

## **Demonic 2191**

### **Chapter 2191 - 2191. Pointless**

"He is angry," Divine Demon laughed.

"Better than bored," Noah added.

"Damn right!" Divine Demon exclaimed.

Both Noah and Divine Demon stood up and prepared for the incoming offensive. It seemed that Philto had finally decided to take the battle seriously, but they didn't know what kind of attacks would come at them.

Noah wielded his swords as he tried his best to hide his tiredness. His ethereal blackness was generating potential at an incredible pace, but it remained almost empty, so he couldn't use the entirety of his power.

Instead, Divine Demon was as lively as always. His world heavily relied on the energy around him, so his last attack didn't deplete his reserves. He actually couldn't wait to face what Philto had in store for him.

"Remove this blight from my world!" Philto shouted as a faint ringing noise came out of his figure.

"You should consider my heir's mark as an honor!" Divine Demon responded.

"You shouldn't have messed with powers that you don't understand," Philto threatened.

"Hmph, I understood the nature of your power even before learning about your existence," Divine Demon taunted.

"Be silent for a while," Noah whispered. "This noise isn't a technique. It's something deeper."

"It must come from where you left the mark," Divine Demon stated. "This guy must have mustered an unbelievable resolve to obtain his current immortality. You have probably awakened it."

Noah wanted to add something, but Divine Demon's explanation had already covered the most important details. Philto's resolve was probably coming back from the depths of his mark on the universe. As for the nature of his offensive, the two experts could only wait and see.

Philto pointed both hands toward Noah before launching a wave of white energy that gained silver shades during the flight. A dangerous aura accompanied the appearance of those new colors, and Noah's instincts promptly told him to escape.

"I'll take the snake with me," Noah declared before pushing the chrysalis downward and leaving the silver energy's trajectory.

The attack curved to follow Noah, but Divine Demon appeared on its path and launched different blood-red techniques to fight it. An explosion followed the impact, and an odd chiming noise resounded as the energy dispersed.

"Fool!" Philto shouted. "Do you realize what you have done?"

"Not really," Divine Demon shrugged his shoulders while he inspected his surroundings. "I'm pretty sure I've stopped your attack."

"My immortality is the result of multiple sacrifices," Philto announced. "I have shed away what pushed me until the final part of the cultivation journey to obtain this immense power. I can force other worlds to do the same."

'Taking away part of someone else's world?' Noah wondered in his mind. 'That can't be a permanent effect. Also, ...'

Noah glanced at Divine Demon. The expert couldn't connect Philto's explanation to any specific effect. He even studied his world, but he didn't find anything missing.

"Well, you must have failed," Divine Demon guessed. "Or, maybe, you are too weak to affect my world."

"What?!" Philto gasped before launching another wave of silver energy.

Divine Demon didn't hesitate to respond through a series of blood-red techniques, and an explosion happened as soon as the two attacks clashed. The chiming noise filled the area again, but nothing special happened.

"You have failed again!" Divine Demon declared. "This demon is beyond your comprehension."

"What?!" Philto gasped again. "I clearly felt pieces of your world vanishing in the depths of your mind. How can you remain unaffected?"

"What are you even saying?" Divine Demon asked as he generated more techniques. "Can't you see? My world is working perfectly."

"You aren't using the same techniques as before," Philto pointed out. "You have lost the ability to summon them."

"Which techniques?" Divine Demon asked as the blood-red structures around him changed shape. "Do you mean these?"

"No, they were different before," Philto stated.

"Like this?" Divine Demon questioned as his techniques transformed again.

"No, no!" Philto shouted. "Can't you even remember your previous attack?"

"Why would I bother doing something so boring?" Divine Demon wondered. "A demon only remembers when he wants to remember."

"That doesn't make any sense," Philto complained.

"I told you," Divine Demon laughed as his techniques transformed again. "This demon is beyond your comprehension."

'And almost everyone else's comprehension,' Noah added in his mind as a cold smile appeared on his face.

Philto seemed to have a troublesome power even when he attacked, but Divine Demon was his perfect counter. Removing parts of someone's world, even temporarily, was a scary ability, but Divine Demon's existence had so many layers that he barely experienced any change.

Noah couldn't even study how intense the effects of Philto's attacks were in that situation. Inspecting Divine Demon's world had always been troublesome, so assessing the damage it suffered was almost impossible.

'I guess Philto can force his opponent to grow weaker during the battle,' Noah thought. 'I can overcome that through my potential, but the fight would only become a test of endurance. Divine Demon is a better opponent for him.'

Noah's conclusions didn't lead to a complete disinterest in the fight. He wanted to join the clash, but he found no reason to test Philto's power on himself.

It was better to guard the chrysalis and let Divine Demon attract most of Philto's attention while Noah waited for the right opportunity. His potential was still refilling the ethereal blackness in the end, so preserving his power sounded like the right approach.

Divine Demon and Philto stopped talking to exchange a series of attacks that didn't carry any specific feature. Philto continued to sever parts of Divine Demon's world, while the latter always generated new techniques that expressed his peak power.

Philto didn't take long to understand that Divine Demon wasn't an ordinary expert. He actually recalled Heaven and Earth's reports during the battle and found explanations for those strange events there.

Divine Demon wasn't losing parts of his world during the exchanges. The energy used in his attacks had only fallen under his control, but it didn't belong to his existence.

Philto never affected Divine Demon's world with his attacks. He only removed the external layers of energy that the world used to protect it. Moreover, those defenses fixed themselves in no time, so the exchanges could go on eternally as long as both experts had power.

Noah attacked when the silver halo left the battlefield. His offensives were nothing more than precise slashes that used the entirety of his sharpness and a bit of potential. They weren't as strong as his previous blow, and they failed to lead to valuable results.

The issue with Philto's world didn't disappear after his behavior changed. The core of his world remained deep into the universe, and both Noah and Divine Demon failed to touch it with their normal attacks.

Philto had also paid a steep price for that immortality. His offensive was relatively weak, especially against Divine Demon. Lesser experts would have eventually felt forced to escape due to the damage to their worlds, but Divine Demon didn't suffer from similar weaknesses.

Still, Divine Demon was in Noah's situation. He failed to damage Philto, which kept him locked in a pointless exchange that didn't lead anywhere. Both experts were simply launching attacks that couldn't hurt their opponent.

The situation changed when a hiss came out of the chrysalis and cracks appeared on its dark edges.. Noah, Divine Demon, and Philto diverged their attention to the battle and focused on the structure, which exploded before they could study its various fissures.

### **Chapter 2192 - 2192. Ice**

'That was quite quick,' Noah thought as he teleported outside the range of the exploding chrysalis.

Black shards flew everywhere and created dark clouds on the battlefield. It seemed that a Tribulation was about to fall on the area. Still, those lumps of energy didn't generate any spark. Instead, they carried Noah's unmistakable aura.

The clouds also radiated an intense feeling that only Noah recognized at first glance. His instincts reacted to the hunger carried by those lumps of energy. They were children of his influence, but they had transformed into something far different from his world.

The clouds claimed the experts' attention only for a few seconds. The giant figure that had come out of the chrysalis attracted Noah, Divine Demon, and Philto's gazes and forced them to study its new form.

Noah didn't expect the Eternal Snake to come out of the chrysalis so soon, but its appearance explained the reason behind that event.

The creature didn't experience significant changes, at least on its surface. Its scales had darkened ever further, almost devouring their green shades. Its size had virtually remained unaffected too. Yet, the aura that it radiated hinted at internal transformations that Noah couldn't study right away.

Previously, the Eternal Snake radiated nothing more than pride, hunger, and anger. Those feelings were in line with an ordinary magical beast, and they didn't change after the transformation.

