

Demonic 2201

Chapter 2201 - 2201. Weakened

Albatia was speechless. King Elbas had created a personal level of power that required him to burn his world to show its effects. He had basically planted a cheat in the cultivation journey, but he had to pay a hefty price to use it.

"You are killing yourself," Albatia exclaimed as understanding dawned upon her mind.

"That's right!" King Elbas laughed as his flames continued to burn their way inside the final workshop.

"That's reckless and insane," Albatia stated.

"Please," King Elbas continued to laugh. "I had to watch idiots shooting higher than me through unreasonable methods. I had to get a little insane to show them who is the best."

"But your world might never recover!" Albatia shouted.

"I am the best inscription master in the world," King Elbas declared. "I can't count the number of items I have created to heal my world. Sure, the reoccurring stress might leave permanent damage, but you said it yourself. Our opponent had the chance to prepare for too long. I have to put my very life at risk to match it."

Albatia knew that words were useless at that point. King Elbas had made his decision, and the power that he unleashed proved that he was getting rewarded by it. Nothing in the ninth rank could oppose that explosive might.

"Xavier is right," A squeal resounded from among the storm, and a winged figure soon came out of it. "We all have to take risks to eat Heaven and Earth."

"What are you doing here?" King Elbas asked in a serious tone as he fixed his shining eyes on the Foolery. "Everything is about to explode."

"I won't let you seize all the glory," The Foolery announced.

"You will die," King Elbas continued.

"I'm dead anyway if I can't handle this," The Foolery sighed. "I don't want the fun to end."

King Elbas didn't know what to say in front of that rare serious moment from the pig. There was wisdom in its words. Even Albatia remained surprised to see that awareness.

"Besides," The Foolery continued in a tone that King Elbas knew would precede something idiotic, "Divine Demon would trap me inside that stupid place again if I don't improve. If I really have to die, I want to spend that time eating and pooping."

King Elbas shook his head, but his mood remained stern. The Foolery had made its choice, and he respected it.

"Suit yourself," King Elbas voiced before sending more power into his spear.

The flames inside the final workshop accelerated. Albatia didn't know how to stop their expansion, but she eventually wore a resolute expression. The battle was far from lost. She only had to accept that she might die.

Countless life and death experiences resurfaced in Albatia's mind and added fuel to a feeling that had remained silent for many years. Her survival instincts took fire as she used her immense knowledge and training to decide how to limit her losses.

The shades in the final workshop began to mutate. Multicolored currents flowed toward the expanding flames and started to isolate their power. The domain shrunk during the process, but Albatia didn't care. An excited smile even appeared on her face.

King Elbas snorted and sent a last wave of power toward the spear. The weapon shattered, but the flames generated during its destruction forced themselves past Albatia's barriers and dived deeper into the final workshop.

Albatia didn't move as she continued to send multicolored currents toward the flames. She didn't care if most of her technique crumbled. She only needed part of it to survive. Victory would be in her reach afterward.

Albatia was aware of King Elbas' weakness since he had explained the theory behind his fake quasi-rank 10 stage. He couldn't remain at that level forever. Actually, it was safe to assume that the power-up could only last for a short time due to its steep requirements.

The privileged cultivator was completely confident in her abilities, so she believed that the other experts wouldn't be a problem even in an injured state. She only had to take care of King Elbas to win.

The multicolored domain couldn't oppose the golden flames, but Albatia had never planned to win that exchange. She only wanted to hinder King Elbas' path to deplete more of his world.

King Elbas' gaze grew cold. He understood Albatia's plan, but he couldn't do anything to hinder it. He could only unleash everything he had.

King Elbas placed his whole arm inside the hole as his figure began to shine. The storm seemed to freeze when that golden radiance seeped inside its fabric. The entire battlefield lit up, and its contents became impossible to study since an explosion followed.

Sepunia and Supreme Thief watched everything unfolding from outside the explosion's range. The area soon stopped being dangerous, but they still waited for the waves of energy to disperse before sending their mental waves forward.

Two figures came out of the smoke and the lingering waves of energy could disperse. King Elbas landed in front of Sepunia in his normal form while the Foolery fell.

"Is it dead?" Sepunia asked.

"Sadly, it survived," King Elbas exclaimed.

The Foolery suddenly halted its fall and launched a loud squeal. Its skin had disappeared, and the muscles under it were charred and broken. However, golden light came out of its mouth and tried to escape its bite.

"Just stay inside my stomach!" The Foolery cursed as it ate every brim of energy that managed to leave its mouth.

"It should have just asked for my fake quasi-rank 10 energy," King Elbas sighed. "I would have gladly given it to him. In the form of an attack, obviously."

"You didn't need to go all-out," Sepunia commented while inspecting King Elbas' figure. "Your world is a mess. We could have worked together to defeat her."

"I needed to test this form anyway," King Elbas dismissed those worried words. "I can't do it on the landmass, and nothing in the higher plane can contain me when I unleash that power. The sky was the only place suited to become a testing area."

"Defying Demon's influence is strong in you," Sepunia stated.

"Nonsense," King Elbas snorted. "That idiot would have just slammed his swords until something worked. Don't even make me start talking about the other idiot. He would have come out with a random trick to win without understanding what was happening."

"You do realize that they can hear you, right?" Sepunia giggled, and Noah and Divine Demon waved their hands from the spot where they were resting.

"Why do you think I've said all of that?" King Elbas uttered while turning toward Noah and Divine Demon. "That's how you come up with a proper technique. I hope you learnt something today."

"You all joke too much," A voice suddenly came out of the smoke and dispersed it to reveal the battlefield.

The area occupied by the void was immense, but it carried a multicolored spot that illuminated Albatia's figure. The final workshop had turned into nothing more than a pebble that she held in her grasp, but it had survived.

"The pig is busy digesting your energy," Albatia announced, "And you are in no condition to fight. You pretend well, but I can see that your world needs care. You have lost."

"Thief, I've weakened her for you," King Elbas called while crossing his legs to begin his rest. "Even you should be able to defeat her now."

"Ah! You did a good job!" Supreme Thief declared.. "It's time to throw her inferior workshop into the void."

Chapter 2202 - 2202. Secret Door

"What can you even do?" Albatia sneered before coughing a few times.

It was clear that King Elbas' performance had hurt Albatia deeply. The final workshop was only an expression of her world, but she had suffered anyway when King Elbas shattered her belief.

His achievements in the inscription field were so massive that they had undermined Albatia's very foundation. She had acknowledged only a few experts throughout her long life, but she had to add a new name now.

Moreover, King Elbas didn't only force her to accept his power. He had also shown how he could achieve incredible results. His knowledge and shrewdness were scary. No one had said anything about it, but everyone knew that he had just become the rank 9 expert with the strongest technique in the entire higher plane.

"I'll do what I always do," Supreme Thief announced as he flew toward Albatia. "I'll just enjoy it a bit more now."

"You misunderstood me," Albatia corrected. "Heaven and Earth have already defeated you. Everyone in the world is aware of your character, life, and power. We even have a list of all the abilities you have stolen during your life."

"So?" Supreme Thief asked without halting his advance.

"So, we know how to handle you," Albatia replied. "We don't even need to develop counters against your power. Experts like me are more than enough to lock your abilities."

"Everyone thinks that until they see their power stolen," Supreme Thief mocked.

Albatia didn't retreat or perform any evasive maneuver. She didn't even try to fix the broken final workshop. She limited herself to staring at the incoming expert, and the two soon stood before each other in the vastness of the void.

"Your lack of fear is commendable," Supreme Thief admitted while reaching for Albatia's head. "It's a pity that it won't help you."

Albatia let Supreme Thief place his hand on her forehead. She could launch countless attacks from that position, but she decided to hold back. She knew she could break her opponent without moving a single finger.

