

Demonic 2161

Chapter 2161 - 2161. Fascinating

The Foolery didn't stop there. Its aura expanded as it took a deep breath to maximize the range of its senses and find the source of the scorching power. Its eyes suddenly lit up, and its figure shot forward.

"What is happening?" Emperor asked without hiding the surprise felt in front of that powerful sprint.

Noah chuckled before chasing after the Foolery. June and the others followed him across the camps, and a golden figure eventually appeared in their view.

King Elbas had his eyes closed as he hovered right above the surface. He kept his legs crossed as golden light came out of his skin and fused with multiple lines that disappeared underground. He appeared to have complete control over the area, but the Foolery didn't care about that meditative state.

The winged pig accelerated as it crossed the camp. The speed reached during the sprint was so incredible that Emperor and the others took it as a proper attack with power in the liquid stage. The three experts didn't know what to expect from the imminent clash, but the event surprised them anyway.

The Foolery abruptly stopped when it was about to crash on King Elbas. Its body trembled as it struggled to move, but nothing happened. The pig seemed trapped in an invisible membrane that suppressed its incredible physical prowess.

The pig didn't give up so easily. It opened its mouth and tried to stretch its tongue toward King Elbas, but that attempt also failed. The Foolery remained stuck mid-air at only a meter from the expert. It couldn't even retreat to perform another charge.

"Hmph!" King Elbas snorted as he opened his eyes and shot an aloof glance toward the Foolery. "I knew something like this would have happened. I spent many years preparing countermeasures to your annoying behavior."

"Xavier!" The Foolery shouted in a pleading tone, but that only intensified the arrogance on King Elbas' expression.

"Did you really waste years to develop counters to the Foolery?" Noah mocked.

"Don't underestimate me," King Elbas snorted again as he waved his hand. "I have developed countermeasures for all of you. No idiot shall get in my way ever again."

"Are you allies or enemies?" Emperor whispered since he couldn't understand the nature of that relationship.

"He is my underling," Noah announced.

King Elbas snorted for the third time, but he didn't add anything. He appeared far from happy, but he didn't deny Noah's statement.

"Xavier!" The Foolery pleaded again, but King Elbas didn't even look at it.

The complete disregard expressed by King Elbas made the Foolery's expression freeze. The pig appeared lost, depressed, and dispirited. Noah had never seen it make that face, but Pellio decided to take the matter into his own hands.

Pellio opened his eyes, and a series of golden lines lit up around King Elbas. The latter appeared clearly surprised about the event, and his gaze soon fell on Pellio. Pure curiosity had filled King Elbas' eyes, but the disappearance of his defenses distracted him from his inspection.

The golden lines spreading from King Elbas' figure vanished, and the same happened to the invisible membrane keeping the Foolery still. The winged pig finally had the chance to complete its charge, and a proud squeal accompanied the event.

Noah shook his head when he saw the Foolery standing on King Elbas. The pig had lifted its head to the sky, but smoke quickly started to come out from its legs. Its skin burnt, but it endured the pain to remain in that position for a few more seconds.

"Move," King Elbas coldly ordered as his body transformed into a pure golden light that released a blinding pillar.

The attack made it impossible for Noah and the others to understand what was happening. King Elbas' aura was too dense and hot to inspect. It burnt mental waves and anything trying to pierce it.

The golden light soon dimmed. The Foolery had disappeared, but King Elbas materialized on Pellio's mat and resumed his inspection of the expert.

Pellio had already half-closed his eyes, but that didn't stop King Elbas from finding clues about his power. A series of golden items and lines even came out of his back and helped the inspection.

"What is this?" King Elbas mumbled while bending forward to inspect Pellio better. "This power works on reality but exists in a completely different realm."

"He is Dream Lord Pellio," Noah explained.

"Dreams," King Elbas repeated. "Fascinating. Definitely fascinating."

"I found a good batch of allies during these years," Noah declared before inspecting the dragons on the camp again. "I see that you have also been busy."

"The old rulers know Heaven and Earth deeply," King Elbas exclaimed as he stopped inspecting Pellio and moved his attention on the other experts. "However, their knowledge can easily turn into a limit, especially now that Heaven and Earth are evolving so quickly. They needed someone capable of providing a different perspective, and finding someone better than me is virtually impossible."

"How is the liquid stage?" Noah asked.

"Disappointing," King Elbas sighed. "You must be almost there, am I right?"

"I should reach the breakthrough naturally soon," Noah admitted. "I'm surprised you improved so soon."

"Our worlds are similar when it comes to their steep requirements," King Elbas announced. "Yet, my existence is far heavier than yours. I faced the breakthrough simply because the gaseous stage couldn't contain me anymore."

"That final energy of yours is definitely interesting," Noah growled as a hint of greed seeped into his cry.

"It's a pity that none of you brutes can even come close to approaching it," King Elbas declared. "Though I might accept you as my disciples if you worship me for a few thousand years."

"You still have a long way to go," The Foolery's voice resounded in the area as a fuming figure descended from a spot near the array of lightning bolts.

The smoke slowly dispersed and revealed the charred figure under it. The Foolery's skin had turned black, and multiple burns had appeared on its legs, but its condition didn't seem critical. The pig even kept its head lifted during its descent.

"I have obviously held back," King Elbas scoffed.

"So, you admit that my power is necessary for the final battle against Heaven and Earth," The Foolery exclaimed, and King Elbas' expression froze.

"Shy as always," The Foolery shook its head. "Xavier, I shall take you under my wings and teach-."

The Foolery couldn't complete its joke since one of King Elbas' defenses activated and covered its mouth with a muzzle. The item prevented the pig from speaking or releasing other sounds, and its power clearly was near the peak of the ninth rank.

"Did you really create an upper tier item to keep the Foolery silent?" Noah asked.

"You can thank me later," King Elbas responded.

Noah shrugged his shoulders and used that chance to scold the Foolery. "That's what happens when you spend millennia sleeping and eating. You must grow stronger if you want to keep teasing Xavier."

The Foolery appeared enlightened by those words. Resolve filled its eyes as it nodded furiously. Then, it looked at Pellio, and the latter made the muzzle disappear.

"You are a bunch of idiots," Queen commented.

"You have to see the others," King Elbas and Noah sighed at the same time.

"Is it possible to see the old rulers now?" Cursed Reality asked.

"Of course," The old rulers' voice came out from the various buildings and ground. "We are waiting for you.. Come, we have so much to discuss."

Chapter 2162 - 2162. Muzzle

The city opened and revealed its deep pit after the old rulers' formal invitation. Orange light seeped out of the vast hole and filled the area with deep power, but Noah jumped inside it without showing any hesitation.

King Elbas and the others didn't waste time and followed Noah, but Emperor, Queen, Cursed Reality, and Vesuvia slowed down their descent to inspect the area.

The old rulers' aura was peculiar, and its resemblances with Heaven and Earth's power only deepened those features. Still, it now carried a specific individuality that separated it from the sky.

The bottom of the hole was as Noah remembered it, but the orange figure that it contained had gone through some changes. Noah and the others could see a tall avatar made of a shiny metal that highlighted its many details.

The avatar had gained a detailed robe, clear fingernails, ears, and eyes. The rest of its facial features were still vague, but a nose had begun to take form, and the same went for a proper mouth.

Noah disregarded the unclear features and the robe to focus on the eyes. The old rulers' gaze carried emotions and intentions. It had become almost human.

"You are growing stronger," Noah commented.

"Obviously," The old rulers responded as their unclear mouth trembled. "We benefit a bit from the changes in the world's fairness due to our lingering connection with Heaven and Earth. Besides, your ambition has already tainted us."