Nevertheless, there was something more about those feelings now. Noah didn't know how to describe them with actual words. They felt stronger than before but also quieter.

'Did it finally gain some self-control?' Noah wondered in his mind, but the snake seemed ready to contradict his thoughts.

The Eternal Snake announced its exit from the chrysalis through an angry hiss that shattered the various clouds and forced them to disperse among the battlefield. Those structures carried valuable energy that no magical beast would have refused, but the creature didn't bother to eat them.

"Are you still angry at me?" Noah growled in a mocking tone.

"I told you that I'll make you regret this day," The Eternal Snake hissed in a low voice, "But that won't happen during this battle. Today, I will accept some shame as long as I can jump on the path that will allow me to eat all of you."

"It grew some sense!" Divine Demon laughed. "That's a speech worthy of a demon."

"Demons are imitations of magical beasts," The snake replied.

Divine Demon laughed loudly and crossed his legs to hover in the air. He didn't hide how pleased he was to hear such words, and Noah shared his feelings.

"What shame are you talking about?" Noah asked.

"My evolution isn't complete," The Eternal Snake explained. "I couldn't limit myself to your power. That would have only turned me into an eternal underling."

"But you still need my help for something, right?" Noah continued.

"Your arrogance knows no bounds," The snake responded.

"That doesn't make me wrong," Noah declared.

The snake remained silent for a few seconds before pointing its eyes at Philto and voicing a short answer. "It doesn't."

Noah and Divine Demon glanced at Philto, and understanding dawned upon their minds. The snake had stated that its evolution was incomplete, which revealed the need for new materials, and Philto's immortality sounded far too perfect.

"I hope you don't mind that I left a mark there," Noah joked.

"It won't matter once I absorb him into my core," The snake hissed, even if traces of anger seeped into its cry.

"You heard the snake," Noah announced while retracting his swords and pushing the potential that had refilled his ethereal blackness toward his body.

"Well, it's a fitting end for such a boring opponent," Divine Demon stated.

"What are you trying to do?" Philto asked without showing any fear.

Philto was ready to launch an attack, but a fissure in the space-time fabric suddenly opened in front of him. The event prevented him from realizing that someone had appeared behind him, but his lower body exploded before he could do anything.

A wave of silver energy left Philto's maimed figure, but a deafening roar resounded behind him and dispersed that attack. Noah proceeded to grab the expert from his nape, and Divine Demon didn't hesitate to join the offensive.

A series of blood-red tendrils shot toward Philto and entangled his figure into multiple defensive layers that prevented his energy from reaching the outside world. Divine Demon didn't stop there. He added a series of barriers that increased the power of that prison.

Noah retracted his hand and let Divine Demon complete the prison. Then, he ordered Snore to launch an attack that appeared directly inside Philto and destroyed his body.

Divine Demon perfected the prison even more as Philto came back to life. The expert wanted to do something to get out of that situation, but the Eternal Snake's mouth was already upon him.

The snake ate Philto but refrained itself from gulping. It filled its mouth with a slightly darker version of the silver liquid, which generated a vast amount of ice and froze the expert.

Philto's aura didn't disappear even if the ice covered the entirety of its figure and the prison. His power continued to shine brightly, but his existence dimmed as he remained in that state.

Flares of silver light slammed on the blood-red prison but failed to pierce it. Divine Demon had done an excellent job in evaluating Philto's peak power. The expert probably was one of the most unkillable privileged cultivators, but his attacks were subpar, so a simple prison could contain him.

The snake could take its time and freeze Philto's figure before moving to his world. The expert had left his mark deep into the universe, a place that a magical beast in the ninth rank couldn't usually reach. However, the creature knew what to do in that situation.

Noah widened his eyes in surprise when he saw the snake's scales growing clear. The creature was sending every trace of Noah's influence toward the ice to deepen its power and create a bridge that could lead toward Philto's world.

"Look at this," Noah sighed.

"It got you!" Divine Demon chuckled.

"At least it has developed the right character," Noah shook his head. "That's how a demon should behave."

"We should put it as the master for the entitled idiot," Divine Demon commented.

"You never get tired of teasing Elbas," Noah stated.

"Do you?" Divine Demon asked.

"As if," Noah laughed.

The process was extremely slow. The ice had required proper transformations to turn into something capable of reaching Philto's world, and the snake grew weaker as it gave up on Noah's energy.

Still, Philto couldn't do anything in that situation, so the snake could take all the time it needed. Meanwhile, Noah and Divine Demon acted as protectors and made sure that the shockwaves from the other battlefields never interrupted the process.

A change happened when the snake finally reached Philto's world. The expert's figure inside the ice turned silver and transformed into a statue that continued to radiate his power.

Philto didn't die. He met a fate worse than death. It remained frozen to his very world, and the snake didn't dare to destroy him. The creature slowly gulped the chunk of ice in its mouth while making sure that nothing broke.

The snake's belly inflated as the chunk of ice ran down its body. However, the process ended at some point, and silver smoke came out of the now-completely green scales. Another chrysalis formed, and Noah knew that the true transformation of his underling had begun.

### **Chapter 2193 - 2193. Playing**

The silver chrysalis floated on its own without needing anyone's help, but Noah couldn't leave it there. The snake surely wouldn't like it, but he wouldn't carry that huge boulder throughout the mission.

A wave of dark matter left Noah's body and enveloped the chrysalis before drawing it inside his figure. The snake would take a while to complete the transformation, so Noah disregarded the matter to focus on the other battlefields.

Philto was an exception among the privileged cultivators. His power was deep and unfathomable, but it had little to do with actual fights.

Instead, the other two groups had to face privileged cultivators who shined for their battle prowess. Needless to say, both fights had already turned pretty bloody while Noah and Divine Demon had been busy dealing with Philto.

Supreme Thief, King Elbas, the Foolery, and Sepunia had launched themselves toward the middle-aged woman. The intensity of her aura expressed more power than her companions, and her abilities reflected that feature.

The middle-aged woman could destroy all the attacks converging toward her figure and harness their energy to create different techniques. Her ability resembled Divine Demon's, but her offensive was never random. She clearly used her knowledge to give birth to blows that carried her aura.

The attacks mainly consisted of mirrors that launched multicolored beams of light. Each shade expressed a different feature connected to the original seven elements, but their powers changed depending on their targets.

In theory, King Elbas was the perfect opponent for that type of ability since the flexibility of his world was unparalleled. However, the middle-aged woman's attacks managed to keep his creation at bay without leaving any blind spots for her other opponents.

The state of King Elbas' side wasn't ideal, but no one had suffered severe injuries for now. The Foolery had a few fuming burns on its body, but those wounds didn't seem to affect its movements at all. It didn't care about them either while flying from beam to beam to eat the energy they contained.

King Elbas had suffered no injuries, but Noah saw the same burns on the various items that surrounded him. His expression was cold, but curiosity shone in his eyes and told Noah that he had yet to take the fight seriously.

Supreme Thief also showed no wounds, but he appeared pretty bored. He launched random abilities that the beams didn't have trouble destroying, but that was it.

Only Sepunia appeared completely focused on the battle. She often created vast pinkish layers to rewrite the nature of the area and turn it into a defensive technique. Yet, her efforts usually failed to protect her completely, which led to a few deep injuries.

That scene didn't surprise Noah. Sepunia was weak compared to her companions. Her world was also relatively new, so it would reveal its true power only when she pushed it to the peak.

Nevertheless, Noah still found himself cursing in his mind after he completed his inspection of the battlefield. 'Are they even taking the fight seriously? Do they understand that this probably is our only chance to take out a few valuable assets from Heaven and Earth's army?'