Azure light came out of Supreme Thief's figure, and the patch over his left eye went up on its own to reveal his shining gaze. A dense and violent pulling force fell on Albatia, but she remained confident in her decision.

"What is it?" Albatia mocked after remaining a few seconds under the effects of the pulling force. "Are you starting to understand the reality of the situation?"

Supreme Thief didn't reply. He appeared utterly absorbed in the process, and a wide smile even broadened on his face. He seemed to experience pure bliss, but everyone on the battlefield could notice how his ability wasn't hurting Albatia in the slightest.

"You are too self-absorbed in your own talent to understand why you will fail," Albatia stated. "Don't worry. I will clear it for you. The answer is pretty simple: Your talent doesn't surpass mine."

Supreme Thief's world had much more than that. He could steal anything he could have pushed toward higher heights if he had chosen a different path.

However, Albatia had already proven herself against King Elbas. She was one of the privileged cultivators who had never stopped training, even after she entered the safety of the sky.

Albatia's confidence came from her efforts. She knew that she had done everything she could to improve her world. In her current state, she was the best version of herself.

"Steven?" Noah called while inspecting the scene.

"I could tamper with her power," Steven revealed, "But I'm not sure it will help Supreme Thief. His ability goes deeply in different fields."

"I thought as much," Noah sighed.

"I can do something about it," Divine Demon declared, "But I won't. Is that fine with you?"

"Of course," Noah agreed. "Every decision from now on must have the final battle in mind. If he dies, he dies."

The general understanding was that each expert in Noah's organization had to prove their worth. Almost everyone in the recent fights had done something spectacular, and Supreme Thief had to achieve something similar. His breakthrough or even survival during the final battle would be impossible otherwise.

Fighting an expert who had received Heaven and Earth's help put Steven in a favorable position, but Supreme Thief found himself in the opposite situation. The issue came from the type of support that the rulers had given to Albatia. Peace and resources alone weren't enough to undermine her achievements.

That prevented Supreme Thief from proving himself better than Albatia and stopped his ability. He couldn't find any grip on her world because she had done everything in her power to fulfill its potential. She was truly amazing, and Supreme Thief realized that.

The light around Supreme Thief slowly dimmed, and his smile vanished as his gaze focused on Albatia. He appeared slightly annoyed, and Albatia couldn't help but feel that her victory was coming.

"Safety is an illusion," Supreme Thief declared. "Nothing is perfect in this world. There are always loopholes, secret paths, and flaws. Everything in existence has that, even the sky."

"Should I remind you that you would still be busy digging the sky if Heaven and Earth didn't let you in?" Albatia joked.

"Heaven and Earth did that to contain the damage that we would have caused," Supreme Thief explained while pointing at Noah and the others. "Look at them. Do you think they would have been gentle or precise? They would have turned the whole area into a mess just to open a small opening."

Supreme Thief was mocking Noah and the others, but they took pride in those words. Their approaches were flashy, and they felt no shame in that.

"The final battle would have started right away in that case," Albatia responded. "Both sides want to avoid that."

"That's not the point," Supreme Thief announced. "Who cares about the final battle? We were talking about me. Focus on me."

That arrogant claim pissed Albatia, but she remained confident. According to her, those words were a last desperate attempt to justify a failure.

"I am a thief," Supreme Thief stated. "I've always been a thief, even before developing an individuality. Do you know what that means?"

"I know that you have lived as a rat stealing crumbs from higher powers," Albatia reminded. "I am aware of the entirety of your life."

"So, why are you so confident?" Supreme Thief asked. "I might steal only when I find myself superior in talent and power, but I remain an unparalleled master in the field."

Albatia smiled, but her expression froze when she understood something. She instinctively tried to get away, but Supreme Thief's grasp was as firm as steel and didn't let her go.

Albatia tried to sever her face to escape, but Supreme Thief's grasp reached far deeper than the mere skin. He had closed his hand on her world, locking her in that position and preventing her from leaving.

"I might be a bit rusty at this," Supreme Thief admitted. "I haven't used these techniques since my days as a heroic cultivator. I'm sorry if I'm too rough. It's really not my style."

"What are you trying to do?!" Albatia shouted, finally dropping every trace of confidence.

"I told you that everything has flaws and secret doors," Supreme Thief repeated.. "I will simply enter one of them, take what I want, and leave."

Chapter 2203 - 2203. Knowledge

"Stop!" Albatia shouted, but she felt powerless. She summoned the entirety of her power in a desperate attempt to retreat, but she remained stuck in her opponent's grasp.

"Why can't I leave?!" Albatia cursed. "Your pulling force is almost null, and my raw power is leagues above yours. You should have no grip on me!"

"Where can you escape if the problem is inside you?" Supreme Thief mocked. "I have already entered your world. No evasive maneuver can save you.

Albatia understood the nature of the issue and closed her eyes. All her focus went on the insides of her world to find the intruder, but she couldn't find anything even after performing multiple thorough inspections.

"Did you think that finding me would have been easy?" Supreme Thief laughed. "I'm the best thief in the world. You'll notice my presence only once you find out that something is missing."

Albatia couldn't give up so easily. The final workshop in her grasp expanded and transformed into a rectangular slab that gave birth to ethereal beings.

Those multicolored creatures left the slab to jump inside Albatia. They fused with her figure and entered her world to help the search for Supreme Thief's presence, but they also failed to produce any result.

"Fine!" Albatia exclaimed as her eyes opened. "I can just destroy you before it's too late."

The final workshop laying on Albatia's hand expanded even more as various strands of light came out of it. Multiple beings were about to take form and stabilize on the slab, but the glow suddenly dispersed.

"What?" Albatia exclaimed in surprise before trying again.

The final workshop released more strands of light, but they dispersed even sooner than before. Albatia didn't give up, but her third attempt failed before the glow tried to leave the slab.

"What is happening?" Albatia questioned before focusing on the faint smirk that had appeared on Supreme Thief's face. "What have you done?"

"Just a moment," Supreme Thief whispered as he closed his eyes. "I'm almost there."

"What there?!" Albatia cursed before a spasm ran through her body and made her spit a mouthful of blood on the slab.

Cracks appeared on the spots where the blood had fallen, and they expanded until the whole slab shattered into multiple pieces. Albatia tried to close her hand to save something about the final workshop, but the few chunks in her palm crumbled and turned into dust.

"What is happening?" Albatia asked before realizing that she could move.

The privileged cultivator immediately retreated to put some distance between Supreme Thief and her. She inspected her figure and checked her world briefly, but she didn't find anything wrong with it. Yet, Supreme Thief didn't move, and evident satisfaction had also appeared on his expression.

"I don't care if you have destroyed my final workshop," Albatia snorted when she saw that Supreme Thief didn't say anything. "I don't have to study much now. I can create a new workshop specifically meant for you."

"Do it then," Supreme Thief dared.

Albatia could understand that something was off from Supreme Thief's mocking tone, but she disregarded that feeling for now. She spread her arms and summoned her power before snapping her fingers.

Currents of multicolored light left Albatia's figure, but they shattered before going too far. The energy she had released dispersed among the void, and a terrible realization finally dawned upon her.

"See, now you have found my presence," Supreme Thief exclaimed. "Maybe I should say that you have found the absence I left inside you."

"You," Albatia gasped, "You have taken away my ability to create workshops."

"That's correct," Supreme Thief stated while raising a hand and summoning a lump of multicolored light inside his grasp. "You are nothing more than a powerless mass of knowledge and experience without this."

"I'll take it ba-!" Albatia began to announce, but a surprising event made her interrupt her line.