"I've seen your work on the dragons," Noah changed the topic. "It's bold enough to receive my praise, but it also worries me."

"You still don't trust us," The old rulers chuckled.

"Can you blame me?" Noah asked.

"Not at all," The old rulers exclaimed. "Actually, we share some of your worries. We and Heaven and Earth are increasing the distance between ourselves with each step toward higher forms of power. However, that also makes us grow closer."

"I hate when they speak about complicated stuff," The Foolery sighed.

"It's inevitable, really," The old rulers revealed. "We are separate existences, but we used to be one and the same. That connection won't disappear as long as the world exists."

Heaven and Earth had severed the part of themselves that had become the old rulers, but the world still found similarities in their existence. That allowed them to benefit or suffer from the changes in the fairness' scales.

"So, I guess you have a strategy," Noah moved the conversation to serious topics. "What did you plan to do after improving the dragons?"

"We wanted to wait for you to cause a mess," The old rulers promptly revealed. "The dragons are powerful, but Heaven and Earth will counter them as soon as they appear on a battlefield. We planned to use them as a secret force."

"Why would I even cause a mess?" Noah asked.

King Elbas, June, and even the Foolery launched meaningful glances at Noah. They didn't need words to make Emperor and the others understand what their gesture meant.

"No, I mean," Noah cleared his throat, "I would gladly cause a mess, but I'm out of options here. There is only the sky left, and attacking it again is quite pointless at my current level."

"What if you could damage the sky permanently?" The old rulers asked, and King Elbas wore an arrogant smile that Noah didn't miss.

"What did you develop in these years?" Noah asked.

"A weapon, obviously," King Elbas revealed. "You have seen the power of the black metal. I only needed to perform some personal modifications to turn it into a proper counter worthy of the sky."

Noah didn't need to question King Elbas any further. He had already used the black metal to hurt the sky, but he could understand how his underling might have developed something far stronger in those years.

King Elbas' final energy was perfect for those projects. He had even worked together with the old rulers, so Noah felt sure that the result had been outstanding. Still, a few problems remained.

"Heaven and Earth managed to kill the death dragon after you performed minor improvements on its underlings," Noah exclaimed. "What will happen if we unleash this weapon?"

"We believe you can understand that better than most experts," The old rulers replied.

"I do," Noah said before turning toward King Elbas. "How strong is this weapon? What do you mean by permanent damage?"

"According to my calculations," King Elbas explained, "The weapon will remove the sky from the higher plane. Heaven and Earth should also lose their grip on many Mortal Lands, but it's impossible to know their exact number since I can't evaluate the rulers' power in its entirety."

"That will force their hand," Noah responded.

"Did you grow scared of Heaven and Earth in these years?" King Elbas mocked.

Noah ignored the joke as deep thoughts filled his mind. The weapon described by King Elbas was obviously powerful and valuable. Noah also knew that it would work. However, the inevitable consequences of that attack would be terrifying.

The weapon seemed able to reduce Heaven and Earth's influence. Removing their access to the Mortal Lands and the higher plane would significantly affect their energy reserves. In theory, the event might lead to a safer environment.

Moreover, having access to less energy would limit the number of projects that Heaven and Earth could pursue. They would have to focus only on what they considered necessary, and the improvement of their existence would naturally come first.

Nevertheless, the rulers were resourceful, and they had accumulated wonders inside the sky for countless years. They could probably release their armies of avatars and take complete control over the higher plane even without the weak sky.

Actually, the disappearance of the weak sky would force Heaven and Earth to be even more aggressive in their hunt for small forces. There was a high chance that the weapon could backfire, especially once the world's fairness came into play.

Still, Noah only had two alternatives. One of them saw him secluding himself inside the orange city to cultivate. That wasn't different from what he had just refused to do inside the Cursed Labyrinth, so he didn't even consider it.

The second alternative was his initial plan. Noah wanted to use Pellio's power to find other forces and amass them under his banner. He expected the various experts in the higher plane to be eccentric and challenging to approach, but the threat of the final battle was bound to bring some sense inside them.

'Heaven and Earth might decide to ignore everything happening outside the sky if the weapon does enough damage,' Noah eventually thought. 'That would give us the chance to gather even more forces and salvage those already in the Tribulations' target.'

The plan sounded like a gamble since it was impossible to predict Heaven and Earth's reaction, but Noah wasn't the type of expert to refuse a fight. He also had to prove himself in front of his new underlings, and a clash against the rulers' forces would probably push him into the liquid stage.

"The final battle is already a gamble," Noah sighed. "I guess it's time to face some privileged cultivators. Let me see this weapon."

"He changed his mind so quickly," The Foolery whispered.

"Why are you surprised?" June commented.

"I'm not," The Foolery replied, "But it's my role to crack jokes about it."

"Elbas, muzzle," Noah ordered, and the golden item materialized in front of the Foolery's mouth as soon as King Elbas snapped his fingers.

Chapter 2163 - 2163. Weapon

The sky was the most secretive and protective location in the entirety of the higher plane. Every expert feared that destination since it represented the sheer amount of power that Heaven and Earth held.

The sole thought of invading the sky was pure madness in the minds of most experts. Even solid stage cultivators would label that mission as crazy. Yet, for Noah, a trip into Heaven and Earth's white world was nothing more than a dangerous task.

Of course, the current situation in the higher plane required thorough preparations. Heaven and Earth weren't a mindless program anymore. Sneaking up on them was impossible now, and Noah also expected the full force of the sky to converge on his position as soon as the invasion began.

"So, this is the weapon," Noah exclaimed while looking at a strange black substance raging inside a series of golden barriers.

"It's quite the masterpiece," King Elbas proudly responded. "It's a pity that it needs to be disposable to have such incredible raw power."

The group had split after learning about the plan. Cursed Reality, Vesuvia, Emperor, and Queen had remained inside the pit to continue the conversation with the old rulers. The Foolery had chosen to stay to oversee the situation, while Pellio and the turtle had rejoined the army.

The two dragons had also left to return to their pack, while June had started a separate conversation with the old rulers to see if she could gain access to the orange lightning bolts. As for King Elbas and Noah, they had moved toward the building containing the weapon to review the plan.

'It's alive,' Noah immediately understood while inspecting the weapon.

King Elbas' creation wasn't much different from a parasite. Its body was liquid, and raging life filled it. Its initial shape seemed spherical, but multiple spikes grew and shrunk from it as it tried to escape the golden barriers.

The weapon's dark fabric did not affect the golden barriers. It tried to push them, but nothing happened. Moreover, Noah felt something unique coming from that odd living being, something that directly opposed Heaven and Earth's power.

"You made it to react only to Heaven and Earth's power," Noah exclaimed.

"Exactly," King Elbas added. "I've preserved the nature of the dark metal while evolving its overall state. This weapon remains a flaw in Heaven and Earth's system. I've only brought that power to its limits and improved its effectiveness."

"Did you exploit the mess with the dragons to avoid suffering from the world's fairness?" Noah asked.

"Sacrifices were necessary to succeed," King Elbas explained. "Maybe I had something to do with the death dragon's death, but everyone was aware of the risks. Still, that loss remains a pity."

"You only wanted to modify it," Noah sighed.

"Its early departure remains a waste," King Elbas announced without showing any shame.

"I guess we have to unleash this near a prism," Noah continued.

"Yes, but the sky's layout has definitely changed since our last trip up there," King Elbas responded.

"We'll have to fight entire cities and armies of avatars to get there."