Noah's decision when it came to the division of the teams had not been random. He had split the idiots to make sure that someone who realized the nature of the situation could lead them.

That was King Elbas' role, but the expert seemed to have no interest in leading his group to victory. His curiosity had taken over him, which prevented the fight from reaching a crucial point.

The other battle had progressed according to Noah's prospects, but for the wrong reasons. June, Steven, Maribel, and the odd dragon were fighting the old woman, and both sides had already suffered greatly.

The old woman had a peculiar ability. She tore away pieces of her flesh to launch them forward and create heavy rain of blood that seemed able to pierce anything they touched.

Noah sensed sharpness, destruction, and a few other meanings in the rain, but they all remained chained to a core feeling. The old woman expressed the entirety of her sacrifices through her blood, which obviously gave it immense power.

Steven wouldn't dare to hold back against one of Heaven and Earth's assets, and June was a battle maniac. The two had gone all-out since the beginning of the fight, and they had seized some results by the time Noah focused on them.

Steven could sever the power that Heaven and Earth had provided to their underlings. Still, the privileged cultivator had benefited from the rulers only in terms of peace, resources, and glances at the paths beyond the ninth rank.

Steven still removed those parts from the old woman's world and forced her power to fall, but she remained a cultivator who had been able to survive Heaven and Earth's assaults for many years. She didn't stop being a valuable opponent after his techniques.

Instead, June had limited herself to launch a reckless assault that had filled the area with her sparks. She had initially failed to achieve anything, but her power became deadly after the old woman fought her back a few times.

Meanwhile, Maribel and the odd dragon had done their best to support their two companions. Maribel wasn't weak, but her power was in line with Emperor and Queen, so her liquid stage state prevented her from being as effective as she wished.

As for the dragon, its power was even lower, but its dark liquid was a dangerous weapon that every asset connected to Heaven and Earth had to fear. Strangely enough, its attacks managed to open paths where Maribel failed.

The reckless nature of that battle had forced all the contenders to suffer injuries. June's body featured multiple holes that leaked sparks. Maribel was fine but tired. The odd dragon had lost numerous scales, while Steven retained a relatively healthy complexion.

'June and Steven will soon force their battle to reach the critical point,' Noah commented in his mind as he prepared his blades in case the privileged cultivator tried to run.

Noah knew that leaving the kill to his companion would benefit them greatly, but that wasn't the time for those tactics. Supreme Thief was the only one who had to advance during the mission. The others had to prioritize damaging Heaven and Earth's army.



"Yellow!" The Foolery suddenly squealed and claimed Noah's attention.

Noah's face went cold when he saw that the pig was eating a yellow beam, and his expression darkened even further when the creature shot toward a scarlet wave of energy and shouted again. "Red!".

"Are they playing around?" Noah cursed.

"They lack our style, my heir," Divine Demon commented.

"We took our fight seriously," Noah scoffed.

"You should really make a technique if you want to throw your companions around and pretend to be serious," Divine Demon joked.

"I was doing it for the snake," Noah justified himself. "It was an exception."

"Of course!" Divine Demon laughed. "A demon who doesn't lie isn't a demon!"

"Be ready to jump in the fight," Noah sighed. "I don't want any of them to escape."

"Do you think they'll need our help?" Divine Demon seriously asked.

"No," Noah admitted, "But we don't know what can come out of the sky at the last instant."

#### **Chapter 2194 - 2194. Small**

Noah and Divine Demon went silent as they divided their attention among the battlefields and the sky. They trusted their companions, but Heaven and Earth could cause problems even in their dormant state, so they had to be ready.

Meanwhile, June's battlefield evolved as Noah predicted. Steven sent a wave of dark energy through the rain of blood that turned into a tunnel that he could cross to stand above the fight.

The old woman didn't hesitate to tear apart another chunk of her skin and throw it toward Steven. The gory item transformed into a series of bloody arrows that converged toward Steven, but he disregarded them as he closed his eyes to focus.

The giant arrows pierced Steven's body and left him with nothing more than half a torso, his head, and an arm. His world also suffered injuries, but his eyes remained closed.

A wave of darkness expanded above Steven's maimed figure when he opened his eyes. The whiteness in the area screeched in disdain, but he barely noticed that noise as he lowered his arm and sent that energy toward his opponent.

The old woman wanted to launch another attack, but a heartbeat suddenly resounded in the area and pulled her body closer to June. A lightning bolt also pierced the rain of blood at her side and hit her directly, leaving her stunned for a few seconds.

The wave of darkness fell on the privileged cultivator at that point. The attack passed right through the old woman without causing any apparent effect, but her cultivation level eventually shook and made her puke blood.

The odd dragon used that chance to fly above the old woman and released as much dark liquid it could produce. A waterfall engulfed the privileged cultivator and limited the effectiveness of her abilities, preventing her from dodging the attack.

Maribel followed the dragon's example and teleported above the old woman. She pointed her arm at her opponent as energy flowed calmly toward her palm. Then, she heaved a sigh, and the entirety of her power transformed into a violent, dark torrent that crashed on the privileged cultivator.

June didn't wait for the attacks to disperse. She shouted as her entire figure released lightning bolts that spread in the area before converging toward her opponent.

The sky seemed to react to the crackling noises released by June's lightning bolts. Her attacks alerted Heaven and Earth, but the latter remained silent and let the offensive unfold.

The impact of the lightning bolts on the old woman dispersed the black waterfall and the dark energy that was assaulting her body. June's attacks didn't care about alliances. They destroyed everything on their path and made sure that nothing survived.

Silence finally fell on that battlefield. June, Steven, the odd dragon, and Maribel took four different positions as they waited to see what their offensive had caused. They could still sense their opponent's aura, but they could also confirm that their offensive had damaged her.

"Do you think you can come inside the sky and do as you wish without facing repercussions?" A cold voice resounded from the mass of sparks that still crackled where June's lightning bolts had landed.

"We did that multiple times already," Steven mocked.

"Some of you paid the price for that," The cold voice resounded again as the sparks began to disperse.

"You aren't worthy of talking about him," Steven declared as he pointed his hand forward and gave birth to a pointy black structure that fell toward the sparks.

The attack didn't affect the sparks, but a grunt resounded from inside them. It was clear that the old woman had suffered another injury, and her cry triggered another series of techniques from her opponents.

"Let's just continue until she is dead," Steven ordered. "I wanted to enjoy the death of a privileged cultivator a bit longer, but I've lost interest."

"Don't give me orders," June snorted, but she proceeded to launch more lightning bolts toward her target.

Maribel and the odd dragon unleashed a silent offensive, and the old woman's aura continued to lose power as more attacks fell on her. It really seemed that she would die at that pace, but a burst of energy suddenly exploded from her spot and destroyed the incoming blows.

The explosion was different from the previous attacks. The old woman had used rain and arrows made of her own blood before, but the detonation had the shape of an expanding pale-red sphere that engulfed anything it touched.

Maribel and the odd dragon felt forced to deploy evasive maneuvers to escape the sphere, but the latter turned out to be too slow. Luckily for the creature, a black light flashed behind it and pulled it away. Steven had saved its life.

The sphere expanded until reaching the breaking point and crumbling into waves of blood. The gory spectacle attracted the experts' gazes, but the figure standing at its center eventually claimed the entirety of their attention.

The old woman was still relatively in one piece. She had lost her skin and layers of muscles and had become nothing more than a skeleton that contained shiny organs. However, her world felt intact, as if the previous attacks didn't hurt her at all.

"You are entire eras too early to wage war against the sky," The old woman announced in her cold voice before stabbing her skeletal hand inside her abdomen.

The privileged cultivator took out her intestine and threw it forward. The organ enlarged as the old woman's countless experiences flowed inside it and filled it with a new purpose.

