

## **Demonic 2081**

### **Chapter 2081 Encounter**

Noah's advance through the higher plane grew faster. He wanted to improve and find old allies quickly. He needed answers about June and talking with someone who had witnessed the expansion of the fake sky couldn't hurt.

The dullness of the journey didn't change, but Noah became able to ignore it. His purpose appeared clearer now, even if it had yet to take a proper form. The desire to do something and grow as an influential power in the universe was a powerful drive that perfectly suited his ambition.

Noah had long since grown tired of the whiteness around him. Even his amazing feats were nothing when he considered the current state of the world. He had done things that regular experts couldn't even dream of achieving, but Heaven and Earth felt unstoppable.

The rulers had suffered countless defeats, but they didn't appear any weaker. Instead, they had been able to improve after experiencing those setbacks. They had never controlled the higher plane so tightly, and they had failed to find their current stability in entire eras.

Noah wanted to do more than cause messes. He desired to be a calamity capable of turning the non-world pale. His sole presence had to become something that prevented Heaven and Earth from progressing, and power was the sole key behind that dream.

Noah's sense of direction improved after planting quasi-living workshops for many years. He had a connection with all of them due to the fake cores in their insides, so he slowly created a mental map of the entire higher plane. He could adjust his path more accurately as time passed, and he even started to eliminate areas as potential destinations due to their lack of lifeforms.

Something in the dullness of his journey eventually changed. Noah was flying as usual when a foreign presence entered the range of his consciousness. He had finally found someone, but he didn't immediately shoot forward at that time.

The matter had been different with the lizards. Noah had sensed them before their instincts could perceive his presence. Moreover, their level was quite low, which had filled him with confidence.

Instead, the presence felt now was powerful, and its level was hard to discern due to the long distance and the sky acting as a natural cover. Also, Noah could sense that the other entity had learnt about his position. The unknown expert had a consciousness able to stretch as far as his mind.

'One of the hidden experts,' Noah quickly concluded before turning toward the source of that foreign consciousness.

Noah didn't immediately advance. He remained still and waited to see what the existence decided to do. In theory, he could consider that presence as a potential ally due to its presence in the weak sky without belonging to Heaven and Earth's system. However, Noah couldn't trust so blindly, especially when it came to beings that had reached the ninth rank.

The presence didn't move, but it intensified its attention on Noah. He eventually decided to make the first move and step forward to see what that consciousness hid.

The weak sky shattered and transformed into waves of energy that converged toward his figure as he advanced. Noah moved slowly but steadily. He showed no hesitation, and the expert's level eventually became clear.

The foreign presence belonged to a cultivator in the liquid stage. The expert gave off a violent feeling hidden behind a thick calmness. It was interesting sensing an unknown world so clearly, and Noah didn't hold back with his inspection.

The expert also studied Noah's influence, and it began to advance once gaining a general idea of his world. It didn't take long before the weak sky shattered to transform two tunnels into a single passage.

The figure of a gorgeous middle-aged woman unfolded in Noah's vision, and his eyes instantly swept her to memorize her features. She was rather tall, with bright grey eyes and hair that carried two very different shades. Some strands were pure white, while others shone with the darkest blackness.

Cultivators could modify their physical appearances relatively easily as long as they didn't affect the actual power of their bodies. Divine experts avoided doing it due to the lack of interest in beauty and their pride in their current form. Significant changes usually happened before that point, so Noah guessed that the woman's hair had some connection with her world.

The duality of her aura also appeared connected to those different shades. Her violence and calmness weren't blending, but they existed in the same world. It felt partially similar to Noah's destruction and creation, even if he had a far greater harmony between those aspects of his world.

"You really were Defying Demon," The woman announced while performing a polite bow. "Forgive me for my initial hesitation. I couldn't be sure about your identity since I've only gazed at you during the battle against that black mass."

"I didn't expect such politeness," Noah said while performing a simple bow. "It's been a while since I had the chance to greet someone on these terms."

"Same goes for me," The woman responded after wearing a confident smile. "I've gotten so rusty that I've even forgotten to mention my name. I'm Maribel."

"Noah Balvan," Noah added to go past his simple title with what appeared to be a potential ally.

"I've heard that name too," Maribel chuckled. "You are a hot topic in the higher plane. Even magical beasts are chanting your name."

"I'm afraid I deserve the praise," Noah claimed.

"You do indeed," Maribel agreed before taking out a large bottle from her storage device. "Do you mind sharing a drink with me? I can't wait to hear your position about Heaven and Earth."

"Are you opposing them?" Noah asked while approaching the woman and creating two chairs, a table, and two cups with his dark matter.

"I guess you can say that," Maribel exclaimed while sitting and pouring the drink. "Being at this level without entering their system is already a form of rebellion. Still, I don't really fight them. I actually came out of my hideout for the first time in countless millennia during your battle against Heaven and Earth."

"That's understandable," Noah said.

"Please," Maribel sighed. "How can my behavior be acceptable with younger experts achieving more than I've even dared to pursue?"

"Each world is different," Noah tried to justify her.

"Indeed," Maribel responded. "I had to remain isolated for a very long time to perfect my power since Heaven and Earth had almost gotten me the last time. Yet, everything changed after the sky expanded."

"Heaven and Earth are preparing for the final battle," Noah announced.

"I know," Maribel stated. "The dragons wouldn't shut about it. I had to accept that I had to join the mess to do my part."

"Did Heaven and Earth deploy a perfect counter for you?" Noah questioned.

"I overcame four of those," Maribel revealed. "I had to hide against the fifth, but I could overcome it now if only Heaven and Earth were to send it."

"They are busy with the magical beasts now," Noah explained. "I have spotted Tribulations hunting them down."

"Not only magical beasts," Maribel corrected. "I came across a black landmass some time ago... The experts living there seemed connected to you, so I gave them a hand before continuing my exploration of this new world."

## **Chapter 2082 Trade**

"How long ago?" Noah immediately asked, uncaring of revealing his interest in the matter.

"A few millennia, I think," Maribel exclaimed while pointing a finger on her cheek. "They weren't doing bad, but Heaven and Earth seemed quite annoyed about their presence. It wasn't hard to understand why due to their connection to you."

"Can you point me toward their last position?" Noah questioned.

"I can, but I don't think it will help," Maribel announced. "The landmass was moving across the sky. The experts there had a series of interesting formations capable of mining the energy inside the sky."

'Second Prince,' Noah immediately thought before falling silent to lose himself in his plans.

Noah would eventually find his companions since he was basically mapping the entire higher plane. Still, waiting wasn't in his nature, and he couldn't miss the chance to obtain clues.

"The previous position has to do," Noah sighed. "Maybe I'll sense a Tribulation happening on the path."

"Won't your presence there only push Heaven and Earth to deploy even stronger Tribulations?" Maribel wondered.

"They are ignoring me for now," Noah revealed. "Heaven and Earth don't need to kill me to win. Defeating the magical beasts is the main step for their breakthrough to the tenth rank. Everyone else will lose at that point."

"How so?" Maribel questioned. "Is this a secret among hybrids?"

Noah realized that an expert like Maribel might have remained ignorant about Heaven and Earth's requirements or general structure, so he gave her a quick summary. He avoided most details since he didn't fully trust her, but he still explained what the system's rebels should aim to achieve.

"Interesting," Maribel stated. "I have been close to reaching similar conclusions, but I never had the chance to find clues. Also, the focus on the magical beasts might shift due to recent developments. I don't see Heaven and Earth achieving victory after growing past their previous standards."

