

Demonic 2221

Chapter 2221 - 2221. Curse

"You feel it, don't you?" The old rulers asked. "You know what's going to happen if you absorb us, but you can't help yourself."

Heaven and Earth didn't answer as they continued to absorb chunks of the old rulers' body. Some areas of the battlefield also went silent as the experts inspected the event. Their instincts were telling them that something big was about to happen.

"It turns out that severing pieces of yourself can work only if you decide to remain a mess," The old rulers declared. "You have tried to regain clarity, so you have understood that you need us."

Some privileged cultivators understood that the event wouldn't lead to anything good, so they teleported near the old rulers to interrupt the process. However, a series of barriers that belonged to Heaven and Earth and the old rulers hindered their path and made them unable to advance.

"Your leaders won't care about what you have to say," The old rulers mocked. "They only want to become whole again, so stay put and enjoy the show."

A few complaints resounded around the barrier, but the old rulers didn't care about them. They focused on Heaven and Earth and the meanings leaving their body. They could feel death approaching, but they faced it without fear.

"You know, they really have a chance," The old rulers sighed. "They are a bunch of crazy maniacs who are only one step short from killing each other, but they are strong. We would have liked to experience our journey with them."

A golden light slowly materialized inside the barriers. The radiance struggled to expand, but the old rulers seemed unable to stop that process completely.

The light slowly turned into an ethereal version of King Elbas. The expert inspected his surroundings before studying the effects of the white light. His ghostly figure had vague facial features, but a dark expression appeared anyway.

"You have gone past our traps without breaking them," The old rulers commented.

"I didn't," King Elbas snorted. "This is only a projection of my consciousness. It's far from a success."

"Your relentless search for perfection is the greatest flaw in your world," The old rulers joked.

"Only if I fail to achieve perfection," King Elbas proudly replied.

The two fell silent for a few seconds, but King Elbas eventually rekindled the conversation. "I can interrupt this process if you buy me enough time."

"Why would you do that?" The old rulers asked.

"Because saving your asses is my job," King Elbas revealed.

"That's our job too," The old rulers stated. "I guess having two experts in the same fields has always been inefficient."

"I'll take inefficient during these harsh times," King Elbas announced.

"Don't worry," The old rulers reassured. "We are here to make them slightly easier."

"You have made up your mind," King Elbas uttered.

"We did a long time ago," The old rulers declared. "We did when we realized that we couldn't escape our nature."

"You can always throw yourself away and start again," King Elbas pointed out.

"Would you do that?" The old rulers questioned. "Would any of you throw away what you have achieved throughout countless years of struggles in front of a mere hindrance?"

"The goal is to go past the peak," King Elbas responded.

"No," The old rulers contradicted. "The goal is to bring your worlds past the peak, the worlds that you have nurtured for so long. We are doing the same. Our end is simply different."

"Death is not a goal," King Elbas exclaimed.

"We won't die," The old rulers replied, "At least not immediately. You'll have to inflict the finishing blow."

"Why didn't you ask us to find another path?" King Elbas asked.

"Because we deserve this," The old rulers explained. "We have caused too many problems in the world, too much death. We have to pay for what we have done. We'll pay the price so that the scales of balance will return in your favor."

"What price?" King Elbas snorted. "What did you even do? You are walking on the cultivation journey. You use whatever works to get yourself beyond the peak."

"We will go beyond the peak," The old rulers chuckled. "That's when you'll kill us."

King Elbas and the others listening to that conversation understood what the old rulers meant. The latter had basically declared that Heaven and Earth's breakthrough was inevitable, but that event would give the experts a chance to kill them.

Still, killing Heaven and Earth would also destroy what they absorbed about the old rulers. The latter would technically go beyond the peak since they would be part of the sky, but their efforts aimed to pave the path for the landmass' victory.

"What about your assets?" King Elbas asked. "You know how we are. We'll loot your city and leave nothing behind."

"Everything we have ever represented already has worthy heirs," The old rulers revealed. "We actually didn't expect to find such suitable experts. I guess the same world is telling us that our existence is no longer needed."

King Elbas' eyes lit up in understanding, but he didn't say anything as he waited for the old rulers to make their announcement. He couldn't take away their last words.

"Our Breath has a new king," The old rulers announced as their voice spread throughout the higher plane. "We couldn't add a will to our energy, so it chose the expert with the strongest individuality as its new master. Divine Demon, make sure to remain the most selfish being in the world."

Divine Demon still couldn't speak through the communication devices, but he didn't need to give answers. Everyone knew how he would react. He raised a hand and created a cup of wine before lifting it toward the old rulers.

"As for our city," The old rulers continued, "Its contents, buildings, and assets will belong to the only expert who touched our peaks without abandoning his individuality. King Xavier Elbas, take care of our kingdom."

"Don't go around throwing burdens at people," King Elbas snorted. "Still, I guess your city would be wasted in those brutes' hands. It would be a pity to refuse it."

"Our only request is that you take care of our army," The old rulers stated. "You can ask Defying Demon's help if you don't know how to handle those creatures."

"Do you really want to use your last words to insult me?" King Elbas asked.

"That's how things work in Heaven and Earth's Cancer," The old rulers laughed as the light radiated by their body intensified.

King Elbas remained inside the barriers as long as possible, but the orange light eventually shattered his ethereal figure. The orange radiance then tainted the white rays connected to the sky and spread that different shade directly into Heaven and Earth's world.

Heaven and Earth didn't interrupt the absorption. The process quickened after the old rulers unleashed the entirety of their power, and the tainted rays soon retreated to return inside the sky.

Everything remained still when the process ended. Most modified magical beasts and buildings didn't know what to do now that the old rulers' influence had disappeared from the higher plane. They continued to carry their power, but they felt that their connection to that existence had disappeared.

However, Heaven and Earth didn't give the army the time to think since a deafening cry left the sky.. The unclear roar slowly transformed until a distinct curse resounded throughout the higher plane. "What have you done?!"

Chapter 2222 - 2222. Net

The sky trembled as Heaven and Earth's words resounded throughout the higher plane. The curse was so loud that some rank 7 assets saw cracks opening on their bodies, but both armies did their best to preserve their lives.

The tremors intensified as Heaven and Earth mustered their power. Vast, shining spots appeared on multiple areas of the sky and began to give birth to the giant hands again, but that light shattered before it could condense.

Heaven and Earth didn't give up. They tried to summon different techniques, but their light seemed unable to survive outside the sky. There was something preventing them from reaching the battlefield, and they didn't hesitate to isolate that issue.

The tremors intensified even more and reached the point when entire chunks of the sky separated from the main structure and transformed into meteorites that fell on the battlefield.

Most of those boulders simply disappeared inside the void, but both armies had to handle the few that tried to crash among them. Of course, that event didn't carry any killing intent, so even the weaker assets could change the meteorites' trajectory.

Still, everyone's attention remained on the sky. Heaven and Earth seemed on the verge of breaking their world apart for the sole sake of finding the old rulers' curse.

The white layer thinned as giant cracks opened on its surface, and the process continued until a faint orange radiance began to shine in its insides. Heaven and Earth pushed that energy toward the external areas of their world, and a spectacular scene slowly became visible.

Heaven and Earth's efforts made the old rulers' curse stand out among that whiteness. A net-like structure slowly seeped out of the sky before clinging to its surface. Its orange radiance began to shine more brightly at that point, and Heaven and Earth failed to push it into the void.

The sky appeared trapped into an orange net that restrained Heaven and Earth inside their world. The structure involved both sides of the white layer, and its purpose felt self-explanatory in the eyes of the landmass' leaders.

'They have put a cage around the sky,' Noah exclaimed in his mind. 'Heaven and Earth can't affect the battlefield like this.'

The old rulers' plan had been simple. The final battle had a massive problem that the landmass' forces couldn't address properly. It was even safe to say that the issue couldn't have solutions.

Heaven and Earth were the massive problems. They didn't have issues connected to their energy reserves, and the numerical advantage of their army allowed them to launch attacks without minding their underlings.

