

Demonic 2051

Chapter 2051 Hands

Noah felt full like never before, but even that didn't make him stop. The energy contained in the dense aura and the fuel released after the avatar lost its arm flowed toward his body. The black crystal then took it before sending it throughout his structure.

The massive number of nutrients only awakened his hunger and greed. Noah's destruction and pulling forces grew stronger as his existence realized that he was about to complete his insane requirements. He was almost there, but he also needed far more.

The avatar wanted to put an end to all of that, but it couldn't with its current power. The monster was impossible to destroy in a single attack, and the orange city knew Heaven and Earth deeply. Both of them were opponents that required the rulers' full attention, so Noah could remain free to do whatever he wanted in that situation.

The orange city wasn't done with its offensive. Its light shone on the avatar and hindered its movements again before another dense wave of lightning bolts shot forward.

The avatar tried to dodge the incoming attack, but something inevitably landed on its figure. Part of its left leg vanished during its escape, and every attempt to retrieve that energy failed since Noah's timing was flawless. More currents converged toward him as his existence strived toward perfection.

The monster remained mostly clueless about the complicated ploys in place during the battle. Still, Heaven and Earth's avatar attracted most of its anger, so it instinctively disregarded the other players on the battlefield as it shot flares toward that opponent.

A wave of non-laws engulfed the avatar, but the latter quickly dispersed them through a blast of light that finally allowed it to return inside the sky. Its energy also scattered throughout the immense material and filled it with whiteness.

The sky began to shine again, but everyone noticed how its brightness had dimmed. The energy lost during the exchanges had affected the amount of power that had returned inside the white layer, giving a vague idea of its weakened state.

Noah didn't mind the avatar's retreat. The dense aura that filled the entirety of the higher plane didn't disappear, so he continued to absorb what his destruction managed to shatter.

The void around Noah expanded as the fabric of space shattered and transformed into energy for his body. He was feeding off the very higher plane, and no one stopped him. He had to spend a lot to suppress the drawbacks caused by his ethereal blackness, but his flesh continued to accumulate fuel nonetheless.

The monster released its strange growl after the avatar disappeared. Its opponent had disappeared, but its anger still raged due to the power radiated by the world. It could sense Heaven and Earth in everything surrounding it, and the same went for the orange city.

The empty creature soon resumed its advance, sending flares everywhere into the environment as it descended into mindless destruction. The monster was aiming for the orange city now, but the old rulers ended up disappointing it since they also decided to retreat.

The city quickly shrunk before disappearing among the storms. The monster couldn't locate its annoying presence anymore, and that only intensified its anger. More flares shot out of its uneven, spherical body as its non-world slowly closed the holes in its structure.

Nothing flew toward him since he was already hovering among the void. The monster had nothing to destroy there. Actually, it even felt that Noah was a friendly power, even if it didn't completely understand the meaning of that feeling.

Noah didn't have the time to inspect the monster. He kept track of its attack for obvious reasons, but his mind never went past that. He was too busy studying the environment and bringing order to his violent thoughts to understand what was happening to the non-world.

That didn't apply to King Elbas and the other experts watching the apocalyptic event from outside the battlefield. They could see the non-world dealing with its injuries without ever healing properly. Its holes seemed to remain even after they closed, but its unique nature prevented any deeper inspection.

Most of the higher plane fell prey to the monster's mindless destruction as time passed. The fabric of space tried to oppose its power, but the non-laws had no equals. Nothing could survive their passage, and even the storms only held their ground for mere seconds before vanishing.

Many living beings ended up abandoning their lairs or homes whenever the monster threatened to approach their position. Noah saw powerful and strange magical beasts leaving the storms only to fall prey to the incoming flares. Some of them survived, but many disappeared as void replaced their position.

The higher plane seemed on the verge of experiencing its end. The first destruction of the landmass had been a calculated event meant to fill the sky with power and dispose of many annoying beings. However, the current catastrophe had something different leading it.

The monster didn't care about balance, harmony, or anything that could be useful to the cultivation journey. It was an entity that directly opposed that way of living. It was a natural enemy to everything that existed.

Some figures peeked out of the storms to gain a better understanding of the situation. Noah noticed some of his companions among other powerful existences, but his inspection ended there. His final breakthrough would follow the apocalyptic event, so he had to press on and seize as much energy as possible.

The experts among the storms had chosen to partially reveal themselves due to the danger that the monster posed to their very way of living. They couldn't let it destroy the entirety of the higher plane since they wouldn't have anywhere else to go otherwise. Yet, they didn't want to join the fight either since that would only help Heaven and Earth.

Eventually, those experts decided to wait. Many of them didn't know how to face the monster, while others would rather lose the higher plane than help Heaven and Earth. That common approach allowed the empty creature to continue its mindless destruction and forced the rulers' hand.

Ten pairs of giant hands slowly came out of the sky. Their palms were immense, and their fingers seemed able to envelop a good part of the monster if they ever ended up on its surface.

Noah felt forced to interrupt his absorption when a pair of hands came out of the sky right behind him. He made the entirety of his potential flow toward his evasive maneuver, allowing him to teleport in an area far away from those threatening body parts where he could reactivate his pulling force.

The hands seemed to suck part of the brightness of the sky as they accumulated power. Heaven and Earth's iconic aura intensified and rebuilt the cracked pieces of space on its own as a deafening crackling noise forced almost everyone inside the higher plane to deploy defensive techniques.

Noah's destructiveness allowed him to turn those soundwaves into energy, but he still decided to deploy the dark world to prepare for the imminent attack. He didn't know how much power Heaven and Earth would unleash, but he wanted to be ready for the inevitable shockwaves.

Then, everything turned white.

Chapter 2052 Chants

Noah couldn't see anything, and his senses also found themselves unable to understand what was happening. His enhanced consciousness couldn't gaze past the pure whiteness that had filled the world, and his only consolation came from the energy constantly flowing into his body.

Everything was fine as long as Noah continued to absorb energy, but he remained stunned at how easily Heaven and Earth could blind him. His incomplete world was still empowering his mind, so his senses were near the peak of their potential, but he still couldn't perceive anything.

The whiteness slowly vanished and let the world reappear in everyone's eyes. The sky revealed its dimmer state, and the fabric of space showed its perfectly intact condition. Yet, the monster ended up capturing the entirety of Noah's attention due to its odd shape.

Giant holes had appeared in the monster, and its spherical form had transformed into a mess of currents of non-energy that weakly stretched forward. Its non-world had also suffered similar damage, but it had managed to preserve its relatively dense figure.

The ten pairs of hands were still pointing at the monster as if they were waiting for it to make a move. However, a giant orange structure had appeared in front of two of them. The old rulers had intervened at the last second and had blocked part of the attack, ultimately preserving the empty creature's vague form.

A rain of orange shards fell from the city as its array of lightning bolts dealt with the energy that had invaded its buildings. It was clear that the old rulers had gone overboard to help the monster, but Noah didn't let that chance go.

Noah stopped absorbing energy and let his potential empower his movement technique. His understanding of space and time in an area with an array created by Heaven and Earth gave him almost complete freedom over his surroundings.

The space-time array replaced the world in Noah's view, and he modified it as he took multiple steps forward. In his mind, Noah was walking across a mostly black environment, but he found himself right above the previously distant orange city once his technique ended.

