

Demonic 2261

Chapter 2261: 2261. Guardian

"It's time," The solid stage old man hovering before the sky announced.

"It's more powerful than I expected," The middle-aged woman commented while inspecting the landmass.

"Almost every major expert among our opponents has added something to that landmass," The old man stated. "It would be strange if it lacked power."

One thing became clear to the entire battlefield. The landmass had completely awakened, and its heavy power spread to every corner of the higher plane.

Violent sharpness unfolded. The landmass had released random waves of energy during its awakening, and they had ended up invading almost every fight on the battlefield. Yet, its sole presence was enough to fill the higher plane with heavy power that threatened to cut anything on its path.

The landmass had transformed the environment. It was awake now, so the higher plane had turned into something that weaker beings couldn't endure. The various rank 8 leaders had to unfold their auras to protect their underlings, but the effort depleted their energy quickly.

Only rank 9 existences could survive in that new version of the higher plane without relying on defensive techniques. However, a few of them still preferred to deploy protections since their worlds couldn't endure that pressure for too long. Their very structure would suffer damage otherwise.

"Roar to your fullest!" Sword Saint shouted while flying next to the landmass. "Announce to the whole world that a new blade has stepped into the battlefield!"

The landmass seemed to understand Sword Saint's orders, and another roar followed them.

The deep cry was loud enough to disperse and destroy all the techniques summoned by beings below the ninth rank. Still, that was only the beginning of the attack.

Countless strands of dark energy shot in every direction and filled the higher plane. A wave of blackness covered the void and carried intense sharpness that aimed to kill anyone daring to fly on the battlefield.

King Elbas and Divine Architect snorted almost at the same time as they gave different orders to their structures.

The nine towers turned ethereal before teleporting into different areas of the battlefield and releasing dark-blue light. That halo didn't bother trying to stop the incoming sharpness. Instead, it focused on creating multiple shields and barriers to keep the underlings safe.

King Elbas' wall also split into different buildings that flew toward various spots of the battlefield. Their movements created various currents and golden bubbles that opened separate dimensions where his underlings could hide.

Both experts had tried to limit their losses, but the landmass ended up escaping their calculations. The black waves of sharp energy pierced some of the protections and killed the experts inside them without caring about their side.

"They are always so messy," King Elbas complained, but a faint smirk appeared on his face anyway.

Divine Architect remained silent to inspect the sharp waves of energy. They continued to fly until they reached the areas near the sky, where they found hindrances strong enough to stop them.

Many rank 9 experts and weapons were still hovering near the sky, so those powerful but random waves of sharp energy ended up dispersing during the clash. Even the forests of roots were too powerful for those casual attacks. Still, that didn't speak for their might.

The landmass had simply roared. The energy that had followed that cry was strong enough to be classified as an attack, but it wasn't an actual ability.

The giant home that Noah and the others had created had yet to reveal its full power. It had merely decided to step on the battlefield, but its might was something that even King Elbas and Sword Saint would struggle to predict.

Of course, Sword Saint didn't even bother to check the landmass' power. He was happy to have witnessed the birth of a new blade, but the latter had to live on its own now.

The landmass gathered energy as it remained pointed at the castle. Its sharp edges grew darker, and its structure thinned, but its presence intensified.

The raw weight that the landmass unleashed on the higher plane forced many fights to end. The experts involved in those battles couldn't summon their energy or exchange attacks when that sharp atmosphere destroyed them as soon as they left their bodies.

The weapons and avatars had it far worse since they weren't programmed to defend against that threat. They tried to keep fighting, but their efforts only depleted their energy and damaged their structure.

A low growl eventually came out of the landmass, and everyone's survival instincts suddenly screamed. Something big was about to arrive, and even the rank 9 experts couldn't afford to be distracted during that event. Their very lives were about to be in danger.

A massive amount of energy gathered inside the landmass and intensified the effects that its presence was unleashing. An attack would arrive at any second, and the entire battlefield opened to leave a path where that power could travel.

Clouds and storms appeared around the landmass. Its energy was so thick that the environment couldn't remain still during the event. Then, a second, deeper growl came out of its dark surface, and everything went still for an instant.

The very void seemed to tremble as the landmass gathered everything it had on its tip and unleashed its offensive. A shadow as big as the creature shot forward before disappearing in the next second.

Countless defensive techniques lit up as every expert on the battlefield expected a massive wave of energy to fill the higher plane. However, the attack didn't cause any consequences. It simply disappeared.

The underlings couldn't see what had happened, but Noah and the other leaders frowned or showed surprised expressions after the exchange. Their eyes went to a spot right above the landmass, and the same went for their mental waves. Everyone wanted to study the expert who had stopped the attack.

"Quite powerful, aren't we?" The old man announced while hovering above the landmass.

The privileged cultivator shook his fuming hand to disperse the smoke generated during the impact. His palm soon revealed a small cut, but that injury closed in a few seconds.

The landmass took a while to understand what had happened, but a deafening roar followed that realization. Its cry was so loud that even more barriers and experts shattered, but the privileged cultivator remained unfazed by that attack.

The landmass didn't stop there. It amassed power to unleash another giant attack, but the privileged cultivator dashed downward to place his palm on the sharp tip.

That simple gesture dispersed the energy accumulated by the landmass and prevented the arrival of the attack. Nevertheless, the privileged cultivator had to retract his arm since the black fabric of the creature was devouring his skin.

"You shouldn't touch it without its permission," Sword Saint exclaimed while teleporting next to the privileged cultivator.

"The guardian," The old man sighed. "I expected you."

"A sword must run free," Sword Saint declared. "You are on its path. I can't have that."

"There is no path," The old man stated before performing a side-step.

Sword Saint's arm suddenly materialized next to the privileged cultivator's cheek. An injury even opened on that spot and leaked a few drops of blood. Meanwhile, the rest of Sword Saint's body appeared and revealed how he had already teleported into that new position.

Chapter 2262: 2262. Storms

Sword Saint was one of the greatest maniacs in the entire higher plane, but he was by no means dumb. His intelligence was mostly sharpness-related, but that didn't make him unable to understand basic things like the fantastic feats of his existence.

King Elbas and the other major players who watched the short exchange between Sword Saint and the old man also understood that something incredible had just happened. Sword Saint's casual attack had hurt one of the strongest privileged cultivators on Heaven and Earth's side.

The injury suffered by the old man was nothing significant. It was a small cut that leaked a few drops of blood before closing. The wound didn't even stretch to his world, but it had opened nonetheless.

The event proved something amazing to both sides involved in the final battle. The leaders from Noah's organizations could match the best assets in Heaven and Earth's army. Great Builder's fight had left that matter unclear, but Sword Saint's attack had brought a definite answer.

The landmass didn't care that Sword Saint had come in its defense. It barely noticed that something so tiny was unfolding before its tip. The creature wanted bigger targets, and Divine Architect's castle was a good start.

Dense energy began to flow inside the landmass to fill every corner of its structure. The areas around the creature darkened due to the weight of its sharp aura, and danger appeared in everyone's minds.

"Are you really set on letting this creature attack?" The old man calmly wondered without moving away from that odd position. "It will hurt you. It will hurt everyone."

"That's one of the many natures of a blade," Sword Saint responded. "Those who can't stand it will simply die."

"Quite merciless, aren't we?" The old man commented while showing a faint smirk.

Sword Saint ignored that answer and waved his arm. The attack aimed to cut off the privileged cultivator's head, but the latter half-crouched and let the limb sever only a tiny chunk of his flesh.

Normal humans would have died after suffering a similar injury. However, the battle involved gods at the peak of the cultivation journey. The old man lost a small chunk of his head, but he regretted it in no time. The wound didn't even reach his world.

