

Demonic 2071

Chapter 2071 Blame

Noah couldn't help but feel wary of Heaven and Earth's decisions. They were different from what he had grown used to during the previous stages of his cultivation journey.

The rulers didn't attack mindlessly anymore. Instead, they had precise goals behind every Tribulation, and they didn't mind backing off whenever those plans went wrong.

The orange city shrunk in the form of a small district that made it easier to leave the patch of void and fly toward the nearest weak sky. Noah silently followed those floating buildings as he tried to imagine what Heaven and Earth had in store.

The Tribulations had grown stronger, the assaults had become smarter, and the tactical retreats prevented Noah from inflicting any consistent damage to the reserves of energy. Heaven and Earth were playing a slow and safe game as they slowly prepared for the final battle.

The orange city stopped flying once it arrived in an intact area. The fabric of space started to tremble as a strange glow came out of the buildings. Faint and small cracks opened among the whiteness as the dimensional layer that divided the zone from the void split into two parts and created a hiding spot.

The district flew inside that area in-between the layer of space, and Noah followed it. The pale whiteness that reached the separate dimension created a strange environment that blocked Heaven and Earth's constant inspections. Noah and the old rulers were relatively safe there, but both of them added defenses.

Noah limited himself to deploying the dark world and filling the entire separate dimension with his black crystals. Instead, the orange city spread sparks among the technique that transformed into crackling barriers as soon as they reached the edges of the area.

Nothing could reach the insides of the dark world now. Even a Tribulation would struggle to pierce those defensive techniques. Noah and the old rulers silently understood that they could talk safely, and the district opened to reveal a large road that led to the familiar pit.

Noah jumped on the road and reached the pit in no time before descending in its faint darkness. An orange radiance soon filled his view, but he didn't enter in any separate dimension. He eventually reached the chunk of the old sky, but its current form left him surprised.

The old rulers had been nothing more than a severed and defeated part of Heaven and Earth. They didn't have proper features, and they barely recalled what they were before fusing with the world. However, their new form showed that they had long since abandoned that weak condition.

The chunk of the sky had slowly transformed into a humanoid figure that radiated pale orange light. Noah could see the giant puppet illuminating the darkness of the pit, but he eventually noticed the slight imperfections on its surfaces.

The puppet's skin was far from smooth, and many spots featured small cracks or sharp corners. It was clear that the old rulers were up to something, but their project appeared far from over.

"Are you trying to rebuild your existence into something more individual?" Noah asked as he floated around the tall avatar to inspect its details.

"We had to remember first," The old rulers' androgynous voice resounded inside the pit without revealing any precise source. "How can power come from a previous step in the cultivation journey? We don't know for sure. Still, our new form is slowly taking life as we continue to expand our influence in the higher plane."

"Are you ditching your fusion with the world?" Noah asked since it seemed that the old rulers were trying to obtain a more human form.

"We can't ignore that part of our journey," The old rulers explained, "But we won't remain bound by it. We had to evolve past those limits, especially now that Divine Demon has started to claim our old energy."

Divine Demon was the "Breath"'s favored son, while the old rulers were the creators of that energy. Noah had guessed that their existences would have eventually clashed, but the old Heaven and Earth had chosen to jump on another path.

"Did you develop a new higher energy?" Noah asked as the images of the apes' special organs appeared in his mind.

"We weren't trying to keep it hidden from you," The old rulers explained. "The current state of the higher plane makes communications hard. We can barely send troops outside our city now."

"Let me see it," Noah requested. "I'm still one of the major experts in the world when it comes to higher energy."

"We are sure you'll hate it," The old rulers announced as an orange drop slowly materialized in front of Noah. "We wanted to fill the world with energy for our species in the past. That feeling didn't change. It has only taken a new form due to the changes in the world."

Noah inspected the orange drop. Liquid sparks ran inside its structure. It was powerful, dense, and far stronger than the "Breath", but it didn't reveal any unique feature. It even lacked the various natures that the "Breath" could obtain depending on its elements.

"It feels bland," Noah admitted.

"The "Breath" could originally become a core part of every member of our species," The old rulers explained. "The same goes for this higher energy. Everyone can seize it. Everyone can use it to reach farther spots in the cultivation journey. We have almost improved our original existence without needing to fuse with the world again."

"Why are you doing this?" Noah asked. "The Mortal Lands are hidden past the sky, and the higher plane doesn't have a great population either. Moreover, the experts among the whiteness won't accept this energy."

That was the same issue that Noah had faced when developing the quasi-living workshops. He had to create something that the powerful experts of the higher plane could accept without fearing for their worlds. The old rulers' higher energy was nowhere near that, and it even felt weaker than most powers.

"Because it's in our nature," The old rulers revealed. "It doesn't matter if it's useless. It doesn't matter if no one will take it. We have our path to complete even if no one else understands it."

A sharp spot on the avatar's figure suddenly flattened. The proud statement had brought the puppet closer to its final form, and Noah didn't miss that detail.

Noah remained partially stunned to see how far the old rulers had gone after their initial meeting. They weren't cultivators, but they had started to resemble them, and it was unclear where their path would lead them.

"You found your path," Noah whispered.

"No," The old rulers corrected. "We recalled and improved it. We now know that fusing with the world is a flawed path. We'll bring the higher plain to new heights as individual existences."

"Heaven and Earth don't think that it's flawed," Noah argued.

"It isn't for them," The old rulers responded. "Heaven and Earth have found a new approach, and they probably need us to complete it. We can almost sense the new clarity that fills the world. We think that they can win."

Noah knew that the victory intended by the old rulers was different from his idea. In his mind, Heaven and Earth would win as long as they killed him. It didn't matter if they succeeded in becoming a rank 10 existence afterward.

Instead, the old rulers could sense that Heaven and Earth's current approach could lead them to the heights that they had consistently failed to reach. They were basically stating that the new path was probably correct.

"Was it my fault?" Noah honestly asked. "Did I make Heaven and Earth realize their flaws by forcing their hand countless times?"

"You are definitely to blame," The old rulers confirmed, "But you shouldn't think of that as a mistake. Someone else would have filled your role anyway... Heaven and Earth have simply learnt how to improve after facing their flaws for so long."

Chapter 2072 Glance

Noah had reached similar conclusions during his long travel. Sure, a lot of what he had accomplished had ended up putting Heaven and Earth on a better path. However, that was the nature of flaws and hindrances. Overcoming them led to benefits. It was true for him, and the same went for the rulers.

"What's your plan?" Noah eventually asked. "Heaven and Earth's reserves of energy surpass yours. You'll eventually have to hide for real or go for something bold."

"We have to expand our influence," The old rulers revealed. "Stopping isn't an option, but we admit that Heaven and Earth are getting annoying."

"You should go into seclusion," Noah suggested. "Take your improved magical beasts and city and leave. You can't fall in Heaven and Earth's hands."

"Would you hide like a rat if you were in our place?" The old rulers questioned, and Noah even felt able to hear a faint laugh at the end of the line.

"You aren't me," Noah tried to convince them.

"No one is you," The old rulers continued, "But no one is us either. Even Heaven and Earth can't be us. That's why they fight us, and that's why we must improve faster than them. That's how the cultivation journey works."

Noah knew that the old rulers were right, but the situation remained troublesome. Heaven and Earth would eventually defeat them, and he didn't know if he could become strong enough by that point. He couldn't even remain with the orange city all the time either since he had his path to follow.