In theory, Heaven and Earth could disrupt any defense that Noah and the others had planted around the landmass. They had more energy, so their opponents would exhaust their reserves before them.

Heaven and Earth didn't need to go so hard on the landmass because their slow but relentless approach could bring similar results without wasting so much energy. Yet, that wouldn't stop them from sending massive attacks every once in a while.

That option seemed to have vanished now. The old rulers had planted a net in the very sky. That structure destabilized Heaven and Earth's light as soon as it left the white layer, preventing them from using their quasi-rank 10 attacks to overcome annoying situations.

With Heaven and Earth temporarily out of the final battle, the focus of the battlefield would return on the two armies. Moreover, the landmass didn't have restrictions, so Noah and the others could use their defenses to widen their advantage.

Heaven and Earth obviously weren't happy about that development. They tried their best to shake away the orange net, but their efforts led nowhere.

The old rulers knew Heaven and Earth like no one else in the higher plane, so they had devised a curse that could keep them at bay for quite some time. Of course, the landmass' side didn't hesitate to capitalize on that advantage.

Noah roared as soon as the orange barriers around his training area vanished. His cry contained a tinge of sadness, but the orders that it carried were clear and expressed the entirety of his pride. His underlings had to go all-out now and seize a decisive victory while Heaven and Earth couldn't intervene.

The landmass' army didn't need anything else. A single roar was more than enough to make them muster the entirety of their power and launch it toward their opponents. It was time to be reckless and relentless.

The change in the army's approach forced the various improved and privileged cultivators on a defensive state. The latter tried to escape and survive while they waited for Heaven and Earth to get rid of the orange net, but their efforts eventually led to a higher number of casualties.

Moreover, King Elbas didn't stay put during the process. The old rulers had long since prepared to give him full ownership of the orange city, so he had an easy time rebranding it and using its power to help the army.

Soon, multiple golden buildings shot out of the landmass before teleporting in the middle of the battlefield. Their aura spread throughout the void and enveloped every asset fighting among that blackness.

The golden aura didn't only grant new power to most assets. It also transformed the modified magical beasts and dragons to replace their orange halos and add part of King Elbas' power.

The process didn't stop there. Initially, King Elbas targeted all the remains of the old rulers' power, but his buildings eventually stretched toward the Great Builder's items.

The destroyed giant avatar saw new power filling its insides and matter forming on its broken figure. King Elbas brought it back to life and allowed the weaker assets to get inside it while he applied similar modifications to the yellowish sphere.

"You really couldn't help yourself," Great Builder commented now that his communication device had started working again.

"Why are you even complaining?" King Elbas scoffed. "I'm improving everything I can since you brutes couldn't do it during your free time."

Great Builder didn't complain any further out of respect for the recent loss and the nature of King Elbas' improvements. The latter wasn't taking over the various items. He was only enhancing their abilities by allowing them to feed on his final energy.

The landmass' army became unstoppable while King Elbas enhanced everything he found, and Heaven and Earth's assets soon understood that their leaders would take a while to wake up. That realization forced them to go all-out to repel their opponents, but their efforts arrived too late.

Losses happened on both sides, but the trend on the battlefield became evident. The landmass' forces would win at that pace, and their victory would also be quite decisive.

That understanding filled the landmass' forces with new vigor and excitement. They could see the victory in sight. Heaven and Earth would have nothing more than solid stage privileged cultivators and quasi-rank 10 assets left if everything continued like that.

A similar outcome would go beyond the most optimistic projections. The landmass would retain most of its power while limiting Heaven and Earth to their best assets. That wasn't much, but no one would reject such a good edge during the final battle.

Sadly, the landmass' forces weren't the only ones able to reach similar conclusions. Heaven and Earth's side also knew that it had to avoid that outcome, especially the ancient experts inside the sky.

"Congratulations," A familiar voice came out of the sky as a figure slowly seeped out of the white layer without affecting the orange net. "You have forced Heaven and Earth to rely on their best assets with nothing but underlings. You are really worthy of being our final opponents."

Faint tendrils of energy filled the entirety of the higher plane as Caesar left the sky and acted as a white beacon in the blackness of the void. His fate became almost visible while he unleashed his power, but that process ended in an instant.

A series of golden teleports opened in front of Caesar, and a few figures quickly came out of them. Their auras expanded wildly, interrupting the power that Caesar was spreading throughout the world.

"I'm more than enough for this," King Elbas announced while occupying a spot in front of Caesar.

"We have to behave and cooperate," Alexander reminded.

"It's up to you not to get in the path of my attacks," Sword Saint exclaimed. "A true blade doesn't care about alliances or sides. It only cuts."

"A nice battle is what I needed to remove the bitterness in my mouth," Divine Demon laughed before turning serious. "I guess I'll feel better if I kill you."

"You can kill each other only after the sky falls," Noah declared. "For now, let's focus on taking this one out of the final battlefield."

"Oh," Caesar smiled when he saw the five experts coming out of the teleports and encircling him. "I didn't expect my arrival to force your hand so quickly.. Well, maybe I did."

Chapter 2223 - 2223. Strongest

"Take out the head first, am I right?" Caesar laughed as Noah and the others mustered their power to prepare their offensive.

That tactic had always been part of the landmass' plan. Caesar was too troublesome to leave alive for the entirety of the final battle, so Noah and the others had long since decided that they would step forward to take care of him as soon as they saw a chance.

Creating a team for the task had been quite troublesome. Noah's organization had many strong experts, and most of them had incredible battle prowess.

In theory, sending all the leaders forward to gang up on Caesar sounded like the best option. However, the sky remained too close even after the old rulers' curse. Caesar would have the chance to retreat or call reinforcements if the battle stretched for too long.

The team tasked with the assassination had to feature powerful experts who knew how to work together and who carried incredible power. Moreover, they would also need to express the entirety of their worlds in a single attack, which excluded June and a few others.

Emperor, Queen, and Cursed Reality were great choices due to their solid stage cultivation level, but they didn't oppose Noah's orders when they heard the composition of the team. Noah had handpicked those whom he considered the strongest experts in his organization, both in terms of raw power and efficiency against Heaven and Earth.

Sword Saint was the greatest expression of the sword path that the higher plane had ever witnessed. King Elbas was the inscription master who had won a bet against Divine Architect, and he also wielded the power of the orange city now.

Divine Demon could achieve miracles, and no one in his organization could match the deadliness of his mindset. As for Alexander, he was the greatest hybrid ever produced by Heaven and Earth's domain. His existence was the closest thing to perfection after Noah and the rulers.

Noah would have added a few experts in different situations. Yet, right now, he couldn't imagine a stronger team. The five of them had achieved incredible feats, both on their own and while working together. Moreover, they expressed peaks that even beings like Emperor or the privileged cultivators couldn't dream of touching.

"Your plan is sound, but it has a fatal flaw," Caesar continued as he marveled at the auras unfolding around him. "Killing me won't change my fate. My power is already part of the wor-."

Caesar couldn't complete his sentence since a silver mass of energy converged on his figure. The void seemed to bend and tremble under the intense sharpness carried by the attack, and Caesar saw his body severed in half while his words still echoed in the area.

"Hey, we had to attack together!" King Elbas scolded as he snapped his fingers. His chest lit up before opening to reveal a blinding sphere of golden light that launched a scorching attack toward Caesar.

"You aren't as smart as you think if you believed we would have stuck to the plan," Divine Demon laughed as blood-red energy gathered around his figure to give birth to multiple cylindrical structures that released dense energy.

"Behaving isn't our style," Alexander stated as he stretched his arm and released an ethereal attack that engulfed the entirety of the area.

"Why do you think I kept the battle plan vague?" Noah asked while pointing his blades forward and unleashing a piercing slash.

Caesar couldn't avoid those attacks. Noah and the others had grown stronger during the final battle. Their level had basically reached the peak of the liquid stage, which put them almost on par with the privileged cultivators in the solid stage.

Of course, Caesar was exceptional even among privileged cultivators, but the team's offensive was too overwhelming. No evasive technique could have saved him from Sword Saint's attack. King Elbas' final energy was incredible even when he didn't enter his quasi-rank 10 stage, and his companions didn't fall short.

