

Demonic 2241

Chapter 2241: 2241. Too much, too little

"This?" The privileged cultivator wondered before falling silent as soon as she sensed a change in Divine Demon's aura.

Divine Demon remained with his legs crossed. He didn't move from his position or change his stance, but the blood-red energy around him began to condense and transform.

"What are you even doing?" The woman asked. "You have tried the higher energy already. Your attack won't work as long as they retain their original nature."

"That's not correct," Divine Demon revealed. "The problem isn't in its nature. A variant of the higher energy would be enough to solve that. The "Breath" itself is the problem against you."

"What's the difference?" The woman continued. "That's still your power. You can achieve miracles, but you can't change your world. That's not how the cultivation journey works."

"That's also not correct," Divine Demon exclaimed. "You would be right in most cases, but I'm a different monster. The world has given me this power, but it's not fully mine."

"You are its king," The privileged cultivator announced. "You are its heir. You are the chosen son of the world "Breath". That makes it yours."

"It makes it under my control," Divine Demon pointed out. "It makes it my servant, my helper. It's mine, but it also isn't."

The middle-aged woman's eyes flickered in understanding. She knew where Divine Demon was going, but the matter didn't make too much sense, or, rather, it didn't suit his mindset.

"I wanted to reveal this power against a worthier opponent," Divine Demon sighed as his blood-red energy continued to condense and transform. "I hoped for an actual gruesome battle that could force my power to its limits until I used this trump card. It's disappointing to use this against you."

"Are you an idiot?" The privileged cultivator snorted. "Why would you hold back a trump card during the final battle? Don't you care about the losses of your organization?"

"Of course," Divine Demon announced, but his tone wasn't too convincing. "Well, a few deaths are necessary to improve. How do you expect us to win if even the weaklings are allowed to survive?"

"What a ruthless character," The privileged cultivator commented while shaking her head.

"It's not ruthlessness," Divine Demon corrected. "The weaklings must die of find paths toward power. There are no alternatives to this rule. Heaven and Earth tried that, and look where it brought them."

That topic wasn't new or unusual. Heaven and Earth and Noah's organization had opposite mindsets due to the different natures of their paths. The rulers accepted weaklings and pushed their power toward greater heights, while the landmass' forces were the result of countless struggles.

"Where are you getting at?" The privileged cultivator eventually asked. "This still doesn't explain your intentions."

"I didn't expect you to understand," Divine Demon revealed. "You lack style."

"Style?" The woman sneered.

"A trump card should be used to turn the tables of a battle," Divine Demon continued. "It almost feels like a waste to reveal it now, against someone so boring. I can't even pull it back afterward."

The blood-red energy began to release screeching noises as the process continued. It suffered during the transformation, but Divine Demon remained unfazed by the event. Everything was unfolding according to his expectations.

"You are hurting your power," The woman noticed.

"Transformations rarely are painless," Divine Demon explained. "My case is also unique. This energy was originally supposed to fill the higher plane, but I'm condensing it into my world."

"I can see that," The privileged cultivator declared, "But the pain I'm talking about goes beyond mere headaches. You are about to give up on your miracles."

"No," Divine Demon contradicted. "That will depend on the capabilities of my mind."

It wasn't hard to understand what Divine Demon was doing. The "Breath" was part of his world, but he remained a mere ruler over that energy. The transformation aimed to make him the true owner and creator of that power.

Nevertheless, gaining that new position would force Divine Demon to rely solely on his power. The world would stop helping him come up with attacks or abilities. The Divine Deduction technique would have to bear the full weight of that process.

Heaven and Earth had faced a similar issue in their previous state when they had too many laws and worlds at their disposal. They had to use the ordinary cultivators under their rule to improve their computing capabilities.

Divine Demon was going in that same direction, but he lacked assets that could improve his mind. He didn't have Noah's potential or Alexander's innate abilities. He would have to rely entirely on his centers of power, which obviously hinted at problems.

Those problems were so evident that the privileged cultivator didn't fear the imminent transformation. Something even told her that Divine Demon would become overall weaker due to the new limits he would gain.

Various thoughts flowed through the middle-aged woman's mind. She could probably hinder the procedure, but she lacked the knowledge to understand which path to follow.

The only option was to ask her superiors about it. The privileged cultivator lifted her head to glance at the sky and at Caesar in the distance as faint mental waves shot out of her figure.

A silent conversation happened, and an answer quickly became clear. Both Heaven and Earth and Caesar wanted Divine Demon to complete the transformation, even if they had different reasons in mind.

Divine Demon almost expected that outcome, and he didn't hide how disappointed he felt to see the privileged cultivator holding back her power.

The blood-red energy continued to condense until it began to seep into Divine Demon's figure. It fused with his core and expanded his world to improve its overall power and quality.

The transformation was triggering a breakthrough, but that was within Heaven and Earth's predictions. After all, Divine Demon was striving toward superior forms of power. It was only normal for his liquid stage state to lack space.

Divine Demon slowly started to shine with bright blood-red light. The radiance seemed blinding, but the privileged cultivator could easily see past that to inspect his figure.

The breakthrough matched the levels of power reached by Sword Saint. It actually seemed to fall slightly short compared to that mighty expert, but Divine Demon remained confident. His cultivation level slowly surged until it stabilized on a higher realm.

The blood-red radiance dimmed to disappear inside Divine Demon's body. The breakthrough ended uneventfully without unleashing storms or causing any major mess. Even the void's fabric remained unaffected by his new weight.

"That's it?" The privileged cultivator asked. "I thought you would have done something far flashier. Why did you even hold back something so plain?"

"It sure is heavy," Divine Demon sighed, ignoring the woman's question. "I can feel the weight of a higher plane on my mind. It's as annoying as I imagined."

"I bet you can't even control so much power without the world's help," The privileged cultivator sneered.

"Shut up for a moment," Divine Demon showed his palm as he mustered his power. "I need to drink."

The woman snorted in annoyance, but her eyes widened in shock when she found herself immersed in a reddish liquid. She instinctively recognized it as strong wine, but her amazement intensified when her consciousness expanded.

The privileged cultivator sent mental waves in every direction to study the situation, but she found herself unable to find areas without wine. Only the sky and the landmass had remained untouched by that liquid. Instead, the rest of the battlefield had fallen under that reddish sea.

The event became even more surprising when the woman noticed how the sea expanded into the void. She couldn't find its edges since they crossed the limits of her consciousness. Divine Demon's creation stretched far beyond what she could comprehend or study.

"I used too much power," Divine Demon commented as he forced the whole sea to converge in his hand.

The process caused many complaints since the currents pulled many experts out of their fights, but Divine Demon didn't bother to address them. He focused on creating a cup, which ended up having a single drop of wine inside it.

"Too little power," Divine Demon sighed.

Chapter 2242: 2242. Outcome

Cultivators in the solid stage had powers that went far beyond reason, but affecting the entirety of the higher plane remained a bit too much even for them. However, that rule didn't seem to apply to Divine Demon, and the whole battlefield learnt about that at the same time.

Only the experts in the ninth rank could resist the pulling force generated by the wine converging in Divine Demon's hand. The others found themselves in random spots on the battlefield when the sea disappeared. Some even ended up too far or too close to the landmass.

The middle-aged woman didn't know how to react to that display of power. Divine Demon clearly was a solid stage cultivator now, but the danger that he radiated couldn't reach the peaks of his previous state.

The qualitative difference in Divine Demon's power was impossible to deny. The entire world was backing him up before, which made him able to achieve miracles with little to no effort. Instead, he was a mere expert now, with everything depending on his mind.

Nevertheless, a single desire had been able to generate an incredible amount of power. The privileged cultivator didn't even see the expansion of the sea. She just found herself immersed inside that strong liquid.

Explanations tried to form inside the woman's mind, but she failed to grasp the limits of Divine Demon's current power. If a mere desire could generate so much energy, what would happen once he gained complete control over his new state?

"A little more," Divine Demon muttered while focusing on his cup.