The intestine quickly transformed into a massive worm-like creature that twisted its body to encircle the whole battlefield. Steven wanted to throw the odd dragon outside that structure, but he was one step too late. The organ created an almost perfect cage that prevented everyone from escaping.

Noah and Divine Demon moved almost at the same time. They shot toward the battlefield and mustered their energy to prepare attacks that could pierce that gory structure, but a loud warning interrupted them.

"Noah, don't you even think about it," June shouted from inside the structure. "This is my battle."

"We have to be quick," Noah roared.

"I'll be quick then!" June responded.

Divine Demon glanced at Noah before exploding into a loud laugh when he noticed the helplessness in his expression. Two cups of wine quickly materialized in front of them, and Divine Demon didn't even hesitate to pat Noah's shoulder.

"We are a bunch of maniacs," Noah sighed as he seized a cup and crossed his legs to hover mid-air.

"You should have chosen dragons instead of women," Divine Demon teased.

"I've literally chosen both," Noah complained.

"Your desire wasn't pure," Divine Demon joked, trying to imitate Sword Saint's serious tone.

"Should I remind you that we have a dragon woman in the organization?" Noah decided to turn the tables. "I'm afraid you were too forgetful to notice her back then."

"Jordan is a fine dragon," Divine Demon commented, "But this demon can't indulge in such activities. They are a waste of time when I have the universe to seize."

"So, you want to conquer it," Noah hinted.

"I never know what I want until I want it," Divine Demon scoffed. "What about you?"

"I know that the universe will eventually become too small for me," Noah stated.. "I'll tell you what I'll do when that happens."

### **Chapter 2195 - 2195. Hurt**

"Are you sure about that?" Steven asked after materializing next to June.

The odd dragon was with Steven, and Maribel didn't take long to arrive. The four experts kept their attention on their opponent, but their gazes often fell on the gory surfaces of their prison.

"I can defeat her on my own," June claimed. "Besides, we would be useless during the final battle if we can't deal with a single privileged cultivator."

"Heaven and Earth might have sent a strong one today," Maribel guessed.

"So, what?" June asked. "The final battle will feature the entirety of Heaven and Earth's arsenal. We might have to face hundreds of experts like her. Failing to deal with a single one of them would state that we have wasted our journeys."

"No wonder Defying Demon likes you," Steven chuckled. "So, do you have a plan?"

"Of course," June declared. "I'll attack and kill her."

"That's-," Steven couldn't finish his sentence since a torrent of sparks came out of June's figure and forced him to retreat.

Maribel and the odd dragon ended up in the same situation. They had to retreat to avoid falling prey to June's dangerous energy. She had unleashed her power without caring about her surroundings, and she didn't even bother to justify her actions afterward.

June could only focus on one thing. She had a powerful opponent in front of her, and she had to kill her. Everything else could wait for the battle to be over.

The Perfect Circuit allowed June to create a stronger version of her previous attack. The sparks expanded until they filled the entirety of the gory structure and amassed to generate lightning bolts that pointed at the maimed cultivator.

The area didn't resemble a prison anymore now that June's orange lightning bolts and their dark light filled every corner of their vision. That beautiful display of power made Steven and the others forget about their situation for an instant, but a thought suddenly surged in their minds and forced them to snap back to reality.

"Wait!" Steven exclaimed. "You can't launch that attack here. The explosion will hurt us all."

"Get hurt then," June snorted before the sound of her heartbeat resounded throughout the area and triggered her offensive.

A rain of giant lightning bolts converged on the maimed cultivator. Steven, Maribel, and the odd dragon reached the same spot to cast a series of defensive abilities and prepare for the imminent explosion, but that event never came.

The old woman acted quickly. She ripped apart one of her lungs and filled it with her power before throwing it toward a random spot.

The organ enlarged and gained ethereal properties before transforming into a half-transparent shield that enveloped the old woman's figure. The lightning bolts fell on that strange membrane, and their destructive power vanished as they shattered into currents of crackling sparks.

"Your techniques alone won't work against me," The old woman taunted. "You should have accepted Noah Balvan's help."

"He hates it when you mention him so casually," June scolded while wearing an excited smile. "Still, he isn't here now, so we can have some fun."

June executed her previous technique once again, but her Perfect Circuit provided more energy at that time. Her body started to break due to the immense power output, but she barely paid attention to what was happening to her.

The rain of lightning bolts happened reappeared once again and converged toward the half-transparent shield. Some of those attacks exploded before the impact, and that triggered a chain reaction that made everything blow apart.

June laughed as the shockwave generated by her attack flung her away and slammed her on the edges of the gory structure. Blood fell from the prison and her body, but she kept her eyes on her target.

Meanwhile, Steven, Maribel, and the odd dragon did their best to endure the shockwave without ending up on the gory structure. They didn't know which abilities that cage had, but they didn't want to discover them.

A depressing sight unfolded in the experts' vision when the sparks dispersed. The privileged cultivator didn't experience June's attack at all, but the half-transparent membrane showed a few cracks.

June could touch the privileged cultivators in the solid stage with her power, but her body couldn't endure that level for too long. The old woman also had more organs at her disposal, so it was clear that she could last more than her in that situation.

Of course, June didn't care about those things. Her world exploded with power as the Perfect Circuit generated even more energy. She was ready to launch something even stronger, and her companions understood that they had to intervene.

"Well, if you die, you are simply too weak for the final battle," Steven announced from behind a smile before shooting toward a spot above her opponent.

The odd dragon wouldn't have any chance to survive on its own, so it followed Steven's example. Maribel was right behind the creature since June had made that battle tactic inevitable.

The energy released by June seeped inside the gory structure and made it pour even more blood. A pale-red rain quickly filled the area, and its drops dug deep holes in each technique or body they met.

Steven and the others could only decide to ignore the event. Defending now would only exhaust their energy reserves and grant a valuable chance to their opponent. They had to attack and put an end to that fight as soon as possible, and that required a joint offensive.

The offensive couldn't feature random attacks either. The old woman had already shown that she could endure those. The experts had to unleash the peak of their power to have a chance to win.

"June, blow her up in one attack," Steven ordered. "I'll open a path."

June didn't scold Steven about the order. She was too lost in the fury of the battle now to listen to his words. However, she had instinctively understood that her attack pattern needed to change, and her next choice was in line with Steven's plan.

Maribel and the dragon waited for Steven to give the signal. The latter expanded his aura to fill every corner of the gory structure with his dark determination. He would make everything fall on the privileged cultivator to put her in her weakest state.

Once Steven felt ready, he forced all the darkness in the area to converge on the old woman. The half-transparent barrier immediately began to shatter, and the expert's movements became incredibly slow since strength left her skeletal body.

Maribel and the dragon launched their abilities as soon as a path opened for them. The dragon could only release its dark liquid, but Maribel had something special for the occasion.

Maribel pointed both hands at her target and unleashed two different types of energy. White and black pillars left her palms and began to rotate on each other before fusing when they touched the privileged cultivator.

The attack generated a loud explosion that destabilized the old woman's world. She felt weaker than ever after the suppression of the three experts, but the main plate had yet to arrive.

June stretched an arm, and all the sparks accumulated in her body gathered in her palm before changing form. A long spear came to life, and she bent backward before launching it toward the old woman.

Understanding what happened afterward was almost impossible. Orange and dark light filled the entire area and destroyed all the mental waves lingering on the battlefield.. No one could see or sense, but everyone slammed on the gory structure.

### **Chapter 2196 - 2196. Injuries**

The effects of June's attack echoed past the gory structure that had trapped her team. Noah and Divine Demon could hear her energy crackle and create soundwaves that expanded throughout the empty area in the middle of the sky.

