

Demonic 2021

Chapter 2021 Sky

Performing a mission in the sky required many steps, and King Elbas and Noah explored the entirety of Sepunia's memories before starting planning them.

Sadly, the sky wasn't something that the group could predict. Sepunia's memories confirmed that Heaven and Earth could modify their home freely, so part of her knowledge was useless.

The three experts couldn't only move their focus on different aspects of that mission. They couldn't barge inside the sky and hope that everything went well. They had to do their best to keep their invasion a secret, which had to start from inside the stormy regions since Heaven and Earth were already aware of their intentions.

The dead zone was a good starting point since Heaven and Earth's control was relatively weak there. The experts could set up workshops inside the dark world and prepare items that could keep their presence hidden even after leaving that safe area. Heaven and Earth had to lose track of the group even before they approached the sky to avoid facing powerful defenses.

A universal item wasn't enough when it came to such a difficult mission. Noah, Sepunia, King Elbas, and the dragon radiated different auras, which could cause issues if the cloaking devices didn't suit them perfectly. Still, the beast had an innate advantage now that it had become Heaven and Earth's enemy again. The creature could cover itself in its dark liquid to hide its presence, so its preparations ended there.

The situation was far different for the three experts, but they had enough time to develop a solution carefully. King Elbas developed a special powder, Sepunia fused the black metal with part of her mental waves to give her illusions the same properties, and Noah relied on the dark matter to copy those features.

Of course, that simple project took years of studies and tests. The experts' only advantage came from the black metal itself since it wanted them to learn its properties. Yet, the group had to understand how powerful their methods actually were, so they invested a long time exposing themselves to the whiteness.

The testing phase obviously informed Heaven and Earth about the project, but the experts didn't care. They couldn't evaluate their cloaking methods without exposing themselves to the sky, and they believed that the rulers would have learnt about them anyway. That knowledge wouldn't matter as long as the trio succeeded in the task.

Confirming that they could hide their presence from Heaven and Earth was only the first part of the preparations. The experts had to develop defenses and weapons that used the dark metal's unique properties, but they felt easier to create, at least part of them.

The three experts built disposable devices that didn't use the unique signature of their auras before approaching more specific creations. King Elbas used the dark metal to invent runes and spears that relied on pieces of his existence to express their power. Sepunia used her abilities to make an ethereal

organ that could add the material to her world if necessary. Instead, Noah stored part of the substance inside his black hole to mix it with his techniques if the situation required it.

Each defense or weapon forced the group to perform countless tests. Everything had to be perfect before approaching the sky. Noah, Sepunia, and King Elbas even had to predict what Heaven and Earth could throw at them to create something that could save them.

It took a while, but the group eventually felt ready to start the mission. They had enough black metal to continue building protections and weapons for entire millennia. Still, they couldn't invest so much time in the preparations since Noah and King Elbas eventually started to experience the heavy drawbacks caused by their power.

King Elbas' body had grown unstable during those years. The cracks in his existence had continued to expand, and his methods couldn't delay the process any further. He had to complete his world, or his whole being would shatter into a mass of final energy.

Noah had it relatively better, but he wasn't in a good spot either. The Cursed Sword and Night weren't a problem, but the parasite made it hard for him. Its constant absorption wasn't something that his centers of power could withstand on their own, and the stormy regions weren't a suitable energy source. He would have to travel constantly to satisfy the plant, but that was only a temporary solution.

The parasite required so much energy that Noah had to come out of the dark world to feed on the storms to make sure that his level didn't fall. That fuel didn't even improve his centers of power. The plant was hindering his growth, and his condition would only worsen once his other companions stepped in the ninth rank.

Only a proper breakthrough of his centers of power could solve the issue. Noah didn't know how strong he would become after completing his world, but he felt sure that he wouldn't have problems withstanding his many assets. After all, the latter had reached such high realms due to his insane standards.

Once the preparations ended, the group activated their cloaking devices and rushed out of the dark world. Noah wore his fiendish armor, King Elbas had dark runes shining on his skin, a dark halo covered Sepunia, and a dense layer of the dark liquid enveloped the dragon as they flew across the storms.

The group flew for many years to make sure that Heaven and Earth couldn't predict their starting point. They didn't speak nor release energy that could reveal their current position as they avoided every magical beast they met to reach a random area.

The experts stopped after they felt that they had put enough distance from the dead zone. They exchanged a meaningful glance and reaffirmed their resolve before starting their ascension. The sky grew brighter in their eyes as they approached its white surface, but they didn't dare to waste time studying it.

King Elbas stepped forward once the group reached the sky's edges. A dark rune appeared on his palm as he stretched his arm toward the white layer. Cracks slowly opened on that material until a proper hole took form and allowed the experts to enter that bright location.

Teleports and other formations would only reveal their starting point. King Elbas could come up with something that used the dark metal, but the whiteness would eventually deplete it and reveal his formations. The group had long since accepted that they couldn't prepare escape routes, so they didn't hesitate to enter the sky and begin their mission.

Initially, the group saw nothing more than whiteness. King Elbas and Noah couldn't help but find similarities with their mission into the void when they used one of the natural holes in the sky. Yet, something soon changed in their vision.

The hole eventually opened into a large area that resembled the separate dimension where the group had found the improved cultivators. Noah and the others found themselves in an immense tunnel that enveloped them in a blinding white light. The pressure on their minds there was tremendous, but the dark metal in their techniques protected them.

It was clear that the sky wasn't a place for rank 8 existences. Noah and King Elbas could sense how their centers of power struggled to exist there even when the dark metal protected them. Still, they soon noticed how Sepunia and the dragon were in a similar situation. Heaven and Earth's home naturally suppressed those that didn't belong to their system.

The group had to reevaluate their initial predictions about the consumption of dark metal, but that wasn't enough to make them abandon their mission. They silently adjusted their calculations and refilled their cloaking devices before proceeding in a random direction.

The tunnel felt alive but also empty. Noah couldn't sense anything even when he relied on his superior awareness, but the environment eventually changed again.

The tunnel opened into another immense area that made the group stop in their tracks. Countless tall buildings unfolded in their eyes, and multiple crackling avatars stood above them... The city had an army of rank 9 creatures, and some of them even touched the upper tier.

Chapter 2022 Center

Noah and his team had long since stopped viewing the crackling avatars as worthy opponents. Those puppets weren't weak, but Heaven and Earth had used them in countless punishments. Each expert who managed to reach the ninth rank had memorized their functioning and had learnt how to counter them.

However, the sheer number of crackling avatars made Noah and King Elbas reevaluate that idea. They didn't fear a small platoon, and they also believed that they could deal with a single upper tier puppet. Still, the city contained too many of them. Noah wouldn't have trouble completing the requirements for the ninth rank if he absorbed a mere fraction of them.

'This is too much,' Noah thought as the massive display of power left him astonished.

Noah had always known that Heaven and Earth had eras to prepare themselves for the final battle. He had never underestimated their power either, but that scene was simply too much. The rulers would have enough energy to recreate multiple higher planes with what they had accumulated in a single city, and he believed that they had more of them inside the sky.

In theory, there had to be a limit to Heaven and Earth's assets, but that had turned out to be a mere miscalculation. Every existence that dared to go against the rulers used the punishments to gain a vague idea of the power contained in the sky, but that only led to delusions.

Heaven and Earth had to stick to their fairness, but the sky was their world. They didn't have rules among those shining surfaces. They could use all the energy accumulated and generated across eras of their unmatched domain over the world to create countless assets, and Noah had finally gained the chance to witness part of them.