A giant fissure opened in the space behind Noah and connected two distant points of the sky. He had crossed an immense path in a matter of seconds, and the higher plane paid the price for his incredible show of power.

Noah reactivated his pulling force and absorbed everything that escaped the orange city's power. The rain of shards and the white fuel leaking out of the array of lightning bolts created currents that flew toward his body and added nutrients meant for his breakthrough.

The old rulers didn't mind Noah's behavior. Actually, the decision to help him worsen Heaven and Earth's condition. The orange city expanded and revealed its giant cavity before a series of dense lightning bolts shot out of it.

The attack crashed on the massive hands and destabilized their structure. Noah's understanding of destruction allowed him to see how the old rulers had only prepared those giant body parts without actually shattering them. They wanted someone else to complete the assault, and Noah didn't disappoint them.

The ambition switched target again as two blades appeared in Noah's hands. The Demonic Sword roared as the Cursed Sword filled the environment with its high-pitched noises. Both weapons revealed their rank 9 power and went beyond it under the effects of Noah's law before he shot forward to deliver a piercing blow.

His destructive influence filled the cracks created by the lightning bolts before spreading toward other untouched spots. The pure white hands saw branch-like marks filling their entire structures before a simple touch of the swords triggered the power that they contained.

Everything went silent for a second before a massive explosion resounded and forced the fabric of the world to tremble. The hands shattered and unleashed the energy they contained forward, engulfing Noah in a torrent of white fuel that tried to destroy his figure.

Noah's swords returned inside his body as he tried to deploy the dark world, but the whiteness destroyed his dark matter as soon as it left his figure. His flesh started falling apart, but the ethereal blackness spread and offered slight protection that allowed him to change his approach.

Noah was about to fall apart under the raging river that had taken control of his movements. Still, his existence shone with a dark light as his ethereal blackness empowered every aspect of his ambition. He transformed into a black dot that slowly expanded his influence and devoured what he could before the whiteness gained ground again.

The whiteness destroyed Noah, but the energy absorbed before that moment rebuilt him. The hands had contained a dense form of Heaven and Earth's fuel, so even mere strands of that fuel were enough to heal the entirety of his injuries.

Noah went through a cycle of destruction and creation, but his existence never stopped shining during the process. He was a dark light that Heaven and Earth couldn't suppress as long as he had the chance to feed off their power. The attack that was crushing him was the very source of his salvation and improvements.

Controlling himself was impossible in that situation. Noah abandoned himself to the whims of his existence and let it do whatever it wanted. He trusted his incomplete world enough to know that it would strive for a perfection that could surpass Heaven and Earth. He had built it for that very purpose.

The burst of energy was so intense that Noah ended up flying directly on the opposite side of the higher plane. He was about to fall into another pair of hands, but a series of black lines suddenly came out of his figure and created a temporary safe area in his immediate surroundings. Then, a rain of giant feathers shot out of him, and a storm of destructive dark matter unfolded among the whiteness.

Heaven and Earth's energy wasn't so easy to deal with. Night and Snore weren't strong enough to oppose that massive torrent of power, but they could create room for other companions.

A screeching noise filled the torrent of energy as seeds spread inside the attack and gave birth to branches of the parasite. They didn't last long in that oppressing environment, but they managed to buy even more time.

Part of the whiteness destabilized or directly shattered by the previous attacks started flowing toward Noah as giant wings came out of his figure. Shafu's huge shape appeared among the torrent of energy and brought him into a safe area.

Noah laughed as he stood proudly on Shafu's head. Duanlong was right behind him as it used its innate ability to seize a vast piece of the attack that they had left behind. Soon, no injury remained on his body. His power even seemed on the verge of bursting out of his figure.

Noah's laugh soon transformed into a roar that his companions didn't hesitate to echo. Shafu, Duanlong, and the Demonic Sword cried at the sky, the parasite and Night screeched, Snore hissed, and the Cursed Sword released its high-pitched noises. Dark, red, and purple shades expanded from his figure as Shafu continued to fly across the higher plane. The entirety of his assets announced his success. He had done it. His body was finally ready for the breakthrough.

Chapter 2053 Epilogue

Faint drowsiness began to fall on Noah's mind, but he opposed it. His body wanted to advance right away, but he couldn't let it when the higher plane had no safe area.

The hands still occupied a good chunk of the sky, and the monster was slowly condensing itself back to a spherical form. The apocalyptic event was far from over, and Noah had to see through it before stopping to deal with his centers of power.

The orange city slowly shrunk and disappeared in the chaos of the storms. It had dealt with its side of the deal, so it had to prepare to seize the monster now. Yet, the old rulers would let it clash with Heaven and Earth a bit more before jumping into the battlefield again.

Heaven and Earth obviously didn't like the proud and defying announcement that Noah and his companions had voiced, but they had far worse issues to deal with right now. The orange city had left, but the monster was still alive, and its anger wasn't something that they could ignore.

The monster slowly pulled itself back together. Its shattered figure condensed as its flares and currents flowed to recreate its uneven, spherical form. The massive hands remained still during the process, but they didn't forget to draw power from the sky as they waited for their target to regain its original shape.

Shafu led Noah into a spot outside the hands' range. He fought the drowsiness inside his mind and stopped empowering his aspects as he let the black crystal deal with every process inside his body. His flesh seemed on the verge of creating the chrysalis, but the fourth center of power prevented that from happening since the situation was far from ideal.

Everything turned white again when the monster condensed. Noah deployed the dark world, but nothing came in his direction. Then, after his vision returned, he saw the empty creature in an even worse shape.

Most of the monster's blackness had dispersed, and its non-world had turned into a messy structure that couldn't preserve its dense form anymore. Still, Heaven and Earth didn't stop, and everything soon turned white again.

The monster tried to growl after the whiteness dispersed, but its cry sounded weak. Its growth as non-existence had allowed it to develop something similar to emotions, and the sadness for its first real defeat filled its being.

The fear returned but in a different form. The monster stopped caring about Heaven and Earth and began to worry about its life. Death was looming over its non-existence, and it reacted like any other magical beast. It tried to summon its power to escape, but nothing responded to its will. The rulers had destroyed too much of its structure.

The hands ignored the sad scene and continued to gather energy. Heaven and Earth were ready to deliver the final blow, but the old rulers decided to intervene one last time. The orange city suddenly materialized under the monster and sucked its unique body inside its buildings.

The empty creature vanished, and the orange city quickly turned ethereal. The old rulers seemed concerned about an eventual attack from the sky, but nothing came. The hands simply went back inside the white layer as if Heaven and Earth had lost interest in the matter.

The silent epilogue to the battle didn't do justice to its magnitude, but Noah understood the rulers' mindset. They didn't want to waste more energy against something that probably had the power to cause more problems. That finale was enough, especially since everyone had won.

Heaven and Earth had solved the issue about the monster, the orange city had taken the remains of the non-world, and Noah had obtained the energy required for his breakthrough. The big players in the

battle had managed to gain something out of that apocalyptic struggle, and they wanted to assess their state now.

The sky grew brighter, but it didn't go back to its original splendor. Everyone could see that Heaven and Earth had lost too much, and it would take time to stabilize their condition. They even had to decide how to proceed forward after witnessing what their opponents could do.