Noah knew June's power really well. He was probably aware of her limits better than her. A quick inspection of the soundwaves told him that June had gone all-out with the last attack. Her body had to be on the verge of collapsing right now.

The urge to jump forward and sever the gory structure in half was strong inside Noah, but he didn't move. Divine Demon summoned his blood-red energy to protect himself from the incoming soundwave, but Noah remained still.

Divine Demon glanced at Noah before retracting the blood-red energy flowing toward him. He understood from Noah's expression that he wanted to experience that event, and he wouldn't dare to go against his wishes.

The soundwave made Noah's insides shake when it hit him. Some blood accumulated in his mouth, but he gulped it. His eyes turned red due to the damage they suffered, but he kept them open. If June were to die, the least he could do was witness the event.

Noah's healing properties were monstrous, and the soundwaves were only part of the aftermath. The injuries that he suffered vanished in a matter of seconds, and his eyes remained open during the whole process.

Noah waited for something to change inside the gory structure. A faint aura would be enough to make him unleash the entirety of his power, but everything remained silent. The wait became suffocating, but he continued to stay still.

Inside the gory structure, June, Steven, Maribel, and the odd dragon were doing their best to stabilize their senses. They had suffered injuries, but June's condition was far worse than her companions.

Entire chunks of skin fell from June's body and shattered in sparks that dispersed in the air. She had become a bloody mess, but her face showed satisfaction. She actually wanted to fight more, but she needed an opponent for that.

The center of the gory prison had a lump of dark smoke that seemed to have no intention to disperse. That gas carried June's aura, so it preferred to continue to assault its target instead of vanishing among the sky.

Steven was the first to stabilize his consciousness and send mental waves forward. A ringing noise filled his ears, but that didn't hinder his inspection. The smoke tried to stop him, but he condensed his thoughts to create something able to pierce it.

Steven's eyes widened in worry before his expression transformed into a frown. He could sense that June had failed to destroy the old woman's world, but what remained of it was nothing more than scattered laws and energy.

It was hard to understand whether the expert was alive or dead. The cultivators in the solid stage were highly peculiar, and those who had lived with Heaven and Earth for countless years also had access to an incredible number of methods.

Steven studied and studied until a conclusion became undeniable. Part of the old woman's world had survived the attack, but that energy didn't move. June had probably killed her for good.

Maribel eventually stabilized her condition and left the gory walls to reach the odd dragon. She helped the creature get out of that disgusting structure, but the latter remained confused even as she carried it toward June.

June didn't try to leave the wall, but the skin on her back shattered and allowed her to fall. She felt exhausted, but her desire to fight generated tendrils of energy that ran through her maimed body and made her float.

Maribel and the odd dragon didn't say anything when they reached June. Maribel was worried for her, but not due to typical reasons. June would have no problem recovering from that condition, but the situation would change if the old woman turned out to be alive.

"We should try to get out of here," Maribel eventually suggested.

"Is she dead?" June asked, disregarding that suggestion.

"I think Steven is looking into it," Maribel revealed.

"Let's reach Steven then," June ordered.

Steven's body was far from okay, but the injury didn't stretch to his world. Only half of his torso, an arm, and head had survived the battle, but he could easily regrow the rest. Still, his inspection was preventing him from thinking about the issue.

"She should be dead," Steven announced when June, Maribel, and the dragon reached him. "Something about her survived, but that shouldn't be enough to start a reconstruction."

"We should destroy what remains now," June exclaimed as thick sparks began to run inside her body.

"Would you enjoy launching attacks on a corpse?" Steven questioned when he noticed June's poor state.

June didn't want to answer, but her world spoke for her. The sparks inside her body lost power as they focused on fixing the various injuries.

"I'll handle it," Steven declared as a dark patch of energy expanded behind him and separated him from the gory wall. "It's only fitting for me to deliver the final blow."

"You are lucky she can't defend herself," June snorted before falling silent and focusing on the lump of smoke in the distance.

Steven took a deep breath, and dark energy came out of his injuries. The fuel condensed until flesh took form. In a few seconds, the expert's figure returned whole.

A series of ethereal dark spheres appeared on Steven's palms and began to expand. He stepped forward, and his figure instantly materialized above the smoke.

His movement made part of the smoke reveal the maimed world in its insides. Steven pointed both hands at that energy, but everything began to tremble before he could unleash the attack.

The gory structure shook and released waves of blood that matched the tremors' rhythm. Steven promptly transformed his spheres into a defensive barrier meant to weaken the incoming attack, but the impact left him confused.

The blood fell on the barrier, but nothing happened. No clash of energy and techniques unfolded. That pale-red liquid simply slid over the defensive ability before descending toward the bottom of the structure.

June and the others experienced something similar. Maribel and the dragon had prepared defenses, but the blood didn't try to pierce them. That liquid seemed to have lost its threatening power.

The gory structure slowly began to fall apart. The organ shrunk as large chunks of its fabric separated from the main body and shattered into puddles of blood. The prison was crumbling, which confirmed Steven's guess.



June, Maribel, the dragon, and Steven couldn't help but smile in satisfaction as the structure crumbled all around them. They had done it. They had killed a privileged cultivator in the solid stage. Heaven and Earth had lost one of their best assets.

Nevertheless, white pillars shot from the sky in the distance a few inside the holes on the structure. Noah almost intervened, but he remained still when he saw that the attacks didn't aim for any of his companions.

Steven retreated when the pillars converged on the lump of smoke before him.. The light radiated by those attacks instantly destroyed the gas and enveloped what remained of the old woman's world.

### **Chapter 2197 - 2197. Critical**

The light amassed around the broken world and created something similar to a transparent chrysalis. Meanwhile, the gory structure continued to shatter and allowed the sky to send more light.

Steven, June, Maribel, and the odd dragon remained safe from the light. Heaven and Earth didn't wake up, and their light wasn't targeting them. Still, the scene revealed a peculiar behavior that no one dared to miss.

Noah initially thought about a resurrection, but the idea didn't make much sense. Heaven and Earth didn't understand the privileged cultivator's worlds, so any attempt to turn them back to life would cause a failed product. The flaws would even be significant when it came to experts in the solid stage.

However, something was definitely happening, but the broken world's energy remained still. Moreover, the process was automatic since Heaven and Earth had yet to wake up, which meant that they had expected something like that to happen.

Tendrils eventually came out of the transparent chrysalis and stretched toward the remaining patches of the gory structure. The whiteness enveloped them before dragging everything toward the central sphere.

The transparent chrysalis expanded as more pieces of the old woman's world fused with it. Eventually, only one pillar that connected the distant sky to the spherical structure remained.

Then, the energy inside the chrysalis began to shatter and flow through the pillar. Heaven and Earth were absorbing it for unknown reasons, but Noah couldn't miss that chance to hinder their plans.

Noah and Divine Demon teleported above a random spot of the pillar almost at the same time. Noah's swords descended, and Divine Demon's blood-red energy transformed into a pointy hammer that fell downward.

Both attacks slammed on the pillar and generated explosions that made the fabric of space twist and shatter. Cracks connected to the void appeared around Noah and Divine Demon, but the white tunnel remained intact.

Noah raised his swords, but he didn't swing them again. His instincts had made him aware of a sad truth. His mind had studied the previous offensive, and it had realized that his power wasn't enough to destroy the pillar.

'This is a quasi-rank 10 item,' Noah thought as his arms returned to his sides without launching any attack. 'A fake quasi-rank 10 item.'

Heaven and Earth's light wasn't a proper item, but they could condense it until it transformed into something stable enough to enter that category. The pillar was nothing more than a pure expression of their power that had taken the form of a tunnel.