His control was still awful, so the cup transformed into a giant lake that expanded for a whole quarter of the higher plane. Complaints resounded again as countless experts found themselves submerged in wine again, but those words turned into cries once currents began to drag them.

The lake condensed into a cup, but Divine Demon voiced an annoyed growl when he noticed that the wine filled only half of it. He ended up repeating the process a few times to create a suitable drink, and the experts around him could only suppress complaints since he didn't bother to mind them.

The middle-aged woman didn't know what to do. She wanted to speak, but her instincts told her that it was better to study Divine Demon for now.

Something strange was going on. It made sense for Divine Demon to have immense power, but what he could do defied logic. Even Heaven and Earth would struggle to affect the whole higher plane so easily.

Her curiosity and faint arrogance had the best of her in the end. The privileged cultivator released a cloud of grey energy around her as a question left her mouth. "How did you seize so much power?"

"What?" Divine Demon exclaimed as he lifted his gaze and noticed his opponent. "Why are you still here?"

The privileged cultivator wanted to voice an arrogant remark, but the world in the eyes suddenly slowed down. She could keep track of what was happening, but she couldn't react to those events.

The woman soon realized that the world had no problems. Her survival instincts had kicked in when Divine Demon had started to move, but his actions were too fast for her.

Divine Demon raised his free hand to point two fingers at his opponent. He didn't blink nor struggle to muster his power. He had desired to unleash his power, and his world reacted accordingly.

Only an instant had to pass before the privileged cultivator's vision turned red. Initially, she believed that her forehead had exploded and had covered her eyes with blood, but the truth turned out to be far different.

Darkness appeared in the corners of the woman's vision and expanded through the mass of blood-red light before taking complete control of the scene. She understood what happened only when her thoughts began to disperse. Her life ended during that realization.

"Too much again," Divine Demon sighed when he saw the massive pillar that had come out of his fingers.

The attack connected Divine Demon's fingers to the sky and enveloped countless experts due to its width. However, none of the existences touched by the wave of energy suffered injuries. The technique actually felt harmless to them.

"Boring," Divine Demon commented as his energy dispersed. He stretched his legs to lay on the void as he brought his cup to his mouth. He felt too annoyed to care about the battlefield, but his eyes flashed with anticipation whenever they fell on the sky.

The other major battles saw Noah's side as the clear winner of the clash. Emperor, Queen, and Cursed Reality had no problem defeating their opponents, especially since Heaven and Earth didn't try their best against them.

The same went for Great Builder since he had established his position in the solid stage for quite some time. He could defeat his opponent easily, but it was clear that Heaven and Earth didn't send a suitable threat against him.

Supreme Thief didn't have any trouble either, but he felt no happiness after his victory. He angrily muttered as he voiced vague comments about his incomplete solid stage.

The situation was slightly different for June, Sepunia, Maribel, and the Foolery. Heaven and Earth had gone easy on Maribel and Sepunia, but they had to suffer serious injuries to achieve their victory. The only positive aspect was that Maribel seemed close to the breakthrough.

As for June and the Foolery, Heaven and Earth didn't hold back, but the two managed to win anyway. Still, they also suffered greatly.

Steven was the only exception among those relatively weaker experts. Heaven and Earth had tried their best against him, but he had won easily, without even suffering injuries. His power was also on the verge of moving up, but he still fell slightly short.

As for Wilfred, he had suffered injuries, but only because he had started playing with his opponent. Those wounds didn't even affect his battle prowess, so he didn't need any long period of rest or similar.

Soon, King Elbas remained the only major expert who had yet to end his battle. Actually, he didn't even start to fight. He had merely summoned a series of scanners to inspect his opponent while he focused on the rest of the battlefield.

"Are you sure you want to spend your time like this?" The inscribed cultivator's sizzling voice came out of its strange figure.

"You can attack me if you want," King Elbas commented in an uncaring tone while he continued to inspect the battlefield.

"Oh, I wouldn't dare," The inscribed cultivator replied. "Only an idiot would attack an inscription master recklessly. Defense is our strong point."

"Don't put you and me in the same category," King Elbas snorted. "Our realms are so distant that you should describe them with different words."

"That doesn't change the fact that your side has suffered heavy losses," The inscribed cultivator continued. "Sword Saint and Alexander won't be able to fight for a while. The same goes for many other major players. I wonder if you'll survive our next assault."

"Are Heaven and Earth about to send their main forces?" King Elbas asked and diverted his gaze now that every interesting fight on the battlefield had ended.

"Not at all," The inscribed cultivator stated. "Heaven and Earth have prepared four different rounds for all of you. Though, I'm afraid they will become five or six due to how many injured your side has."

"Five or six," King Elbas repeated. "I'm sorry. This isn't my style, but I must mess with Heaven and Earth's plans."

Chapter 2243: 2243. Summon

"Style?" The inscribed cultivator repeated. "My predictions reveal that you'll continue your tests for a while, even employing multiple items to discover the limits of my body. You'll reveal your fake quasi-rank 10 stage afterward, and I'll die in three exchanges."

"What's the point of this fight then?" King Elbas wondered as he summoned a series of inscribed items and retrieved the various scanners.

"To gather data, obviously," The inscribed cultivator stated. "You are a peculiar existence. Even Divine Architect has expressed her interest in your power."

"Is she also part of Caesar's plan?" King Elbas asked as he dismantled and reassembled his items.

"There are multiple ploys and tactics at work inside the sky," The inscribed cultivator revealed. "Still, all of them see Heaven and Earth coming out victorious from this battle. The tenth rank is theirs to seize."

"I expected as much," King Elbas revealed. "Yet, your predictions are quite arrogant. Surviving three exchanges while I'm in my fake quasi-rank 10 stage is way too optimistic."

"My words carry no arrogance," The inscribed cultivator declared. "They merely are the result of gathered data and studies. I do not carry something as useless as emotions."

"Such limited creations," King Elbas commented. "Is that fine with you? Are you really willing to live at your pre-established level?"

"Your concept of limits is flawed," The inscribed cultivator pointed out. "I serve my creator and my purpose. There is nothing beyond that."

"Noah would have turned you into a pretty being," King Elbas chuckled. "It's a pity I won't see that transformation. I have other plans for you."

King Elbas finished reassembling his items until he created a giant cube that slowly turned ethereal as its functions activated. The inscribed cultivator's body released a few flashes as it inspected the new tool, but the process didn't seem to lead anywhere.

"That's something new," The inscribed cultivator stated. "I can see similarities with some of your past creations, but its purpose escapes my intellect."

"That's not surprising," King Elbas uttered. "Limited beings can't look past their functions. Divine Architect probably never wanted you to invent something similar, so she had made you unable to think about it."

A different shade of white abruptly appeared inside the inscribed cultivator's strange body and generated a faint tremor. The natural aura radiated by that strange being quickly changed, and King Elbas smirked at that event.

"Did you receive orders from Divine Architect?" King Elbas mocked. "She must be worried."

"I must terminate you immediately," The inscribed cultivator announced as it raised its glowing arms to generate a series of orbs that enveloped its figure.

The orbs had multiple purposes and shades of white. They actually resembled some of King Elbas' attacks due to their diverse nature. The inscribed cultivator was ready to unleash a proper attack that aimed to exploit its opponent's weaknesses.

King Elbas didn't care about that display of power. He continued to tinker with his giant cube to perfect its functions. The inscribed cultivator didn't let him do as he wished, and its offensive soon shot out.

A series of rays of white light converged toward King Elbas, and they transformed during the flight. Some gained the shape of lightning bolts that radiated pure destructions, while others turned into dark attacks that aimed to inflict serious damage.

The offensive continued to fly toward King Elbas before performing a sharp turn and converging toward the ethereal cube. The various attacks also transformed again, gaining ghostly properties that seemed to target the item's specific nature.

King Elbas seemed to have predicted that sudden turn since a series of items materialized all around the cube before the inscribed cultivator's attacks could land.

Multiple barriers appeared around King Elbas and the cube, forcing the incoming attacks to land on them. A series of explosions and a bright white light followed, but the defenses soon took over that glow with their golden radiance.