The orange city was in a similar condition, even if far better than Heaven and Earth. It had lost many buildings and wasted a lot of its precious energy, but it had also gained a lot. The non-world was a priceless asset in the old rulers' hands.

Noah began to search for a safe area where to go through his evolution. The higher plane didn't have much left, and even its stormy regions didn't feel safe anymore after seeing how many powerful beings they contained. Moreover, many had taken note of his prowess, so he believed that disappearing for some time was necessary.

The inspection came to an end when Noah sensed that a familiar force was trying to affect his surroundings. He let it apply its effects on him after recognizing its source, and his figure teleported in another area of the higher plane.

Noah found himself in front of the four upper tier dragons and their army. The modified magical beasts had disappeared, but King Elbas, Sepunia, and his dragon companion were there.

"What is it?" Noah asked.

"We wanted to thank you for this chance," The time dragon said before glancing at the sky. "It's a pity we couldn't do much to affect Heaven and Earth's core."

"Do they even have something like that?" Noah asked.

"Hard to say," The time dragon admitted. "Their existence has become too complicated, and their recent defeats didn't make it clearer. Still, they have probably realized that they have a chance to lose now."

"You should hide and wait for me to get stronger," Noah teased, but the dragons didn't address his joke. They appeared worried as they inspected the sky as if they were expecting something to come out of it.

"The world will soon change again," The time dragon announced. "You should get ready."

"Wait!" Noah shouted when the dragons began to retreat. "Take my companion with you. Teach it something while you are at it."

The dragons instinctively glanced at the odd dragon standing next to Sepunia. Noah's sudden request had surprised the creature, but it wasn't hard to understand the meaning behind his words.

"Is it finally time to separate?" King Elbas asked.

"You should try to be gentler with your leader," Sepunia chuckled.

"Expanding our worlds will require time," Noah sighed. "We'll only get in each other's way if we keep traveling together. Separating is for the best."

"Do not eat the whole plane while I'm away," King Elbas scoffed before his figure glowed with golden light and disappeared.

"He isn't the sentimental type," Sepunia joked.

"Don't die," Noah ordered before looking at the dragon. "You are too weak to remain alone. Make sure to fix that while you are with the other dragons. You might lose your spot in the final battle otherwise."

Noah then turned toward the time dragon before speaking again. "Don't start anything while I'm facing the breakthrough. I'd hate to miss a good battle."

"Death doesn't scare us," The time dragon growled. "Besides, you should worry about yourself. The entire higher plane has seen what you have done."

Noah revealed a smirk before the space-time array replaced the world in his vision. It was time to leave and face the long-awaited breakthrough.

Chapter 2054 Beyond

A long and vast crack spread behind Noah after he reappeared above the first storms on his path. The world slowly healed, and he disregarded the event as he descended among the chaotic laws.

His instincts led him throughout that messy environment and quickly allowed him to find a landmass. An immense mountain chain filled with currents of chaotic laws unfolded in his vision, and he could only nod at that sight.

The environment was harsh, and the presence of a surface didn't improve it. The chaotic laws added and removed materials to the mountains without ever allowing them to disappear. Only the underground world appeared somewhat safe from the storms, but they didn't scare Noah. He was more worried about eventual predators who had gained an interest in him after his incredible performance.

Noah could rely on his instincts to find the perfect spot where to deploy the chrysalis. He landed in an area where three mountains met and unfolded the dark world to hide his presence. Shafu, Night, Snore, and Duanlong also came out of his figure and began to patrol the dense insides of his technique.

The black crystal dealt with everything. It controlled the dark world to make it hide Noah's presence and blend the dark matter with the environment. The technique seemed to transform into another mountain that didn't reveal anything about its insides.

Noah wanted to add a bit more to his defenses, but he preferred to spare energy since he preferred to have more fuel than needed in case something went wrong. Everything was perfect and ready according to his instincts and black crystal, but he still desired to be careful.

Noah inspected the dark world one last time before letting the drowsiness take over him. He closed his eyes and crouched among the dark world while crystals materialized on his skin and expanded. The dark matter fused with them and slowly created a chrysalis. The breakthrough started as soon as the structure stabilized.

The evolutions of Noah's body had always been different in their details. He had initially experienced the memories hidden in the Light-devouring dragons' bloodline since his existence had yet to harmonize

with his new state. Then, the dreams had started to disappear, but his consciousness had always been relatively unreliable during the process.

That didn't happen during the current breakthrough. Noah felt completely awake. He couldn't see past the edges of the dark world, but he could sense everything happening in its insides.

His focus naturally moved to his body. Noah watched as his ethereal blackness shone with a dark light as his flesh improved. His incomplete world set the minimum standard that his fabric had to reach to become part of that structure, and the process inevitably took a long time.

Nevertheless, the wait felt quite bearable. Noah actually enjoyed watching the many improvements slowly fusing to give birth to a new fabric that even his mind struggled to evaluate properly. His body evolved past the limits of his understanding, led by an intense potential that didn't seem to know satisfaction.

The desire to gain power had always been at the core of Noah's existence, and the ethereal world expressed that feeling. Its influence allowed him to appreciate that spectacle. He admired the result of countless years of struggles converging toward the last realm. He had dreamt of that event since he first learnt about the divine ranks, but he was there now.

The inevitable exchange of fuels with the ethereal blackness happened after his body stepped on the ninth rank. Yet, the event took a different shape now that the process involved his very flesh.

Primary energy made his skin, muscles, bones, and organs, so the exchanges with the ethereal blackness made his figure wither and shatter. Still, the incomplete world always sent more power after empowering it in its incredible environment. Each cycle improved Noah's body, and new stability eventually appeared in sight.

Something that Noah had long since predicted happened after the ethereal blackness accepted the level of power reached by his body. The new primary energy fused with the fuel contained inside the incomplete world and forced it to achieve a superior harmony. The mass of potential that Noah had created after studying his copies activated on its own to empower its very structure.

The ethereal world knew that it could reach higher realms after obtaining the four energies that made Noah's existence. Its insides expanded, allowing even more fuel to accumulate and provide the energy needed to stretch its limits.

Noah's potential rose again, toward levels of power that he couldn't possibly predict when he first created the ethereal blackness. His world improved and expanded until it found new stability and repeated the exchanges of energy.

Noah's black crystal, dantian, body, and mind went through another cycle of improvements. The process didn't require additional energy since his world soon started to generate pure potential on its own. The exchanges transformed into a series of deliveries of fuel that had the sole purpose of enhancing his centers of power.

The process took a while, but Noah almost desired to slow it down to experience it properly. Of course, his world didn't listen to that whim since nothing could overcome his desperate need to seize power

quickly. Still, his instincts reacted to his mindset and intensified the feelings radiated by his improvements.

Noah bathed in his existence, and his ecstasy culminated when everything stopped. His ethereal blackness refilled its insides after his centers of power became unable to improve even more, and pure silence spread throughout his consciousness.

The chrysalis quickly shattered and transformed in energy that the dark matter ate in no time. Meanwhile, Noah kept his eyes closed as he let his sensations overwhelm his mind.

