

## **Demonic 2015**

### **Chapter 2015 Welcome**

King Elbas, Sepunia, and Noah didn't relax after they returned among the light. They immediately used their abilities to seal the cracks connecting that region to the void.

Sepunia and King Elbas ended up doing most of the work since Noah found himself unable to summon the entirety of his power while the parasite was still going wild. The plant severed its connection with the many seeds inside the void, but it resumed its expansion as soon as it sensed the light, and its violent hunger was strong enough to ignore Noah's suppression.

Noah had to stop focusing on the cracks to deal with the parasite. He spat flames and expanded the dark world balance what the plant was absorbing from his body, but his condition worsened since the environment couldn't provide energy fast enough.

The roots spread from his open chest and stretched into the shattered environment to devour every source of energy in his surroundings. Noah tried to seize part of that fuel for himself, but he eventually had to stop since the fabric of space started to break.

Noah charged ahead to reach the next region and resume his healing process there. He ended up in an area full of mountains that the parasite didn't hesitate to devour during its constant expansion. The plant seemed unsatisfied with its current host, and its new requirements forced it to look for new power sources.

Noah couldn't let the parasite leave his body, but the latter wasn't asking for his permission. Its roots dug into the region and generated more seeds to increase the efficiency of its absorption of energy. Still, even that environment failed to satisfy it.

The parasite would end up devouring Noah if he continued to fail to suppress it. Yet, his centers of power couldn't interrupt that violent absorption. He and his companions also were in poor condition since they had given their energy to fuel the plant's breakthrough. The situation was so desperate that Noah considered separating himself from his asset, but he had one last idea.

"You will never appease your hunger like this," Noah announced. "Your approach is too dumb. Heaven and Earth will kill you in no time."

His words seemed to affect the parasite. The roots stopped expanding in the region and converged toward Noah. It didn't take much before countless pointy weapons encircled him.

"You can't eat me," Noah smiled.

The parasite took that as a challenge. It started putting more power in absorbing the nutrients in Noah's body. His injuries expanded even more, and chunks of his flesh directly fell off his figure as they lost the energy they contained.

"You can't kill me because you can't survive on your own," Noah explained without dropping his cold smile. "I brought you to life. I made you reach the ninth rank. Only I can take you into the sky."

The absorption suddenly slowed down. The parasite seemed interested in what Noah had to say, but the latter didn't fully convince it. After all, the sky was within its reach at its current level.

"You aren't dumb," Noah admitted. "Don't let your hunger blind you. Heaven and Earth are too strong for you, but you might have a chance to grow even more if you remain with me."

A shrill noise came out of the roots, but no attack arrived. Noah was basically mocking the parasite, but the latter couldn't say anything. It knew he was telling the truth.

"Let's make a deal," Noah exclaimed. "You stop killing me, and I will pave the way toward better lands. I have already proven to be your best bet."

The parasite went silent but continued to feed on Noah's body. Still, it slowed down the absorption to a point when the injuries stopped worsening. Noah even had the chance to stabilize his condition by spreading his dark matter toward the ground that had survived the plant's previous expansion.

"Now get back here," Noah ordered. "I can't waste more time with you. Just accept that you have been quite lucky to reach this level so soon."

The parasite voiced the shrill noise again, but that lasted for a mere second. It quickly cut its connection with the other seeds and retracted its roots to return to Noah's chest.

Noah heaved a deep sigh before crossing his legs and expanding the dark world to feed on the entire region. The parasite didn't leave him enough energy to fix his body and companions, so he had to travel to other areas to seize what he needed.

The process ended up taking a while due to the severity of his injuries. His companions didn't even have his extraordinary healing abilities, so he gave them energy and let them handle their recovery on their own. Noah only added dark matter to quicken the process.

Noah flew toward the dead zone once his body began to heal properly. A faint gold light had filled the area after King Elbas closed the cracks and fixed the fabric of space. The connection with the void was no more. Dinia wouldn't be able to reach them right away unless Heaven and Earth teleported him. Yet, the rulers were still in their dormant state, so the experts felt relatively safe.

