

Demonic 2017

Chapter 2017 Approach

Undoing Heaven and Earth's transformation was theoretically possible. Noah would have to remove all the modified dark metal from the dragon, take away the organ that had learnt to produce it, purify the rest of the body, and shatter it so that it could regain its natural state.

The process would obviously feature issues that Noah had yet to decide how to handle. The modified dark metal was toxic for his existence due to its conflicting nature with Heaven and Earth's system. He didn't know how to approach it, but a solution would eventually arrive as long as he worked with King Elbas.

However, reverting the transformation would only bring the dragon back to square one, among the other magical beasts that were already losing against Heaven and Earth. That wouldn't help anyone. Noah would probably benefit from that act of defiance, but he wanted far more.

Heaven and Earth's fairness was tilting in the rulers' favor, and Noah couldn't stop that trend. Getting stronger had always been mandatory, and the same applied to his companions. It might even reach a point when that system started to create flaws for them, so he had to amass enough power to ignore eventual suppressions.

Noah was a true master in empowering others and forcing them to fulfill their true potential. He could even make them go beyond what their natural state and experiences allowed, but that required time and drastic approaches.

"I can't do it against your will," Noah explained. "Well, I can, but the transformation will fail if you don't work with me. Becoming an actual threat to Heaven and Earth will also depend on you."

"What do I have to gain from that then?" The dragon asked through a low growl.

"A chance," Noah exclaimed. "Every existence in the world has innate abilities, but they turn into limits when it comes to your kind. Even the higher ranks of the cultivation journey can't remove them completely. You have been lucky enough to be born as a dragon, but not as the best of them, and surely not as something capable of hurting Heaven and Earth."

"I am a proud dragon!" The dragon roared angrily. "I won't let you belittle my species."

Noah's eyes grew cold before he lifted his head to voice a deafening roar. The dark matter around him shook and echoed his proud cry, but nothing left the dark world. Still, King Elbas and Sepunia interrupted their study of the dark metal to glare at him.

Noah ignored those admonishing gazes and remained focused on the dragon. He knew how magical beasts thought, but he needed to see if the creature could transcend its natural state and strive to be more than a mere mass of hunger.

"Pride is useless if you die," Noah stated. "Heaven and Earth have built an army of insects to counter your kind, and they have succeeded. The dragons will lose, and I'll respect your decision if you decide to die among them, but don't use your instincts to justify your actions."

A cultivator wouldn't have been able to affect the dragon's mindset, but Noah was different. He wasn't only a hybrid. He had transcended the three species and had stepped on a realm that the creature couldn't describe. It could only feel through its instincts that Noah was above everything it had ever seen.

"Will you turn me into you?" The dragon eventually questioned.

"No one should become someone else," Noah scolded. "I will give you a chance to become you, your true you, but nothing else."

"You suck at bargains," The dragon complained.

"This has never been a bargain," Noah revealed. "I don't care about you, but you have been lucky enough to meet us after experiencing long years of mental torture. You have experienced enough to suit a possible transformation, but the decision must be yours."

The dragon lowered its head as conflicting thoughts filled its mind. The creature wanted revenge against Heaven and Earth, but it desired to accomplish that in its original form.

However, the dragon wasn't dumb or delusional. It had even spent enough time away from the island to have recovered the entirety of its mental faculties. The beast knew how hard accomplishing that feat would be. After all, it had already lost against Heaven and Earth once. The event had even been entirely one-sided.

"What will become of me if I accept your offer?" The dragon voiced its last worries. "Heaven and Earth have already taken away a lot of what I was. How much of me will remain if I transform again?"

Noah's eyes flickered in surprise. He didn't expect such an existential question from the dragon. He felt forced to reevaluate the creature. It seemed that its experience inside the island had already made its mindset evolve past its species' limits.

"You will be nothing more than yourself," Noah explained.

The dragon raised its head and fixed its reptilian eyes on Noah. Its instincts warned it about the power that he held over magical beasts. Those sensations were an innate part of its species, and a tinge of annoyance eventually appeared next to them.