Sword Saint didn't stop there. His figure lit up with silver light as his arm descended in an attempt to cut his opponent in half.

The privileged cultivator couldn't perform his previous slight dodges against that attack. Sword Saint would cover a vast area with his sharp energy, so a mere side-step or slight movement wouldn't get the old man out of the technique's trajectory.

Nevertheless, what happened left speechless all the experts who were paying attention to those exchanges. Sword Saint swung his arm downward, but his energy dispersed when the old man performed a strange movement.

The privileged cultivator's hands seemed to turn into snakes as he stabbed his fingers on precise spots of Sword Saint's arm. Some went on his wrist, while others on his elbow, which forced the limb to bend in an unusual way and release the accumulated energy.

The attack failed due to the privileged cultivator's technique. Sword Saint's energy still unleashed its sharpness during its violent release, but the old man only suffered superficial injuries due to the innate defenses protecting his world.

The surprising event wasn't the end of it. The landmass had continued to accumulate energy during the exchange without caring or paying attention to the two powerful experts fighting right above its tip.

The landmass finished accumulating energy when the privileged cultivator performed his technique, and it didn't hesitate to unleash it. A massive shadow came out of the creature and shot forward, but its path was cut short by a giant green barrier that endured the entirety of its might.

The clash created a shockwave that made the entire higher plane fall into pure chaos. The landmass' attack contained so much energy that even multiple solid stage cultivators would struggle to endure it. The impact on the barrier created violent storms that spread everywhere on the battlefield.

Those storms carried only a fraction of what the landmass had planned to release into a single attack, but they remained strong enough to endanger most of both armies.

Divine Architect disregarded the danger that fell on her army, but King Elbas couldn't be as uncaring as her. His whole figure lit up with golden light as he summoned the full power of the now-golden city.

Countless buildings materialized on the battlefield and created portals, teleports, and separate dimensions that absorbed the many underlings on the landmass' side and brought them to safety.

The formations that Pellio had turned ethereal to let the landmass run free found themselves filled with platoons and injured experts. King Elbas had teleported everyone there. Still, he couldn't add protections to their figures.

Pellio promptly interrupted his technique and let the arrays of formations apply their power on the higher plane. Countless inscriptions lit up with multicolored lights and shielded the experts inside them from the violent storms flying everywhere on the battlefield.

Thousands of explosions resounded at the same time as the storms crashed on avatars, weapons, defenses, and formations. The dark energy unleashed by the landmass appeared endless, so the low rumblings continued for many seconds.

Only the sky seemed immune to those sharp storms. The dark energy fell on the white surface in countless spots, but the event didn't cause explosions. The dark power dispersed in front of walls that it couldn't pierce.

Of course, the battlefield didn't suddenly become empty. King Elbas had made sure to save most of his underlings, but the other leaders had handled their own protections.

The same went for the leaders in Heaven and Earth's army. The higher plane transformed into a raging mass of dark energy interrupted only by small multicolored lights created by the various experts' defenses.

The bigger ones were green, the same green as the barrier that had stopped the landmass' attack. Noah's black aura came second in that field since the roots unleashed the peak of their corrosive properties to defend against the incoming storms.

It became impossible to fight on the battlefield for a few seconds. Battles couldn't happen in that environment, but Noah and a few major experts used that chaos to press on with their offensive.

Noah didn't care that his mind felt about to explode. He was letting the parasite's desire to consume the whole world take control of his actions to reduce the pressure on his consciousness.

Noah became a pure embodiment of destruction as he created even more forests. The parasite had every intention to cover the entire sky with its branches, but some privileged cultivator or powerful avatar always prevented it from expanding too much.

That didn't stop Noah from releasing even more seeds. He knew that the branches were keeping many powerful experts busy, so he never stopped the parasite from going wild.

The parasite was part of Noah's world, so filling the higher plane with branches benefited his existence. He could feel raw potential building up inside him as he flew non-stop alongside the sky, but he could also sense how he would eventually run dry of power.

However, those worries never became able to take control of Noah's mind. He wasn't ignoring his condition, but he had far sadder matters to think about. He was keeping track of the major battles, so he knew that many of his friends wouldn't live to see the fall of the sky.

Chapter 2263: 2263. Sides

Great Builder was going all-out against the Rulers' Resolve. Their battle was massive and captured vast areas of the battlefield in explosions and incredible attacks.

It was impossible to predict who would win, but Great Builder appeared on the losing end. He was hurting his opponent, but the effort depleted his energy quickly, and it was unclear how long he could keep that up.

Steven's situation was even worse. The landmass' attack had interrupted his offensive, but he was still relying on all the energy inside his world to match Decumia's power. Moreover, he couldn't inflict serious injuries even while going all-out.

Emperor, Vesuvia, Pellio, Queen, Cursed Reality, and Supreme Thief were fine. The landmass' storms couldn't hurt them, and their opponents weren't their match.

Some experts among Heaven and Earth's army could cause trouble for those leaders, but the battles became even only when the former relied on their numerical advantage. Many fights involved more than a couple of assets, which prevented losses or victories on both sides.

Alexander and Noah were in a similar situation since they had attracted enough attention. Both of them had a group of privileged cultivators chasing them closely, but they were avoiding a direct battle for now.

Wilfred was having fun with a solid stage cultivator, while Sepunia, Maribel, and June had to use King Elbas' assets to avoid the dark storms. They didn't need those buildings to protect themselves, but saving energy was too crucial since they had already suffered injuries.

Instead, the winged pig was too proud or dumb to use King Elbas' assets. Steven had even asked it to be ready, which was quite confusing as an order.

That confusion forced the Foolery to remain in its position and endure the full might of the dark storms. Noah didn't know if the pig could deploy defensive abilities that didn't involve farts, but the latter didn't bother to try and let those attacks land on its body.

King Elbas appeared completely fine, especially since the castle had protected him. However, commanding the entire golden city and managing so many teleports at the same time had affected his mind, and he was sure that Divine Architect had noticed that.

Divine Demon was the only expert who had yet to meet a proper hindrance or someone who could slow him down. He was unstoppable even with multiple privileged cultivators attacking him at the same time.

No one seemed able to face Divine Demon's attacks, but Heaven and Earth's assets couldn't let him roam freely. They had to do their best to suppress and isolate his power so that the battlefield as a whole wouldn't suffer.

The underlings were also winning, but Noah couldn't find any happiness in that. King Elbas had saved many of them, but a lot had died, and Noah could only accept that as an inevitable outcome of the final battle.

Noah was ready for that outcome, but seeing it first-hand generated emotions too intense to suppress or ignore. Everything had moved quickly due to King Elbas' ploy, so many losses had happened earlier than Noah expected.

'Life is frail,' Noah couldn't help but think while his thoughts remained on the battlefield.

A few storms still raged in Noah's vision, but he could go through them easily. His body could endure that destruction, especially since part of it resonated with his world.

Multiple presences appeared in the range of Noah's consciousness. Many of them only paid attention to him without doing anything special, but others actively followed him in a desperate attempt to contain the expansion of the roots.

Noah acted almost on auto-pilot. He was faster than the experts behind him, and his understanding of destruction had reached depths that allowed him to predict where to fly to inflict more damage.

That understanding also involved the areas that were about to go through a vast storm or a powerful attack. Noah's predictions could be far off when it came to solid stage experts, but they became strangely on point whenever he focused only on the path ahead.

Noah knew that he was improving from that destruction. He was getting closer to the last stage of the ninth rank due to the many experts radiating his influence.

The landmass' forces were Noah's forces. He had created that organization and had allowed it to join the final battle. Even the losses could give him power.

Still, as much as Noah sensed his power deepening, he couldn't close his eyes before all the sad moments that the battlefield featured. Moreover, the threats his opponents had yet to show filled his thoughts and forced him to focus on more than his level.