"We don't need your protection," The old rulers announced as if they understood what was happening inside his mind.

"Still, you need to do something," Noah stated. "I don't want the final battle to arrive too soon."

"We have a plan already," The old rulers replied. "We didn't focus only on escaping during these years. We have almost found a way to gaze on the arrays of laws past the sky."

Noah snapped out of his worries and thoughts. His eyes lit up with pure interest after hearing those words. Part of him even believed to have misheard the old rulers.

"How can you even find that with the sky all around the world?" Noah asked.

"By using the sky, of course," The old rulers revealed, and Noah sensed tinges of pride in their voice.

"I want in," Noah immediately exclaimed.

"We thought you didn't trust us," The old rulers replied.

"Don't pretend to negotiate," Noah scoffed. "You told me because you want me to join the mission. Don't worry. I'm in."

"Are you sure?" The old rulers teased. "We would probably need to destroy the place only to take a glimpse at the path past the ninth rank. Heaven and Earth will definitely go all-out against us afterward."

"Stop insulting me," Noah sighed. "Show me the plan."

The old rulers went silent as the drop of higher energy spread and transformed into a map of the higher plane. Noah could see the oval world filled with weak sky and the white layer all around it. The image also depicted a few known Mortal Lands hidden past the white edges.

"You have learnt a lot in these years," Noah commented.

"We have initially tried to reach some Mortal Lands to infect their "Breath"," The old rulers explained.

"We have ultimately abandoned that project to stop living in the past."

"What's the plan then?" Noah asked as his eyes inspected the map. "I can also make a similar picture, but I don't claim to know where Heaven and Earth keep their important structures."

"We can understand that because we used to be them," The old rulers announced. "Besides, gazing directly at the arrays of laws is impossible, but we used to know where we could inspect their effects. That can't change just because Heaven and Earth wish so."

Noah didn't feel surprised that the old rulers had started to search for the effects of the arrays when they still had control over the world. No one would give up on the chance to gaze at the path past the ninth rank if they had the opportunity. Still, he didn't share their confidence.

"So, you aren't certain," Noah said. "You don't really know if you have found the right place."

"We must take risks to uncover the path forward," The old rulers declared. "You understand, right? How many times have you relied on your instincts to find truths that you couldn't possibly know?"

"You can understand Heaven and Earth due to your previous connection," Noah continued, "But the opposite is also true. What if your plan is part of a greater trap?"

"It probably is," The old rulers admitted. "Heaven and Earth have long since understood that we are aiming for the arrays, but they can't hide them. Part of their current aggression probably comes from their realization that we are ready to start the plan."

Noah didn't need to ask how the old rulers intended to cross the sky. He had traded away the black metal during the apocalyptic event, so they definitely had something capable of digging through that white material.

"There won't be simple avatars waiting for us," Noah complained. "Cultivators who have been able to preserve their worlds for entire eras will try their best to stop us. Also, why would we need to destroy the place?"

"For those exact reasons," The old rulers explained. "Heaven and Earth will do everything in their power to prevent our possible inspection. That's why we must force everything to fall apart and exploit the chaos."

Noah started to gain a vague understanding of the plan, but that only revealed the many variables that could make it fail. First of all, the old rulers didn't know the exact spot from where Heaven and Earth gazed at the arrays. Then, they didn't explain how they intended to overcome the privileged cultivators.

The last part of the plan was also quite troublesome. Noah liked the idea of blowing away part of the sky, but that only made everything unclear. The purpose of the mission was to gaze at the arrays, so the chaos could potentially go against that.

"Is it worth it?" Noah wondered. "Why are you doing all of this for a simple glance? I'm not underestimating the benefits of the arrays. I just don't think that spending so much to obtain so little is worth it."

"Don't compare ourselves to those cultivators," The old rulers said after understanding the source of Noah's doubts.

The privileged cultivators and Heaven and Earth had access to those resources for entire eras. They had even searched for specific arrays and understood where their influence was more intense.

A simple glance was nothing compared to the eras that those experts had spent in front of those resources. Noah wanted to understand what stood beyond the ninth rank, but he wasn't willing to create such a mess for something that might not give him anything.

The old rulers understood those doubts, and they didn't hesitate to reassure Noah. "The idea behind the single glance isn't in the actual contents of the scene, but in the feelings that it expresses... We want to experience the path past the ninth rank with our new existence, but we would understand if you were to refuse."

Chapter 2073 Seclusion

The old rulers had yet to point on the map where they intended to attack. Noah guessed that they were waiting for him to make a decision, but he didn't know how he could even refuse that offer.

Traveling on his own and the quasi-living workshops were good plans, but they would require a long time to show their benefits. Noah wanted to do something in-between that long and dull wait, and attacking the sky with the old rulers definitely suited his character.

"How long will Heaven and Earth remain unable to gaze at the arrays after we destroy the place?" Noah asked.

"Heaven and Earth always have their eyes set on the realms above them," The old rulers explained. "We might slow them down a little, but the damage will mostly involve the cultivators striving to remain ahead of the system."

"So much for a mere glance," Noah sighed before nodding. "Let's go for it. I was already growing bored of taking it easy."

"What's your current power level?" The old rulers asked.

"You'll have to find that out," Noah smirked.

The old rulers fell silent, but a change eventually happened on the map. A spot on the sky turned white before expanding and adding a few details on the side that shone on the higher plane.

Noah didn't really care about those details. They didn't describe much anyway, and they didn't reveal the danger hidden inside the actual sky either. Even the old rulers couldn't predict what would wait for them once they entered that environment.

"How do you intend to proceed?" Noah asked.

"The attack must be swift," The old rulers explained. "We have developed three powerful weapons from the dark metal, and two of them will be necessary for the mission. We would prefer to keep the third for unexpected situations, but we are ready to use it if something goes wrong."

Noah could immediately guess that the power of those weapons was immense. After all, he knew how much dark metal he had given to the old rulers. The fact that they had split it into only three assets described their might.

"I'll rely on you for the direction," Noah stated. "I don't know where we are right now."

"We have moved toward that target for a few decades by now," The old rulers announced. "Still, Heaven and Earth keep sending Tribulations toward us. They are slowing us down as they prepare defenses."

"I think it's better if I remain hidden," Noah suggested. "Heaven and Earth can't confirm that I've joined the mission. We should keep things like this."

"We agree," The old rulers exclaimed as rumbling noises started to resound from above the pit. "We have already prepared a suitable training hall for your seclusion. Do you have other requests?"

"I need a connection with the outside world every few years," Noah responded. "I don't need to go out. You can close the connection as soon as I drop something."

"Deal," The old rulers agreed.

Noah turned to fly out of the pit, but a doubt appeared in his mind. He didn't worry about the Tribulations along the way, but the orange city probably was too big for the actual mission. The old rulers could shrink the structure, but he didn't know whether they had something better to send inside the sky.

"How do you plan on gazing at the areas outside the sky?" Noah asked. "Recording the scene from inside the city shouldn't be ideal."

"Don't worry about us," The old rulers stated as the humanoid puppet started to shake. "We'll be ready by then."

Noah could only nod. It seemed that the old rulers were going all-out for the mission, and he could only like that outcome.