Noah felt complete in ways that he had never managed to achieve before. His centers of power were still different organs, but they barely felt separated. The matter didn't only involve a mere connection caused by his existence. They were unique and identical at the same time because they belonged to the ethereal blackness.

The same obviously went for his companions. Noah could feel their thoughts and presence more clearly than ever. It almost seemed that they were extensions of his mind or hands. Each aspect of his arsenal was unique, and many carried individual wills, but they were also Noah because he was the very world that contained them.

Everything was in place. Noah didn't feel the slightest pressure on his body. His dantian was ready to burst with power, and his black crystal barely used its abilities since nothing required its attention. Even his mind experienced a peace that went beyond the normal calmness.

Noah felt at the very peak. He could sense himself standing on the last step, but stronger emotions soon destroyed that mental state. His ambition burst out with an intensity that he had never experienced and made him aware of a desire that existed beyond laws now. That level of power wasn't enough to satisfy him. He needed more. He would always need more.

The dark world seemed to understand his desires. His companions went back inside his figure as the dark matter dispersed, but a surprising scene prevented him from remaining deep in his ecstasy.

'What the fuck?' Noah cursed in his mind when he saw that the environment had transformed. The iconic fabric of the sky filled every corner of his vision.

Chapter 2055 Extension

The mountain chain had disappeared, but Noah could accept that. Nothing ever lasted too long among the storms, especially the lands that they created. Only a few environments with specific purposes could remain relatively intact since Heaven and Earth influenced their creation and destruction.

However, the presence of the sky was a surprise that Noah couldn't explain. The dark world would have prevented any attempt to affect its position, so he knew that he had remained in the same spot inside the stormy regions. He could come up with a few guesses, but they all sounded unreal after the energy that Heaven and Earth had to deplete to deal with the monster.

Noah could only approach the white layer to find answers. He initially guessed that Heaven and Earth had found the location of his breakthrough and had tried to isolate him from the rest of the world, but that guess vanished in mere seconds.

The white layer wasn't a cage. It didn't even try to apply any pressure on the empty area left behind by the dark world. When Noah unfolded his consciousness, he noticed that the bright material expanded far past his position. He actually couldn't find other spots devoid of that whiteness in his surroundings.

Other strange details became clear in his mind after his initial inspection. The white material was identical to the sky, but it didn't carry its usual features. It slightly opposed Noah's mental waves without ever stopping them, and its fabric didn't have the devouring ability that made Heaven and Earth's world so scary.

'Is this a copy?' Noah wondered before dismissing that thought. 'No, no one can create such a perfect imitation. This is Heaven and Earth's work, but why does it lack its usual features?'

The strangeness of the situation didn't offer any answer. Noah could only question his companions about the matter since they had guarded him during his breakthrough, but their memories ended up confusing him even more.

Night and the others had experienced the same confusion when they inspected the event. They had seen the white material of the sky appearing in the form of countless tiny crystals before expanding to cover everything in their vision. It seemed that the chaotic laws themselves had transformed in that imitation of the sky, but they had been careful not to affect powers that went above theirs.

The memories explained why the dark world had remained unaffected by the event, and they even gave Noah a few insights into the actual event. However, they left him unable to find the answers that mattered the most. He couldn't explain why Heaven and Earth had decided to execute such a consuming procedure.

'How long does this stretch?' Noah wondered before glancing at his left hand.

His primary energy, darkness, dark matter, and mental energy flowed inside the black crystal and mixed to create the unstable substance. Yet, the ethereal blackness added a drop of its fuel to the procedure, creating energy that seemed to have the power to turn his insides into dust.

Nothing bad happened to Noah. He actually felt astonished that his black crystal could contain that incredible fuel on his own, and the surprises didn't end there. The unstable substance flowed out of his organ and ran through new black vessels to reach his left arm and fill it with a power he had never wielded.

Noah had merely thought about punching the sky to inspect its insides and testing his new power, but his world had acted even before he made up his mind. He didn't even feel worried about that apparent lack of control. He only experienced satisfaction.

'I see,' Noah thought after understanding what had happened. 'I'm not a normal existence anymore. I'm a world, and a thought is an order that my aspects will fulfill on their own.'

Noah didn't need to decide. Even thinking felt superfluous since his mind was only a part of his world. He only had to be since that already involved eventual choices, inclinations, and preferences.

'It's not lack of control,' Noah chuckled. 'My thoughts are forces that can put my world into motion. I don't need to think because I already know what I want to do. I don't need to decide anything because I've already made up my mind about everything.'

The maniacal character that every existence naturally developed during the cultivation journey reached a new level in the ninth rank. Noah still had a personality, but his world already considered it. It almost felt that his thoughts had transformed into instincts capable of activating certain abilities on their own.

Noah closed his eyes to commit that sensation to memory. He knew that everything would soon turn into his new normality, but he wanted to make sure not to forget that evolution. Noah didn't only wish to expand his understanding of the cultivation journey. He felt the need to remember how much he had changed to remain aware of his roots.

After that feeling became an immortal part of his memories, he threw his punch, and everything shook. A giant chunk of the sky in front of Noah vanished, leaving only primary energy behind, while cracks and boulders appeared and fell everywhere around him.

The perfectly spherical area left behind by the dark world vanished as pieces of the sky fell and opened. A single punch had discharged enough power to tear tens of regions apart, and the most surprising part about the event was the lack of aspects carried by the attack.

Noah had empowered his punch with the unstable substance, and the gesture naturally expressed his world, but that was the bare minimum that he could put into an attack. That blow was very close to his base level.

The primary energy in the shattered area flowed toward Noah even if he didn't activate any technique. His figure attracted sources of power on its own. It seemed an improved version of the magical beasts' natural absorption ability. Still, its range was insane, and its destructiveness also went beyond what normal creatures could do without relying on specific skills.

Noah barely sensed the benefits of that primary energy. He almost lost track of it after it entered the black crystal, and it couldn't do much after flowing toward his flesh.

The destruction of that massive chunk of the sky provided more benefits than the actual absorption of energy. A tremor ran through Noah's world after his attack. The ethereal blackness had tried to expand, but he felt that his feat wasn't enough to grant any improvement. Still, the event had taught him how the rest of his cultivation journey had to proceed.

Noah needed to increase the influence of his world, which required an expansion that he guessed could come from many factions. His incredible feats had always been a powerful fuel for his potential, but he believed that the mere expression of his abilities was enough to provide benefits.

'I only need to let my world express itself to improve it,' Noah concluded after his inspection. 'Still, I don't depend on external energy anymore. I can absorb it, but the greatest benefits seem to come from the fuel inside my world.'

Most of those conclusions came from an instinctive knowledge that his mind had about his ethereal blackness. Noah knew how it worked, what it wanted, and how it desired him to seize it. The matter wasn't even too surprising since he was his world. The latter simply was a pure and unbound version of himself.

Noah almost instinctively stepped inside the cavity created by his punch. He reached its end with a single sprint since time and space bent under the effects of his world to fulfill his desire, and the unstable substance flowed toward his arm again as he prepared another attack.

A series of punches later, Noah found himself deep inside the white material, unable to find a way out of that strange environment. His mind also remained unable to find other empty areas. It was as if the entire higher plane had transformed into an extension of the sky.

