

Demonic 2009

Chapter 2009 Moneyn

King Elbas and Sepunia's eyes lit up when they saw Noah coming back from the underground world. However, their expressions soon turned ugly when they saw the bald liquid stage cultivator following behind him.

It was clear that a battle had to unfold, but both experts noticed that something was off. The liquid stage cultivator didn't carry the same arrogant attitude that Heaven and Earth's followers usually had. He appeared conflicted as he gazed at the dragons that Noah's roar had suppressed and the island as a whole.

"This one seems strong," Noah commented when he crossed the opening...

King Elbas immediately wore a solemn expression, while Sepunia ended up confused. She was still keeping the passage open, but her companion had already crossed it. The idea of closing the hole in the barrier appeared in her mind, but King Elbas shook his head as soon as he noticed her hesitation.

The liquid stage cultivator heaved an exasperated sigh when he noticed the faint arrogance in King Elbas' solemn expression. Still, his eyes turned cold when they fell on Sepunia. She was a traitor, but attacking her now would only prove Noah right.

The expert stepped into the void without bothering to inspect the restrained dragon. The latter couldn't move since the effects of Noah's cry still affected it, but it began to struggle at the sight of the cultivator. The creature didn't remember him, but the trace of Heaven and Earth's aura carried by his figure made its instincts go wild.

Sepunia let the barrier close when King Elbas dispersed his formations. The two experts followed the cultivator before separating to encircle him. The bald man sensed the duo in two different spots behind him, but he kept his eyes on Noah, who had crossed his legs after stopping above him.

"Sepunia, do you recognize him?" Noah asked.

"He is Dinia," Sepunia stated. "I don't know much about his world. He is secretive even among the privileged cultivators."

"He is an inscription master, right?" King Elbas questioned.

"I know about your bet with Divine Architect," Dinia replied before Noah could say anything. "You have no idea how much I had to pay to discuss the matter about your final existence with her."

"I bet you lost your money," King Elbas smirked.

"What do you even call money in the sky?" Noah wondered. "What can Heaven and Earth possibly give you?"

That was a topic that interested Noah a lot. After all, rank 9 existences had worlds to nurture, so external resources didn't do much unless they were developing new techniques or were immersed in similar projects.

"I think I can answer this," Sepunia revealed.

"No need to voice a half-assed guess," Dinia interrupted Sepunia. "Heaven and Earth can stare at the worlds past the sky. They give us the chance to look for superior laws that suit our path."

Understanding immediately dawned upon Noah and King Elbas. They actually felt stupid for not considering that option after studying Sword Saint's breakthrough for so long.

Rank 9 existences might require various valuable resources, but they weren't necessary except for special cases like Noah and the hybrids as a whole. The energy was an important part of the cultivation journey, but the sky was full of power that could take over the world. Noah and King Elbas knew that those in Heaven and Earth's system wouldn't lack that or the materials they needed.

However, the special cases among Heaven and Earth's followers desired to achieve the same goal that defined their leaders. They wanted to reach the tenth rank and continue the cultivation journey past the sky. Their existence had transformed into worlds in the ninth rank, but they could go past that, and the arrays of laws in the universe could provide enlightenment.

Noah and King Elbas' knowledge about those structures was still too vague. They had guessed that broader and universal paths existed in the universe. Those arrays of laws that concerned some general aspects of the cultivation journey could even be the very foundation of everything, but the duo had no way to prove that.

Still, they could understand how beneficial studying those arrays could be for rank 9 existences. Noah would never refuse to look at the destruction or creation paths if he ever had that chance, and King Elbas shared that feeling. They both imagined those structures as superior versions of the four spheres left by the upper tier dragons, and their weak minds couldn't even start to guess how much stronger they could actually be.

Noah and King Elbas exchanged a meaningful gaze. They could see the greed in each other's eyes, and a similar plan formed in their minds. They would go to the sky soon, meaning that they would have a chance to find items capable of gazing at those arrays.