When Noah left the pit, he saw that most buildings had retreated except for a single palace. He didn't hesitate to enter it, and a cold smile appeared on his face when he confirmed the firmness of the structure. The training area wouldn't be able to contain his power if he went all-out, but it was sturdy enough to endure his normal absorption.

The structure also had a pool that seemed to work as a dimensional passage for the outside world. Noah could meditate while hovering above the opening to draw energy from the weak sky. Even dropping the quasi-living workshops wasn't a problem with that asset.

A long meditation inevitably started. Noah didn't do much except study his current power and expand his influence on the other side of the passage. Heaven and Earth might notice his presence inside the orange city like that, but he couldn't stop training altogether just to preserve some secrecy.

The training hall also lit up every few years. Noah used that signal to drop the quasi-living workshops. He even experienced something that he had waited for a while during his seclusion. Someone had picked up one of his fake cores, and his world had started to benefit from it.

Unluckily for Noah, he experienced that sensation only once during his stay inside the orange city. He didn't mind that too much since his project had just started, but he also wished that everything went faster.

Noah knew that the project would pick up speed once he filled the entirety of the higher plane with quasi-living workshops. Still, the current effectiveness of his items told him that the world had fewer experts than he had initially expected.

That realization wasn't exactly terrible. There was a chance that many packs, forces, or experts had simply decided to seclude themselves now that the weak sky filled the higher plane. Still, Noah remained disappointed about it. He wanted to improve quickly and become able to touch Caesar's realm, but wishes alone couldn't expand his world.

The seclusion came to an end when the training area lit up and continued to illuminate Noah. He understood that the time to go had arrived, and a peculiar scene unfolded in his vision when he left the structure.

An army of improved magical beasts had gathered around the pit. The iconic orange color of the old rulers filled the area due to the fur, skin, and features that shared that shade. The orange city seemed ready to go to war, and Noah could only feel happy about it.

Noah didn't hide his doubts even in front of the old rulers, but the current orange spectacle was reassuring. The orange city was willing to deploy the entirety of its assets, which proved how serious it was about the whole mission.

"We will open the path," The old rulers' androgynous voice resounded throughout the area as an orange halo started to come out of the pit. "You must come out only after we pierce the sky."

Noah knew that the old rulers were talking to him, so he nodded and started to ascend to place himself on top of a building. He could see the defensive array of lightning bolts from there, and the orange city quickly provided him with tools to inspect the situation on the outside world.

A series of lights came out of the roof and started to depict familiar images. Noah saw the orange city in a large area without weak sky. The real white layer was right in front of the buildings, but a sea of crackling avatars and black clouds prevented them from advancing.

"Rise," The old rulers ordered, and the army of magical beasts started to ascend past the defensive array of lightning bolts. Noah could inspect as a massive battle between those assets and the avatars began.

Chapter 2074 Quick

A spectacle of orange and white light unfolded as soon as the modified magical beasts met the avatars. Waves of innate abilities and lightning bolts filled the vast battlefield and shattered the fabric of space in ways that even Heaven and Earth struggled to fix.

Noah watched everything and waited patiently for the battle to end. He knew those assets and their power, and the magical beasts didn't interest him. They were strong and had an incredible efficiency against Heaven and Earth's avatars, but they didn't represent the old rulers' true might.

The battle went on for a while. The army of magical beasts had the upper hand, but Heaven and Earth continued to send reinforcements. The sky was right behind the battlefield, so the rulers only needed a few seconds to refill their side.

Orders came out of the orange city from time to time. The old rulers created battle formations that the magical beasts executed in no time. Those creatures were a trained force meant to destroy Heaven and Earth, and they never stopped showing their might.

Precise lightning bolts also shot out of the defensive array above the orange city. They flew among the modified magical beasts to pierce avatars or some of the clouds behind them.

There didn't seem to be an end to the battle. The constant flow of reinforcements eventually began to affect the magical beast's advantage. Those creatures' resilience was immense, and the old rulers knew how to make the best out of their innate abilities. Yet, Heaven and Earth had sheer superior numbers on their side, and they didn't hesitate to rely on them to tilt the scales of the battle in their direction.

The old rulers had predicted a similar situation, and they had also prepared countermeasures. Some orange lightning bolts ended up falling on the sky behind the battlefield to create spherical masses of energy. Initially, they didn't do anything, but the situation changed once a few hundred of them gathered on the white layer.

The spherical masses of energy started to send lightning bolts among each other. Those attacks ricocheted and quickly gave birth to a barrier that destroyed every avatar trying to come out of the sky.

The magical beasts launched an all-out offensive once the reinforcements stopped flooding the battlefield. Their assault swept away most of the avatars and cleared the clouds, seizing a quick victory while Heaven and Earth were still busy dealing with the barrier.

An order echoed from the orange city, and the army of magical beasts performed a quick retreat without minding the few avatars that had survived the previous attack. The creatures returned among the buildings, and Heaven and Earth destroyed the barrier when the battlefield became mostly empty. However, the old rulers had already activated the second part of their attack by then.

A few buildings placed at the corners of the orange city lit up and began to radiate a dark orange light in the area. Noah sensed the presence of the dark metal, but the old rulers didn't give him the time to study the event.

The light intensified until it tainted the defensive crackling array. The lightning bolts grew denser as they gained the dark metal's features. Their noise even intensified before they shot forward.

The orange city separated itself from one of its strongest defensive assets. It transformed the barrier of lightning bolts into an attack that reached the sky before Heaven and Earth could throw more avatars into the battlefield. Needless to say, the white layer directly shattered under the properties of the dark metal and the destructive features of the attack.

A massive hole appeared in the sky as the array of lightning bolts flew forward. Heaven and Earth couldn't do anything against its destructive properties, and many avatars inside the white layer also crumbled due to the destruction that unfolded.

The attack didn't stop even after disappearing from the sensor's range. The dark orange glow faded among the whiteness, but its power continued to fill the giant tunnel. That technique had been many times more effective than anything Noah and King Elbas had deployed during their past exploration. Still, that felt natural due to its different purposes.

The orange city wasn't trying to sneak inside the sky to seize resources. That mission had to be fast, direct, and flawless. Half-assed methods or slow approaches would only create unwanted variables that could lead to a complete defeat or worse.

The old rulers brought their city forward, and the structure expanded once it entered the tunnel. A new crackling array appeared above the buildings and stretched to reach the edges of the giant passage to slow down its innate healing properties. A series of runes and thunderous cores also came out of those attacks to spread throughout the area.

The orange city forced the healing process to a temporary stop. Heaven and Earth wanted to close the passage and prevent that invasion, but the old rulers' methods weren't easy to destroy. Still, the sky started to heal even if the formation expanded over its shattered surfaces. The sheer difference in power between those existences wasn't something that mere preparations could fill.

"Quick," The old rulers ordered as an orange figure shot out of the pit and arrived next to Noah. "We don't have long."

The space-time array replaced the world in Noah's vision. He was outside the void of the battlefield, so he could exploit his aspects to deploy the full power of his movement technique.

Noah shot forward, and the orange figure flew next to him. They were equally matched in terms of speed, but Noah felt that the old rulers had yet to show their true power.

The sprint didn't allow Noah to study the orange figure or its power. The old rulers were using the humanoid puppet that he had seen inside the pit to move. That seemed their real body, but he couldn't be sure without further testing.

The situation didn't give Noah the chance to test anything. He and the old rulers had to outrun Heaven and Earth's healing properties. They also had a limited amount of time since the formation that covered the shattered surfaces was constantly losing power.