"A partial victory becomes absolute if it involves the tenth rank," Noah explained. "Heaven and Earth clearly have access to quasi-rank 10 power. Allowing them to take another step in that direction might be enough to put an end to everything."

Maribel quickly gained a clear idea of what Noah was implying. She wasn't stupid. Her journey had simply prevented her from seeking answers from the world for a long time, but she understood everything rather clearly after that update. Maribel remained a rank 9 cultivator with a deep understanding of the world's behavior.

Maribel's time to fall silent arrived. She recognized that the situation was harsher than she had initially believed. Heaven and Earth weren't ready to make the jump toward the tenth rank, but that event remained close, and each Tribulation shortened that distance.

"What can you trade for the location?" Maribel eventually asked.

"I almost thought you would have avoided that part," Noah laughed.

"That was my initial intention," Maribel admitted. "However, it seems that I need all the resources I can get. For what it's worth, I'm sorry to end our meeting like this."

Noah inspected the insides of his separate space. Truth be told, he had long since stopped relying on specific materials. He had only needed energy for a while, so he had stopped accumulating wealth. His immense requirements and constant drawbacks didn't help, which left him with nothing more than obsolete items.

"This is a fake core," Noah eventually stated while revealing his hand and creating one of the items contained inside his quasi-living workshop. "I radiate potential. I'm a natural positive influence for every journey, and this item embodies my nature. I can even adapt it to your world if you give me the chance to study it for a bit."

"Does giving that to others help you?" Maribel asked while wearing a knowing smile.

"Of course," Noah revealed. "That's quite obvious even."

"Won't it cause problems for my journey?" Maribel wondered.

"My existence only gives chances," Noah responded. "It will push you toward the best version of yourself, so you can expect an increase in your requirements."

"That's not ideal," Maribel declared. "Though it is interesting. I believe this fake core can't replicate the effects of your world perfectly."

"I had to tone it down a bit," Noah admitted. "Most cultivators would try to destroy it for its energy otherwise, and I wouldn't blame them for that. Similar items could risk creating flaws in the journeys, which would scare away many potential candidates."

"But your influence is different," Maribel replied while inspecting her right hand. "I can sense my world desiring it."

"The price is set then," Noah exclaimed.

"Definitely," Maribel agreed. "Although, I want the real deal. I don't mind flying you directly to that position and benefiting from your world during the path. Besides, I want to see whether I can earn your trust and learn about the secrets that you have kept for yourself."

"I don't mind that," Noah commented.

"Let's not waste time then," Maribel uttered while standing up.

Noah retracted his dark matter and began to follow the cultivator. Maribel had a similar approach to the long and dull travels across the weak sky. She sat cross-legged and hovered through the whiteness while the violent aspect of her influence dug through the white material.

Maribel didn't have to do much with her influence after teaming up with Noah. He was more than enough for that task, and she wanted to avoid deploying the power of her world since it could affect his growth. She felt that she was gaining a lot, so leaving everything else to her companion didn't sound like a bad idea.

Noah mostly cultivated while paying attention to Maribel. The cultivator minded her behavior constantly and even made sure not to affect his training. She also avoided inspecting the quasi-living workshops that Noah planted from time to time.

Everything could be Heaven and Earth's ploy, but Noah didn't believe that to be the case. The rulers had no reason to send someone to spy on him. They knew exactly what he had discovered across his cultivation journey, so sharing a few more details about the higher plane and the world didn't seem a problem.

Maribel's knowledge wasn't useless either. She didn't live like Noah and his companions, but she was really old, and her different approach to the cultivation journey had allowed her to discover things that Noah didn't have the chance to test.

Her ability to hide among the sky didn't come from her world. She had learnt to predict the position of dead zones among the storms by listening to the intensity of the chaotic laws. Of course, that skill was useless now, but it gave Noah new ideas on his study of the weak sky.

The white material that filled the higher plane was a simple evolution of the storms. It didn't contain the same amount of energy, but its blandness allowed those flying inside it to notice the arrival of foreign powers.

Maribel firmly believed that she could learn about Heaven and Earth's decision to send a Tribulation far before clouds appeared in her surroundings. That changed depending on the situation, but Noah could

find some sense in her claims. It was only normal for the weak sky to have similar features to the chaotic laws, and its dullness as a material granted the chance for specific inspections.

### **Chapter 2083 Instincts**

Maribel's understanding came from thousands of years spent among the storms. Noah had lived there for a long time, but he couldn't match the cultivator's expertise in the field.

Noah had tried to inspect the chaotic laws and the weak sky, and he had even found hidden meanings in the former. However, it was nearly impossible to develop an actual method that could make him understand what that energy would generate since Heaven and Earth hid part of their plans.

Formations could help, but Maribel didn't rely on them either. Her ability to understand the environment's purpose came from instincts developed throughout countless years spent living inside Heaven and Earth's world.

Noah's understanding of instincts made him accept that he probably wouldn't be able to reach Maribel's level. He lacked time to develop proper habits, and his connection to the magical beasts' world actually worsened his potential in that field.

Still, Noah felt sure that his anger would be able to compensate for that flaw at some point. He only had to push his world further on the cultivation journey to obtain a similar ability.

Maribel did her best to explain the details behind her experience. Her life had been long and full. She had been a core member of the human society in the Immortal Lands before leaving her force to pursue the higher ranks inside the storms. In Noah's mind, that journey was the standard path that most rank 9 experts crossed.

Noah could see Maribel's value in that background. A normal journey usually led to regular cultivators that Heaven and Earth could suppress easily. Instead, the woman had managed to escape from the rulers' clutches until the last struggle had forced her into long seclusion.

The two began to learn to know each other during the journey across the sky. The long time required to reach the destination gave the two experts many moments when they could share opinions about the world, exchange eventual funny stories, or talk about events that they couldn't know due to the difference in their age.

Noah didn't know a lot about the old human society or the experts that had populated it. Instead, Maribel had missed a lot about recent developments, especially those connected to issues that involved the entire higher plane and the sky.

"There isn't anything," Maribel exclaimed after stopping flying forward. "I'm pretty sure the Tribulation happened here, but I can't sense any trace of the event."

"I can't either," Noah admitted as he tried to find something that could lead him toward the landmass.

The weak sky didn't show anything at all. It didn't even have tunnels connected to the area, which explained how Heaven and Earth had a lot of time to close them.

Maribel wasn't sure about the landmass' general direction. She had glanced at the formations used by the troops living in the area, but she couldn't know whether they had decided to change their path after facing the Tribulation.

Another possibility existed, and Noah couldn't help but consider it after thinking about Dinia's revelations. June and his old friends might have died after they met with Maribel. The timeline was tight, but it was possible that she might have found them right before Heaven and Earth's final attack.

Needless to say, Noah felt annoyed about the situation. He could dive into mindless anger if June and the others were dead, and he could experience deep relief if they were safe. However, that middle ground full of uncertainties was starting to irritate him. The lack of paths that led to answers was even worse.

'Is this a failsafe that Dinia has created in case he died?' Noah began to wonder. 'Did he instill this doubt inside me in the hope of ruining my journey?'

Noah couldn't answer that doubt either, but the guess made sense. The current state of the higher plane was ideal for that kind of mental torture. Still, a big issue remained. Dinia's perfect self wouldn't have prepared for a potential defeat, which removed a lot of hope from Noah's mind.

"Oh," Maribel gasped. "There has been a mess far away from here."

