

## **Demonic 2007**

### **Chapter 2007 Influencen**

The metal contained knowledge that suited his existence. Noah was the result of a flaw, and the same went for the dark material. Yet, the latter had been born with the sole purpose of opposing the sky, while Noah had gained those aspects only when he approached the heroic ranks.

The images were vague, and they mainly featured chaotic bright light. They wouldn't make any sense to average experts, but they acted as a priceless source of information for him.

The metal's very fabric knew how to oppose Heaven and Earth. Most of its power was in its unique structure, but the mere matter couldn't affect worlds on its own. It required laws capable of destroying similar forms of energy, and Noah could study them now. His existence made him the perfect student for those teachings, and many of his aspects also suited that subject.

'Is this what the cultivators in Heaven and Earth's system feel during the trance?' Noah wondered as the light continued to fill his vision.

Noah felt immersed in a mass of countless laws capable of creating the most complicated world he had ever seen... He never felt able to gain a broad understanding of that existence, but remaining immersed in that environment deepened many of his aspects.

The process wasn't trying to help Noah. His existence had simply reacted to the metal's innate properties and had started changing under its influence. The material seemed to understand that it couldn't fulfill its role on its own, so it wanted to spread its power by giving it to worthy beings.

Noah abruptly opened his eyes and flew away from the dark floor. His hands trembled as he forced the knowledge gathered during that short interaction with the metal to remain within the edges of his existence.

The metal had tried to transform Noah into an avatar of its power, but he didn't want to be a simple enemy of Heaven and Earth. He would even ignore the rulers for now if they didn't try to hinder his path toward the stars.

Noah firmly believed that the transformation would make him weaker. He might become a better match for Heaven and Earth if he decided to let the metal affect him, but his eyes had always been past the sky. His existence had to go beyond those petty enmities. In his mind, the rulers were only the last stepping stone that he had to cross before pursuing his real goal.

The knowledge gathered during the short interaction with the metal finished deepening some of his aspects, but he refused to memorize what would make him steer away from his path. Mental waves left Noah's mind before a simple gesture of his hand destroyed them. He had learnt enough to refuse the rest.

Noah's existence stabilized while he studied the dark floor from the ceiling of the underground hall. He thought about his companions and friends as he reviewed what he had learnt about the sky. Night and Steven would benefit a lot from accepting the metal's influence, but he didn't want that fate for them.

Transforming into avatars of the metal's laws would only make Night and Steven lose their goal once the sky fell. The event might fulfill certain conditions and benefit them, but Noah believed that it would only put an end to their path, and he wanted to avoid that option.

Noah wanted his companions to follow him even past the sky, and he wished that his friends did the same when they felt ready. Still, his worries only proved how powerful the metal was, and ideas inevitably began to surge in his mind.

Accepting the metal's influence was an issue only when it involved a complete existence. Noah could imagine it as a weapon. He could resume creating his disposable items or other projects that he had abandoned due to his path. It actually felt safer to use the material like that, and he felt sure that King Elbas would agree with him.

Dragging the metal out of the barrier was the only issue. Noah had already wasted too long during his inspection and study. His escape route relied on Sepunia, and the expert was unreliable, to say the least. It was better to leave now, but he didn't know how much he could take in a single travel.

Noah closed his eyes again, and his mind worked at full speed to understand how to suppress the metal's properties. He didn't need anything exceptional. He only wanted to make sure that his companion didn't suffer while carrying everything away.

The knowledge gathered before allowed Noah to come up with something rather quickly. Dark matter started to flow inside Shafu's separate space and created an isolated area. The higher energy changed its nature according to Noah's conclusions and completed the preparations for the transportation.

Noah flew toward the first area with the pools, and a pulling force soon came out of his figure. Shafu released its ability without coming out of Noah's body. Black trails made of the dark liquid flew in the air and created a surging river that converged on his chest.

Shafu dealt with that material wonderfully. That quick contact with the dark river didn't affect its existence, and the material soon ended up in a special area inside the separate space. The dark matter also endured everything perfectly, so it didn't take much before Noah moved forward to sweep clean all the rooms.

