

Demonic 1991

Chapter 1991: Privileged

Envyng Noah and the other members of his group was almost normal. All of them were monsters who could ignore the gaps among stages and tiers. They had demonstrated their superior power countless times, and Heaven and Earth's followers had watched as their leaders failed to create effective countermeasures.

Their unreasonable power didn't even seem to have limits. Divine Demon was the favored son of the "Breath", Sword Saint had managed to call mighty structures past the sky, and King Elbas had won a bet against Divine Architect. Those achievements were only the last incredible feats that Noah's group had accomplished, but they were already enough to put them into the realms of legends. The world didn't have to describe them after everything they had done.

The surprise in Noah and King Elbas' minds didn't come from the content of the woman's request. They had seen something similar happening with Robert, and they even found that desire reasonable. They would have done the same if they were in the opposite situation.

However, Robert had been a rank eight cultivator when he asked Noah to transform him. Instead, the liquid stage woman had a world provided by Heaven and Earth. Noah didn't know if he could rebuild something so powerful at his level. The chances to fail would be incredibly high even if he asked King Elbas' help.

The fact that Noah didn't trust the woman was another important factor there. Everything with Robert had been smooth due to the expert's personality. The power of the Devils had also made everything easier. Instead, the liquid stage expert was mysterious, and she probably had hidden intentions.

"I can just kill you and try my chances against the sky," Noah threatened, but his words only broadened the woman's smile.

"The choice is yours," The cultivator giggled. "I won't try to defend myself. Kill me if you must."

A slash followed those words. Noah didn't hesitate to attack with both his swords. His blow severed the woman's waist, and a superficial injury even appeared in her world.

Noah had made sure to attack had abruptly as possible. Even King Elbas remained temporarily stunned by how direct his friend had been, but his surprise only intensified when he looked at the liquid stage cultivator.

Noah shared his friend's surprise when he inspected the cultivator. A sudden attack would normally trigger innate defenses or similar tools, but nothing happened with the woman. She didn't see the slash coming, but her world didn't react even after that. She only limited herself to smile when she understood what had happened.

"Do you have a death wish?" Noah asked as he prepared himself to perform another slash.

"Everyone in the sky is already dead," The woman laughed happily. "Many have joined Heaven and Earth when they could still promise immortality and stability, but look at them now. The breakthrough

of a mere rank 8 cultivator had forced them to abandon most of the laws connected to the sword path. You have no idea how many of us have died during that event."

The dark world filled the area and enveloped the three experts in a realm that Heaven and Earth couldn't inspect, but the cultivator's words ended up triggering a reaction in the sky. A white lightning bolt with power in the ninth rank fell and aimed at the large black patch that tainted the whiteness.

Noah and King Elbas sensed the arrival of the lightning bolt and decided who had to take care of it through simple glances. King Elbas shot out of the dark world and summoned the golden robe again to empower his spear and throw it toward the incoming attack.

The spear exploded into a scorching nova when it met the lightning bolt. The impact between the two techniques shook the fabric of the world and destroyed entire patches of whiteness. A massive crack opened, but the storms struggled to reach it due to the lingering burning energy that had remained in the area.

The energy eventually dispersed and allowed the storms to fix the whiteness. King Elbas had taken care of the lightning bolt with a single attack, but he had to sacrifice his spear in the process. Luckily for him, he had amassed countless materials lately.

King Elbas returned inside the dark world and glared at the woman as soon as he felt that she could sense his gaze. Noah had remained silent while his friend took care of the lightning bolts, but he didn't hesitate to voice a question now. "What was that? Why did Heaven and Earth attack us?"

"We have some restrictions," The liquid stage cultivator explained. "We can't reveal too much about the sky. Our existence can transform into a beacon that attracts punishments."

That explanation made sense. Heaven and Earth's followers couldn't have complete freedom, but Noah and King Elbas inevitably thought about a unique figure that didn't seem to abide by those rules.

"What about a cultivator named Caesar?" King Elbas questioned.