"How can you know?" Noah asked.

"That part of the sky is carrying the aftermath of a battle," Maribel explained.

Noah tried his best to study the spot pointed by Maribel, but his eyes and consciousness didn't see anything. The ethereal blackness helped a little, but it only allowed him to notice faint vibrations in the sky's insides. They also appeared random and without any clear meaning, so he couldn't find proper answers.

"The battle isn't recent," Maribel explained. "It must have happened many centuries ago since these effects are on the verge of vanishing."

"Can you find the source?" Noah questioned.

"Of course," Maribel announced, "But it will only lead us to another abandoned location."

"That's fine enough," Noah responded. "We might find something else there."

Maribel couldn't add anything since Noah expanded the range of his destruction and started affecting even larger parts of the sky. Heaven and Earth didn't seem happy about that dark world showing its power so abruptly, but they didn't send anything after it.

The cultivator resumed leading Noah across the sky. Maribel had to accelerate to remain ahead of her companion, and the journey eventually transformed into a sprint that forced her to deploy a few techniques to keep up.

Noah didn't think much in that situation. He evaluated the possible threats and the chances that Maribel was a spy, but he didn't care about that. Heaven and Earth could set traps for him every day, so changing his position didn't affect their dangerousness as long as he remained inside the weak sky.

The two flew almost at full speed through the weak sky until Maribel stopped again. She had been right. The location was empty, but she could see stronger traces of other Tribulations from there, and they all came from different directions.

"So?" Noah asked when he noticed that Maribel had fallen silent.

"Different Tribulations," Maribel explained, "From different positions. I can't be sure that they have descended for the same target, but it would make sense due to their different intensity."

"Why aren't we moving then?" Noah asked.

"The meanings are resonating among each other," Maribel stated. "I need to go further to find the different sources before picking the weaker tremors."

"Why weaker?" Noah questioned.

"Because the others won't vanish so quickly," Maribel uttered. "We'll have time to readjust our position if we pick the wrong road."

Maribel eventually found what she was looking for and shot forward. Noah followed her, and the two sprinted across the sky, stopping only when the cultivator had to study the area again.

That part of the journey turned out to be messy. Maribel often changed direction to chase leads on the verge of vanishing. She didn't know if their current state depended on the distance from their source, but she couldn't risk losing them forever.

The messy travel culminated into a black spectacle. Noah couldn't help but wear a proud smile when he saw the familiar landmass moving through the sky and creating tunnels that Heaven and Earth fixed quickly. It seemed that the rulers didn't have any problem dealing with the area's influence.

Clouds were surrounding the landmass, and lightning bolts fell on a golden shield that seemed on the verge of breaking. That scene wasn't inspiring, but it only made Noah perform his movement technique to reach the area quickly.

The clouds turned their attention toward Noah when he arrived on the scene, and the same happened for multiple stares coming from the landmass. Still, he didn't reply to those admiring gazes and focused his attention on the Tribulation.

"Leave," Noah growled in a chilling tone that generated dark-red shockwaves. They expanded throughout the Tribulation and destroyed some clouds in the process.

Heaven and Earth's true energy seeped inside the Tribulation and inspected Noah, but they eventually ordered a full retreat. He remained alone in the sky, with Maribel politely waiting in the distance. Multiple figures shot out of the landmass at that point, but Noah couldn't find his lover among them... He couldn't even see the usual lightning bolt that June threw at him whenever he spent too long away.

## **Chapter 2084 Heartwarming**

Familiar faces filled Noah's vision, and a smile inevitably appeared on his face. He saw Flying Demon, Dreaming Demon, Faith, Kirk, Jordan, and many other experts he had left behind countless years ago. He



felt as if time was flowing backward to bring him back to a different period when the Immortal Lands were something more than a mere mass of sky.

Still, the heartwarming scene lacked what Noah was looking for. He could sense Daniel and Second Prince somewhere on the landmass, but June was absent, and the same went for some magical beasts or experts that he had learnt to know.

"Did the Foolery die?" Noah asked when he failed to sense his old companion. Members of its species still occupied the black landmass, but he couldn't find their leader.

"Is that pig your first thought during our first meeting in ages?" Flying Demon laughed while shooting forward and slamming his palms on Noah's shoulders.

"I missed you too, old friend," Noah announced, uncaring that Flying Demon seemed unable to hold back his affection.

"The Foolery is fine," Dreaming Demon explained while reaching her lover and pulling him away from Noah. "It left after we hid the landmass among the storms. It seemed that living here had bored it, and part of its species followed along."

"You have all grown bold enough to hide this place in the storms," Noah chuckled. "I'm glad."

"Second Prince proved himself useful," Faith exclaimed while approaching Noah and hugging him tightly. "He claims to have surpassed his father every time he invents something new."

"He doesn't know what his father is up to," Noah whispered while caressing Faith's shoulder after she broke the embrace.

"Are you the reason behind this mess?" Jordan asked while pointing at the weak sky. "We saw your battle when that black thing invaded the higher plane. I wouldn't be surprised if you were behind all of this."

"Heaven and Earth did everything on their own," Noah exclaimed. "I merely caused the battle."

The reunion left everyone ecstatic, and Noah couldn't hide his satisfaction in front of his friends' cultivation level. They were at the peak of the eighth rank, except for Kirk, who was about to approach the solid stage.

'I've been away for a long time,' Noah thought at the sight of those improvements.

The landmass still radiated his potential, but most of those experts didn't share his talent of growth speed. The sole fact that they had reached their current level stated how long Noah had been away.

"Will you stay?" Kirk asked. "Heaven and Earth aren't holding back with their Tribulations. I'm afraid we need your help."

"You don't know your master if you think he'll remain here," Faith sighed. "I've never seen Noah standing still in his entire life. He can join apocalyptic battles, so I wouldn't be surprised if he were to invade the sky."

"I've been there twice already," Noah revealed. "There's no point going a third time until I find something worth stealing."

The revelation left all the experts in the area speechless. Even Maribel couldn't help but glance at Noah after that statement. The sky was Heaven and Earth's most protected environment, but he was claiming to have visited it twice.

"What exactly did you do during these years?" Flying Demon asked.

"I'll tell you more later on," Noah promised. "Prepare a celebration while I pay Daniel a visit. Make sure to welcome Maribel properly."

No one dared to complain about that decision, and Noah soon found himself with Flying Demon and Jordan escorting him toward a tall castle that stood at the very center of the black landmass. The rest of his friends took care of welcoming Maribel and preparing a party worthy of Noah's return.

The landmass appeared healthier than ever. Multiple environments with clear borders filled its immense surface. Each region had vast settlements, different magical plants, and specific species of magical beasts.

The scene felt quite incredible after considering everything that the landmass had to survive. The sole idea that an area so rich in cultivators, magical beasts, magical plants, and hybrids could exist in the current state of the higher plane was astonishing.

The heartwarming and fantastic state of the black landmass didn't make Noah forget the reason behind his presence there. His eyes wandered among the regions under him as a simple question left his mouth. "Is she dead?"

The mood immediately worsened. Flying Demon and Jordan diverted their gazes when they thought about June. Still, Noah required an answer, so Flying Demon eventually spoke. "The Tribulations have started to fall as soon as the sky filled the entire higher plane. One of them has been so harsh that June decided to drag it away. She didn't come back."

"Daniel can give you more details," Jordan continued. "I'm sure you'll have a lot to discuss."