Soon, only the central hall and the area under it remained. Noah approached the dark floor again to inspect its edges. The formations there were quite clear, but Noah didn't believe that Heaven and Earth would let him steal so much without retaliating. Yet, the inscriptions didn't have anything that hinted at defenses, so he eventually decided to take care of the solid metal.

The pulling force came out of his body again, and the underground area started to shake. An earthquake spread through the entire island as the dark floor began to rise in the air and hover toward Noah.

The dragons on the surface went crazy due to that sudden change. Their fake mental state came from a strict routine that didn't feature any unexpected event. However, Noah had already forced the light to descend, so those creatures felt more sensitive to that event.

Confusion spread among the dragons' minds as the earthquake continued. They tried to understand what was happening, but only chaos spread among their thoughts as they kept studying the situation.

Their memories began to return as they remained dumbfounded in front of the event. The tremors carried revelations that they couldn't wait to receive.

The large chunk of black metal disappeared as soon as it touched Noah's figure, but he didn't slow down. He descended in the area with the chrysalides and drew the Cursed Sword. He planned to sever the dragons while they were still going through the transformation to study them later, but a powerful presence soon materialized above him and made him stop his attack.

"I wouldn't do that," A deep male voice resounded in the underground hall.

Noah turned to see a tall bald cultivator with a young face. No beard grew on his chin, and piercing white eyes converged toward Noah. The man was an expert in the liquid stage, but his power appeared far above others at the same level. The calm arrogance radiated by his figure and his odd aura revealed how he wasn't carrying a world created by Heaven and Earth.

### **Chapter 2008 Fearn**

"Can we do this after leaving the barrier?" Noah asked before turning toward the chrysalides. "I'm trying not to cause a mess this time."

"No one in the entire higher plane would believe you," The cultivator commented. "Besides, I already see this as a mess."

"I can leave you with half of a rank 8 dragon," Noah proposed.

"What about the others?" The cultivator questioned.

"Don't get greedy now," Noah scoffed. "I thought you had Heaven and Earth taking care of everything."

"Your misconceptions about Heaven and Earth's system can't be so massive," The cultivator declared. .

"Is that a compliment?" Noah asked.

"You are correct," The cultivator admitted.

Noah was ready to slash forward, but he held back. His instincts screamed in danger and told him not to give his opponent an opening. That expert was strong but also peculiar. Other cultivators belonging to Heaven and Earth's system would have already attacked after seeing him seize all the dark metal in the area.

"How did you sneak up on me?" Noah asked.

"I didn't," The cultivator admitted again. "You sensed me as soon as the teleport ended."

"Help me solve a doubt," Noah exclaimed. "Why did you join Heaven and Earth if you could oppose them? And how can you retain your world when you are part of their system?"

"Those are two doubts," The expert commented.

"And now I can confirm that Heaven and Earth's privileged followers can also count," Noah joked.

"That traitor said too much," The expert sighed. "You should have learnt about us only after reaching the sky."

"At least you know that you can't stop us," Noah commented.

"You have all grown far beyond Heaven and Earth's expectations," The cultivator revealed. "You will always be many steps ahead of the fairness, and the higher plane doesn't leave much room for loopholes."

"Are you saying this to make me lose interest in the next part of my journey?" Noah questioned.

"Just a bit," The cultivator chuckled. "Some of us have plans for your group. Others only want you to disappear."

"I bet you belong to the second category," Noah guessed.

"You are correct again," The expert affirmed.

"Why aren't you attacking me then?" Noah asked. "Do you fear breaking this structure?"

"The whole point of this place was its secrecy," The cultivator said. "The area on the other side of the cracks is a dead zone, but you have attracted a lot of attention by spending a long time here. Everyone will soon learn what Heaven and Earth were planning, so this area can fall apart freely."

"What about the black metal?" Noah questioned.

"I'll let you keep enough to enter the sky," The cultivator assured. "I'm afraid the rest has to come with me."