Caesar had yet to do anything significant. The expert was watching every battle unfold and end without intervening or using his power. Yet, a smirk never left his face, even when the scenery mostly offered the many deaths of his underlings.

Noah even knew that Caesar was only another expert to overcome. The actual final battle wouldn't feature him or the other leaders. Everything would be decided once Heaven and Earth broke free of the old rulers' restrictions and descended on the battlefield.

'How long do we have?' Noah wondered while inspecting the dimming net that covered the sky.

It was clear that Heaven and Earth were slowly overcoming that restriction. It was actually incredible that the old rulers had managed to keep such mighty opponents away for so long.

Noah couldn't achieve such a feat, even if he summoned the help of his entire organization. Only the old rulers could have done that, and their sacrifice had opened a path to victory that would have been far bloodier otherwise.

'Maybe it's time to fight seriously,' Noah wondered as his attention moved toward the green lights that had appeared during the chaos generated by the dark storms.

Blocking the landmass' full might wasn't something that simple experts could accomplish. The old man had stopped two attacks, while the green barrier had blocked the third. Moreover, that green energy had also taken care of protecting a few core underlings in Heaven and Earth's army.

Finding the source of that green energy wasn't an issue. Only one expert on Heaven and Earth's side could wield such incredible power, and only one cultivator among the leaders had yet to show her abilities.

The middle-aged woman reappeared right before the sky once the black storms dispersed. She appeared curious about the landmass, but that expression was probably a pretense.

Noah could see evident understanding in the privileged cultivator's eyes. She had seen through the raw power of the landmass during the previous exchanges, which probably explained how she had managed to counter its last attack.

Taking that cultivator down seemed one of the keys to victory. The old man was busy with Sword Saint. Caesar wasn't fighting, and Great Builder and King Elbas were handling the Rulers' Resolve and Divine Architect. Keeping the last leader busy was mandatory, to say the least.

Noah stopped his flight and watched as the privileged cultivators flying after him interrupted the chase to launch massive abilities. Multiple solid stage auras fused to converge toward his figure, but those torrents of energy vanished as soon as Shafu made its move from inside his body.

'I'll kill her and achieve the solid stage,' Noah declared in his mind as he ignored his pursuers and performed a movement technique to shoot toward the privileged cultivator.

Nevertheless, Noah felt forced to interrupt his advance since a few figures appeared in front of the middle-aged woman before he could do anything.

June, Sepunia, Maribel, the odd dragon, and the space dragon teleported in front of the privileged cultivator and prepared themselves for the fight. June even glared at the incoming Noah to express that she wanted that opponent for herself.

Chapter 2264: 2264. Teleports

'I missed my chance,' Noah laughed in his mind as he watched his companions teleporting in front of the privileged cultivator.

June's presence wasn't a surprise. Injuries still filled her body, but her condition was somewhat stable, which was enough for her.

Sepunia, Maribel, and the odd dragon were surprising additions to that team, but they also made sense. June wasn't strong enough to fight the privileged cultivator on her own, and those experts were the only available reinforcements. Everyone else was either injured or busy in other important battles.

Instead, the arrival of the space dragon was an unexpected event that Noah didn't know how to take. In theory, the creature didn't have proper intelligence anymore. It only had instincts meant to prioritize Heaven and Earth's destruction.

Of course, Noah could quickly guess that the space dragon had reached the same conclusions through its instincts. The current state of the battlefield required someone to defeat Heaven and Earth's leaders, so the upper tier creature had chosen to step forward.

Noah didn't answer June's glare. They had long since stopped requiring words to express their thoughts. His attention quickly went to the incoming privileged cultivators, but he flew away before entering their range.

The privileged cultivators didn't hesitate to chase after Noah, so June and the others could focus on their opponent without worrying about the rest of the battlefield. Nevertheless, the middle-aged woman only showed a playful smile as those experts encircled her.

"You shouldn't keep me busy," The middle-aged woman warned. "I'm saving countless lives by stopping the attacks of that creature."

The privileged cultivator wanted to go through the usual foreplay that preceded a battle, but her opponents had no intentions to waste time talking. Actually, some of them didn't even try to hold back their attacks.

The space dragon voiced a roar that vanished before it could create a soundwave. The void seemed to absorb that cry, but multiple orange portals soon materialized around the privileged cultivator to release that deafening noise.

Sepunia, Maribel, and June had to summon techniques to protect their senses since the portals had improved the cry to levels they couldn't normally endure.

Instead, the odd dragon experienced a power surge when hearing that cry. The creature's instincts ended up taking control of its actions and made it shoot forward to attack its opponent.

The privileged cultivator revealed a smirk as an oval barrier materialized around her body and shielded her from the incoming soundwave. The green energy in her surroundings also altered the nature of that attack and removed its most dangerous properties.

The odd dragon slammed on the barrier but failed to inflict any damage. Its physical strength alone couldn't do anything against that defense, and nothing changed when it released its black liquid.

June didn't hesitate to jump into the battle. The privileged cultivator had taken care of the cry, so she could retract her defensive technique and explode into a storm of lightning bolts that flew toward the green barrier.

Sepunia and Maribel were only one second late. Sepunia turned the whole area around the privileged cultivator pink to alter the nature of that chunk of space, while Maribel unleashed a beam made of dark energy.

The lightning bolts, the black beam, and the dark liquid crashed and expanded on the green barrier before turning everything into a fuming mess. The exchange didn't generate any explosion, but the group knew that their attacks had reached their targets.

The space dragon shot forward before the smoke could disperse. Its strange figure absorbed the fumes as it advanced and revealed what had happened after the many attacks had landed on the green barrier.

Sadly for June's group, the privileged cultivator's defense didn't suffer any damage. It had endured all those powerful abilities without even flinching, and that wasn't even the end of it.

The space dragon revealed a new ability of the privileged cultivator's barrier by crashing into it. The creature wasn't too big, but it carried the physical might of one of the strongest upper tier magical beasts in the entire higher plane.

Only some hybrids or magical beasts with an innate focus on physical strength could surpass the space dragon in that field, meaning that the offensive was incredible. However, the barrier didn't flinch. It even prevented the crash from creating shockwaves.

It became evident that the middle-aged woman's energy wasn't only powerful. It could deny specific effects or consequences, which added a lot of value to that power.

Yet, as much as June, Maribel, and Sepunia wanted to study their opponent, the space dragon didn't bother to waste time on those matters. The creature activated its innate ability, and the whole area turned into a mess.

The space dragon absorbed part of the green energy into its body before forcing it to appear in different areas. The barrier soon transformed into a series of messy chunks of dense power that conflicted with each other and left the privileged cultivator unprotected.

The odd dragon didn't hesitate to shoot through one of the openings created by the space dragons, and its companions helped with a dense offensive. June launched lightning bolts, Maribel used her destructive energy, and Sepunia tried to take control of the unprotected areas.

The privileged cultivator teleported away, but her technique seemed to malfunction since she didn't reach her intended destination. She reappeared pretty close to her previous spot, and multiple portals promptly materialized around her.

The abilities that the group had launched came out of those portals and converged toward the privileged cultivator. Chaos immediately spread, but the group couldn't rejoice since they didn't hear any explosion.

The smoke vanished instantly and revealed the privileged cultivator's green figure. Her aura had seeped out of her skin, and she managed to avoid any injury thanks to that.

The odd dragon suddenly came out of one of the portals, but a wave of green energy shot out of the privileged cultivator and slammed on its strange neck. The creature returned inside the teleport before coming out of another orange opening.

The privileged cultivator felt forced to launch another wave of energy, but the outcome of her attack didn't change. She pushed back the odd dragon inside the teleport, but it came out of another opening to resume its offensive.