Noah nodded. Those unclear answers remained annoying, but he didn't blame his friends for them. He only wished to understand June's state to decide how to react.

Flying Demon and Jordan led Noah to the base of the structure, and its immense doors opened as soon as they touched the ground. The two remained outside while Noah strode forward without hesitation.

The many luxurious areas that appeared in his view didn't interest him. Noah blinked, and the scene in his vision transformed. His understanding of space and time easily allowed him to perform a teleport and enter the room occupied by a familiar presence.

An empty bright room unfolded in Noah's vision. White light filled every corner of the area, and the complete absence of furniture made it appear as a pure glowing cube.

Noah's arrival immediately darkened the area and revealed its perfect surfaces. He couldn't see any crack or hole in those old materials. Moreover, the complete lack of odors made him feel as if he had landed in the void.

"Do you have any idea of how long it will take to remove your presence from here?" Daniel asked as he interrupted his training and stood up from the center of the room.

"You should greet your leader," Noah joked.

"You didn't bother with that stuff," Daniel reminded. "Besides, I'm the leader now. You have far more important things to do."

"You did a good job here," Noah admitted while his consciousness fell on Daniel's centers of power. "It seems that your new position has also benefited you."

Daniel was at the peak of the eighth rank, but he appeared close to the breakthrough. Noah even guessed that his friend would be able to reach the ninth rank in the next years.

"I've always been better than you at this," Daniel announced. "My approach doesn't leave anyone behind. I'm selfless."

"How did Faith take that?" Noah joked, and Daniel ended up laughing.

"I admit that it's hard," Daniel stated while walking toward Noah. "We are an odd match, but our existences are starting to create problems."

"Having partners in the cultivation journey is hard," Noah sighed. "Our path almost forces us to be alone."

"That's where the beauty lies, isn't it?" Daniel replied before performing a polite bow. "I've missed you, old friend."

"Me too," Noah smiled. "Being here brings back many memories."

"The same happened when I saw you fighting against those giant hands," Daniel admitted. "I could see the lonely kid who waved his swords at worms during that incredible spectacle."

"Not far enough," Noah whispered.

"Sit with me," Daniel requested while showing a complicated smile... "I'll tell you what I know about June."

### **Chapter 2085 Details**

Daniel described the whole story of the black landmass in great detail. The world was mostly empty when Noah had left, but major events had followed his departure.

Daniel and the others had to face many migrating groups of magical beasts that escaped the storms due to their dangerousness. Most of them had been easy to fend off due to the number of assets on the landmass, but others had required proper wars.

The lack of energy inside the world had eventually started to affect the state of the landmass. The constant Tribulation had helped for a while, but Heaven and Earth had stopped sending lightning bolts at some point, forcing Daniel and the others to come up with different solutions.

The storms were the only environment with energy, so the landmass had to approach those areas to seize fuel and other resources. That decision had brought another series of wars, but Daniel and the others had survived them.

The apocalyptic event had forced Daniel to move the landmass inside deep areas of the storms to hide. Luckily for him, Second Prince and the other experts had grown used to the dangerousness of their situation and had developed many useful techniques that helped in their survival.

The life inside the storms had been relatively peaceful. The landmass had remained hidden in an environment full of energy. Hunts still happened from time to time, but most experts preferred to stay in their safe regions to prepare for their next move.

The expansion of the sky had taken the whole landmass by surprise. The defenses couldn't work against that new threat, so the experts had to fend off the sky with their own power while Second Prince invented something new.

In the end, the landmass had developed new formations and techniques that could dig through the sky while seizing its energy. Daniel and the others could live in peace for many years, but Heaven and Earth had eventually launched new Tribulations.

June's story arrived at that point. Daniel described how they had to face an unusually strong Tribulation once, something powerful enough to threaten the stability of their defenses. June drove it away, but no one could find traces of her presence after everything ended.

"We tried to look for her, but the sky made everything too hard," Daniel concluded. "Besides, new Tribulations followed, so we never managed to focus on her for too long."

"You had the landmass to protect," Noah reassured.

"June was stronger than me when she disappeared," Daniel revealed. "I wouldn't be surprised if she used the Tribulation to get near the ninth rank."

That revelation didn't reassure Noah, and Daniel vaguely guessed the reason behind that. Noah had searched for the black landmass, meaning that he had discovered something about June.

"What do you know?" Daniel asked.

"Someone told me that she died," Noah explained.

"Is the source trustworthy?" Daniel questioned.

"Probably," Noah sighed. "Still, there are many versions of death when Heaven and Earth are involved, especially if she hit the ninth rank before dying."

"That's great, right?" Daniel exclaimed.

"Worlds aren't easy to rebuild," Noah explained, "And I would still lose her in the end, at least in most cases."

"Faith told me that you were ready for that since you started going out," Daniel stated.

"Of course," Noah announced. "It's not that. I don't know how to react while everything remains unclear."

"Are we about to face another apocalyptic event?" Daniel joked.

"I will definitely cause a mess if they really killed her," Noah promised while glancing at the ceiling to sense the sky past that. "How could I not?"

The room began to tremble, but Noah promptly suppressed his world. He didn't want to damage anything on the landmass, but his desire to make Heaven and Earth pay naturally triggered his violent thoughts.

"We have survived many Tribulations," Daniel mocked. "I don't want to see the landmass destroyed because of you."

"I will make some improvements before leaving again," Noah chuckled. "I also have to explain more about the ninth rank. You all have fought a lot, but I've seen things that might help. Who knows, you might be able to help in the final battle."

"Focus on yourself," Daniel laughed. "Improve the landmass, make your lessons, and go on your way. Honestly, you are too dangerous for this environment at your level."

"It seems that my old home can't contain me anymore," Noah shook his head.

"It never could," Daniel sighed. "Maybe that's the whole point behind your talent."

"We only have different paths," Noah explained. "I can see it clearly now. Hurrying to reach this level is pointless. Completeness is everything."

"That's easy to say for you," Daniel complained.

"I always felt compelled to reach the higher ranks quickly because of the nature of my existence," Noah explained. "Many experts are like me, and the threat of the final battle doesn't help. However, other paths might simply require more time. Pursue yourself, and a world will eventually form."

Daniel and Noah fell silent for a while only to resume talking about random topics. The two even left the training area to join other old friends and start official celebrations.

A general summoning happened. Cultivators, hybrids, and magical beasts left their regions to gather around the central structure where Daniel lived. Teleports started to shine everywhere, and a crowd quickly formed.

Noah had almost forgotten that he could smile for so long. Only battles and struggles waited for him inside the sky, but the landmass brought something that he didn't feel for a long time.

It was easy to ignore the value of relationships that had lasted for entire millennia. Still, the celebrations made Noah aware of what he had chosen to sacrifice to pursue power. He had lifelong friends that had fought countless battles by his side. Even some of the magical beasts on the scene knew him deeply. He had built many profound connections, but his eyes continued to fall on the sky whenever his mind wandered.

Lying to his nature was impossible, especially in the ninth rank. Noah could enjoy that reunion and even decide to prolong his stay, but his desires remained firm. He was one of the few existences in the entirety of the higher plane to have so many friends. Yet, he remained willing to leave them behind.

Stories, laughs, and even solemn toasts happened during the celebrations. A few fights happened. The rats and the Foolery performed an odd race that entertained the crowd. Everything was perfect, but whiteness continued to shine on the black landmass, and Noah couldn't stand it. During his quieter moments, he desired to dive back into the endless pursuit of power.