"I was starting to worry that we would just talk," Noah laughed.

"Please, I believe you have already confirmed that the dark metal can't give you much," The cultivator insisted. "You will end up using it for a few millennia only to forget about it once your centers of power reach a certain threshold."

"You know me so well," Noah exclaimed in a mocking tone.

"Everyone in the sky knows you this well," The cultivator corrected.

"You'll know that I didn't forget about my doubts," Noah reminded.

The cultivator's eyes sharpened before a deep sigh escaped his mouth. He considered his options for a few seconds, but he eventually decided to explain his state. "Why would I oppose Heaven and Earth when I can join them and reap benefits without losing myself? Also, my world does belong to their system, but only I can control it properly, so I can retrieve it whenever I want."

"Sounds nice," Noah commented.

"It is nice," The cultivator continued. "I can reap benefits and deal directly with Heaven and Earth. Everything is within my reach, and I don't have to face deadly dangers every time I try to improve. It's truly a blessed life."

"How do you even hope to improve without dangers?" Noah asked.

"A lack of dangers doesn't necessarily mean that I don't have to face challenges," The cultivator explained. "The cultivation journey is a constant battle against themselves. I always have someone to fight."

"You must be quite rusty if you spent the last eras fighting against yourself," Noah mocked.

"I don't need to hurry my way to the peak," The expert declared. "Heaven and Earth's breakthrough won't be the end for me. I can approach the cultivation journey without joining pointless struggles."

"And yet you decide to help the rulers with this project," Noah uttered. "I bet they gave you something substantial in exchange."

"Of course," The cultivator announced. "I wouldn't have done all of this for free."

"Isn't this another pointless struggle?" Noah wondered.

"Not at all," The expert declared. "The sheer understanding gathered throughout these years would already be enough to repay my efforts. What Heaven and Earth added as a reward has only improved my situation even further."

"I guess you had the chance to study Heaven and Earth up close," Noah stated. "Did you find a way to delay your inevitable absorption?"

"I have survived until now," The expert exclaimed. "I don't see how I would even risk dying now that Heaven and Earth is a mess."

"Don't lie," Noah laughed. "You are worried that Heaven and Earth might become stable enough to understand your world. Sword Saint must have ruined your plans. I can't imagine what it is to experience fear after being completely safe for entire eras."

"You are gravely underestimating our position in the system," The cultivator declared.

"I am only stating facts," Noah insisted. "Heaven and Earth's huge array of laws has always been a weakness. Sword Saint has forced them to balance everything and make room for more. They might grow stronger than before in that state."

"You really like to throw taunts," The cultivator sighed.

"Someone always takes the bait," Noah said. "I know that I hit you hard with my previous comment. Don't even try to deny it."

"You might have some talent there," The expert admitted.

"Divine Demon surpasses me there," Noah sighed. "He is unmatched when it comes to pissing someone off."

"He surely is an anomaly," The expert added. "It doesn't surprise me that you are so worried about his safety. I might also start to fear Heaven and Earth if they were to absorb Divine Demon."

"I'm afraid you have forgotten what fear feels like," Noah laughed.

"Fear is everything I feel," The cultivator snorted before heaving a helpless sigh. "I hoped we could have solved this peacefully. That's clearly impossible with you."

"Is this our time to go out?" Noah asked while storing the Cursed Sword. "I was getting tired of keeping my weapon raised."

"Who said that we had to go out?" The cultivator asked. "I can call upon Heaven and Earth's light whenever I want here, and I'm also stronger than you. I can't lose here."

"I told you that you have forgotten what fear feels like," Noah repeated before turning to fly toward one of the tunnels created previously.

The cultivator didn't stop Noah. He remained speechless for a few seconds before muttering a curse in his deep voice and following his opponent in the tunnel.

The dragons were roaring their anger on the surface, and their focus converged on Noah when he reappeared. However, a single cry from him made all those creatures go silent. Even the middle tier specimen found itself unable to do anything as Noah continued to move toward the opening in the barrier.