"How was the trip inside the island?" King Elbas asked when Noah dispersed the dark matter restraining the dragon.

"I got the metal, but Dinia interrupted me before I could take dragons that were still transforming," Noah explained before heaving a helpless sigh when King Elbas stretched his arm.

Noah expanded the dark world before taking out his loot. He revealed the giant layer of dark metal and its liquefied version, and King Elbas immediately started a thorough study. Sepunia also inspected the material to see if her new mind would provide different impressions. Instead, the dragon didn't feel too good near that material.

"We'll save the rest of your pack another time," Noah promised when he noticed that the dragon's annoyance. "We must revert your transformation now. I believe you don't want to remain in this state."

The dragon couldn't roar, but King Elbas casually waved his hand when he understood that Noah wanted to talk with it. The formations that restrained its strange neck vanished, allowing the creature to speak.

"How do you plan to save them when you can't even defeat the warden?" The dragon asked through human words.

"It has a point," Sepunia commented. "Dinia is only one of the privileged cultivators, and he was even in the liquid stage. Do you still want to go in the sky in your current state?"

"The plan is to wait for a bit," King Elbas revealed. "We have always known that we were too weak for the mission. Heaven and Earth's fairness was our greatest hope, but it seems that we can't rely on it against those experts."

"Only you wanted to rely on their fairness," Noah scoffed.

"It was our only true chance to succeed," King Elbas replied.

"Now we have a new path," Noah stated after pointing at the dark metal. "Let's come up with weapons and plan things out. We will go in the sky once everyone is ready."

"What about your idea of waiting for a few millennia?" King Elbas asked.

"Waiting might kill both of us," Noah explained while glancing at his chest. "We are getting too strong for the eighth rank. We must advance, and the sky can give us what we need."

"What about me?" The dragon growled.

King Elbas rolled his eyes, and Sepunia laughed at that scene. Noah glanced at the dragon and revealed a cold smile before speaking in a tone that made his words sound like a threat. "Welcome to Heaven and Earth's Cancer. Try not to slow us down."

## **Chapter 2016 Sides**

The breakthrough of the parasite had drawn Noah closer to King Elbas' condition. Noah and the plant had sealed a vague deal, but that didn't prevent it from drawing a lot of power anyway. He could sustain those expenses, but the situation was far from ideal since the absorption hindered the already slow growth of his body.

The payoff was great. The parasite had become incredible in the ninth rank, but that wasn't enough. Noah had to grow without forsaking his other companions, and the stormy regions couldn't satisfy his requirements. Those areas even lacked the challenges that his ambition needed to improve unless he met other privileged cultivators.

The sky seemed the only target left in a world that could satisfy Noah. That place had even gained a new interesting vibe after Dinia revealed what Heaven and Earth could offer. The sole idea of gazing on the paths past the sky almost made Noah and King Elbas unable to focus on other projects.

However, the group couldn't leave right away, especially after witnessing Dinia's power. Noah had decided to start the mission in the sky once he and his companions completed their preparations. Yet, that could take a while. They intended to infiltrate the very home of an enemy capable of controlling the entire world. They didn't know if they would feel confident even after spending millennia planning the journey.

Confidence wasn't the core of the mission. King Elbas and Noah had to reach the sky since the rest of the world couldn't satisfy their requirements. The former even needed a chunk of that white material to stabilize his new existence. The matter wasn't as vital for Noah, but it would be soon since it was becoming clear that his current power was already reaching its limits.

Noah's situation had multiple issues that the ninth rank was highlighting in ways that he didn't foresee. His companions were turning into existences worthy of his incredible standards, which made his superior centers of power unable to keep up. He probably had the best foundation in the entirety of the Immortal Lands, but that alone wasn't enough to contain so many unique creatures.

