

Demonic 1981

Chapter 1981 1981. Departures

The departure of the powerful army put an end to the dangerous mission and forced the experts to make a point of their situation. Noah and the others gathered in the barren environment that stood right under their location and sat in a circle to enjoy Divine Demon's wine and spend some last moments together.

The words didn't arrive right away. The seven experts preferred to rest a bit before voicing matters that everyone had long since predicted due to the behavior of their other companions.

Steven, Wilfred, and Divine Demon had stepped into the ninth rank. They had to focus on improving their worlds and growing accustomed to their new powers now. Being in a group would only slow down their growth, especially since the influences of their companions would be a constant pressure to fend off during the journey.

Supreme Thief and Great Builder were in a similar situation. They had met Noah's group by chance while they were busy hindering Heaven and Earth's projects. They had a mission that didn't only involve their personal power, which inevitably put them on a path far different from Noah and the others.

The group was bound to separate and leave only King Elbas and Noah together. The event would typically bring happiness since it hinted at the experts' improvements, but something was different now. King Elbas had asked Noah an important favor, and that made the duo's minds quite heavy.

The sky was the next goal. Noah and King Elbas wouldn't go there right away, but they both knew that a few millennia wouldn't be enough to prepare them for the mission. They could increase their power and get their hands on insane battle prowess, but everything paled in front of the might that the white layer might contain.

Noah had yet to start planning that mission, but things looked quite rough, especially since his team wouldn't have any rank 9 expert. Night was a valuable asset, and Noah planned to bring his other companions to the ninth rank, but even that might not be enough for the sky.

"We might as well leave now," Great Builder announced once the silence became deafening. "Meeting you all had been an interesting turn of events, but we have to stick to a strict schedule. I can already feel another important event happening somewhere in that direction."

Great Builder stood up, and Supreme Thief gulped his cup before imitating him. The two experts were about to leave without wasting time in futile goodbyes, but Noah stopped them before they could turn.

"Wait," Noah uttered while moving his gaze on King Elbas. "Can you make a copy of the old rulers' tracker?"

King Elbas didn't give his usual arrogant remark. His skin resembled a dense liquid as he put his hand inside his chest and took out an orange notebook.

"They are potential allies," Noah described while King Elbas handed the notebook to Great Builder.

"Potential allies that might turn into the true enemy," Wilfred commented.

"I'm sure they don't need us to explain why they shouldn't trust the old rulers," King Elbas added.

Great Builder and Supreme Thief revealed surprised expressions, but they didn't question the experts any further. They performed a bow before turning to leave and disappearing among the storms.

"What do you have in mind now?" Wilfred asked without looking at anyone, but Noah and King Elbas knew that the question was aimed at them.

"I'm not sure you want to hear that," Divine Demon laughed.

"We don't," Steven stated. "Xavier got crazier throughout the years. Noah has a bad influence on existences."

"Can we stop blaming me for this stuff?" Noah sneered. "I'm completely innocent this time around."

"I still don't want to hear it," Steven laughed while standing up and rising his cup toward his companions. "I need to go through a long journey alone. I hope to meet all of you soon."

Noah and the others raised their cups and drank. Steven left right after everyone gulped their wine.

"I think I should go too," Wilfred announced while standing up. "It's pointless to delay this. We have been together for millennia already. It's time that I explore my new power on my own."

Divine Demon refilled everyone's cups with a wave of his hand, but Wilfred left before toasting with his companion. He flew toward the storms slowly, without forgetting to sip his wine from time to time.

"Well," Divine Demon exclaimed before standing up. "It's up to me to make the departing speech."

"Please, don't," King Elbas promptly refused. "You might affect our minds or something. Let's not risk it."

"He still thinks that I listen to him," Divine Demon laughed, and Noah couldn't help but smirk when he met his gaze.

"Do as you wish, you unreasonable brute," King Elbas gave up on stopping Divine Demon. "I'll spend a few centuries removing your words from my mental sphere afterward."

"I'll miss teasing you," Divine Demon laughed before wearing a serious expression and turning toward Noah. "My heir, don't forget what it is that makes us demons. Our opponent is the very world, so fill it with the blood of your opponents before devouring it. Don't you dare to make me shatter the sky on my own."

"And you try not to make things harder for us by falling prey to Heaven and Earth," Noah replied.

"Do that only after we shatter the sky," King Elbas added, and the two experts shot confused glances at him.

"What?" King Elbas scoffed. "I would gladly study that fusion."

"The pig was right about you," Divine Demon sighed.

"Its words have never made sense!" King Elbas complained.

"He squeals like a true demon," Divine Demon declared while looking at the sky to perform a gesture that the Foolery usually made.

"You are the punishment that Heaven and Earth have prepared for me," King Elbas shook his head.

"I'm your leader's master!" Divine Demon shouted. "This makes me your master. Kowtow before I throw you into a pack of dragons!"

"Why don't you leave and be Heaven and Earth's problem already?" King Elbas asked before turning toward Noah. "You stop laughing. We have an impossible mission to prepare. We can't waste time dealing with this idiot."

"I wonder," Noah teased. "What if I made the Foolery my second in command? Wouldn't that make it Xavier's superior?"

"That's a great idea, my heir!" Divine Demon shouted as his eyes lit up.

"You can't do that," King Elbas stated before wearing a worried expression. "Can you? That pig can't even command itself."

"It squeals like a true demon," Noah repeated before hiding his grin behind his cup.

Divine Demon exploded into a loud laugh, but his serious expression returned as silence fell among the group. The time for jokes was over. He had to leave and explore the higher plane with his new world to understand how to improve further.

"We'll be fine," Noah said before nodding at Divine Demon.

"Of course you'll be," Divine Demon snorted. "I'll see you around."

Divine Demon turned to stroll through the storms. The chaotic laws changed color and gathered under his feet to create proper steps as he walked forward. They even poured wine into his cup whenever he emptied it. It seemed that the entire world was at his service, and that guess wasn't too distant from the truth.

King Elbas and Noah remained silent even after they emptied their cups. They stared at the storms trying to get past the innate pressure that their existences radiated.

"Are we really going to do that then?" Noah eventually asked.

"As long as you are up for that," King Elbas replied.

"Fine then," Noah sighed. "Let's invade the sky."

Chapter 1982 1982. Res

King Elbas and Noah had remained on their own. They could theoretically start planning their insane mission right away, but they didn't dare to set off for that already.

The recent battle had given both of them new insights about their existences. King Elbas had transformed, while Noah had understood that his companions had to face their respective

breakthroughs before him. That wasn't an actual requirement, but he believed that he wouldn't be able to obtain what his centers of power needed otherwise.

Noah knew that his dantian and body would only require more and more as he continued to advance on the cultivation journey. He didn't even want to think about the ninth rank for now since the previous level was already causing enough problems. He had even made things worse with the ethereal blackness, so the situation looked quite grim.

However, Noah wasn't a simple existence. His personal power was incredible, and he could also rely on the living beings he had built to be the best version of themselves.

Night's breakthrough had revealed how powerful his companions could become. The Pterodactyl had transformed into a being that Heaven and Earth struggled to detect. It existed to sever their light and the laws that dared to stand on its path.

Night's power alone was immense, but the other companions could reach a similar level. Some of them might not share the Pterodactyl's potential, but Noah felt sure that they would reach incredible heights nonetheless after stepping into the ninth rank.