The army of avatars alone wasn't too scary when Noah considered his full potential. He knew that those powerful puppets turn into nothing more than flies in his eyes once he hit the very peak of the cultivation journey. Yet, the road to the solid stage was immense, and he feared what would happen if Heaven and Earth found the right loophole in their fairness. No one would be safe at that point.

The worry caused by that spectacular sight only worsened the group's situation. Their defenses founded on the dark metal were preventing the pressure in the environment from affecting their centers of power, but the whiteness was depleting that resource at a fast pace. It seemed that the sky could crush them with its mere presence, which added a faint tension that the experts couldn't disperse.

Noah felt as if his understanding of the sky had broadened during those short seconds spent immersed in his astonishment. He had always considered the white layer as the final destination, and he had even accepted that it could be the embodiment of Heaven and Earth's power. At some point, he had also seen it as a trap, especially before the mission. Yet, his idea had transformed again.

The sky was a world on its own that stood above the realm of the higher plane. The gap between them was also immense since the former had the power to generate Immortal Lands without being affected by that loss of energy. Still, Noah had decided to invade it anyway.

Noah finally understood his state. He was a rat who couldn't resist the scent of the best food in the world. Noah wasn't a proud and ambitious existence willing to go farther than everyone else for his goals. He was a filthy robber who had every chance to die due to his recklessness.

Noah sensed King Elbas' eyes on his figure, but he didn't turn. He had nothing to say to his friend. They could only accept that Heaven and Earth were as talented as them, and defeating them would require more than perfect plans.

In a normal situation, Noah would actually decide to retreat. He didn't feel any shame running away against an opponent that had turned out to be far stronger than his predictions. The cultivation journey had often put those twists in front of him, but his priority had always been on preserving his life.

However, the situation was far different now. Noah would even label it as helpless. Both he and King Elbas needed the sky to move forward, and it had become clear that the area could satisfy their requirements. The only problem was that Heaven and Earth would inevitably discover the presence of rats inside their home.

King Elbas needed a specific part of the sky to complete his transformation. His final existence required something that only Heaven and Earth could have. He wanted a chunk of whiteness that expressed the many laws carried by the rulers.

Something so important wouldn't be in the peripheral parts of the sky. Even the cities weren't as valuable as that material. After all, King Elbas wanted part of Heaven and Earth's core. That probably was the best resource in the entire plane.

Instead, Noah only needed energy. In a different situation, he would have decided to cause a mess in the city, absorb what he could, and run back in the safety of the stormy regions. The event wouldn't grant him enough fuel since Heaven and Earth would chase him away before that. Yet, it would be an important feat capable of increasing his potential and bringing him closer to the ninth rank.

His situation didn't allow him to deploy the safe plan. Noah couldn't start his absorption there since it would only warn Heaven and Earth about his presence. His group had to proceed deeper into the sky and remain hidden until they found the right target.

'Each building probably has rank 9 cultivators,' Sepunia said through precise mental waves that didn't affect the environment at all. 'Heaven and Earth call those in the eighth rank at times, but they aren't too useful during the trance.'

Noah and King Elbas limited themselves to nod before retreating deeper into the tunnel and resuming their digging. It was hard to keep track of their movements inside that white environment. Up and down were also vague due to the heavy pressure that filled their surroundings. Those features reminded the two experts about the void, even if the source of those sensations were different.

The dark substance in their techniques couldn't help during the exploration. The experts were temporarily safe, but they didn't want to leave any trace of their passage. Even remaining in the same position for too long could alert Heaven and Earth due to the black spots they created in the rulers' perception.

The group felt almost lucky that Heaven and Earth didn't react to the holes they dug inside the sky. It seemed that the dormant state made the rulers unable to see those narrow tunnels in areas that only carried the power to absorb laws. Of course, the experts had tested that beforehand, but they couldn't feel sure about that feature until now.

The direction of the travel felt relatively mandatory. What King Elbas wanted was priceless, so it had to be in a safe or protected area. Those places usually involved separate dimensions with entrances placed right in the middle of a dangerous environment, and the group planned to find them.

The experts limited themselves to ascend during the first part of their travel. The chunks of the sky that contained Heaven and Earth's core probably were at the very center of that white structure, so the group had to understand how large it was to find that midpoint.

The group dug in a straight line for a long time until they eventually found the end of the whiteness. The void unfolded in their vision and confirmed that they had reached the other side of the sky.

The event made them ready for the core part of the mission... It was time to explore the central parts of the sky and find their desired priceless resource.

Chapter 2023 Surprise

The journey up until the other side of the sky had been perfect. The white layer had turned out to be a solid mass of Heaven and Earth's most intense feature for the most part. The glowing material that only

wanted to devour other laws made the largest share of that immense structure, and the group could only feel grateful for that.

It made sense for Heaven and Earth to be unable to locate the experts or even understand that they had entered the sky. The dark material in their techniques made them invisible, and the rulers' dormant state didn't allow them to notice the narrow tunnels appearing in those relatively disposable areas.

Noah felt like an actual rat roaming through parts of a house difficult to inspect. The owners would sense faint steps and suppressed squeals if they were in the right spot and awake, but he made sure to keep the situation in his favor.

Calculating the actual center of the sky felt hard due to the pressure that hindered the experts' senses, and approaching that part of the mission turned out to be even harsher. The issue came from the immense size of that white layer. The group could reach its midpoint, but that didn't shrink the area they had to cover. A fraction of a seemingly endless mass remained endless.

Still, that remained within their expectations, so they didn't hesitate to proceed once they reached what they felt to be the center of the sky. Noah listened to his instincts and picked a direction where his group resumed to dig.

The experts kept their communications to a minimum. Noah, King Elbas, and the dragon didn't talk at all during the journey. Only Sepunia used precise mental waves from time to time to describe parts of the sky that still occupied her memories.

Her descriptions only happened when the group found other cities. They soon discovered that the buildings in those central areas were taller and shone with a brighter glow. The auras and the avatars there also hinted at the presence of stronger cultivators, which Sepunia justified with their closeness to Heaven and Earth's core.

The group avoided every city they found, performing long detours to make sure that they didn't barge in some large halls by mistake. The heavy tension never left them, but that didn't stop them from proceeding as planned.

The dragon had the most important role during the mission. King Elbas could deploy countless inscription methods that relied on the dark substance, and Noah's dark world had multiple uses. Sepunia could also be incredibly useful with her illusions, but only the beast had the power to refill the stashes of dark metal.

Everything would end if the group depleted their dark metal, so the dragon couldn't stop producing it. King Elbas took care of retrieving that substance whenever it risked affecting the environment, and he also refilled the dragon's energy through items prepared before the mission.

The dragon's innate ability couldn't possibly compensate for the depletion of the stash of dark metal, but it could mitigate it, and that could make the difference in the mission. The beast had immense resilience, but it risked ending up exhausted multiple times as the journey continued. Luckily for the creature, its group had stashed enough pills, potions, and sources of energy that could bring it back at its peak in no time.

The group was in the process of avoiding another large hall when they noticed that something was off. The cities often had large tunnels that connected them from the poor parts of the sky, but the seemingly empty zone that had appeared in front of them didn't have anything similar. The experts needed to squint their eyes and rely on Sepunia's powers to gain a vague view of the environment in front of them, but what they saw made them put aside the idea of taking another detour.