The restraints on the dragon didn't prevent it from inspecting the battle in the void. It had seen Noah and the others fighting against an expert far stronger than them. It had witnessed a defeat that didn't lead to their deaths. Instead, the trio was even planning to raise the stakes with the next mission.

The limits enforced by its instincts felt pointless in front of that scene. Noah was right. Pride was useless if it led to death, especially if that feeling came from features outside its control.

"I'll allow you to transform me," The dragon announced, and Noah limited himself to nod before glancing at the two experts near the massive slab of dark metal.

King Elbas and Sepunia had also experienced the enlightenment that the dark metal awarded to those worthy of carrying its destructiveness. King Elbas had resisted that force easily since his existence didn't have anything specific against Heaven and Earth, but the process had been harder for Sepunia. Noah's

ambition had filled the seed that had given birth to her new world. It was only normal for her to share part of his hostility.

Luckily for her, King Elbas had interrupted the process when he sensed that Sepunia was transforming into an avatar of the dark metal. He wouldn't mind if she truly wanted her world to reach that state, but he couldn't watch his creation experiencing that corruption.

Noah's inspection had no special meaning. He was simply looking at the metal while the dragon's existential question and Dinia's words resounded in his mind. His new companion deserved the best treatment in the world, and the privileged cultivator had probably given him an idea on how to proceed.

'Mere energy can't do the trick when it comes to the ninth rank,' Noah thought. 'Purity generates power. I can cut the dragon into pieces and rebuild it according to a powerful blueprint, but that might be the wrong approach.'

Noah moved his eyes back to the dragon and fused his mental waves with the dark world to enhance his inspection. His higher energy partially allowed him to ignore the effects of the modified metal and inspect it properly. He could see how the material was basically identical to the melted part of the giant slab. Heaven and Earth had only affected its nature and changed its effects.

'I can probably avoid an invasive procedure,' Noah guessed. 'I might even gain some battle experience about the actual ninth rank.'

Chapter 2018 Influence

Heaven and Earth didn't transform the dark metal. They had changed its nature by affecting it with their world. They had corrupted it by modifying the dragons, but Noah guessed that he could partially revert that as long as he removed the rulers' influence.

Noah didn't want to change the dragon's body. He planned to invade its existence and destroy the parts affected by Heaven and Earth. In theory, the process would allow the dark metal to regain its natural properties.

That approach had two problems. First of all, Noah didn't know if the dragon would survive the procedure since it would lose part of its existence. The dark world could help it fill some blank spots, but the difference in the quality of energy could affect the outcome.

The second problem involved the tools that Noah had to use to perform the procedure. Heaven and Earth's influence would be his opponent, so he had to rely on a form of energy that could invade the dragon's existence and defeat that power.

His darkness had the right features to deal with Heaven and Earth's influence, but it might fail to affect it deeply enough to free the dragon. His higher energy was stronger but also heavier, and it might end up damaging the creature forever.

Noah didn't even consider his primary energy, mostly because he had a perfect option at hand. His mind was in the ninth rank, and his mental energy could devour fuels with similar properties. Moreover, he could rely on his ethereal blackness with that center of power.

That approach removed most of the technical issues that usually accompanied his projects. Noah didn't need to create a blueprint for the dragon's new body. He didn't have to perform a thorough study of the creature's functions either. He only had to remove everything connected to Heaven and Earth.

In theory, Noah could start the process right away. Magical beasts didn't develop worlds in the ninth rank, but their auras gained similar properties when it came to their pressure and weight. Heaven and Earth's modifications didn't change that either, so Noah only had to unleash his mental waves and find what had gone through the transformation.

However, the dragon naturally hindered Noah's power, and Heaven and Earth's transformation had been thorough. He expected every cell of its body to carry traces of the rulers' corruption.

Affecting such dense laws with mere mental waves wasn't ideal, but Noah had two trump cards. His bloodlust and ethereal blackness could make him deal with hurdles otherwise impossible to overcome. Yet, he still needed to understand how to force his way inside that hostile existence.