That would make Noah able to go far beyond what his personal power allowed him to reach. The enhanced aspects of his existence and his ambition gave him the chance to fight liquid stage cultivators, but he struggled to kill them since his might wasn't always enough against those powerful worlds.

Night had solved that issue and had proven that Noah could do more before reaching the ninth rank. The idea of defeating an actual solid stage cultivator before obtaining a complete world didn't seem too impossible if he could use all his companions.

The problems started there. Only Night had stepped on the ninth rank, which left Snore, Duanlong, the Cursed Sword, the parasite, and Shafu. All of them would require a massive amount of energy and special conditions.

'The Cursed Sword and the parasite shouldn't cause too many problems,' Noah thought while meditating inside a simple hole that he had filled with his dark matter. 'The Cursed Sword might even be almost there since I'm only fighting stronger opponents lately. As for the parasite, I guess it only needs energy after inheriting part of Robert's existence, but I'd rather leave it as last.'

The parasite fed on Noah's energy when he didn't provide it with external nutrients. The black hole could keep it in check in its current state, but things could change if it advanced into the ninth rank.

Everything would be far harder with the other companions. Duanlong could express hunger and greed in its superior form, which was still relatively simple. Instead, Snore and Shafu were complicated beings, especially the former.

Noah had built Shafu to collect entire regions inside its separate space, but it had other abilities, and Heaven and Earth had yet to see some of them. Still, the six-armed dragon was an embodiment of his existence, similar to the Demonic Sword. It had a vaguely clear path to follow, so its breakthrough would eventually come as long as Noah deployed it into battles.

Snore was the greatest problem. Noah had initially created it to be Blood Companion that could change its role and functions depending on his needs. The snake had then evolved into a being that expressed the dark world's destructiveness, and it had continued to grow on that path.

Noah feared that Snore would require the breakthrough of the black hole to reach the ninth rank, meaning that it would have to wait for his dantian to advance. That wasn't ideal, mainly because he wanted the snake to be free from any restriction that his centers of power might generate.

That wish wasn't only meant to benefit Snore and give it its well-deserved freedom from his centers of power. Noah also wanted to avoid being unable to deploy the Blood Companion because his dantian had yet to reach the intended level. That event was very likely to happen in that case since his organs' requirements would skyrocket in the ninth rank.

Noah wasn't the type to jump into random battles in the hope of achieving his goals, especially when some of his companions had precise requirements. He could theoretically create the perfect conditions for each breakthrough, but that would cause other problems. He might risk putting Snore and the others on a wrong path if he influenced everything too deeply.

His doubts never found answers even after he spoke with King Elbas about the issue. The latter was cultivating in a luxurious habitation built right next to his hole. He had created it when the two decided to rest for a while, but they often met to discuss important topics.

Noah had learnt about the final energy during one of his meetings. That discovery had left him speechless but also confused. The final existence that King Elbas had developed was real, but Noah didn't see how anyone could obtain it without being on a specific path. He even acknowledged that he couldn't get there due to the many transformations that his laws experienced.

The questions on Noah's side always involved his companions. The two experts didn't talk about the sky during their meetings, but their conversations rarely led somewhere. They soon accepted that their paths existed on realms too personal. They could only limit themselves to contradict each other whenever they found a flaw in their friend's reasoning.

"Let's say that you completely understand your living puppets," King Elbas uttered while marching inside his immense golden room.

Noah was sitting next to a wall, and he promptly let go of the cup in his hands to stop Night from attacking King Elbas. His mental waves prevented the wine from falling on the floor, but the cultivator still turned to heave a helpless sigh.

"I know that you aren't puppets," King Elbas explained. "That's just your definition in the inscription fields. Find the inscription masters from the past eras if you care about the meaning of a single word."

Night snorted, but it eventually went back inside Noah's body. The latter could pick his cup again and enjoy the wine that King Elbas had made during one of his many projects.

"As I was saying," King Elbas cleared his throat, "The breakthroughs would still have some flaws. It doesn't matter if you manage to tune the amount of danger perfectly. The process would be artificial and might lead to possible fatal mistakes."

"I am artificial," Noah replied. "I came out well."

"I would like to object," King Elbas scoffed, "But you aren't the topic here. I know that you believe in your ambition, and you might even be right. Your influence might fix every flaw caused by an artificial breakthrough, but do you really want to risk your companions' future?"

"It might take many millennia if we limit ourselves to hunting down cultivators," Noah declared.

"I don't have millennia," King Elbas sighed. "Two thousand to three thousand years is my limit. I can stretch that period, but I can't stop the inevitable decay of my existence, and I won't go back to what I was after shutting up Divine Architect so dramatically."

"We can go into dangerous areas to improve my companions' chances," Noah suggested. "Though a few millennia might not be enough even in that eventuality."

"You should let the breakthroughs be natural if you want your companions to express the entirety of themselves," King Elbas responded as his expression turned serious.. "You can still refuse to help me. I would consider that in your situation."

Chapter 1983 1983. Tree

Noah wouldn't go back on his word. That wasn't a matter of honor or similar things that had no meaning in his mind. He wanted to help King Elbas, and he wished to perform his first exploration of the sky with him.

Truth be told, King Elbas was the perfect companion for such an insane mission. He was ready for every situation, and his current unstable state wouldn't change that. Noah couldn't even imagine his friend getting desperate in front of death.

Still, the issue remained. Noah would probably fail to complete his preparations before his friend reached a critical state and forced him to start the mission.

King Elbas didn't necessarily have to enter the sky, but he didn't need to explain how the insides of the white layer would have more value. Nothing could compare to a chunk that had never touched the outside world. Its level of purity would be on a superior league.

The two had to enter the sky, avoid ending up in one of the many traps that that environment would probably contain, and leave in one piece, at least ideally. Simple holes wouldn't work in that situation. They would have to create a proper passage through formations and inscriptions, and King Elbas' expertise alone wasn't enough for the task.

King Elbas wouldn't be able to create a formation capable of surpassing Heaven and Earth's natural defenses even if he relied on his final existence. The expert needed Noah's ability to find flaws in the rulers' system, and the two might even require the orange city's help at some point.

Noah and King Elbas had yet to talk about the topic, but they shared similar mindsets. They knew that the old rulers could help a lot in such a dangerous mission, but they also understood that leaving them in the dark was better.

"Do you think we can defeat solid stage cultivators if we fight together?" Noah asked in a vague tone.

"I don't think we can fight together," King Elbas laughed as he pointed his palm on the floor to summon a golden screen that depicted the many functions of the habitation.

"I think we'll just die," Noah stated. "Neither of us has attacks able to damage such strong worlds. We can't pick them as targets."

"You do realize that we should avoid dying before approaching the sky, don't you?" King Elbas mocked.

"We'll probably have to face hordes of cultivators in the ninth rank if we enter the sky," Noah sighed. "That even is the best-case scenario since it doesn't involve solid stage experts and those improved versions that we have found in the separate dimension. We are basically relying on Heaven and Earth's fairness here."

"Failing to get stronger might help us then," King Elbas explained.

"I don't want to rely on something created by Heaven and Earth," Noah responded. "I'd rather bet everything on my personal power."

"I think we should try to be flexible when it comes to this mission," King Elbas suggested.