Sepunia had to use a massive amount of dark metal to deploy illusions to turn the white layers in front of the group transparent. Of course, the effect applied only to her companions. No one would be able to notice that those intruders were able to inspect the vast empty area that contained a single rotating prism at its center.

It felt strange for a vast area to contain such a small item, but everything became clear after a few thorough inspections. The surfaces of the empty zone were different from the other white areas of the sky. They had functions that went beyond the simple devouring ability. They sent and reflected power so that the prism could remain immersed in that incredible environment.

The energy sent forward had various features. Noah recognized many laws and failed to understand even more of them. The area resembled a massive workshop meant to inscribe the prism with different true meanings and force them to harmonize in a single item.

'I think I get it,' King Elbas transmitted through precise mental waves. 'Noah, did you study the inscription method from the Mortal Lands that I connected to our world? The natives there used something similar. They didn't even come close to this level of complexity, but the theory is the same.'

Noah didn't need King Elbas' explanation to reach those conclusions, but he acknowledged that parts of that inscription method were impossible to understand with his current expertise. Heaven and Earth didn't only create an item capable of harmonizing so many different laws. The surfaces of the halls also had the power to evaluate the number of true meanings that the prism could contain.

The environment inside the hall often changed, almost after every rotation of the circular item. The surfaces would constantly adapt the density and purpose of the true meanings in the area, which stated that they would notice the group's arrival.

'Do you think that's what we are looking for?' Noah asked through his consciousness.

'It must be,' King Elbas revealed. 'I believe Heaven and Earth are trying to use a general theory behind the formations to harmonize their existence and raise it to the tenth rank. This item probably is only one of the many cores that fill the sky.'

'So, we need to take it,' Noah sighed while drawing his swords.

His gesture didn't need explanations. Everyone knew that they couldn't steal something so important without triggering defenses. They would definitely try to hide their actions, but none of them believed that their methods would be enough.

The order made the experts get to work. The group approached the lower part of the empty area and began to dig a tunnel that led toward the stormy regions. The process required a long time and depleted a large amount of dark metal, but no one complained about that since they didn't dare to approach that part of the mission without planning an escape route.

The group didn't pierce the external layer of the sky. They stopped digging right before returning to the stormy regions to limit their influence. At that point, they flew back to the empty area and prepared themselves to enter it.

Noah and King Elbas went in the group's lead and exchanged a resolute glance before piercing the white material in front of them and shooting toward the prism. A dense aura immediately enveloped them, and its nature also changed as their defenses naturally destroyed the laws in the empty area. Still, they didn't slow down at all.

The prism turned out to be more than a simple sphere. It had many faces, and each of them radiated a slightly different aura. It seemed that the laws contained in the item had never fully harmonized, but Noah didn't ignore the possibility of being in front of an incomplete inscribed material.

King Elbas also had those guesses, but he didn't halt his tracks. He took the item inside his figure while replacing it with a simple copy created during the inspection.

The two immediately shot back into the tunnel after the exchange, but a figure suddenly came out from a surface nearby. A short woman who radiated a gaseous stage aura entered the empty zone, and surprise filled her expression when she noticed the two experts.

That surprise didn't last long since a black line suddenly cut her in half and shattered her world... A shadow then brought her pieces toward Noah.

Chapter 2024 Gains

Night had been ready to attack since the group stepped into the sky. Its intentions weren't casual. Its peculiar existence made it hard to notice by Heaven and Earth even in its normal form, so it was basically invisible after adding a layer of dark matter containing the dark metal.

Noah inspected the pieces of the world brought back by Night after returning inside the tunnel. The gaseous stage cultivator killed by the Pterodactyl didn't belong to Heaven and Earth's system. She was one of the privileged experts, but the abrupt attack from a being that she couldn't see had destroyed her on the spot.

Night was as deadly as always, but the surprise experienced by the expert when she noticed Noah and King Elbas had played an important part in her death. The Pterodactyl had a clear path to its target, and it exploited that chance perfectly.

The group descended through the tunnel for a while before turning their attention upward. They expected Heaven and Earth to stir a mess after what happened, but nothing moved. The sky remained still as if the rulers didn't understand that they had suffered a significant loss.

'What is happening?' King Elbas asked through his mental waves.

'Did the cultivator have her world?' Sepunia questioned.

'She did, but Night shattered it in an instant,' Noah revealed.

'Heaven and Earth might not have noticed the disappearance of that world from their system then,' Sepunia explained. 'The cultivator had retrieved it in the end.'

'Why didn't they react to the theft?' King Elbas continued.

'The item is probably incomplete,' Noah guessed.

'I know, but how does that change anything?' King Elbas wondered. 'The prism is still incredibly powerful. I expected at least some earthquakes.'

'Maybe the formation sees it as one of the inevitable failures,' Sepunia said. 'You didn't steal the cores of those laws from Heaven and Earth's system, so they might only see it as a loss of energy.'

That explanation slightly managed to quell King Elbas' doubts. His theft didn't involve Heaven and Earth's system since the laws in the prism still existed in the sky. He had stolen an item capable of harmonizing them, but the rulers could replicate it easily as long as they had time and energy.

The sky was so full of energy that Heaven and Earth probably didn't sense those small losses as long as they didn't involve actual laws in their system. Both Noah and King Elbas didn't touch that part of the rulers' power, so no reactions happened. Of course, their dormant state was to blame for that lack of control.

'Do you have enough to stabilize your existence?' Noah eventually asked.

'It might be enough,' King Elbas stated. 'The prism might be incomplete, but I've memorized the process. I can probably develop weaker versions and fill eventual gaps if necessary.'

'We can leave then,' Noah admitted before glancing at his companions.

The mission had gone flawlessly. King Elbas had obtained what he needed, and Noah had managed to kill a privileged cultivator, even if only a weak one. In theory, they had no other reason to remain in that dangerous environment, but it was evident that everyone wanted a bit more.

The past period had been tense, but the mission had been relatively easy. The group had used the right tools and had prepared thoroughly for the journey in the sky, so they felt to have earned that peaceful outcome. However, the sky seemed unresponsive, which potentially allowed them to remain there a bit longer.

Noah felt that his potential increased after every second spent in that environment. He also wanted a prism, even hundreds of them if possible. The item seized by King Elbas had almost approached the limits of the middle tier, but the sky surely had far stronger versions. They even seem to contain far more energy than other materials at the same level, so stealing many of them sounded like a good plan.

'We aren't leaving, right?' Sepunia asked before covering her mouth to hide her giggle.

'It doesn't feel right if we don't cause a mess of some sort,' Noah revealed.

'Don't look at me,' King Elbas uttered. 'I'm with you on this one. It would be a pity to waste this chance.'

The dragon couldn't speak through mental waves since it lacked a sea of consciousness, but Noah only needed to glance at the creature to see that it agreed with the general opinion of the group. Everyone wanted to gain something out of that mission, so they would continue to explore the whiteness until problems appeared.

Noah took the group's lead while King Elbas was busy focusing on the prism inside his body. The former didn't have complicated runes at hand, but his fiendish armor had enough dark metal to cause similar effects.

The group made sure to return at the center of the sky only after they crossed the empty area robbed previously. They all wanted to see what had happened there after taking the prism, but they knew that investigating the hall would only cause problems.

The journey resumed, and the experts soon found themselves in front of another empty hall. The prism at its center appeared spherical again, but the group could see its many faces now that they paid attention to that detail. It seemed that they had encountered another imperfect item, but they only cared about the peak middle tier aura that it radiated.