Azure light seeped out of Supreme Thief's palm and invaded the multicolored sphere. His shade tainted the stolen aspect of Albatia's world until all the different colors vanished.

The process was so quick that Albatia barely had the chance to come up with plans. The multicolored sphere transformed into a lump of azure light that featured different intensities of that shade. They went from dark to bright, but they remained in the range of Supreme Thief's power.

"What should I give back?" Supreme Thief wondered in a playful tone. "I only see my ability to create workshops here. I don't see anything belonging to you."

"You bastard," Albatia cursed. "Do you think this is enough to stop me? I'll rip your world apart, seize that ability, and turn it back into its original form. It might take millennia to reclaim my power, but I will succeed."

"Yes, you have the knowledge, experience, time, and resources to succeed," Supreme Thief uttered. "That's why you have to die now."

"And how would you even kill me?" Albatia laughed while spreading her arms. "The final workshop was my best ability, but I have accumulated countless methods throughout the eras. Instead, you have already used your strongest attack against me. You only have a bunch of stolen techniques now."

"Are you dumb?" Supreme Thief asked. "I have a strong technique right here in my palm."

The sphere in Supreme Thief's hand shone and expanded until a giant azure domain took form around him. Strands of light quickly came out of the workshop and gave birth to a series of ethereal creatures with unclear shapes.

"You don't know what I have accumulated during my life," Albatia confidently expressed. "Your workshop is flawed. It can't counter my existence."

"Did you forget that I took a tour inside your world?" Supreme Thief asked. "I tried to study most of it, but I got bored halfway through it. There is a better way to defeat you anyway."

Supreme Thief snapped his fingers, and the ethereal beings shot forward. Albatia snorted as multicolored light came out of her figure and teleported her in the distance.

The ethereal beings converged in Albatia's previous position before undergoing an abrupt expansion. Their flexible shape allowed them to transform into cloud-like structures that reached Albatia before she could perform another evasive maneuver.

Albatia quickly left the clouds' range to retreat even further, but her movements only covered a short distance. The event obviously surprised her, and terror appeared in her eyes when she understood the purpose of Supreme Thief's creations.

"So, that's how you have decided to defeat me," Albatia whispered as she stopped retreating and remained still among the void. "I must admit that it's a smart approach."

"You can't use your many abilities with cracks in your knowledge," Supreme Thief declared. "These creatures are quite simple, but they do their job pretty well. They will devour part of your knowledge as soon as they touch you."

"I see," Albatia said before a helpless sigh left her mouth. "I guess this is it. End me."

"I thought you would struggle a bit more in front of death," Supreme Thief admitted.

"That's the behavior of brutes," Albatia explained. "I'll use your words. It's not my style. I've run many simulations in my mind already. I can't win, so make it quick."

"I guess the sky has some praiseworthy warriors in the end," Supreme Thief commented before sending his cloud-like creatures toward Albatia.

The azure beings surrounded Albatia and began to devour her knowledge. She felt her entire life vanishing from her very existence, but the process suddenly stopped.. When she opened her eyes, she noticed that white light had surrounded her figure and had fended off Supreme Thief's creatures.

Chapter 2204 - 2204. Victory

Albatia was as confused as her opponents. She didn't know why Heaven and Earth had intervened, especially since there was a limit to what they could do.

Albatia had lost part of her world, but she remained a privileged cultivator. Heaven and Earth probably had the chance to annex her now, but that would require time, and they also needed to be awake during the process.

As for Noah and the others, they inevitably saw similarities with what had happened to the old woman. Supreme Thief's ethereal beings were still trying to reach Albatia, but the white light around her was impenetrable and created a pillar with the distant sky.

"I thought you had accepted defeat," Supreme Thief exclaimed.

"I did," Albatia announced. "Heaven and Earth are doing this on their own."

"Are you about to come back stronger than ever?" Supreme Thief joked, and many cold gazes converged on Albatia. "I don't think that will work with all of us here."

"I told you already," Albatia stated. "I don't know what the rulers are trying to do, but I'll accept whatever comes next."

Noah materialized above the pillar of light. June was still on his lap, but she wasn't a hindrance since he had no intention to attack. He only wanted to confirm something, and a quick inspection sufficed.

'It's the same exact light from before,' Noah thought while turning toward the distant sky, 'Which means!'

The sky seemed to answer Noah's thoughts. Part of Albatia's body transformed into dust that began to flow through the tunnel. Heaven and Earth didn't even bother to keep her damaged body whole during the process.

"Oh, I see," Albatia sighed. "I will accept this fate if that's what you want."

"What is happening?" Noah asked.

"I've always fought to keep my world safe from Heaven and Earth," Albatia uttered, "But they remain my allies. I've chosen my side long before your birth, Defying Demon. You won't get answers from me."

"We should have killed you first and questioned the others," Noah sneered.

"You really should have," Albatia chuckled while showing an honest smile.

More pieces of Albatia's figure turned into dust and flowed through the tunnel. Confusion appeared on her expression as she lost even more parts of her world, but her eyes soon focused.

"You are an interesting bunch," Albatia admitted. "You don't stand a chance against Heaven and Earth, but I wanted to see your last struggles."

"Are you dying?" Noah asked.

"Rank 9 existences have already established worlds," Albatia explained. "You can destroy them, but their mark on the universe will remain forever. You can see that as a form of immortality."

"That's far from enough," Noah replied.

"I knew you would have said that," Albatia laughed before moving her gaze among all the experts gathered on the scene. "I wonder what would have happened if I met you before joining Heaven and Earth. The choice felt so easy back then, but I can sense doubts now. I'll blame my broken world."

Noah was the type of leader who would have rescued his foes and transformed them after hearing similar words. However, he had already tested his power against that light. Nothing he had could pierce it.

"Why are you so sure Heaven and Earth will win?" Noah asked, hoping that Albatia's broken state could make her reveal something.

"You all are too young to understand their plan," Albatia declared. "Though, I don't blame you. You might come close to victory, but you would lose even in that case."

"Victory is victory," Noah responded.

"Is it?" Albatia wondered as the last parts of her body turned into dust and voiced another line. "You'll understand once you see it, even if I can already predict how you'll react."

The last bits of Albatia's world flowed through the tunnel and disappeared inside the sky as those words echoed in the void. Heaven and Earth retracted their light, and the massive hole in the fabric of space began to close.

"She was a good opponent," June weakly commented from Noah's lap. "I wish I was the one to face her."

"A troublesome opponent," Noah corrected. "Heaven and Earth have also decided to send her to stop us, which means that they were ready to lose her before the final battle."

"That's even better, right?" June smiled as her battle intent filled her expression.

"Just focus on healing," Noah snorted before hovering toward Supreme Thief.

Supreme Thief retracted the azure domain and condensed it in the form of a sphere held firmly in his palm. He played a bit with the item while the fabric of space closed above him.

"Time to go," Noah exclaimed when he reached Supreme Thief. "Can you use this power for the breakthrough?"

"I might, but I won't," Supreme Thief announced.

"Get it done with then," Noah ordered.

"Sure, boss," Supreme Thief chuckled before rotating his hand and flicking the azure sphere.

The stolen and transformed aspect of Albatia's world fell into the void and flew until it disappeared among the blackness. Everyone on the scene inspected the event before regrouping above the healing fabric of space.

Whiteness soon filled the entirety of the area and erased every trace of the previous battles. The sky didn't send anything forward either. The group could stay in the middle of the enemy territory and make a point of their situation.

The latest achievement had been incredible. The group had removed three of the strongest assets of Heaven and Earth's army. Yet, their mission had suffered greatly.

Noah saw nothing but problems when he inspected his group. Most of them had suffered injuries, and some were in no condition to fight. Resting sounded mandatory, but they couldn't stay still in the middle of the sky, especially since they had yet to complete their mission.