The inscribed cultivator's offensive had been useless. King Elbas' barriers had endured the attack perfectly without suffering any damage.

"Divine Architect must be really worried," King Elbas mocked as he kept his attention on the ethereal cube.

The inscribed cultivator didn't give up. It adjusted the nature of its orbs in a few seconds before launching another offensive. King Elbas did something similar with his barrier, and another impact happened.

The second exchange saw King Elbas' barrier enduring what had landed on them without suffering damage again. Moreover, they seemed to have countered the inscribed cultivator's offensive even better at that time since the impact released no sound.

The inscribed cultivator knew that it was losing ground. King Elbas was adapting his items faster, but there was something else to the issue.

"You are remarkable," The inscribed cultivator commented while retrieving its orbs and flashing with various shades of white. "You figured me out in such a short time."

"You are a marvelous being," King Elbas declared, "But a limited one nonetheless."

The inscribed cultivator knew why King Elbas could fend off its offensive so easily. King Elbas had already studied its fabric deeply enough to come up with perfect counters.

That wasn't as easy as it seemed, especially since the inscribed cultivator had also prepared attacks after computing everything known about King Elbas. However, the latter had still managed to come out on top of the exchange.

King Elbas' computing abilities weren't only incredible. He had also shown how his scanners stood in a completely different realm. All of that obviously led to his victory when adding the final energy to the equation.

Nevertheless, the inscribed cultivator had prepared for a similar event. It didn't expect the battle to reach that phase so soon, but it had attacks ready to counter the fake quasi-rank 10 stage.

The inscribed cultivator's body dimmed as a giant cloud expanded from its figure. The white gas enveloped King Elbas and the cube, but it didn't try to attack the barriers. Instead, it quickly condensed into a tiny sphere that hovered in front of the odd expert's chest.

"A controlled self-destruction," King Elbas spoke. "You were born to die."

"I wasn't born," The inscribed cultivator corrected. "I was created."

"Well, I need you alive," King Elbas announced, and his fake quasi-rank 10 stage expressed its power for an instant as he teleported.

The inscribed cultivator abruptly lost control of its energy. It found itself inside the ethereal cube, with King Elbas showing his curious smirk right outside it.

The tiny sphere inevitably exploded without the inscribed cultivator's control, but its energy struggled to expand inside the ethereal cube. Its power lost the violence gathered during the detonation and started to move according to the orders conveyed by the golden light.

"Don't blame your creator," King Elbas exclaimed as he modified the ethereal cube. "Divine Architect did her best by stuffing you with higher energy and all the data she had about me. I'm simply someone that she can't hinder through these methods."

The inscribed cultivator went all-out when it realized that King Elbas was altering its nature. Its failsafe tried to make everything inside its body explode, but only small detonations happened since the cube suppressed those functions.

"Now, now," King Elbas laughed. "I told you that I need you alive. How could I summon Divine Architect otherwise?"

Chapter 2244: 2244. Pushing

The inscribed cultivator had only received orders, but the modifications that King Elbas was applying to its body through the ethereal cube revealed his intentions.

The plan was relatively simple. King Elbas wanted to use the connection that the inscribed cultivator shared with Divine Architect to summon her on the battlefield. At least, that was what King Elbas wanted the odd being to understand.

King Elbas had plans that went beyond what the inscribed cultivator could see. He had actually made sure that the odd being's sensors couldn't understand what he had in mind.

King Elbas' had never taken his opponent seriously. His focus had always been on the master behind the inscribed cultivator. He had to trick Divine Architect to prevent her from unleashing countermeasures.

The inscribed cultivator was powerless inside the ethereal cube. Its functions were still active, but they couldn't reach the higher energy that flowed inside its body.

Still, other protections appeared once self-destructing became impossible. The inscribed cultivator focused on getting rid of the higher energy inside its body to hinder King Elbas' tampering, but the effort turned out to be pointless.

King Elbas seemed to have the inscribed cultivator completely figured out. He even exited his fake quasi-rank 10 stage to save energy as he continued to modify his opponent.

Flares of golden flames and bright flashes came out of his body as he fought and won against the various hidden defenses. King Elbas even laughed as he sent energy and items inside the ethereal cube.

The inscribed cultivator saw its body changing under those modifications. A golden seed appeared at the center of its strange chest, and the light it radiated took over the white shades that it carried.

The strange being slowly understood what was happening, and its programming forced it to warn Divine Architect. However, King Elbas had already disabled any communication device by then. He had even placed a filter on the innate connection between those two existences.

"You will bring destruction to your whole organization like this!" The inscribed cultivator shouted after giving up on stopping King Elbas.

"What's this?" King Elbas laughed. "Did you move to a different approach already? Divine Architect surely went all-out with you."

"There can't be any victory through this path," The inscribed cultivator responded. "You will only shorten your companions' lives."

"It would be such a pity if some of them were to die," King Elbas replied in an unconvincing tone.

"Do you wish to see the death of your organization?" The inscribed cultivator asked. "Heaven and Earth won't take you into their sky even if you succeed."

"Be a good inscribed item and shut up," King Elbas snorted. "I'm working here."

"You fail to understand what you are bringing upon your organization," The inscribed cultivator continued.

"My organization, my companions," King Elbas sneered. "I think Divine Architect made a mistake when she implemented this function. You should use different topics if you want to have a chance at distracting me."

"You won't get to see what Heaven and Earth, Caesar, and Divine Architect had prepared for you if you keep this up," The inscribed cultivator declared.

"That was far better," King Elbas praised. "You tried to use my curiosity against me. Nice try. It's a pity it won't work against me, not right now."

The inscribed cultivator wanted to speak again, but a golden line suddenly appeared on its surface and made its body open. Its white shades tried to escape, but the ethereal cube forced them to condense.

King Elbas' grin broadened as he stuck his hands inside the cube and reached for the opening. The white shades continued to condense during the process, and a blinding orb materialized in his palms when they arrived at the center of the inscribed cultivator's chest.

"Nice core," King Elbas commented. "It's almost a waste to destroy it before performing extensive studies."

"Don't," The inscribed cultivator muttered in a broken voice. "Death. You. Bring. Death."

"We'll see about that," King Elbas exclaimed as his expression turned serious.

The ethereal cube shattered to transform into strands of energy that flowed inside the blinding orb to alter its nature. The inscribed cultivator also crumbled, and its power converged toward the core too.

King Elbas altered the item for a while before raising a hand. A lump of quasi-rank 10 flames came out of his palm and darkened until it gained properties similar to the odd dragon's black liquid.

The sky shook as King Elbas poured that dark flame inside the core. White figures also appeared behind its surface, but the orange net shone brightly during the event.

It was clear that Heaven and Earth didn't like what King Elbas was doing, but their reaction was too slow. King Elbas could fuse his flame with the core before throwing the item toward the sky.

The core continued to transform during its flight. Shards fell from the sky as Heaven and Earth tried to force themselves past the blockade, but their struggle failed to produce results.

The tampered core changed direction before it could hit the sky. It turned to fly toward the orange net and fused with its fabric before disappearing from the higher plane.

The major players on the battlefield went silent as they waited to see what King Elbas had done. The other important fights had already ended, so everyone could focus on the orange net.

Heaven and Earth stopped struggling after the core entered the net. The reinforcements also didn't leave the sky anymore as they waited to see what King Elbas had caused.

The net started to change color. It remained orange, but dark shades seeped inside it and stretched until proper black lines expanded throughout its surface.

The core was modifying the old rulers' defenses without hurting them in the slightest. King Elbas wasn't crazy enough to allow Heaven and Earth to join the battlefield again. Yet, his plan wasn't too distant from that.

The lights that had started to disappear returned. Humanoid figures materialized behind the sky's surface, and everyone could see how there were far more of them now.

The same went for other strange figures. Giant and non-humanoid shapes had appeared right behind the sky and had almost filled the entirety of their surface.