Divine Demon could destroy anything he despised, while Alexander had chosen to express his superiority over ethereal attacks to make sure that Caesar had no chance to escape. As for Noah, he had fused all his aspects and abilities into a single blow that had a simple purpose: Eradicating Caesar's influence from the higher plane.

The result of that massive offensive forced the entire battlefield to relocate. The shockwave that expanded after the five attacks crashed on Caesar pushed away every weaker asset fighting for their lives in the void. Even the dragons had to listen to their vague instincts and fly in other spots.

"This isn't enough," Noah announced as he placed his swords on his forehead.

"It's obviously not enough," King Elbas sighed as his cultivation level rose and scorching flames began to come out of his skin.

"There is no fun in an easy victory," Divine Demon laughed as his cylindrical creations fused to give birth to an even bigger version of that weapon.

"A blade should kill when it successfully cuts someone," Sword Saint declared as a silver aura shot out of his figure. "Even fate isn't above this rule."

"I shall go first this time," Alexander exclaimed as he brought his hands to his mouth and took a deep breath.

Noah, Sword Saint, Divine Demon, and King Elbas instinctively stepped back. Alexander's aura had become too dangerous to remain so close to him, and the same went for their own power.

The first offensive had targeted Caesar's movements. It could hurt him, but its purpose was to keep him stuck in the same area for a while.

Noah and the others could unleash their best attacks now that Caesar had to waste a few seconds to rebuild his body. His ability probably allowed him to regain his original form in no time, but that was more than enough for his opponents.

Alexander voiced multiple roars that fused to transform into a monstrous cry that seemed to express the entirety of the magical beasts' field. Multicolored flames that quickly gained black shades shot out of his mouth in the meantime, and the very void began to burn under that ability.

King Elbas let the black flames express their destructiveness before creating a spear with his quasi-rank 10 energy and unleashing its energy forward. The scorching attack that came out of his weapon lit up the entire void. The blackness seemed to vanish during his offensive.

Noah followed by unleashing his sharpness. A storm of slashes that radiated multiple aspects of his ethereal blackness materialized all around his target before detonating.

The destruction that filled the void was so intense that the sky nearby trembled due to the shockwaves that the event caused. Yet, things were far from over.

Sword Saint's silver aura suddenly vanished before reappearing in the sharpness that Noah had released with his attack. The ability multiplied the destructive power of Noah's slashes, which began to shatter Caesar's faint strands of fate.

Divine Demon let everything unleash its power before giving energy to his massive cylindrical creation. The weapon gathered blood-red energy and condensed it until it transformed into something both darker and brighter.

Divine Demon's attack ended up claiming his companions' attention, but the latter did their best to remain focused on the void. They could still sense Caesar's fate, so they knew that their offensive wasn't working.

The bright and dark energy that shot out of the cylindrical structure was too powerful to describe with mere words. Divine Demon had revealed what his individuality and the "Breath" could do together when they expressed their respective peaks, and the scene that unfolded was beyond spectacular.

The void had long since become the battlefield, but Divine Demon's attack lit it up again. The blackness vanished as the bright and dark scarlet radiance expanded and followed the traces left by Caesar's fate.

Noah inspected the area for a few seconds before shaking his head. He knew that Caesar was still alive, but targeting him after the recent attacks was impossible. His fate was all over the higher plane.

"Don't you have seventeen abilities connected to fate or something?" Divine Demon asked when the group noticed that Caesar was still alive.

"Fate is rare even among cultivators," Noah explained before Alexander could answer. "The situation is only worse in the magical beasts' field."

"Defying Demon is right," Alexander laughed. "Though we have someone on the task."

"You would all be lost without me," King Elbas commented while his eyes lit up due to the many calculations happening in his mind.

"The path of the sword is simple but boundless," Sword Saint announced.

"How is that relevant right now?" King Elbas scolded.

"You should relax a bit," Divine Demon laughed as he crossed his legs and created a cup of wine. "Be like me, and the world will find solutions for you."

"Elbas, work faster," Noah ordered while similar calculations happened in his mind.

"Should we team up for the next round of attacks?" Alexander wondered.

"It seems inevitable," Noah confirmed while a figure quickly appeared where the previous attacks had converged.. Caesar's body reformed in no time, and his playful smile felt brighter than ever.

Chapter 2224 - 2224. Pressure

"You know why you aren't hurting me," Caesar announced once his body completely reformed. "You will become able to kill me near the end of the final battle, but now it's too early."

"I need to stop after this," King Elbas whispered as his quasi-rank 10 aura intensified and gave birth to a series of golden flames that expanded in his surroundings.

"We will all have to stop," Noah sighed. "We can't waste our entire power over a single privileged cultivator."

"You are already wasting power," Caesar playfully chuckled.

"We'll see how you feel after this," King Elbas snorted before launching his flames forward.

The flames teleported around Caesar and partially fused with the void's space-time array to reach the same depths as the strands of fate. The golden fire then expanded to occupy a vast spherical area, leaving Caesar at its center.

King Elbas' flames were powerful enough to eradicate the traces of fate in the area. He could isolate Caesar's body into a small spot of the void, allowing Noah and the others to condense their offensive.

Still, Noah and the others didn't rely on their previous massive attacks once the cage took form. Two figures quickly materialized past the golden flames as they approached Caesar's sides, and the latter's smile only widened at that sight.

"I wonder what you are going to do," Caesar laughed.

"Don't slow me down," Noah ordered as his swords disappeared.

"I'm still the greatest hybrid that the higher plane has ever seen," Alexander claimed.

"You kept that spot because I stopped being a hybrid," Noah pointed out.

"A technicality won't make it false," Alexander announced.

Caesar heaved a sigh as he closed his eyes, but his figure exploded as soon as Noah and Alexander delivered a punch at the same time. The strongest privileged cultivator couldn't do anything against that immense physical prowess.

The plan was simple. Relying on powerful attacks would exhaust the group's reserves quickly, but Noah and Alexander had something that didn't require too much from them. Their bodies were incredible, so they could punch their way inside Caesar's world without depleting too much energy.

Of course, that approach was possible only because Caesar wasn't launching attacks or reacting to the offensive. He wanted to be a punching bag, and Noah's group would fulfill his wishes. Yet, they would do that on their own terms.

Noah and Alexander proceeded to unleash blows everywhere inside the golden cage. They didn't care that all the traces of fate in the area had already disappeared. They punched and kicked until the void lost any connection to Caesar.

Nevertheless, Caesar managed to reappear seemingly out of nowhere. His fate didn't exist inside the cage anymore, but he could rebuild his body and expand his influence again without the slightest effort.

Caesar's presence in that part of the void seemed inevitable, but Noah and Alexander didn't bother to overthink the issue. As soon as their opponent reappeared, they resumed the punching and kicking to bring the area back to its emptiness.

The tactic was simple, but only Noah and Alexander could enforce it without suffering any repercussions. Each of their attacks unleashed shockwaves that King Elbas' barrier didn't let disperse so easily, so they ended up falling on the two experts multiple times.

Ordinary cultivators and even regular hybrids would have ended up covered in injuries by then, but Noah and Alexander stood far above that level. Their bodies could endure the heavy pressure and repercussions caused by their blows without flinching or breaking.

The situation became so brutal that Caesar's body shattered before Noah and Alexander had the chance to reach him. The shockwaves inside the golden cage did that job for them, but they still added attacks to increase the pressure.

The tactic didn't aim to kill Caesar. His fate had already filled the higher plane, so cleansing a relatively small spot couldn't lead to his death.

However, Noah and the others understood how worlds worked deeply. Caesar's power was also quite complicated and profound. A single dent in his ability could trigger a chain reaction that made all his predictions flawed.

That was the purpose behind that offensive. Noah and the others wanted to create a flaw to gain the chance to act outside Caesar's fate. Their main plan was to become too strong for that power, but it didn't hurt to resort to tactics during such a massive battle.

Caesar was only partially powerless in that situation. He could summon his power or one of his many techniques to get out of the cage, but he let the process continue.