Only Night, the Cursed Sword, and the parasite had reached the ninth rank, but that was already enough to create problems. Snore, Shafu, and Duanlong had yet to step at that level, but they would inevitably worsen his condition after their breakthroughs.

Night, Snore, Shafu, and Duanlong could avoid causing too many problems for Noah. He couldn't do anything about the weight of their existence, but they could decide not to absorb too much energy from the environment.

That could give Noah enough space to continue to grow, but he didn't want his companions to limit their improvements, especially when they weren't to blame. The Cursed Sword could literally kill him at its current level, so they would never be the most significant aspect of the issue.

Bringing his centers of power to the ninth rank was the only solution to the problem. His dantian could remain behind, but his body was in desperate need of the breakthrough. Noah had reached the point when he couldn't withstand the same power that he had forced his companions to seize, and he couldn't allow that to continue. It went against everything he believed in.

It felt almost hilarious to face those problems after going through countless years of insane requirements. Noah had nearly believed that his body would be able to withstand everything, but he had ended up surpassing his own expectations. His assets were approaching the same amazing state that had been unique to his centers of power until now.

The solution existed, and Noah even felt to have a clear path toward it. The only issue came from the location that could solve his problem. Only the sky had enough energy to satisfy all his assets, so the mission had to start as soon as possible.

King Elbas and Sepunia dealt with the black metal while Noah focused on the dragon. The group had to develop countermeasures for Heaven and Earth's power and gain a new ally. Luckily for them, both projects relied on their knowledge about that unique material.

"Can you stop studying me and start doing something?" The dragon voiced an annoyed growl.

"Stop complaining," Noah snorted as he continued to use the dark world to inspect the creature's current state. "I'm trying to reverse something that Heaven and Earth have completed in countless years. I don't know how possible it is to bring you back to your previous state."

"I thought you were one of Heaven and Earth's major problems," The dragon complained. "It turns out you can't even deal with a single curse."

Noah felt the vague desire to kill the dragon on the spot, but he held himself back as different approaches took form in his mind. Truth be told, he had underestimated how deeply Heaven and Earth had affected the creature, and the modified black metal inside it even limited his influence.

The transformation had even affected far more than the body. The dragon was a rank 9 magical beast, so its power released an influence that resembled a world. That aura targeted Heaven and Earth's enemies and weakened their power even if it felt safe.

Heaven and Earth had done an excellent job at creating an incredible living weapon. Noah could see how the rulers were preparing themselves for the final battle. The improved cultivators and the modified dragons probably were only some of the assets that would join the last struggle before the second attempt to reach the tenth rank. Still, they were already threatening enough to worry him.

'My team can probably deal with these threats,' Noah thought as his inspection continued, 'But the dragons don't have any chance.'

The final battle didn't look too grim. Heaven and Earth were immense and had an army of assets that Noah couldn't inspect in its entirety. However, the opposite side had the dragons, the monster outside the sky, the old rulers, and his organization.

'The world is probably forcing this balance to happen,' Noah thought as approaches continued to form and shatter in his mind. 'It initially favored our side, but the scales of Heaven and Earth's fairness have slowly started to move on the opposite side due to our power.'

The talk about Heaven and Earth's fairness was clear in his mind and revealed a flaw that he had started to experience in the last period. Noah and his companions were freeing the rulers of their restrictions as they continued to step on the ninth rank. The dormant state probably was the only reason behind the temporary lack of harsher punishments.

Noah couldn't stop getting stronger, and he couldn't ask his companions to do that either. He didn't care about the world's system. He preferred to make the balance unable to understand his power rather than bend to it.

"What if you never went back to your previous form?" Noah asked as he understood how he wanted to proceed.

"I want my body back!" The dragon roared.

"To what end if I may?" Noah questioned. "Heaven and Earth have captured you once. They can do it again if you limit yourself to going back to your previous form. Instead, I can give you the chance to transform again and become something that they can't touch so easily."