The Eternal Snake would take a while to awaken, so Noah already stopped considering it. June, King Elbas, and the Foolery had suffered severe injuries, so he couldn't count on them too much either.

Maribel, Sepunia, Steven, and the odd dragon had suffered light injuries, but only Steven was a significant asset in the overall prowess of the group. Meanwhile, Noah was relatively tired and in need of refilling his world with potential.

Only Divine Demon and Supreme Thief appeared at their peak. They were powerhouses among the group, but Noah didn't know if they would be enough for the rest of the journey. Still, he didn't see other options.

Sending the injured companions back in the higher plane would be stupid since Heaven and Earth could ambush them during their flight through the sky. Noah wasn't even sure the rulers would let them go, but he didn't test the option since he had already disregarded that idea.

Moving forward with the current set-up appeared mandatory. The group had a decent chance to complete their mission as long as Heaven and Earth didn't intervene again, but that would remove Supreme Thief from their arsenal.

Noah still had Alexander and Wilfred in mind. Finding them after Supreme Thief initiated his breakthrough would be impossible since that would leave Divine Demon as the sole expert at his peak. Noah trusted that some of his companions would recover by then, but their power might still fall short.

The answer became obvious at that point. Supreme Thief would probably curse Noah, but he had made his decision.. They would look for Alexander and Wilfred before taking care of Supreme Thief's problem.

Chapter 2205 - 2205. Clumsy

There was only one massive problem with the plan of finding Alexander and Wilfred. Heaven and Earth had made their intentions clear. They wanted Supreme Thief to steal what he needed and get out of the sky without causing problems. However, they didn't say anything about the two hybrids.

Truth be told, Noah wasn't sure that Alexander and Wilfred were inside the sky. The hypothesis was very sound since they didn't show up at all during the creation of the landmass, but that didn't make it a certainty.

That faint uncertainty created an issue that went beyond the simple chance of looking for someone who wasn't there. The sky was inscrutable. Noah and the others would even know where to begin the search. They would typically try to find clues, but they wouldn't appear as long as Heaven and Earth remained silent.

"Elbas, how is your world?" Noah asked while the group remained in their position in the middle of the sky.

"I am fine," King Elbas scoffed. "I can deal with a minor search, but I won't find anything. I don't even know if my fake quasi-rank 10 stage can achieve something with the actual sky as the enemy."

Questioning Divine Demon was pointless after that explanation. The expert could accomplish miracles, but he had the world's energy as the limit. The sky could surpass that.

"It's up to us then," Noah stated, and Steven nodded as he began to inspect the area, trying to find something that Heaven and Earth were attempting to cover.

The absence of reasonable methods forced the group to rely on the inherent advantage that Noah and Steven had against Heaven and Earth due to their anger. They could instinctively find situations that could cause problems for the rulers better than anyone else, so they gambled everything on that.

Spending time staring at the immutable sky felt pointless, but Noah and Steven had to try. Yet, as time passed, it became clear that they wouldn't achieve anything like that.

"Let's try something else," Noah eventually interrupted the inspection. "Elbas, allow us to use the dragon's ability."

"What makes you think that I've developed something like that?" King Elbas sneered.

Noah shot a meaningful glance at King Elbas, and the latter crossed his arms before snorting loudly. A golden light left his body, and a big inscribed item expanded right under the group.

The item had a simple shape. It was nothing more than a pillar with a few platforms connected to its structure. Its use was also relatively straightforward, so the group immediately put themselves to work.

The odd dragon landed on top of the pillar and released its dark liquid. The item darkened as it absorbed that substance, but everything remained in the central structure for now.

Then, when Noah and Steven landed on two different platforms, the dark shade expanded toward them, which granted them access to a weaker version of the dragon's innate ability.

Now, the inspection could benefit from deep anger toward Heaven and Earth and a substance born to counter them. Noah and Steven began to see figures hiding behind the white layer, but nothing ever became clear.

'Come on, Alexander,' Noah cursed in his mind. 'Use one of your abilities to sense us.'

Alexander was incredible, but he couldn't react to what he didn't sense. Moreover, the sky would block anything that tried to reach him. The faint figures that Noah and Steven had managed to see were the best they could do at their level.

"We can't piece it," Noah exclaimed after deciding that they had remained too long in the same position.

"It has always been a gamble," Steven sighed as he left the platform and granted the odd dragon some well-deserved rest. "The sky simply isn't in the mood to lose anymore."

"We only have one option left," Noah announced.

"Why do I feel that you always wanted to go for that option?" King Elbas asked while retrieving his inscribed item.

"Hey, I gave the sky a chance," Noah justified himself. "Also, I bet Supreme Thief doesn't want to steal something handmade for him. He would rather take what he liked by force."

"Well, I'd take both," Supreme Thief responded, "But I like your idea. I guess I can delay the breakthrough a bit longer."

"That's the spirit!" The Foolery laughed.

"It's so obvious that even idiots understood it," King Elbas commented.

"Let's see where Heaven and Earth want us to go first," Noah ordered, and the group began to move.

The period spent investigating the sky had appeased some of the injuries suffered by the group, but their situation remained quite tragic. Still, their plan didn't allow them to think about those issues.

The sky began to transform now that the group had decided to move. The massive area that had been the home of three different battlefields shrunk to transform into a tunnel that tried to give a precise direction to that trip.

However, Noah and the others paid attention to the areas that Heaven and Earth had decided to close first. Then, they summoned the asset they had intended to use at the beginning of the mission.

The golden drill made its appearance inside the sky, but the group didn't hold back now. They had to be quick to counter any plan Heaven and Earth would try to throw at them, so they went all-out.

The dragon filled the drill with its dark liquid, and Divine Demon improved its features, turning it into an item that could pierce the sky at a decent pace. Noah also added his passive ambition, and Supreme Thief began to steal the laws on the weapon's path.

The biggest creature inside the group right now was the Foolery, which had no problem hiding inside the dark world or Shafu's separate dimensions. The tunnel didn't have to be immense anymore. A narrow passage was more than enough for the group, and that considerably quickened their advance.

Noah and the others felt to be inside a shining underground world that did its best to hinder their advance. They slipped through the narrow cracks opened by the drill for a long time until Heaven and Earth inevitably decided to intervene.

Bright figures appeared inside the walls around the experts. They knew that a few privileged cultivators were about to materialize in the area, so they escaped until Heaven and Earth's reopened some tunnels.

"We need to be faster next time," Noah ordered.

"And how do you plan on doing that?" King Elbas asked. "We are already sliding. Do you expect us to become ethereal?"

"We can always crawl," Noah suggested, and King Elbas put aside his annoyance to agree with that idea.

The experts shrunk the drill to increase its power output. The tunnels that it could create now were far smaller, but the experts could crawl inside them quite quickly, and that was enough.

Bright figures eventually appeared again, but the group fended them off by escaping in areas where Heaven and Earth allowed their stay. The process was beginning to feel pretty strange due to how easy they had it. After all, they never went back to their starting point even when they retreated.

The approach was clumsy and quite deplorable for existences at that level, but Noah and the others seized every chance that flew in their direction.. They could avoid fights while continuing to explore the sky, and that was exactly what they wanted.

Chapter 2206 - 2206. Snapping

Why were Heaven and Earth allowing their invaders to roam freely inside the sky? Why did the privileged cultivator stop chasing Noah and the others as soon as they retreated too much?

Those and many more questions often appeared in the experts' minds as they continued their clumsy exploration of the sky. Everyone had different theories, but the most valid explanation came from Heaven and Earth's dormant state.