"He is a peculiar world among Heaven and Earth's system," The woman scoffed. "I don't know much about him. I've heard rumors, but we don't interact too much."

"What exactly do you even do inside the sky?" Noah asked. "How can you not know someone else if you are part of the same system?"

"Are you ready to face another punishment?" The woman teased, but Noah followed with another question. "Why don't you take care of them?"

"I can't," The liquid stage cultivator revealed. "My power comes from Heaven and Earth. They will take it away as soon as they sense that I'm using it to hinder their punishments."

Noah and King Elbas glanced at each other and established silent turns. They couldn't let go of the possibility to learn more about the sky. A chance that the woman was telling lies and that everything was a ploy existed, but they could make up their minds about that after hearing what she had to say.

Lightning bolts fell non-stop on the area, and Noah and King Elbas alternated themselves to take care of them. Their questions resumed as soon as they reunited inside the dark world, and a punishment arrived whenever they heard an answer.

The liquid stage cultivator's name was Sepunia. She told Noah and King Elbas everything she could, but she eventually had to stop since the punishment grew stronger after each answer. The two experts had to stop questioning her when the lightning bolts started to border the solid stage in terms of power.

It turned out that the life inside the sky was far different from how Noah and King Elbas had imagined it. The white layer had cities, but they weren't actual social areas. The cultivators inside them spent their time in a trance that connected them to Heaven and Earth's mind. They basically became part of the rulers and helped them deal with some issues that afflicted them.

The majority of the cultivators living in the sky acted as tools meant to relieve part of the pressure the rulers had to endure constantly. Yet, that connection had made it clear that Heaven and Earth as a whole were suffering as their victory drew close.

According to Sepunia's words, Heaven and Earth had grown unstable lately, more than usual at least. They had thrown many laws into the void after Sword Saint's breakthrough since they needed to balance what they had lost, and tension had also started to build.

Heaven and Earth's followers could sense the changes in their leaders when they rested inside the sky. They felt their turmoil, and agitation had inevitably built. Moreover, those cultivators had also acknowledged that the rulers might turn all of them into cannon fodder. Only a few experts had privileged positions and would remain untouched.

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It turned out that the sky had two different types of cultivators. Heaven and Earth differentiated among existences that they could throw away and others that they had to keep at all costs.

Noah and King Elbas initially found it hard to believe that revelation. They didn't care that the sky sent lightning bolts. It made no sense for Heaven and Earth to have a privileged group of cultivators when they owned those laws.

However, the explanation for that feature turned out to be simpler than they expected. Heaven and Earth weren't omniscient, and they couldn't instantly understand everything about laws. Some existences could escape their immense knowledge.

Noah and King Elbas had seen that many times already. The members of their group were perfect examples of experts that Heaven and Earth couldn't understand. The rulers wanted to absorb them for that very reason, and they were even willing to reserve special treatment for some of them.

The sky feared to ruin some laws. Heaven and Earth tried to get some cultivators to join their system on their own so that they could preserve those existences. Also, according to Sepunia's words, those experts would have a privileged position after ascending to the white layer due to their ability to control those unique true meanings.

Many of those cultivators would turn into nothing more than tools after Heaven and Earth learnt to use their laws properly. Yet, some of them had managed to preserve their privileged position for entire eras, which obviously made them famous inside the sky.

Caesar turned out to be one of those privileged worlds. He had been in the sky before Sepunia, and his name had already been famous during her ascension. Instead, Sepunia had always been nothing more than a tool meant to relieve Heaven and Earth's pressure.

The cultivators that Heaven and Earth treated as mere tools didn't have it too bad, but they weren't entirely free either. Moreover, their situation was unclear, especially with the rulers growing unstable as their victory drew close. Sepunia's desire to leave the sky was a simple act of self-preservation. She felt that she would have more chances to survive on her own since Noah and his team had shown her a different path.