June didn't hesitate to jump into that array of teleports, and the space dragon's incredible ability quickly became clear in her mind. The middle-aged woman launched a wave of energy toward June as soon as she came out of a portal, but that attack dispersed when she went back inside the opening.

The space dragon wasn't only allowing the group to attack from different spots. It was also teleporting the privileged cultivator's energy before it could hurt its companions. The orange openings were basically safe areas that could deny any damage.

June couldn't help but feel excited at that discovery. The space dragon was giving her the chance to attack recklessly without bothering about summoning defensive techniques. That was more than perfect for her.

"We can exhaust her energy if the dragon can keep up," Maribel stated as she approached the array of teleports.

Sepunia nodded as she chased after Maribel, but the privileged cultivator abruptly exploded with power and destroyed all the teleports around her. June and the odd dragon reappeared next to the space dragon, and that favorable offensive ended right away.

Chapter 2265: 2265. Marcella

"Hey, use that technique again," June ordered as sparks began to flow over her figure.

The space dragon couldn't understand June's words, but it still followed that plan. A growl escaped its mouth, and a series of orange portals materialized around the privileged cultivator.

June's eyes lit up at that sight, and she quickly shot forward while leaving a trail of crackling sparks. Her figure was okay, but cracks appeared on it as her surge of power reopened some of the wounds that she had managed to patch up.

June disappeared as soon as she entered the array of teleports, but her figure didn't come out. Even the privileged cultivator seemed interested in the incoming offensive, but a sigh escaped her mouth when she saw multiple lightning bolts shooting out of the various portals.

"So, it's not just about portals," The middle-aged woman stated as she waved her hand to launch green rays toward every lightning bolt. "You can create a separate space connected to my position."

The rays overwhelmed the lightning bolts and continued to fly until they pierced the various portals. The array of teleports shattered once again, and June reappeared next to the space dragon.

"Again!" June ordered, but the space dragon tried something different at that time.

The space dragon suddenly vanished, which startled its companions. Only the privileged cultivator seemed able to follow its movements since her eyes darted among her surroundings.

Four huge portals opened around the privileged cultivator to unleash a torrent of green energy that carried faint orange shades. Moreover, the space dragon materialized among one of those attacks to crash on its opponent.

The privileged cultivator tried to perform an evasive maneuver, but the technique failed due to the space dragon's restrictions. Still, a barrier appeared around her and blocked the incoming attack, stopping even the creature's frontal charge.

Nevertheless, the space dragon unleashed its presence while pressing on the barrier. The defensive technique's energy suddenly shattered and teleported to different areas to open a path for the frontal charge.

The privileged cultivator couldn't do much in that situation. The space dragon had blocked her escape paths, so everything fell on her figure. The creature even bit her, but a painful cry escaped its mouth after the attack.

"That's the limit of the magical beasts," The privileged cultivator announced as dense green smoke came out of her body. "Defending against your attacks is far too easy."

The privileged cultivator was still immersed in the four torrents of energy, but they appeared unable to hurt her. The green smoke destroyed those attacks before they could reach her skin. Similar fumes came out of the space dragon's mouth, and the latter struggled to get rid of them.

"You shouldn't push your luck," The privileged cultivator exclaimed as four figures appeared around her.

June launched her lightning bolts, Sepunia tried to alter the green smoke, Maribel used a mixture of white and dark energy, while the odd dragon spat its black liquid. The four experts attacked at the same time, but their techniques vanished as soon as they touched those seemingly toxic fumes.

The exchange didn't end there. The smoke began to spread in the various techniques to fly toward their sources. June and Maribel managed to sever the connection with their attacks before touching those fumes, but Sepunia and the odd dragon were one second too slow.

The odd dragon saw the smoke seeping into its unique neck to taint its fabric. Its scales and teeth turned green even if it tried to prevent that change through its black liquid.

As for Sepunia, she experienced a similar transformation. A green spot appeared at the center of her chest and expanded to stretch toward her shoulders and waist.

The odd dragon seemed unable to stop that transformation, especially since its senses were still under the effects of the space dragon's roar. Instead, Sepunia studied the situation calmly, and a pink light soon shone from her eyes as she activated a technique.

Bright pink patches materialized in the void before flying toward Sepunia and the odd dragon. The latter was too busy focusing on the expanding green spots to avoid the technique, while Sepunia obviously let it land on her body.

The pink patches fused with the green spots and swapped them with chunks of the old flesh. The process was seamless for Sepunia since she knew exactly what the smoke had tainted, but the odd dragon ended up with weaker replacements.

Power quickly flowed inside the weaker replacements and started to harmonize them with the rest of the body. The odd dragon even managed to escape the frenzied state caused by the space dragon during the process. It took it a bit to understand what had happened, but it nodded toward Sepunia afterward.

"You countered that," The privileged cultivator stated while inspecting the odd dragon and Sepunia. "It seems that you also have the potential to become a monster."

"I would be a failure if I couldn't achieve so little," Sepunia smiled.

"You are still too late," The privileged cultivator responded. "Why don't you come back to Heaven and Earth's side? Destroying your existence is a waste."

"You didn't give the same offer to the others," Sepunia uttered. "How am I different?"

"You switched sides once," The middle-aged woman teased. "You can do it again."

"I guess I didn't prove my loyalty enough," Sepunia declared as her aura expanded and filled that part of the void with her pink radiance.

"Don't overdo," The privileged cultivator mocked. "I know how strong my previous attack was. Getting rid of it must have consumed quite a lot of your energy."

"You talk too much," June stated as she turned into a lightning bolt that crashed on the privileged cultivator.

June regained her human shape as soon as she slammed on her opponent. The sparks that enveloped her body destroyed part of the green smoke, but she soon found herself overwhelmed by that attack.

"I told you not to push your luck," The privileged cultivator smiled as she raised an arm to point her hand at the center of June's chest.

The smoke condensed to create a piercing attack that dug a hole in June's chest, but a massive lightning bolt promptly came out of it and separated the two experts. The privileged cultivator wanted to chase after June, but the space dragon suddenly appeared behind her and teleported her energy into different places.

Maribel also joined the offensive and used the openings created by the space dragon to launch an attack aimed at her opponent's core. Meanwhile, June flew for a while before stopping herself and releasing violent lightning bolts that burned away the flesh that had turned green.

Maribel's offensive didn't lead anywhere, and the privileged cultivator soon sent the space dragon flying. The expert showed her perfect state once again while smoke seeped out of her figure. She appeared unbeatable in that state, but her opponents had no intention to give up.

"We should fight this smartly," Maribel suggested. "We can rely on the dragon's endurance to trap her in a series of disadvantageous exchanges."

June didn't like that idea, but the hole in her chest proved how the privileged cultivator was quite deadly. The space dragon could give her the chance to launch attacks without suffering injuries, and she found no reason to refuse it.

Sepunia and the odd dragon were more than willing to use tactics and ploys. The space dragon's intelligence was the only hurdle to overcome, but the hint of a problem appeared before they could even deploy that plan.

"Do you want to deplete my energy now?" The privileged cultivator asked. "I'm sorry to disappoint you. My energy reserves are almost endless. My latest title was Marcella the Boundless."

Chapter 2266: 2266. Mood

In theory, Marcella's situation should have moved the balance of the battlefield in Heaven and Earth's favor.

The fact that so many of the landmass' powerful experts were ganging up on a single privileged cultivator would normally give Heaven and Earth's forces the chance to use part of their numerical advantage.

Decumia's actions had moved that advantage to Noah's side, but only when it came to the underlings. Heaven and Earth's forces still had more rank 9 assets, and Marcella was absorbing a lot of pressure on her own.