"You should have asked that before the divine ranks," Noah grinned. "We are stuck with ourselves now, and I can't say no to power."

"We can at least try not to create loopholes for Heaven and Earth," King Elbas argued.

"Can you even calculate how their fairness will change depending on our growth?" Noah asked.

"I tried once, but I find the topic quite boring," King Elbas replied. "Calculating the full extent of Heaven and Earth's fairness wouldn't be a problem if I had a clear understanding of the entirety of their power and a list of every living being in their world."

"They should be easy to get before you fall apart," Noah joked.

"It's not like I can deploy this plan with such a brute as a companion," King Elbas scoffed.

"You can always leave me behind," Noah teased.

"I actually need your existence more than my immense expertise," King Elbas revealed in a disappointed tone.

"You can try not to brag next time," Noah laughed. "You might end up complimenting me like that."

The conversation continued with a few jokes, but it eventually ended. The two experts were almost ready to leave, and their next target would depend on the old rulers' intel.

Noah and King Elbas spent a few more years cultivating in their respective training areas or talking in their occasional meetings, but they eventually decided to leave the region. They had discussed their next targets after contacting the old rulers, and their decision had been obvious due to the nature of their situation.

The old rulers had never stopped sending their improved magical beasts into the stormy regions. The orange city's influence had continued to expand while Noah and King Elbas rested and prepared for their next mission. The old Heaven and Earth had slowly become a proper parasite that was taking over the higher plane, and their new version appeared unable to stop them.

The old rulers never lost anything during the expansion. The stormy regions had countless magical beasts, with many of them in the ninth rank. Moreover, the breeding grounds in the orange city had reached levels of efficiency that left even King Elbas stunned. The old Heaven and Earth didn't lack troops, and they always managed to succeed in their goals.

The old Heaven and Earth had it relatively easy. Their victories didn't only come from the conquest of areas inside the stormy regions. They were happy as long as the rulers wasted energy to stop their improved magical beasts, which was impossible to avoid.

The old rulers were doing what Noah had planned from time to time. Damaging Heaven and Earth was easy with the sheer number of resources and methods that the orange city could deploy, and Noah only rejoiced reading the many reports that arrived in the special device.

Heaven and Earth appeared on the losing side of that battle. The old rulers knew them too well, but worry inevitably started to form inside Noah's mind as he realized that those powerful allies were slowly developing a proper personality.

The old rulers were regaining what they had lost during the severing from the sky. They weren't going back to their previous form, but Noah didn't like seeing them growing at such a fast pace.

Still, his worries didn't stop him from using their reports. King Elbas and Noah had picked a suitable target as soon as they decided to inspect the intel. It consisted of another area guarded by liquid stage cultivators. The experts there were defending a massive tree that could surpass most mountains in terms of size.

The old rulers didn't know whether the tree hid a separate dimension, but the presence of liquid stage cultivators described how important the area was for Heaven and Earth.

Noah and King Elbas had stopped caring about hurting Heaven and Earth for now. They had far bigger problems to deal with. The area only had two liquid stage cultivators, which made it perfect for their needs.

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"Excuse me?" An old-looking cultivator asked in his rough voice as he stared at Noah and King Elbas.

"I'm not sure I heard you correctly either," The enchanting middle-aged woman at the cultivator side exclaimed.

"It's not that hard," Noah repeated himself while heaving a helpless sigh.. "You both know that we will win, so let me cut the tree first. It seems tougher than you anyway."

Chapter 1984 1984. Taunts

Noah and King Elbas had reached their destination quickly, but they had remained stunned in front of the sheer size of the tree. The existence was a magical plant in the middle tier that had naturally gained

Heaven and Earth's aura after absorbing their chaotic laws for many years. Its power even seemed off compared to its actual level.

Noah's instincts had immediately told him that the tree was unique. It had a vast dark-brown trunk that stretched for entire regions, and its branches grew until the end of the storms. They didn't have leaves, but they still created multiple pulling forces that dragged the chaotic laws into their tough fabric.

The tree wasn't made of wood. King Elbas and Noah struggled to understand the actual nature of the plant's fabric. They didn't even know if its peculiar aura was a natural occurrence or a consequence of the hidden meanings left by Heaven and Earth in their chaotic laws.

Their failure to study the magical plant from their position gave birth to an intense curiosity hindered only by the two liquid stage cultivators who had stepped off the tree to meet them.

"A few victories don't mean anything," The old-looking cultivator stated, but Noah and King Elbas didn't miss the faint hesitation that tried to come out of his cold expression.

The enchanting woman was experiencing the same emotions. It was clear that the two cultivators had learnt about the recent feats performed by Noah's group. A bunch of rank 8 experts had defeated a group of liquid stage existences, and they had come for more victims now.

Heaven and Earth were in a dormant state, but their followers could still access the network in the sky. They could learn and study what had happened in the regions around the floating lake, and those scenes inevitably left them worried.

Noah's team had members capable of unleashing an unreasonable power that didn't follow any label. The cultivators defending the tree had even ended up meeting two of the most troublesome experts in that group. One of them was Noah himself, while the other was the inscription master who had won a bet against Divine Architect.

It was normal to feel worried in that situation. Noah wouldn't even blame them too much if it weren't for the intense anger that his existence generated in front of Heaven and Earth's followers. Those experts had failed to remain true to their journey, so they had ended up unable to understand the superior power wielded by his group.

Noah's statement about the tree's toughness wasn't a random comment meant to enrage his two opponents. The magical plant truly appeared stronger than the two experts. He was even planning to push the Cursed Sword past its limits, and that dark-brown trunk seemed a good opponent.

Obviously, the two cultivators took his words as an insult, but they didn't dare to act recklessly. They could experience real death in that situation, so they decided to wait until Noah and King Elbas' intentions became clear. Unluckily for them, their opponents had more sharp remarks under their sleeves.

"To think that we would make Heaven and Earth's followers tremble in fear with our sole presence," King Elbas commented. "The rulers have really stopped caring about that part of their power."

"They never really cared," Noah explained. "They only needed someone to handle problems that they deemed unworthy of their attention. Everything became a mess as the time of their breakthrough drew close."

"I wonder when we'll see the upgrade in action," King Elbas wondered before turning toward the two liquid stage cultivators. "When are your new bodies coming? I thought the first batch was ready for testing."

The two cultivators widened their eyes but remained silent. They couldn't believe how calm Noah and King Elbas appeared in that situation. Two experts near the end of the cultivation journey were standing before them, but they barely saw that as a danger.

"They probably need Heaven and Earth to transfer the actual laws," Noah guessed.

"You are right," King Elbas sighed. "Those laws don't even belong to them anymore."

King Elbas ended his comment with a chuckle that enraged the two experts even more. His gesture didn't have any hidden meaning. He was conversing as if he were inside his training area.

The same went for Noah, who struggled to take the situation seriously. His destination was the sky, and everything before that was mere preparation for that incredible event. Two liquid stage cultivators couldn't claim the entirety of his attention now that he had Night's new power at his side.

"So," Noah eventually said after the silence remained in its place for a few seconds, "We have a lot to do and not enough time. Can you just move away? We might even let you go afterward."

"We should say that!" The old-looking cultivator complained, but his words didn't have the intended effects since Noah and King Elbas started to ignore him to focus on the tree.