The net shook at that point. A shockwave spread throughout the sky without inflicting any damage. Its effects attacked deeper aspects of that material, and a few leaders inevitably felt shocked when they realized what was happening.

Privileged cultivators, avatars, and giant items with different natures slowly seeped out of the sky. The process clearly went against their will since they all struggled to remain inside the white layer, but they appeared unable to oppose the pushing force.

The net released another tremor when the pushing force generated by the shockwave dispersed. The countless assets found more of their bodies leaving the sky under that power, and nothing they did seemed able to stop the process.

King Elbas wore a satisfied expression while he watched the sky spitting out its assets. Countless powerful auras filled the battlefield and stretched in the void, but he didn't care. He wouldn't let Heaven and Earth do as they wished during the final battle.

Chapter 2245: 2245. Awakening

Noah teleported next to King Elbas without saying anything. The latter also remained silent, and the two limited themselves to watch as the sky released all the experts and assets it contained.

"It's better like this, right?" King Elbas eventually asked. "We don't want to stick to Caesar's plan too much."

"I stopped taking his fate into consideration long ago," Noah sighed. "He might have predicted something like this, but who cares? We'll act as we please."

"That's the whole point of this organization," King Elbas stated.

"Are you defending maniacs now?" Noah teased.

"Do you think a regular cultivator would have chosen to create all of this?" King Elbas asked.

Noah smirked as countless lights filled his vision. Most of them belonged to avatars, disposable weapons, and strange creatures, which created an overall white environment. Still, that halo didn't prevent Noah and the others from finding the privileged cultivators.

"Are you sure this is all of them?" Noah asked as he tried to evaluate the army's strength.

"Only one of them had a chance of resisting my creation," King Elbas announced while glancing at a massive structure hovering right past the sky. "She is here, so it's safe to say that this is everyone."

Noah followed King Elbas' line of sight. He was studying a giant castle that had nine towers rotating around its main structure. Its upper part featured a vast balcony, and a middle-aged woman was sitting at its exact center.

The solid stage aura radiated by the woman was intense and familiar. King Elbas couldn't possibly fail to recognize her, and Noah's instincts also helped him find an answer.

The middle-aged woman on the balcony could only be Divine Architect. She had replaced her eyes with white crystals, and her long black hair seemed alive as it fluttered behind her back.

Divine Architect wore an aloof expression. She seemed unable to gaze at the environment, but Noah and King Elbas sensed that her attention was on them. She was watching them, and her strange eyes also carried a faint annoyance.

"She is definitely mad," King Elbas laughed, and Noah couldn't help but smirk while he continued his inspection.

Divine Architect wasn't the only major expert who had left the sky. Noah could find four more incredibly powerful auras that managed to stand out from the rest of the army, and his eyes met theirs for a few seconds.

'They are strong,' Noah instinctively thought, and the problems didn't end there.

Heaven and Earth had accumulated assets for entire eras, and they had also adapted them to the various threats that appeared on the higher plane.

A few assets were clearly incomplete, but others were incredibly strong. Noah could see rank 9 avatars fueled by higher energy that could adapt to their opponents, entire swarms of insect-like creatures with a wide variety of attacks, and proper giants that carried unfathomable amounts of power.

A third figure materialized next to Noah and King Elbas, and the stench of blood filled the area. Alexander inspected the battlefield for a few seconds, but his hand eventually rose to pat King Elbas' shoulder.

"That was smart," Alexander announced in a rough voice.

"You are filthy," King Elbas snorted while burning the spot of blood that had tainted his shoulder.

"And hungry," Alexander continued. "At least there is food now."

"I'll also have some fun before going for the big ones," Noah added. "We can't really let our army fight so many opponents."

"It would be proper to let them handle them on their own," Divine Demon's voice resounded in the area before his figure materialized at Noah's side.

"Did you already pick your opponent?" Noah asked.

"I'm still thinking," Divine Demon revealed. "I'll drink in the meantime."

"I have a date in the castle," King Elbas stated.

"We know," Noah sighed. "I'm more worried about the other maniac."

"Isn't he having some sword-related dream?" Alexander wondered while glancing at Sword Saint.

"He will wake up," Noah exclaimed. "He won't remain asleep when the landmass wakes up."

Alexander and Divine Demon glanced at the landmass, but Noah and King Elbas didn't bother to turn. They knew what was happening even without sending their mental waves in that direction.

King Elbas obviously knew what his actions would have caused, and Noah understood the landmass deeply. Countless new auras had filled the higher plane, and most of them were heavy.

The general danger level on the battlefield had multiplied. Heaven and Earth's army couldn't reach those numbers and quality even during the initial stages of the fight, and the landmass' instincts inevitably reacted to that change.

Daniel and Faith did their best, but nothing seemed to work anymore. Earthquakes spread through the landmass as the creature sensed the countless threats that had appeared on the world and prepared to fight.

The whole defensive array that had taken many years to place expanded and flashed with multiple lights as a deep growl came out of the landmass and made the entire higher plane shake.

Many buildings shattered even if they were proper rank 9 items. Everyone's attention inevitably fell on the creature, and King Elbas glanced at Noah only to snort when he shrugged his shoulders.

"What do you even want me to do?" Noah asked. "I would also be pissed if I had countless useless buildings on my back."

"I can't believe you actually made us build on that thing," King Elbas scoffed.

"Don't be rude toward our home," Alexander scolded.

"Why do I even try?" King Elbas sighed.

"Come on," Noah laughed. "We have countermeasures for this."

"You mean that I built countermeasures for this," King Elbas corrected.

"That's not completely true," Cursed Reality's voice resounded in the area as he materialized above the group. "You still had to rely on my dimensions."

"And on my centers of power," Great Builder added while teleporting next to Cursed Reality.

"Where is the pig when we need a joke?" Divine Demon wondered.

"It was still fuming after its battle," Noah revealed, "And I mean that literally. I think it will need some time to recover."

"Call the tea maniac," King Elbas ordered.

Pellio teleported in front of King Elbas before Noah could do anything. The expert opened his eyes to inspect the landmass before turning to talk with the group. "Is it time?"

"Yes," Noah stated. "Preserve the inscriptions and everything else. We will need them soon."

"I won't be able to help right away if I do that," Pellio warned.

"It's fine," Noah reassured. "Everything is about to turn into a mess. I bet Heaven and Earth's forces didn't know how to move inside it."

"They have probably forgotten," Alexander chuckled.

"Even if they recalled how to do it," Divine Demon stated, "Our chaos isn't something that these cultivators can handle."

King Elbas rolled his eyes before whispering a simple "well said".

"I'll start then," Pellio exclaimed before turning toward the landmass again and opening his eyes.

All the structures and inscriptions around the landmass slowly turned ethereal and slid past the central structure. The creature was too big to allow their passage quickly, but another event happened before at the same time.

Silver light flashed at one end of the landmass. Sword Saint shook his head as he glanced at the trembling creature and at the buildings seeping past it.

"You want to show what kind of sword you are," Sword Saint whispered. "I shall help you."

Sword Saint touched the landmass at that point, and his silver aura spread over the dark surface. The process continued until the creature's edges lit up and unleashed thick sharpness that filled the whole higher plane.

Chapter 2246: 2246. Mess

The landmass released a growl that pushed Cursed Reality's defenses and forced him to join the scene. The expert flew toward the center of the higher plane and disappeared inside his creations to apply changes that could help them survive the awakening.

Meanwhile, Sword Saint wore an ecstatic expression as his aura resonated with the landmass' sharpness. The birth of a new blade was filling his existence with power and was helping him solidify the improvements achieved through the breakthrough.

Heaven and Earth's army remained still during those world-shattering events. The main players on that side glared coldly at their various opponents, but they didn't move. They were waiting for the rulers to give orders or for the battlefield to change, but Noah's side didn't share their coolness.

The dragons and the modified magical beasts voiced roars and cries that fused with the landmass' growl. Those creatures couldn't remain still for too long when the higher plane had become full of their designed targets, and they soon launched a massive offensive.