The group repeated the same preparations as before. They went under the empty hall and created a tunnel that almost connected the structure with the external surface that shone on the stormy regions. Then, they barged inside the area and seized the prism before hiding deep inside the passage.

Noah took the prism for himself at that time, but everyone still did their best during the inspection. The sky didn't react to the theft again, so Noah could devour the item as the group moved toward their next target.

The unresponsiveness of the sky gave the group the chance to seize multiple prisms. Their idea of exploring the central parts of the white layer had turned out to be on point, so they met many empty areas on their path.

Noah could finally sense his body getting stronger again after devouring those powerful materials. The parasite wanted to affect the procedure, but he split the shares of energy in his favor. Also, the plant vaguely understood that it needed its host to grow if it wanted to gain access to those resources again, so it didn't oppose Noah's limitations too much.

The group continued stealing everything they found until they found something different in the empty hall that appeared in front of them. The area still contained an environment rich in dense laws, but it was far bigger at that time. Moreover, it had three prisms rotating in an elliptic orbit at its center.

The area had another peculiar feature. Fifteen avatars stood on the unique surfaces that regulated the laws and sent lightning bolts toward the prisms to enhance the harmony among their true meanings. Twelve of those puppets were in the lower tier, two in the middle tier, and one in the upper tier.

The powerful platoon followed the surfaces' orders to adjust the power of their white lightning bolts, but they didn't notice the experts inspecting the scene right outside the empty area... Noah and the others also focused on the puppets only for a short while since they soon sensed an upper tier aura flowing out of the three prisms.

Chapter 2025 Escape

The three prisms were rank 9 items in the upper tier, and Noah's group inevitably desired them. Yet, they had a platoon made of fifteen crackling avatars to overcome, and one of them was in the upper tier. Moreover, the experts couldn't forget their location. They were right in the middle of the sky.

'Can you deal with the powerful avatars?' Sepunia asked through her mental waves.

Sepunia had inspected Noah and King Elbas from the sky, and she had traveled with them in the last period. She had a deep knowledge of their power and potential, but their opponent remained an upper tier avatar. She couldn't know whether her companions had already managed to step in that realm.

Noah and King Elbas exchanged a long glance. They knew what was happening in their friend's mind. In theory, both of them had yet to touch the upper tier in terms of power, but they would be against an opponent that they knew far too well if they decided to steal the prisms. They had a chance to win as long as they worked together and took their enemies by surprise.

Noah and King Elbas didn't need to think much about the issue. They could understand each other with a mere glance after spending millennia together. Their mindsets were also similar, so they could accept that the sky wouldn't give them another valuable chance.

The experts didn't believe that they could keep their presence hidden for much longer. Heaven and Earth were in a dormant state, but the group had stolen many prisms already. The latter could probably change direction and try to find weaker empty areas to rob, but the mission would lose its purpose at that point.

Instead, they could score an incredible loot if they seized the three upper tier prisms and left the sky safely. The three items probably were the best that their current power would allow them to take, and they even sounded like a fitting last prize for their mission. It was impossible to remain hidden, so the group decided to expose themselves with a blast.

'We'll have only one shot at this,' Noah explained through his consciousness. 'Unleash everything you have after the prisms disappear. Elbas and I will handle the stronger avatars.'

That simple order started a series of preparations. The group went under the empty area and dug a tunnel that led directly above the stormy regions. Stronger opponents would still be able to catch up with them, but they would have a clear escape path at least.

Once those preparations ended, King Elbas spent some time studying the insides of the empty area to find a rhythm in the avatars' lightning bolts. Those puppets attacked the prisms whenever the surfaces ordered that, and he couldn't let his group ending in the enemy offensive before they could reach the items.

King had to understand what the prisms needed to predict when the next lightning bolts would arrive, and that was impossible. However, he had a chance to succeed if he limited his study to the upper tier avatar. His whole being focused on inspecting the orders that involved that powerful creature until he uncovered a reliable rhythm.

'On my signal,' King Elbas ordered as Noah waited next to him, and the other two companions remained close behind.

The time to hold back was over. Heaven and Earth would discover them as soon as they threw themselves into the empty area, but everyone was ready, especially Noah. His target filled his vision, and no distraction managed to disturb his concentration. He let only a small part of his mind focus on King Elbas' raised arm as he waited for the signal to arrive.

King Elbas suddenly pointed forward, and Noah shot ahead. The thin layer of whiteness that divided the group from the empty area shattered as the fiendish armor touched that material. The avatars immediately noticed his presence and prepared themselves to alert the entirety of the sky, but darkness promptly enveloped their figures and suppressed their crackling noises.

Lightning bolts pierced the dark world. Some of them shattered entire chunks of the technique, and one even slammed on Noah. The attack came from a middle tier avatar, but those sparks didn't manage to hurt him.

The dark world and Noah's fiendish armor had used the dark metal, which naturally weakened Heaven and Earth's power. The avatars were almost perfect representations of the rulers' raw energy, so they suffered due to the substance contained in Noah's techniques. The pulling force generated by Shafu and Duanlong was enough to shatter the attack and absorb its energy after it crashed on his figure.

King Elbas' signal allowed Noah to take the upper tier avatar by surprise. The puppet had just released an attack, so it couldn't send anything after the expert. Noah could reach the three prisms in no time, and they disappeared as soon as he got close to them.

The sky inevitably sensed the event. The experts could remain hidden while they limited themselves to digging tunnels and seizing prisms that could fail to become complete cores on their own. However, their influence was impossible to miss after Noah filled the empty area with the dark world.

The white material around the empty area started to tremble as its glow brightened. The light tried to pierce the dark world, but the properties of the dark metal prevented it from affecting the technique.

The avatars could affect the dark world since they expressed Heaven and Earth's power differently. They carried destructive abilities that the mere light radiated by the sky lacked. The middle and upper tier puppets could even destroy entire chunks of the technique with simple lightning bolts, but the experts landed on them before they could cause too many problems.

Noah and King Elbas found themselves in the same spot of the dark world. The upper tier avatar was in front of them, with its arms raised toward the center of the empty area. The dark world prevented it from sensing its opponents, but it had every intention to destroy everything in its range.

King Elbas took out one of his best creations that relied on the dark metal. A spear that radiated a golden light tainted by black shades appeared in his hands and absorbed the dark matter in its surroundings to intensify its effects.

Noah frowned when he saw that King Elbas was taking his dark matter without his permission, but he didn't have time to focus on the issue. He pointed his swords forward and made their tips meet as he accumulated energy in their structures. His unstable substance and ambition empowered the attack as much as possible before a sharp wave of power flew forward.

King Elbas launched his spear after letting the sharp wave of power fly for a while. Noah's attack crashed on the avatar, and King Elbas' weapon followed, creating two explosions that fused before releasing their shockwaves in the rest of the empty area.

"When did you learn to steal my higher energy?" Noah asked as he shot toward the tunnel.

"I was borrowing it!" King Elbas complained while following him.

"You have become a shameless thief," Noah sighed.

"Shut up and focus on running away!" King Elbas scoffed.

Sepunia and the dragon had relied on the dark world to suppress the other avatars, but they had shot after their companions after everything was over. The group had seized the prisms. They had no reason to remain in the sky anymore.

Nevertheless, three figures materialized inside the white areas around the tunnel as the group tried to escape the sky... Noah could only curse in his mind when he sensed that all of them were in the liquid stage.