"We can't let you touch the tree," The woman announced and finally claimed her opponents' attention. "It's our role to protect this unique magical plant. You'll have to defeat us to get to it."

Noah and King Elbas exchanged a meaningful glance before focusing on the cultivators again. The two then voiced a request at the same time. "Do you mind splitting?"

"Not a chance," The old-looking cultivator snorted, and a faint smirk appeared on his face when he saw that his opponents' eyes sharpened at his firm refusal.

Noah and King Elbas had very different existences. They weren't in the ninth rank yet, but they would still end up weakening each other on a small battlefield. Instead, Heaven and Earth's followers carried the same power source, even if it took different forms.

"I need to make this annoying guy reach the ninth rank," Noah revealed as he drew the Cursed Sword from the center of his chest.

The bloodlust that accompanied the appearance of the Cursed Sword made the world tremble. The fabric of space threatened to shatter, but it appeared strangely tough in that area. It seemed that the tree had rooted its existence into the very world, which enhanced its stability.

Noah and King Elbas noticed that feature and experienced a newfound curiosity toward the magical plant. Their desire to uncover the secrets behind the tree intensified and made them unfold the entirety of their auras.

The Demonic Sword appeared in Noah's left hand, and his many empowerments began to flow throughout his body and weapons. King Elbas' crown brightened, a spear materialized at his side, and golden runes started to shine on his skin.

Noah and King Elbas were mere rank 8 cultivators, but their auras ended up opening cracks into the fabric of the world after they unfolded completely. The empowerments of the tree didn't matter anymore at that point, and the two cultivators could only remain speechless.

The enchanting woman and the old-looking expert had studied the battles near the floating lake, but Noah and King Elbas appeared completely different from those scenes.. They radiated the same pressure as rank 9 existences even if their level remained in the eighth rank. The effects that their auras spread throughout the world told the two cultivators that their opponents were no different from liquid stage beings.

Chapter 1985 1985. Stingy

The scene was breathtaking. The fabric of the world shattered as Noah and King Elbas unfolded their auras and showed the full potential of their cultivation level.

Both experts had access to energies that went beyond the simple "Breath", but that alone wasn't enough to justify the insane power carried by their auras. Their existences carried far more, and the two cultivators near the tree could understand how they got their hands on such a defying might.

King Elbas' final existence was hard to explain, but the two cultivators understood the analogy with the final energy. The expert could express more power due to the higher quality of his law. He wasn't only purer. He stood on higher realms even if his cultivation level had yet to reach the ninth rank.

Noah was far different. He was a complicated existence who had stolen laws and techniques to add them to his aspects. Those parts of his true meaning had become so strong that his centers of power struggled to fuel them at times.

The effects that those two different existences could spread into the world were astonishing, and they didn't only involve mere destruction. The energy in the fabric of space and whiteness transformed under Noah and King Elbas' influence, and the two cultivators could study those changes before their opponents absorbed it.

Noah's influence forced the energy of the world to evolve. The transformation wasn't immediate. His anger focused on destroying those laws before rebuilding them into beings or substances that wanted to oppose Heaven and Earth. The two cultivators couldn't see the complete process because his greed ended up absorbing that power before it gained a significant form.

King Elbas' aura made everything shine with a golden light. The tainted laws couldn't help but glow with the same radiance that made his body, and trails of energy inevitably flowed inside him. Still, part of that fuel ended up leaving his figure and returning to the world in a far purer shape.

Noah never failed to absorb that pure energy, so a large crack slowly expanded behind him as his aura continued to rage. He resembled the embodiment of destruction in that form, but his companion soon scolded him.

"We need a battlefield to fight," King Elbas scolded.

"Don't be so stingy," Noah complained. "Give me more of that power."

"I'm trying to fix what you are breaking!" King Elbas snorted.

"Don't make it so appealing then!" Noah continued.

"Come on," King Elbas sighed. "Turn everything black, and let's move to the other issue."

Noah heaved an annoyed sigh, but he abided by that suggestion. The pulling force that his body naturally released stopped affecting his surroundings, but his influence remained. A dark halo slowly took over the whiteness around him and expanded to close the cracks in the sky.

The two cultivators didn't know when the surprises would end. Noah and King Elbas had shown how their rank 8 auras could rival liquid stage experts in terms of power, but that was only a first demonstration of their actual strength. A threatening sensation accompanied the cracks that had followed that event, but even they eventually vanished.

An expanding black spot had replaced the cracks now. Noah's influence was transforming his surroundings. The part of the sky infected by his aura began to echo his enmity toward Heaven and Earth and started to attack the whiteness.

"That's not better!" King Elbas shouted when he saw cracks appearing where the white and black sky clashed.

"Nothing ever pleases you," Noah responded.

"You only made everything worse!" King Elbas added after ignoring the obvious tease. "Stop destroying everything."

"I'm not sure that I can," Noah shrugged his shoulder. "We are in Heaven and Earth's world. It's in my nature to break it."

"Forget it," King Elbas gave up. "Let's focus on the battle."

Noah laughed before closing his eyes. He couldn't control the nature of his aura, but he could decide which aspects would influence the world. Everything about him wanted to go against Heaven and Earth, but he could find something that didn't make the battlefield fall apart.

The blackness around him stopped expanding and started to condense until it transformed into a thin liquid that resumed spreading into the world. The influence radiated by the dark material forced the sky to evolve into a similar substance. Noah was infecting his surroundings without destroying them.

"It wasn't so hard," King Elbas whispered.

"I must warn you," Noah exclaimed while scratching the side of his head and inspecting the expanding blackness. "This thing will probably take life at some point. The destruction will resume then."

King Elbas shook his head, but he couldn't add anything. He couldn't change Noah's existence, and using his power to go against it would only make him push back even harder. That was one of the weaknesses of fighting with such a strong expert, and he couldn't do anything to avoid it.

The two cultivators stared at the expanding blackness for a while before deciding to unfold their auras. Two different worlds appeared before Noah and King Elbas, but their power didn't cause any conflict when it spread into the world. The two existences even blended when they met each other.

The old-looking cultivator's aura was dense and menacing, but it had no shape. Noah and King Elbas tried to study its nature as it seeped into the fabric of the world, but it was impossible to understand what it did in that situation. They could only confirm that it contained an insane amount of power.

Instead, the enchanting woman's aura was thin and almost invisible, but its effects were quite obvious. Both Noah and King Elbas began to struggle to focus on her since her power tried to affect their minds.

"You can have the woman," King Elbas uttered. "Illusions and similar techniques would only make me desire to break them."

"I don't think they'll let us split them," Noah guessed as he placed his swords on his shoulders. "We can try, but we'll probably do better if we unleash everything we have on killing them right away."

"You shouldn't limit yourself to your swords then," King Elbas commented.

"You should use one of the weapons created inside your habitation then," Noah mocked as a wide grin appeared on his face.

King Elbas also smiled before pointing his spear forward. His crown brightened and filled the area with a blinding light that made the two cultivators unable to keep track of their opponents. The glow lasted for less than a second, but a golden beam promptly replaced it.

The old-looking cultivator snorted before raising his open palm toward the beam. He closed his hand with a quick movement, and a series of explosions resounded inside the attack. The powerful golden light never managed to reach him.

A crack suddenly opened between the two cultivators. Both of them instinctively turned and prepared for Noah's attack, but more cracks spread all around them without revealing their opponent.