The rulers had planned countermeasures for an eventual invasion, but Noah and the others didn't know if they were flexible or fixed programs that would activate after triggering specific conditions. The current situation hinted at the latter, but answers were impossible to obtain when the sky was involved.

Nevertheless, the group did their best to exploit that apparent flaw that Heaven and Earth had left in their defenses. They crawled, escaped, and crawled again, but the environment never seemed to change.

Noah tried to put that loophole into words. A path probably existed among the sky, but reaching it would trigger the arrival of privileged cultivators. There had to be a thin line that he could travel to obtain what he wanted without starting another battle.

Different thoughts also made their way inside Noah's mind. Caesar was a constant threat even if he wasn't around. There was always the chance that he had planned that situation to improve the power of Noah's organization and increase the value of their defeat.

Doubts over doubts piled on Noah's mind, but he showed no hesitation during his advance. Defying Heaven and Earth's pre-established path was what he had always done, and he wouldn't stop now due to faint fears that everything could be part of someone's plan.

'One problem at the time,' Noah often repeated in his mind to add power to his resolve.

The time spent in relatively safe areas was the only positive aspect that came out of that slow and clumsy journey. The group was recovering from the previous battle, even if the sky's radiance seemed to slow down that process.

King Elbas tried to map the sky's insides, but the lack of important findings prevented him from leaving checkpoints in that project. Heaven and Earth also seemed able to modify their world's insides freely, so his efforts felt pointless.

Still, King Elbas persevered in his project for a simple reason. He had nothing else to do during the journey, and the same went for his companions. They were all advancing blindly, hoping that something valuable eventually appeared on their path.

A change happened at some point, but not due to Heaven and Earth's flaws. Supreme Thief grew bored of stealing random laws while his desire to approach his breakthrough intensified.

That gave birth to greed that Supreme Thief couldn't keep inside his figure. His world instinctively mustered the power of the abilities connected to the field, and his gaze started to radiate azure light on its own.

The event made Supreme Thief land at the head of the group. He began to decide where the drill had to dig, and no one complained. Everyone had grown tired of that aimless travel, so they accepted the possibility of cutting their mission short.

"This is garbage, garbage!" Supreme Thief often cursed during the flight, but no one addressed him.

The annoying aspects of the trip were starting to wear down the experts' mental resilience. The final battle was imminent, but they were wasting so much time inside the sky. The lack of results also affected their mood, and the worst eventually happened.

"I'm tired of this," Divine Demon exclaimed. "A demon should never crawl for so long. I'll just destroy everything."

"Don't speak your usual nonsense!" King Elbas shouted. "We should stop and study everything thoroughly to build a weapon that can destroy everything."

"You all speak too much!" The Foolery squealed. "Give me everything you have so that I can eat everything."

"You are all annoying," Supreme Thief cursed. "I'm the main character in this mission. I should be the one to steal everything."

"I can't stand this light any longer," Steven announced. "My anger is boiling. Let's remove everything Heaven and Earth have achieved."

"You are all idiots," June commented. "We should just cause a mess and start the final battle to kill everyone."

The mental weariness was taking out the worst aspects of the experts' characters. All of them pointed toward the destruction of the sky through different approaches, and Noah had to watch everything unfold.

Truth be told, Noah was suffering from the same issues. His companions even roared or shouted in his mind, which made everything worse. Yet, he didn't voice his disappointment to avoid causing even more chaos among his team.

Part of Noah also wanted his friends to unleash their bad aspects. He knew that the team needed a sharp change in the approach to the mission, and letting those experts express their anger would definitely bring it.

"Fine, everyone will work on their own," Divine Demon exclaimed during the discussion. "We'll see who can get some results first."

"Do you really think you can beat me after witnessing my might?!" King Elbas challenged. "It's about time I proved you wrong."

"I'll start to eat then!" The Foolery squealed.

"You are one step behind me!" Steven shouted as he launched dark strands of energy inside the sky.

"Wait until I show you who is the true expert among us," Supreme Thief laughed.

"Wait, fight me for the chance to be first!" June exclaimed, but Noah pulled her back and sealed her mouth.

"You need to recover first," Noah whispered to June's ear, and the latter gave up on fighting for the time being.

The experts began to attack the sky through different methods. Most of them didn't do much due to the sheer power carried by that white layer, but the change in the pace felt pleasant to witness.

The narrow tunnel transformed into a relatively vast area as the offensive continued, and Noah, June, the odd dragon, Maribel, and Sepunia hovered at its center to inspect the scene. Noah felt the urge to join that reckless assault, but he held back to prepare for Heaven and Earth's reaction.

Strangely enough, Heaven and Earth didn't immediately respond. They let the group cause a mess in the area, even if the damage was relatively limited. The sky was so powerful that even King Elbas and Divine Demon struggled to pierce it on their own.

Supreme Thief was the only one who was getting somewhere. His ability to steal laws weakened the sky before him and tainted its fabric, making it easier to pierce. The area expanded faster on his side, but that only made the others work harder.

"Your group never changes, does it?" A familiar voice eventually resounded from the sky and made everyone stop what they were doing.

"Can we get to see someone else?" Noah sighed. "I would like to understand what else Heaven and Earth have in store."

"I'm sure you would," Caesar chuckled as an ethereal version of his body materialized next to Noah. "Please, keep going. I have something to discuss with your leader."

A series of snorts, curses, and displeased comments resounded, but the experts eventually went back to their relentless offensive. Meanwhile, Noah nodded at the companions next to him, and they understood that they had to let him have some privacy.

Noah expanded the dark world, leaving only Caesar's ethereal figure and June inside it. The privileged cultivator glanced at her, but he quickly decided to speak anyway. "We have Alexander and Wilfred."

Chapter 2207 - 2207. Deal

Caesar's statement made June tense up, but Noah remained calm. He knew how strong his companions were, so he could see the flaws in those words.

"You don't have them," Noah corrected. "You have only trapped them inside the sky."

"I don't see the difference," Caesar laughed.

"I do," Noah growled.

Silence fell among the dark world. Caesar's ethereal figure flickered due to the influence in its surroundings, but it never faded. Noah also failed to sense it properly, which convinced him about Heaven and Earth's involvement.

"Don't you want to hear what I have to say?" Caesar asked.

"I thought that you worked against Heaven and Earth to make them obtain what they couldn't see," Noah responded, pretending to ignore Caesar's question.

"I do many things," Caesar vaguely replied. "Also, I know that you can see how the situation has changed. Heaven and Earth aren't the same confused entity they used to be."

"Does it mean that you are working together now?" Noah asked.

"We have never stopped working together," Caesar claimed. "The level of awareness has simply changed."

"I wonder what they think about your fate," Noah uttered.

"It's not my fate," Caesar corrected. "You should understand it by now. After all, you have fought my world a few times already."

"The fact that your world can spread throughout the higher plane doesn't change its nature," Noah stated. "An influence will always have a source, and that makes it vulnerable."

"Your destructive thoughts have hurt the sky many times in the past," Caesar revealed. "I wonder if they are limiting your perspective now."

"All these doubts that you try to inject into my world can't achieve much," Noah declared. "I don't have the power to block your influence, but you are in the same situation. You can't make me hesitate."

"I can't," Caesar admitted, "But that's not the point. I'm merely adding pieces to pave the path to victory. It doesn't matter how small they are. In the end, all of them will count."

Noah couldn't deny that. Caesar was an old monster who had focused on a single plan for countless eras. He wanted Heaven and Earth to achieve their best state, and it was impossible to know how many tricks he had devised.

"We will find Alexander and Wilfred sooner or later," Noah eventually announced. "You can't keep them inside the sky forever, and they probably are the hardest to kill in our organization."