The two upper tier dragons shot toward the closest threatening auras, and their underlings imitated them. Heaven and Earth's side couldn't stay still anymore at that point, and a massive battle started.

Noah, King Elbas, Divine Demon, Alexander, and the others didn't need orders anymore. The first clash brought their conversation to an end and made them teleport away to join the battlefield.

Alexander laughed wildly as he appeared in an area full of rank 8 assets that radiated Heaven and Earth's energy. They were nothing more than weaker avatars of cultivators who had been lucky enough to survive the previous exchanges, but their life ended in that very instant.

The avatars and cultivators saw their bodies wilting as soon as Alexander appeared among them. The presence of a rank 9 hybrid would typically make them crumble instantly, but Alexander had far different plans.

Waves of energy left the avatars and cultivators to converge toward Alexander. He absorbed everything those assets had in a single second before teleporting himself away and leaving behind mere shells that dispersed into the void.

Similar scenes unfolded multiple times across the higher plane. Alexander didn't care about the level or nature of his opponents. He wanted food, so he teleported to various areas easy to exploit to refill his energy reserves.

Heaven and Earth's side couldn't let Alexander do as he wished. The privileged cultivators had to preserve the immense numerical advantage to solidify their winning position, so one of them shot forward to stop the hybrid.

Alexander was about to teleport away after devouring a vast platoon of weaker experts, but a fiery lake suddenly filled his surroundings and interrupted his technique. Multiple figures even came out of those flames while a privileged cultivator in the solid stage descended toward him.

"You should respect the rules of the battlefield," The old woman who had created the flames announced as she hovered above Alexander. "Why don't you fight me?"

The woman raised her arms to summon flames in her palms, but a fiery flare abruptly came out of the lake to cover her side. That defense instantly exploded and forced her to glance at the new threat, and her expression darkened when she noticed a burly humanoid figure.

"Why don't you fight me?" Wilfred laughed as he bent his legs and retracted his big arm to prepare for another attack.

The old woman snorted, and her annoyance only intensified when she noticed that Alexander had already left the lake. She had left her chance to trap the expert, but she had every intention to vent her feelings on Wilfred.

Noah imitated Alexander, even if his offensive was more precise. He shot through the battlefield, unleashing the full power of his movement technique to reach powerful targets that were bound to create problems for his side.

The areas right past the sky had countless experts from Heaven and Earth's side. They lacked assets from Noah's army, so he could unleash the full power of his destruction without worrying about hurting his companions.

Noah appeared in front of a giant avatar that reeked of higher energy. Chaotic laws seeped out of its massive figure and adapted to Noah's influence to create partial counters, but a series of black lines suddenly dug into its body.

Night voiced an annoyed cry when it noticed that its attacks couldn't cut the avatar from side to side, but the offensive didn't end there. The Pterodactyl had planted seeds inside the giant that quickly generated expanding roots.

Noah's destruction came out of those roots and helped the parasite branches expand. The avatar soon found its insides filled with that dangerous presence, and its radiance dimmed as its higher energy vanished.

"Noah Balvan!" A loud voice resounded in the area as multiple presences appeared around Noah.

Noah could sense that a small team of privileged cultivators was trying to encircle him, but a cold smile appeared on his face when a familiar aura showed its power at the edges of his consciousness.

The privileged cultivators wanted to speak, but a dark-red wave of energy suddenly engulfed the whole area and forced them to summon their best defensive abilities. Noah was also in the middle of the attack, but that fuel seemed unable to hurt him.

"You should let demons behave as demons," Divine Demon sighed as he teleported into the area, but his attention soon fell on his free hand. "Too much power again."

The team of privileged cultivators showed cold faces at Divine Demon's sight. Fear also seeped into their expressions. They were five against one, but none of them felt confident in the battle. They actually liked how Noah had decided to leave during the chaos instead of helping his companion.

Divine Architect didn't seem to care about the battlefield at all. She pressed her fingers on the floor to activate a few formations before disregarding the environment. Her attention had to go to a golden figure that was approaching her castle calmly.

King Elbas had countless inscribed items around him, and he tinkered with all of them. He had many inscriptions to handle, and the orange city also required his full attention, but he would be unable to focus on them soon.

King Elbas landed on the balcony without retrieving his inscribed items. He was applying the final plans and tactics, and Divine Architect seemed to respect that process. Some smugness actually appeared on her expression since she had completed the process faster than him.

"I'm almost done," King Elbas sneered as he continued to give orders and set priorities. "Those idiots would die instantly without this."

"You are showing your items to me," Divine Architect exclaimed. "Such arrogance."

"I know you are learning how to counter them," King Elbas replied.

"So, why are you showing them to me?" Divine Architect asked. "I can create counters before you can reach me."

"But you aren't," King Elbas chuckled. "Even your castle isn't doing anything specific. You know that I wouldn't give you the time to act."

Divine Architect's fingers trembled, but a series of cracks abruptly spread on the balcony's floor. Golden flames seeped out of those fissures, and King Elbas' power expanded in the area even if he continued to focus on his items.

"Do you think you can scare me with this?" Divine Architect asked.

"I would be disappointed if you did," King Elbas revealed as he finally retrieved his inscribed items and focused on his opponent. "I was just stating how you won't have the time to affect the battlefield while fighting me."

Chapter 2247: 2247. Food

Many major players didn't join the battlefield even after chaos unfolded. The strongest privileged cultivators inspected the area as they waited for something meaningful to happen. Moreover, they felt the need to keep the landmass in check for now.

Divine Architect had prepared a series of countermeasures for the landmass. The nine towers around her castle opened while she was busy talking with King Elbas, and small platoons equipped with inscribed weapons came out of them.

The platoons didn't only have cultivators. Some had inscribed humans or different creatures made of formations and inscriptions. Also, their items allowed them to create ethereal barriers that improved their movement techniques.

The platoons shot through the battlefield and avoided all the small fights on their path. Even the dragons seemed unable to sense them while they flew across the void to converge toward the landmass.

Sword Saint didn't care about those incoming opponents. Multiple rank 9 auras filled those ethereal barriers, but the expert didn't mind them. His whole attention was on the landmass, and his ecstasy only intensified as more sharpness came out of it.

"Hear your instincts, newborn sword," Sword Saint whispered. "Feel your nature take over your greatness. Let it fill the entirety of your fabric and express its true power."

The landmass seemed able to understand Sword Saint's words. Another growl came out of its dark surface, but that cry didn't carry the same violence as before. It was almost peaceful and calm.

Sword Saint patted the landmass as more of his aura flowed into it. His power never fused with the creature. He only aimed to awaken all the different aspects that resonated with his path.

The landmass began to move on its own. The array of inscriptions and various structures were still sliding through its body, but that didn't affect its actions. The creature started to turn toward the strongest auras hovering right past the sky, and the entire higher plane experienced those changes.

The landmass was immense, so its slightest movements could generate massive gales and storms that expanded in every direction. Cursed Reality had to work extra hard to redirect those violent winds and send them to areas that wouldn't hurt his defenses or underlings.

The storms disappeared after leaving the landmass to teleport near the sky. The experts there were too powerful to get affected by those events, but some weaker underlings fell prey to those wild gales.

The stronger privileged cultivators didn't have the time to help their underlings. The landmass was moving to point at them. They couldn't disregard that threat, especially since its power continued to increase as Sword Saint awakened its abilities.

Divine Architect's teams eventually arrived in the landmass' range. Their ethereal barriers allowed them to seep past Cursed Reality's defenses and get quite close to the creature, but they didn't dare to land on it.

The platoons took specific positions to surround the landmass before revealing specific inscribed items meant to counter its sharpness. The strongest assets in those teams self-destructed to generate massive waves of energy that their companions used to create cannon-like weapons and point them at the creature.

The cannons became ready to unleash their power in mere seconds, but the platoons didn't immediately use them to attack the landmass. The various assets also self-destructed to add energy to the barriers and stabilize the weapon's footing.

Divine Architect's approach had no room for mercy. She had created those platoons with the sole intention of turning them into weapons, and the power they radiated forced some leaders in Noah's army to turn their attention on them.