The cultivators had studied Noah's battle style deeply. They knew about his sudden attacks, but that unclear turn of events left them confused.

Their confusion only increased when the dark world engulfed them and suppressed their power. The two cultivators only needed to make their auras burst outward to get rid of that technique. Still, the entirety of the dark matter transformed into slashes that converged toward their position before they could realize what was happening.

Chapter 1986 1986. Runes

Noah had already activated the unstable substance and his ambition. A dark aura that featured various faces covered the slashes and increased their power as they rained toward the cultivators.

Space shattered as the slashes began to absorb the energy of the world. Some attacks risked falling in the same cracks they opened, but they magically teleported past them as they continued to converge toward the cultivators.

The old-looking man didn't hesitate to spread his arms and close his hands with the same sharp movement as before. Countless explosions resounded among the tight array of slashes. The expert had managed to target each attack, and his technique carried enough power to destroy all of them.

The dark matter dispersed among the sky, but a few black spots remained around the cultivators and continued to fly toward them. The old-looking cultivator pointed his hands toward them, but a shadow suddenly severed his arms.

The sudden injury interrupted his concentration and allowed the black spots to arrive above him. One of them was a massive winged snake, while the others were a series of fiendish figures and six-armed dragons that carried unstable energy.

Noah had used the dark matter to hide his companion and his techniques. He wanted to prioritize using the Cursed Sword, but he wasn't stupid enough to limit the power of his assault in front of two liquid stage cultivators. He would rely on his weapon only if the situation allowed it.

Snore spat a wave of destructive dark matter that tried to engulf the cultivators. A dark aura covered the snake and brought its power to the ninth rank, but the woman only needed to wave her hand to divert the threatening attack.

The man snorted as his eyes sharpened. Explosions resounded again as the dragons and fiendish figures blew up. He didn't need his arms to deploy his techniques, but he didn't dare to let that faint shadow hit him again.

Night was in the area. It planned to fly toward the cultivators again, but its instincts forced it to halt its movements. Strange energy had appeared around the two cultivators. The entire area covered by that fuel seemed about to explode if something dared to cross it too quickly.

Night didn't need to transmit that understanding through the mental connection. Noah had also noticed that layer of explosive energy and had warned Snore. The snake dispersed and revealed his figure. He had already raised his blades to prepare a powerful slash.

Noah showed a cold smile as his blades descended. He didn't care about the explosive power contained in the energy that surrounded the two cultivators. He would rather force it to detonate according to his terms than leave it in place as a weapon for his enemies.

A giant slash came out of the blades, and the whiteness cracked in multiple spots. Black lines spread through the sky before detonating the destructive power that they contained. Masses of energy gathered above many fissures, but Noah's attack absorbed them without showing the slightest hesitation.

The old-looking cultivator voiced a battle cry as he used the energy that had previously seeped into the world to create explosions inside the slash. He didn't feel confident in destroying it entirely, but he believed that his attacks would take care of most of its power.

Yet, no explosions followed his attack. The old-looking cultivator knew that he had activated his technique correctly. His energy had detonated, but the connection with that power had vanished before it could affect the slash.

The expert could immediately connect the strange event to what Noah had revealed in his previous battle. The latter had managed to handle Gratia's light with small versions of the dark world that featured stretched space. That gave him the chance to absorb enemy attacks before they could release their power, and the same had happened with the explosions in the slash.

The old-looking cultivator understood what had happened, but he remained surprised anyway. The battle had yet to enter its second minute, but Noah had already developed a method to counter his explosion. That level of thinking speed was simply insane.

The expert didn't let Noah's insane power dishearten him. Energy flowed out of his wounds and restored his arms so that he could spread them as he turned to face the slash.

Multiple masses of energy appeared in the sky that separated the two cultivators and the massive slash. The pulling force of Noah's attack tried to drag them into its insides, but they detonated as soon as an external influence tried to affect them.

Noah couldn't use his defensive technique against so many explosions, especially since they were already releasing their power. His small version of the dark world would only crumble while it tried to absorb that raging energy.

Still, that didn't stop Noah from reacting to that attack. He slashed his weapons again, and a second slash came out of the swords. That blow was weaker since it didn't have access to the energy on its path, but Noah believed that everything would be fine after it fed on the aftermath of the explosions.

The first slash became a shield for the second, but the woman suddenly decided to affect that exchange. She placed her palm under her mouth and blew her light energy toward the incoming attacks.

The woman's energy didn't affect the explosions, but something strange happened when it reached the first slash. Noah could sense part of the dark matter escaping his control and leaving the fabric of his attack.

The slash continued to move forward, but it ended up clashing with the energy that had left its structure. The woman had only managed to affect a fifth of the attack, but her power didn't affect the might reached by Noah's energy. The impact ended up being quite violent, and it even created a hole in the massive blow.

The slash then reached the array of explosions and crumbled in no time. It only managed to shield the second attack from a minor part of the raging energy filling the environment, so the detonations turned out to be quite effective.

Noah watched as his second slash failed to reach the unstable area that the old-looking cultivator had created around his companion and him. The detonations crushed it before it could fly too close to the two experts.

'They are strong then,' Noah accepted in his mind.

Noah felt that the tree was stronger than his current opponents, but the latter remained liquid stage cultivators, and he was fighting two of them at the same time. His power alone wasn't enough to deal with them.

Noah almost felt the need to curse at his companion, but the latter didn't leave him alone for too long. A series of golden runes spread in the sky as the dark matter finished dispersing. Those inscriptions reached the unstable area and fused with it before creating a passage in its structure.

The old-looking cultivator's eyes widened when he saw his energy moving on its own. He tried to detonate it, but he discovered that the golden halo radiated by the runes hindered his connection with his energy.

King Elbas materialized among the opening, and he didn't waste time in useless conversations.. He waved his hands toward the two cultivators, and his runes pushed the unstable energy toward them. It didn't take much before that defensive technique transformed into a proper attack that exploded on its caster.

Chapter 1987 1987. Scorching

King Elbas had turned the defensive technique into his own attack and had forced it to crash on the two cultivators. The area filled with explosive energy was too close to the two experts, so they didn't have the time to react to that event. Moreover, their surprise had delayed their actions even more, leaving them completely defenseless.

Countless explosions resounded, and waves of raging energy flew in every direction. The cultivators were doing their best to fend off the powerful attack that the golden runes had enhanced, but a new threat arrived before they could fix their situation.

The liquid stage experts initially thought that the destruction around them was messing with their senses, but they eventually had to accept that their mental waves weren't lying to them. Noah had shot through the raging energy and was flying toward them without caring about his injuries.

Cuts opened and patches of skin vanished as Noah trod forward. The two liquid stage experts were using their power to shield their bodies, but they still suffered injuries in that situation. He couldn't think of a better chance to inflict a deadly blow. He only had to focus on reaching his opponents in one piece.

The amount of ambition flowing toward his body increased, and part of it also improved the properties of the black hole. Dark matter filled his injuries as his entire structure grew stronger. Noah crossed those storms safely, and he drew the blades that he had stored into his separate space to deliver a deadly slash.

The old-looking cultivator stopped defending himself from the raging energy to point his hands toward Noah. Still, he overestimated the power of his body.

The raging energy crushed his right shoulder, waist, and a piece of his head as soon as he lifted his defenses. The injuries made him react to his opponent's arrival too late, so Noah could complete his slash and store his blades.