Chapter 2056 Mercy

Noah continued to punch forward without ever finding the end of the white material. Its lackluster structure made him believe that Heaven and Earth had the power to fill the entirety of the higher plane with that weaker sky, but he expected to encounter other empty areas. Still, his search didn't provide any result.

The dark world was an incredible technique, and its defensive properties had been at their peak during the breakthrough, but Noah knew that other existences could come up with something similar. He even felt relatively sure that some rank 8 beings could also fend off the expansion of the sky with their power, so it would make sense for him to find other holes.

Yet, the world didn't seem to care about his reasonable ideas. It only showed intact whiteness that revealed pure stillness. The chaotic laws had transformed into a material with an opposite nature, even if it carried more power.

'Is this another evolution of Heaven and Earth's energy?' Noah wondered before deciding to interrupt his relentless advance to inspect the areas that he had already crossed. 'This version of the sky is too weak to be a direct improvement. Maybe they have only transformed the nature of their chaotic laws to have more control over the higher plane.'

Noah still felt off track. The chaotic laws weren't easy to affect due to their very nature. Heaven and Earth also needed to keep most of them without deeper purposes to balance their ability to affect the entire higher plane. The recent battle might have removed part of the fairness' limits, but that still felt like a stretch unless the rulers had something in mind.

The lack of answers and the complete absence of traces that could hint at the presence of other living beings tried to bring hesitation to Noah's mind. However, his new mental state had almost forgotten about that feeling. He acted according to the true nature of his existence. He was even growing used to forsaking his thoughts to act according to the desires of his world.

His inspection of the previous areas finally brought some answers. Noah could see a force opposing the influence that lingered on the walls of the large cavities created by his punches. The sky was trying to remove the effects of his attack to expand again, and its effort appeared relentless.

Understanding dawned upon Noah. He wasn't finding traces of other living beings because the sky had never stopped expanding even after filling the area. The nature of that weaker version of the white material was clear now, but he couldn't gain anything out of that.

Keeping track of the passage of time had been impossible for Night and the others after the sky had covered the dark world. They had tried to calculate it, but the results could vary by entire thousands of years.

Noah could finally feel relatively certain that the entirety of the higher plane had fallen prey to the weaker sky, but that only put him back to square one. He didn't know where to go or who had survived the event, but finding his companions wasn't part of the plan. It was time to have a solitary journey to study and improve his position in the ninth rank, so he only had to pick a direction now.

'I guess I should check whether the real sky is still in place,' Noah thought before turning toward the direction of the sky.

Noah vaguely knew where he was, so finding the direction of the sky wasn't an issue. Still, he felt that he would have been able to find it anyway due to his anger. Heaven and Earth's world almost attracted him due to how strong his aspects had become.

Noah limited himself to punch forward and take all the energy he could. He switched to his right arm when he grew bored of using his left, but he eventually decided to limit himself to greed and hunger.

Noah transformed into a vortex as soon as he stopped suppressing the innate effects of his world. The weak sky around him shattered due to the sheer strength of the pulling force that his aspects generated. Nothing survived his absorption, and a path naturally appeared in front of him whenever he stepped forward.

His pace appeared slow, but that didn't reflect the reality of his advance. Space and time twisted whenever Noah stepped forward and allowed him to cross immense distances with only slight movements.

From time to time, Noah decided to release other aspects of his world. Everything felt natural as if he had an inborn understanding of the limits of his power. Yet, he had always tested his abilities after each breakthrough, and the same happened now.

Noah could see how powerful he had become whenever his intentions made his world release part of its power. The space-time array condensed whenever he wanted to move faster. The sky shattered as soon as hunger made its way inside his mind. Part of the white material broke and reassembled in different forms whenever he came up with ideas for disposable weapons or similar projects.

Everything was alive. Noah felt as if the aspects of his existence had taken life after completing the world. He couldn't treat them as weapons or tools meant to improve his attacks anymore. All of them were core parts of his life, and he needed to nurture them accordingly.

His new state also had brought an odd feeling that he had managed to understand fully only after walking across the weak sky for a while. Noah had severed his connection with Heaven and Earth long ago, and the cultivation journey naturally led toward that state too. However, he could truly experience what it was to be a stranger in a world that didn't welcome him.

That feeling was different from a simple separation from Heaven and Earth. It was deeper than the simple brand as an enemy of the whiteness. Noah could feel like a proper world inside a vaster and stronger world.

The feeling obviously wasn't pleasant, but it gave Noah a better understanding of the distance from Heaven and Earth. He could sense the rulers in their immensity, and he could only accept that they were vaster than he had initially predicted.

Heaven and Earth's vastity alone couldn't describe their strength. Actually, that feature almost made them appear weak due to how messy some parts of their world were. Noah could guess that a smaller but denser world could deploy more power, which explained how so many powerful existences could survive their oppression.

The many laws could work against the magical beasts, but it was evident that Heaven and Earth had lost control of their approach. They had too much in a path that didn't exist since they had fused with a world.

Noah's new understanding of the higher plane and the rulers' world almost made him wonder whether his initial idea to waste Heaven and Earth's energy had been wrong. The rulers were naturally striving toward self-destruction, while his feats had often relieved them of the weight of their energy.

'I couldn't really take other paths back then,' Noah reassured himself, and his thoughts came to a stop when he reached a familiar area.

His destruction stopped affecting the path in front of him. Noah saw the familiar sky and confirmed that Heaven and Earth didn't remove the devouring abilities from that material. They actually appeared stronger than before.

Then, a few presences appeared in his consciousness. Noah didn't hesitate to shoot to his right and resume the digging to reach them, but they tried to escape as soon as they sensed him.

The presences weren't faster than Noah, but he still decided to accelerate. In an instant, he found himself among a pack of giant lizards doing their best to run away through tunnels dug by their rank 9 leaders.

Noah voiced a low growl when he saw that his arrival didn't make the magical beasts stop. His pride froze everyone on the spot. Even the lower tier leaders couldn't do anything but leave their tunnel and turn their lowered heads toward him.

"Mercy, Defying Demon," One of the lizards pleaded in a human voice before Noah could voice other cries.

Chapter 2057 Kidding

Noah inspected the lizard. They were huge and had blue scales that seemed able to protect them from the whiteness radiated by the sky. Two curved horns grew from the side of their heads, and long claws stretched from their four legs. Their tails were long and thick, but they also appeared flexible and agile.

'Did I forget about them?' Noah wondered when he failed to remember an encounter with that species. 'Did they end up on the black landmass and learnt my name there?'

"How do you know my name?" Noah growled since his memories couldn't provide answers.

The two rank 9 lizards exchanged a glance before slowly raising their heads in confusion. They didn't know whether Noah was putting them through a test, but they decided to be honest about the matter anyway.

"Everyone has seen the battle against the black creature," One of the leaders said. "Some even say that you have caused it."

"Who are these some?" Noah continued.

"Well, magical beasts, humans, and hybrids," The leader replied. "Some say that they belong to an organization that opposes Heaven and Earth, but they have become rare since the sky filled the world. We live by rumors."

"How did you meet these existences?" Noah questioned. "How long has it passed since you met them?"

"That's hard to say," The other leader responded. "It's hard to keep track of the passage of time when the environment has nothing but sky. As for meeting them, the encounters are random. We never know when we might meet suitable-."