Heaven and Earth's forces could divert their attention to easier targets to widen that numerical gap among elite experts. However, Noah, Alexander, the time dragon, and Divine Demon were so troublesome that they prevented that outcome.

Truth be told, Divine Demon was handling most of the heavy-lifting there. Noah and the forest of roots were immense, Alexander was an untouchable vortex of hunger, and the time dragon was incredibly troublesome, but Divine Demon was beyond incredible.

Divine Demon was the only expert actively fighting the many privileged cultivators after him. He wasn't even escaping. Actually, it seemed that his opponents were the ones running away during the exchanges.

The reason behind that outcome was pretty evident. Divine Demon's bright red energy was so powerful that even solid stage cultivators had to run away from it. Their very lives were in danger whenever Divine Demon aimed at them.

Due to Divine Demon's exceptional performance, June and the others could gang up on Marcella without worrying about the battlefield. Still, that didn't ensure their victory. It even seemed that they fell short compared to the privileged cultivator.

Marcella's announcement didn't dishearten her opponents. June and the others still used the odd dragon to ask the space dragon to collaborate.

That collaboration took a few exchanges to activate, but the group eventually managed to actuate their plan. The space dragon focused the entirety of its efforts on running a series of teleports that surrounded Marcella and kept its companions safe from her attacks.

June, Sepunia, Maribel, and the odd dragon used the teleports to launch massive attacks from safe positions. Meanwhile, the space dragon absorbed any counterattack and gathered that energy to deploy it in following offensives.

The plan appeared flawless. The space dragon's incredible innate ability removed any threat from Marcella's offensive and allowed its companions to focus only on attacking.

That tactic involved far more than simple safety. June and the others could save energy since they only had to focus on attacking while Marcella was fighting normally.

Marcella's world had an immense amount of fuel, but the group believed that the plan could drain her of her power before they reached their limits. Some exchanges even relied only on the absorbed energy, which only enhanced the advantage created by the space dragon.

However, it soon became clear that Marcella wouldn't get tired. She flawlessly answered every attack without ever losing her ground. She didn't suffer injuries even as the space dragon continued to teleport her defenses away.

The matter was initially expected. June and the others knew that Marcella was one of the best experts among Heaven and Earth's forces, so they predicted that killing her would be far from easy.

Still, as more exchanges unfolded, June's group noticed that they were the only ones getting tired. Even the space dragon was slowing down in its counterattacks and techniques, but Marcella remained at her peak.

Moreover, Marcella wasn't even relying on special attacks to fend off the incoming offensive. She only launched waves of energy and alternated them with her dense smoke from time to time. It almost looked like she was having fun dealing with such weaker techniques.

"Here it comes again," Marcella announced when a threatening aura filled the entirety of the higher plane.

The landmass unleashed another massive attack, but a green barrier appeared in front of the dark shadows that shot forward. The impact didn't generate any shockwave at that time. It even prevented the creation of wild storms.

June and the others couldn't help but feel depressed in front of that scene. Marcella wasn't only dealing with their offensive. She was also dealing with the landmass, and nothing seemed able to stop her from doing that.

The effort should have drained Marcella of her energy in no time, especially since she had already blocked six of the landmass' attacks by then. However, June and the others remained on the losing end of the battle, and they had yet to find a way to break through the privileged cultivator's defenses.

"This isn't working," Maribel sighed as she witnessed another of her attacks dispersing right after touching the dense green smoke coming out of Marcella.

The mood was pretty poor. Seeing a series of attacks failing even to hinder Marcella's task wasn't the best scene in the world, but one expert among the team couldn't contain her excitement to be in front of such a powerful cultivator.

June's attacks grew stronger after each failed attempt to hurt Marcella. The space dragon was also keeping her safe, so she could focus her full attention on unleashing stronger attacks.

Needless to say, June's body transformed into a gory mess after her attacks barged past the limits of the solid stage. She was summoning energy strong enough to hurt privileged cultivators at the peak of the ninth rank, so her flesh suffered greatly.

The injuries didn't affect June's excitement. She had finally found an opponent that required her to go far past her limits, and she wouldn't miss that chance. She didn't care how much her companions would have to suffer due to her approach.

Maribel, Sepunia, and the odd dragon didn't complain. June's behavior actually pushed them to unleash stronger attacks, even if that could lead to their exhaustion. They were risking their presence in future battles, but their task was too important to worry about that.

"You are almost there," Marcella commented when hundreds of lightning bolts fell on her figure. "You might reach my level if you are willing to throw away your life."

"Why don't you decide to get serious already?" June's voice came out of multiple teleports.

"I'm afraid I also have limits," Marcella smiled. "I can't stop the landmass and kill you at the same time. I'll do that if you become more dangerous than that creature."

"You don't even need to ask!" June shouted through the teleports as more lightning bolts came crushing on Marcella.

Marcella's expression flickered when she noticed the level of power expressed by the attack. June was turning herself into something threatening, but the greatest danger in that scene was the intense aura that had spread in the higher plane.

"You aren't as brainless as you look," Marcella scoffed as she stretched her arms to launch her corrosive smoke in multiple directions and free herself from the restrictions of the portals.

The teleports crumbled, and Marcella seized the chance to send her energy toward the landmass. A massive shield appeared and prepared itself to face the incoming offensive, but its outer layer suddenly turned pink due to Sepunia's influence.

"You aren't the only one who studied our assets," Sepunia declared before a low noise filled the entire higher plane and made the expansion of mental waves impossible.

A massive dark shadow had landed on the tainted barrier and had pierced it, unleashing shockwaves so intense that King Elbas felt forced to sacrifice some buildings to give birth to safe areas.

Meanwhile, the landmass' attack continued to fly forward and severed anything on its path, be it allies or enemies. The offensive eventually crashed into the sky, and some roots shattered due to the immense power it carried.

The sky's radiance seemed to flicker for an instant, but everyone could soon see that no crack had appeared on its surface. That massive attack had been unable to inflict any damage, but the landmass only saw disrespect in that outcome.

"Let's keep opening a path for the landmass!" Maribel ordered, and her companions seemed to share her idea as they reassembled the offensive formation around Marcella.

Yet, a shocking scene entered the group's vision as they prepared to clear a path for the landmass. In the distance, the experts saw Great Builder free-falling and leaking his energy.

Chapter 2267: 2267. Reques

It was finally happening. Noah's forces were gaining ground on a battlefield that barely showed paths toward victory. The landmass could attack the sky and unleash its true power while most of the enemy leaders were busy, but that phase couldn't last forever. It barely survived one successful exchange.

Great Builder fell through the shattered higher plane with seemingly no control over his body. His yellowish energy also left his figure in a motion that had no intention to end.

The event caught the attention of most big players on the battlefield. After all, there were only so many important fights, and Great Builder was fighting one of them. His opponent also appeared unique, so many had kept track of how those exchanges progressed.

Great Builder had given his everything, resorting to every trick in the book to hurt the Rulers' Resolve. His efforts had even led to seemingly significant results since his opponent had finally shown signs of slowing down, but the same had happened to him.

The truth behind Great Builder's power became visible to everyone once he lost enough power. The many injuries that had opened on his body had revealed the bright yellow core shining in his insides.

Many would still fail to understand the meaning behind that scene, but Noah and the others could see right through it. The yellow core was almost identical to the one inside the pyramid. Great Builder had basically fused with it.

The implications of that fusion were self-explanatory. The pyramid could complete different functions due to its power source, so it was safe to assume that Great Builder had gained the same power now.

Moreover, there was something more specific to all of that. The yellow sphere was a core, a center of power that had allowed Great Builder to turn himself into a living workshop.