"Divine Demon?" Noah called, even if he knew the answer he would receive.

"I am amazing and everything," Divine Demon sighed, "But this is cheating. I would need to suck the entire higher plane dry to launch an attack able to pierce this light, but the process would have already ended by then."

"Can you even endure all the energy of the higher plane?" Noah wondered.

"Why would I endure it?" Divine Demon snorted. "Let the world carry it. I'd just use it."

Noah wasn't in the mood to argue with Divine Demon. His previous question had been nothing more than a joke meant to disperse some tension, but it was clear that the event was inevitable now.

Divine Demon and Noah limited themselves to watch as the broken world flowed through the tunnel and ended up inside the sky. Those laws belonged to Heaven and Earth now, and the experts didn't know what they would do with them.

Noah tried to come up with hypotheses as he reviewed everything he had uncovered about Heaven and Earth's arsenal. The improved cultivators were a safe bet, but he believed that there was something else at work there. After all, that energy belonged to one of the best assets in the entire world.

June hovered toward Noah's position, and he crossed his legs to welcome her on his lap. She was a mess, but the healing process had already started, and Noah did what he could to help with the dark matter.

Steven, Maribel, and the odd dragon also reached Noah's position and began to take care of their injuries. Heaven and Earth's actions had added a bitter taste to their victory, but it didn't change its nature. A privileged cultivator in the solid stage had died.

The group waited for Heaven and Earth to retract the pillar before moving their gazes on the last battlefield. Little had changed since Noah's previous inspection, but it was clear that something would happen soon.

King Elbas, Supreme Thief, and the Foolery had yet to take their opponent seriously, and Sepunia had also given up on doing her best. She hid behind King Elbas as she created illusions in front of the many beams to get better at them.

However, the interactions among the team explained that everything was getting close to the critical point. In particular, King Elbas' desire to leave that group was getting stronger than his curiosity.

"Why are you hiding behind me?!" King Elbas scolded.

"Don't be so stingy," Sepunia giggled. "Being close is nice, isn't it?"

"You won't get your spot in the final battle if you don't improve," King Elbas declared.

"But I'm training," Sepunia corrected. "Can't you see? I have my defenses all over the battlefield."

King Elbas' irritation grew, but arguing with Sepunia was pointless. Luckily for him, he didn't lack targets for that feeling.

"Why haven't you stolen her world already?" King Elbas shouted. "Rob her, and let's put an end to this mission."

"Your lack of understanding is dismaying," Supreme Thief sighed. "Do you think such an awful world could propel my magnificent existence toward the solid stage?"

"You lack understanding!" King Elbas rebuked. "This world is quite incredible. It can constantly adapt to the attack it receives to increase the effectiveness of its beams. She has yet to launch the same type of energy twice."

"Xavier is right!" The Foolery squealed as it flew toward another beam. "I have yet to experience the same taste twice."

"I don't want you to agree with me," King Elbas complained.

"Give me more, woman!" The Foolery ordered while ignoring the chance to tease King Elbas. "I challenge you to fill my stomach before your run out of different meals."

"These aren't meals," The middle-aged woman declared. "Do not worry. I'll soon find something that can put a few holes in your body."

"Challenge accepted!" The Foolery squealed.

"But I didn't-," The middle-aged woman said before being interrupted by louder words.

"Don't answer the pig!" King Elbas warned. "It will only make it say more nonsense."

"Are you helping the enemy now?" Sepunia teased.

"She isn't the one who will have to hear the stories about this battle from a pig," King Elbas explained. "I'd rather avoid adding a challenge to them. That word is a taboo among our organization."

"It's not a taboo," The Foolery contradicted. "It's the highest expression of a world."

"No, it isn't," King Elbas responded. "Do you even know what you said?"

"Blue!" The Foolery squealed while flying toward the new beam released by one of the mirrors. King Elbas didn't like being ignored, especially in such an idiotic way, but he decided to remain silent anyway.

"You made Heaven and Earth intervene," The middle-aged woman commented after the pillar disappeared back inside the sky. "Those two have slacked off in these years. That's what happens when they focus too much on the rulers instead of preparing for surprising threats."

"Are you talking to yourself now?" Supreme Thief asked before voicing an offer. "Look, I might find a place for your world in the future. Why don't you let me seize it without complaining?"

"I've had enough of your words," The middle-aged woman stated as her mirrors converged toward her figure and created multiple rotating rings.. "It's time to show you what a real privileged cultivator can do."

### **Chapter 2198 - 2198. Final Workshop**

"Show me something worth stealing," Supreme Thief exclaimed.

"Give me even more different meals," The Foolery squealed.

"Make sure not to move too much," Sepunia asked while patting King Elbas' shoulder.

"I should just burn all of you," King Elbas cursed.

The middle-aged woman didn't expect that reaction, but she disregarded the faint irritation building inside her to focus on her technique. Her mirrors had transformed into multiple rings that rotated around her figure, and power slowly accumulated inside them.

"Is that it?" Supreme Thief asked.

"Don't rush her," The Foolery scolded. "Her meals have to be perfect. Do you hear me? Perfect!"

"I should be able to mess around with the process," Sepunia revealed.

"Don't," King Elbas stopped Sepunia. "I want to see what she creates."

"You can get so serious at times," Sepunia giggled, and King Elbas managed to keep the curse in his mind at that time.

The middle-aged woman closed her eyes as the rings around her began to shine. Multicolored light filled her surroundings and created a vast area that radiated countless shades.

The multicolored domain unleashed heavy pressure that hindered the experts' movements. King Elbas promptly took out two pairs of golden sandals, and one of them fused with his feet.

King Elbas offered the other pair to Sepunia, and she seized it, but a complaint still left her mouth. "Can't you make them pink?"

"Do you dislike my color now?" King Elbas scoffed.

"You can be romantic then," Sepunia teased.

"Where do you find the romance in that?" King Elbas shouted, but Sepunia limited herself to laughing as she wore the sandals.

"I've studied all your attacks," The middle-aged woman declared. "My knowledge comprehends years of study and trillions of materials. Most of them have disappeared before your birth. Tremble and despair before the final workshop."

The multicolored domain expanded, and different structures made of pure light slowly left it. An army with hundreds of strange beings soon formed, and all of them didn't hold back from radiating different auras.

"How much is a trillion?" The Foolery asked, but Supreme Thief didn't answer.

Supreme Thief appeared pissed as he watched the army unfolding in front of his eyes. The multicolored spectacle was incredible. The sole thought that a single expert could give birth to beings that had so many different auras was terrifying, but Supreme Thief's mood went beyond that.

"Maybe Heaven and Earth took the idea of the perfect counters from her," King Elbas guessed.

"But she retained her status as a privileged cultivator," Sepunia uttered.

"Which can mean two things," King Elbas explained. "She might have a special deal with Heaven and Earth, or we are about to face a better version of the perfect counters."

"I wouldn't call it better," The privileged cultivator declared. "Studying, sorting information, and producing something powerful are complicated procedures. Heaven and Earth can simplify and condense them into the shape of lasting beings. Instead, my creations never last long."

"I can already think of a few fixes to the issue," King Elbas responded. "First of all, you need to change core material. Your energy is subpar."

"I had many interesting meetings with Divine Architect," The middle-aged woman revealed. "I know everything about the higher and final energy, but she acknowledged the value of my world despite its shortcomings."

"So, what?" King Elbas wondered. "A random nobody tells you that you are fine, and you stop improving? Is that all it takes with you?"

"I can sense Defying Demon's arrogance in your words," The privileged cultivator stated. "It's a pity that you let him taint your existence. You would have been a great addition to Heaven and Earth's power. Who knows? You might have even surpassed Divine Architect."