The cannons and barriers created nine different upper tier arrays of inscriptions that hovered around the landmass. They weren't only powerful. The meanings carried by their auras destabilized the giant creature's sharpness and slowed down its awakening.

Sword Saint didn't care about that hindrance. He continued to talk with the landmass and send his energy to explain how to use specific abilities. His mind couldn't even see the rest of the battlefield while he was taking care of that new blade.

The cannons didn't care about Sword Saint either. They waited for their arrays to stabilize before unleashing their energy. Thundering noises filled the higher plane as dark-blue pillars came out of those weapons and converged toward the landmass.

The attacks were immense, but they paled compared to the landmass's size. However, Divine Architect had never planned to destroy the creature through sheer power.

The dark-blue pillars shattered to transform into countless smaller strands of energy before they could touch the landmass. Those many lines flew in different directions and fused until a net-like structure surrounded the giant creature.

More power flowed into the net at that point. Spheres began to expand in each intersection as the nine weapons shattered to send the entirety of their energy to the structure.

It didn't take long before an ethereal barrier appeared around the net and protected it from eventual incoming attacks. Meanwhile, the various spheres continued to accumulate power and prepare an offensive that seemed able to affect the entire higher plane.

Sword Saint was the only expert currently standing on the landmass, but the net had ended up enveloping the inscriptions and buildings that had yet to leave the aura.

Daniel, Faith, and the other experts who had returned to their homes to rest found themselves inside that dark-blue prison. They didn't have enough energy to fend off the incoming attack, and they would struggle to fight back even at the peak of their power, but they still left their position to help protect the landmass.

A series of silver swords appeared around their figures as soon as they tried to affect the imminent exchange. Daniel and the others saw Sword Saint's energy blocking their path, but they only found reassurance in that event. They understood that they could leave the matter to their leader.

"What an unsightly scene," Sword Saint sighed while glancing at the net. "Do you think barriers are enough to trap a blade?"

The net unleashed its accumulated energy as soon as Sword Saint finished speaking. Countless dark-blue rays shot out of the various spheres and converged on the landmass. The attacks landed on its dark surface easily, and multiple explosions resounded.

It became impossible to see the landmass due to the many explosions that filled its surface. The net had delivered a successful offensive, but a massive pulling force suddenly made the whole dark-blue structure shake.

The smoke released during the explosions vanished to reveal a perfectly intact landmass. The creature absorbed all the power lingering on its surface before voicing a violent roar that made the net shake again.

"Go on," Sword Saint laughed. "Show them what kind of sword you are."

The landmass didn't need Sword Saint to repeat that order. Another roar came out of the dark surface, and multiple whooshing noises mixed with that cry.

Sword Saint nodded as he glanced at the net. His satisfied smile hinted at something, but most experts glancing at the scene found themselves unable to understand what that expression meant.

The answer arrived in the next second. The whole net exploded into a storm of dark-blue energy that created multiple tornados as it converged toward the landmass. Divine Architect's platoons had turned into food for the giant creature.

Chapter 2248: 2248. Resolve

"Not a great plan," King Elbas commented while inspecting the outcome of the assault on the landmass. "Though I believe you were only testing our creation."

"Why do you feel the need to speak if you already know the answer?" Divine Architect sighed before waving her hand.

The cracked floor of the balcony quickly fixed itself and suppressed the golden flames coming out of the various cracks. The multiple tiles even improved and adapted themselves to King Elbas' power during the process.

The castle didn't remain still after Divine Architect's answer. Its nine towers rotated on themselves until they pointed at the landmass. Multiple inscriptions lit up on their surface as their overall structure turned ethereal and allowed them to shoot at high speed through the higher plane.

"Predictable," King Elbas sneered before snapping his fingers.

The parts of the now-golden city that had turned ethereal due to Pellio's power escaped the technique and flew around the landmass to get in the towers' trajectory. Multiple buildings filled the void and regained their solid fabric, creating a barrier that occupied a fifth of the battlefield.

The nine towers tried to fly through the blockade, but an ethereal barrier appeared on their path before they could reach those structures. King Elbas had prepared for that sudden attack and had unleashed suitable countermeasures.

The ethereal barrier appeared impossible to pierce for the towers, but Divine Architect's buildings didn't give up there. They rotated on themselves again before spreading over the blockade of golden structures and summoning their power.

The nine towers created nine different oval shields that expanded from their surfaces and isolated safe areas where various assets could deploy multiple battle formations.

More inscribed creatures, items, and actual cultivators left the towers to set up workshops where they prepared inscriptions and weapons. They were proper teams that acted independently without Divine Architect's supervision.

King Elbas didn't lose in that field. The countless buildings in the blockade opened to reveal entire packs of modified magical beasts and avatars that didn't hesitate to shoot forward.

A messy battle immediately unfolded. King Elbas' troops attacked recklessly and relied on the influence of the buildings behind them to avoid deadly attacks. Meanwhile, Divine Architect's assets focused on defending and counterattacking while adapting their offensive to the threat.

No one dared to affect that part of the battlefield. Both sides let King Elbas and Divine Architect have their personal challenge while they focused on other fights.

Noah and Alexander continued to spread chaos on the battlefield. Alexander mainly aimed to absorb energy, while Noah tried to destroy strategic targets to help contain the losses.

Their efforts obviously added chaos to the battlefield. The experts on Heaven and Earth's side felt unable to put the entirety of themselves into their fights since Noah and Alexander could come for their lives at any moment.

That gave a sharp advantage to Noah's side, but the numerical disadvantage often prevented Noah's underlings from exploiting that situation. Everyone did their best, but Heaven and Earth's forces appeared genuinely endless.

Heaven and Earth's army was a bright sea capable of covering the entirety of the higher plane. The areas right past the sky felt crowded due to the incredible number of assets stuffed there.

The strongest assets in that army only worsened the situation. The various privileged cultivators, the structures, the special platoons, and the giant avatars required large chunks of space to express their power, which naturally affected their underlings.

Nevertheless, those assets soon had new problems to take care of. Noah flew left and right, using Night to launch deadly attacks and plant seeds that gave birth to branches of the parasite.

It didn't take long before multiple forests made of corrosive roots took control of different parts of the battlefield. The parasite had every intention to expand as long as it found energy, and Noah redirected most of his potential to his mind to endure the pressure generated by that growth.

The parasite didn't only spread destruction. Noah added multiple aspects of his world to the plant to improve its corrosiveness and defense.

The roots ended up launching slashes, spreading dark-red and dark-purple liquid, and discharging beams made of destructive dark matter. The parasite was using multiple powers freely, without endangering its structure, but Noah had to face heavy pressure as it expanded.

Noah didn't care about the pressure falling on his mind. He used the entirety of his experience to compensate for that heavy force. He turned into an untouchable shadow that flew everywhere on the battlefield to gather energy and plant even more seeds.

Needless to say, Noah was more than enough to turn the tides of that battle. He had always excelled at killing weaker beings, especially in chaotic environments, and the only ones capable of stopping him found themselves unable to intervene.

One of the four privileged cultivators that had stood out during Noah's inspection eventually decided to address the issue caused by the expanding roots. The young-looking man crossed his arms as he

teleported before one of the largest forests, and a simple wave of power released by his figure managed to turn it into dust.

The privileged cultivator didn't stop there. He teleported in front of another forest to eradicate the parasite, but a yellowish light abruptly materialized between him and the roots.

"You seem too strong to be left alone," Great Builder announced while teleporting before the privileged cultivator.

The young-looking expert glanced at Great Builder before focusing on the giant structure under him. Great Builder was sitting on top of a huge pyramid that reeked upper tier power filled with multiple meanings.

The privileged cultivator's cold grey eyes quickly went back on Great Builder before a shockwave left his figure. Still, some bricks in the pyramid moved to reveal an opening that absorbed that energy and nullified the attack.

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"Why don't we move elsewhere and let these roots expand?" Great Builder asked while wearing a calm smile.