The powerful techniques and attacks that Great Builder had unleashed came from his constant creation of new abilities. He wasn't only adapting to the Rulers' Resolve's power. He was also improving on everything that seemed to work while defending against what came at him.

That struggle obviously wasn't sustainable, and Great Builder knew that his new core couldn't survive too many exchanges. Yet, he had no other option in that battle, so he did his best to win before depleting his energy.

Sadly, it seemed that Great Builder had fallen before he could claim his victory. Still, his efforts weren't wasted. The Rulers' Resolve took part in a surprising scene as he came out of the yellow cloud that had surrounded him.

The Rulers' Resolve's grey halo had dimmed. A few cracks had opened on his figure, and his eyes didn't shine with the same intensity anymore.

Those injuries vanished quickly, and his energy soon resumed shining with the same intensity as before, but he could only hide that damage. The whole higher plane learnt that Great Builder had inflicted wounds on his core.

Nevertheless, that seemed to be Great Builder's limit. He had hurt a world inspired by Heaven and Earth's resolve, but the effort had taken his entire energy.

The Rulers' Resolve silently inspected in own figure. He watched as his injuries closed and restored his mighty and incredible appearance. His expression tried not to give anything away, but there was an evident surprise inside it.

Even the Rulers' Resolve didn't expect Great Builder to achieve so much. In theory, the privileged cultivator's power was boundless since its power source was beyond incredible. However, a mere monster among his enemies had managed to hurt him.

The Rulers' Resolve couldn't help but feel slight respect toward his opponent, but that didn't hinder his actions or change his mindset. The privileged cultivator glanced at the falling body before pointing his hand at it and summoning his array of grey spheres.

It didn't take long before a rain of grey rays came out of the array and fell toward Great Builder. The attack was incredibly fast, and a series of explosions resounded once it reached Great Builder.

The Rulers' Resolve normally wouldn't show any emotion after a victory, but his eyes flickered before moving to point at a distant spot on his left. His expression soon retrieved its usual coldness, and his arm moved to point at that new area.

Another array of grey rays shot forward, but an azure vortex appeared on their trajectory and drew them toward its center. The grey energy disappeared, and the defensive technique crumbled to reveal the two figures behind it.

"What are you doing?" Great Builder weakly asked.

"I should be the one to ask that," Supreme Thief snorted. "When did you become so pitiful?"

"Don't talk about stuff you don't understand," Great Builder sighed. "That guy is strong, stronger than me."

Supreme Thief glanced at the Rulers' Resolve in the distance before moving his attention back to Great Builder. Supreme Thief had grabbed his friend right before the attack could land on him, but he had to hold his arm to prevent him from falling again.

"So what?" Supreme Thief asked. "Do you just give up and die in front of a powerful opponent?"

"Don't be stupid," Great Builder cursed. "I've hurt his world. He can't fight at his full power anymore. That flaw is enough to cause a chain reaction inside his whole world. He will lose against his next opponent."

Supreme Thief knew what Great Builder's meant. He could see the damage inside the Rulers' Resolve's world, and ideas on how to exploit that flaw even formed in his mind.

However, Supreme Thief didn't like that outcome. Leaving Great Builder on his own now would only confirm his death. The privileged cultivators after him would just switch targets if he started fighting against the Rulers' Resolve.

"Why do I always have to take care of you?" Supreme Thief sighed.

"When did you ever take care of me?" Great Builder complained as his figure dimmed even further. His very flesh was losing power. He was turning into nothing more than rank 9 materials.

"You should save your energy," Supreme Thief pointed out.

"Stop worrying about useless stuff," Great Builder scolded. "Go away and take care of the experts chasing you. I can deal with another exchange, so don't ruin the balance we have sacrificed so much to reach now."

Supreme Thief wasn't an idiot. He liked to act like one, but he knew when a situation required him to be serious.

The scales of the final battle were finally tilting on Noah's side. The landmass was awake, and every major expert was too busy fighting to mind the attacks that flew toward the sky.

Great Builder wanted to fight the Rulers' Resolve a little longer to preserve and deepen that advantage. Still, he needed Supreme Thief to keep the other privileged cultivators busy to do that. Supreme Thief understood everything, but his answer seemed to lack any interest in those matters.

"Do you think I would care about the balance of the battlefield?" Supreme Thief scoffed as a mass of azure energy converged in his palm.

Supreme Thief slammed his palm on Great Builder's chest and gave him as much energy as possible. Great Builder saw most of his functions activating as his fake core regained fuel, but that happy moment didn't silence an answer filled with anger.

"What are you doing?!" Great Builder shouted. "Don't waste your energy! Used it to kill those bastards!"

The privileged cultivators who had targeted Supreme Thief had already reached the duo's position. They were ready to combine their attacks with the Rulers' Resolve.

"I like that guy," Supreme Thief announced while pointing at the Rulers' Resolve. "I want his world, so help me seize it."

"We'll die under the cross-fire," Great Builder scolded as he pushed away Supreme Thief's arm since he could float on his own now.

"What cross-fire?" Supreme Thief wondered before voicing a shout that echoed through the whole higher plane. "Noah!"

Countless gazes turned toward the black figure flying at high speed through the higher plane and launching seeds whenever it got close to the sky.

Noah felt forced to stop under that global attention, and he shrugged his shoulders before agreeing to that silent request. "I'll take care of it."

Chapter 2268: 2268. Look

Noah wanted to save energy until worthier opponents appeared on his path, but he couldn't refuse the request of one of his companions. Moreover, Great Builder needed help, and Noah couldn't deny it.

Attracting everyone's attention had been easy. Supreme Thief's shout had forced every available troop to look at Noah, but it was up to him to retain that focus. Luckily, he was the best when it came to causing a mess.

'Snore,' Noah called through the mental connection, and a massive snake quickly came out of his back.

Snore voiced a deafening hiss as it unfolded its giant wings and prepared its feathers to unleash their power. However, Noah didn't stop there. Snore alone wouldn't be enough to force most of Heaven and Earth's troops to chase him.

A black gas came out of Noah before condensing into a mass of crystals that expanded and gave birth to the dark world. The sphere grew until it enveloped Snore in its insides, and a dense aura soon filled its surface.

The Rulers' Resolve, Decumia, Marcella, Divine Architect, and Caesar couldn't help but focus on Noah. Some of them only diverted their attention for an instant since they had to defend against their opponents' attacks, but they still wanted to take a peek at the source of that dense aura.

Noah's aura had gone through a significant qualitative change, and the experts at the peak of the cultivation journey weren't the only ones who noticed that.

The sole fact that Noah had created a situation where Heaven and Earth could lose had been a significant boost to his power. Everything that had followed the beginning of the final battle had deepened the improvements generated by that event, and the results were clear now.

Dense destruction filled Noah's aura. The pure desire to rip apart Heaven and Earth and achieve that impossible victory flowed through the dark world and enhanced its effects.

Noah wasn't a mere monster anymore. He had touched a level of power that went beyond his previous status. He wasn't only overcoming the limits of his stage. Noah was rewriting them in ways that his opponents couldn't fully understand.

That was fine for most experts, but the leaders of Heaven and Earth's army couldn't accept the event. They represented the peak beyond the peak, but there seemed to be something past that now.

A doubt had filled every major expert in Heaven and Earth's army since Noah's organization had become a real threat. Those cultivators wondered whether Noah and the others could reach new heights of power, and the answer had finally arrived.

Noah was still a liquid stage world, but the power he radiated belonged to a different realm. It wouldn't be fair to label it as "solid stage". It was too deep to be part of the same category.

The lack of a breakthrough was the most problematic aspect of that event. Noah didn't advance to the solid stage, but Heaven and Earth's experts felt the need to view him as someone at the peak of the cultivation journey due to the lack of comparisons.