"The privileged cultivators and Heaven and Earth are the only problem," Noah contradicted.

"Noah, we can't defeat them on our own," King Elbas declared. "The old rulers were willing to sacrifice most of their assets to open a path, but your arrival might help contain the losses. What do you think about those new allies?"

"They are strong," Noah promptly stated.

"Are they as strong as us?" King Elbas asked.

"No one is as strong as us," Noah chuckled. "Still, they are valuable allies. They can open a path unless Heaven and Earth manage to surprise us."

"We might have a chance then," King Elbas nodded before glancing at Noah to inspect him from head to toe.

"I'm not as useless as you hope," Noah scoffed. "You won't get ahead of me so easily."

"I already am," King Elbas exclaimed.

"Whatever you say," Noah shrugged his shoulders. "So, when do we leave?"

"As soon as everyone is ready," King Elbas stated. "I have already planned the next enhancements with the old rulers. They can continue improving the dragons while we are gone. We'll also have a pack of modified magical beasts at our disposal. Everything else depends on your group."

"Bringing an entire army is pointless," Noah said. "Half of it would die as soon as battles start. We'll invade the sky as an elite group while the others will remain here to work with the old rulers."

"It's time to ask them," King Elbas announced.

The two left the building with the intention of questioning Noah's new companions, but a flashy scene captured their attention and made them forget about their task.

The array of lightning bolts above the city was shrinking, leaving many buildings uncovered. The event intensified the orange glow coming from the defensive technique and unleashed deafening crackling noises on the streets.

A series of orange barriers quickly came out of the streets and fended off the harmful noises, but they didn't reach the array of lightning bolts. It seemed that the old rulers were accepting that majestic event, and Noah could easily understand why.

The reason behind that change in the lightning bolts was easy to identify. That crackling orange energy converged toward a figure that was hard to see among the blinding light, but the nature of its aura was as clear as possible.

June floated among the defensive array and forced it to converge on her body. Lightning bolts burnt and pierced her skin as she pushed her resistance to that element to its limits. She also needed to fill only a small gap before the liquid stage, and the solution to the issue was around her.

Large injuries opened, and the skin at their edges transformed into a charred black mess as June continued to face entire torrents of lightning bolts. Her energy surged in the process, but it was clear that her body and cultivation level were following two different paths.

Each lightning bolt allowed June to increase the power output of the Perfect Circuit without suffering drawbacks, but her body fell apart during the process. The absorption wasn't only dangerous and painful. June actually risked damaging her world if she was too reckless.

June's character went against that type of practice. She could easily lose herself in the procedure, but she wasn't alone now. Moreover, the old rulers were working with her, so the lightning bolts lost part of their power whenever they risked hurting her deeply.

June's aura intensified until the glow accumulated on her skin exploded outward and generated a series of lightning bolts that rained on the city. The attack wasn't part of the old rulers' power, so buildings crumbled and fell on the barriers above the streets.

The array of lightning bolts tried to converge on June again, but her pulling force vanished before the procedure could restart. Still, the power unleashed by her aura continued to grow until it reached a critical point and began to descend.

June grew weaker, but her cultivation level stopped falling when it reached the bottom of the liquid stage. A series of sparks in the gaseous stage left her body and removed every trace of her weaker self.. Her world resumed to work a full power at that point, and everyone could sense that her breakthrough had been a success.

Chapter 2164 - 2164. Interruption

The new base energy in June's Perfect Circuit filled her world and spread through her injuries. Her condition immediately improved as she left the defensive array above the city and descended toward the streets.

Sparks came out of her injuries as new flesh replaced those charred holes. June regained her healthy appearance in mere seconds, and a heavy aura accompanied her when she landed next to Noah.

"I'll seclude myself to stabilize my power," June announced as she searched for an empty building. "Don't you dare to leave me behind."

"I've never considered that option," Noah chuckled, and June nodded at him when the city moved to put a building in front of her.

"We should have a chance to succeed," King Elbas exclaimed while June entered the building and the city moved again to restore its initial layout.

"You don't sound too confident," Noah commented. "This lack of arrogance doesn't suit your character."

"Don't misunderstand me," King Elbas sighed. "I'm the best of the best. I'm sure I can take down solid stage cultivators now. Yet, Heaven and Earth have far more than that."

"We aren't weak either," Noah added. "Besides, you and June have reached the liquid stage quickly. I bet the others are in a similar situation."

"I only hope that the leader of the idiots doesn't fall in Heaven and Earth's grasp," King Elbas stated. "The situation would become problematic."

"Divine Demon will be fine," Noah declared. "I would remain focused on the dragons. They can be a good trump card in the final battle."

"Everything will change once this mission is over," King Elbas explained. "That project will probably suffer a lot from the shift in the world's fairness. I'll have to adjust all my calculations."

"You would have needed to do that anyway since I'm here now," Noah laughed.

"You are lucky we are dealing with magical beasts," King Elbas snorted without denying Noah's statement.

The two went on separate ways at that point. King Elbas wanted to review his preparations for the mission, while Noah had to reunite with the other solid stage experts to share part of his knowledge.

The sky was immense, but its layout was relatively simple. Heaven and Earth had probably changed something after their recent improvements, but Noah still shared everything he knew with his new companions.

The upper tier turtle didn't like Noah's decision to leave it behind, but the reality of the situation was undeniable. The leader would be useless in the sky in its current state. It was better if it remained inside the orange city until the mission was over.

The same went for Old Tyrant, Gabrielle, Fiery Mountain, and the other experts retrieved in Artamo's dimension. None of them was strong enough to survive a mission in the sky. Even the rank 9 Foolery didn't meet those requirements, but Noah couldn't force it to remain behind.

The team took form in no time. Noah, the Foolery, King Elbas, June, Cursed Reality, Emperor, Queen, and Pellio would head toward the sky to plant the weapon. As for Vesuvia, she had decided to remain behind to make sure that the old rulers' plans were in line with humanity's future.

"We could send a shard of our power with you," The old rulers' voice came out of the streets and buildings where the team had gathered, "But Heaven and Earth would only have an easier time locating you like that. We'll join you the next time."

"I wouldn't have let you come anyway," Noah responded. "It's too risky to expose your existence to Heaven and Earth right now."

"We could use you as a distraction," King Elbas continued, "But it's better to keep the mission simple. We don't know how much Heaven and Earth would improve after absorbing your power."

"That despicable woman will also keep an eye on you," Queen added. "Don't try anything funny while we are gone."

"Your interactions are always fun to witness," The old rulers exclaimed.

"I blame you for this side of their personality," King Elbas announced while glaring at Noah.

"He is always ready to complai-," The Foolery began to crack a joke, but it sealed its mouth when it noticed that King Elbas was ready to summon the muzzle.

"You'll regret the day when you forced me to be serious about my cultivation level," The Foolery eventually snorted as it lifted its head and let Pellio's mat carry it.

"Sometimes I think you get on its bad side on purpose," Noah commented.

"Nonsense," King Elbas scoffed. "It's only normal for brutes to envy and feel threatened by me."

"How many of you are still on the higher plane?" Queen asked. "Are they all idiots like you?"

"She really has no idea," Noah sighed.

"I've gone through squabbles that hurt more than the sky's pressure," King Elbas sighed.

"I'm actually curious now," Emperor admitted.

"Emperor, please," Cursed Reality called. "You'll only make Queen join the squabbles."

"Can we go already?" June asked as she stared at the sparks coming out of her palm.

"The tea is ready," Pellio stated, and Noah roared to cover the Foolery's loud squeal and announce the beginning of the mission.