Another massive slash appeared, but the two experts saw it taking form right next to them. They couldn't deploy any technique at that distance. The attack left Noah's blades and discharged its destructive power on them.

The discharge of power ended up dispersing the raging energy, but King Elbas made sure to use his rune to condense it. Those glowing symbols retreated toward him as they rotated around a colorless sphere

that contained what remained of the cultivator's ability. His curious eyes studied it for a few seconds, but he eventually threw it at his side.

The explosion had flung Noah in the distance. It took him a while to stop, but a smirk appeared on his face when he saw a colorless sphere flying toward him.

Dark matter came out of Noah's body and devoured the sphere in no time. Part of his injuries healed, but most of the energy contained in the item dealt with his drawbacks. He had withdrawn part of his ambition to avoid worsening his future condition, but he had left the empowerments on his blades and body in place.

The slash had left a mass of dark matter lingering in the sky. Noah and King Elbas could still sense the presence of their opponents, but their state was unclear. Yet, they felt pretty confident about their previous offensive.

The dispersion of the dark matter revealed the state of the two cultivators. The old-looking cultivator's body was in pieces, but his world had barely suffered any injury. Instead, the woman was mostly fine, which surprised both Noah and King Elbas.

Noah inspected the situation for only a second before shooting forward. King Elbas understood what he was thinking from that reaction. Noah had aimed at the old-looking cultivator, but his slash had been big enough to endanger the woman. She couldn't be completely fine after dealing with the raging energy and the sharp attack at the same time.

King Elbas' crown glowed with a blinding light that quickly condensed into a beam. The intense radiance didn't have any destructive power, but it pierced the illusion created by the liquid stage woman when it fell on the scene.

The beam tore pieces of the sky as if it were mere fabric, but a second sky appeared behind them. The scene changed as King Elbas kept dispersing the illusion. The woman appeared in her true form, and the same went for the old-looking man.

The liquid stage experts had suffered serious injuries, but they didn't seem to hinder the movements of their maimed bodies. Those wounds didn't impede their power either. They could prepare two different attacks and aim them at King Elbas.

King Elbas had managed to discover the truth about the situation in time to deploy a few defenses, but the enemy attack eventually arrived.

The man sent a wave of his dense energy forward and waited until it touched the array of golden runes that King Elbas had summoned before making his power seep into the world.

Instead, the woman spread her arms as her aura expanded and engulfed King Elbas. The expert tried to fend it back, but his energy stopped listening to him after prolonged contact with the liquid stage cultivator's aura.

The space-time array replaced the world in Noah's eyes. He didn't hesitate to rely on his best movement ability to reach the battlefield in an instant, but a series of explosions interrupted his charge. The two cultivators had worked together to hide a few masses of unstable energy on the path before focusing on King Elbas.

The golden runes started to explode, but some of the detonations happened on the other side of that defensive wall. King Elbas saw the raging energy appearing directly on his face.

Noah glanced at King Elbas' position, but the raging energy and the runes made it hard to understand what was happening there. Noah wouldn't normally worry about his friend since he knew how powerful he was, but the latter was enduring the joint offensive of two liquid stage cultivators now. Even the mighty King Elbas could find himself unprepared in front of that threat.

Noah directly moved his eyes on the two cultivators when he saw a golden light seeping past the raging energy. He didn't need to see anything else to know that King Elbas was in control of the situation.

A golden robe came out of King Elbas' body and filled the area with a scorching light. The effects of that inscribed item intensified when he wore it. His complexion suddenly paled, but a wave of burning power followed the event.

The scorching light destroyed every form of foreign energy that dared to stand near King Elbas. The cultivators' power vanished in less than a second, but that wasn't everything. After completing its destruction, the radiance retreated into the robe and flowed into the spear, which quickly became a blinding beacon.

The two cultivators retreated when they saw that Noah was approaching them, but a scorching beam shot after them. King Elbas' attack was faster than Noah when he didn't rely on his strongest movement technique, and it surpassed even the liquid stage experts.

The old-looking man tried to make the beam explode, but nothing happened even after detonations happened in its insides.. The attack appeared unstoppable, so he prepared himself to deploy an evasive maneuver. However, his companion suddenly grabbed him and threw him toward the incoming scorching light.

Chapter 1988: Noises

The sudden turn of events left Noah and King Elbas stunned. The former even stopped chasing after his opponents when he saw what the enchanting woman did to her companion.

The old-looking cultivator acted as a partial shield that allowed the liquid stage woman to dodge the scorching beam completely. The attack pierced her position and tore a fake layer of whiteness to reveal that the expert had already moved to a distant spot.

The enchanting woman didn't use that chance to run away. She remained still in her spot and even crossed her legs. She was clearly waiting for Noah and King Elbas to approach her, but the duo didn't immediately do as she wished.

King Elbas and Noah exchanged a confused glance full of hidden meanings. They decided to wait until the energy contained in the beam dispersed before making up their minds about the situation.

The scorching beam flew across the sky for a long time, but it eventually started to disperse. King Elbas' new attack had been incredible, and the state of the old-looking cultivator proved how powerful he had become.

A gory mess appeared among the sky after the scorching beam dispersed. Patches of charred flesh floated among the whiteness, and a dense aura enveloped them to prevent their dispersion. The cultivator's world even tried to bring those body parts together to start a healing process.

"You should kill him now," The woman shouted from her distant position. "Heaven and Earth will eventually notice his status and restore him."

Her comment only intensified the confusion that was filling Noah and King Elbas' minds. The duo approached the charred flesh, but they didn't dare to get near it yet. The dark world expanded, and a golden glow followed as the two experts tried to understand whether the woman was trying to trick them.

"Everything seems to be right," Noah stated after the dark world inspected the area to look for the presence of illusions or similar techniques.

"I can't find anything either," King Elbas added. "She really threw him into my attack. Can you explain that?"

Noah shook his head, but he didn't forget to warn his companion. "This shouldn't help Heaven and Earth's fairness either, but I'd be wary of eventual traps."

"Maybe he will explode if we kill him," King Elbas guessed.

"That wouldn't stop us from killing him," Noah exclaimed.

"I'll take part of his flesh," King Elbas declared.

"You can take all the flesh," Noah uttered. "I only need to kill him."

"What about the energy inside the world?" King Elbas asked.

"How much do you need?" Noah asked.

"As much as I can get," King Elbas announced.

"Is nothing enough?" Noah joked.

"I'll take only a fourth due to my magnanimous nature," King Elbas sighed.

"And because I'm crazy enough to help you get in the sky," Noah concluded, and the two experts approached the charred flesh.

Noah and King Elbas could see what was happening in the outside world, but the same wasn't true for the enchanting woman. Her senses and mental waves couldn't go past the dark matter, but she wasn't even trying to study the two experts. She continued to wait in her position for her enemies to be over with her companion.

King Elbas took a strange set of golden claws from inside his body. Those weapons resembled pointy nails that he could wear on his fingers, and their power could tear the sky open if misused.

The expert quickly donned those claws and used them to pierce the liquid stage cultivator's world. He proceeded to seize every piece of charred flesh carefully and store them inside his body. Soon, nothing

remained of the powerful old-looking man. Only his dense influence continued to float among the waves of dark matter.