Chapter 2026 Clueless

Noah, King Elbas, and Sepunia unfolded their minds to inspect the three cultivators following them inside the sky. Some relief appeared on their faces when they noticed that only one of them had a world that didn't belong to Heaven and Earth's system. The other two had borrowed powers.

The group didn't interrupt their escape. They sensed the presence of enemies behind them, but the tunnel allowed them to fly toward the stormy regions without encountering hindrances. Noah and the others didn't need to fear the avatars that had survived their sudden attack, but the three cultivators seemed as fast as them, even if they moved through the white fabric of the sky.

'Why aren't they attacking?' Noah wondered as he continued to shoot forward.

Similar thoughts filled his companions' minds. The three cultivators limited themselves to follow the invaders, but they didn't exit the sky nor try to interrupt that escape.

The answer to those doubts arrived quickly. A series of crackling avatars appeared on the group's path and forced them to prepare attacks since one of those puppets was in the upper tier.

The new platoon tried to trap the group, but Noah and King Elbas wouldn't let that happen. They didn't slow down even when a barrage of lightning bolts left the white material of the sky and traveled through the tunnel to fly toward them.

Noah stored his blades and let roots pierce his palms. The parasite gave birth to two swords that drained his energy to express a level of destructiveness that his existence wouldn't be able to radiate on its own. That power was so intense that King Elbas felt forced to slow down and hide behind Noah's back.

Black lines appeared on the tunnel's surfaces as Noah's destructiveness reached its peak. Different aspects of his existence fused to enhance his ability to hurt Heaven and Earth. The roots in his hands started to tremble as dark matter entered their structure to give them even more power. Everything around him began to crumble, but the real chaos started after he unleashed his attack.

A dark wave of energy that radiated shockwaves and a corrosive liquid flew out of Noah's roots and forced the tunnel to enlarge. The core of the attack was already enough to trigger his destruction, but the dark-red and dark-purple shades that enveloped it enhanced those effects in ways that left even him surprised.

The tunnel's walls shattered. Noah's sharpness, bloodlust, and corrosiveness created an attack that expressed the entirety of his destruction and enmity against Heaven and Earth.

The barrage of lightning bolts could only crumble in front of the might of Noah's attack. Even the blow that carried upper tier energy shattered after it attempted to contain that destructiveness. Its power surpassed what Noah had released, but he had too many advantages against a mere puppet that expressed Heaven and Earth's aura.

The piercing slash crashed on the new platoon and almost completely annihilated it. Even the middle tier avatars couldn't survive that wave of power. Only the upper tier puppet remained in one piece, but black lines now covered the entirety of its crackling body.

Noah retracted his roots and focused on absorbing all the primary energy that his destruction had released in the environment. Meanwhile, King Elbas jumped in the frontlines and pointed his fingers toward the upper tier avatar to emit a golden beam that reached the puppet in no time.

King Elbas' attack wasn't powerful, but it triggered the destruction accumulated in the avatar's body. The puppet shattered and released its energy in the tunnel, but Noah quickly absorbed it as the group continued to fly forward.

"That will be enough," One of the cultivators inside the sky said before the whiteness in the area intensified.

Noah finally understood why the three cultivators didn't act until now. The light was teleporting the experts from different areas of the sky. The trio wasn't actually there. Heaven and Earth had tried to trick his group by sending those auras forward, but making them appear in the tunnel ended up requiring additional energy.

The three cultivators materialized on the group's path and unfolded their worlds. Noah and the others couldn't approach that fight lightly, but they couldn't stop either. Wasting time among the sky would only force them into worse situations, so they immediately launched attacks at the whiteness next to them to open another path.

The action ended up being useless since the three cultivators simply crossed the patch of sky that divided them from the new tunnel to appear in front of the group again. They had no restrictions in that environment after Heaven and Earth teleported them, and the experts silently accepted that a clash was inevitable.

Noah, King Elbas, Sepunia, and the dragon launched their best attacks without interrupting their charge. A corrosive wave of sharp energy, a spear, liquid flames, and a series of pinkish chunks flew forward.

The sky couldn't withstand the power discharged during that exchange. The group's abilities relied on the dark metal, so their effectiveness in the area was immense. A large hole appeared in that spot even if the three cultivators used their power to contain that destruction.

The man and the woman with worlds borrowed from Heaven and Earth found themselves unable to contain the massive power flying toward them. Noah and King Elbas had long since become able to deal with ordinary liquid stage cultivators, and the addition of their two companions only highlighted their superiority. The dark metal also played its part against opponents that relied so heavily on the rulers.

The exchange would have resulted in an overwhelming victory if it weren't for the other woman. The latter had a young face, but her blue eyes carried wisdom that only eras of struggles could generate. She even smiled in front of the incoming attacks before sending a series of spears forward.

The spears had appeared out of nowhere. The woman had taken them out of her world, but they weren't identical in their power. Each weapon carried a different meaning that could go from pure piercing power to destructive thrusts.

The weapons ended up shattering the wave of attacks flying toward her and forcing them to disperse among the sky. Noah did his best to recover all the energy he could, but most of the power came from the broken sky. The fuel released by his companions' attacks seemed toxic now.

"Let me guess," Noah commented. "You are a weapon master."

"I'm the weapon master," The woman replied while performing a deep bow. "I'm Axia. It's a pleasure to meet you."

"It would be a pleasure if you moved out of our way," Noah stated.

"I'm afraid I can't do that," Axia chuckled. "You have taken Heaven and Earth's cores. I can't let you leave with them."

"Everything seemed fine before we destroyed the avatars," Noah mocked before pointing at the puppets still following from behind him. "What is it? You can't win without reinforcements, can you?"

Axia closed her eyes to endure Noah's taunt, but she eventually decided to fall prey to his words. She raised a hand and pointed it at the avatars that had survived the sudden assault in the empty area before sending a barrage of arrows toward them.

The weapon destroyed the puppets and filled the area with energy that Noah didn't hesitate to absorb. All the injuries caused by the Cursed Sword and parasite healed, but a frown inevitably appeared in his mind. He knew that his destruction wasn't enough to affect Axia's mind, but she had decided to help him anyway.

"Are you also doing Caesar a favor?" Noah wondered.

"Nonsense," Axia snorted. "I would never help that lunatic. I was only repaying a favor. It's thanks to your friend that Heaven and Earth are still clueless about my world."

Chapter 2027 Thief

Noah didn't have to question Axia to understand the identity of the friend that she mentioned. The cultivator was a weapon master, so Sword Saint's breakthrough had probably played an important role since the event had affected Heaven and Earth's understanding. Noah could guess that the expert also had blades in her world, so she gained time when the rulers lost the laws related to that field.

"I see that as another reason to let us pass," Noah tried his chances. "You got this time thanks to us. Repay us with the same currency."

"Don't make me lose respect in you," Axia sighed. "Your team has defied Heaven and Earth for millennia. I believe you didn't enter the sky without making suitable preparations. Show some trump card, and let's fight."

Noah's cold expression didn't flicker, but his companions knew how desperate the situation was. The nature of the sky had put a limit to their preparations. Their escape plan had failed, so they had to rely on their own power now. Yet, Dinia had already proven how they weren't enough against privileged liquid stage cultivators, especially when they added two more powerful experts to that calculation.