"Didn't she tell you?" King Elbas asked while raising his hand and turning it into blinding flames. "I have already surpassed her."

"You had to storm the sky and steal Heaven and Earth's precious materials to stabilize your flawed experiment," The middle-aged woman laughed. "That's nowhere near what Divine Architect achieved in the short time she has spent inside the sky."

"She is younger than you then," King Elbas mocked. "Are you ashamed to be surpassed by someone like that?"

"You fail to understand what's important in this conversation," The middle-aged woman sighed. "Even in death, you choose arrogance over reason. You should have learnt to accept your place in the system of the universe long ago."

"Is she saying that the universe made her weaker than Divine Architect?" Sepunia wondered.

"No, she is just delusional," King Elbas explained. "Caesar has probably filled her head with ideas of fate and similar gibberish."

"Xavier, Xavier," The Foolery called.

"Not now," King Elbas scolded. "I'm trying to get information from this idiot."

"I think there's something wrong with Supreme Thief," The Foolery continued.

King Elbas and Sepunia focused on Supreme Thief but didn't find anything odd. Yet, as they observed him, they noticed that his mood never changed. Supreme Thief was pissed beyond reason, and anger even seeped out of that expression.

"Supreme Thief?" King Elbas called, but Supreme Thief didn't bother to turn.

"What did you call that hideous domain?" Supreme Thief asked in a cold tone.

"Did your senses grow dull after coming back to life?" The privileged cultivator mocked. "My world is the final workshop, the power that has set your deaths in stone."

"Final workshop," Supreme Thief repeated as an azure pulling force came out of his body. "I guess you had something worth stealing in the end. I'll take it away and throw it in the void since you dared think that your world is the final version of someone else's technique."

"You know, we had doubts about your relationship with Great Builder," The middle-aged woman revealed. "He considers you a friend, but your existence barely acknowledges similar figures. However, it seemed that many of us were wrong. You do care."

"That has little to do with the matter," Supreme Thief announced. "I usually steal when I know that I would have done better than my opponents if I had chosen their path. Still, I don't need to prove anything now. I already know someone who stands above you."

"Nonsense," The middle-aged woman responded. "There are only a handful of experts with a world as flexible as mine. Still, most of them fall short in terms of power. Great Builder isn't an exception."

"We'll see," Supreme Thief threatened before moving his attention on his companions. "You three, let's stop messing around. I want to destroy her."

"Can you reach the breakthrough with her world?" King Elbas asked.

"I wasn't joking," Supreme Thief voiced. "I will steal her world and throw it into the void. So, don't finish her on your own."

"I don't take orders from you," King Elbas declared. "However, if you really care about it, I might consider playing the bait."

A series of items left King Elbas' figure and began to fuse to create a massive structure bigger than the entirety of the multicolored domain. The expert even added his flames to the process, and an immense shape soon came to life.

A nine-headed hydra roared at the sky as soon as its body stabilized.. Its size made the middle-aged woman's army look like a small gathering of weak beings, but she didn't show any hesitation when she launched her offensive.

**Chapter 2199 - 2199. Beyond**

"Ah! The hydra," The middle-aged woman exclaimed. "You claim to be the best inscription master in the world, but your ego afflicts your creations and makes them predictable."

"Only an ignorant brute would judge a book by its cover," King Elbas sighed. "You can't even realize that you are standing before the most special creature in the world."

"Arrogance," The middle-aged woman shook her head. "I'm not surprised."

King Elbas knew that the time for words was over. He snapped his fingers, and the hydra pointed its nine heads toward the final workshop. Its mouths opened, and rumbling pillars of golden light shot out of them.

The attack was beyond massive, but it carried a surprising kindness that allowed the fabric of space to remain in one piece. Still, its power was undeniable. Each pillar stood at the peak of the ninth rank, and their energy radiated very different auras.

The privileged cultivator imitated King Elbas. She snapped her fingers, and part of her army darted in front of the pillars. Those strange, multicolored beings transformed as they took the shape of barriers and similar structures, and the impact eventually happened.

The fabric of space shook as explosions rumbled on the battlefield. A few ripples trembled until they turned into small cracks, but the overall area remained stable.

King Elbas' eyes shone as they darted left and right. He studied every minor consequence of the impact until he gained a complete idea of the clash's aftermath, and he didn't like what he found.

During the impact, the hydra's attacks had dispersed everywhere on the battlefield, but the same didn't happen to the multicolored beings. They had placed a barrier that had fended off King Elbas' offensive perfectly without losing a single brim of energy.

Moreover, strands of light left the final workshop and fused with the multicolored beings that had faced the pillars. The process didn't only improve those disposable assets. It also perfected their ability to counter King Elbas' power.

"Your final energy is indeed scary," The middle-aged woman admitted. "Even Divine Architect didn't hold back her praises. It's incredible how someone as young as you managed to achieve such power and knowledge."

"She is praising him," The Foolery gasped. "Don't praise him! He'll only get more unbearable."

"I feel a but coming," King Elbas uttered.

"There is no but," The privileged cultivator stated. "You are strong. All of you are. I'm simply saying that your power won't be enough to defeat me."

"Who is arrogant now?" King Elbas chuckled.

"My existence doesn't have a single trace of arrogance," The middle-aged woman exclaimed. "I'm only stating the obvious. Your achievements are commendable. You have made the sky suffer in ways that even Heaven and Earth couldn't predict. Yet, you have forced the true experts of the world to take a stand now."

"You have seen how your companions have ended," King Elbas snorted. "Your fate won't be any different."

"You are too young to comprehend the difference between us," The middle-aged woman smiled. "Sure, some privileged cultivators have spent eras loitering around. Heaven and Earth have also annexed many of them. Still, the core of the sky's army only has experts who have never stopped training. Someone like you should understand what that implies."

"I don't!" The Foolery responded.

"She wasn't talking to you!" King Elbas shouted before wearing his arrogant expression. "The difference between us is in the time spent training."

"Correct," The privileged cultivator declared. "You have done an incredible job riding the world's fairness and mixing it with your talent to achieve breakthroughs quickly. You have my compliments."

"This woman is annoying," The Foolery squealed.

"We are on the same page for once," King Elbas voiced.

"Page? What page?" The Foolery asked, but King Elbas had already ignored it to inspect the final workshop once more.

"Do you have any memories of her?" King Elbas whispered.

"Her name should be Albatia," Sepunia replied. "I'm afraid I know anything else about her. She had shown herself only a few times, and she had never interacted with the cities."

Sepunia's explanation confirmed Albatia's statement. She had spent all her time inside the sky training and preparing for Heaven and Earth's final breakthrough. Her conversations with Divine Architect had also benefited her knowledge in ways that King Elbas couldn't predict.

King Elbas didn't need to question Sepunia. He had hoped that she could add insights into Albatia's power, but that wasn't the case. As for her strength, King Elbas only had to glance at the final workshop to understand that she was a mighty opponent.

"Elbas, are you giving in already?" Supreme Thief asked without moving his cold gaze from the final workshop.

"No, I was only thinking," King Elbas plainly revealed. "She has a point, but she fails to see what she has lost during these eras of training."

"Yes, tell her!" The Foolery shouted. "Wait, what did she lose?"

"Those living among the light often forget the terrors of darkness," Sepunia sighed as she glanced at the sky in the distance and tried to recall what it was like to live there.

"Only fools forget fear," Albatia scoffed.

"Fear is only one of the aspects that give us power," King Elbas explained. "We are here. We have reached the same destination, but our path was far harsher. You have accumulated grains of power among Heaven and Earth's peace, but each of our steps was a boulder added to our might."