The privileged cultivator remained silent as he stretched an arm forward to point at the pyramid. Grey energy gathered before his fingers to create a small sphere that quickly released a beam.

The pyramid struggled to deploy a defensive ability. The beam slammed on one of the bricks and pierced it before disappearing inside the structure.

The cultivator's cold face flickered when he saw that the beam didn't pierce the entirety of the pyramid, but Great Builder couldn't keep his calm expression either. Faint sounds of explosions came out of his structure, and grey fumes eventually seeped out from the spaces among the bricks.

"I knew you were strong," Great Builder chuckled. "Who are you?"

The privileged cultivator didn't break his silence. He kept his arm stretched as more grey energy gathered in front of his fingers. However, Great Builder soon noticed that the expert wasn't limiting himself to a single sphere.

A vast array of grey spheres expanded past the privileged cultivator's fingers. Great Builder saw that each orb contained as much power as the previous attack, so he quickly sent energy to his pyramid.

The privileged cultivator didn't delay his offensive. The many spheres unleashed hundreds of grey rays that created an array too vast to block. Great Builder was ready to face those attacks head-on, but he eventually opted for a different approach.

The pyramid and Great Builder disappeared in an instant, and the grey rays flew forward to land on the forest of roots. That branch of the parasite crumbled among shrill cries and multiple explosions. The event was so massive that a proper storm took control of that part of the void.

Great Builder reappeared at the privileged cultivator's side. He was still sitting on his pyramid, but his expression had also turned cold. Meanwhile, the expert disregarded his presence and prepared to teleport toward another forest.

The pyramid suddenly released humming noises that filled the area with its yellowish radiance. The void lit up as the structure unleashed its power, and the privileged cultivator saw his movement technique losing energy before deactivating.

"You won the first round," Great Builder exclaimed. "You might win the next. You won't win the last."

The privileged cultivator exploded with power as his heavy aura expanded forward. Dense waves of energy flared in every direction and shook the pyramid as the expert tried to force his way out of that domain.

However, Great Builder added energy to the pyramid to multiply the power running through the yellowish halo. A battle of sheer power unfolded as the privileged cultivator and Great Builder did their best to overwhelm each other's techniques, and no one felt able to affect that clash.

The pyramid soon became a blinding item that left no space for the void's darkness. The yellowish halo it radiated suppressed the waves of energy unleashed by the privileged cultivator and forced him to give up on escaping. Still, a chill ran down Great Builder's spine when the expert finally glanced at him again.

"You want my name," The privileged cultivator eventually whispered in an emotionless voice. "I don't have one. I only have a title. I'm the Rulers' Resolve."

Chapter 2249: 2249. Lie

Great Builder's expression didn't change. He continued to wear a confident face that hid the raging thoughts flying inside his mind.

It didn't often happen that the experts on Noah's side met opponents capable of making them experience genuine fear. Of course, the event wasn't too surprising when the battles involved vast differences in power. Yet, it was shocking when it happened between beings at the same level.

Great Builder wasn't a core member of Noah's team, but he remained a monster. He had survived death itself and had come back to life stronger than ever. He had even reached the peak of the cultivation journey. In theory, very few experts could match his power.

Great Builder wasn't arrogant. He knew that Heaven and Earth's army had to feature some truly troublesome experts. Caesar and Divine Architect were good examples, but the Rulers' Resolve seemed to stand at the same level.

Still, the issue went beyond simple power. Great Builder had felt genuine fear when his opponent had focused his attention on him. That shocked him to his core and forced him to prepare to unleash everything he had.

'Is he stronger than me?' Great Builder found himself wondering while inspecting the grey-eyed expert.

The Rulers' Resolver seemed to carry no emotions. Some would mistake his aloof expression for annoyance, but Great Builder could see the truth. The privileged cultivator simply didn't care about the final battle or his opponents.

"What a pitiful title," Great Builder mocked as some bricks left the pyramid to expand into the void.

The bricks transformed into large rectangular structures as big as the giant pyramid before generating power. Their surfaces turned transparent and revealed multiple currents of energy converging at their center to give birth to humanoid shapes.

The Rulers' Resolve didn't bother addressing the insult. He pointed his fingers at the two massive structures and unleashed his array of grey spheres to launch countless fast rays.

The giant bricks summoned barriers and released their yellowish aura to weaken the incoming attacks, but they couldn't stop the rays. Countless attacks landed on their ethereal surfaces and pierced them before continuing to fly forward.

Great Builder voiced a snort when he saw the grey rain flying toward him. The maimed bricks exploded to release the accumulated energy and affect the incoming offensive, but he found himself forced to use the pyramid even after that sacrifice.

The violent waves of yellowish energy crashed on the rays and destabilized their fabric. Part of their power dispersed, and some ended outside their established path. Yet, many attacks continued to fly toward the pyramid.

The holes in the pyramid released a series of shockwaves that fused mid-air to create a series of peculiar shields. The tremors running through those ethereal barriers altered the incoming rays' fabric and made them lose even more energy, but a few still crashed on the structure.

Explosions resounded on the pyramid, but its yellowish surface remained mostly intact. A few small cracks had opened after the attack, but Great Builder disregarded that damage as he forced his building to open in half.

The many bricks separated to create a vertical opening that revealed the very center of the pyramid. A flaring yellow core became visible, and its blinding light removed any trace of darkness or greyness from the void.

Multiple figures came out of the yellow core. Proper giants shot out from the pyramid's center and flew forward to converge toward the Rulers' Resolve. However, the expert managed to recreate his array of spheres before those creatures could reach him.

Another grey rain shot forward and pierced the many humanoid giants. Those creatures couldn't do anything against those powerful rays, but they self-destructed before losing control of their energy.

The chaos generated by the many detonations seemed to slow down the grey rays, but they eventually managed to fly past the messy area and converge toward the pyramid.

Countless attacks crashed at the pyramid's center and filled the yellow core's surface with explosions. Flares escaped that blinding sphere as the rays dug holes in its fabric, but that shielded the item from the offensive before it could cause too much damage.

The Rulers' Resolve showed no emotions at that sight. He recreated the vast array of grey spheres to launch another attack, but he abruptly interrupted the offensive to move his attention above him.

A massive figure became visible in a mere second. A giant version of Great Builder teleported above the Rulers' Resolve and threw a punch that aimed to kill the expert in a single blow.

Great Builder had used the previous exchanges to develop fake cores that could counter his opponent. His giant puppets had been a diversion that had allowed him to fuse with those artificial centers of power and disappear inside the void.

According to Great Builder's calculations, the Rulers' Resolve should have noticed his presence only when the giant punch was about to reach him. However, the privileged cultivator had surpassed Great Builder's expectations.

A dark-yellow defensive layer grew over Great Builder's giant figure to prepare for the rays. He expected the privileged cultivator to use the spheres to attack him, but the expert surprised him once again.

The Rulers' Resolve didn't move as the giant punch fell on him. He let the attack land on his head as he added more power to his array of spheres. That made Great Builder pour more energy into his attack, but the outcome of that offensive left him speechless.

The void seemed to shake when the giant punch landed. Great Builder was unleashing the entirety of his power during his offensive. He was one of the few monsters in Noah's organization who had reached the solid stage, so his attack went far beyond what cultivators at that level could achieve.

Yet, the Rulers' Resolve didn't budge at all when the punch landed on his head. His neck also remained still. One of Great Builder's serious attacks had failed to inflict any damage.

The array of grey spheres unleashed their power at that point. The Rulers' Resolve had let Great Builder complete his attack to catch him unprepared for his offensive.

The rain of grey rays shot toward the giant and filled its entire body with countless explosions. Great Builder's dark-yellow barrier protected him from the offensive's piercing power, but it couldn't stop the violent energy released during the detonations.

The grey offensive shattered the dark-yellow shield and affected the giant's core. Great Builder had to separate himself from chunks of his figure due to the damage he had sustained. Entire pieces of his body had become useless, so it was better to destroy them.