The celebrations lasted for entire months. Noah and Maribel's presence on the landmass made Heaven and Earth unwilling to send Tribulations. Daniel and the others experienced a type of peace that the rulers had forced them to forget.

Only a few things managed to sadden Noah during the event. June's absence was something that he couldn't ignore, but other details inevitably appeared in his vision and forced him to acknowledge how long he had spent away.

A wrinkle, a strand of white hair, a mature answer, and other features that differed from Noah's memories told him that some of his friends were slowly growing old. Even those who had reached the peak of the eighth rank showed slight differences from what he recalled.

It could take eras to kill gods of old age, but Noah still noticed those details. A realization inevitably appeared in his mind. He knew that most of his friends wouldn't die of old age, but those details gave him an idea of what it could be to live without them... His next departure would probably be his last, so he did his best to enjoy those happy moments.

### **Chapter 2086 Improving**

"Don't blow up my landmass," Second Prince uttered. "Every formation here is part of a perfect mechanism capable of dealing with rank 9 threats. I had to touch a realm unattainable by mere cultivators to protect everyone during these years."

"Do you realize that I have created the very ground where you are standing?" Noah scoffed. "Also, your father has reached a realm that even I don't understand completely. You have a long way to go."

"What realm?" Second Prince asked.

"I won't tell you," Noah announced. "Don't get me wrong. I would give you the best explanations I'm capable of to help all of you. I simply think that learning about that realm would only distract you."

"You think that I can't achieve the same greatness, right?" Second Prince complained.

"I think that you should reach the ninth rank with what you are," Noah sighed. "Imitating someone would only turn you into an imitation."

"Not even a brief description?" Second Prince continued.

"That's part of the issue," Noah replied. "You don't deserve that power if you can't fathom its existence."

The last line convinced Second Prince to remain silent. Noah wasn't only an important figure in his life. He was also the embodiment of wisdom about the ninth rank in his current state. His feats during the apocalyptic event had earned him the respect of the entirety of the higher plane.

Noah and Second Prince were standing inside an underground chamber connected to multiple structures that reached every corner of the landmass. Second Prince could control and oversee all the formations in the area from there, which made it the perfect place where Noah could decide how to apply improvements.

Of course, Noah was beyond those assets. Second Prince had improved, and his formations seemed to differ from typical inscription methods. They were simple but oddly effective. They appeared able to talk to the very matter they affected, but Noah had a rank 9 mind capable of studying complicated worlds.

Second Prince showed various maps that depicted different features of the landmass. Noah could inspect everything thoroughly and fuse it with the quick study performed when he arrived in the area. Ideas quickly appeared in his mind, but he let them rest for a while to make sure that he found the perfect approach.

The main issue in the improvement came from his power. Noah was too strong for his companions, so his creations would be impossible to handle once he left. That would still be fine for a while, but problems would appear once the Tribulations managed to damage his defenses.

Noah had to create something that his companions could use and fix, which wasn't exactly easy considering the power obtained after his last breakthrough. The quickest approach saw him forcing Second Prince's formations to improve, but that felt far too little when his lifelong friends' safety was involved.

Other lingering worries existed in Noah's mind. He knew the kind of evolution that his ambition enforced on the matter. He didn't want the landmass to turn into a living being in desperate need of energy. Power was necessary, but it had to take a flexible and manageable form.

"Is this the best that your formations can do?" Noah asked.

"Are you trying to offend me?" Second Prince questioned.

"I want to understand how much I can push," Noah explained. "I can't give you weapons that you can't use."

"This is my current limit," Second Prince admitted. "I would never hold back my power when it comes to the safety of the landmass."

Noah nodded before recalculating everything inside his mind. He wouldn't have to hold back too much since Second Prince's formations could reach the ninth rank in terms of power. Still, he would have to make sure that his techniques didn't alter the natural functioning of the other inscriptions.

Potential flowed inside Noah's mind as he teleported out of the underground chamber and left the landmass' range to approach the weak sky. Massive chunks of the white material vanished as he gathered energy for his project. He didn't want to do anything complicated, but he planned to apply it multiple times across the many regions.

The defenses couldn't be too powerful, so Noah decided to create many simple structures that could solve most issues. They would be relatively weak to let Second Prince fix them, but they also needed to have the potential to express more might.

Noah had memorized the locations of the cores of Second Prince's formations. He knew which areas he could affect without disrupting the inscriptions, and he didn't hesitate to visit them.

Black pillars grew from the ground whenever Noah reached one of those spots. The structures didn't have runes or writings. They merely were blocks of a crystal-like material that radiated a dark glow.

The pillars didn't only grow on the surface. They stretched deep into the underground world and created a series of influences that allowed them to affect each other. That was necessary in case Second Prince and the others needed to draw more power from those structures, and it also opened the possibility for final attacks or similar techniques.

Noah didn't even hold back from pouring expressions of his existence in those structures. He didn't want to go all-out since his potential could create problems on inanimate matter, but he also desired to help his companions improve.

Finding balance in the project took a while, and Noah eventually created an array of pillars that required occasional inspections. That wasn't hard for Daniel and the others since the landmass had countless experts, so Noah disregarded the issue.

Noah then proceeded to create special training areas that only his potential could bring to life. He didn't hold back there since the very nature of those structures required to affect the experts cultivating in their insides. Restraining that influence turned out to be annoying, but he eventually succeeded and moved to the next project.

The other side of the landmass featured a series of formations meant to absorb the energy released by the sky. Noah didn't want to go against their nature, so he created stronger versions of the same inscriptions.

His greed was enough to build structures that had the sole purpose of gathering energy. Those pulling forces didn't like to share their gains, but Noah adjusted them accordingly and made them work together with Second Prince's creations.

The last improvement to the landmass involved its drilling properties. Daniel and the others couldn't remain still, so the ability to pierce the sky was mandatory. Second Prince had formations for that, but Noah built entirely new structures made of dark matter that imitated the dark metal's properties.

A series of tests and various explanations on how to use those assets happened after the new defenses went live. Second Prince, Daniel, and all the other higher-ups on the landmass memorized Noah's lessons and tested their effects a few times before gaining some confidence.

The end of those explanations led to more public speeches that Noah held to spread teachings about the cultivation journey... He did his best to remain honest and explain everything he could, but he could see how part of his audience remained oblivious to his teachings.

## **Chapter 2087 Sprint**



The landmass had obtained new defenses, and Noah had held lessons about the ninth rank. Everything his companions could tell him about June was already in his mind, and the party had even ended. He couldn't do anything else for his friends.

Noah checked everything multiple times to make sure that the landmass was perfect, but his hesitation eventually vanished. He could sense how part of him wanted to remain among his friends, but something stronger called him. The sky shone above him, and he couldn't withstand that sight.

"I must leave," Noah announced after summoning his friends.

"We know," Faith laughed. "We have always known."

"Make Heaven and Earth tremble, old friend," Flying Demon stated.

"And don't die in the process," Dreaming Demon added.

"Master, have a good trip," Kirk exclaimed. "We will follow you one day."

"Noah, try to warn us if you are about to destroy the world," Daniel requested. "I still have an organization to protect."

"I'll do my best," Noah chuckled. "Don't remain attached to this place. There is a lot more in the universe, and I know that you have the potential to explore it."

"Don't worry about us," Daniel commented. "Go and follow your path. We have ours to tread."

"This has been really fun," Noah sighed. "Don't you dare to die while I'm gone."