The dark metal could partially help in that situation, but Axia remained a problem that Noah didn't know how to solve. The cultivator belonged to Heaven and Earth's system, but she was one of the farthest assets when it came to resemblance to the rulers. She had joined the rulers, but she remained the only one who could use her world. The dark substance didn't see her as its target.

"Can you advance?" Noah asked.

"I'm afraid I need some time stabilizing my existence before approaching the breakthrough," King Elbas admitted. "I can help, but I can't do anything spectacular."

"It's on me then," Noah uttered.

"Do you have something?" King Elbas questioned.

"Probably," Noah revealed. "Luckily for you, the upper tier prisms are inside my separate space."

"Tell me that you aren't using our situation to take that energy for yourself," King Elbas shook his head.

"Your path has a thief has just started," Noah announced proudly. "I shall be your master in this long road to the peak."

"Dying can't be too bad, right?" King Elbas sighed. "I can also strike a deal with Heaven and Earth if I play my cards well."

Noah laughed before shattering the three prisms inside his separate space. Upper tier items would normally be harder to break for experts at his level, but his destruction was raging. He even had the dark metal, so reducing that material into primary energy turned out to be extremely easy.

The group had gathered a lot of energy after stealing many prisms, but nothing could compare to what Noah experienced after destroying the three upper tier items. He felt the fuel contained in materials created to stand at the very peak of the world filling his insides before flowing into the black hole to get purified. He even had to use his ambition to improve the process since his organ struggled before that massive power.

The energy that came out of his black hole quickly went toward his companions. Duanlong, Snore, and Shafu saw a massive wave of power filling their structures and improving them with the help of his ambition. Noah was forcing his assets to improve right before the clash with Axia.

The three cultivators didn't want to jump into the battle right away. Axia had destroyed the avatars, but that didn't change the nature of the situation. Their enemies were in the middle of the sky, and Heaven and Earth were aware of their presence. Escaping was virtually impossible since the rulers could always teleport more assets there.

Of course, Heaven and Earth would rather avoid spending energy if possible. Teleporting assets depleted a lot of fuel, especially when it came to worlds that they didn't control fully. Still, the rulers believed that Axia and her two companions would be more than enough to handle the experts. Dinia's battle had already proven where those enemies stood.

Noah kept everything happening inside his separate space hidden. He made sure that nothing leaked out of his figure as his companions used the energy of the prisms and his ambition to advance. Snore was his greatest worry since its existence was complicated, but it turned out that the snake had long since found a path.

'I would still prefer to escape,' Noah transmitted through the mental connection.

"Did you come up with a strategy?" Axia asked. "Can you fight? Should I start?"

Axia chuckled before pointing her hand toward Noah. King Elbas, Sepunia, and the dragon separated to leave the trajectory of the attack, but the two liquid stage cultivators immediately followed them to block eventual escape paths. Meanwhile, Axia released a series of maces that flew forward and created a barrage that carried multiple meanings.

Noah's eyes darted among the various weapons. He could sense deadliness, brute power, shockwaves, and much more in that barrage of white maces.

Axia seemed able to call upon the effects of every weapon and enhance their features. The maces were a safe option since they could crush everything that Noah tried to send forward, but she had no idea of what was about to come.

The maces flew in a straight line until they met a corrosive aura that affected their structure. The weapons started to shatter, but many of them managed to cross that deadly zone and converge toward Noah.

The weapons' problems didn't end there. A dense dark sea expanded from Noah's figure before the maces could converge on him. Axia initially believed that her opponent had unfolded the dark world, but she soon noticed that something was different.

The dark matter in the dark world could transform depending on Noah's needs, but the energy he had released wasn't flexible. It expressed something that felt familiar, but she couldn't immediately connect it to Snore due to its improved form.

Axia understood that something was off when she lost connection with her attack. Noah had managed to stop her maces, and she didn't know how, but her opponent didn't give her the chance to study the situation.

A shadow flew out of the dark sea that had appeared among the whiteness, but Axia snorted at that sight. She waved a hand, and a whip grew out of it. The expert cracked the weapon in the air, and Night found itself unable to move forward. The shockwaves released by the attack actually flung it backward.

Axia swung the whip toward the dark sea to uncover its insides, but her weapon remained stuck inside the technique. She couldn't complete the attack, so no shockwave spread, but her focus wasn't on that event. She felt utterly stunned that Noah had managed to interrupt her blow.

"What did you do?" Axia asked while dispersing her weapon.

"You left me with a bunch of energy," Noah exclaimed in a cold voice as he left the dark area. "What do you think I did? I ate everything."

Axia showed an ugly expression when she understood that Noah had already destroyed the prisms, but something else soon attracted her attention. Her opponent wasn't alone when he came out of the dark sea.

A giant winged snake and an odd dragon stood at his sides, he wielded the cursed sword and the roots, and a strange pressure seeped out of his figure. The Pterodactyl soon rejoined Noah to hover above him... Axia watched as six different rank 9 auras converged on her and started to inspect her power.

Chapter 2028 Final Weapon

Noah couldn't describe the pressure that he felt. His companions pressed on his mind, but that center of power could take their weight. However, the rest of his existence suffered. His dantian shrunk and his body felt sluggish as he endured the innate force radiated by six beings in the ninth rank.

Night, Duanlong, Shafu, and Snore could somewhat control the pressure that their existence sent toward Noah, but the Cursed Sword and the parasite couldn't do anything about that. The blade's bloodlust and the plant's constant absorption worsened his condition and forced his law to shrink back when those features fused with what the rest of his companions released.

"Can you even move in that condition?" Axia asked in a mocking tone that didn't hide the slight worry that had started to spread in her mind.

The experts in the sky had long since committed Noah's power to memory. Heaven and Earth had a whole catalog with his growth and incredible feats that the cultivators in their system could inspect. Axia could immediately understand what drawbacks Noah's current condition would have, but he didn't show any regret.

That passage was necessary and almost mandatory due to his current situation. Noah had probably gathered enough energy to push his body into the ninth rank during the journey in the sky, but that breakthrough would require a long period of hibernation inside a chrysalis. Axia and the other cultivators wouldn't just wait for him to complete the process.

Instead, his companions were part of his existence and independent beings at the same time. They could take the prisms' energy and benefit from the unique environment inside the separate space to complete their breakthroughs in no time.

That advantage was the very reason behind the force currently pressing on Noah's existence, but he didn't care. He could always deal with the consequences of his reckless actions after escaping that awful situation, but he couldn't solve his problems without those breakthroughs.

Noah didn't answer. He limited himself to reveal a cold smile before pointing the roots in his left hand toward Axia. The parasite immediately stretched forward until flowers grew on its structure.

The parasite drained an immense amount of energy from Noah's body to give birth to a series of seeds that created copies of its main structure. Axia inspected the various branches of the plant that grew on

the battlefield calmly, but she quickly noticed that something was off. The fiendish armor around her opponent had remained intact after that display of power, which didn't match what Dinia had experienced.

The explanation for that odd event wasn't hard to find. Axia had initially been too caught in the six rank 9 auras, but she eventually noticed how the sky around her was falling apart at an unfathomable pace. The previous clash had already expanded the battlefield, but the current destruction almost made the light radiated by the white material fail to reach that area.

Duanlong and Shafu couldn't let Noah bear the cost of the parasite on his own. Actually, they wanted to exempt him from any price. The two dragons gave their everything to enhance their suction forces and affect the sky around them to gather masses of energy that could satisfy the plant.