The group shot upward and crossed the array of lightning bolts through an opening that the old rulers had prepared for them. The city had already reached a suitable location, so the real sky unfolded in the experts' vision once the orange glow vanished.

Queen, Emperor, and Cursed Reality instinctively slowed down. They didn't know every detail about the mission, and approaching the sky so quickly seemed reckless.

However, King Elbas waved his hand and launched a series of golden bullets that dug a path inside the white layer before they could land on it. A tunnel quickly took form and allowed the group to accelerate toward its insides.

Noah glanced at Cursed Reality, and the expert understood the meaning behind that signal. The fabric of space around the group trembled as the cultivator enveloped them into a different space-time array.

The technique was incomplete, but it needed to be like that since a proper alternative space-time array would prevent the group from flying forward. Cursed Reality had to limit his power and the cloaking properties of his technique, but Noah released his dark world to help.

The dark matter enveloped the group and worked with the alternative space-time array to create a proper cover that kept everyone hidden from the whiteness. The technique wasn't perfect since they had to affect the sky to advance, but that was the best they could do.

"The days when you could come here unnoticed are over," A youthful voice echoed from the white surfaces of the tunnel after the group flew for a while.

Noah and the others immediately stopped. The whiteness intensified and transformed into piercing beams that broke through the alternative space-time array to expose the group. Even the dark world shrunk under the light's pressure.

Something strange quickly became evident. The whiteness was heavy and dangerous, but only one aura seeped out of the tunnel's surfaces. Noah even recognized it, which allowed him to gain an idea of the situation.

"Just come out, Caesar," Noah called while recalling the dark world.

A playful chuckle resounded as Caesar came out of a random spot before the group and crossed his legs. His gaze soon converged on Noah, but he shook his head after inspecting his cultivation level.

"Not yet, Noah Balvan," Caesar exclaimed. "It's still too early."

"Did you come here to tell us to go back?" Noah asked.

"Indeed," Caesar declared. "You will die if I let you continue.. Your fate has never been clearer."

Chapter 2165 - 2165. Plans

"How kind of you to warn us," Noah mocked. "Still, I think we will continue our mission anyway."

"You fail to understand my words," Caesar exclaimed. "The strings of fate are already in place. You won't move forward."

Noah's cold eyes moved over Caesar before falling on the path ahead. He took a step forward, but the world around him suddenly twisted to bring him back in his previous position.

The event didn't feature any teleport or actual change. The step forward had ceased to exist. According to the fabric of reality, Noah didn't move at all.

"Don't take it personally," Caesar chuckled. "Everything I do is for Heaven and Earth's sake. You simply happen to be the best key toward their perfect state."

"Do you know him?" Emperor asked as he raised a hand and unleashed his aura to prepare an attack.

Noah glanced at King Elbas, and the latter took a step forward. Nothing happened after the gesture, which only intensified the group's confusion.

"I wonder," Noah mocked again, "Did you apply your power only on me because the others are too strong?"

"Maybe I only need you for my plans," Caesar suggested.

"I doubt that," Noah whispered while trying to move forward, only to end up in his previous spot.

"We should hurry," Queen stated without hiding the anxiety in her tone.

"Taking down a solid stage cultivator doesn't sound bad," June smiled.

"No, you go ahead," Noah ordered. "You'll only hurt me if you take care of this problem for me."

"I don't like this," Emperor commented.

"We don't need him," King Elbas declared. "Hurry up. Heaven and Earth are bound to notice our presence anytime soon."

Cursed Reality seemed to share Emperor's doubts, but he didn't say anything. He didn't believe that Noah was working with the privileged cultivators for even a second. He felt pretty sure that the event was deeply personal, and Noah needed to handle it on his own.

"I'm leaving you behind," June announced through a smirk as Cursed Reality unfolded the alternative space-time array again, and the group went on their way.

In an instant, only Noah and Caesar remained in the area. The tunnel through the sky expanded past them, but Noah struggled to see its shape. Something was keeping him stuck in that place and was also preventing him from inspecting what stood after it.

"I have a theory," Noah eventually exclaimed.

"Of course, you do," Caesar sneered.

"You are strong," Noah continued. "You probably are powerful enough to stop all of us, but you decided to use your power only on me anyway."

"And why would I do that?" Caesar asked.

"Because you want me to surpass this point," Noah explained. "You want me to advance, even if that forces you to become the hindrance that I need."

"That's quite the theory," Caesar chuckled.

"Your world deals with fate," Noah stated. "I'm sure you can be a pain if you want, but you decided to let the others move forward anyway. You didn't even warn Heaven and Earth about our arrival, though I'm sure they are already aware of this invasion."

"Maybe I wanted to protect you and offer your friends as temporary sacrifices," Caesar said.

"I considered that," Noah admitted. "Yet, my ability to influence the growth of my companions is one of the scariest aspects of my existence. My value in your plan would decrease if you let my team die."

Caesar's smile widened, but he didn't confirm Noah's theory yet. He had another question that he didn't hesitate to voice. "That's still vague. What makes you so sure about this theory?"

"That's simple," Noah announced as his blades appeared in his hands. "I know that I can break through your fate, and you have also seen that. That's why you have decided to act as a stepping stone."

"Prove it then," Caesar responded while pointing at the path behind him. "Pierce through my fate and reach your friends."

Noah knew that King Elbas and the others could handle the mission on their own. His addition to the team naturally was a great help, but the task would remain quite tricky. His presence couldn't change the odds drastically.

Turning to leave would be a wise decision since it would delay Caesar's plan. Noah had never liked being a pawn either, so the idea of abandoning the mission to hinder the expert's fate had crossed his mind.

However, Noah couldn't divert his gaze from such a good chance to accumulate potential. Piercing Caesar's fate would add value to his recent struggles since it would prove that his power had grown. The distance from the liquid stage would shrink even more as long as he did as Caesar wanted.

"Don't tell me that you are hesitating now," Caesar teased when he saw that Noah remained still.

"I had the chance to go over the issue many times in the last years," Noah sighed as the entirety of the potential inside the ethereal blackness flowed toward his centers of power and companions.

"And?" Caesar asked as faint satisfaction appeared on his happy expression.

"Heaven and Earth will grow stronger no matter what I do," Noah explained. "There might be loopholes to this balance, but finding them would require time that I'm not willing to waste."

Night, Snore, Duanlong, and the parasite showed parts of their bodies as their power increased. Shafu's aura also surged as Noah prepared himself to repeat what he had done inside the ninth floor of the Cursed Labyrinth.

"I also know that using this moment to advance will put me on the path that you have foreseen," Noah continued. "Everything will go according to your plan. I can avoid that outcome, but I won't slow down my improvements out of fear."

"I've seen this conversation, Noah Balvan," Caesar revealed. "I've heard it many times in the last years. I know what you are about to say. I also know the face you'll make once you realize how inevitable my plan is."

"I don't care," Noah growled as he slashed his blades forward to unleash the entirety of his power. His companions' attacks also fused with that blow and made it able to express everything he had accumulated during his life.

A torrent of blackness left Noah's figure and shrunk until it transformed into nothing more than a narrow pillar. The attack grew even smaller and became a mere line that flew forward.

The line went through a third transformation. The energy that it carried began to condense once it slammed into the fabric of Caesar's fate. The expert had put Noah inside an invisible sphere that couldn't experience any change, but the attack was heavy enough to bend the laws and apply proper effects.

A spiderweb of cracks expanded all around Noah when the black line transformed into a mere dot. A hole had appeared in Caesar's technique, and that was enough to make it crumble. The fate used to restrain Noah was so frail that a single flaw shattered it.