The lizard stopped speaking when it realized that the truth could probably lead to its death, especially if it involved Defying Demon's potential allies. Still, its abrupt interruption only felt awkward in that situation and forced it to lower its head again.

"I don't care if you have eaten them," Noah reassured. "I'm only trying to understand the current situation. I have been away for some time."

The two leaders exchanged another glance, but neither seemed willing to continue talking about that topic. Yet, Noah only needed to growl to force them to speak.

"The sky alone can't sustain us," The first leader whimpered. "We must look for better targets, so we roam through this whiteness searching for them. Some try to use your name to save their lives, while others let us live and share their stories. The dragons are especially kind if you are lucky enough to meet them."

Noah almost couldn't believe that he had become famous even among magical beasts, but the event didn't feel too unrealistic after his show of power. The lizards also confirmed that some of his companions had survived the current state of the world, so he could focus on other details.

"Why are the dragons kind?" Noah asked before sniffing a few times. "Is it because your bloodline has some connections with theirs?"

Noah could smell their partial belonging to the dragons' bloodlines. It was distant and far from pure, but he couldn't guess what the four upper tier leaders had in mind in the current situation.

"Rumors say that they are kind to every magical beast," The second leader announced. "They have become the protectors of every species."

"Is someone hunting them?" Noah asked as a bad feeling formed in his mind.

"Rumors say that Heaven and Earth area targeting every large pack," The first leader replied. "We never faced anything, but the dragons still warned us about that."

Noah quickly came to an obvious conclusion. Heaven and Earth had started their preparations for the final battle. Their first step had consisted of filling the entire world with their sky, while the second involved the population of the magical beasts. They were probably trying to reduce the number of opponents that could oppose them while they still had that complete control.

'What now?' Noah questioned himself while falling deep in his thoughts.

His first idea was to create an area that Heaven and Earth couldn't affect right in the middle of the higher plane. The white materials that filled the world would provide all the energy that Noah needed to complete that project, and he was one of the few existences capable of uniting magical beasts, humans, and hybrids under the same banner.

However, Heaven and Earth seemed to have started approaching their breakthrough seriously. Noah didn't know what consequences his actions could cause, and he wasn't sure his power could deal with them. After all, he had stepped into the ninth rank. The rulers could probably throw everything they wanted at him now.

Noah wouldn't make choices founded on his fear of the rulers. His journey now had to focus on himself since he needed to expand his world. Yet, his pride was one of his aspects, which was relatively pointless when he had no underlings.

His ambition also was perfect for a potential pack. Noah would only increase the number of enemies that could threaten Heaven and Earth if he decided to restore his organization.

'I don't want to go back to being a leader right away,' Noah admitted, 'But leaving Heaven and Earth on their own isn't ideal either.'

Heaven and Earth could probably slowly eradicate every pack in that favorable environment. The dragons would become their last opponents, and Noah wouldn't have the chance to help them since he couldn't even try to find them among that whiteness. The situation was troublesome and unclear, but he had to accept that he only had a few options.

"You are lucky Heaven and Earth want to kill magical beasts," Noah sighed. "I would have totally eaten you otherwise."

The lizards didn't feel happy about that admission, but they didn't hesitate to express their gratitude. Noah didn't even need to show his power to make them understand how they had no chance against him.

"Try not to die," Noah eventually exclaimed. "You might be important in what's about to come."

The lizards didn't know what Noah meant, but they nodded and expressed their gratitude again anyway. They were too scared to understand the benefits that his ambition could provide to their species, so they were ready to say anything to preserve their freedom.

Noah didn't add anything else. He sprinted toward a random spot and activated his suction force again. The weak sky shattered to create a large path, and he quickly disappeared from the lizards' vision.

The dull and unchanging environment almost made Noah regret his decision, but that feeling barely managed to reach his mind when he let his instincts lead him. He had chosen to remain alone for a while

and inspect what the weak sky hid. As for the direction, his anger would be his guide toward places that opposed Heaven and Earth.

Noah planned to slowly expand his world and develop techniques that could make full use of his new power, but his desires shattered in no time. He sensed that something had happened behind him, and he quickly turned to reach the source of that feeling.

'You must be kidding me,' Noah cursed in his mind when he found a barrage of black clouds on his path.

Crackling noises and cries seeped out of that black array, and Noah even sensed the presence of the lizards on the other side. It seemed that Heaven and Earth had attacked them right after his departure.

Chapter 2058 Steps

'Why did they go back to the clouds?' Noah wondered as he placed his hand on the black array that had taken control of the area.

Heaven and Earth had slowly moved away from punishments that resembled their old selves. The human and heroic ranks featured the usual three Tribulations, and similar attempts to suppress existences happened in the seventh rank. However, they transformed into avatars or proper unique counters against rank 8 and 9 beings.

The pack of lizards featured two leaders in the ninth rank and a few rank 8 specimens. In theory, the lightning bolts released by punishments meant for weaker beings wouldn't be able to hurt them, but Noah didn't believe that Heaven and Earth had misjudged the level of the threat.

The clouds felt different from the raw mass of destructive power that Noah had fought in the past. They were an improved version of that weak punishment, and the meanings that they carried had also deepened.

The clouds still radiated pure destructive power. They resembled Snore's innate ability if Noah compared his companion to the energy system in Heaven and Earth's world. Yet, they seemed to have become relatively intelligent.

Noah only needed to desire to inspect the insides of the black array to radiate part of his destruction. The clouds opened and created a passage that revealed a surprising scene. He saw the pack of lizards immersed in a dark battlefield illuminated by a series of giant avatars and currents of lightning bolts.

The avatars and the lightning bolts had changed. The puppets were huge, and they didn't have their unstable structures anymore. They resembled the version of Heaven and Earth that had fought the monster. They had proper skin instead of a series of sparks constantly flowing to create a humanoid shape.

Instead, the lightning bolts had grouped in the form of dense currents that enhanced their individual power. Those gales actually resembled the attacks released by the orange city, even if they were white and rotated to increase their destructiveness.

The environment created by the clouds was also strange. It made Noah think about the Heaven Tribulations that used to fall on the Mortal Lands, but that only increased the oddity of the situation.

Heaven and Earth had filled the entire world with their weak sky, but they prevented their light from surrounding their targets with their clouds. The avatars and lightning bolts glowed with the same radiance and applied the same effects. Still, that felt like a waste of energy with so much whiteness in the environment.

Noah could guess that the whiteness deployed on that battlefield had different meanings, but it still felt strange when Heaven and Earth could use the weak sky. The only explanation he could come up with involved a change in the approach to the cultivation journey. It was as if the rulers wanted to express their power through individual entities instead of using the world for their needs.

'Are they trying to remember what they were before fusing with the world?' Noah wondered before correcting himself. 'No, that would go against the current situation of the world. Probably, they are looking for a different balance now that they had lost so much energy.'

The lizards were struggling against the avatars and currents of lightning bolts, but their eyes lit up when they saw Noah crossing the clouds. However, he remained still and watched the fight instead of helping them.

Noah wanted to observe before jumping into a battle. Heaven and Earth had changed in ways that went in the opposite direction of their previous approach. Their stronger punishments tried to express their magnitude in the past, but they had turned into individual assets capable of releasing denser energy now.