'That's how it should be,' Noah thought as he bathed in the echoes of his power. 'My power feeds on the sky to defeat my opponents.'

Axia didn't miss how Noah's ambition had intensified after his companions had stepped into the ninth rank, and that didn't only come from the successful theft of many valuable resources. Night, Snore, the parasite, Duanlong, Shafu, and the Cursed Sword now radiated his iconic law on their own. The harmony that they had reached after stepping into the ninth rank had allowed them to gain their master's power.

Of course, the ambition that the companions could release wasn't at Noah's level. The difference in their potential was immense, but those gaps seemed to vanish when the six of them radiated that power at the same time. Also, Noah could even add his own law to the process and create something that went far beyond his usual might.

Heaven and Earth could do something similar. They were stronger among the sky, avatars, and cultivators that echoed their power. The rulers were a proper system since their featured living beings, but it seemed that Noah had reached the same state.

A sudden realization dawned upon Axia when she understood that Noah was getting close to Heaven and Earth's state without relying on the absorption of a proper world. She knew that she would have had no chances against him if his dantian or body had stepped into the ninth rank. She felt sure that his current might was close to hers.

The parasite and its branches expanded throughout the battlefield and filled it with a dark-purple liquid that instinctively flew toward the white walls in the distance. The plant wanted to devour every trace of Heaven and Earth, and the three cultivators weren't an exception. King Elbas, the dragon, and Sepunia had started to fight with the two liquid stage experts, but the arrival of the roots and corrosive substance forced them to retreat.

Axia remained calm as roots stretched toward her. Those pointy items launched dark-purple liquid toward her, but a shield intercepted those attacks. However, the corrosive substance destroyed the weapon in mere seconds.

The roots could shoot toward Axia without finding hindrances, but the expert remained calm and still. It was hard for her to accept that someone could be far more monstrous than her. After all, her world had survived Heaven and Earth's study for a long time. Yet, it was clear that Noah was above her.

The corrosive pressure radiated by the roots almost began to affect her skin, but a shockwave suddenly flew out of her figure. Axia took a step forward before stopping in front of the branch of the parasite that had reached her. She blew on the plant, and everything crumbled.

The roots that had almost reached Axia belonged to one of the last branches. Its seed was still trying to stretch them, but the destruction caused by the cultivator spread until it reached that core. The whole plant fell apart, and its pieces lost their corrosive power before falling downward.

Noah's eyes sharpened. He didn't see Axia's attack, but he had managed to inspect the true meanings that had destroyed the parasite's branch. She had released sharpness, brute force, precise cuts, and much more in a single blow. She didn't even summon weapons to apply those effects.

"Do you believe in the existence of a final weapon?" Axia asked as she advanced fearlessly toward the area occupied by the parasite. "What form do you think it would have?"

The parasite didn't hesitate to release dark-purple liquid with all its roots. The whiteness of the sky almost vanished as a sea of corrosive substance fell toward Axia and tried to devour her in mere seconds.

"Something like this doesn't exist," Axia announced while another shockwave shot out of her figure and made the corrosive sea freeze on its spot. "Many cultivators have tried to reach such perfection, but that's impossible without complete knowledge of every path that involves weapons. Unless you are me, of course."

The corrosive sea crumbled, and part of the roots behind that suffered the same fate. Noah didn't see Axia's attack again, but he was starting to understand what was happening... The cultivator was releasing all the possible effects that her weapons could generate at the same time and in a single blow.

Chapter 2029 Finger

In theory, it was impossible to fuse different or even opposite natures in the same attack. Exceptions existed, but they always involved two or three qualities that had a common core.

Noah could use his destruction and creation in the same blows, but he had required a unique technique to succeed. The attack also worked because his existence connected those opposite powers.

Instead, Axia was bringing that process to the limit. She could fuse the flexibility of a whip with the sharpness of a long blade and the destructiveness of a mace in the same attack without weakening those different features. That was even a mere example. Her actual technique used hundreds of abilities mixed into a blow that didn't carry any shape.

Noah could immediately understand that Axia had no weak spots. Her world was the result of countless weapon arts fused into an attack that expressed their peak. Truth be told, the swordmaster in him couldn't help but admire her level of expertise.

However, Noah had always been much more than his sword. Even Sword Saint had to give up on making him stick to that single path. His existence was too vast for a single weapon, and even many of them wouldn't be able to contain it.

Axia continued to advance, and shockwaves came out of her body whenever the parasite tried to send something toward her. It was clear that the plant was powerless on its own, but Noah let the expert waste energy as he continued to study her power. Her world felt hard to destroy, but perfection didn't exist, so even she had to feature flaws, but his mind needed time to find them.

Noah performed a sharp gesture with his left hand, and the parasite cut the long roots to restore its state as a sword. He then raised his blades above his head before launching a descending slash toward the incoming opponent.

The massive curved slash that came out of the swords absorbed the roots that Axia had yet to destroy in its structure. Purple shades appeared on its surface as it flew forward and fused all the power accumulated by the parasite's branches into a single blow. The might of the ability was so massive that the two liquid stage cultivators decided to ignore their opponents to admire it. They felt lucky that it wasn't flying toward them.

Axia didn't slow down in front of the slash. She inspected the attack with her calm eyes and waved her hand when it was to fall on her. The corrosive and sharp mass of power crumbled, and the destructive aura around it also vanished due to the shockwave that she had released.

Everything that Noah had built in the previous minutes had vanished after a few attacks. Axia appeared unstoppable, but Noah's smile broadened nonetheless. The cultivator had to resort to a different gesture to deal with his slash. The event didn't only show that Axia had yet to use her full power. It also proved how he had a chance to defeat her.

'Let's kill her,' Noah ordered through the mental connection, and his companions answered by intensifying the ambition radiated by their figures.

Night disappeared in the environment, and Duanlong took its position behind Noah as Snore spread its massive wings toward the battlefield. King Elbas and Sepunia couldn't miss that event, and they immediately sought cover since they knew what was about to come. Their opponents found an opening due to that abrupt escape, but they didn't waste that chance to hide either. Everyone knew what the snake could unleash with its feathers.

Axia actually stopped moving forward to prepare for the imminent release of violent energy. She didn't know how strong Snore had become after the breakthrough but underestimating a creature that expressed the dark world's destructiveness was too reckless even for an expert at her level.

Nevertheless, Snore didn't release the attack that everyone was anticipating. Its feathers stood up, but they shone with a dark light before releasing a series of beams that converged in Axia's position.

Axia raised her hand, but her eyes widened right before the beams could hit her. The cultivator immediately performed an evasive maneuver to escape from their trajectory and reappear higher in the area. She then followed the attack with her gaze and confirmed that she had made the correct decision.

The beams converged in her previous position before fusing into a thicker wave of energy that continued to fly forward. The attack soon reached the white surface of the sky and pierced it, creating a vast tunnel that stretched far in the distance. None of the experts in the area could sense when that dark power stopped destroying the white material.

Snore's attack appeared unstoppable. It was stronger than the slash previously released by Noah, and its nature also made it harder to deal with. The snake had sacrificed all the incredible properties of the dark world to express a single feature in ways that even Noah couldn't imitate. His destruction also struggled to keep up with the sheer power released by the beams.

Axia quickly turned to fix her eyes on the giant snake. She couldn't leave such a powerful weapon in Noah's hands, but a disturbance broke her concentration and made her release another shockwave.