"That's why I came here," Caesar revealed before chuckling at the sight of his ethereal hands. "Well, I'm not really here. I hope you won't mind me sending a projection. I figured that the atmosphere was too tense to bring my real body."

The curses of the experts recklessly attacking the sky were enough to prove Caesar's point. A giant battle would have started if privileged cultivators had dared to show their faces among that chaos.

"Are they making it hard for Heaven and Earth?" Noah wondered. "I don't believe that your side is so weak. Alexander and Wilfred are strong, but they can't win against your entire army."

"Your battle has caused some slight unrest," Caesar vaguely revealed. "You must understand that the death of privileged cultivators is a historical event, especially due to how it happened."

"What? Did your side just realize that Heaven and Earth aren't real allies?" Noah mocked. "They are a few eras too late."

"No one has ever questioned that," Caesar stated.

"Get to the point already," Noah sighed. "I'm sure you have fanatics willing to die to take down two of us. You have clearly told them to hold back. Why?"

"Because killing them now would be a waste," Caesar calmly declared.

Noah revealed a cold face, but he understood that point. Defeating enemies wasn't Heaven and Earth's main focus anymore. They wanted to succeed in the breakthrough, which, according to Caesar, required powerful stepping stones.

If Caesar and Heaven and Earth had really started to work together properly, there was a high chance that they had decided to let Noah's organization grow. That would give them a final hindrance worthy of the breakthrough to the tenth rank.

"Heaven and Earth could have just led us toward them," Noah pointed out. "Your presence is unnecessary unless you have something else to say."

"Actually, there is something that I forgot to mention," Caesar laughed.

"What a surprise," Noah sneered.

"Your friends might have caused a slight problem, and they won't hear reason about it," Caesar revealed.

"What kind of problem?" Noah questioned.

"They have captured some of us," Caesar replied. "We have offered them a path outside the sky in exchange for their lives, but they have refused. I'm afraid they have created a stalemate."

"So, you want me to order them to accept the deal," Noah guessed.

"Exactly," Caesar exclaimed. "Of course, my offer doesn't only involve their lives and those of everyone here. Your friend will also get what he needs to reach the solid stage."

"I want Heaven and Earth to offer him a few things to steal," Noah bargained. "Limiting him to one choice won't work."

"But he would just take everything Heaven and Earth offer," Caesar complained.

"If that's the case, so be it," Noah shrugged his shoulders.

Caesar fell silent for a few seconds and even glanced at the sky outside the dark world. He appeared immersed in a conversation, which ended with a simple exclamation. "Heaven and Earth agree to this deal."

"What happens after we return to the landmass?" Noah asked. "You have seen the maniacs in my organization. Do you want to stay up and wait for Heaven and Earth to start the final battle?"

"Don't try to trick me," Caesar chuckled. "We both know Supreme Thief is the last expert who can advance with the sky's resources. Everyone else in your organization either has what they need on the landmass or has to wait for the final battle to start."

"You have kept good track of us," Noah voiced as a cold smile appeared on his face. "You are correct. This trip is our last mission. The final battle will come next."

"So, do we have a deal?" Caesar asked.

"Sure, why not," Noah casually agreed.

"I'll see you all during the final battle then," Caesar announced while performing a bow and disappearing among the dark world.

Noah inspected the insides of his technique a few times to make sure that Caesar had left before heaving a helpless sigh. Heaven and Earth knew exactly how strong his organization was, while the opposite was impossible to achieve. The sky hid far too many secrets.

"Is he always like this?" June asked.

"Caesar is hard to deal with," Noah declared. "I can't wait to fight him properly during the final battle. I'll finally have the chance to vent all the annoyance he has caused."

"No wonder," June whispered before voicing another doubt. "Why did you accept? I know you weren't lying when you said that you respect your end of the deal."

"I didn't lie because I have every intention of behaving as planned," Noah responded. "I will tell Alexander and Wilfred to release their prisoners. It's up to them to follow my orders."

"Should I expect a big battle?" June asked as excitement filled her expression.

"I don't know yet," Noah admitted.. "I'll make up my mind once I see what Alexander and Wilfred are up to."

Chapter 2208 - 2208. Reunion

The sky transformed right after Noah retracted the dark world. King Elbas and the others suddenly found their targets retreating and taking the shape of a vast tunnel.

The surprising event obviously had Noah as its source, so all the eyes on the scene converged on him. Still, he preferred not to explain the deal right away since he had yet to make up his mind about the whole matter.

"Let's follow the path," Noah limited himself to announce. "It will lead us to Alexander and Wilfred."

King Elbas and the others could sense that there was more to the matter, but they didn't voice questions. Noah must have had his reasons to keep the explanation so short, and they respected his silence, especially while they were still inside the sky.

Everyone calmed down now that a clear target had appeared. The environment had yet to change significantly, but no one felt lost anymore. Something in their surroundings told their minds that they were getting somewhere.

Noah played the conversation with Caesar multiple times in his mind. He believed the privileged cultivator when he said that killing everyone now would be pointless. Still, that wouldn't prevent the deal from being a trap.

Of course, Noah never considered sacrificing Alexander and Wilfred, but some of his decisions might lead to their death. Actually, the plan he liked the most could kill everyone from his side currently in the sky. He had to think the matter thoroughly to be ready for when he saw his companions' condition.

The flight through the tunnel was silent and tense. Everyone could sense that they were heading toward a potential turning point in the history of the higher plane, but no one said anything.

The flight took a while, but a bright area eventually appeared in the distance. Noah and the others tried to send mental waves past those shining edges, but they crumbled before they could gather information.

The event forced the group to prepare their energy and step into the bright area. The change in environment destabilized their senses for an instant, but everyone soon became able to see the stunning scene clearly.

Heaven and Earth weren't to blame for that blinding radiance. The sky inside the area carried its usual light and delimited a spacious environment that had probably seen a few battles.

Still, a proper platoon of privileged cultivators that Noah and the others had never seen floated next to the areas' edges and intensified their radiance. Their figures acted as channels that turned the white light from bearable to blinding.

Instead, a multicolored sphere floated at the area's center, but its radiance didn't spread due to the white light. Moreover, two figures sat on top of it, but their auras suffered a similar fate.

'This is worse than I thought,' Noah commented in his mind as he inspected the scene. 'I guess trying to evaluate Heaven and Earth's power has always been impossible.'

All the privileged cultivators in the area were in the solid stage, and Noah could count more than thirty of them. According to his instincts, many of them were weaker than Albatia, but a few were far stronger.

Thirty solid stage cultivators were a scary number. Even the entirety of the black landmass didn't have so many powerful assets. Also, the sky could hide more experts, which only worsened any prediction about the final battle that Noah could come up with.

The two experts sitting on the multicolored sphere were the only reassuring aspect of that scene. Alexander and Wilfred wore cold and defying expressions in front of that show of power, and their liquid stage auras did their best to shine brightly among that suppression.

The multicolored sphere showed some peculiarities too. Its fabric carried various natures due to the different abilities used to create it, but faint traces of powerful auras also seeped out of it.

A deeper inspection hinted at the presence of three privileged cultivators inside the multicolored sphere. They were alive, but that didn't remove anything from Alexander and Wilfred's achievement.

"Your leader has finally arrived," One of the privileged cultivators hovering next to the sky's edges announced. "Defying Demon, explain the deal to your underlings."

"Watch your mouth," Noah growled. "That sounded like an order. I've killed for far less."

The privileged cultivator snorted and opened his mouth to reply, but one of the stronger members of the platoon glared at him. There would be a time for arrogance, but their plans involved something different now.

"Long time no see!" Wilfred shouted as Noah's group approached the multicolored sphere.

"I don't see the sword maniac," Alexander continued. "Have you yet to find him?"