Noah didn't know how to feel about that change, mostly because he felt he was to blame. Heaven and Earth had been able to show traces of personality only with rank 9 punishments, but they were attempting something different now. They almost resembled cultivators, even if they remained too messy to appear as a single existence.

'Are they trying to transform again to adapt to the new flaws?' Noah questioned himself.

That wouldn't be the first time Heaven and Earth had pulled off something similar. They had transformed when they found themselves unable to defeat the magical beasts, so it didn't feel unreal that something similar could happen due to the orange city, the monster, and Noah's group. Actually, it suited their behavior quite perfectly.

The issue was that Noah probably was one of the main reasons behind that transformation. He had forced Heaven and Earth to waste massive amounts of energy multiple times, and his companions had also affected their foundation.

Noah couldn't help but think that Heaven and Earth were striving to reach a smaller but denser shape. Wasting energy and losing laws could help create a firmer foundation capable of overcoming the magical beasts and the new threats that had appeared after their first transformation.

'It should be impossible,' Noah thought after evaluating every possibility. 'They have already lost too much of their original selves. They would only throw away what they have left of their personality and drive if they perform another transformation.'

Noah found the loophole in that reasoning immediately. Completing a second transformation on such a vast scale would be impossible unless Heaven and Earth found a way to retrieve what they had lost in

the past. They would have the chance to fuse the best of their two versions and develop something stronger that didn't have flaws in the current state of the world.

'Why are they targeting the magical beasts then?' Noah wondered. 'They have enough power to deal with the old rulers. It would have been easier to focus the entirety of their energy on them instead of filling the higher plane to attack the various packs.'

The answer to those doubts didn't take long to appear in his mind. Noah could imagine everything. Both Heaven and Earth and the old rulers had deep flaws in their current state. The former still couldn't approach the breakthrough, while the latter had yet to retrieve and overcome their previous level.

By attacking the magical beasts, Heaven and Earth were slowly pushing their state closer to the tenth rank and giving room to grow to the old rulers. The process wanted to prepare the field for a vaster project that involved their existence as a whole.

Of course, all of that was happening in Noah's mind. He had vague clues gathered in an environment that he had yet to understand properly. However, his existence had never been stronger, so his ability to predict Heaven and Earth's plans and intentions had also reached insane levels.

Moreover, Noah had a general understanding of the world and the cultivation journey as a whole. He could see the possible paths in front of Heaven and Earth. Predicting where they would decide to walk felt almost natural after adding their past behavior to the current situation.

'The first step before the final battle has strived to the total control of the world,' Noah summarized in his mind. 'The second is focusing on reducing the population of magical beasts, and the third probably will probably involve the transformation that Heaven and Earth need to prepare for the fusion. Interesting.'

"Enough," Noah casually growled when his reasoning ended, and his voice sent waves of destruction throughout the battlefield.

The avatars and currents of lightning bolts directly shattered and released waves of energy that converged toward Noah's figure. Yet, the clouds didn't suffer any damage and began to emit angry crackling noises that resembled growls. He could even feel that Heaven and Earth's attention had finally fallen on him.

Chapter 2059 Shatter

Heaven and Earth seemed to have just noticed Noah's presence. Actually, he could feel that new energy had flowed inside the clouds after destroying the avatars and the currents of lightning bolts.

'This feels familiar,' Noah thought as he recalled past Heaven Tribulations. 'These clouds are probably a program that targets packs of magical beasts once the conditions are right.'

Noah didn't know if Heaven and Earth had always had that program ready, but that didn't seem to be the case due to the different abilities that it expressed. The normal black clouds would have already thrown barrages of lightning bolts at him after his interference. Yet, that new version stood still and analyzed his figure to understand how to deal with him.

"I'll take you for a while," Noah growled and waved his hand to expand the dark world and retrieve it in the next instant.

The lizards saw the mass of black crystals filling their surroundings and dragging them inside Noah's separate space. They couldn't oppose the process, especially with the pride seeping out of that technique. Still, they didn't struggle too much after seeing that they were finally getting a chance to escape the Tribulation.

Noah didn't immediately attack after clearing the area. He waited as his eyes darted among the clouds, and the corners of his mouth curved upward to reveal a cold smirk. Destroying that Tribulation at his current level felt easy, but he wanted to study their abilities first.

The clouds appeared unwilling to fight Noah. He didn't know if that feeling came from their natural structure or the power that had filled them after his arrival. Yet, he continued to wait to see what decision they would make.

The battlefield eventually started to shrink. The clouds closed on Noah as their fabric shrunk to condense their power into something that could at least hope to hurt him. The new energy had no part in that event. The form that they were trying to achieve felt like an aspect of their programming.

Noah began to raise his hand, but he stopped before any attack could come out of it. He had initially thought about forcing Heaven and Earth to pick a stronger move, but he feared that his power would make them decide to give up on fighting him.

The clouds soon stopped condensing. Their crackling noises intensified as humanoid white figures started to come out of their gaseous fabric. They were giving birth to giant avatars that had the same shape deployed during the battle against the monster, but Noah felt disappointed when their auras expanded.

The avatars were in the lower and middle tier of the ninth rank. They were stronger than their previous versions, but Noah had become able to deal with them even before his last breakthrough. Heaven and Earth couldn't possibly hope to defeat him with that little power.

His initial idea that Heaven and Earth wanted to waste power on purpose began to shake, but he didn't give up on it yet. After all, the rulers had yet to influence the clouds properly, so Noah guessed that they were trying to test him.

The clouds continued to generate avatars until Noah couldn't find a spot without them on the black array. Sparks started to seep out of their white skin as they gathered power. The puppets then joined hands and created a circuit that allowed their energy to flow freely from body to body.

The energy grew stronger as it flowed through that battle formation. Each avatar acted as a core that forced the power obtained from the clouds to condense and improve.

Noah's eyes sharpened at that sight. He had seen a vast deal of formations throughout his journeys with King Elbas, but that scene reminded him of something else. He recognized the theory behind June's Perfect Circuit in that technique.

Some coldness inevitably began to seep out of his figure. The weaker avatars that happened to touch that feeling found their bodies severed into countless parts. Noah ended up destroying many of them before managing to retract his influence and let the technique continue.

Noah couldn't help but forget about his initial plan when June's techniques appeared in front of his eyes. That scene didn't necessarily mean that she was in danger, and he even trusted her enough to know that she wouldn't lose to Heaven and Earth so easily. Still, his reaction had been instinctive and intense anyway.

The clouds gave birth to avatars that filled the spots left behind by the destroyed puppets. They didn't seem to mind Noah's abrupt attack, and the new energy inside them also remained still. It didn't connect that reaction with his relationship with June, but he didn't know whether to consider that as a good sign.

The avatars continued to accumulate energy until a series of spheres gathered in front of their chests. Sparks tried to come out of them, but the pulling force generated by the formation forced that energy to remain in their place.

Noah sensed that the avatars were striving to deliver an attack with power in the upper tier. His instincts warned him about that potential threat, but he limited himself to deploying the unstable substance.

The fabric of space began to twist when the entirety of Noah's body went through that empowerment. His sole presence became too heavy for an environment that lacked the strengthening of Heaven and Earth's light.

