empowerment, so the entirety of the higher plane would struggle to provide something better.

The black hole sent part of the energy to reactivate all the functions of Noah's mind. He finally blinked after that wave of energy awakened his consciousness, and his mental waves quickly resumed to flow normally.

Part of Gratia's energy went on his dantian and reinforced its walls. Noah wouldn't normally need that, but his aspects had become too heavy for the current level of his centers of power. He needed more, even if that meant slowing down his growth even more than that.

The largest share of energy went toward his body. Noah's flesh cheered as he straightened his position and sat on Snore. He grew stronger on the spot, and his potential also increased due to the victory over Gratia, but he still felt that it wasn't time for his breakthrough.

'Well, someone advanced,' Noah thought as he patted Snore's scales while glancing at the Pterodactyl by his side.

"You know that I've heard everything you've said, right?" Noah teased.

"I have said nothing but the truth," Night proudly declared.

"If only I think about how grumpy you were back then," Noah laughed. "I didn't think the cultivation journey would turn you into a cutie pie."

"A what?!" Night shouted in disgust, and Snore almost lost its balance due to the loud laughs that escaped its mouth.

"Give me back my darkness!" Night complained.

"It's too late for that," Noah replied.

"I will steal all the targets from now on," Night continued. "You won't even get to smell their energy."

"Sure, sure," Noah laughed. "You have clearly deserved some rewards."

Night snorted before glancing at the sky. The storms tried to hinder its vision, but they couldn't do much now that it had stepped on the ninth rank. Its power even started to fall, but it quickly stabilized a bit above the bottom of the lower tier.

"We are almost there," Night commented, and Noah couldn't help but join it in its stare at the sky.