The sprint seemed to last an eternity inside that dull environment. Noah could get how much he had crossed due to his understanding of space, but that didn't help him realize how far he was from his destination.

The sky didn't have fixed thickness. Noah didn't know how far the other side was from that spot, but he didn't have to remain with his doubts for too long since a trace of the void past the higher plane eventually appeared in his vision. Still, the scene was so spectacular that he almost slowed down to inspect it.

The other side of the sky in that area wasn't white. It was actually hard to notice it due to its transparent properties. The material showed the void past the higher plane and enhanced some of its details.

Noah could see faint currents of energy that even the sky's functions couldn't manage to enhance. He squeezed his eyes and expanded his consciousness as much as possible, but he couldn't improve his perspective. He had to get closer to make use of that material, but Heaven and Earth wouldn't make it so easy for him.

A series of figures broke the orange formation in random spots near the transparent piece of sky and appeared in the tunnel. Noah saw Dinia and other privileged cultivators gathering in front of the dark

spectacle and blocking his view... Their auras also stopped his consciousness and prevented him from memorizing the few images that he had been able to see from his position.

Chapter 2075 Weapon

Noah didn't know how strong the old rulers were in their current form, but he felt pretty sure that their joint power wouldn't be enough against the team of privileged cultivators. Dinia alone wasn't an issue. Actually, Noah even wanted to test his current might against him. Yet, the other experts with him made the situation impossible to overcome.

Noah didn't recognize the other privileged cultivators, but their power was enough to raise doubts in his mind. Some of those experts were in the solid stage, which only reminded him of his fight against Caesar. The latter was an elite even among assets at the peak of the cultivation journey, but Noah couldn't hurt him at all, and something told him that something similar would happen against his current opponents.

The Cursed Sword and the Demonic Sword appeared in his hands even if he had no intention to fight. Noah prepared himself for the battle while he waited for the old rulers to make their move. He knew that they had prepared something for that situation, but he wasn't privy to the plan's details.

"You made a mess now," Dinia coldly announced as the cultivators around him expanded their worlds to prepare for the battle. "The sky will close, and you won't get the chance to escape. Honestly, I expected more from you."

Noah didn't answer. His face remained cold as he waited for something to happen. The black crystal and his companions became ready for the imminent wave of attacks, and the space-time array replaced the world in his eyes.

"Puppets never know their place," The old rulers spoke through their incomplete body. "You all are a rare breed, but most of your power comes from the flawed mindset that made you bow your heads in front of a superior entity."

"You sure talk a lot," Dinia scoffed. "I'm surprised you managed to survive after Heaven and Earth cut you away. Your current personality also comes from that troublesome individual."

A series of gazes fell on Noah. The privileged cultivators didn't seem to care about the old rulers, but he knew the real reason behind that behavior. Those experts probably had orders to leave his ally to Heaven and Earth.

"We don't have much time," The old rulers announced while taking something out of their orange body. "We are afraid this conversation must end now."

The cultivators instinctively prepared themselves to defend against the old rulers' weapon, but confused expressions appeared on their faces when they noticed the nature of the item. The orange avatar had taken out a black sphere that didn't seem to emit any power. Even Noah failed to understand its might.

The sphere clearly had dark metal in its fabric, but its lack of aura was destabilizing for experts that relied so heavily on their senses and minds. Even the monster with its non-world radiated effects that rank 9 experts could study. However, the old rulers' weapon appeared empty. Noah even struggled to inspect it since it didn't seem to exist at all.

"What's that?" Dinia asked.

"This is the current apex of the inscription field," The old rulers explained. "Gaze and marvel at the fusion between existence and non-existence."

The old rulers threw the sphere forward while the privileged cultivators tried to find some sense in their words. It was easy to connect that statement to the capture of the injured non-world, but the weapon didn't seem to carry its destructive and unique properties.

The sphere floated slowly among the sky. The old rulers didn't hold back when they threw the weapon, but it seemed to struggle to move through the whiteness.

That odd feature didn't give much hope to Noah, and even the privileged cultivators felt tempted to lower their guards and disregard the weapon. Still, none of them underestimated its power, especially after hearing such a bold statement.

The sphere stopped moving altogether when it reached a seemingly random spot between Noah and the cultivators' group. It stood among the sky before starting to rotate. A strange aura eventually began to leak from its figure, and everyone finally became able to understand its power.

Noah widened his eyes in shock. The array of darker lightning bolts had been a spectacular attack that stood at the very peak of the ninth rank. It had been able to dig a massive tunnel inside the sky, allowing Noah and the old rulers to reach the other side of the white layer without meeting any hindrance.

The old rulers were a few steps ahead of Noah, but that felt normal after considering their past. They were existences that had managed to touch the very peak of the world, and they had even become strong enough to attempt the leap to the tenth rank.

Their second weapon only highlighted the old rulers' immense power. The sphere showed its might as a peak rank 9 weapon during its rotation. It seemed to have even more energy than the dark crackling array, and it was also able to condense it in that small form.

The discharge of so much power would naturally have devastating consequences on the area. Dinia and the others felt the need to retreat, but they didn't leave their position. They were defending the best resource in the entire sky. Mere energy and constant safety barely had any value compared to what they could witness due to the transparent layer.

Instead, nothing stopped Noah from retreating, so he began to take a step back, but the rulers promptly turned their featureless face toward him to voice a warning. "You won't be able to take your glance if you back out any further."

The statement left Noah a bit stunned. He knew that the old rulers intended to blow the place up for a chance to gaze at the arrays. Still, that was too much. The explosion could kill everyone who dared to remain in the area.

Noah suddenly felt that the whole plan had been a bad idea. Even his instincts were warning him about the deadliness of the sphere. His best defenses might not be enough in that situation, but he wouldn't gain a similar chance anytime soon. It was now or never, and getting injured seemed a fair price to pay for that potential reward.

The black crystal started creating countless dark vessels inside his body, and the unstable substance quickly filled them. The pure potential inside his ethereal world forced his flesh to reach a level of power that it wouldn't achieve even if he spent millennia eating rank 9 resources. Dark matter covered his figure as his swords disappeared.

Roots soon wrapped themselves around the fiendish armor, and pulling forces came out of his figure to prepare the energy necessary to fix his injuries. Duanlong also got ready to use its new innate ability. Everything about Noah focused on a simple but necessary aspect of the mission. He had to survive the imminent explosion and keep his eyes open for the arrays.

The sphere's rotation accelerated until the items started releasing a high-pitched noise that intensified as the seconds passed. A dark light that carried orange shades also started spreading in its surroundings. Then, a loud, deep noise filled the area and made everything go dark.

Noah gave the order, and Duanlong's head came out of his chest to absorb part of the immense wave of energy that was flying toward him. However, the old rulers suddenly started to glow with orange light that fended off the incoming attack.

The old rulers weren't using any specific technique. It seemed that the massive wave of energy naturally avoided their glow. It was clear that they had planted a flaw in the weapon so that they could exploit it in that situation, and Noah ended up benefitting from it.

The path opened by the orange glow stretched forward. It pierced the dense sea of energy easily and created an opening that reached the transparent piece of sky. The explosion had made that unique chunk fall apart, but its shards still enhanced the distant void as they shot past the edges of the higher plane.