"Oh my," Caesar laughed. "You are stronger than I expected."

"Liar," Noah declared. "Still, it's fine. One day, my world will be too heavy for your fate. I'm sure of it."

"I'd be disappointed if you couldn't do something similar," Caesar said as he watched Noah leaving the area to reach the tunnel dug by King Elbas and the others.. "I don't expect someone weaker than me to trigger Heaven and Earth's next breakthrough in the end."

Chapter 2166 - 2166. Calculations

Deep tiredness began to fill every corner of Noah's existence as he flew through the tunnel. He had unleashed all of his power and the entirety of his potential to break free from Caesar's fate, but the feat had inevitably triggered his drawbacks.

The whiteness hindered Noah's worsening senses. His vision grew unclear, and his consciousness struggled to expand as his centers of power suffered from his last energy discharge.

Noah was paying the price for his incredible battle prowess, and he usually didn't mind ending up in that awful condition. However, the mission had just started, so he didn't want to stop to rest already.

The situation wasn't completely terrible. The ethereal blackness generated potential quickly as its unclear edges stretched forward. Noah had pierced through the world of one of the strongest experts in the higher plane. That achievement didn't go unnoticed by his existence.

Power began to flow through his centers of power as the ethereal blackness used part of its potential to mend the damage caused by the drawbacks. Noah continued to feel extremely tired, but each step forward brought a new energy that came seemingly out of nowhere.

Noah wasn't going through any healing process. His existence remained tired even as strength filled its fabric. Soon, he felt exhausted and full of energy at the same time, which gave birth to an annoying condition that didn't allow him to express the entirety of his power.

Nevertheless, Noah pushed himself forward. He didn't care if his cracks appeared on his skin and dark matter filled those injuries. He wanted to add his power to that mission because he knew that his breakthrough was close.

King Elbas and the others were obviously flying faster than Noah. The latter couldn't find his companions along the way, but he noticed traces of battles or familiar techniques.

Orange sparks, golden lights, currents of blue energy, blue plants, and areas with unstable space-time arrays began to fill Noah's path at some point. It was clear that his companions had to unleash their techniques, but Noah couldn't find the remains of their enemies.

Gaining an idea of the type of enemies that Heaven and Earth had sent forward was impossible in that environment. The rulers' energy was everywhere since their whiteness carried it, and the valuable remains of avatars of similar beings had already gone back inside the sky.

Noah didn't feel scared about the lack of clues. He was curious about Heaven and Earth's improvements, but he knew that he would eventually meet what they had created during those years.

The ethereal blackness continued to expand even as Noah crossed familiar environments. The tunnel wasn't completely straight, and large areas featuring tall buildings appeared from time to time. The cities still existed, but they were empty, and their intact state confirmed that his companions didn't meet any hindrance there.

Noah also found empty oval areas that resembled the spaces from where he had stolen prisms in the past. Those locations lacked their incredible features now. They appeared abandoned, which felt strange since they didn't match Heaven and Earth's newfound clarity.

To put it simply, Heaven and Earth had greater control over their power and world now. Unused space was a waste of energy, so the rulers theoretically had to fix that issue.

The matter wasn't even external to Heaven and Earth's power. The issue affected their world, so it would typically be a priority to streamline it as best as possible.

However, the rulers did nothing to remove those empty spaces. They didn't even put traps or similar arrays to use them to hinder eventual invaders. Heaven and Earth had decided to let part of their power go to waste.

'Are they doing this on purpose?' Noah wondered as he performed quick inspections whenever he found an empty area.

It would make sense for Heaven and Earth to shed away part of that energy. That waste was even less risky than their previous approach since it wouldn't give birth to another monster. Yet, it was slow, and Noah believed that there had to be something deeper at work.

Of course, Noah wasn't in the condition to perform thorough inspections. He could force himself to focus on those areas, but that would only slow him down even further. He would never catch up with his companions if he decided to add tasks to the mission.

Noah easily found the path taken by his companions every time the environment changed. The tunnels were impossible to miss, and their energy also left tracks that Noah followed without any effort.

The lack of responses from the whiteness around Noah made him suspicious, but he couldn't find answers in his current condition. He limited himself to chase after his companions, and they eventually appeared in the distance.

The scene that unfolded in Noah's vision was amazing and shocking at the same time. King Elbas, Queen, Emperor, Cursed Reality, June, the Foolery, and Pellio stood among the whiteness, surrounded by hundreds of giant avatars and privileged cultivators.

Every avatar was in the upper tier, while the privileged cultivators' level varied between the liquid and solid stage. Needless to say, that show of force wasn't only massive. It was even terrifying.

King Elbas and his solid stage companions would generally have the power to deal with that threat. They didn't necessarily have to win. Even escaping to find a different path toward their destination would work in that situation.

However, the group appeared tired. Their worlds didn't reach their usual width, and the same went for the weight they applied on the higher plane.

Heaven and Earth had worn out the invaders before deploying their main force. It was a simple but effective plan, and Noah's companions appeared beyond cornered.

"He finally arrived," King Elbas commented when Noah's aura reached the group.

"Were you waiting for me to save your ass?" Noah mocked.

"You wish," King Elbas chuckled as he raised his hand to unleash a wave of golden light. "I had a countermeasure ready, but you would have never been able to catch up with us if I activated it before your arrival."

The golden light transformed into currents that fell on each member of Noah's group. Even he saw that power converging on his body before enveloping his figure. He could obviously oppose the event, but King Elbas clearly had something in mind, so he let the event unfold.

A teleport activated once the golden light touched every expert in Noah's group. The avatars launched torrents of lightning bolts to interrupt the process, but a barrier appeared in front of their attacks and sent most of them to their source.

"Heaven and Earth are crazy to use their energy against me," King Elbas sighed. "I'm starting to believe that they want us to cause trouble."

The teleport ended when King Elbas finished speaking, and the scenery in the group's vision changed. The area remained filled by a blinding white light, but a series of prisms became visible in the distance.

The prisms didn't have the shape that Noah recalled. There were nine of them, and they rotated to create a spherical structure that left a blinding trace capable of remaining visible among the whiteness.

"Why didn't you activate the technique earlier if you knew where our destination was?" Queen complained.

"I didn't know where to go before entering the sky," King Elbas explained. "Though I calculated various scenarios and guessed where Heaven and Earth would place one of these cores. I activated the teleport afterward."

"What now?" Emperor asked.

"Now," King Elbas exclaimed while taking out the black weapon contained inside golden barriers, "We unleash chaos."

Chapter 2167 - 2167. Time

The weapon released a screeching noise when it sensed its deigned target. The sight of the nine prisms made its fabric shake in anger and stretch toward the barriers.

Thudding noises mixed with the screech as multiple tendrils stretched out of the weapon and slammed on the golden barriers that divided it from the prisms. The creature remained unable to damage those restrictions, but it did its best to push them forward.

The effort was futile, but King Elbas wore a smug smile when he inspected those reactions. The weapon was behaving as planned. He only needed to unleash it inside the spherical structure that the prisms had created to start the last phase of the mission.

The sudden teleport had taken Heaven and Earth by surprise, but the group remained inside their world. Teleporting the large platoon that the rulers had unleashed in the previous area would require only an instant, but that would give King Elbas enough time to release the weapon.

The light around the group intensified as Heaven and Earth assessed the danger. They couldn't sense the complete nature of the weapon due to the golden barrier and Cursed Reality's twisted space, but they understood that they had to take the threat seriously.

The empty area that contained the prisms was quite vast. The edges of the sky stood far away from the group, but entire chunks of their structure disappeared as the rulers triggered strange activities.

