

## **Demonic 2019**

### **Chapter 2019 Negotiation**

Noah's ethereal figure didn't show any reaction to the avatar's words, and his mental sea also remained silent. Part of his attention went on the dragon, but he quickly retracted it when he confirmed that everything was going fine. He could focus on Heaven and Earth, but his thoughts inevitably created taunts.

"Did you start to fear me?" Noah asked before landing in front of the crackling avatar.

"We fear no one," The avatar calmly replied.

"It would make sense," Noah added, without bothering to address Heaven and Earth's words. "You are getting too many enemies. The monster and the dragons were fine, but your old self must make you shake in fear. You might not have time to deal with me."

"Nonsense," Heaven and Earth said. "You are lucky your friend managed to summon the paths past our sky. You wouldn't have such freedom otherwise."

"That's the whole point, isn't it?" Noah laughed. "You can't control what my group will achieve. You are blind to our paths, which is why you want to absorb us."

"You can stop pretending that our offer doesn't interest you," The avatar stated, and Noah went silent.

Noah didn't move, but he used the mental energy that his mind wasn't deploying in the project to inspect the avatar. He couldn't understand anything from Heaven and Earth's current form, but his experience made him sure about the nature of the offer. The rulers needed help, but they were definitely adding a trap to the mission.

"Go on," Noah eventually gave in. "Speak."

"You don't have the power to survive in the sky," Heaven and Earth started the negotiations. "The dark metal can only give you a chance, but do you really want to risk everything for a friend? We thought demons only cared about themselves."

"Get to the point," Noah sighed. "I know that you are scared about my influence, but you should try to hide it a bit."

The avatar fell silent for a few seconds. Noah's words were as sharp as ever, even if it had mentioned an actual change in his character.

"We want you to take a detour before trying to get in the sky," Heaven and Earth soon continued. "The monster has managed to create something. We want you to seize it and give it to us."

"Why would I even do that?" Noah chuckled. "Send your underlings there. I believe you have finally upgraded them."

"Don't play dumb," The avatar uttered. "We have empowered those laws by throwing them away. We can't interact with them."

Noah called upon everything learnt about the monster past the sky. Heaven and Earth had given it power by mistake. Their simple act of throwing away laws had transformed them into flaws amassed into a giant structure.

Truth be told, Noah also feared the monster's power. His sharpness could hurt it since it reminded it of the severing from the sky, but it was a troublesome opponent. Moreover, the creature was massive, and it had probably grown after Sword Saint's breakthrough. Heaven and Earth had to throw away many laws to balance the loss of the true meanings related to the sword path, so the empty creature's power must have increased.

The monster's non-existence was something that even King Elbas had to give up studying. The issue was with the emptiness of that power. The creature had no features or other characteristics that the experts could inspect.

In theory, the monster had the power to unleash a mess in the higher plane, but it had an innate fear of the sky. Also, it had a deep attraction toward the existences that managed to oppose Heaven and Earth.

Noah planned to use the monster against Heaven and Earth at some point, but he had yet to come up with a proper idea. The creature's nature made it troublesome to exploit, and reaching it also was a big issue.

"You can interact with the monster," Noah guessed as his knowledge gave birth to an idea, "But you are afraid that your involvement might cause a shift in its nature."

Heaven and Earth fell silent again. They couldn't believe how Noah always managed to guess correctly, but they soon accepted that hiding the truth was pointless.

"You are correct," The avatar admitted. "The monster fears our light too much even to begin thinking about a possible attack. We want to keep things like this, which is why we came to you."

"You didn't come to me," Noah corrected. "I got in your way again, and you took that chance to talk to me. Don't try to make it sound like a plan."

"We did plan to contact you," Heaven and Earth repeated. "Sword Saint simply delayed our appearance."

"Or maybe he delayed your other plan," Noah responded. "Come on. You have already tried to do something similar. You'll probably leave me in the void if I try to work with you. I'd rather reach the part when we kill each other without falling for your schemes."