His reasons weren't even a secret, and Noah understood them very well. Caesar wanted his opponents to succeed and grow stronger so that Heaven and Earth could gain more benefits from a victory.

A powerful stepping stone was what Heaven and Earth needed to push themselves past the breakthrough. Caesar would probably suffer to make his plan happen, but he didn't care as long as his leaders succeeded.

Noah didn't care either. His side didn't have many options, so he was willing to pursue every available path.

The chaos and destruction inside the golden cage built up as the battlefield continued to rage. The improved cultivators and the landmass' army had stopped focusing on the main fight to resume their struggles, but nothing happened to the previous trend.

The landmass' army continued to gain ground and defeat as many enemies as possible. Both sides experienced losses, but Heaven and Earth's forces slowly lost their numerical advantage.

That event led to an overwhelming advance from the landmass' side. Noah's underlings seized the chance to take control over the higher plane and destroy all their opponents. It didn't take long before Heaven and Earth's forces became nothing more than small teams surrounded by enemies.

"I think that's enough for now," Caesar's voice resounded inside the golden cage even if his presence couldn't be found anywhere.

A white halo began to shine outside the cage as multiple figures slowly took form. Caesar rebuilt countless versions of his body around the golden barriers before doing the same throughout the higher plane.

The landmass' forces didn't know what to do when they saw multiple Caesar appearing around and among them. They were about to corner their opponents and launch one last offensive, but the appearance of so many figures that radiated solid stage power made them hesitate.

The dragons ended up shattering that hesitation. The time dragon and the space dragon launched themselves toward the nearest Caesar, and their companions soon followed them in that assault.

Everyone could understand that the higher plane would fall under their domain if they defeated Heaven and Earth's forces. They only had to go past Caesar to kill the remaining underlings, so they didn't hesitate to launch their best attacks toward the strongest privileged cultivator from the sky.

"Reckless, reckless," The various Caesar spoke at the same time as they spread their arms.

Faint white lines appeared among the void and connected themselves to each expert, attack, or wave of energy. Those strands of fate meddled with everything they touched, and their effects ended up being tragic.

The various attacks converging toward Caesar's multiple bodies changed their trajectory, teleported, or directly disappeared under the effects of his fate. The same went for some experts or magical beasts.

The time dragon tried to close its mouth on one of Caesar's bodies, but the creature suddenly teleported among a group of rank 7 allies. The dragon couldn't stop its attack, which ended up killing many weaker companions.

Torrents of attacks teleported around the giant avatar or Great Builder's sphere before crashing on their surfaces. Both items crumbled due to the friendly fire, but the damage spread way further than that.

Divine Demon, Sword Saint, and King Elbas used their power to stop part of Caesar's ability, but their influence had heavy limits. They were strong enough to ignore the strands of fate trying to connect themselves to their worlds, but they had to remain careful.

That prevented the three experts from using their full power to help their underlings. Their underlings ended up suffering a lot due to Caesar's ability, and his many bodies slowly vanished as laughs left their mouths.

Divine Demon, Sword Saint, and King Elbas didn't let the matter end there. They chased every vanishing figure and destroyed everything they could. They couldn't inflict much damage, but they still removed some strands of fate.

Meanwhile, Noah and Alexander continued to increase the pressure inside the cage. The situation became so dangerous that cracks appeared on their skin, but they never stopped. As long as they managed to plant a flaw, everything would be worth it.

The cage eventually became unable to contain all that pressure. King Elbas noticed the signs of instability and teleported Noah and Alexander away before making the underlings nearby move.

The cage exploded at that point, and all the pressure accumulated in its insides shot outward. Shockwaves capable of twisting the space-time array of the void ran through the battlefield and destroyed anything on their path.

More strands of fate crumbled, but everything eventually disappeared. Caesar reformed in a spot right past the sky and smiled as multiple lights shone on the white layer behind him.

Noah and the others didn't even need to send their mental waves forward to understand what was happening.. More solid stage privileged cultivators were about to join the battlefield.

Chapter 2225 - 2225. Signs

'Did we succeed?' Noah wondered as various shining figures came out of the sky and teleported in different areas of the higher plane.

Caesar appeared completely fine, but Noah knew that he had done his best. His group had relied on some of their best techniques to hurt Caesar's fate, but they couldn't confirm if their efforts had fulfilled their intentions.

Still, the time for tactics and strategies was over. The new privileged cultivators that came out of the sky filled the higher plane with their solid stage auras and announced how the final battle had moved to the next phase.

"Stop looking at me," Caesar laughed when the five experts inspected him. "I think you have far bigger problems to handle."

Destructive thoughts fused with anger inside Noah's mind. He wanted to kill Caesar right away, but he knew that fighting him was only a waste of time for now. His organization needed him to handle the new privileged cultivators, so he diverted his attention from Caesar as he looked for a suitable opponent.

The landmass didn't stay still either. Multicolored lights shone on its surface as the other leaders left their training areas and teleported in front of the reinforcements.

June, Emperor, Pellio, Vesuvia, Queen, and all the other powerful experts that had joined the landmass stepped on the battlefield to face the solid stage privileged cultivators. The Foolery, Great Builder, and Supreme Thief didn't stay still either. They knew that their time had come.

The landmass became empty for the first time since the beginning of the final battle. A few inscriptions continued to shine, while many items remained hidden, but every living being left to help on the battlefield.

Noah relied on his instincts to find the tougher opponents, but the privileged cultivators had already arranged those imminent battles. Their auras condensed until different names appeared above their figures. Their power acted as bright signs that invited specific enemies to fight them.

"I hope you won't mind this," Caesar spoke, and his voice spread throughout the higher plane. "We have handpicked suitable opponents for all of you. Win, and you'll improve. Lose, and this battle will end."

"Won't this affect your great plan?" Noah wondered. "Giving us specific opponents would affect our growth."

"Not if they counter your abilities," Caesar explained.

"So, that's how you want to play this," Noah stated. "Fine. We won't refuse the chance to obtain more power."

Everyone heard Noah's words, and a series of confident smiles filled the battlefield as various movement techniques expressed their power. Soon, all the new privileged cultivators saw their chosen opponents appearing before them.

"Who would you be?" Noah asked after teleporting in front of a tall, middle-aged man with bright red eyes and long scarlet hair.

"Did you forget about me already?" The man questioned in a coarse voice.

"I remember you from the sky," Noah admitted. "So, someone survived."

Noah was speaking about the deal sealed with Caesar when his group traded the captured privileged cultivators with an exit from the sky and worlds for Supreme Thief.

"You have hidden that trap well," The cultivator exclaimed. "Even the best of us couldn't notice it. Many died, even more suffered serious injuries, including me."

"You seem fine," Noah shrugged his shoulders as his swords materialized in his hands. "I'll fix that soon enough."

"Fine?" The cultivator cursed as a violent cough took control of his voice. "You have no idea what you brought upon yourself."

"I waged war against Heaven and Earth," Noah sneered. "You can't scare me."

"I probably wouldn't be enough on my own," The cultivator admitted as different auras flowed out of his figure and filled his surroundings with unstable power. "Yet, all of us might."

Noah's reptilian eyes darted left and right as he inspected that strange aura. It wasn't rare for cultivators to have different aspects. Some even carried conflicting powers. However, his opponent's power seemed to feature multiple worlds, and some of them felt familiar.

"Do you recognize them?" The privileged cultivator asked. "These are the worlds that your little trick injured. I ate those that couldn't survive Heaven and Earth's absorption for this sole battle."

In another area of the higher plane, King Elbas materialized in front of a strange cultivator. The latter had a humanoid figure, but its insides resembled the space dragon since they were nothing more than different shades of white light.

"Are Heaven and Earth underestimating me or something?" King Elbas questioned after a single glance at his strange opponent. "Why would they send an inscribed cultivator against me?"

"Nice to meet you, Xavier Elbas," A sizzling voice came out of the humanoid figure. "I expected you to recognize my nature right away. After all, you have also built inscribed cultivators in the past."

"Don't compare yourself to my creations," King Elbas announced as a tinge of arrogance seeped into his voice. "I don't build mere puppets without free will."