King Elbas took a few steps back to let Noah handle the rest. The latter performed another inspection of the area before wielding the Cursed Sword with two hands and allowing his bloodlust to intensify.

The dark world helped intensify the bloodlust. Noah's thoughts grew violent and turned into an unstoppable drive that tried to make him go crazy. Yet, his mind was too powerful to fall prey to their influence.

Noah's destruction made use of the bloodlust to study ways to hurt the liquid stage cultivator's world. He even made his ambition focus solely on his body and Cursed Sword. His battle against Gratia had proven how his power still fell a bit short when it came to experts at that level, but he planned to close that gap now.

The dark world did more than creating a perfect environment where the bloodlust could thrive. It sent waves of dark matter toward the Cursed Sword to reinforce its structure and increase its power by copying its features. The weapon in Noah's hands grew, and gales started to rotate around it.

Black lines appeared on the dense aura that represented the liquid stage cultivator's world. The expert tried to speak, but Noah didn't care enough to lift the restrictions of the dark world. The Cursed Sword descended in the quiet environment, and storms followed the slash.

The dark matter inside Noah's technique churned and raged. The slash sent an immense wave of sharp power forward, but the dark world did its best to keep it inside its edges.

Containing the power on Noah's slash wasn't an issue since the cultivator's world ended up enduring the entirety of the attack. The problem came from the shockwaves released by the impact between the two forces. The dark world inevitably shattered in some spots, but more dark matter flew out of Noah's body to refill those areas.

The powerful slash sent anger, sharpness, and hunger, and it even detonated the destructive lines that had seeped into the world's structure. That was the best performance of the Cursed Sword, but even that turned out to fall short when it came to liquid stage experts.

Noah saw how his slash failed to touch the same realm where the cultivator's world stood. His attack crossed the dense aura, but its nature made it unable to hurt that power.

"Can you even do it?" King Elbas asked after studying that scene.

King Elbas didn't face the same weaknesses when it came to his many assets. He created them with the energy that made his body, so they could hurt the world of liquid stage cultivators. However, Noah was different since his companions were independent beings.

"Just continue to keep the other in check," Noah ordered before focusing on his technique again.

Noah couldn't do much to increase his effectiveness. He was already relying on all the aspects that could improve his power against Heaven and Earth's followers. Only his ambition could help there, and he didn't hesitate to pour more of it into the Cursed Sword.

The dark aura filled with faces fused with the dark matter that flew toward the Cursed Sword to empower its structure. The weapon started to tremble due to the amount of power gathering around it, but Noah made sure that its fabric remained intact.

The tremors gave birth to high-pitched sounds that resounded throughout the dark world. Those noises carried the weapon's bloodlust and Noah's destructiveness. They were so intense that King Elbas had to retreat farther away to avoid deploying defensive techniques.

The high-pitched noises stopped when Noah slashed toward the cultivator's world. Complete silence filled the area, but no storms followed. The impact with the world didn't originate any shockwave, but a crack opened in the dense aura floating among the dark matter anyway.

Chapter 1989: Technique

A series of desperate shouts tried to seep past the suppression of the dark world, but Noah made sure to keep the area silent. He needed complete concentration in that situation. He was finally getting somewhere, and he couldn't let anything disturb him.

Noah had stronger attacks at his disposal. He could use his final slash, Night, or Shafu, but his focus was on the Cursed Sword now. He had to fulfill his weapon's full potential, which ended up requiring a new technique.

The bloodlust was a weapon that matched his destruction. Noah had always used it as a tool to improve other aspects of his existence, but there was more to it, and he could feel it now. The Cursed Sword had given birth to that violent and unreasonable energy, so it could deploy it in ways that other techniques couldn't.

The crack in the cultivator's world proved that Noah was on the right path. The empowerment given by his ambition and dark matter forced the Cursed Sword to reach a superior state, which allowed him to understand how to use that weapon correctly.

The world shook as Noah raised the Cursed Sword again. The high-pitched noises returned as bloodlust spread through the waves of dark matter. Those sounds were a mere consequence of the pure violence radiated by the blade and its wielder, but that alone was enough to destroy chunks of higher energy.

Noah forced those noises to intensify. He poured more ambition and bloodlust into his weapon to increase its power and effects. The blade wanted to shatter the world, but the dark matter didn't let it. The Cursed Sword had to condense that power and released all of it during a single sharp slash.

The descent of the blade made the dark world fall silent again. No shockwaves followed the impact, but another crack appeared on the cultivator's world. The second fissure was larger than the first, but that didn't satisfy Noah. He knew that the technique wasn't complete.

The Cursed Sword had been a mere rank 7 weapon in the past. Noah had brought its power to the peak of the eighth rank after many battles. He had endured countless drawbacks, but he had finally reached the point when the blade was ready to evolve.

The evolution didn't involve its mere level. It touched deeper aspects of its structure. The process wanted to bring the Cursed Sword to a superior level of existence, a realm that featured a different technique.

Even the creator of the Cursed Sword couldn't predict its full potential, and Noah had always treated the blade as a mere tool that could make him express more power than usual. That was its purpose in the end, and no one would dare to consider it weak.

However, the ninth rank wanted more. Actually, the same Cursed Sword wished to obtain a new ability that could define a path, and Noah was slowly creating it. He used the bloodlust as a fuel that followed the movements dictated by his destruction to develop a technique capable of expressing a superior form of sharpness.

The high-pitched noises returned as soon as Noah raised the Cursed Sword, and the dark world found itself unable to bear them. The dark matter shattered and dispersed without managing to empower the blade, but Noah didn't care about that. His weapon wanted to destroy, so he would let it crush everything that dared to stand around it.

The sharp edge of the Cursed Sword trembled together with the high-pitched noises as it shattered the waves of dark matter that still tried to envelop its structure. Those sounds grew louder and destroyed the fabric of the sky, opening a spiderweb of cracks among the whiteness that expanded as the process continued.

King Elbas had to retreat again, but his attention didn't remain on Noah. He didn't underestimate the Cursed Sword, but a bigger problem had appeared after the dispersion of the dark world. The sky now shone on the area, which gave Heaven and Earth the chance to restore the cultivator.

The sky remained silent, and Noah completed his attack. The noises vanished when the blade descended and opened a large crack on the cultivator's world. Energy started to leak out of that invisible structure, but it didn't have the chance to disperse into the world since Noah's hunger seized all of it.

The high-pitched noises that followed the preparations for the next attack opened cracks that threatened to reach the enchanting woman sitting in the distance. She wanted to remain in her position, but the situation grew dangerous, and Noah even continued to accumulate energy inside the Cursed Sword.

The liquid stage woman began to relax her legs, but King Elbas' chilling gaze promptly landed on her. He wouldn't let her move freely after everything that had happened, and she understood his intentions. She halted her attempt to leave the area, but she still floated toward a safer spot that kept her at the same distance from Noah and his friend.

The sky eventually reacted to that scene. Heaven and Earth were still dormant, but the amount of violent power accumulated inside the Cursed Sword forced some of their automated functions to deploy countermeasures.

A white pillar shot out of the sky and tried to reach the cultivator's world, but the bloodlust that filled the area shattered that mass of energy before it could restore the expert. Noah absorbed that energy and waited for the Cursed Sword to feel ready. He was trying to develop something that didn't exist, so he could only listen to his weapon to understand when to act.