The teleports were too slow, but Heaven and Earth had ways to quicken them. They sacrificed chunks of the sky's edges to send part of their structure in front of the prisms and create a humanoid form that the group knew far too well.

An avatar took form in an instant. The pieces that the sky sent in front of the prisms and the whiteness in the area condensed to give birth to a giant humanoid shape that Heaven and Earth could control to express a big part of their power.

The avatar was far from perfect, and it even featured many transparent spots that revealed a lack of energy. However, the aura that it radiated was dense enough to make King Elbas and the others freeze for an instant and lose part of the advantage gained through the sudden teleport.

The aura wasn't enough to keep the group staggered for too long. King Elbas was the first to snap out of that frozen state, and he followed that awakening by launching countless golden lines forward.

His action forced his companions to push through their weakened state to launch attacks. Only Emperor and Queen held back as Cursed Reality, Pellio, June, and the Foolery sent techniques toward the same targets prioritized by King Elbas.

The golden lines, a barrage of orange lightning bolts, a series of distortions in the space-time array, and the Foolery converged toward one of the transparent spots of the avatar's body. The attacks landed first, and their explosions suddenly disappeared to open a path for the winged pig.

The impact was so violent that the giant avatar bent backward. Still, the greatest changes involved its structure. Deep cracks opened on the transparent spot and stretched throughout the white body.

The cracks deepened until the Foolery managed to dig a hole into the avatar and come out on the other side. The winged pig's momentum was too intense that it continued to fly until it slammed on the spherical structure created by the prisms.

The attack didn't affect the structure at all. A burst of white light filled the area when the Foolery touched the sphere's edges. Everyone's vision became unreliable due to the blinding radiance, but a strange scene unfolded in their eyes when they managed to regain some clarity.

The Foolery shot past the avatar to cross the group and fly further back. Smoke came out from the entirety of its figure due to the many burns on its skin. The mere contact with the spherical structure had turned its body into a charred mess, and it was clear that it couldn't stop on its own for now.

Noah was still behind the group, so he sprinted toward the Foolery to catch it mid-air. The pig was in pain, but its eyes showed the resolve to fight. Yet, the damage suffered during the impact had made it temporarily unable to move.

Noah expanded the dark world to envelop the Foolery and enhance its healing properties. It wouldn't take long before it became able to move again, but Noah didn't know if that would be enough since Heaven and Earth had already bought themselves another instant.

King Elbas stretched his hand forward to plan the trajectory of the weapon. The hole in the avatar still existed, so he could send an attack directly toward the nine prisms.

Nevertheless, Heaven and Earth acted before King Elbas could complete his preparations. The shards dispersed in the area converged before the avatar and created a raging vortex that could hinder any attack.

King Elbas felt forced to retract his arm and voice a curse, but Queen and Emperor finally stepped forward. Queen appeared at the center of the vortex before unfolding her aura, and Emperor pointed his hand toward her before releasing a massive wave of blue energy.

The attack was incredible. Each of Emperor's blows seemed able to carry enough power to shake the entirety of the higher plane. However, the current situation made the rest of the group concerned and surprised since Queen was in the trajectory of the wave of blue energy.

The blow filled the entire area with blue light, but Heaven and Earth's radiance eventually dug holes in that barrage. The blue environment quickly returned to white and revealed its current state.

The vortex and Queen had remained untouched, but the same didn't apply to the avatar behind them. The blue energy had pushed it and had forced its body to bend backward.

Still, the cracks experienced the greatest change. The avatar already had multiple unstable spots and a hole, so Emperor's attack had shattered entire chunks of its body, leaving it in a maimed state. Most of its right shoulder and head had disappeared and had created a clear path toward the prisms.

King Elbas didn't need signals. He sent the weapon forward before following after it. The mission required the black parasite to touch the prisms, so he would use his body to protect it if necessary.

More figures appeared next to King Elbas. June and Queen left their position to side with the expert and protect the weapon as best as they could, but Heaven and Earth had already succeeded in buying themselves enough time.

The whiteness in the area churned and transformed into multiple humanoid figures. Avatars and privileged cultivators appeared between the weapon and the prisms to create a wall of experts ready to interrupt that attack.

King Elbas, Queen, and June prepared themselves for the imminent clash. Yet, it was pretty evident that their efforts couldn't open a path for the weapon. After all, their opponents counted tens of experts with battle prowess in the solid stage.

Pellio and Cursed Reality couldn't do much either. Removing or isolating part of those threats wouldn't change the situation. There were simply too many opponents.

Then, an oppressing aura filled the whole scene and forced the white radiance to gain dark shades. The entire area dimmed, and everyone immediately sensed the source of that event. Noah had raised his swords, but the power that came out of him had changed. Its weight could push back Heaven and Earth's radiance.

Chapter 2168 - 2168. Breakthrough

Being immersed in Heaven and Earth's whiteness was normal for those inside the higher plane. That was even truer during a mission inside the sky. The rulers' light could stretch almost everywhere, and powerful experts could push it back only temporarily.

However, Noah's influence didn't stop there. His heavy aura pushed the whiteness back before infecting it with black lines that expanded in every direction.

Those lines resembled the infective destruction that Noah usually unleashed when in front of an opponent that he couldn't defeat in a few blows. Yet, those structures carried something far deeper now. They expressed the entirety of Noah's world, which made them reach new realms of heaviness and power.

The lines expanded and enlarged, transforming into spiderwebs that quickly merged their edges. They soon turned into vast spots resembling black lakes immersed in the purest white radiance, and their influence forced the entire area to darken.

King Elbas and the others remained stunned before that sudden event, and Heaven and Earth's army fell prey to the same feeling. Everyone in the area turned toward Noah, and their expressions inevitably twisted to reveal their mental state.

Even the faceless avatars developed mouths and other features that helped express their feelings toward the black infection. Still, they didn't reveal any surprise or amazement. They only had hatred and anger to show to the world.

The event was quite hilarious since Noah's aura was the reason behind their new facial features. His infective black aura had forced the avatars to improve a bit, but their core as Heaven and Earth's puppets made them hate that newfound power.

Instead, the experts in the area experienced various emotions, but they all shared intense amazement. The power that Noah was unleashing into the world didn't make any sense. Even solid stage cultivators would struggle to cause those reactions inside the sky.

Meanwhile, Noah was barely paying attention to his surroundings. His eyes were open, but they didn't look at the darkening environment. The entirety of his attention was on his centers of power and world.

The ethereal blackness had been restless since Noah pierced the ninth floor of the Cursed Labyrinth. That state had only intensified after Caesar's trial. Noah's world had continued to grow during the flight through the sky, inevitably leading to a breaking point.

The ethereal edges of Noah's world expanded as new potential filled its insides. He noticed how his core energy had changed now, but the transformation had yet to complete its course.

The new potential created waves that flowed toward the centers of power. Everything about Noah improved and sent that energy back to the ethereal blackness.

The exchange of potential happened multiple times in cycles that brought new power whenever they ended. The ethereal blackness gave the centers of power the energy to improve. Meanwhile, they set new standards after each step forward.

The exchange led to a sharp increase of power, which translated into the new heaviness that Noah was expressing. He felt able to stretch his fingers into deeper areas of the space-time fabric, and some of them seemed to be outside Heaven and Earth's control.

'I can almost touch the universe,' Noah thought as his swords began to shake.

The tremors generated shockwaves that quickened the expansion of the black infection. The dark lakes transformed into a proper sea that stretched past the battlefield and reached areas behind the nine prisms.