Sepunia was even ready to face the worst possible outcome. She knew that severing herself from Heaven and Earth's system wouldn't grant her the spectacular power that Noah and his friends wielded. She might leave the sky only to die in the first punishment that the rulers sent after her, but that was fine with her. She could accept death as long as it came on her own terms.

Noah started to like the cultivator after the long and dangerous interrogation. Sepunia knew that she had never been anything special among rank 9 cultivators, but she refused to die due to the whims of leaders that couldn't even kill rank 8 experts. Noah could only respect her guts and resolve, but that inevitably forced him to consider everything that could go bad.

First of all, Noah had yet to confirm that Sepunia was telling the truth. Everything could be Heaven and Earth's ploy to plant a spy in his group before the mission in the sky. He couldn't even test her honesty properly. Accepting her into his group was a risk that could cost him a lot.

Another problem was the actual process that would allow Sepunia to leave Heaven and Earth's system. Noah would have to push himself to his limits only to develop an existence that could come close to her current world in terms of power.

That wasn't even the end. Sepunia would lose a lot of her knowledge of the sky once she left Heaven and Earth's system. Noah would need to destroy and rebuild her, so part of her would naturally disappear.

Everything seemed far too complicated. Noah felt stupid for even considering that request, but the issue remained. The sky was too dangerous to refuse almost free help. He had the chance to make that mission easier, but he hesitated to proceed due to all the problems that could appear.

"I'm against this," King Elbas eventually announced. "The stakes are too high right now. We have been confident to enter the sky even before meeting you. Your request won't change that."

"That's an exaggeration," Sepunia giggled, but King Elbas pretended not to hear her.

Noah continued to remain silent. King Elbas was right. The risk was too great, but it could work as a starting point for the future. He could win a lot with that gamble. He could already see hordes of cultivators seeking him after deciding to leave the sky. The process wouldn't only lower Heaven and Earth's power. It would also reduce the number of experts that helped them deal with the constant pressure that afflicted them.

King Elbas appeared willing to help in the matter if Noah decided to help Sepunia, so the choice fell on him. He had to decide how to proceed, but both options had good arguments.

"Why did you even give yourself to Heaven and Earth?" Noah broke his silence with a question.

"It has been such a long time," Sepunia replied in her happy tone. "I'm not sure I can remember every detail."

"You should try since your life depends on that," Noah declared in his chilling tone.

Sepunia's eyes widened. Noah's words meant that he was considering helping her. She didn't expect that to happen. She had imagined a series of tests, more interrogations, trials, and even torture. She couldn't possibly imagine that her story might be enough.

"I can't find a precise number of years," Sepunia exclaimed in a serious tone as she looked at a random spot of the dark world to concentrate. "I'm not sure I can give you a vague number either. Time passes differently while going through the trances. I've lost tens of millennia immersed in Heaven and Earth's mind."

"We don't care about that," King Elbas scolded. "We want to know how did you even end up joining Heaven and Earth."

"Oh, that's easy," Sepunia exclaimed. "I wanted to reach the peak. I struggled to move forward on my own, and I gave in when Heaven and Earth were about to kill me. Nothing special."

"Did you give up your world because you lost?" Noah asked as a frown appeared on his face.

"What was I supposed to do?" Sepunia responded. "It was pointless to die when I had a chance to live."

"Did you think you could make your way into the higher ranks of the sky with your power?" King Elbas questioned.

"My power?" Sepunia uttered before looking at her voluptuous body and understanding what he meant. "That's not really useful at our level, isn't it? How could you even consider that? Don't tell me that I'm your type."

"I don't have a type," King Elbas promptly corrected her.

"Everyone in the sky knows that you have a type," Sepunia commented, "At least had."

"I'll give you what you want if you tell me everything about that," Noah proposed.

"Deal!" Sepunia didn't hesitate to shout.

"Did you really decide to accept a potential spy just to gain more teasing material on me?" King Elbas snorted.

"More teasing material and someone that can tease you," Noah explained as a broad smirk appeared on his face. "It's very different."