"No, Sword Saint is in the new higher plane," Noah explained. "He is a key aspect of the preparations for the final battle."

"New higher plane?" Wilfred asked.

"I expected nothing less from you," Alexander laughed. "No wonder you are your leader."

King Elbas cleared his throat, and the Foolery lifted its head. It was clear that they wanted their share of praises, and Noah shook his head before explaining a bit more. "Everyone played their part. We also brought many new faces. It's pretty lively down there."

"Is there food?" Wilfred questioned.

"The pig and Elbas took care of it," Noah revealed before wearing a knowing smile. "They worked together for the greater good of our force."

Wilfred and Alexander shot surprised glances at King Elbas, and his dark expression revealed how things had really gone. The two couldn't help but start laughing, and the rest of the group quickly imitated them.

"We missed some good jokes," Wilfred exclaimed.

"There is always time to make new ones," Divine Demon winked.

"It's commendable that you have yet to betray us," Alexander commented.

"I've thought about it multiple times," King Elbas admitted, "But siding with Heaven and Earth would be too easy. There was no time to create a new organization either, so I've postponed my vengeance for when we reach the tenth rank."

"That will be fun," Alexander laughed. "I can't wait."

"So, this deal," Wilfred reminded.

"Right," Noah exclaimed as the dark world began to come out of his figure.

"Defying Demon, this wasn't part of the deal!" One of the privileged shouted. "You have to convey orders, not discuss them with your underlings."

"And what can you do about it?" Noah sneered as the dark world completely unfolded.

"Those bastards," Wilfred snorted once the entire group was inside the safety of the dark world. "They can't even accept an honorable defeat."

"We thought we could finally kill some strong asset," Alexander explained, "But this encirclement suddenly appeared and forced us into a stalemate."

"What did you even say to stop their offensive?" Steven wondered.

"I told them that I have one hundred self-destructive innate abilities," Alexander smirked. "No one moved afterward."

"What were you doing inside the sky?" Noah asked.

"I was hungry," Alexander stated.

"Same here," Wilfred added.

"We are in this mess because these two can't silence their stomachs," King Elbas cursed. "You are existences in the ninth rank. How can you even let your hunger make you do something so reckless?"

"Initially, we were doing fine," Wilfred revealed. "Then the sky changed, and we remained trapped inside."

"Oh," King Elbas gasped.

"Oh, what?" Wilfred asked.

"That's our fault," Noah replied. "We triggered the transformation."

"Oh," Wilfred and Alexander exclaimed at the same time, but a quick exchange of glances made the whole group explode into a loud laugh.

Chapter 2209 - 2209. Exchange

"Caesar asked me to make you release these prisoners in exchange for a way out of the sky and Supreme Thief's breakthrough," Noah summarized once the group managed to get back on the main topic.

"He really wants us to be alive until the final battle," King Elbas scoffed.

"Why would we even hear our enemy's pleas?" Divine Demon snorted.

"I don't like it," Steven announced.

"Well, it does involve my breakthrough," Supreme Thief commented, "But it's not stealing if I can just pick it up."

"I smell a ploy," The Foolery exclaimed, "And something else. No, wait. That was me. I smell only the ploy."

"I mean, we already got part of what we wanted," June pointed out.

"Having the sword maniac here would have helped," Wilfred sighed.

Only the main players in Noah's group spoke. The odd dragon, Maribel, and Sepunia knew that they had no place in that conversation. The choice was up to the experts who had made the very idea of standing their ground during the final battle possible.

Noah heard everyone's comments before moving his reptilian eyes on Alexander. The hybrid was the only one who had yet to speak, and he wore a meaningful smirk when he noticed that gesture.

"How do we screw them up?" Alexander asked.

"I knew it would have ended like this," King Elbas cursed.

"How can he still act so surprised?" The Foolery wondered.

"Your intelligence suffers when you study so much," Divine Demon explained.

"I see," The Foolery exclaimed. "I'll never study in my life!"

"Good pig," Divine Demon laughed.

"Let's go for a suicidal plan and hope to die," King Elbas sighed as he massaged his temples.

"The suicidal plan involves battles, so I'm in," June declared.

"I'm fine as long as we go against Heaven and Earth," Steven uttered.

"Don't look at me," Wilfred declared. "I only know how to punch stuff."

"I've already made up my mind," Noah revealed, "But I want to leave the last word to Supreme Thief this time. You might lose your chance to steal what you need for the breakthrough if we go for this plan."

"Stealing now or stealing later," Supreme Thief muttered. "What an awful dilemma. Great Builder will even tease me if I come back empty-handed."

"Do we have an escape plan?" Alexander asked while Supreme Thief immersed himself in his thoughts.

"Elbas is coming up with one now," Noah replied.

"If you have to speak on my behalf, at least do it properly," King Elbas snorted. "I'm coming up with twelve plans!"

"Sadly, he isn't as modest as me," The Foolery sighed. "I would have said eleven plans when I actually had one hundred."

"I bet they all involve eating your way out of the sky," King Elbas guessed.

The Foolery gasped before voicing a comment. "Noah, Noah, I think Xavier is getting smarter."

"Spending time with us has benefited his intellect greatly," Divine Demon claimed.

"I'm pretty sure I can start the final battle without your help," King Elbas cursed.

"Are you even ready for the final battle?" Supreme Thief asked.

"Well, as ready as we can be," Alexander declared.

"I believe all of us have given up on reaching the solid stage before that event," Noah continued. "The world simply doesn't have what we need to advance."

"But that won't change during the battle," Supreme Thief stated.

"I need to kill stronger experts to expand my influence," Noah declared before pointing at his companions. "Alexander needs to prove his superiority, Wilfred punches stuff, June wants lightning bolts, Steven is happy as long as Heaven and Earth suffer, and Elbas has a date with a privileged cultivator."

"What about...," Supreme Thief began to say while turning toward Divine Demon and the Foolery before correcting his words. "No, I got the gist of it. You need the sky to unleash what it has to gain access to what you need."

"Pretty much," Noah exclaimed.

"You are a bunch of simpletons," Supreme Thief stated.

"Pretty much," Noah repeated.

"Dammit," Supreme Thief exclaimed. "I'm also a simpleton."

"That's it then," Noah announced. "Let's make a scene."

The privileged cultivators outside the dark world couldn't hear the conversation, and their irritation grew as time passed. They had the chance to end that pointless rebellion here and now, but Heaven and Earth preferred to wait, and they followed their orders.

Still, those experts knew basically everything about Noah and his group. They had studied their opponents thoroughly, so they felt sure that a plan was coming to life inside the dark world.

Nevertheless, firm confidence won over the irritation inside the privileged cultivators' minds. No matter what Noah and his companions came up with, their position wouldn't change. They were inside the sky, so their plans couldn't succeed.

As more time passed, it became evident that Noah's group was planning to go back on their word. Nothing else could explain that long wait. Even the most stubborn expert in the world would be convinced by then, especially when someone like Noah was involved.

The privileged cultivators prepared for the imminent battle as they waited in silence and avoided performing meaningful gestures. They also had a backup plan that they were ready to unleash. They would still leave Noah's group alive, but they would kill the experts that Heaven and Earth didn't need.

The shrinking of the dark world generated a wave of temporary happiness that soon turned into tension. The privileged cultivators couldn't contain their joy when the wait finally ended, but they didn't forget that a battle was about to arrive.

"Where are Supreme Thief's options?" Noah asked once the dark world disappeared and his group came out in the open.

The privileged cultivators couldn't believe their eyes. The multicolored sphere had shrunk until it could fit inside a palm, and Noah played with it while he waited for an answer. He shook it and passed it between his hands even if that action hurt the experts trapped inside it.