"Don't you want to know what the monster has created?" The avatar asked. "Don't you want to hear what we are willing to offer?"

Noah was ready to mock the rulers again, but their behavior suddenly gave him an idea. He realized that Heaven and Earth didn't need him to accept their offer. It was enough for them to mention that the monster had given birth to something valuable to arouse his curiosity.

"Tell me," Noah played dumb, but he felt that Heaven and Earth didn't miss the slight hesitation in his reply.

"The monster has given birth to a non-world," Heaven and Earth revealed. "It's gaining harmony at an incredible pace. It won't take much before it develops a proper consciousness and starts flying toward the sky."

"I see that as your problem," Noah chuckled. "Why would I even solve it for you?"

"Do you think that the monster will stop at the sky?" Heaven and Earth asked. "Its non-existence is an enemy of everything that lives. It will go after everything that exists."

"You will still be the first target," Noah uttered.

"Only if you are lucky," The avatar declared. "We can always make it pass through the sky and let it hunt you down first. Also, the situation won't improve even if it fights us first. A change in the rulers of this world won't help you."

"Let me worry about that," Noah quickly dismissed that silent threat. "What would I receive in exchange for the non-world?"

"We will let you use what we have developed to inspect the paths," Heaven and Earth revealed. "We are still far away from finding destruction and creation, but space and time are easy to inspect."

"I want to see them before going after the monster," Noah stated.

"Keep dreaming," The avatar replied.

"That ends the negotiation then," Noah decided before slashing his ethereal hands toward the avatar.

Slashes came out of his fingers and shattered the avatar into countless pieces. Heaven and Earth's will was still there, so they could struggle to survive a few more seconds. They could avoid falling prey to Noah's mental sea to make a new offer, but they didn't.

Noah wore a cold expression as he inspected his mental energy devouring that dust of tainted fuel. Heaven and Earth's silence confirmed his previous guess, but he didn't feel too happy about that. It seemed that another mission in the void had to follow the journey inside the sky.

## **Chapter 2020 Endless**

King Elbas had made it clear that the sky had to come before everything else, and Noah couldn't go against that, especially after accepting that his companions were becoming too heavy to bear at his current level. Both of them required energy that only the white layer could provide, so they had to prioritize that mission to fix their existence.

However, Heaven and Earth had a point. Noah felt relatively sure that they had spoken the truth, meaning that the monster outside the sky could become a great problem for everyone.

The non-world was also interesting. Noah had seen how powerful the non-existence could be, so the superior realm could only bring steep improvements. It might have even solved the natural weakness that afflicted that empty creature.

The non-world could turn into a weapon or a powerful opponent, and Noah wanted to affect that path as soon as possible. He didn't believe himself to be Heaven and Earth's sole hope of dealing with that empty creature, so he wanted to arrive there before them.

Noah moved his complete focus back on the dragon. The procedure had long since reached its last phase, and he didn't need to do much to complete it. His empowered mental energy only had to finish devouring the last brims of Heaven and Earth's influence to free the creature.

The dragon struggled in pain while Noah's mental energy removed Heaven and Earth's influence from its existence. The creature had turned into a mess of injuries, blood, and gore, and its condition didn't improve after the procedure ended. Yet, Noah made sure to immerse it in the dark world to help its innate healing properties.

The dragon was unresponsive, but its body still worked. The resilience of the magical beasts was incredible, especially in a specimen that had fused with a powerful substance. Still, the damage caused by Noah's mental energy affected more than the simple flesh. It dealt with the very laws in its fabric, and fixing it required more energy than Noah had initially predicted.

"Elbas, energy!" Noah shouted without adding more details.

"You must stop using me as a power source!" King Elbas complained from his position next to the layer of black metal. "Do you know how long do I need to refill my stashes every time I help you?"

"I know that you are still using Divine Architect's reward," Noah replied.

"I earned that!" King Elbas continued.

"Come on," Noah sighed. "I just had to deal with Heaven and Earth. Don't make it harder than it already is."