Noah fixed his gaze on the images that felt familiar to him, and his mind lost itself in the deep meanings that he saw.

Chapter 2076 Shards

It was hard to describe the scenes reflected on the shattered transparent piece of sky. Words were unsuitable for worlds, let alone for everything that came after them.

The area was a mess of blackness and destruction disrupted only by the old rulers' orange glow and the random lights released by the privileged cultivators. The situation announced the need to run away with everything it featured, but Noah couldn't move.

Noah had merely gazed at the reflections on the transparent sky. Those shards continued to work while the explosion pushed them toward the void, so he could see the currents of energy that they had initially inspected.

The meanings carried by that energy were different, and most of them weren't even close to suiting his existence. However, Noah didn't need to learn from them. He only had to understand what lay beyond the ninth rank, and that mere glance was enough to reveal a lot.

Everything in the universe worked according to different laws. Some were vast or deep enough to become worlds, and they expressed that superior power through a denser and purer form of energy.

Still, that was only one side of the system. The universe worked like the worlds and followed a path that cultivators wouldn't normally approach. There was a lack of wills in the laws that ruled the void and the matter immersed inside it. Everything functioned because that was its nature. It was possible to see traces of an actual personality and character only when an external force tried to override those innate purposes.

Noah could gaze at forms of energy that went beyond his understanding. He felt unable to study them due to the lack of time, distance, and limitations that his current rank brought. Yet, their interactions with the void revealed part of their secrets, and that was more than enough for him since he could draw conclusions on his own afterward.

The cultivators didn't respect the rules of that system. The worlds and the universe featured a series of laws and true meanings fused to give birth to specific features. Still, those natures were never obtained randomly or developed through training and similar efforts.

The universe knew how it was supposed to work, and the same went for the worlds inside it. Everything was a complicated array that featured shallow forms of energy and laws so deep that even Noah struggled to recognize them. Together, they created what existed and non in a balanced environment that kept expanding.

The deeper powers didn't claim massive amounts of energy. They definitely appeared mighty and scary, but those features didn't come from what they contained.

'It's not what they have,' Noah realized. 'Their power comes from their ability to shape the world according to their features. The void is supposed to be empty, so deep laws that involve meanings close to the non-existence have control of its space-time array.'

Noah immediately corrected himself. Those deep laws didn't have control of the void. That piece of the universe had become the void he knew because specific meanings had shaped it like that.

That influence went beyond what the cultivators' worlds could do. Those deep laws had no interest in gaining more power, and they didn't even affect their surroundings on purpose. However, the environment changed and replicated their features simply because they existed.

Noah tried to compare and translate those effects to apply his findings to the cultivation journey. The ninth rank featured personal worlds with special features. Some were simple, while others were highly complicated. Still, they had a common aspect. They were all unique and impossible to replicate.

Even powerhouses like Heaven and Earth couldn't copy an existing world. The cultivators were simply creators of new laws that didn't naturally exist in the universe. Their sole existence expanded the scope of all creation and granted a constant flow of different meanings.

The universe grew thanks to the cultivators, and that process wasn't a mere expansion. Everything learnt from those experts improved its understanding of the balance that it naturally tried to achieve.

The universe actually felt alive, but Noah felt able to refuse those thoughts. The cosmos had innate purposes but no wills. It simply existed and strived to preserve the balance.

The cultivators' role in that immense and seemingly welcoming environment was to bring their worlds to the point when they could shape their surroundings. They couldn't just infect the matter around

them. The change had to be far deeper. The very rules of the universe had to change because of the experts' power.

'How can anyone ever reach that point?' Noah wondered. 'This goes beyond the power of influence. Our worlds would need to become proper rules of the universe to touch that level.'

His thoughts contained the answer he needed, but they didn't tell him how to reach it. Noah knew how to grow stronger inside the ninth rank, but the tenth wanted more from him. He would basically need to accept to be a part of the universe, which sounded wrong after spending countless years improving his individual power.

'What about the arrays then?' Noah wondered. 'Are they mere catalogs that keep track of all the laws that appear in the universe? It would make sense, but there also has to be a corresponding level for cultivators, unless no one has ever reached it.'

Worlds and cultivators followed different paths, but they shared similar features. Moreover, they had the same checkpoints when it came to their power.

Noah felt that he would be as powerful as the entire higher plane once he reached the peak of the ninth rank. Of course, he wasn't considering Heaven and Earth in that comparison, but they were a variable that other worlds probably didn't have.

Noah could see himself as a force that continuously modified the universe in the higher ranks. He had seen waves of energy achieving that, so the cultivators had to get somewhere close to that. The issue came after those in-between levels. If the arrays were the apex of the journey past the ninth rank, what was the corresponding level for experts like him?

A few explanations appeared in his mind. One saw cultivators transforming into arrays and helping the universe in its pursuit of balance. That made a lot of sense. There had to be a limit to what those structures could calculate after experiencing the birth of many new meanings.

Noah didn't really like that hypothesis. He didn't work so hard only to become an overseer of the universe's balance. He guessed that there had to be other paths available, with one of them being the possibility of creating an entirely new environment that didn't follow the rules set by the existing arrays.

The waves of thoughts that had filled Noah's mind had made the single and short glance at the images reflected the transparent shards feel like an eternity. Less than a second had passed since the old rulers had opened a path for the other side of the explosion, but he still experienced everything as if he had the chance to let his mind wander for entire centuries.

Noah noticed that his potential had empowered his mind on its own to deal with the massive amount of information, but that thinking speed remained unusual. He couldn't help but blame the scene for that strange phenomenon, but the old rulers eventually put an end to it.

A series of runes came out of the old rulers' body and enveloped the two figures before activating a teleport. Noah's glimpse on the future path vanished in no time, and it took him a while to decide to snap back to reality.

The old rulers had brought them above the orange city, which quickly left the sky and allowed it to close. The mission had been short but worth it. Noah had gained a new perspective about the cultivation

journey... Part of him even wanted to start testing ways to achieve the same deep influence witnessed in the transparent shards.

Chapter 2077 Perfect

The deep understanding that the short experience had brought to Noah's mind almost made him forget the dangerousness of the situation. The old rulers had teleported him outside the sky right after causing a major mess. That wasn't the time to ponder about his gains. He had to leave the area and make Heaven and Earth lose track of him.

"Shall we split here?" The old rulers asked. "We can give you a ride toward deeper areas of the higher plane, but Heaven and Earth can find us easily. We'll very likely end up facing a series of Tribulations in the next years."

"It's fine," Noah refused. "This has been a good distraction. I'd rather be alone for now."

"Then, was it worth it?" The old rulers questioned as a crack opened on their orange figure to create what seemed a smug smirk.

"It was definitely something," Noah admitted. "The universe looks immense, and there might be more past it."

"No wonder they call you Defying Demon," The old rulers chuckled. "Even a glimpse of the universe can't put a stop to your ambition."

"My journey is endless," Noah announced before turning and watching the space-time array replacing the white environment in his vision.

"As every journey should be," The old rulers exclaimed before Noah's figure disappeared from the area. Their orange body glanced at the crack created by his movement technique before inspecting the sky until they ultimately returned inside the orange city.

Rumbling thoughts filled Noah's mind as he walked among the space-time array. He couldn't stop reviewing what he had experienced during that short inspection of the realms past the ninth rank.