"How accurate are these views of the superior laws?" Noah asked without even bothering to hide the obvious meaning behind his words.

"I'm afraid that my understanding of the universe's structure doesn't allow me to give a proper answer," Dinia explained. "The arrays of laws aren't in places that Heaven and Earth have the power to reach, but they can gaze upon their effects. The whole void is full of their influence."

Dinia spread his arms before continuing. "Take this area, for example. We can see Heaven and Earth's light seeping past those cracks and illuminating the void, but the sky isn't here. The space path contains laws capable of explaining this phenomenon. That array is the reason why multiple dimensions that we see as reality can overlap in the same spot, but you won't be able to read those answers unless you reach the tenth rank."

"How can you study them then?" King Elbas asked. "You might be stronger than your peers, but you aren't us. You can't close the gap from the tenth rank at your level."

"I don't read them," Dinia admitted in an annoyed tone, "But Heaven and Earth makes me able to feel them. Those who decide to join them have the chance to become the most prepared rank 10 cultivators in the entire universe."

Noah focused on Dinia's tone and sensed deep confidence. Joining Heaven and Earth could give countless advantages, especially if the experts managed to preserve their worlds, but that was the true reason behind everything. The chance to improve by studying aspects of the universe meant for stronger existences could provide benefits that Noah knew far too well.

It was the same as the rest of the cultivation journey. Gaining access to knowledge hidden behind superior ranks would naturally benefit the path before the breakthrough. Chasing Demon and the other Elders of the Hive had done that with Noah, and it seemed that Heaven and Earth were giving that chance to Dinia.

"Why are you telling us everything?" King Elbas eventually questioned. "Are you so confident in killing us?"

"Yes, but that's not the reason," Dinia stated while gazing at the cultivator behind him. "I must stay true to my perfect self, the best expression of my world, who finds lies pointless. You might feel that I'm helping you, but I'm only doing what's best for myself. Also, Caesar is willing to pay those who smoothen your path to the peak."

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Hearing Caesar's name again didn't feel too good. Noah didn't understand how Heaven and Earth could allow the existence of such a society inside their sky, but he planned to get answers. Dinia would reveal whether those worlds were worth having experts plotting inside their realm.

"Who exactly is Caesar?" Noah asked. "How many factions does the sky even have? Do you like playing with those in the higher plane, or do we have an actual role?"

The storm of questions didn't receive any answer. Dinia appeared proud to see Noah's ignorance about the sky. His world forced him to be honest, but it didn't make him an idiot. Those matters had a deep connection with Heaven and Earth as a whole, so revealing something would only worsen his situation.

"I will tell you one thing," Dinia revealed. "Caesar is the most loyal and rebellious cultivator in Heaven and Earth's system. He is even older than me, so I'd be wary of his plans. Though I think you can't really escape them..."

"We have already heard that," King Elbas snorted. "We planned to become Heaven and Earth's opponents before he came and talked about his plan. How can he even claim that idea for himself when we were on that path all along?"

"Caesar has seen countless experts rise and fall," Dinia continued. "He might have predicted what you would become. His world is so mysterious that even I don't know what it does."

"Yours involves your perfect self, right?" Noah asked. "How can you even express it?"

"I believe I'm about to show it," Dinia replied as a faint smirk appeared on his face. "After all, someone had to show me true fear."

The atmosphere immediately grew tense. Dinia didn't seem willing to reveal anything else, and the experts couldn't limit themselves to talk due to the nature of the situation. Noah still had the dark metal with him, and Dinia wanted to retrieve it.

"You might want to activate your techniques," Dinia suggested.

"Why would we even listen to you?" King Elbas asked.

"Because I'm already on you," Dinia revealed, and three identical copies of the liquid stage cultivator suddenly appeared next to each expert.

The unstable substance immediately filled Noah's body and filled him with strength that even rank 9 existences would struggle to survive. The copy on his left was trying to punch him, which was a complete lack of respect for his power.