King Elbas and Sepunia stopped inspecting the black metal to turn toward Noah. They had vaguely learnt the details of the procedure, but they understood that Noah meant something else with his words.

The two experts flew toward Noah, and King Elbas handed him a rectangular metallic chunk in the middle tier. Noah didn't hesitate to make the dark world devour the item and send its energy toward the dragon to give it enough power to fix its existence.

The healing process picked up speed, but it didn't limit itself to the injuries. New muscles slowly grew under the cracked scales, and faint red shades started to cover the creature. A transformation had begun, and Noah could only nod at that sight.

"What did you mean with Heaven and Earth?" King Elbas asked.

Noah felt slightly tired. He had called upon the power of his ethereal blackness, and the energy absorbed from the dragon had prevented his mind from falling into its usual mental coma. He would rather rest than describe the negotiation with Heaven and Earth, but his companions' curiosity was impossible to ignore.

"They offered me the chance to study the arrays past the sky," Noah summarized, "But they wanted me to deal with the empty monster. Apparently, it has developed a non-world."

"I didn't expect them to ask your help," Sepunia commented. "The original plan involved the normal cultivators in their system."

"How much do you know about that?" Noah questioned.

"Not much," Sepunia explained. "It's not a matter of memories. Heaven and Earth didn't disclose details since the monster had yet to develop a non-world. I believe they had yet to pick the laws to send there."

"They will probably send cultivators who have the least chance of affecting the monster's nature," Noah guessed.

"They might have special bodies ready to fill with unique worlds," Sepunia stated. "The sky can turn into a massive workshop if the situation requires it, and Divine Architect is only the lead inscription master. Heaven and Earth might really succeed."

"Then we have to get there before them," Noah uttered.

"Which means getting stronger in the sky," King Elbas finally spoke. "This non-world is too dangerous to fall in Heaven and Earth's hands."

"And we are too weak to deal with it," Noah added when he understood that King Elbas was considering prioritizing the monster over the stability of his existence.

"Heaven and Earth would be nothing more than a stepping stone if they didn't have eras of preparation more than us," King Elbas cursed.

"They are still stepping stones," Noah commented, "Annoying and troublesome stepping stones."

King Elbas nodded before pointing at the layer of dark metal in the distance and explaining the results of his inspection. "I can come up with weapons, but I believe we should focus on protections. Hiding our presence should also be a priority, but I can fuse that with the defenses."

Noah had stolen an immense amount of dark metal from the island, but that resource remained limited. The three experts were even affecting the world's fairness by using it against Heaven and Earth, so there was a chance that they might halt its natural appearance forever.

The group had to plan how to use the metal in different projects and even leave some of it in its raw form in case they needed it in the future. However, a growl suddenly resounded in the area and attracted their attention.

The dragon had transformed during its healing process. It had retained its strange neck, but it wasn't skinny anymore. Thick layers of muscles had appeared under its dark-red scales, and its wings had broadened, transforming into body parts that could endure its new weight.

"Can you use your innate ability?" Noah quickly asked through a growl.

The dragon felt a bit dizzy, but it still nodded and activated its strange organ. A black substance immediately filled its neck and flowed down its spikes.

Noah, Sepunia, and King Elbas made sure to inspect the effects of the liquid on the dark matter. The two materials didn't fuse, but they didn't try to destroy each other either.

Noah stretched his arm and tested the effects of the dark liquid on his body. Nothing happened to his mind when it touched the material. He felt the familiar trust iconic of the black metal, but his limb remained intact. The procedure had been a success.

"You are still transforming," Noah explained before retracting his hand. "Being with me will also remove the limits of your species, so your body will continue to change as you absorb energy. Yet, you are on a path that opposes the sky now."

"All magical beasts are," The dragon complained.

"Not like this," Noah revealed before gathering the dark liquid released by the dragon.

Smiles appeared among the group. The three experts didn't have to hold back anymore now... They had just obtained an endless source of dark metal.