"Leave already," Faith scoffed, even if a wide smile filled her face.

"Goodbye, my friends," Noah announced before turning and leaving toward the sky.

Maribel had remained on the landmass during that period, but she followed Noah toward the sky when he departed. The two flew until they couldn't see the black regions anymore before stopping to exchange a few words.

"How do you feel to be the leader of the last force in the entire higher plane?" Maribel asked.

"It's not the last," Noah contradicted her, "Just the largest. It has the potential to be the strongest if my friends don't leave."

"They will have to leave at some point," Maribel commented.

"Unless I destroy the world first," Noah stated.

"Do you really want to shatter everything?" Maribel asked.

"Heaven and Earth are the world," Noah explained. "Defeating them will destroy everything anyway."

"The end is near then," Maribel sighed.

"It has always been close," Noah revealed. "This has gone past our worlds. We are fighting for our very survival."

"I bet this doesn't change anything for you," Maribel giggled.

"Not at all," Noah replied. "Destroying everything has always been the plan."

"I'll take your fake core now," Maribel eventually said. "We are about to part ways, right?"

"I believe you don't want our worlds to be so close for so long," Noah guessed while taking out a fake core specifically meant for Maribel's world.

"Not only that," Maribel responded while seizing the fake core and storing it through one of her techniques. "You are about to do something crazy, right? I don't want to be around."

"Am I so obvious?" Noah asked.

"No," Maribel replied. "I've just heard many stories while I was on the landmass. You won't stop until you get your answers."

Noah limited himself to smile, and Maribel nodded at that gesture. She turned and approached one side of the weak sky before digging through it with her techniques and disappearing from the area.

Noah heaved a deep sigh after remaining alone. His aura intensified, and the fabric of space bent as the weight of his existence increased.

There has been hesitation inside Noah after his last breakthrough. That feeling was completely normal after waking up in the middle of the weak sky. His realization of Heaven and Earth's evolution didn't help either. He knew that unleashing chaos wasn't ideal, and he even lacked proper targets in the current state of the higher plane.

Nevertheless, Noah wanted answers. He couldn't remain in the dark in front of such intense desire. Only Heaven and Earth had the answers, so he had to attract their attention to obtain them.

'I guess I can ignore everyone and everything for a bit,' Noah thought as his ambition surged and potential flowed inside his centers of power.

The space-time array appeared in his view as a vortex appeared around his figure. The aspects of his world grew stronger as he planned a trajectory. He wanted to complete filling the world with quasi-living workshops as soon as possible to focus on other pressing matters.

'I really hate growing slowly,' Noah laughed in his mind before shooting forward.

The fabric of space shattered, and the sky on his path turned into dust. Everything crumbled whenever he passed. Noah wasn't holding anything back. He sprinted as fast as possible while throwing quasi-living workshops left and right.

The layout of the world quickly expanded in Noah's mind. He had an almost entire map filled with quasi-living workshops, and he had every intention to complete it.

The shattered sky never stopped providing Noah with the energy required by his centers of power to quell the drawbacks. Proper storms followed him due to the pulling forces coming out of his fast figures.

Some packs ended up on his path, but he didn't interact with them. Noah dodged them swiftly and let them admire the spectacle that he was generating.

His sprints opened massive fissures in the fabric of the world and shattered all the sky in the area. Then, storms followed those events and only the energy that escaped from his pulling force fused with the space to seal the cracks.

Needless to say, Noah threw more quasi-living workshops whenever he met someone. He even crossed past a cultivator once, but the two didn't have the time to interact.

Even with that incredible speed, Noah took a long time to cross every corner of the higher plane and plant his quasi-living workshops. He even ended up losing some of them inside the cracks that he created, which forced him to go back on his track to place them again.

Still, the entire higher plane became full of his creations in the end. Noah could even sense fake cores entering other magical beasts or experts. His world expanded as his influence spread, and he stopped to bathe in that sensation.

The long sprint had felt endless, but Noah felt pleased to realize that his centers of power had managed to endure it. His resilience in an environment full of energy could theoretically be endless. Even his ethereal blackness seemed to rejoice when he understood his insane limits.

Noah cultivated in the middle of the shattered space and broken sky. He didn't need energy after dealing with his drawbacks, but he absorbed it almost out of habit. He felt whole with the many quasi-living workshops spread throughout the higher plane.

In theory, Noah could stop traveling now. He could remain in his position and slowly expand his influence while other beings seized his fake cores. That would be the right time to go into seclusion, but he had no intention to let his doubts remain unanswered.

Noah eventually opened his eyes and glanced toward the sky in the distance. He knew exactly where the real white layer stood, and his weight intensified as he began to approach it. He had every intention to cause a mess, but a familiar aura suddenly materialized near him.

"So, you became part of Heaven and Earth," Noah commented while looking at the familiar figure that slowly took form behind him. "I thought you would have become a privileged cultivator, at least."

The light dimmed as facial features and curves that Noah had learnt to love took form among the cracked space... Heaven and Earth's energy filled the area as June appeared in his vision.

### **Chapter 2088 Useless**

"I didn't think Heaven and Earth would have sent you directly to me," Noah commented. "Are they afraid of what I was about to do?"

"Partially," June answered while inspecting her surroundings. "There are other reasons that I'm not allowed to share."

Noah coldly inspected June. She was exactly as he recalled but also different. A tidy white robe had replaced her usually torn clothes, and her hair had also lost its messiness. Her face also carried a calmness that he had never seen on her.

"Are you a copy?" Noah asked. "You aren't my June."

"You are partially correct," June stated. "Heaven and Earth have resorted to something different with my existence. I'm both me and not me. Still, I'm afraid you won't get the chance to understand anything else."

June's cultivation level surged as a white spear appeared in her hands. She was in the gaseous stage of the ninth rank, so her aura couldn't impress Noah. Even his robe made of dark matter remained still when a storm expanded from her figure.

"This can't be your world," Noah stated. "It's not even a copy of your world. This is something that Heaven and Earth have concocted without having any idea of how your power works."

June smirked without saying anything. She raised her spear and shot forward, stabbing it at the center of Noah's chest. Lightning bolts came out from the tip of her weapon after the impact, and an explosion followed.

The world was too frail to withstand that power. More cracks opened until all the area fell prey to the void. The weak sky in the distance tried to send its light, but most of it dispersed among the darkness.

"What are you even doing?" Noah sighed, and his voice dispersed the energy released during the explosion, revealing that the attack didn't affect him in the slightest.

June tried to push her spear into Noah's chest, but her weapon couldn't pierce his skin. She didn't even manage to make him budge, and the lightning bolts that she had released had also been useless.

June was stronger than the average gaseous stage cultivator, but that didn't mean anything in Noah's presence. He was too strong for that level. He was leagues above June.

"Why did they even send you?" Noah asked while grabbing the spear's tip. "I have killed privileged cultivators in the liquid stage before my last breakthrough. What can you do in this state?"

Light pressure from his fingers filled the spear with cracks before shattering it completely. June soon found herself without a weapon, but she didn't give up on her mission. She took a step back, and a stronger aura flowed out of her figure.

Noah sighed again. That scene filled his mind with sadness. He didn't know what had happened inside the weak sky, but that wasn't June. A simple increase in her power after a defeat wasn't enough to describe her ability.

June pointed her hands forward, and lightning bolts ran over her arms as she accumulated power. Her aura continued to intensify until she decided to discharge her energy.