Noah threw a punch to meet Dinia's attack, and the two fists met. The impact generated a shockwave so intense that the barrier around the island began to shake, but utter astonishment filled Noah's mind for a very different reason. Dinia didn't only remain in one piece after facing his attack. He had also stopped the punch completely.

"My perfect self has the strength of the best body in the entirety of the Immortal Lands," Dinia announced before throwing another punch with his free arm.

Noah threw a punch too, and the two fists clashed again. A shockwave spread, but he felt surprised to see how Dinia was managing to push him back.

Noah's aura seemed to explode outward. A dark layer of energy filled with faces covered his figure and enhanced his physical strength as his pride spread through the void. A mere cultivator was daring to win a direct clash against him. The entirety of his existence was telling him to give a demonstration of his superior power.

Dinia's smile broadened when he saw that Noah was using the entirety of his power to deal with his physical strength, but his expression froze when the latter started to push him back. Noah wasn't holding even an ounce of his power back. His pride simply didn't allow him to lose in that field.

The empowerment eventually allowed Noah to make Dinia fly away, but that copy disappeared after losing the physical exchange. Even his power vanished among the void and left no energy behind.

Noah turned to inspect the battlefield. King Elbas wore an annoyed expression as he dealt with the many formations that Dinia's copy had thrown at him. At the same time, Sepunia and her opponent were immersed in a pinkish and white halo that hid them from every inspection.

Dinia's original figure was still among the three experts. He didn't move, but his confident smirk remained on his face. Also, he didn't pay attention to the two copies that were still fighting. He kept his eyes on Noah as faint interest filled them.

King Elbas had a series of complicated white formations trying to close on him. They were attempting to restrain his power and trap him inside a cage made of circular lines that depicted unknown inscription methods, but his golden light was slowing down their advance.

King Elbas studied those formations in no time before taking out seventeen golden spikes from his body and throwing them toward specific lines. The items pierced those cores and made all the attacks flying toward him crumble. The expert prepared himself to counterattack at that point, but Dinia's copy suddenly vanished without leaving anything behind.

Sepunia was immersed in her world, but her opponent was doing the same. Their existences were fighting to take control of the area, and she appeared on the losing side.

However, Sepunia soon snapped her fingers, and her world expanded. Patches of her aura then fell on the white radiance that her opponent had deployed and changed its nature. It didn't take much before that power completely disappeared and left nothing behind.

"You are indeed incredible," Dinia commented after his last copy disappeared. "I'm unable to imagine a perfect version of myself capable of defeating you in your respective fields."

"My field isn't mere physical strength," Noah coldly uttered.

"I wouldn't even call that a formation," King Elbas said. "I already came up with four points to improve."

"You failed to defeat me while I'm still in this state," Sepunia mocked. "Maybe I've had the wrong idea about privileged cultivators all along."

"Please, don't taunt me more than this," Dinia chuckled. "I only wanted to prove how my perfect self can handle three battles at the same time."

Dinia closed his eyes before glowing with white light. Formations appeared on his body as his aura grew denser. A similar radiance also shone from behind his eyes and transformed him into a white figure that illuminated the void.

Noah drew his swords as the black hole created more black vessels and filled them with the unstable substance. He needed as much physical resilience as possible to use the Cursed Sword at its full power. His blade had felt heavy after the bloodlust that it carried spread through the void. However, the empowerment that followed dispersed that sensation.

King Elbas wore his scorching robe, wielded his spear, and revealed the runes that covered his skin. His crown began to shine and fused with the white radiance as he gathered energy and prepared himself for the imminent clash.

Sepunia didn't move, but her energy dispersed in the void. She was taking control of the battlefield before a new attack came in her direction.

"I've already seen all of this," Dinia exclaimed as his hand shot forward to seize something, "Including your annoying puppet."

Night suddenly materialized in front of Dinia. The expert had grabbed one of the lines that made its head and had stopped its surprise attack. The Pterodactyl found itself unable to move due to that firm grip.