King Elbas pointed his hand at Albatia, and a spear materialized on his palm. His robe also changed and transformed into elegant clothes that covered his hands and feet. The crown on his head shone brightly, and its scorching aura burnt the fabric of space.

Sepunia felt no danger coming from those inscribed items. The world suffered in their presence, but she could touch them freely without suffering any consequence.

"Are you implying that your shorter lives have more value due to the harsher environment in which they thrived?" Albatia asked.

"I'm implying that you are nothing more than another boulder, so act like one," King Elbas exclaimed. "Be quiet, and let me add this achievement to my world."

"And here I thought you were the only reasonable existence in your organization," Albatia sighed. "Your arrogance makes you the greatest of the idiots."

"You should retreat," King Elbas whispered. "I'm going to go crazy for a bit."

"I should also do my best to help then," Sepunia giggled.

"Don't die," King Elbas ordered. "You are an ongoing experiment. It would be a pity if you couldn't reach completion."

Sepunia opened her mouth before closing it again and revealing a smile. She wanted to tease him for those faintly kind words, but she preferred to let them echo in her mind for now.

"I hope you are as strong as you claim," King Elbas declared as he took slow steps toward the final world. "I don't want to hear Supreme Thief complaints if I end up killing you."

"Has my time finally come?" The Foolery asked in excitement.

"You will die if you follow me," King Elbas sneered, knowing that the Foolery wouldn't hear his warning.

"I have already stopped one of your strongest attacks," Albatia sighed. "What can you even achieve by using different ite-?"

Albatia's words couldn't resound through the battlefield since a surge of power suddenly shot out of King Elbas. Violent wings came out of his figure and generated tornados and currents carrying enough power to destroy the fabric of space.

King Elbas' aura fused with the power released by his inscribed items, but Albatia didn't flinch. She could easily handle any attack at the peak of the ninth rank. Nothing King Elbas had could worry her.. Yet, her expression froze when her opponent seemed to go beyond the limits of the cultivation journey.

### **Chapter 2200 - 2200. Fake**

"What are you doing?!" Albatia shouted. "What are you trying to achieve?!"

King Elbas didn't answer. He let his aura explode with power and turn the whole battlefield into a massive storm as he continued to approach the final workshop.

Supreme Thief, Sepunia, and the Foolery were as surprised as Albatia. They didn't understand what was happening, but their instincts told them that they had to retreat. That power could put their worlds at risk.

King Elbas' power level lost clarity. Part of it remained at the very peak of the ninth rank, but brims of his aura pierced those limits and expanded in a world that the others failed to sense properly.

"This is not possible!" Albatia cried as she deployed part of her army in front of the gales converging toward her. "No rank 9 existence can gain access to that power!"

King Elbas' power level seemed to defy Albatia's words on purpose. More energy fused with King Elbas' aura and pushed it deeper past the limits of the ninth rank. He was deploying an ability similar to Noah's potential by using his inscribed items, but its effects reached heights that Noah had never touched.

Sepunia, the Foolery, Supreme Thief, and Albatia stared in shock as King Elbas reached what seemed to be the quasi-rank 10 stage. The process continued until the entirety of his aura entered that level of power. Still, the chaos didn't stop even at that point.

"You aren't ready for that power!" Albatia cursed. "No one is. Only Heaven and Earth have gained access to that realm in the history of this world. You are overstepping. This is an act of heresy toward the very cultivation journey!"

"Who cares?" King Elbas spoke in a low tone, and his voice alone shattered the remaining intact patches of space on the battlefield.

"You'll burn!" Albatia shouted. "I don't know what you have sacrificed to obtain this power, but its drawbacks will kill you."

"We'll see about that," King Elbas laughed, and his voice added more violent gales to the storm. "I have yet to gather data about this form. You are my first guinea pig."

Albatia wanted to say something else, but King Elbas finally decided to put his new level into use. Many of golden energy shot out of his figure and pierced the storms until they condensed to transform into scorching flames that flickered above his skin.

King Elbas was literally on fire, and his skin blended with those flames. It became unclear where his body ended and his energy started. Albatia almost believed that he had fused that technique with his actual figure.

"Now, let's try something simple," King Elbas exclaimed. "Don't die on me too quickly."

Albatia instinctively amassed the entirety of her army in front of her, but a fiery slash slammed on it before it could deploy a battle formation. The attack severed all of the multicolored beings in half, and the flames burnt what remained of their strange bodies.

The slash didn't stop there either. It continued to fly toward Albatia, but she managed to retreat inside the final workshop. The attack slammed on the multicolored domain and pierced it for a while before it consumed its energy and dispersed.

Albatia couldn't believe her senses when she inspected the final workshop. A charred scar had appeared on its multicolored surface and had left an immense black mark that carried King Elbas' aura.

The final workshop was only an expression of Albatia's world, but her existence suffered nonetheless. She had created that multicolored domain with the idea of defeating her opponents' abilities, but King Elbas had shattered her belief.

"Above you," King Elbas' voice thundered, and Albatia raised her head in time to see a wave of flames crashing on the final workshop.

The golden flames burnt the final workshop's edges and forced Albatia to retreat at its bottom. She tried to study the attack to improve her domain, but her senses failed to grasp the level of power that King Elbas had reached.

"You are only a liquid stage cultivator!" Albatia used her words since she felt powerless with everything else. "You might be a monster, but that doesn't make you able to step past the ninth rank. I won't believe it!"

"You are correct," King Elbas whispered while materializing on the spot right outside the area where Albatia was hiding. "This isn't the power of the tenth rank. The sky would already be in flames otherwise."

Albatia opened her mouth, but a golden line suddenly pierced her chest. King Elbas had raised his spear, and the weapon had launched an attack that had dug through the whole final workshop.

The line expanded and released flames, but Albatia performed an evasive maneuver before it was too late. She reappeared in another area of the multicolored domain with a large hole on her chest and flames still burning around its edges.

"Then, how?" Albatia asked. "How did you gain access to a power that transcends the cultivation journey without crossing the peak?"

"You privileged cultivators are really something," King Elbas stated while placing his spear inside the hole he had just dug. "You are magnificent experts. Even Heaven and Earth can't understand your worlds. Yet, you bind yourself to the system that they have created."

"We transcend those labels," Albatia replied.

"But you still believe in them," King Elbas exclaimed as the spear filled the hole with flames. "That limits your perspective. You fail to see many paths like you failed to predict our rise in power."

"Answer me," Albatia reminded. "I am one of the greatest inscription masters in the history of this world, but I can't understand what you did. I need to know."

King Elbas knew that it was stupid to reveal the theory behind one of his trump cards. However, he saw the same curiosity that often shone in his gaze in Albatia's eyes, and he respected that feeling.

"I have the best energy in the world," King Elbas explained. "The final energy is my very core. It can turn into every material in the world and more, but it also carries unparalleled power by itself."

"Even the best energy in the world can't force your level to step in the tenth rank," Albatia exclaimed.

"I already told you that this isn't the tenth rank," King Elbas reminded. "This is a fake version of that realm created by my deductions and divinations. I've basically built a personal level of power that only I can reach by imitating what I know about the tenth rank."

Albatia's eyes went wide. King Elbas had so much influence on the power system that he could create a personal level. That went beyond separate dimensions and realities. He had altered the very nature of his cultivation journey.

"I can accept that the final energy gave you access to the very structure of the power system," Albatia continued while doing her best to remain calm. "Yet, creating a new power level is different from reaching it. You would still have to pay the price for that fake breakthrough."

"How can you fail to understand even after I revealed so much?" King Elbas sighed as the flames inside the hole began to dig the final workshop's insides. "What price can I even pay? I'm burning final energy and inscribed items to push myself into the fake quasi-rank 10 stage.. In short, I'm using my very world as fuel."