"I know," The inscribed cultivator exclaimed as its glowing arm rose to point at a spot in the distance. "That's Second Prince, right? He is quite peculiar. Though I'm afraid to say that he hates you."

"So, what?" King Elbas stated. "Hatred is a powerful fuel. It will force him to seek realms that I have yet to reach. I would have failed as an inscription master if my creations didn't have the potential to surpass me."

"Divine Architect has a far different view," The inscribed cultivator declared. "No wonder you have chosen such opposite paths."

"Where is Divine Architect?" King Elbas asked. "I don't want to waste time with Heaven and Earth's underlings. I'm ready to face her right away."

"Oh, but she isn't," The inscribed cultivator revealed. "Actually, I'm here due to her orders. As her first child, it's my job to prevent you from disturbing her."

In another area of the higher plane, Alexander materialized before a seemingly plain privileged cultivator. He didn't like how his name continued to shine above his opponent even after his arrival, so he took a deep breath to absorb that energy and remove that light.

"We are quite irritable," The woman giggled when she saw her light flowing inside Alexander's mouth.

"Let's not waste time," Alexander sighed as he scratched his golden hair. "I want to go back to punching Caesar."

"That's a pity," The privileged cultivator exclaimed as she tied her long black hair in a ponytail. "I wanted us to explore our respective limits. It's rare for me to face someone with a body as strong as mine."

"That's quite arrogant coming from a cultivator," Alexander pointed out. "Your kind stands below normal hybrids. How do you even hope to be on my level?"

"Worlds can stretch deeper than you think," The woman revealed. "You express superiority, but I carry the purest form of hard work. Heaven and Earth had to ask for my help to build the improved cultivators that have killed so many hybrids."

Divine Demon reached his opponent in an instant, but he didn't pay much attention to her after his teleport. He appeared more interested in the sky behind her and the other battles as he created his usual cup of wine and crossed his legs to relax.

"I expected to deserve a bit of attention," The woman sighed. "I guess you are as unreasonable as everyone expected."

"You are a stepping stone prepared by Caesar," Divine Demon stated. "Your sole role is to die to make me stronger. How do you expect me to have any interest in you?"

"Your words make sense," The woman declared. "However, I suggest you stop underestimating me.. You might be the Breath's heir, but I'm its greatest enemy."

Chapter 2226 - 2226. Dissect

Sword Saint didn't need to read his name above his opponent's figure. The latter actually didn't write anything specific. He only expressed a clear meaning that made Sword Saint fly in the area.

"I didn't expect someone from the sky to choose to fight me," Sword Saint admitted. "You have all seen where my power comes from. Right now, I'm the strongest expert in the entirety of the higher plane."

"Well," The privileged cultivator said while caressing his grey beard, "That's up to opinions. Your world definitely is the most complete among your companions, but they are also troublesome existences."

"Don't misunderstand my words," Sword Saint exclaimed. "I'm not saying that my companions are weak. I'm only putting myself above them."

"You are indeed powerful," The privileged cultivator sighed. "I honestly didn't want to face you, but my ability is strangely suitable. I'm the only one that you can't cut."

Similar scenes happened everywhere on the battlefield. Supreme Thief, June, and the others flew toward their respective opponents and exchanged a few words before unleashing their power.

Everyone on Noah's side knew that they couldn't waste too much energy in those fights. Heaven and Earth had sent enough privileged cultivators to keep the landmass' leaders busy, but they probably had more of them hidden inside the sky.

Noah's forces couldn't exhaust their energy reserves since they would have to face Heaven and Earth once they removed the old rulers' net. Still, holding back didn't seem a valid option against those opponents. After all, they were solid stage privileged cultivators.

Caesar didn't lie either. The experts who had come out to face the landmass' leaders had troublesome powers that would ask their opponents to go beyond their limits.

Noah and the others knew all of that, but they couldn't ignore the chance to improve. Many of them had to approach their breakthroughs, which required important victories, and those privileged cultivators could provide them.

Noah inspected the various worlds inside his opponent's aura before disregarding the matter. He could vaguely guess what had happened to the red-haired cultivator, so he knew that tactics would probably be useless against him.

The privileged cultivator had used precise words. He had eaten his companions to save them from Heaven and Earth and use their power. However, that had led to an unstable existence that resembled the rulers' old state.

"How long can you survive in this state?" Noah asked. "You are about to explode. The tiniest dent in your world will make all that power flow out."

"That would be true under normal circumstances," The red-haired cultivator announced. "However, we are talking about me, the expert who mastered the magical beasts' hunger."

The statement left Noah slightly surprised. Many experts throughout history had tried to imitate the magical beasts due to their few superior aspects, but only a handful of cultivators had succeeded in the task.

Even fewer experts had managed to push that path toward the peak without losing their status as cultivators. The matter was even harsher for assets living inside the sky since Heaven and Earth were openly against magical beasts.

Of course, that faint surprise quickly vanished from Noah's mind. The higher plane had seen countless experts rising to power and falling throughout its existence. It was only normal for some of them to join Heaven and Earth even after pursuing a path connected to the magical beasts.

Actually, Noah couldn't help but underestimate his opponent a bit after learning about his power. Imitating the magical beasts' hunger and even improving it could lead to great power, but Noah expressed the peak of that realm. He couldn't feel scared in front of a privileged cultivator who only embodied a single aspect of that field.

"How many experts at your level does the sky still hold?" Noah asked.

"Why don't you kill me and find out?" The red-haired cultivator suggested, but a black slash suddenly materialized in front of his face.

The sudden attack surprised the privileged cultivator, but that wasn't enough to damage him. A vertical cut opened on his forehead as soon as the destructive energy materialized before him, and the slash instantly vanished.

Noah used that chance to launch more attacks. His blades cut the hair to create a rain of slashes that converged toward the privileged cultivator, but the opening on his forehead made the whole offensive disappear.

'Is this like Duanlong?' Noah wondered before rejecting that idea.

Duanlong could eat almost everything, and the privileged cultivator seemed to share that ability. Yet, the two techniques had a stark difference in how they used the absorbed energy. Duanlong could add it to its power, while the expert sent it to the barrier around his existence to contain his various worlds.

"Thank you for giving me more time," The red-haired cultivator exclaimed before pointing an arm at Noah and unleashing a series of different abilities.

It felt strange to see something so diverse coming out of the same cultivator. Noah saw destructive attacks featuring various natures converging toward him, and the sheer power that they carried seemed enough to pierce through his innate defenses. However, they had a sharp flaw that he didn't miss.

Noah didn't even wave his swords. He expanded his consciousness before condensing it on the trajectory of the multicolored torrent of energy. His destructive thoughts ran through his mental waves

and made them shine with dark-red shades, and the incoming attack inevitably suffered due to their power.

The various natures in the red-haired cultivator's attack were powerful but messy. They expressed the best of the different worlds that the expert had eaten, but they didn't fuse into a seamless ability.

Noah could target that feature with his destructive thoughts to separate the different worlds and spread chaos among them. The multicolored attack experienced explosions as it flew through Noah's consciousness, and vast strands of its energy also left the main structure to reach different parts of the battlefield.

Noah ended up facing only a maimed version of the privileged cultivator's attack when it reached him. Duanlong could absorb it easily without relying on its innate ability, and the battlefield quickly fell silent afterward.

"Is that it?" Noah asked. "Heaven and Earth at least had the decency of blending their different worlds when launching an offensive. Something like this will never hurt me."

"I have time to learn," The red-haired cultivator laughed. "You can't defeat me quickly, so I can keep you busy while I improve my techniques."

Noah didn't answer, but he couldn't hide how his attention moved toward other areas of the battlefield. He didn't want to remain stuck in a pointless fight when he could use his power to make a difference, but his opponent didn't hesitate to warn him.

"You are free to leave if you want," The red-haired expert announced. "I know I can't stop you, but what would happen to your underlings in that case? Should I remind you that we know everything about your allies and organization?"

"You really had to threaten me," Noah sighed as Night came out of his figure and sat on his head. "I accept your request.. I'll dissect your power and ask Heaven and Earth to send a real opponent."