The sparks transformed into white lightning bolts, but they didn't have the chance to shoot forward since Noah's hand appeared on their path. They did their best to pierce his skin, but they could only shatter and vanish when he closed his fingers to grab June's hands.

June tried to pull herself away, but Noah's grasp was impossible to break. He studied her hands, the sensations that they originated, and even their smell. Everything told him that they didn't belong to his lover, but he also felt that June was in front of him.

"Let go!" June shouted as lightning bolts flared out of her figure.

Attacks landed on Noah, but nothing managed to hurt him. June's power continued to increase, and the loud sound of her heartbeat also started to invade the area, but nothing could affect him. He was too strong for her.

Noah pulled June and let go of her hands to grab her head. She continued to struggle, but her efforts were pointless. Meanwhile, Noah's expression grew sadder as he called upon his anger and tried to disperse the effects of Heaven and Earth's power.

Cracks began to open on June's forehead, and energy seeped out of her skin as Noah's anger targeted Heaven and Earth's power. There was a lot that he didn't understand about her situation, but he would do everything in his power to solve his doubts.

June's current power told Noah that she had yet to step on the ninth rank when Heaven and Earth captured her. The worlds given by the rulers were usually good copies that tried to be as identical as possible to the original, but that didn't happen with June. She was similar to her previous self but weak compared to her actual potential.

Another stark difference was the change in her personality. The real June wouldn't care that Noah was far stronger than her. She would still face the battle with a smile on her face. Instead, the current version of her barely showed any emotion.

'What did they do with you?' Noah wondered as he tried to invade June's mind with his mental waves.

His dense mental energy wasn't something that June could stop. His anger opened a path that his mental waves crossed in no time. They entered her mind and started inspecting the memories that filled that ethereal environment.

June's mind mostly contained light. Noah had already seen similar scenes when he inspected cultivators in Heaven and Earth's system. June clearly belonged to the rulers now, but Noah found the complete lack of memories odd. She seemed to have nothing more than that radiance inside her mind.

'Where are her memories?' Noah wondered as he continued that inspection.

Lightning bolts, explosions, and various attacks fell on his figure, but nothing managed to hurt him. Noah remained still, with his eyes closed and his hand sealed on June's face as he continued inspecting her mind.

The complete lack of memories didn't make sense. Noah would have even believed that June's current form belonged to an avatar if his instincts didn't contradict him. She looked like nothing more than a vessel that failed to imitate his lover's power but succeeded in copying part of her essence.

The lack of memories almost made Noah hope that the real June was locked somewhere inside the sky, but orange shades eventually appeared in his vision and killed those thoughts. He could sense traces of his real lover deep inside that whiteness. It seemed that Heaven and Earth's reconstruction had simply been extremely thorough in her case.

Noah moved his mental waves toward the source of that orange radiance slowly. Those shades grew darker as they started to resemble the higher energy that June had created with him a long time ago. He needed to reach the core of that light to see what had remained of his lover, but he didn't want that moment to arrive too soon.

Noah knew the real June. She would prefer him to kill her instead of obtaining a world that didn't have any chance to follow him. Proving that she was gone would force him to destroy that copy, and he didn't want that moment to arrive.

The inspection continued until Noah reached the source of those orange and dark shades. He expected memories, but he felt surprised to see a spherical item that was far denser than the light in the surrounding area... It almost resembled a world, even if it was too little and weak to stand on the ninth rank.

### **Chapter 2089 Orange And White**

The scene didn't make any sense. That orange core seemed something Heaven and Earth would usually shatter to study and replicate since it carried June's true essence. Still, the white light didn't hurt it in the slightest. It only imitated that tiny world without ever affecting its structure.

Noah could finally explain while that version of June didn't resemble her true self. Heaven and Earth didn't have the chance to study her properly, but that only raised new questions.

June had spoken about a different approach, but that didn't explain why Heaven and Earth had chosen that contrived path. They had no reason to leave part of her intact if they had the chance to destroy her. At the same time, it didn't make sense for her to end up or remain in that situation with her core intact.

Questions filled Noah's mind as the inspection continued. His mental waves slowly moved toward that tiny world to inspect its nature. He couldn't help but feel that June was truly there, but his presence eventually triggered an unexpected reaction.

The tiny world stopped rotating among the orange, dark, and white shades when it noticed the foreign mental waves. Noah felt observed before a surge of energy abruptly filled the area. The event made him smile because he sensed June's presence inside that aura, but his instincts suddenly warned him about an imminent danger.

Noah opened his real eyes only to see orange light flowing out of the cracks that had appeared on June's face. The unstable substance began to flow inside his body, but a lightning bolt landed on his hand before he could empower it.

Noah's eyes widened in amazement when he felt pain. The orange lightning bolt had exploded on his palm and had forced him to release his grasp on June's face. His skin didn't suffer any injury, but a black mark had appeared where the attack had landed.

June retreated. A trail of smoke hid her face, and blood fell from behind it. The lightning bolt had hurt her, but Noah remained in his position to understand what was happening.

June's aura was unstable. It grew stronger, but there seemed to be two different natures in its insides. One belonged to Heaven and Earth, while the other reminded Noah of his lover.

Heaven and Earth's version of June was stronger. It ended up benefitting from that conflict, bringing her overall power near the peak of the gaseous stage. Her heartbeat grew louder, and denser lightning bolts started running over her body.

Noah felt the pulling force caused by the heartbeat falling on his body, but his figure didn't move. June's previous attack had managed to leave a mark on his skin, but that was before the unstable substance. Now, he was near the peak of his physical prowess, so nothing could affect him.

The smoke dispersed after a series of white lightning bolts ran over her face. Noah could see that June's injuries had healed during those seconds, but the corners of her lips had turned upward. Her emotionless state had suffered a hit.

Noah couldn't move his eyes from that faint smile. His gaze remained firm even after June launched a storm of white lightning bolts toward him. The attacks crashed on his figure without inflicting any damage. They didn't hinder him even after he decided to step forward to reach his opponent.

June's face fell prey to his hand again. Noah pulled her closer as his anger surged to open a path toward the insides of her mind, but an orange radiance suddenly started to shine from behind her eyes.

A different lightning bolt with power at the peak of the gaseous stage came out of June's eyes and prevented Noah's inspection. The attack couldn't hinder his body, but his mental waves were too frail to survive that blow.

The lightning bolt engulfed Noah's face without causing any damage. When it dispersed, he revealed a surprised expression originated by the strangeness of the situation. The white attacks clearly belonged to Heaven and Earth's copy, but the orange ones were part of June's real essence.

The issue with the different attacks came with their triggers. June would normally use the white attacks and rely on the orange ones only when Noah threatened to enter her mind.

'What are you trying to protect?' Noah wondered. 'Why are you protecting it from me?'

Noah didn't have answers, but he knew where to find them. Potential filled his mind and gave him enough power to condense a few strands of mental energy that could survive the orange lightning bolts.

June's eyes lit up again, but Noah sent his mental waves forward anyway. The orange lightning bolt didn't destroy them, so he soon found himself among the whiteness inside her mind.

Noah moved forward, uncaring of the whiteness around him. He needed to find the tiny world, but his instincts eventually warned him again. Something powerful was coming, and its nature soon became clear.

A lightning bolt with power in the liquid stage flew among the whiteness and engulfed Noah's mental waves. They would have regularly been able to survive a few seconds in that raging environment, but the attack was far from normal. June's true self used higher energy, so Noah's thoughts shattered in no time.