Something similar had happened with Divine Demon, but a breakthrough had preceded that event. Instead, Noah had simply turned into something that his opponents couldn't understand for no apparent reason.

A different doubt replaced the previous. A simple question popped in the minds of Heaven and Earth's major players, and tinges of fear inevitably followed. Those experts couldn't predict how strong Noah would become after experiencing his breakthrough.

'Flow out of me,' Noah ordered to his mind as he lost himself in his violent thoughts. 'Seek the deepest parts of my world and give them a shape.'

Noah had created countless creatures and items through the dark world, but he felt their limit now. He finally saw that the sole idea of condensing something as boundless as destruction into a fixed form would only hurt the technique's power.

Yet, his ethereal blackness had expanded and deepened greatly during the final battle. Noah could inspect his power through a new understanding, and the dark world didn't hesitate to implement those improvements.

The dark world seemed to become alive and gain a separate will as it sent energy into the deepest parts of Noah's existence. The technique had a specific target. It wanted to find a pure version of his destruction to complete its creations.

Noah felt a bit uncomfortable. The dark world was part of him, but he experienced a sucking force in the deepest parts of his mind, a place that he would typically struggle to reach on his own.

Of course, Noah didn't dare to interrupt the process. He even lowered his innate defenses to let the dark world drain him of the violent ideas that filled his mind. He would let the technique use everything it could to generate something worthy of the final battle.

The dark world's aura grew heavier during the process, and some of Noah's creations found themselves attracted by it. The landmass and the parasite's branches halted their offensive for a few seconds as they lost themselves in a power that expressed specific peaks of their existence.

The privileged cultivators who had chased Supreme Thief in the last period didn't even need to exchange glances. They silently took a step toward Noah since they knew they couldn't ignore that new threat.

The same went for the experts who had chased Noah until now. However, their reaction was slightly different. They had struggled to catch Noah, so they dreaded what that technique would bring.

The dark world was solid. Its crystals created a seemingly impenetrable surface that prevented anyone from inspecting its insides. Yet, that material bent and gained liquid properties as figures started to push to come out.

The crystals opened as if they were made of a flexible membrane. They resembled a chrysalis when multiple figures burst out and unleashed their auras into the higher plane.

The privileged cultivators heaved a sigh of relief when they recognized Noah's usual six-armed dragons. Those creatures were wielding swords, but they weren't too different from what Noah had created in the past. Their auras had changed a bit, but that was still fine.

Nevertheless, the dark world was far from done. Soon, more crystals bent outward and burst open to reveal different creatures. Fiendish avatars wielding swords came out in the open and jumped on the dragons' backs.

That wasn't even the end of the process. A third batch of creatures came out of the dark world. Countless swords pierced the crystals before hovering around the many six-armed dragons.

The dark world transformed into trails of smoke that converged inside Noah once the process was over. A small army made of six-armed dragons, fiendish avatars, and flying swords had appeared, but the privileged cultivators couldn't focus on them. They had something far bigger to worry about.

The destruction of the dark world allowed Snore to show its presence again. Its appearance was mostly the same, except for two additional pairs of wings that had grown on its back.

The dragons, the swords, and the avatars were solid stage creatures, and their power was incredible, but they paled in front of Snore's additional wings. Each of those new limbs was a disposable weapon at the peak of the ninth rank, and their mere weight seemed able to bend the void's fabric.

"You look better like this," Noah commented.

Snore voiced an annoyed growl before fixing its piercing eyes on the platoon near Supreme Thief and Great Builder. They were its opponents.

Chapter 2269: 2269. Environmen

A tense silence followed Snore's growl. The privileged cultivators who weren't involved in any battle eyed the giant snake, Noah, and the various creations to understand the limits of their power, but that wasn't an easy feat.

Snore appeared at the peak of its power, and the dark world's creations didn't have clear functions. They were the products of Noah's destruction, but that didn't define specific abilities or limits.

Noah even seemed to have reached a new level of understanding of his world, which naturally flowed into his creations. A few exchanges were needed to define the power of Noah's army, but the privileged cultivators didn't know how many of them would survive that process.

Snore moved its new wings a bit to get used to their power, but its reptilian eyes never left the privileged cultivators near Supreme Thief and Great Builder.

Meanwhile, the fiendish avatars voiced high-pitched noises that made the six-armed dragons and the array of swords turn toward the other platoon of privileged cultivators.

As for Noah, he remained among his creations and studied the two platoons. Seventeen privileged cultivators with power in the liquid and solid stage were against him, so he couldn't approach the fight recklessly.

Still, prolonging that battle would also have adverse effects. The final battle had yet to enter its last phase, and Noah couldn't let mere underlings tire him out.

'Why do I even bother?' Noah cursed in his mind before waving a hand.

Snore hissed as soon as Noah gave the signal and shot forward to fly toward its opponents. Noah's army did the same, and their dark figures seemed to fuse with the void as the space-time fabric churned and bent to improve their movements.

The privileged cultivators near Great Builder and Supreme Thief ignored their previous opponents to focus on Snore. The platoon relied on multiple movement techniques to materialize around the giant snake and prepare various abilities.

The nine experts who had chased Supreme Thief were all capable solid stage cultivators. They immediately set up a battle formation to contain Snore's destructive power and give them a stark advantage in the imminent fight.

Five of those privileged cultivators took place in the frontlines, while the others occupied opposite spots in the backlines. Those experts knew how to make the best out of their worlds, and they didn't hesitate to exploit their numerical advantage.

The experts on the frontlines exploded with power as they revealed their abilities. One expanded her figure until she became as big as Snore, while another covered his body with a scarlet liquid that shone with bright light.

The other three limited themselves to filling the area with their energy. Green, blue, and orange waves of power flowed through the void and surrounded Snore while they tried to support their companions.

As for the privileged cultivators in the backlines, they also summoned their auras, but they kept them limited to their surroundings. They even condensed their energy to prepare powerful but precise attacks to unleash at the right moment.

Snore didn't care that its opponents had surrounded it. It didn't even bother to try to escape that encirclement. The privileged cultivators had chosen to get in its range, which was exactly what it wanted.

The giant expert charged at Snore and wrapped her arms and legs around its huge body, paying attention to avoiding the disposable wings. Meanwhile, the scarlet expert approached those feathered limbs to cover them with his bright liquid.

The other three experts used their energy to take complete control of the area. The void around Snore lit up as waves of power tried to seal its abilities and influence. Those techniques weren't proper barriers, but they behaved in a similar way. They even felt more troublesome to deal with compared to average defensive abilities.

The cultivators' tactic was quite simple. They held the advantage both in terms of numbers and general power, but Snore had some of the best destructive abilities in the higher plane.

Containing Snore was a must in the cultivators' minds, but mere techniques would directly crumble under the sheer might that it was able to unleash.

However, the situation would change if they used auras that Snore could pierce relatively easily. A barrier would explode after too much energy accumulated in its insides, but something without a fixed form could break while forcing the opposing ability to deplete part of its power.

A smart approach to that containment would involve precise attacks capable of retaining their power even after piercing the auras. Snore would be able to target the sources of that energy like that and improve the trend of the battle.

Yet, Snore wasn't Night. Noah's violent thoughts also flowed through its mind and enhanced its innate abilities. Moreover, Noah's destruction was at its peak, which naturally influenced Snore's decisions.

The privileged cultivators initially thought that Snore was studying the situation since no attack arrived from its side. The giant expert didn't hesitate to add strength to her grasp, while the other released even more of his scarlet liquid.

Still, a faint high-pitched noise soon resounded and flowed into the various abilities. Black lines that radiated dark-red light slowly spread through the dense auras around Snore and on the scarlet liquid on its wings, and the strange sound grew louder as the seconds passed.