Chapter 2227 - 2227. Respect

Saving power wasn't part of Noah's style. He usually went all-out in every battle, especially since they often featured opponents that his normal level couldn't handle.

The red-haired privileged cultivator was no exception, but Noah had to keep in mind the last stages of the final battle. Winning fights against powerful experts would refill his ethereal blackness quickly, but he preferred to remain on the battlefield as long as possible.

"Dissecting my power?" The red-haired cultivator wondered. "Why don't you give it a try?"

Noah didn't need his opponent to ask twice. He waved his hand to send a rain of slashes forward, and Night also disappeared into the void during the attack.

The privileged cultivator laughed in the face of the offensive. Multiple lights came out of his body as a series of barriers and a vast white halo expanded from his figure.

The slashes crashed on the barriers and infected them with Noah's destruction. Black lines expanded on their surfaces as they crumbled into countless pieces. Even their shards couldn't survive the influence that had invaded them.

Still, nothing managed to reach the privileged cultivator. His last barriers even attacked Noah's destruction and transformed it into energy that gathered before his chest.

Meanwhile, the white halo illuminated the void as its radiance brightened. It didn't take long before that light condensed into a relatively small spot that flew around the privileged cultivator at high speed.

Noah didn't need to inspect the area to understand what was happening. The privileged cultivator had transformed his destruction into fuel for an attack, while the white halo had the sole purpose of locating Night.

Night cried in anger as the white light condensed around its body and made it unable to hide in the space-time fabric. The Pterodactyl already had a hard time fusing with the void, but the red-haired cultivator's halo made that action impossible.

Of course, Night wouldn't let that light stop its attacks. It actually angered it to the point that Noah felt his potential flowing toward its strange body.

The brighter area around Night shattered as multiple black lines shot out of its body. The damage spread through the halo and forced the privileged cultivator to divert the accumulated energy toward the incoming attacks.

The accumulated energy was different from the previous offensive. It wasn't a messy wave of various attacks, so the black lines couldn't replicate the effects of Noah's destructive thoughts.

However, Night had some of the most unstoppable abilities in Noah's arsenal. They severed part of the raw wave of energy crashing on them before causing an explosion that affected the whole white halo.

The privileged cultivator lost track of Night while the explosion unfolded, and Noah made sure to exploit that opportunity. He waved his blades, and another rain of slashes converged toward his opponent, forcing him to address the threat.

The red-haired expert summoned his barriers again, but a shadow flew through his figure during the process. His body suddenly split in half, and the damage spread to his defenses, which became unable to stop the incoming slashes.

Noah doubled down on that new opportunity, and Night didn't hold back either. The two launched a series of attacks that dispersed what remained of the barriers and filled the area with a messy mass of destructive power.

The fabric of the void bent as the destructive power continued to accumulate, but Noah and Night barely kept track of that event. Their offensive was relentless since they aimed to kill their opponents without wasting too much potential.

That trend didn't last long since another detonation soon took control of the spot occupied by the privileged cultivator. Night returned on Noah's head, and the two waited to see what their opponent was up to. They both knew that their attacks didn't cause that reaction.

"I have the fifth and seventh-best defensive abilities of the sky," The red-haired cultivator's hoarse voice echoed past the dark and grey energy released by the explosion. "I have the sixth-best technique when it comes to absorbing energy. I have the fourth-best converting ability. Do you think this is enough to kill me?"

The dark and grey energy began to condense when the announcement ended. Those chaotic waves of power shrunk until the privileged cultivator's maimed figure became visible. He was nothing more than a skeleton with only a few patches of muscles and skin left, but his red eyes continued to shine brightly.

"I know what you are doing," The red-haired cultivator continued as all the energy that had flowed into his figure began to rebuild skin, muscles, and organs. "I even expected you to try something like this. I won't remain silent while you underestimate me."

The red-haired cultivator fixed his body in no time, but the matter didn't end there. His skin started to shine with a scarlet color until it created an immense domain. Noah couldn't avoid ending inside it, but dark matter promptly covered his figure to prevent eventual harmful effects.

"Defying Demon!" The privileged cultivator shouted. "Noah Balvan! You are one of the greatest monsters in the higher plane, but you aren't there yet. I'm carrying the worlds of experts who have survived Heaven and Earth's attempts to absorb them for entire eras. Show me some respect!"

Multiple waves of energy shot out of the privileged cultivator's body and blended with the scarlet domain. The expert was trying a different approach. He was adding his personal influence to all the worlds in his existence to increase his ability to control them.

A spectacle of lights unfolded. Each wave of energy carried different colors, but they all began to add power to the scarlet radiance. They began to work together with the expert's world as they converged before his figure to fuse into an unstable sphere.

"Keep holding back!" The red-haired cultivator mocked. "Cut this attack. Cut the next one too. I'll only grow stronger while your attention remains on the sky."

'I guess it's still too early to take solid stage cultivators lightly,' Noah sighed in his mind while his expression remained cold. He had hoped to exploit the expert's flaws to end the battle quickly, but the matter had turned out to be far more troublesome.

'Night, are you ready for that?' Noah asked through the mental connection.

'I don't want to use that power,' Night complained. 'It's demeaning to rely on something so brainless.'

'It's not that power,' Noah pointed out. 'Your power is our power, and the same applies to all the others. Don't you want to kill the light? We won't get the chance to face Heaven and Earth at this pace.'

'I know. I know,' Night snorted. 'Though I'm still the best at cutting stuff.'

'We are the best,' Noah laughed.

More potential flowed inside Night as dark tendrils came out of its peculiar body. Those odd features quickly went back under its edges, but the privileged cultivator noticed them anyway. Still, that didn't change his approach.

The privileged cultivator unleashed the chaotic mass of energy in front of his figure, and Night shot forward. As for Noah, he stored his swords and crossed his arms as he waited for the clash to unfold.

Night disappeared right before meeting the wave of chaotic energy, but the event didn't cause any change.. The cultivator's ability continued to fly forward until it engulfed Noah in its violent might.

Chapter 2228: 2228. Gardener

Noah closed his eyes as injuries opened everywhere on his body. His skin shattered, the muscles under it broke, and the layer of dark matter protecting his vital organs suffered from a similar fate.

The red-haired cultivator's attack was nowhere near weak. It didn't fully express the power of all the worlds in his existence, but it came really close to that.

Noah couldn't defend against that offensive even if he had the best body in the entire higher plane. The unstable substance brought his physical prowess to incredible heights, but his opponent remained one of the greatest experts from the sky.

Of course, Noah could muster his potential and summon defensive abilities to take care of the attack. He could use Duanlong, Shafu, or even the parasite to reduce the amount of power crashing on his figure. Yet, he held everything back and let his body handle that massive blow.

Merely thinking about saving potential in a fight against a privileged cultivator was reckless. Noah would have been fine against average experts, but the final battle only featured the best assets from the sky.

Still, Noah had one chance to save some energy. The tactic would inevitably lead to severe injuries and a lot of pain, but Noah had never been scared of those. He could let his superior body suffer instead of defending against incoming attacks.

Noah could feel his innate defenses losing ground. His body was strong, insanely strong, but his opponent probably was one of its best counters since he could summon far superior amounts of power.

No levels of physical prowess could match that violent wave of energy that carried different natures. It was simply impossible to face it without relying on defensive techniques. However, Noah didn't care.

Everything was fine as long as Noah survived. He didn't mind if his figure turned into a gory mess. He would face every attack as long as he believed he could survive them.

The wave of energy ravaged Noah's figure before dispersing once it exhausted its power. Noah became visible again, but his appearance had drastically changed. Almost all the skin and muscles on his front had disappeared, exposing his though skeleton, which featured multiple fuming spots.

Blood almost disappeared from Noah's body due to the width of the injuries, and the ethereal blackness instinctively tried to send potential to the healing process. Yet, Noah forced his world to save energy as he let his dark matter apply a patch on those wounds.

"You are crazier than I thought," The red-haired cultivator commented after inspecting Noah's state. "You won't survive to see Heaven and Earth joining the battlefield."