The avatars eventually let go of each other's hands and released all the power accumulated in front of them. A series of white beams that transformed into lightning bolts when their energy began to disperse converged on Noah and engulfed him into Heaven and Earth's iconic aura.

The attacks continued to rage even after the initial explosions. Shockwaves spread from the impact and reached the clouds before bouncing back. The black array worked as a cage that made use of the power dispersed after the technique to increase its destructiveness.

'This won't do,' Noah sighed, and his gesture made the raging energy around him leave his figure before flowing inside his body in the form of nutrients.

Noah reappeared among the array of clouds. His body featured no injuries, and even the robe created through his dark matter was completely intact. The attack didn't manage to leave a single mark on him.

'Is this the power that stands at the peak of the cultivation journey?' Noah thought as he checked his hands in the hope of finding small marks.

Everything felt too weak now that Noah had reached the ninth rank and had become able to study Heaven and Earth's punishments properly. The last attack stood in the upper tier, but its quality wasn't nearly enough to injure him after deploying the unstable substance.

That realization left Noah disappointed. He had long since understood that he had gone past the normal labels set by past experts. Still, that was too much. He had seen magical beasts with bodies that theoretically stood at his level suffering from the same attack that didn't hurt him in the slightest.

"Shatter!" Noah roared, and intense destruction accompanied the soundwaves generated by his voice.

His anger and understanding of Heaven and Earth's power accompanied the roar and granted it the power to affect the clouds. Fissures appeared in the black array and the fabric of space around him as his voice flew. It didn't take long before everything fell apart and left only Heaven and Earth new energy in the area.

Noah inspected the energy. He could see that it had the potential to rebuild the clouds and push their power to a superior realm, but nothing similar happened... Heaven and Earth lost interest in him and made its power go back inside the sky.

Chapter 2060 Orders

Heaven and Earth retreated, leaving Noah with many questions and only a few answers. He didn't know what the rulers were capable of right now, but he had seen how they had polished their punishments and had added some complexity to their power.

The return to the black clouds and their automatic nature hinted at the presence of a different system. Heaven and Earth had evolved the Tribulations and had unleashed them throughout the sky. Their initial indifference toward Noah partially proved how they lacked proper wills and only targeted specific enemies. The magical beasts were a clear hindrance on the path to the tenth rank, so the rulers had decided to isolate them before starting a worldwide hunt.

Noah inspected the area for a bit. He couldn't see any trace of the energy that had invaded the clouds. Heaven and Earth had merely gazed at the battle before leaving without deploying any additional measure. The event had resembled scenes seen in the Mortal Lands, but he knew that it had a different meaning now.

In the Mortal Lands, Heaven and Earth intervened only when the Tribulations turned out to be unsuitable for certain existences or when they were involved in acts that defied their fairness. However, they appeared when something aroused their interest now, and Noah obviously was on that list.

June's face inevitably appeared in his mind. The cultivation journey, especially near its higher ranks, didn't leave time to love and similar relationships. The path toward the peak also separated friendships due to the problems that different worlds could experience after remaining close for too long.

Noah trusted June deeply, and he even missed her whenever his mind went on those topics. He would love to have her at his side right now to discuss their respective journeys or just dive into intimate moments. Yet, searching for someone in that environment was virtually impossible. He believed that King Elbas would also struggle to develop something that could work.

'I'll meet her as long as I keep moving forward,' Noah eventually concluded in his mind. 'If I don't, I'll be forced to leave her behind.'

The sad but inevitable conclusion only managed to keep Noah in a daze for a few seconds. He recalled every promise he had exchanged with June, and neither could go back on their words. That would only mean the end of their cultivation journey.

Noah released the pack of lizards after putting those thoughts in the back of his mind. The creatures prepared to fight as soon as the whiteness shone on their reptilian eyes, but they relaxed when they saw Noah floating next to them.

"Thank you, Defying Demon," One of the leaders politely exclaimed, and the other lizards quickly echoed those human words.

A tremor ran on the creatures' eyes when Noah turned to show his cold face. His expression had nothing to do with the lizards, but they felt fear anyway. Yet, they didn't complain nor move since their lives basically belonged to him now.

Various thoughts ran through Noah's mind as he inspected the lizards. He had decided to focus on himself, but he couldn't let Heaven and Earth do as they wished either, especially after seeing how brazen they were about their hunt.

'Maybe it's time for the rulers to get what they deserve for using programs instead of stepping directly into the battlefield,' Noah thought before turning toward the weak sky.

"Stay there," Noah ordered as he approached the weak sky and placed a hand on its white layer.

Black lines began to spread on the material as Noah unfolded his aura. His destruction seeped into the very fabric of the weak sky, but he didn't trigger it immediately. Instead, he let it expand until it reached spots that even his vast consciousness struggled to touch.

The spiderweb of black lines eventually showed its power. An enormous chunk of the weak sky shattered and transformed into immense clouds of primary energy that made the lizards drool in hunger. They already ate those nutrients, but they had never seen so many of them at the same time since their destructive power was nowhere near Noah's.

Noah didn't feel hungry since he had already decided to proceed in a different direction. A new nature seeped into his aura and attracted the primary energy. That fuel typically was too thin to be visible with mere eyes, but the currents created by the pulling force were so dense that they gained multicolored shades as they converged toward Noah.

The primary energy didn't enter Noah's figure. He let it accumulate on his palm as his aura continued to condense it. The fuel wanted to gain specific shapes already, but he didn't allow it to complete the process since he had to take care of another phase first.

Noah moved back toward the lizards after taking that primary energy for himself. His consciousness shrunk to condense on those specimens and seep deep into their bodies. The creatures opposed that inspection, but a mere tinge of his pride was more than enough to make them lower their innate defenses.

"Don't oppose it," Noah growled when he approached one of the rank 9 leaders.

The lizard could only lower its head when Noah stretched his hand. The release of a wave of dark matter followed the contact, and the creature almost tried to escape when it felt that dense foreign energy seeping inside its body.

Noah only needed to glare at the lizard to make it stay still. He didn't blame it for trying to be uncooperative since most of those reactions came from its instincts, but he still wanted to complete his study quickly.

"You too," Noah said after retrieving the dark matter and glancing at the other leader.

The lizard lowered its head and approached Noah slowly. He placed his hand on its body before sending dark matter in its insides. His higher energy allowed him to understand everything about those creatures, including the differences that made those leaders unique.

"You need to eat something for me," Noah ordered after retrieving the dark matter and deploying the dark world.

"We wouldn't dare to oppose you," One of the leaders said, but Noah ignored those words since he had already started to focus on his project.

Noah let the primary energy disperse inside the dark world as multiple workshops materialized. The technique used the power obtained from the sky to give birth to Great Builder's iconic items. He quickly created fake cores that suited the lizards' specific bloodline and even modified some of them so that they could fit the rank 9 specimens.

The fake cores were similar to Great Builder's creations only in their structure. They were oval black items as large as a human's head. However, their purpose was completely different. Noah didn't make them to provide energy and superior harmony. He had developed dispensers of his ambition that would help the lizard overcome the innate limits of their species or current state.

"Eat them," Noah eventually ordered as he controlled the dark world to send the finished products in front of each lizard inside his technique. "They won't give you any immediate power, but they will open a path toward higher forms of existence... Stepping on it will depend on you."