His techniques felt barbaric after witnessing what forms of energy lay ahead. Noah was exploiting the very nature of the higher plane for his benefit, but that was a mere trick compared to what beings past the ninth rank could achieve.

Existences capable of affecting space and time would directly morph part of the universe according to their understanding. That effect wouldn't be part of a technique or similar effects. It would be a normal consequence of their sheer power.

Noah could sense that his world wasn't part of any larger system. He had long since escaped Heaven and Earth's control, and the higher plane was under their control, so he could never experience what it was to modify something without affecting someone else's power.

That wasn't even close to what Noah had witnessed during the mission. His world was a solitary force moving among enemy territory. Instead, the deeper forms of energy among the void were part of the universe's system, and their sole existence shaped the environment depending on their meanings.

Noah didn't like that path because it seemed to throw away the uniqueness developed throughout countless years. He didn't want to become part of a system, but his unwillingness didn't make him unable to admire the positive aspects of the scene.

The deeper forms of energy didn't appear constrained or anything similar. They weren't like the cultivators inside Heaven and Earth's system. They were part of the universe but also free to express themselves and reshape the environment.

Moreover, those forms of energy probably didn't reflect the realm that cultivators would achieve at that level. Noah believed that another path existed for beings like him. Still, that different journey had to share similarities with what he had witnessed, so he naturally started to think about the issue.

His world affected his surroundings, but the process was a transformation rather than a natural consequence to his existence. He was strong enough to force the matter around him to benefit from his ambition, but those effects were forceful. The universe didn't react to him. He was only a lonely world roaming among a plane that belonged to an even stronger being.

Noah didn't know how to improve from that point. Sure, expanding his existence and throwing quasi-living workshops around would make him progress across the ninth rank, but the path beyond that realm wanted something else.

Noah wasn't sure that he could achieve similar effects immediately. He was strong, but Caesar had proven how his world still lacked depth. There was a chance that he would be able to understand how to affect the universe once he reached higher stages of the cultivation journey, but it didn't hurt to try to be ahead of his schedule.

The long sprint full of various ideas and vague plans ended when Noah sensed a foreign presence in the space-time array that filled his vision. He abruptly stopped, and his blades appeared in his hands when he recognized the aura that had appeared in the area.

"You never give up," Noah joked as a white figure slowly came out of the weak sky in the distance.

"My perfect self couldn't let you escape again," Dinia announced. "Let's end this today."

Noah inspected his surroundings as his consciousness expanded. He couldn't sense anyone else in the area, which left him quite surprised. Dinia could probably guess how strong he had become, so it made no sense for him to jump into a battle on his own.

"Don't worry too much," Dinia announced. "This isn't for Heaven and Earth or any other plan. I can't let you escape me again."

"Don't tell me that you need to kill me to reach the solid stage," Noah sneered. "You sure have a troublesome world."

"We can't change who we are," Dinia declared as white runes appeared on his body and started to draw power from the whiteness around him, "Especially at our level. You have endangered my perfect self, so I must defeat you."

Noah couldn't argue with that. He could actually understand what Dinia was experiencing due to his knowledge of the cultivator's world. Words had suddenly become pointless, and bloodlust inevitably started flowing out of his figure.

"Yes, good," Dinia exclaimed. "Go all-out from the very beginning. Let's avoid wasting time in pointless inspections of each other's power."

Noah didn't let Dinia repeat himself. His potential flooded his centers of power as the unstable substance reinforced his body. Intense ambition flowed out of his figure as his companions started to appear around him. He was going all-out just as Dinia asked.

"Are you going to make me wait?" Noah asked since Dinia didn't activate any new technique.

"My perfect self is already above you," Dinia stated as a copy of the cultivator materialized above Noah and tried to deliver a descending punch.

"I know," Noah sighed as a wave of bloodlust came out of him and released a dark-purple substance in the area. The parasite didn't hesitate to follow that event with its seeds. Many branches appeared between Noah and the cultivator, and the sky immediately began to waver.

"We have always known that your arrival in the ninth rank would have caused problems," Dinia explained as more copies of him came out of his figure. "Don't worry. I've come prepared."

Dinia multiplied itself, but Noah didn't falter. He knew that most of those copies would disappear as soon as they suffered a significant defeat, so he could only see them as puppets.

'I can match this power,' Noah thought as the dark world expanded and workshops started to generate an equally stronger army... He could deal with those copies even if they touched the upper tier in terms of power.

Chapter 2078 Might

Dinia wasn't arrogant, but he let Noah complete his preparations anyway. The cultivator was there to prove that his perfect self could defeat his opponent, so he didn't want to rely on tactics or intelligent approaches. His victory had to be flawless on every field.

Noah understood Dinia. Truth be told, he even liked the cultivator's world. The privileged experts stood on Heaven and Earth's side, but they were entities that had resisted the rulers' control for many years. They deserved his respect.

Of course, that didn't change anything in the battle. Only one of them would survive that clash, and Noah had every intention to come out as the winner.

The ambition released by his companions and the potential that filled the black crystal made the workshop function at an unfathomable speed. Countless six-armed dragons and fiendish figures appeared in his technique's darkness, but the dark matter eventually retreated to gather around his blades.

Dinia could see the full might of Noah's power after the dark world retreated. Hundreds of black figures now tainted the white environment, and a dark light spread from that small army. Six-armed dragons

and fiendish figures in the middle tier hovered around Noah while the rest of his companions stood at his sides.

The scene was incredible, and Noah didn't even complete his preparations by then. Black crystals appeared over his figure to create a fiendish armor that allowed the parasite to entangle its roots around him without hurting his body. Meanwhile, the other branches withered and died as he forced the entirety of his power to converge around him.

Noah had transformed into a proper dark spot immersed in the whiteness of the sky. He expressed his previous thoughts with his current power. He was showing his world in the middle of the enemy territory, and the area inevitably suffered due to his sheer weight.

Dinia smiled coldly, but he didn't hide his faint hesitation. He didn't forget that his opponent had barely stepped on the ninth rank, but the power before him seemed to belong to one of the most experienced cultivators in the entirety of the higher plane.

The issue wasn't in the individual power of each asset. The army of dragons and fiendish figures had hundreds of middle tier members, but that wasn't enough against Dinia. Snore and the other companions had an unclear level due to the ambition that filled the area, but even that was relatively fine.

On the other hand, Noah appeared strong enough to rip the sky apart with his bare hands. Needless to say, even that alone wouldn't be enough against Dinia. However, all those assets working together while a sea of ambition engulfed them could create a few problems. The army led by Noah had the power to stand proudly on the solid stage, and that realization was astonishing.

"Your potential is indeed scary," Dinia admitted. "I bet that in twenty or even ten thousand years, I wouldn't have had any chance against you."

"You are talking as if you had a chance now," Noah teased.

"I don't," Dinia stated, "But my perfect self won't lose against such a young threat."

Dinia spread his hands, and his upper tier copies shot forward. They shone with white light as they reached the area tainted by the darkness and pierced it to arrive in front of the army.

A slaughter unfolded. Noah had empowered his puppets with fake cores and ambition, but Dinia's copies were too strong. The dragons and the fiendish figures shattered whenever punches, white rays, or corrosive glows fell on them. The cultivator wasn't even giving them the time to discharge their energy to detonate themselves.