"You cultivators always talk so much," Noah coughed as the dark matter replaced most of the missing flesh. "Did living in the sky make you lonely?"

"I see," The red-haired cultivator sighed as he pointed an arm at Noah. "You must have lost your mind in the last exchange."

The dark matter soon transformed into fiendish armor, and Noah made it show a devilish smirk. The red-haired cultivator snorted since Noah didn't give any answer, and a new wave of energy shot out of his hand.

The privileged cultivator didn't take his time to assimilate all his worlds at that time, but the scarlet domain still improved his offensive. The multicolored wave of energy gained red glows as it flew toward Noah, but it remained inferior to the previous attack in terms of harmony.

An odd growl left Noah's maimed mouth before he spat a cloud of black flames that carried the peak of his destruction. The attack didn't use any potential, but it was enough to divide the different natures unleashed by the privileged cultivator.

The flames burnt part of the expert's attack before sending its energy toward Noah. Part of his injuries disappeared, but his condition remained severe. Yet, he didn't lose power at all.

"How long can you keep that up?" The privileged cultivator laughed. "You won't-!"

"You always say stuff like that," Noah interrupted. "You won't succeed. You won't win. You can't defeat the sky. You always have something to say. I've already hurt your pride. Just accept it."

"What nonsense are you even talking about?" The red-haired cultivator asked.

Noah raised his clawed arm to point a sharp finger at his opponent. The privileged cultivator summoned his barriers to prepare for the imminent offensive, but Noah only sent words. "I've turned Heaven and Earth's world against them. I've created this final battle when Heaven and Earth wanted to hide this power from me. I've already proven that no one is my equal."

The privileged cultivator fell silent. He wanted to deny Noah's words, but he had to admit that they made sense. Sure, Noah's organization had multiple experts who could have achieved similar results, but only he could unite so many forces and create a proper challenge for Heaven and Earth.

"You are correct," The privileged cultivator admitted, "But this doesn't make your statement less arrogant."

The privileged cultivator mustered his power to prepare another attack, but his energy dispersed before it could condense in his hand. The event startled him, but a disregarding smile soon appeared on his face.

"That creature of yours sure is sneaky," The red-haired cultivator commented as he inspected his surroundings to search for Night. "It hurt me without leaving any trace. You must have used all your power to make it so strong."

Noah didn't answer. The fiendish armor continued to show a devilish smirk as he stepped forward to walk toward his opponent.

"Such arrogance," The red-haired cultivator sighed. "Did you forget that I can heal myself?"

White energy seeped out of the expert's body while power gathered in his hand. He seemed able to prepare his technique now, but a tremor suddenly ran through his body and made him disperse all the accumulated fuel.

The privileged cultivator wore a shocked expression. He didn't understand what was happening, but Noah was drawing close, so he activated his healing technique again. However, another tremor ran through his body and forced him to disperse that energy.

"What is happening?" The red-haired cultivator cursed. "What have you done to me?"

Noah eventually reached his opponent. The latter tried to wave his arm to send Noah away, but his limb shattered when it touched the fiendish armor.

Something surprising became visible when the arm shattered. The privileged cultivator saw how black roots had replaced his bones. The parasite had appeared inside him, and its body stretched deep into his flesh.

"What have you done?!" The privileged cultivator shouted.

"Why don't you use your immense knowledge?" Noah mocked as he closed his clawed hand on his opponent's head and started to envelop him with dark matter.

The privileged cultivator didn't know what to do. He tried to summon his energy, but nothing came out. Meanwhile, the dark matter began to express Noah's devouring ability, which consumed his skin and the worlds contained in his existence.

"Did you find an answer?" Noah joked as he continued to devour his opponent. "I've turned Night into a gardener."

A snort resounded behind Noah as Night became visible. The Pterodactyl's appearance had changed. Black flowers had grown from its odd body, but it didn't hesitate to sever them away.

The privileged cultivator didn't understand what had happened even after witnessing that scene. Yet, answers came once the dark matter devoured his whole figure and exposed his worlds. The expert managed to see black seeds inside his existence before his consciousness went dark.

Chapter 2229: 2229. Void

"Don't use words you don't understand so lightly," Sword Saint scolded. "None of you knows the true form of a sword. Even I have merely gazed upon the immensity of the path."

"Who cares about the sword path?" The privileged cultivator responded without letting go of his long grey beard. "I didn't claim to know about blades or the true meaning of your power. I only said that you can't cut me."

Sword Saint loved to talk about blades, but that wasn't the right situation for that. Besides, he had something better than words to prove his point.

Sword Saint waved his hands, and his white figure lit up before unleashing a torrent of silver light. The attack released whooshing noises as it flew through the void, but those sounds vanished once it crashed on the privileged cultivator.

The sharpness radiated by the silver torrent was so intense that even the void couldn't remain still during the exchange. The peculiar space-time array bent and shattered, making the attack almost impossible to dodge. Sword Saint had almost cut through the void during his offensive.

The privileged cultivator didn't execute any defensive technique. He stood still and let the wave of silver energy seep into his figure. Sword Saint could sense that nothing tried to block his sharpness, but his offensive didn't inflict any damage anyway.

"I should probably introduce myself," The privileged cultivator sighed. "I'm sorry for forgetting my manners. I'm Euclio, and my world imitates the void."

Sword Saint didn't need that explanation to understand the nature of Euclio's world. He had seen enough by keeping track of his last attack. His sharpness had entered Euclio's existence, but it didn't find anything to cut.

Most experts would usually feel disappointed or bored to face a similar opponent. Noah and Divine Demon had felt like that against Philto, but Sword Saint was different.

Sword Saint's aura surged in excitement after hearing Euclio's statement. The expert had confirmed Sword Saint's guess, which opened the path for an interesting experiment. He could finally test his power against something theoretically impossible to cut.

"Why do you react like this?" Euclio sighed. "There is nothing to cut inside me. Don't get so worked up about it."

"Do not tell me what to do," Sword Saint announced. "You have given me the chance to sharpen my path. How could I not get excited?"

"The void can't sharpen anything," Euclio declared. "It merely exists in its immensity."

"I sense only ignorance about my path in those words," Sword Saint laughed. "I'll show you how wrong they are."

Sword Saint's aura condensed before gathering in his right palm. That silver radiance slowly took the shape of a blade as tall as him, and he didn't hesitate to wave it.

No attack came out of the blade, but a sharp torrent of silver energy abruptly engulfed Euclio. His entire body ended up immersed in a raging wave of power that desperately tried to cut his very existence, but he didn't show any reaction.

Euclio remained immersed in the sharp energy for a few seconds before lifting an arm to show his palm. He closed his hand into a fist, and the silver attack instantly vanished without leaving a single trace of its past presence.

"I am nothing," Euclio declared. "You can't cut what has no form."

"That's what you think!" Sword Saint laughed as more power flowed into his long blade.

Sword Saint didn't even wave his weapon at that time, but attacks materialized around Euclio anyway. The privileged cultivator found himself immersed in multiple waves of sharp energy that created a bright star-like shape with six tips.

The void seemed to light up. Nothing could stop the light radiated by the star, but Euclio didn't suffer at all while he continued to float at the center of the structure. Waves of energy cut their way through his body, but no injury opened.

"This is pretty," Euclio commented as he inspected the silver structure. "I'll send it flying in my world for a few millennia."

Euclio opened and closed his hand, and the star disappeared. The void reclaimed its dark appearance, and Sword Saint's power stopped affecting its emptiness.

"Can you give up already?" Euclio asked when he saw that Sword Saint gathered even more energy in his blade.

It didn't take long before another star enveloped Euclio. Sword Saint didn't even stop there. He proceeded to wave his blade to create similar but bigger structures that immersed the expert in even stronger waves of sharp energy.

Euclio couldn't hide his surprise when he inspected his surroundings. Three massive stars with no solid edges had enveloped him, and the energy inside them intensified as it continued to flow through their insides.

Sword Saint had created something similar to a formation, but he had only used slashes during the process. That allowed the sharpness to fly freely and intensify as it attempted to cut what dared to stand in its way.