The expansion of the black sea was only the least significant effect of Noah's new aura. The greatest changes happened to Heaven and Earth's influence and their army.

The dimming white light stopped applying pressure on King Elbas and the others. Heaven and Earth's power also diminished and failed to hinder the experts on their path toward the prisms.

The avatars experienced spontaneous explosions due to the conflicting forces that filled their bodies. Noah's aura had forced them to improve, but his influence wasn't in line with Heaven and Earth's power, which led to internal fights.

Every avatar, even those in the upper tier, saw entire limbs or vast chunks of their bodies blown away due to the conflicting energy inside their structure. Heaven and Earth couldn't allow that tampering, which only weakened their army.

Of course, the privileged cultivators could fend off Noah's energy, but that didn't stop them from remaining in a daze. They understood what was happening. They had actually waited for that event for quite some time by now. Noah was stepping on the liquid stage.

Still, the breakthrough went beyond what the privileged cultivators had predicted. Even Heaven and Earth's help didn't allow them to come up with a correct prediction. Noah was unleashing too much power for an expert in the liquid stage, and his aura kept getting heavier.

It wasn't an exaggeration to say that the entire battlefield had come to a stop while Noah was experiencing the breakthrough. The effects that his new aura was spreading in the environment were captivating, but they weren't the most interesting aspect of the event.

Noah's aura, influence, and weight confirmed what the privileged cultivators and his allies had started to expect a long time ago. Everyone wanted to watch the birth of the strongest liquid stage expert in the world.

The exchange of potential eventually came to an end, and Noah's power stabilized only to skyrocket in the following instant. He had immediately put his new energy to use, which pushed his existence toward superior realms that even the privileged cultivators in the solid stage felt forced to take seriously.

Noah didn't care about the army. He didn't even bother to check the state of the maimed avatar carrying a chunk of Heaven and Earth's real power. He had a single goal in mind, and he didn't hesitate to pursue it.

The Cursed Sword and the Demonic Sword slowly descended until their tips pointed at the spherical structure created by the nine prisms. Avatars, privileged cultivators, and allies occupied that path, but Noah limited himself to growl a single word before unleashing his power. "Move."

The attack that came out of Noah's swords was silent. It had the shape of a thin black line that disappeared among the black sea.

Its disappearance didn't prevent the other experts in the area from sensing its power. King Elbas, June, Queen, and the privileged cultivators instinctively retreated to get out of the attack's trajectory. They knew that something massive was about to arrive, so they unleashed defensive techniques to prepare for the event.

The avatars were too damaged to move in time to dodge the attack. The line continued to fly through the black sea and crossed the maimed giant but stopped right before reaching the nine prisms.

The attack seemed to end there, but everything exploded after a silent second went by. The arrival of the black line triggered something inside the dark sea and the energy that had affected the avatars to generate a series of detonations.

Each explosion carried the peak of Noah's destruction, including the might that his companions could unleash. That single attack had made use of the entirety of his power without needing any preparation, and the world inevitably suffered.

After the explosions fused to create a chaotic environment, the whiteness became impossible to see. Waves of pure destructions flowed among the void that had replaced the battlefield. Intense winds blew and pushed away every trace of Heaven and Earth's power.

The path between Noah and the nine prisms was the only spot devoid of his destructive power. Nothing existed in that area, and the universe's fabric also appeared slightly unstable. However, it was a passage that King Elbas didn't hesitate to exploit.

King Elbas' figure released intense golden light that allowed him to cut through the destructive waves and discharge the weapon in the empty passage.. The latter began to fly on its own at that point, and nothing managed to stop it from reaching the nine prisms.

Chapter 2169 - 2169. Balance

The battlefield went silent again when the weapon touched the prisms, and everyone's attention went on the spherical structure. Even Heaven and Earth wanted to know what would happen after that event.

The weapon abandoned its single shape to turn into multiple tendrils that stretched toward the prisms. The black parasite entered those structures without meeting any hindrance. It seemed made to fuse with Heaven and Earth's creations.

The area was already dark due to Noah's breakthrough and attack, but the fusion between the weapon and the prisms enhanced that feature. Everything went black as one of the last sources of white light dimmed until it transformed into a dark sphere.

The prisms stopped rotating, but the darkening spherical light remained in its place. A transformation happened while those structures abandoned their old nature to obtain a new one.

King Elbas smiled as he inspected the transformation. Everything was going according to his expectation, and he couldn't wait for the next phase of his plan to begin.

When the spherical structure went utterly dark, the prisms slowly began to move again. They started to rotate in the opposite direction, and their motion generated energy for their creation.

The dark sphere began to radiate a black light that intensified as the prisms' rotation quickened. Black sparks also flew among the nine items as their motion reached a critical point.

Deep crackling noises resounded in the area as the black sphere expanded. The new energy generated by the prisms allowed the structure to stretch past its natural limits without losing its initial shape.

Nevertheless, as the energy accumulated, the structure exploded into nine black pillars that flew through the area darkened by Noah's power and stretched toward the whiteness in the distance.

The entire transformation had lasted for a mere instant, but all the experts on the scene had been able to inspect the various changes thoroughly. The knowledge obtained from that study allowed them to predict what would happen, and Heaven and Earth's side obviously wasn't happy about that.

Some privileged cultivators teleported in front of the pillars in a desperate attempt to stop their flight, but their efforts were pointless. The black light crossed them without affecting their bodies or worlds.

The pillars also ignored eventual techniques that tried to stop their flight. They pressed forward until they landed on the white layers in the distance and infected them with their dark light.

A series of cracks immediately appeared in the sky in the distance. The black light was a natural enemy of Heaven and Earth's creations, and King Elbas had even enhanced its power when the white layer was involved.

The infection destabilized the sky and made large chunks detach from the main structure. Meanwhile, the black light expanded quickly. The pure white environment soon saw dark rivers invading its fabric.

The rivers flowed freely inside the sky, and their destruction never stopped. However, that outcome wasn't their main purpose. Their goal was to expand until they infected the entirety of Heaven and Earth's world.

The privileged cultivators didn't know what to do. They wanted to prevent that catastrophe and stop the rivers, but their power couldn't touch them. It would take the experts time to find ways to counter that event, but they would be too late by then.

Heaven and Earth didn't help by remaining still and silent. The rulers would generally have to issue commands in that tragic situation, but they appeared as lost as their underlings.

Then, a lump of white light appeared next to the maimed giant avatar and condensed until it took Caesar's shape. The expert seemed to have no intention to join the battle since his attention remained fixed on the spreading rivers, but Noah's group didn't take his arrival so lightly.

Caesar wore a playful smirk when he saw Noah and his companions getting worked up about his arrival. An abrupt gesture might trigger a series of attacks on their side, but he moved slowly and carefully as he waved his hand to point at the black rivers.

"This was necessary," Caesar whispered, and his words echoed among the silent battlefield.

Noah opened his mouth to voice a question, but he held back when he understood that Caesar wasn't speaking to him. The expert had addressed someone else who didn't make him wait too long.

Heaven and Earth's presence intensified as white light began to shine from the maimed avatar. The giant didn't heal its wounds, but the power inside its structure deepened.

Noah and the others instinctively took a step back. They could understand what was happening right away. Heaven and Earth had decided to pour more of themselves on the scene to listen to Caesar.

"The strands of fate have never been firmer," Caesar eventually continued. "This event will push you closer toward your goal."

A faint rumbling noise came out of the maimed avatar, and Caesar shook his head as he kneeled on the spot. He laid his arms forward to prostrate himself before a few words left his mouth. "I'm not worthy of such praises. I'm merely a tool working for a higher purpose."