Noah and the Cursed Sword didn't exchange any words. The violent thoughts that they shared wouldn't let them have a conversation anyway. Still, they let their instincts talk in their place. Their minds almost fused for a short second and made him understand when to lower his blade.

The Cursed Sword made everything go silent when it descended toward the invisible mass of energy. The amount of power in the blade would normally be enough to open a giant crack in the sky, but nothing similar happened. Noah slashed forward, and only the cultivator's world suffered due to that gesture.

The blade crossed the area occupied by the cultivator's world, and a black line appeared on that path. The mass of dense energy found a crack that divided it into two parts running through its structure.

An angry shout and a series of explosions followed the event, but Noah didn't move. His body was already a mess due to the previous attacks. Each attempt to develop the new iconic technique of the Cursed Sword had inflicted heavy injuries on his chest and back, but he barely felt them. He didn't even bother to dodge the incoming explosions since he was close to perfecting the ability.

Burns, cuts, and other injuries appeared on Noah's body, but nothing managed to touch the Cursed Sword. The raging energy released by the cultivator's world shattered as soon as it came near the blade.

Noah instinctively absorbed that energy, but he didn't inspect the healing process. He glanced at the Cursed Sword and let its sharp edge fill the area with high-pitched noises as he stabbed its tip into the cultivator's world.

The noises abruptly vanished when Noah closed his eyes. Even the cultivator stopped shouting. The Cursed Sword released its power, and the mass of energy fell apart as countless cracks spread from the weapon's tip.

Chapter 1990 1990. Guide

The cracks on the cultivator's world expanded as dense energy flowed out of them. Noah absorbed everything flying in his direction, and the pulling force generated by his hunger attracted even the fuel that tried to escape his surroundings.

The Cursed Sword voiced a rare battle cry in the form of a hoarse shout. Noah could feel how his weapon had understood that something had changed in its structure. The blade wasn't only a tool meant to destroy now. It had learnt to thrive in the bloodlust that it generated.

The Cursed Sword had been unwilling to join battles when Noah first obtained it. However, that feeling came from the insanity of its previous wielder. The blade's name even came from that feature. Those who dared to exploit its incredible power ended up falling prey to their bloodlust and dying due to the recklessness that it caused.

Instead, Noah had proven that trend wrong. The Cursed Sword had been with him for many millennia, and it had seen him overcome the harmful effects of the bloodlust time after time. Noah had even made that energy part of his power, and some of his techniques actively used it to work.

The Cursed Sword couldn't help but abandon its scorn toward battles after so long, especially since it had managed to evolve in Noah's hands. It didn't only enhance its wielder's power anymore. The blade now had a proper technique that made use of the same hated energy that had led others to madness.

Noah suffered injuries due to the explosions that the dense energy generated as soon as it left the cultivator's world. Still, his existence also turned part of that power into primary energy before it could detonate, which gave him the chance to absorb it.

His body healed and suffered injuries in a cycle that lasted until the cultivator's world completely crumbled and forced him to summon Night. The Pterodactyl had returned inside his body when he first deployed the dark world, but it had to come out to prevent the massive explosion that the last release of dense energy was about to cause.

Night moved swiftly and severed the energy from the meaning that it carried. That fuel didn't have enough power to oppose the Pterodactyl after Noah had enough time to study his opponent. Black lines appeared among that unstable mass as soon as the companion appeared in the open.

Night's attack transformed the unstable power into a mass of energy that hovered in the sky. The old-looking cultivator's world was no more, so that fuel began to disperse into the world.

The pulling force released by Noah dragged that power into his body, but King Elbas promptly jumped forward to seize his share of the loot. Noah smirked at that scene while King Elbas voiced a loud snort to express his annoyance.

"I knew you would have tried to keep everything for yourself," King Elbas cursed.

"My body acted on its own," Noah laughed. "I have no power over it."

"Don't even try to justify yourself," King Elbas complained. "You are lucky I know you well enough to predict these outcomes."

"I'd say that you are the lucky one," Noah mocked before exploding into a louder laugh.

The energy absorbed from the liquid stage cultivator's world restored his body and took care of the severe drawbacks that the last attacks with the Cursed Sword had caused. That power failed to heal him completely, but his condition improved a lot after the black hole finished taking care of the process. A hideous cut that ran across his entire torso remained, but that was it.

Noah glanced at the Cursed Sword after the usual bickering with King Elbas. The blade was still in the eighth rank, but its aura had slightly changed. Its sharp edge felt dangerous even if he didn't pour energy inside it. The weapon had finally obtained a unique state that made it partially independent from its wielder.

Noah wasn't worried that the blade didn't step into the ninth rank. The last battle had been a success in many fields. He had killed another liquid stage expert, and the Cursed Sword had developed a new technique. Moreover, he had more targets that could make the weapon face the breakthrough, and cutting them down would be easier now.

King Elbas and Noah turned toward the liquid stage woman in the distance after taking care of all the energy released by their previous opponent. The expert had changed spots according to where the cracks spread, but she had remained in the area. She didn't try to run away while the duo had been busy dividing her companion's power.

Noah and King Elbas performed another inspection of the area with their mental waves. The tree didn't even notice that a battle had happened nearby, and no illusions seemed to be in place. The woman wanted something, but the duo didn't know what she could ask them.

Talking with the expert was the only method that could solve those doubts, so the duo flew toward her. Noah and King Elbas instinctively separated to approach her from opposite sides. Their mental waves continued to inspect the area in the meantime, but they continued to find nothing off.

Noah eventually unfolded the dark world to envelop the woman in his technique. She didn't oppose that event. She even let the dark matter suppress part of her power to show her goodwill.

"What are you even up to?" Noah asked while wielding his two blades.

"Careful," King Elbas reminded. "I wouldn't be surprised if she hid a counter created while Heaven and Earth were silent."

"You can relax," The woman giggled. "I wanted to talk with you because I need your help, Defying Demon's help to be precise."

Noah frowned, and the unexpected answer made him inspect the woman again. The aura that surrounded her figure gave her captivating powers, but she founded those effects on her incredible beauty. Her long black hair fluttered softly in the windless area, her green eyes shone brightly, and her tight robe highlighted her voluptuous body.

Only Faith could match the woman's innate beauty, but the latter's cultivation level added something to her appearance. The expert wasn't only stunning. She also radiated a firm aura connected to those features that would make her irresistible to weaker existences.

Noah and King Elbas had lived for many millennia. Mere physical beauty couldn't faze their eyes anymore. They had both outgrown those mortal canons since the laws had changed how they saw the matter as a whole.

"I don't know how I can help you," Noah stated. "I don't know why I should do it either."

"Please, you are trying to reach the sky," The woman responded. "You need a guide, and I can fill that role."

Noah and King Elbas exchanged a glance before moving their eyes back on that mysterious opponent. They didn't feel surprised that Heaven and Earth's followers already knew about their plan. They had talked about it in the open, and Divine Architect would have probably deducted that King Elbas required a piece of the sky on her own anyway. Nothing could remain a secret under the sky.

Still, they couldn't understand why a cultivator belonging to Heaven and Earth's system would try to be their guide. Noah and King Elbas didn't even know if such an existence had enough freedom to help them.

"I'll make it short," The woman broke that silence with her cheerful voice.. "I want you to take me out of Heaven and Earth's system. I want the power that you have."