Sadly for the sharp energy, Euclio wasn't really there. His world imitated the void. His existence was the closest thing to non-existence that a cultivator could reach. He was basically empty even if he carried power in the solid stage.

Of course, those features barely affected Sword Saint's mindset. He had found something that he couldn't cut, so he was ready to launch attacks until he succeeded. His devotion knew no bounds. Sword Saint wouldn't stop even if he had to spend eras in that condition.

Euclio didn't mind keeping Sword Saint busy either. After all, that was the main purpose of those reinforcements. Everything would end as long as he bought enough time for Heaven and Earth.

Nevertheless, Euclio wasn't a normal underling. He was a privileged cultivator with desires and plans that went beyond Heaven and Earth's projects. It was better to stand still and let Sword Saint have fun, but he also wanted to play a role in that battle.

Euclio made the three stars disappear, and Sword Saint prepared himself to launch an even stronger offensive. Still, he interrupted his actions when the privileged cultivator teleported in front of him.

"I don't want to be a punching bag now that I've finally joined the battlefield," Euclio stated.

"That's not up to you to decide," Sword Saint snorted as silver energy exploded from every inch of his figure.

The attack passed through Euclio without hurting him in the slightest. He could raise his hand calmly and slowly until his fingers touched Sword Saint's forehead.

The fingers' silhouette trembled when they touched Sword Saint's silhouette. The latter's figure could express a form of sharpness so pure that even Euclio couldn't hide his surprise.

However, that event didn't stop Euclio from following his plan. A strange aura came out of his fingers and enveloped Sword Saint. Sharpness continued to shoot in every direction, but those attacks didn't affect Euclio's energy at all.

"Have fun in my void," Euclio uttered when he finished enveloping Sword Saint in his power.

Nothing special seemed to happen, but Sword Saint disappeared. His presence completely vanished from the battlefield, and his sharpness also stopped expanding through the void.

"That was so boring," Euclio exclaimed before caressing his beard and glancing at the battlefield. "Now, who should I help?"

Chapter 2230: 2230. Empty

Euclio's battle had ended quickly, far before the other fights involving major players. Even Noah was still busy dealing with the red-haired privileged cultivator by the time Sword Saint disappeared from the battlefield.

The scene that unfolded in front of Euclio's vision was messy and disappointing. The sky had sent a precise number of experts to keep all the landmass' leaders busy, so he couldn't find any worthy opponent.

After a quick inspection, Euclio found only two paths worth pursuing. One saw him joining his peers to defeat the landmass' leaders, while the other involved slaughtering the weaker troops.

"I don't want to do either," Euclio muttered as he continued to caress his beard. "I guess dealing with the leaders will put an end to this mess quickly, but I don't want the troublesome ones."

Euclio diverted his gaze whenever he found King Elbas, Noah, Alexander, or Divine Demon. He didn't want anything to do with those four, but the others seemed suitable targets.

His attention eventually converged on Vesuvia. Euclio knew her power and role, so he felt that removing her from the battlefield would inflict a significant blow on the landmass' forces.

Nevertheless, as soon as Euclio turned toward Vesuvia, a bright white light flashed next to him before condensing into a humanoid figure. A liquid stage aura expanded in the area and enveloped the privileged cultivator, but the latter only showed disappointment.

"You are out of your league," Euclio commented.

"A leader must be where he needs to be," Daniel declared as his figure continued to unleash white light. "I can't let you bother the others."

Euclio inspected the white radiance around him before moving his attention back to Daniel. He knew a lot about that expert, and he didn't hold back from voicing honest praises. "Your actions are commendable, truly worthy of a leader. Though, that's not enough to survive."

Euclio closed his hand, and all the light released by Daniel vanished. The void reclaimed its darkness in an instant, and Daniel noticed how his radiance became unable to expand past his figure.

"You might be from Defying Demon's generation," Euclio continued. "But you are not him. You have never been able to consistently ignore the gaps among the stages, and your breakthrough is also recent. You can't win."

"Winning or losing has no meaning to me," Daniel uttered. "My very life can't influence this battlefield. However, I might be able to use it for someone else's victory."

"Heaven and Earth can learn a lot from you," Euclio sighed. "Maybe I can throw your world in the sky to affect their evolution."

"You can try," Daniel smiled.

"I thought you had thrown away your arrogance," Euclio snorted before teleporting in front of Daniel and touching his forehead.

Euclio almost stopped caring about Daniel after that gesture. He had activated his ability, so he felt confident that his opponent wasn't a problem anymore. However, pure shock appeared on his face when he noticed that nothing had happened to Daniel.

Euclio tapped his fingers on Daniel's forehead again, but nothing changed. His shock intensified, and Daniel forced a faintly mocking smile to appear on his expression.

"I see how it is," Euclio eventually announced as the shock left his face.

"Our worlds are similar," Daniel revealed. "You profess emptiness. I do the same with purity. I'm not someone you can send into your void."

"You are correct," Euclio exclaimed as he sealed his grasp on Daniel's forehead. "Still, you forgot the most important aspect in a battle between worlds. Our raw power is in different realms."

The area around Euclio's figure suddenly darkened. A second layer of emptiness expanded through the void and fused with it, deepening its nature.

The light radiated by Daniel's body dimmed until his skin completely stopped shining. It seemed that his world couldn't express its power anymore, and his figure even started to grow fainter under Euclio's influence.

"You also forgot something," Daniel sighed as he raised his almost ethereal arms to grab Euclio's wrists. "I'm not Noah, but my path is worthier than yours."

Nothing came out of Daniel's hands, but Euclio's eyes flickered when he saw that chunks of his arms vanished. They didn't teleport somewhere else or shatter. Their fabric simply transformed into part of the void all around him.

"Your void is wonderful," Daniel praised. "Your world is virtually boundless, but it will always be empty. Don't worry. I'll grant you the power you have always been too scared to seize."

Fear flashed in Euclio's eyes. He tried to retract his arms, but they broke as more chunks of his flesh vanished. Daniel soon had nothing else to grasp, but he promptly flew forward to chase his retreating opponent.

Euclio was faster than Daniel, but he couldn't avoid the new light that shot out of his opponent. The whole area soon lit up again, and Euclio saw other chunks of his body disappearing under that influence.

"You decided to show me your void," Daniel stated while reaching Euclio and grabbing his beard. "You made yourself unable to escape."

"Do you think I will lose over a technicality?!" Euclio snorted as he headbutted Daniel and kept his forehead pressed on his nose.

Daniel's body grew even more ethereal, but blinding light slowly refilled his insides. The glow forced his figure to regain weight on the world and interrupt Euclio's technique.

"You can't force me to disappear," Daniel declared. "I don't have anything you can send into your void."

"You will regret this," Euclio cursed as his beard started to vanish.

"Noah heard similar threats countless times," Daniel commented. "Do you think they would have been enough because you are against me?"

"No," Euclio responded. "Even Defying Demon will suffer after this. You can be certain about that."

Daniel didn't let the threat faze him. He continued to express his power until Euclio completely disappeared. His aura also slowly vanished and gave the void its natural emptiness.

Daniel heaved a heavy sigh as he retracted his aura. He felt exhausted after forcing his purity to influence a solid stage privileged cultivator. The effort had left him with virtually no energy, but the outcome had been worth it.

Sword Saint was the only aspect that worried Daniel. In theory, he didn't kill Euclio. He had only forced him to turn into a real version of the void, so Sword Saint had to be alive somewhere.

Daniel couldn't find Sword Saint on the battlefield, so he guessed that the expert had teleported somewhere in the void. Daniel didn't know if Sword Saint would be able to return to the higher plane, but that didn't matter. Even if he didn't come back, Daniel had taken care of fulfilling his role.

'How many do we have to sacrifice to win?' Daniel sighed in his mind as he tried to find spots where his power could help save lives.

Sadly for Daniel, his world struggled to remain in one piece. His purity wavered and hinted at the need for rest. He didn't want to leave the battlefield so soon, but the event appeared inevitable.

However, a sinister aura suddenly filled his surroundings, and a familiar voice gave birth to an echoing laugh. Daniel didn't know what was happening, but he understood that Euclio was behind it.