Heaven and Earth's presence focused on Caesar as it continued to intensify. It almost seemed that the rulers wanted to crush the expert with their aura, but they retracted their influence when the situation was about to become dangerous.

'Did they approve his behavior?' Noah wondered before moving his attention on the infection.

The rivers had already stretched past the range of everyone's vision and mental waves. Only Heaven and Earth knew how bad the condition of the sky was, but they didn't seem to care. Even the falling boulders and shards in the distance weren't enough to force their hand.

King Elbas didn't speak even if he had an explanation for Heaven and Earth's peculiar behavior. He knew why the rulers weren't moving. There was simply nothing they could do to stop the infection.

The sky continued to crumble. The scene resembled the dream standing at the base of Noah's ambition, and the sight inevitably generated joy in his mind. Yet, he felt a bit disappointed since he wanted to be the one to cause such destruction.

The situation outside the sky was far different. The white layer was somewhat preserving its original state even if many chunks were falling from the main structure. However, the weak sky that filled the higher plane wasn't strong enough to survive the infection.

The black rivers transformed the weak sky into a rain of shards as soon as they touched it. They expanded relentlessly inside the higher plane and removed every trace of the white layer, slowly clearing the area from Heaven and Earth's oppressive presence.

Noah and the others couldn't see those events, but they knew that their mission had been a success. They could sense Heaven and Earth's influence wavering as the infection damaged their world. The weapon had dealt a massive blow to the rulers, but the matter was far from over.

The damage was too significant. The weak sky shattered to transform into hovering clouds of white shards, while the main white layer thinned a lot.. Heaven and Earth had lost immense reserves of power and their grip on the higher plane, but that tilted the fairness' balance entirely in their favor.

Chapter 2170 - 2170. Transformation

At first, the change was subtle, but Noah's group experienced it as a groundbreaking event. They felt their grip on the world weakening as Heaven and Earth's power rose.

Everyone else soon sensed the change, or, rather, the event became impossible to miss. The sky's whiteness intensified as the whole structure began to shrink and condense. Something massive was happening to the world, but that was only a superficial transformation.

The greatest change involved the pressure naturally radiated by the sky. The white light brightened and gained the properties of sharp blades that tried to pierce every sea of consciousness in their range.

Even the magical beasts that had just begun to rejoice at the fall of the weak sky had to run away to hide from the incoming light. Their powerful bodies weren't enough to shield them from the dangerous radiance.

The higher plane now lacked hiding spots. Only the clouds of white shards and a few structures occupied its insides, but Heaven and Earth didn't care about them. They didn't even bother to use their new light to kill the various forces.

The white radiance stopped advancing and began to retreat inside the shrinking sky. The white layer condensed even further and removed every crack or hole that had appeared on its structure while pushing away the black rivers.

Noah and the others also fell prey to the pushing force. They found themselves trapped inside invisible waves that kicked them away from the black battlefield and put them back inside the tunnel.

Heaven and Earth didn't want any invaders inside the sky during that transformation, but their pushing force didn't aim to hurt them. Noah and the others could try to oppose the event, but they quickly decided to go along with it.

The mission was over, and it had even been a success. Leaving the sky had become the priority, especially since Heaven and Earth were going through a massive transformation.

Noah and the others had no intention of being caught in the transformation, so they deployed their movement techniques to go along with the pushing force. They didn't take long to leave the sky, but they never had the chance to feel relieved.

The scene that unfolded in the group's vision as soon as they left the sky took control of their emotion. The sight of the clear higher plane was reassuring and nostalgic, but the changes in the white layer above them filled them with worry.

The sky condensed at an unfathomable pace. Noah and the others saw the white layer retreating and hardening quickly. Its surface became smoother than ever, but the light inside its fabric stopped becoming unbearable.

That change felt beyond odd in Noah's mind. It seemed that Heaven and Earth's light had lost power, but the reality of the situation was far different.

Heaven and Earth were growing stronger, and the same went for their light. However, they had decided to keep it inside the sky instead of unleashing it into the higher plane.

The increased power in the light didn't even come from a higher amount of energy. Heaven and Earth were growing purer, which granted their radiance a stronger influence. Losing such a massive chunk of themselves was pushing their existence toward a new realm.

Noah inspected everything coldly as a conclusion appeared in his mind. He knew that the change had been too drastic at that time. Heaven and Earth's power would probably be too much to handle once the transformation ended.

'Can we even stop them the next time?' Noah wondered, and the slight tremors in his companions' mental waves told him that they shared his worries.

No one dared to divert their attention from the sky, but everyone knew that something massive would arrive. Maybe the event wouldn't come right after the transformation, but the situation had reached a critical point. Heaven and Earth would probably be ready to start the final battle once their existence stabilized.

"I guess we have done it now," King Elbas commented as the sky continued to condense.

"At least, finding allies should be easier now," Cursed Reality added.

"We might not need to find them," Noah suggested.

"What do you have in mind?" Emperor asked.

"He wants to create a new higher plane," June sighed. "I guess it's a fitting plan considering our situation."

"I can help with that," The Foolery stated during one of its rare serious moments.

"Everyone must help," King Elbas scoffed. "You won't handle something so important without my supervision."

"You obviously had to say something boring," The Foolery replied.

"Is this really the time to bicker?" Queen asked.

"Cultivators should follow their nature," Pellio declared.

"Why aren't you making tea then?" Queen rebuked.

"I don't want to risk losing a single scene of this event," Pellio honestly admitted, and no one could disagree with that statement.

The world was transforming beyond everyone's expectations. The new state of the higher plane was interesting, but the changes in the sky were far more interesting, especially now that everything began to stabilize.

Initially, the sky had been an immense white layer that encircled the whole higher plane, and that feature didn't change. Yet, it was far thinner now, and its surface had become clearly visible now that Heaven and Earth kept their light inside the structure.

A smooth, seemingly endless surface enveloped the entirety of the higher plane and shone on all the surviving forces. A sole glance at the structure was enough to fill everyone with awe and fear. The sky had lost a large chunk of its fabric, but it appeared stronger than ever.

"I can almost look through it," King Elbas exclaimed.

"Do they want to make us gaze at the void?" Cursed Reality wondered.

"No," Noah stated. "They have stopped caring about us."

"So, this is close to their final form," Emperor commented.

"It's probably a pure expression of their core," King Elbas guessed. "Heaven and Earth had so many useless things and laws in their world. Now they have the chance to gain a pure form."

"How long do you think it will take them to wake up?" Noah asked.

"Assuming that they are sleeping," King Elbas sighed while falling deep into his thoughts.

Calculations happened in King Elbas' mind as he gathered data from the scene. He couldn't come up with precise answers, but he still wanted to develop valuable hypotheses.

Nevertheless, a lump of light appeared next to the group and condensed into Caesar's shape. The expert's arrival surprised Noah and the others, but none prepared for battle. They could sense that the privileged cultivator had no intention to fight.

"What do you want now?" Noah asked.

"I've come to answer your questions," Caesar said in his playful tone.

"Do you want to push the world's fairness in Heaven and Earth's direction even more?" King Elbas snorted.

"My actions are always beneficial toward Heaven and Earth," Caesar replied.

"We don't want to hear what you have to say then," Queen declared.

"Wait," Noah called. "We have already pushed Heaven and Earth toward their best state. Holding back now it's pointless."

"Indeed," Caesar announced. "Heaven and Earth are almost ready to take the last step. I've come to confirm what you are thinking.. The final battle will begin once they assimilate the recent changes."