More explosions happened, but the Rulers' Resolve remained still. He let those violent waves crash on him while Great Builder retreated to return to his pyramid.

When the explosions stopped filling the void, Great Builder could see that the Rulers' Resolve didn't suffer any injury. Even his expression had remained the same. The expert wasn't even fighting seriously, but Great Builder couldn't hurt him.

"What a troublesome opponent," Great Builder sighed.

The Rulers' Resolve didn't bother conversing. He summoned his array of spheres again, making Great Builder snort loudly.

The grey rain shot toward Great Builder, but he flew toward the pyramid's yellow core to draw part of its energy and launch it forward. A wave of power engulfed the rays, and they dissolved into the void.

"Did you really think you could use the same attack through the entirety of our battle?" Great Builder cursed. "I'm one of the greatest inscription masters in the entire world. You are troublesome, but that won't stop me from figuring out your weaknesses."

The Rulers' Resolve didn't care about Great Builder's words. He launched his grey ray again, and Great Builder summoned the yellow core's power to disperse it. Another exchange ended up in a draw, but the privileged cultivator showed no emotions at that sight.

"Did living in the sky make you forget how to have a conversation?" Great Builder asked. "We should insult each other a bit to keep this battle lively."

"Lively," The Rulers' Resolve repeated. "You have the wrong idea. This isn't a battle. This is an execution."

"Can't you look at the battlefield?" Great Builder laughed. "My side isn't winning, but it's getting there. Our quality isn't something that a mere numerical advantage can overcome."

"Quality," The Rulers' Resolve repeated. "That's a lie."

The Rulers' Resolve teleported above Great Builder before pointing his fingers at him. The array of spheres unfolded again, but Great Builder laughed as he reached for the yellow core.

"That attack won't work against me anymore," Great Builder declared, but his expression soon froze.

The many spheres didn't immediately release rays. They quickly converged in front of the expert's fingers to create a single unstable orb that radiated sizzling noises due to the immense amount of power condensed in its small shape.

The attack that followed forced Great Builder to use the core's energy to perform an evasive maneuver. A grey pillar shot downward and flew across the entire higher plane before crashing on one of Divine Architect's towers.

Chapter 2250: 2250. Strong

The grey pillar carried so much energy that the barrier around the tower crumbled under its might. The weapons and platoons around the structure also died immediately, and vast cracks opened in the tall building.

It didn't take long before the tower crumbled. A single attack from the Rulers' Resolve had been enough to destroy one of Divine Architect's creations, something that even King Elbas was struggling to defeat.

"How nice of him to help my side," King Elbas joked to hide the surprise that he experienced when watching the scene.

"I knew this situation would have caused problems," Divine Architect sighed. "The higher plane is too small to hold so many experts."

"Why do you think I've forced you all to come out?" King Elbas laughed.

"That arrogance again," Divine Architect commented. "You succeeded because the old rulers had prepared the field for you. It was a smart move, but not something you can claim as completely yours."

"Trying to demean me won't help you," King Elbas stated. "You have lost one of your main assets due to my plan. That's a fact."

"Fact?" Divine Architect repeated. "I'll show you a fact."

Divine Architect waved her hand, and dark-blue light shone among the debris of the destroyed tower. The radiance brought those boulders and shards together to turn them into a liquid mass that condensed before expanding.

The dark-blue mass quickly gained a rectangular shape before retrieving a familiar silhouette. The tower reappeared before King Elbas' blockage, and platoons similar to those revealed before came out of its openings.

"Did you really think that I didn't predict a similar outcome?" Divine Architect asked. "I've used those assets because I was ready to suffer collateral damage."

"Do you ever create something that isn't disposable?" King Elbas mocked.

"Obviously," Divine Architect declared, "But it's pointless to reveal them if you can't get past this much."

"Are you testing me now?" King Elbas asked without hiding the usual arrogance that filled his voice.

"Why would I bother to do that?" Divine Architect questioned. "I'm merely saving assets since your side can't deal with my disposable items."

King Elbas revealed a smirk but didn't answer. He didn't even advance any further through the balcony. Most of his attention remained on Divine Architect, but he took his time to glance at the battlefield when he felt like it.

"Ooh?" Divine Architect voiced in a surprised tone. "I was sure my words would have forced you to take out secret weapons or similar items."

"It's quite pitiful," King Elbas exclaimed. "You and all the other so-called experts in the sky have spent so long studying us, but you still fail to understand our potential."

"My calculations are perfect," Divine Architect announced.

"Then you should know why I didn't reveal anything," King Elbas responded. "I don't need to do that."

Great Builder reappeared with his pyramid at some distance from the Rulers' Resolve. He was still close enough to be considered on the same battlefield, but he had clearly retreated after the previous attack.

The Rulers' Resolve didn't care that his attack had destroyed one of Divine Architect's towers. He diverted his gaze even before the expert rebuilt it through her dark-blue light. His attention went on Great Builder as his eyes converged on the pyramid.

The pyramid seemed on fire due to how much smoke came out of its bricks. Still, no flames affected the building. Instead, a giant channel had opened on its right side, and thick fumes came out of that hole.

Great Builder had used the power of the pyramid's core to perform his previous evasive maneuver, but the privileged cultivator's attack had hit his building anyway.

Moreover, the pyramid's innate defenses had been useless against the grey pillar. A mere touch had been enough to dig a vast hole on the structure's surface, disabling some of its frailer functions.

Great Builder had already accepted that the Rulers' Resolve was strong, but the latest attack had proven something far more shocking. The privileged cultivator's basic offensive was completely capable of obliterating peak rank 9 items easily.

The fear that Great Builder had experienced before came back stronger than ever while the Rulers' Resolve studied him. The process barely lasted a few seconds since the privileged cultivator felt no interest in Great Builder, but the latter still sensed the vast difference in power between them.

The realization that hit Great Builder sounded incredible but also reasonable. The sky had experts who could achieve the same level of power as Noah and the other members of his core team. They actually appeared slightly stronger than what those beings could reach.

Great Builder knew that his world didn't lack anything. He was one of the strongest experts in his organization right now. He felt confident in holding his own against Divine Demon if the situation required it.

Yet, the Rulers' Resolve seemed even stronger than that. The privileged cultivator had something more than regular experts at the peak of the cultivation journey. He was beyond completeness.

'He is as strong as Caesar,' Great Builder concluded. 'He is stronger than any other expert on my side.'

Great Builder knew that he had the chance to escape if he summoned most of his power. The Rulers' Resolve didn't intend to follow him either, so the evasive maneuver would have probably succeeded.

Nevertheless, Great Builder didn't move. His gaze remained steady as the Rulers' Resolve raised his arm to recreate the array of grey spheres that condensed to unleash a single, massive pillar.

The pyramid moved to shield Great Builder, but the pillar was simply too powerful. The giant building saw the grey attack digging through its insides and piercing it from side to side.

The privileged cultivator also forced the attack to expand now that he had inflicted a direct hit. The central part of the pyramid vanished as the grey pillar ravaged its insides.

The building lost its shining halo due to the heavy damage it had suffered, but Great Builder didn't seem to care. He appeared at the pyramid's side with the yellow core in his palm. He had saved that essential component of the structure, but he had lost the latter in the process.

The Rulers' Resolve quickly launched another attack, and the pyramid's debris shot forward to hinder the offensive. Yet, they didn't carry enough power to stop or deflect the pillar, which ended up engulfing Great Builder before continuing to fly to the other side of the battlefield.

The attack killed countless weaker experts, but most of them belonged to Heaven and Earth's side. The numerical advantage was a flaw in that situation, but no one rejoiced at that sight. Those who could focus on Great Builder's battle waited for the grey energy to disperse and show the outcome of the exchange.

The grey energy dispersed, and Great Builder's figure reappeared in the void. He didn't carry any injury, but the yellow core had disappeared from his palm.

Everyone understood that Great Builder had used the yellow core to protect himself from the attack, but he was defenseless now. The Rulers' Resolve didn't even give him time to prepare techniques, and another grey pillar soon shot through the higher plane.