Noah unfolded his consciousness before condensing it into thin strands that approached different spots of the dragon. The tips of those threads vanished as soon as they pierced the dark scales, and Noah added more mental energy to see for how long the dark metal could stop him.

The dark metal had already enlightened Noah about its properties, and he didn't take long to gain a general idea of its modified version. His destruction eventually affected that influence and allowed his mental waves to proceed deeper inside the dragon's body.

Noah quickly understood that the situation was as bad as he had predicted. The dragon had a slim figure due to its skeletal appearance, but every inch of its body carried Heaven and Earth's influence. That feature intensified near an oval organ connected to its stomach since it was the source of the altered dark metal.

The dragon would need far more than precise attacks. Noah had to bathe it in his consciousness to affect all its body, but he didn't start the project right away. He took that chance to perform a few tests that would give him a clearer idea of what he was up against.

Noah initially tested if his mind could really remove Heaven and Earth's influence. He picked a single scale and increased the amount of mental energy there until a reaction happened. His anger and destruction fused with the innate properties of his thoughts to make them devour the rulers' power.

A wave of energy flowed inside Noah's mind and forced the center of power to expand. The improvement was almost unnoticeable, but it confirmed that the approach worked. Yet, the scale didn't remain free of that influence since the rest of the body soon affected it.

The event had been relatively quick, and Noah didn't even retract his presence, but he couldn't prevent the scale from falling back under Heaven and Earth's system. That was a simple, instinctive reaction that he knew far too well. The body of a magical beast would naturally strive for balance, and the dragon was on the rulers' side for now.

'I need to affect more areas at the same time,' Noah thought as a sigh escaped his mouth. 'I'm not only fighting Heaven and Earth's influence. They have turned the dragon on their side, so its instincts have become my enemy.'

Noah performed more tests until he felt ready to start the procedure. He made the dark world create an isolated area that enhanced the properties of his mental energy before confirming that the dragon was still willing to proceed. The creature had experienced a taste of what removing Heaven and Earth's influence felt like, but its resolve remained firm.

Noah filled the isolated area with dense mental waves that used the dark matter to condense themselves beyond their natural limits. They didn't immediately seep inside the dragon. He waited until he accumulated enough power to sweep Heaven and Earth's influence in a quick move.

The hungry pressure that Noah's mental waves radiated worried the dragon. It could feel their desire to devour a big part of its existence, but it suppressed its instincts to run away. That procedure was necessary to stop being a mere pawn in a war that it couldn't affect.

Noah didn't give any warning. His mental energy fell on the dragon and seeped into its body as soon as it reached the desired density level. A wave of pain immediately filled the creature as Noah's consciousness started devouring every law belonging to Heaven and Earth's system, but his actual attack had yet to begin.

The dragon's body opposed the process, but it couldn't do anything when scarlet shades spread among the mental waves. The pain intensified as cracks opened on his scales and blood spurted out of them. The procedure was hurting it deeply, but that was within Noah's calculations.

The external parts of the dragons' body became free of Heaven and Earth's influence in no time, but Noah only increased the amount of energy poured into the process. He dug deeper until only the organ with the dark metal remained unaffected by his mental waves.

That last step appeared insurmountable. Noah's mental energy vanished as soon as it tried to get near the organ, so he decided to use the ethereal blackness. His mind experienced a massive improvement as soon as the black fuel in his incomplete world filled it, and the mental waves deployed in the project also benefited from that event.

Noah finally saw his mental waves seeping inside the organ and spreading their destruction among the dark metal, but something strange happened inside his mind as energy flowed inside it. His walls began to release a humming noise that sounded familiar.

Noah let his consciousness handle the rest of the process as he focused on the insides of his mind. Part of the energy absorbed during the procedure accumulated above his mental sea and took the shape of a crackling figure. Heaven and Earth's avatar had appeared inside his center of power.

"What's the point of you materializing here?" Noah asked through his ethereal figure as the black hole sent dark matter to reinforce the area. "You don't have enough energy to hurt me. Your main consciousness is even in a dormant state."

"We didn't miss your arrogance," The avatar said in Heaven and Earth's androgynous voice... "We have an offer to make before you try to enter our sky."