The army quickly shrunk, but a series of stronger opponents rapidly appeared in front of the copies. Noah, Snore, Night, and Duanlong shot forward to face the enemies, and a series of explosions immediately resounded on the battlefield.

Dinia's copies were powerful, but they disappeared quickly. They were an expression of an idea rooted in the cultivator's mind. They could attack for a while, but they vanished as soon as Noah proved them wrong.

Noah unleashed a slash that made use of the dark matter released by the Demonic Sword, his higher energy, the corrosive properties of the parasite, and the Cursed Sword's innate ability. Snore unleashed a few feathers, Night launched a storm of black lines that fused to transform into a sharp wall, and Duanlong opened its mouth to absorb the incoming attacks.

The army of dragons and fiendish figures held their ground against the remaining copies. Many of them died in the process, but the explosions they generated eventually amassed enough energy to stop the incoming attacks.

The first offensive ended with Noah losing a few minor assets and using Duanlong's innate ability. Dinia couldn't feel satisfied with that outcome, but the same went for Noah. The latter wanted his power to overwhelm his opponent, but he couldn't change the reality of the situation. Dinia was simply strong.

Noah didn't limit himself to defend. He voiced a roar that made the entirety of his assets advance as the space-time array replaced the world in his vision. A few steps were enough to put him above Dinia, but his fast movements didn't surprise the expert.

Dinia shone with white light as the glow of his runes intensified. His radiance cut through the many puppets and shattered some of them apart while he launched a beam toward Noah. The latter's swords descended, and an explosion happened when they met the bright attack.

Waves of energy crashed on Noah's body and tried to push him back, but his physical prowess allowed him to move forward. He ignored the sharp and dense currents caused by the explosions to reach the cultivator hovering behind them.

Dinia raised his arms when he saw Noah coming out of the storms. His entire body lit up while a massive wave of energy flew out of his palms, but his attack ended up changing direction before hitting his opponent.

Noah used that chance to reach his opponent. His swords landed on Dinia's head and began to pierce his skull before intense bright light filled the area and made him lose track of the cultivator.

Dinia reappeared in the distance past the mess of dragons, fiendish figures, companions, and currents of energy. Blood fell from his half-split head, but his eyes remained bright. Multiple copies of him materialized at his sides, but he had to send them forward when he saw a rain of feathers flying in his direction.

Chaos unfolded in the area. Snore's attack turned a vast chunk of the sky into an oval hell of raging dark gales ready to destroy every form of energy. Nothing could pass through it, except Noah, of course.

The messy environment prevented Noah from using his consciousness to find Dinia, but he sensed him anyway. His anger toward Heaven and Earth's assets wasn't something that those raging storms could hinder. He strode forward, and his blades shone with a dark light when a figure appeared in his vision.

A giant slash split the vast area with destructive storms into two parts and opened a passage where Dinia could escape. The cultivator had a deep cut on his torso. His blood tainted his runes and hindered their correct functioning, but his problems didn't end there.

A shadow flew past Dinia and left a series of black lines on his back. Snore materialized above him and filled the area with a sea of destructive dark matter. The dark world expanded again and turned the

raging currents into a force that blew toward the cultivator. Energy even left the latter's body whenever he tried to launch an attack.

Dinia struggled to free himself from that barrage of attacks, but everything suddenly stopped... Still, a series of giant figures suddenly slammed on him and self-detonated to create another chaotic area.

Chapter 2079 Woman

Dinia had always known that Noah was incredible, but that was too much even for a temporary enhancement. Noah's offensive was relentless, deadly, and unavoidable. Even stronger cultivators would inevitably get caught in the middle of the countless powerful attacks that carried different features.

The two blades were incredibly powerful. The Demonic Sword was basically Noah, so it could fuse two layers of dark matter and enhance its power beyond its normal limits. Instead, the Cursed Sword made use of his bloodlust to create highly destructive attacks capable of threatening even the strongest defenses.

Moreover, Noah backed those swords with his immense physical strength and profound aspects. His mind even instinctively led him toward spots that his opponents would struggle to defend. Everything on him had the sole purpose of killing his enemies.

The situation didn't improve with his companions. Duanlong was annoying with its ability to absorb energy even when it was still inside Dinia's body or world. Night was invisible in that mess, and its deadliness was unmatched. Snore was a powerhouse equipped with one of the most dangerous substances in the entire higher plane, and the parasite was simply dangerous.

Shafu even helped whenever Duanlong couldn't deal with the enemy offensive on its own. Attacks would change their course on their own for no apparent reason and create openings that Noah didn't hesitate to exploit.

The army of dragons and fiendish puppets weren't too dangerous compared to the rest of Noah's assets, but they became highly annoying in the middle of that mess. Their offensive wasn't great, but they contained enough energy to threaten even privileged cultivators.

Noah himself wasn't weak. His centers of power could touch Dinia's realm after experiencing the boost of the ethereal blackness' potential. Noah was also hard to follow due to his deep understanding of space and time. He seemed to have no weaknesses, but Dinia knew that even that mighty opponent had an inevitable flaw.

Perfection didn't exist in the world. Noah could make up for most of his shortcomings with his potential and companions, but his power had the usual flaw that had afflicted him for a long time. His base level remained inferior to his opponents, so he had to push himself harder than them, leading to higher energy consumption.

The ethereal blackness' immense size partially helped balance that weakness and the same went for his centers of power' higher quality. Noah could theoretically last as long as stronger experts, but drawbacks would eventually arrive, and there was no fix to that issue.

Dinia had to decide how to face Noah. He couldn't overpower his opponent as he did in the past, and the sheer number of assets against him made it impossible to create an even fight. He could buy himself some time and wait for the drawbacks to arrive, but that didn't suit his perfect self.

"You are strong," Dinia spoke from inside the currents generated by the detonation of the puppets. "You deserve my full power."

A pillar of white light pierced the storms and dispersed them. The few traces of whiteness in the area vanished to converge toward that bright event. Even the weak sky in the distance ended up falling apart to give Dinia more power.

Noah deployed the dark world under him to recreate his disposable army. He didn't hold back, and Snore's featherless state proved that. Yet, Dinia had survived his attacks and was still able to express more power.

'He isn't the average privileged cultivator,' Noah concluded in his mind.

The pillar slowly converged until Dinia became visible again. His body had turned completely white, and bright marks appeared on the void whenever he waved his fingers or simply moved. Still, he didn't shine. It seemed that he tried to contain most of his power inside his figure.

"You know," Dinia announced. "My perfect self is a projection of what I believe I should strive for. You have your ambition to overcome the limits of your current ranks, but those restrictions don't exist in my world. I've lived for many eras, so I know exactly the shape of my best form. Well, now you also know it."

"Your imagination must have run dry during these eras," Noah mocked. "It's not wise to use a temporary boost against me. You are challenging me in my strongest field."

Dinia smirked coldly. Noah had understood that his current form had a time limit after mere seconds. The former was a scary opponent, and his statement had also been on point. Dinia had basically chosen to fight Noah on his own field.

"Are you scared?" Dinia teased.

"It's not hard to understand what you did," Noah sighed. "Your perfect self is literally perfect. I can predict that all your techniques will be stronger right now. Still, using Heaven and Earth's energy against me is quite dumb."

"This energy is mine," Dinia laughed as he waved his hands to inspect the bright marks that he left on the void. "Besides, you shouldn't underestimate Heaven and Earth when your woman has lost against them."