Night cut the shockwave to affect its destructiveness and pass through the attack without suffering too much damage. Its body reappeared among the whiteness, and its lines had thinned in some spots, but it was almost entirely intact. However, Axia materialized in front of the Pterodactyl and took its strange head in her hand.

Axia prepared herself to launch a shockwave that could put an end to the Pterodactyl in a single blow, but part of her power suddenly left her body and made her unable to complete her attack. Her eyes inevitably went on the odd dragon that had jumped in front of Noah. She could see her energy flying toward its monstrous mouth.

Axia snorted and mustered her energy again in no time, but a dangerous sensation filled her mind when she sensed that Night's aura seemed to stretch past the limits of the lower tier. She immediately let go of the creature and shot backward, but the sharp line that shot out of the Pterodactyl cut part of her forefinger away.

The cultivator pointed her hand toward Night while she continued to retreat, but her energy vanished again. Moreover, the second pulling force started affecting her escape since it dragged her closer to Noah.

Noah slashed forward, and a massive slash tried to crash on Axia, but the latter released a shockwave that destroyed it. Her attack even shattered the sharp line launched by Night, but her energy disappeared again and made her unable to dodge Snore's beams.

Axia used the entirety of her concentration to pull her out of the beams' trajectory, but her lower body ended up falling prey to that attack. She continued to fly, but Snore's attack turned everything into nothingness and left her with only half of her waist.

A high-pitched noise spread in the area as Noah pointed the Cursed Sword and the sword-shaped roots toward Axia. He prepared to unleash one of his most destructive attacks, but the cultivator lost her patience and clapped her hands.

The gesture brought silence to the battlefield and pushed everything away from Axia... Even Noah found himself near to the white surface when he managed to stop himself.

Chapter 2030 Immense

'She still had stronger attacks,' Noah cursed in his mind as he checked the state of his companions.

Snore and the others were fine since Duanlong had absorbed most of the destructive energy flying in his direction, but Night had suffered injuries. The empowerment given by his ambition had allowed the Pterodactyl to cut through the shockwave. Still, part of its power had landed on the companion's body and had injured its wings.

Night didn't hesitate to fly toward Noah and let the dark matter cover its injuries. The Pterodactyl could still fight, but its wounds would inevitably spread if the battle lasted for too long.

"How do you expect to defeat me?" Axia shouted as she spread her arms and absorbed the energy in her surroundings to rebuild her body. "Your assets have barely affected my world, and you can't express this power for too long. I can sense that your limits are about to arrive."

Axia was right. Her understanding of Noah's power was deep, so she could see the drawbacks of using so much ambition. His companions could harmonize with his law and enhance its effects, which inevitably brought it closer to its limits faster. Noah didn't even dare to guess what price he would have to pay for his current prowess, but those worries didn't manage to reach his mind.

Noah had a plan, but that involved defeating Axia. Her death could solve everything, even the problems caused by his current location. Yet, he couldn't launch anything else at her. The rest of the battle would be a matter of experience, endurance, and ruthlessness.

"Come on!" Axia shouted again while waving her hands to launch shockwaves that stopped Noah's aura from spreading in the environment. "You should be used to this by now. Come at me, throw everything you can, and hope to survive. Do not pretend to have time."

Axia was correct again. Noah had always fought against stronger experts, which had forced him to learn how to use his energy efficiently. His opponents' superior cultivation level allowed them to exhaust him, and his body had struggled to compensate for that weakness lately.

The dark world unfolded from Noah's figure as he activated the workshop. Axia snorted and clapped her hands to launch an invisible current of power that wanted to explode inside the technique. Still, Duanlong exited the dark matter and reached a distant spot to diverge the attack with its innate ability.

The invisible attack carried the same amount of power that had pushed everything back before. In theory, Duanlong couldn't endure it on its own, but the dragon didn't remain a simple creature armed with a pulling force after the breakthrough.

Axia remained stunned since she lost connection with her attack after it entered Duanlong's mouth. She didn't know what had happened, but the dragon had managed to eat her massive power with ease and without showing any reaction. It was as if her technique had disappeared.

Only Noah could know the truth behind that event. Duanlong's power didn't allow it to deal with such strong attacks with its normal innate ability, but the creature had developed something new after the breakthrough. It could now increase the effectiveness of its devouring skills by a lot, which allowed it to deal with blows that its level wouldn't usually be able to endure.

Time was the drawback to that incredible ability. Duanlong needed to rest after activating that skill, and the companion would even struggle to use its other techniques in that weakened state. Noah could force the dragon to continue to fight at full power, but it could only endure that situation for so long.

Still, Axia didn't know that, so Noah could pretend that Duanlong had transformed into the perfect shield for the time being. He was aware that tricking the expert was impossible, especially since the dragon didn't use that ability during the previous exchanges. Still, he didn't mind forcing his opponent to doubt herself.

Axia prepared herself to clap her hands again, but she hesitated to complete her attack. She would only help Noah if Duanlong were to absorb her next blow. She even put a lot of energy into those techniques, so the benefits for her opponent wouldn't be small.

Noah used those seconds to complete his project. The workshop worked at full speed to produce a series of imitations of King Elbas' mental drugs. Once their production ended, Noah dispersed the dark world and fixed his reptilian eyes on Axia. A dark-red light shone from his gaze as the ethereal blackness empowered his mind and gave him the chance to inspect his opponent through the true power of his consciousness.

A river of information filled Noah's mind. That superior state lasted longer than before since his center of power had improved, but the mental coma eventually tried to arrive. However, the workshop's products soon appeared in his mouth and released their healing energy to prevent that event.

Noah stopped himself from falling into the mental coma, but the light radiated by his eyes didn't grow dimmer. Violent thoughts filled his mind and drove his actions, making him shoot forward while his companions followed him.

Noah seemed to have lost his mind, but Axia didn't dare to underestimate him. She pointed her hands toward him before snapping her fingers and shattering the whiteness in front of her. The light radiated by the very sky seemed unable to withstand the power discharged by her attack.

A wave of energy that made Noah's instincts scream in fear approached him at high speed, but he didn't slow down. Night appeared in front of him, Duanlong stood at his side, and the tips of his swords touched as he stretched them forward.

Snore released its beams. Its attack clashed with the invisible energy and caused an explosion so violent that Night had to launch a few black lines forward to open a path among the fierce power that flew in every direction.

Part of Axia's attack had ended up surviving the clash, but Noah didn't hesitate to work together with Duanlong to deal with it. The dragon absorbed all the energy it could in its weakened state while a piercing slash came out of the swords. The blow pierced the invisible power and finished shattering it, opening a path where Noah could fly.

Noah reached Axia in an instant, but the expert already had her hands pointed at him. Still, she didn't release any attack since she saw that the companions were ready to deal with it.

"What were you trying to achieve by arriving here?" Axia asked. "I hope you didn't want to rely on brute strength to overcome my weapon mastery."

Noah knew why Axia had stopped attacking. She didn't lose anything in that situation, while Noah would still waste his precious time under the effects of his ambition. It almost seemed that she wanted to switch to a defensive approach, but the massive figure that filled her eyes answered her question and filled her mind with a dangerous sensation.

Wings as vast as entire regions and a body that could obscure tall mountains appeared in front of Axia. She knew what was happening. Noah had finally released Shafu, and its size had increased from the last time Heaven and Earth had the chance to inspect it.

Axia promptly performed an evasive maneuver, but Shafu had its mouth open around her, and that body part was immense... The cultivator couldn't escape its range before the dragon closed it.