Noah opened his real eyes only to find himself immersed in orange light. The lightning bolt had engulfed his entire figure, but it remained unable to hurt him while the unstable substance empowered him. However, he began to feel some pressure, and the heartbeat even intensified.

"You can't get rid of me with this power," Noah growled with sounds that June would understand. "Let me in so that I can see what you are hiding."

"I'll get more power then," June said as her smirk widened.

Her aura intensified, and the battle between the two natures happened again. Heaven and Earth seemed to win again, and a series of white lightning bolts in the liquid stage fell on Noah's figure. They didn't hurt him, but an orange light soon replaced them.

The lightning bolt that followed the orange light carried the same properties that had shattered the mental waves. It was also stronger than before, and Noah started to see the limit of his body there. The attack created sparks all over his body. They tried to push him away, and his grasp began to tremble. He could endure much more, but injuries were bound to appear if she kept getting stronger.

Noah could still use his potential to improve his body. That would allow him to reach levels that would challenge June's ability to grow stronger. Yet, he preferred to understand what was happening before making decisions that could lead to adverse consequences.

"What am I even supposed to do here?" Noah asked.

"Fight me," June stated in a tone that felt odd. "That's the only way."

Noah's eyes sharpened. His reptilian pupils moved left and right as they inspected June. He couldn't understand which version of her had voiced that request, but the smirk had grown wider. That alone felt enough as a sign.

"Fine then," Noah said before throwing June downward.

June slammed on the weak sky in the distance. The impact destroyed a large chunk of the white material and made her spit a mouthful of blood. However, her attention couldn't remain on her state since a massive aura had expanded above her... A black crystal sphere had appeared among the void, and an army of six-armed dragons was coming out of it.

## **Chapter 2090 Weak**

Noah knew June's true essence. He had been a core part of its creation. The current situation felt odd, and June's condition appeared even stranger, but he could sense that part of the real her still existed inside her figure, so he decided to nurture it.

Hundreds of six-armed dragons came out of the dark world to create an army that advanced toward June. The latter was feeling dizzy after the crash, but her eyes lit up when she saw so many opponents in the lower tier flying toward her.

Her body glowed with white light as sparks ran over her body. June's smile broadened as she spread her arms. A satisfied expression fell on her face as her heartbeat resounded throughout the void.

Noah closed his eyes to bathe in those sounds. He recalled that heartbeat, but he could also sense the differences from what he had learnt to love. The noise wasn't muffled, but it still felt hindered by some barrier when it reached his ears.

The pressure that fell on his body was also odd. June's power continued to increase, but it remained strange most of the time. Noah could see her true self only when he pushed her to go beyond her limits.

The dragons struggled to advance under the heavy heartbeat. They tried to move forward, but the rhythmic sound always pushed them back. Moreover, the pressure that the noises applied on their bodies slowly generated cracks that expanded as that offensive continued.



'That's not it,' Noah thought as his ambition surged and a series of fake cores shot out of the dark world.

The dragons' power quickly increased and reached the limits of the lower tier before stepping into the next realm when fake cores fused with their bodies. They became able to ignore the pressure falling on them in that new form, and June soon found herself surrounded.

An explosion happened. White light shot out of June and destroyed the dragons right around her, but more creatures pierced through the radiance and stretched their arms toward her.

June found herself pushed on the weak sky. A dragon pinned her down while other beasts pointed their mouths toward her. Black flames gathered in their throats before a fiery sea filled the area.

Noah didn't feel any pleasure watching the scene, but he didn't dare to divert his eyes. He had to look and study every fluctuation in June's power to see if his approach was working.

An orange color eventually appeared among the black sea, and the thundering noises of deafening lightning bolts filled the void. A blinding hole appeared among the flames, and sparks expanded from that spot.

Many dragons saw their bodies falling apart as attacks landed on their scales. They didn't hesitate to detonate themselves when their destruction became inevitable, and a wave of energy engulfed the area again.

The darkness suppressed the orange glow, but the latter returned stronger than ever when a massive lightning bolt pierced the wave of dense energy. The attack flew toward Noah, but he only needed to wave his hand to destroy it.

June appeared among the void. White and orange sparks came out of her figure and continued to destroy the energy around her. She seemed in a daze as she felt her power growing inside the liquid stage. Cracks even appeared on her body due to the intense energy that filled her insides, but she didn't mind them.

"Why are you holding back?" June whispered, but her voice thundered throughout the void.

"You aren't worthy of my real power," Noah coldly stated.

"That has never stopped you," June stated as she fixed her intense gaze on Noah.

"Indeed," Noah admitted. "Still, the June I remember would have never allowed me to take it easy. I can hold back because you are weak."

June smirked as her power kept growing. The orange shades slowly began to overwhelm the white sparks. A dark halo even began to appear around her figure, but it lasted only a few seconds before vanishing among her glow.

Noah didn't feel threatened in the slightest. June was showing the power of a liquid stage cultivator, but she was weaker than Dinia. She could hurt him, but only if he allowed that.

'This is taking too long,' Noah thought while glancing at the weak sky in the distance.

June mustered her power and accumulated it in her arms. Lightning bolts seeped out of her skin, creating deep injuries due to the massive energy they carried. She could barely sustain her current level, but Noah needed her to express more.

Noah suddenly appeared next to June. She didn't even sense him coming, but her energy managed to transform into a spherical shockwave when she saw a punch flying in her direction.

A white sphere expanded from her figure, but potential flowed inside Noah's body and allowed his punch to pierce the attack. Sparks fell on his arm, but they only left black marks on his skin.

The punch hit June and flung her away. She ended up crashing on the weak sky. One of her arms had disappeared, and blood flowed out of her mouth. She seemed about to die, but her power continued to increase.

"You can't beat me in this form," Noah stated as he flew toward June. "The world that Heaven and Earth have created doesn't suit your power. Even your body rejects it."

Lightning bolts shot out of June's figure, inflicting even more damage on her during the process. The attacks were about to reach the peak of the liquid stage, but Noah only needed to launch slashes with his fingers to destroy them.

June didn't want to give up. She summoned her orange sparks to create a stronger version of the previous attack. The lightning bolts flew forward, but they crumbled when they met Noah's Demonic Sword. He had to wield his weapon, but that didn't bring any satisfaction to June.

"Is that all you can do?" Noah asked after he reached her. "This is far from enough. Maybe you never had any chance to follow me."

June's smirk broadened as her power grew. She was about to step on the solid stage, but the cracks on her body expanded during the process. She wouldn't be able to withstand that enhancement.

"I'm about to explode," June whispered in a tone that made Noah's eyes flicker. "You might want to retreat."

"These might be your final moments," Noah sighed. "I'm not leaving you."

"You are so predictable," June chuckled. "I knew I could count on you."

June's expression twisted in pain after that line. Orange and white sparks pierced her body. Then, an explosion happened, and Noah watched June's body falling apart as a wave of power engulfed him.

The attack pushed Noah away and managed to make a few cuts appear on his skin. Still, they closed in no time without the need for additional energy.

Noah kept his eyes on the mass of energy that had remained in the void. The small orange sphere seen inside June's mind hovered among a raging array of white sparks. They appeared about to fall on that core, but they wanted Heaven and Earth to send reinforcements first.

The weak sky in the distance lit up as lightning bolts flew out of it. Noah saw countless attacks fusing with the white sparks and creating a proper barrage around the orange core.

Noah could affect the process, but he decided to remain still. Something told him that June needed to go through that Tribulation on her own.