Noah's eyes inevitably flickered as the memories of the Tribulation against the lizard appeared in his mind. He didn't know whether Dinia was telling the truth, but he didn't seem the type to lie.

"Did you lose your ability to speak?" Dinia chuckled. "To be fair, some advised against attacking that stubborn woman, and I was among them. I know that you like to hide behind a mask of coldness, but you have the heart of a magical beast. Your instincts force you to feel something, and those emotions can be dangerous for Heaven and Earth."

Noah didn't say anything. He limited himself to inspect Dinia as he prepared his next attack. His mind couldn't find weak spots in the cultivator's current form, so he had to create them.

"I see," Dinia laughed again. "You don't want to be funny anymore. It's fine. Words have always been useless after reaching this point."

Noah raised his swords to the sky, and a pillar of dark matter flowed through them. Entire branches of the parasite grew inside that giant structure as his ambition enhanced the most destructive aspects of his world.

"Do you want to end it in a single attack?" Dinia continued to tease. "That's good for me. This form doesn't last as long as your ambition. I'd rather end it in one blow."

Noah continued to remain silent. Snore added its destructive energy to the pillar while Night fused with its structure. Duanlong entered inside his body to prepare for the imminent discharge of energy. Instead, his disposable army rose to fill the entirety of the battlefield. Those puppets felt ready to self-detonate, and their explosion would also engulf Noah from their position.

"Do you want to make a bet?" Dinia asked. "I'll tell you how she died if you win. Still, if I win, I want you t-."

Dinia didn't have the chance to finish his line since the army exploded and made the entire area fall into pure chaos. Noah lowered his blades at that point, and his pillar ended up clashing with a blinding wave of whiteness that pierced the storms of dark energy... Another detonation happened, and no sound followed that event.

Chapter 2080 Trust

Gales of energy raged among the void. The fabric of space couldn't even come close to withstanding the massive amount of power discharged during the last clash, and its shockwaves only stretched the range of that destruction.

Silence filled the area. Nothing moved inside the gales. The waves of energy spread among the void and partially dispersed before a pulling force manifested its presence from the center of that mess.

The gales collapsed and converged toward their center until Noah's figure became visible among that blackness. A dark glow came out of his skin as the ethereal blackness expanded and generated more potential. He had added another feat to his life, and his power grew because of that.

Drawbacks started to fall on his centers of power while he hovered with his eyes closed among the void. His skin began to open, his dantian grew unable to contain its darkness, the black crystal became unstable, and his mind wandered from one unclear thought to another.

The companions experienced similar moments of weakness. They had gone through the two cycles of ambition during the battle, so they had to endure drawbacks. Still, the ethereal blackness quickly filled Noah with power that spread throughout his arsenal.

It didn't take long before Noah opened his eyes. His dark glow dimmed and vanished in a matter of seconds. The environment even seemed to reach a new level of silence when his cold gaze fell on the

darkness. The world appeared scared, but those effects quickly vanished as he regained complete control of his power.

The growing potential and the energy absorbed from the environment brought Noah to a higher peak, but he wasn't in the mood to enjoy his improvements. His eyes went on the whiteness in the distance as cold and violent thoughts spread in his mind.

'Did he lie?' Noah wondered. 'He wouldn't have lied just to gain an advantage, right? He must have spoken the truth.'

Noah didn't miss the faint fear that had spread among the world, but he felt temporarily unable to focus on that. He had to think about something else. According to Dinia, Heaven and Earth had killed June.

Memories tried to fill his vision, but his coldness didn't let anything disrupt my concentration. Noah wanted to stare at the sky as if his action could solve his doubts. Of course, the white material didn't reveal anything, but he didn't stop anyway.

'Did they know about the Perfect Circuit already?' Noah asked himself. 'That doesn't sound right. Heaven and Earth would have used it far earlier otherwise.'

That hypothesis led to a simple realization. Heaven and Earth had learnt how to use the Perfect Circuit properly after killing June, which involved an absorption of her law or world. Still, Noah didn't know how to proceed from that.

Technically, something of June was alive if Heaven and Earth had absorbed her law. Noah didn't know how much of her had remained, and he wasn't even sure he could do anything about the situation. However, he couldn't stop thinking about the issue, especially after seeing Great Builder and Supreme Thief's resurrection.

Resurrecting worlds that had managed to remain hidden from Heaven and Earth's system was one thing. It almost felt doable in Noah's mind now that he thought about it. Yet, he didn't know what level June had reached during the years spent among the storms. She could have remained a mere law, reducing her chances of coming back to life.

Moreover, even if June had died after becoming a world, Heaven and Earth had still absorbed her. Noah knew that he would become able to mess with the rulers' system during the last stages of his cultivation journey. Yet, he didn't know what he would be able to retrieve. The remains of a law or a world wouldn't transform his lover, not entirely at least.

Retrieving June's law or her world would give Noah the chance to rebuild her existence. Still, he had seen the limits of his power with Robert, and the issue would be even harsher with June. If Dinia had told the truth, she had lost in her endless pursuit of battles and letting Noah recreate her would only put a permanent limit on her potential.

Noah felt unable to find a way out of that problem. He didn't know enough about the situation to understand how to approach the issue, and his hopes weren't great anyway.

June's defeat was the core part of the problem. Noah knew that she would have fought until the bitter end, which hinted at the almost complete destruction of her existence. The rebuilding would have to be

extensive and deep, which could still be fine with other experts. However, June was different. Her existence couldn't accept that kind of help without losing its potential.

'Did you really die?' Noah eventually sighed.

The lack of answers, uncertainties, and general annoyance about the situation made Noah desire to throw himself at the sky and destroy as much as he could. He could sense countless violent thoughts giving him ideas on how to shatter everything Heaven and Earth had created during his breakthrough. He wanted to cause a mess to avenge June or solve his doubts about her state, but he didn't let himself fall prey to those desires.

Noah knew that he could only trust June. They had always known the risks of the cultivation journey. Their old promises had happened for that exact reason. The chances of reaching the peak of the cultivation journey together had always been slim, so they had to take those precautions.

'What now?' Noah wondered as his hand moved among the void.

Nothing happened until Noah summoned the same cold and violent thoughts that had filled his mind during his recovery. The void started to show the faint fear witnessed previously at that point. It seemed on the verge of doing something, but Noah couldn't trigger any reaction.

'Is my world so heavy?' Noah pondered. 'Am I reaching the depths required to affect these aspects of the universe?'

Truth be told, Noah couldn't find answers to those questions either. He had merely gazed at the realms past the ninth rank, so he was unclear about the powers required to make the universe adapt to his existence.

Nevertheless, Noah took that as a good sign. It didn't matter if his path had yet to touch the effects that only the realms past the ninth rank could obtain. The void was reacting to his presence, which was incredible considering his state as a gaseous state existence.

Heaven and Earth slowly rebuilt the area, and Noah didn't stop that process. He let the fabric of space heal and return to its normal whiteness before planting a quasi-living workshop.

His original plan was still in place, but he wanted to accelerate his pace a bit. June's potential death had filled his mind with a bit of anxiety. Noah wanted to become strong enough to carve answers out of the sky or find past companions quickly.

His friends weren't idiots, and the assets left on the black landmass weren't weak. Some of them would have survived the expansion of the weak sky, and Noah wanted to question them. Still, finding them came first, and accelerating would make their meeting happen sooner.