"Release them!" One of the privileged cultivators ordered, but a dangerous sensation suddenly filled her senses and forced her to deploy a defensive technique.

A slash materialized in front of the privileged cultivator and slammed on the white barrier that covered her. The protection shattered, and the attack landed on her body, leaving a deep cut that expanded due to the lingering destruction on its edges.

"What did I say about the orders?" Noah asked.

"Calm down, Defying Demon," One of the stronger cultivators said before waving his hand and making his companions open a path where Heaven and Earth's light could pass. "We'll do the exchange."

A pillar of light came out of the sky and stretched until it reached Noah's group. The shining structure carried four spherical items that radiated deep rank 9 power. They resembled complete worlds, and Supreme Thief didn't hesitate to approach them.

"I'll take all of them," Supreme Thief laughed as he waved a hand above the spheres and made them disappear.

"We expected as much," The privileged cultivator from before announced before pointing his eyes at Noah.

Noah sighed and shook the multicolored sphere a few more times before throwing it at the privileged cultivator. The latter caught it and sent mental waves to check its insides. As surprising as it was, Noah's group really seemed to have held their end of the deal.

"The path outside the sky," Noah reminded, and the sky behind him opened. A tunnel that led toward a familiar dark area formed, and the group didn't hesitate to dart inside it.

"See you during the final battle," Noah exclaimed before shooting through the tunnel with his companions.

The sky had compressed the fabric of space inside the tunnel, so Noah's group could leave the white area in no time. They soon found themselves back in the dark environment that had their landmass at its center, and Daniel promptly materialized in front of them.

"You are back!" Daniel calmly exclaimed, but the dark world suddenly enveloped his figure.

"Make everyone prepare for battle," Noah ordered before Daniel could understand what was happening.. "Heaven and Earth are about to wake up."

Chapter 2210 - 2210. Trap

Daniel didn't say anything. His figure transformed into a ray of white light that shot out of the dark world and landed on the landmass in an instant. A series of inscriptions activated afterward, and the whole structure lit up.

Noah retracted the dark world and glanced at his companions. Some were still injured and wouldn't be able to express their full power, but he also confirmed that all the landmass' defenses were in place. They would have time to slow down Heaven and Earth's advance, so the others might have a chance to recover.

"Well, let's not waste time now," Noah laughed. "I'll make my speech once everything is set."

"You can save the speech," King Elbas sneered.

"A leader has to make a speech before a battle," Divine Demon declared.

"Do you realize that he won't say much?" June added. "He'll probably roar or something."

"That works for me!" The Foolery squealed.

"What's wrong with a roar?" Wilfred asked.

"We'll have time to joke around," Alexander scolded. "It's time to prepare for real now."

"Well, probably," Steven joked. "Don't you dare to die on me."

"And if you do die, make sure to take a bunch of them with you," Noah ordered. "We are in the endgame now. Every death counts."

"Let's have fun!" Divine Demon shouted, and the group flew toward different areas of the landmass.

Noah and June had their personal training areas close to each other, but they landed between them to exchange a long kiss. They both knew that the next time they would see each other would be on the battlefield, which wouldn't leave them space for that intimacy.

"It has finally come," June exclaimed as she immersed her hand in Noah's hair.

"Don't look too worried about it," Noah joked.

"Hey, we are almost there, right?" June asked as her battle intent waned slightly to make room for her serious tone.

"Yes," Noah declared. "We'll either die or destroy the sky."

"Don't look too excited about it," June joked.

"I can't help it," Noah laughed. "I think I have waited for this moment since the aptitude test in the academy."

"That was entire lifetimes ago," June sighed. "Is it how you imagined it?"

Noah raised his head to glance at the sky. That part was almost identical to what he had seen during the test, but everything else was different. The very ground where he was standing was something he didn't expect to have.

"I thought I would have been alone," Noah revealed.

"You can't have Heaven and Earth all for yourself," June teased. "Well, you have never been good at sharing now that I think about it."

"I think Heaven and Earth will have enough to keep everyone satisfied and busy," Noah guessed.

"I hope that," June snorted. "What kind of final battle would that even be otherwise?"

"I'm sure the rulers won't disappoint you, my relentless battle maniac," Noah reassured while caressing June's cheek.

June pulled Noah closer until their foreheads touched. They knew that there wasn't enough time to express their passion now, but they still wanted to take a few seconds to enjoy that last moment of intimacy.

Noah and June had been together for so long that words were useless between them. Their eyes met, and they exchanged another kiss before separating and flying toward their respective training areas.

Meanwhile, the privileged cultivators remained on the other side of the tunnel to make sure that Noah and the others returned to the landmass without planting anything inside the sky. Everything seemed to go well, so the opening closed.

"Who wants to open this thing?" The cultivator with the multicolored sphere asked. "I bet those rebels have planted traps inside it, but I don't want to bother Divine Architect."

"We can just leave those three idiots inside as a punishment," Another cultivator suggested. "How could they lose against two of them?"

"Noah Balvan's group is full of incredible experts," A third cultivator replied. "Even Albatia died."

"They ganged up on her," A fourth cultivator pointed out. "Besides, who could even expect Xavier Elbas to have such a powerful technique."

"Caesar has let them do as they wished for too long," A fifth cultivator sighed. "Still, nothing will matter in the end. Heaven and Earth can't lose."

Everyone on the scene nodded, and the sky closed around them. The conversation continued inside the white layer, which didn't hinder their movements or words, but a foreign noise eventually resounded among them.

The privileged cultivators immediately located the source of the sound, but they were one second too slow anyway. The multicolored sphere shattered, but nothing came out of it.

The surprise that spread among the experts lasted only one second since their surroundings suddenly turned dark. That event was theoretically impossible since they were inside the sky, but they quickly found an explanation for it. Noah had used a stronger version of the Shadow Domain to make that energy expand in that environment.

The whole dark area trembled, and countless figures moved inside it. The privileged cultivators didn't take long to understand that all the blackness in their vision wasn't mere energy. It was the product of a series of creatures stuffed together to mask their appearances.

Roars resounded as six-armed dragons left the main group and tried to fly through the sky. They obviously couldn't pierce the white layer after coming out of the Shadow Domain, so they self-destructed to release even more energy.

The same quasi-rank 10 energy that King Elbas had unleashed against Albatia and other powers shot out of the dragons and ravaged everything in their range. Those fuels also carried the odd dragon's innate ability, which made them able to damage the sky.

The privileged cultivators ended up suffering the most from those explosions since the trap had taken them by surprise multiple times in the span of a single second. They saw the best attacks that Noah's group could unleash landing on their bodies relentlessly until they fell prey to proper storms.

Many died right away, while others suffered severe injuries. The privileged cultivators had expected the multicolored sphere to be a trap, but they didn't expect Noah's group to go beyond what they had seen during their last battles.

It was clear that Noah's group had paid a hefty price to stuff all that power and assets inside the multicolored sphere, but the privileged cultivators couldn't think about that. They were too busy preserving their lives to care about the details of the trap.

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Noah dived underground to reach his training area. The structure had everything an existence at his level could desire, and it even featured enhanced scanners to keep track of the sky.

His ethereal blackness struggled to remain unfolded due to the complete absence of potential in its insides, but energy soon started to refill it. The event put a smile on Noah's face and made him glance at the scanner to make sure that he didn't miss such an important event.

The scanners turned out to be superfluous. A deafening rumbling noise came out of the sky and made everything inside it shake. The fabric of space and the dark area trembled to no end and threatened to shatter, but the landmass remained still.

Then, the heaviest aura the world had ever experienced filled the higher plane and tried to suppress everything living inside it. Multiple shining figures also appeared at the sky's edges.

Heaven and Earth had awakened, and their forces were about to enter the higher plane. The final battle had begun.