The privileged cultivators could quickly connect that event to the Cursed Sword, but they pressed on with their offensive. Suffering damage wasn't a problem as long as Snore ended up in a worse situation, but things didn't go according to their expectations.

The Cursed Sword could accumulate destruction to unleash it into a single attack, but things were different now under Noah's new understanding of his world.

The black lines picked up speed in no time and expanded all around Snore while taking the privileged cultivators by surprise. Even the giant expert saw her body filled with those marks, and nothing in her power seemed able to remove them.

Panic began to build among the privileged cultivators, who moved their tactic to the next step. The four experts in the backlines launched their dense abilities toward the wings' base in an attempt to sever them and stop their offensive. Yet, their attacks stopped mid-air.

The privileged cultivators couldn't believe their eyes. Four pillars of energy had converged toward Snore, but a net of black lines had appeared at their bases before they could get too close to the giant snake.

The whole area was filled with destruction, which had created something similar to a shield that the cultivators' abilities couldn't pierce without triggering its effects.

Snore didn't even give the privileged cultivators the time to inspect the situation. Two of its wings exploded during that moment of surprise, and the nine experts saw their mental waves vanishing from the void.

Only chaos, loud noises, and faint sensations remained in the experts' minds while they were still busy stabilizing their consciousness. They found themselves almost entirely in the dark, unable to unfold their mental waves. The situation was so strange that some believed that they had died.

Yet, once everything began to quiet down, the experts managed to send slivers of mental energy outside their minds to inspect the area, and what they saw left them speechless.

The ever-present void had ended in the backlines. It had turned into a mere background of the scenery created by Snore. Violent waves of destructive energy had filled everything else, giving birth to an environment that couldn't theoretically exist.

The surprise experienced by the privileged cultivators only intensified as more of their senses regained power. They slowly became able to see a ground, vague buildings, and a sky, but none of those images had a fixed form. Everything was made of violent energy.

Chapter 2270: 2270. Dark world

An environment made of violent energy had taken control of part of the battlefield, and the nine privileged cultivators found themselves inside it. Still, their minds struggled to comprehend what had enveloped them.

Snore proudly stood at the center of that environment. Its reptilian eyes were cold, but it was possible to notice some surprise inside them. Even the snake didn't expect its new power to give birth to something so incredible.

However, everything felt in line with its power. Snore closed its eyes to experience the influence of the violent energy around it to its fullest. The environment radiated familiar sensations. It expressed something that Snore had always been meant to create.

Noah inspected the vast oval environment from a distance. He couldn't help but nod at that sight. The cycle was finally complete. Snore had gained access to the power that had always belonged to it.

The privileged cultivators had studied Noah's power deeply and for countless years. They had kept track of his improvements and new techniques, so finding answers to that strange event turned out to be pretty easy.

Nevertheless, the answers didn't make it easier for the privileged cultivators. Astonishment still filled their minds, and that feeling showed no sign of vanishing. It was simply impossible to calm down when everything around them reeked of pure destruction.

Snore and the dark world had always shared a deep connection. The two had basically improved and grown together until the last transformations had enhanced their individual traits.

However, Snore's core remained almost identical to the dark world. It even expressed a specific aspect of that technique. The snake was the destructive part of the dark matter. It was the embodiment of one of its greatest features.

Snore alone didn't have the knowledge or ability to summon a dark world. It was simply outside its nature to create, but everything had changed now that Noah had reached a new level of understanding of his power.

Snore could use everything inside the ethereal blackness, including Noah's techniques and mental capabilities. That had given birth to a different version of the dark world, something that perfectly reflected its nature.

The violent energy around the privileged cultivators failed to retain a solid form, but it tried its best to preserve some vague shapes.

The vast ground wanted to imitate the landmass, but it ended up being a dense sea of destructive energy. Violent waves and flares also filled its surface and created black gales above it.

The sky wanted to take the shape of a faint gas, but the violent dark matter was too dense. Snore had ended up creating an array of clouds that absorbed some of the gales before releasing even bigger ones in the environment below.

As for the buildings, Snore couldn't possibly have precise shapes in mind. Yet, it still tried to create something that resembled mountains or simple structures.

Of course, those buildings weren't solid. They actually shattered into gales that fused with the ground or the sky before reforming somewhere else.

The ground and the sky seemed to share that ever-changing nature. Nothing stood still in Snore's world. Its creation was nothing more than a mass of destructive energy divided into different types of gales that never stopped blowing.

The privileged cultivators didn't know what to expect from that destructive dark world. They had already seen what Snore was capable of, so they guessed that the technique would enhance its overall power. However, they would have to test it to be sure.

The experts eventually glanced at their giant companion. She had the highest defensive capabilities among the group, so it was her job to test the technique.

The giant privileged cultivator didn't shy back from that role. She took a step forward to press her feet on that sea of destruction, but her movement triggered a chain reaction that involved the whole technique.

The entirety of Snore's dark world released a high-pitched noise as countless gales shot out from the ground, sky, and air to converge on the giant cultivator.

The expert performed an evasive technique, but that movement only enraged the dark world further. Even more gales shot out to chase after the privileged cultivator, which soon cornered her and forced her to summon a defensive technique.

The giant's skin turned dark right before the gales could crash on her, but that technique made the dark world send even more violent energy. A series of explosions resounded in that spot, but all the destructive power released in the environment quickly fused back with the technique and prevented the appearance of fumes.

The privileged cultivator became visible in no time. Everyone could soon see her wounded body. The violent energy had destroyed her protective skin and had dug holes in her body, and her world had also suffered.

The damage would typically force the privileged cultivator to disperse her technique to focus on recovering. However, the expert didn't dare to move. She had understood that even the slightest gesture would turn her into a target.

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The other privileged cultivators also stood still. One of them turned her mental waves into faint strands of energy that tried to expand into that environment, but they shattered due to the dense destruction that filled the dark world.

Studying the environment was impossible. Moving would trigger a worldwide reaction. Standing still seemed the only safe option, but Snore wouldn't let its opponents rely on that tactic.

The privileged cultivators didn't know how to recognize the expressions of the magical beasts, but they felt that Snore smirked as it unfolded its two pairs of wings and created an array of black spheres right before them.

The wings didn't have a specific target. They merely pointed at the nine privileged cultivators before unleashing black rays made of dense, destructive energy.

The dark world reacted to the attack by sending violent energy toward the rays and enveloping them into storms that released high-pitched noises.

The attack was fast, but the privileged cultivators could still make a single thought run through their minds. Of course, its contents were far from happy. They simply understood what was about to happen.

The privileged cultivators felt forced to use techniques, move, or deploy evasive measures before the incoming attacks, which triggered a chain reaction that spread through the entire dark world.

The ground surged and the sky fell as countless flares and gales shot toward the nine experts. The privileged cultivators were against a world and their king now, and retreating wasn't an option.

Studying what was happening inside Snore's dark world was more than hard for the experts outside. The matter wasn't too challenging when everything stood still, but the situation changed once everything turned into a mess.

Still, most experts were busy with their battles, so they put everything they learnt in the back of their minds. The only ones who had to worry about Noah were the privileged cultivators who had chased him until now.

Noah casually glanced at the second platoon. He showed no interest in those experts, but he still showed a smirk at the sigh of their evident worry.

"What is it?" Noah mocked. "Aren't you ready to die for Heaven and Earth?"

The leader of those eight experts was a bald old man that kept his arms crossed inside his large sleeves. He was the only one who could hide his worry, but Noah felt able to sense it anyway, and that emotion only intensified at his question.

"You can't kill us with mere creations," The old man eventually responded.

"What are you even saying?" Noah laughed. "This whole battle is my creation."