

DEMONIC 541

Chapter 541 - 541. Flaming figure

The cultivators of the Utra nation were all injured, they couldn't express their full power.

At the same time, Noah had never been more powerful.

The enlightenments had slightly improved all the abilities that used the darkness element, and his whole essence brimmed with confidence, he knew exactly how strong he was.

Havok flew at an incredible speed through the fissures created by his slashes, the corrosive smoke still lingering in the air further improved its speed when it dove through it.

Roy's companion couldn't do anything, Havok was too fast, and their spells had already been pierced, they could only watch as the black trail engulfed Roy's head and brought his lifeless body back to Noah.

Noah quickly cut away the parts of Roy's body that were being eroded by the black smoke and stored the rest, there would be time to eat his dantian after the battle was over.

Noah's dantian didn't lack "Breath", his cultivation technique refilled it at full speed, he could battle for a while without caring about it.

Only his mental energy diminished at a fast pace, using so many spells at the same time placed a heavy toll on his mind.

However, Noah had been a rank 4 mage for almost five years by then, he could easily keep using his full power for a while.

For the first time in his life, he could take part in extended battles!

"What have you done!"

The man at his side shouted as he charged toward Noah.

They had just survived the siege on the Shandal Empire only to find themselves in another battle.

They outnumbered their enemies, but their injuries were quite severe, and their centers of power didn't have many reserves, their situation wasn't good.

Yet, they would have never expected that one of them could die so soon.

Noah saw the man coming for him, and his sabers traced a cross in the air when he slashed them.

The man was prepared for his attack, and countless starfishes appeared the trajectory of the slashes as he flew toward the fiendish figure.

A fissure with the shape of a cross appeared in the barrage of starfishes, and black smoke lingered on its borders.

Still, the spell successfully blocked Noah's attack once again, giving an opportunity to the cultivator.

The man stretched his hand as he flew toward Noah, the water that made the starfishes gathered on his arm and transformed it into a threatening reptilian claw.

Zac came out to intercept the man's spell, the azure claw pierced its defensive layers and shell, but part of its power had been expended in the process, allowing Noah to block it with his sabers.

The Demonic swords were rank 4 items created with his flesh, and his body wielded the might of a hybrid that used a secret technique.

His weapons managed to remain intact after the clash, and his physical strength allowed him to stay still, the man couldn't help but think that he had clashed with an immovable mountain.

The black smoke surrounding Noah began to affect the azure claw, the armor of water was slowly being pierced by the corrosive capabilities of Noah's spell.

Yet, at that moment, Noah sensed a threat coming from behind him.

His consciousness saw the woman wielding two icy swords diving toward him, a layer of ice covered the surface of her skin.

Still, its snowy color was tainted by the blood flowing out of her many injuries, it seemed that utilizing that spell further worsened her wounds.

Noah couldn't move his sabers, they had to remain in their position to block the man's spell, so he simply turned his head toward the woman, and a crack appeared on the armor of smoke.

Noah's head turned in an inhuman way, his neck seemed incredibly flexible, but the woman didn't have time to be surprised about that feature.

The crack in the armor of smoke revealed Noah's open mouth, the woman was only able to see a pale-gray light before flames engulfed her entire body.

The man next to him gasped in surprise, his companion had attacked from his blind spot, but Noah had still been able to counterattack!

Then, he felt an incredible force pushing him backward, Noah's head resumed its normal position and turned toward the man as he launched another wave of flames.

The man promptly used the water still lingering in the battlefield to protect himself, an azure shield appeared between him and the flames, but the black smoke surrounding them threatened to pierce his defensive measure.

Since he knew that he couldn't defend, he simply let Noah's physical strength flung him back in the distance.

Noah finally had a moment of peace after that exchange.

The remaining cultivators were attacking uncaring of their injuries, he couldn't exploit any opening like he did with Professor Roy.

After all, they were still two rank 4 cultivators with deep battle experience, it was impossible to quickly kill one of them without the element of surprise.

Also, he was continually using his Demonic form, he didn't know how much mental energy and "Breath" his enemies had left, but his mind continued to be emptied as he kept fighting.

'I can't disperse the Demonic form, but my dantian is doing well without the restrictions on my cultivation technique, I should only pay attention to my mind and body.'

Noah thought in that brief moment of peace.

His mind was still somewhat ok, but he had used the secret art since the beginning of the battle, he felt hungry beyond reason at that moment.

Noah knew that he could just eat Roy's dantian to fill his body with nourishments, but the dantians of the cultivators were the meal that made his body improve the most, he didn't want to waste it just to keep fighting.

Of course, he wouldn't hesitate to do so if the situation required it, but he could still hold on.

Noah gave a few orders to the spirit automaton inside his space-ring while he kept his attention on the two enemies in the distance.

The man was relatively fine, the battle had stopped the regeneration of his burned skin, but he didn't suffer any other injury during the clashes.

On the other hand, the woman's face was ashen.

Noah's flames had destroyed her weakened layer of ice, and the cuts on her body enlarged in the impact, she seemed on the verge of collapsing due to her exhaustion.

Meanwhile, the spirit automaton sent pieces of the corpses of the strongest creatures stored inside Noah's ring, Noah quickly stuffed them inside his mouth before the smoke around him could affect them.

'They are communicating.'

Noah realized that when he saw that his two enemies were using part of their consciousnesses for other matters, he guessed that they were preparing a plan of some sort.

He turned toward the woman and was about to charge at her to interrupt their preparations, but a loud explosion filled the clouds above them with flames, illuminating the area with a vivid red color.

Then, a flaming figure fell from the sky.

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Noah turned his gaze toward the falling burning figure, even the other cultivators of both nations interrupted their battles after the explosion resounded the area .

The flames that surrounded the falling figure were thick, it wasn't clear who was enduring that scorching attack .

Yet, everyone in the area knew that it had fallen from the battlefield of the two rank 5 cultivators .

Seconds of silence passed as if they were years, the outcome of the battle between the two powerhouses would make their fights pointless, not even all of them together could rival a rank 5 existence .

No one dared to near the falling figure, the flames around it were too powerful, and they were concerned about its identity, they would rather avoid attempting to save the wrong cultivator .

The figure continued to fall until it crashed on the ground, there were still a few rank 4 Spiked roots on that spot, but the flames instantly burned them .

The flames lasted for a few minutes before they dispersed on the terrain, revealing a fainted woman covered in half-transparent runes .

The outcome of the battle became clear to everyone, Lady Edna had been defeated by Elder Austin!

'She is alive . '

Noah's eyes sharpened when he thought that .

The runes around her body seemed some natural form of protection that had prevented the flames from affecting her skin, but their power had largely depleted during the fall .

'The dantian of a rank 5 cultivator! If I manage to eat it...'

Noah's hunger began to fill his mind when he realized that he had a chance to seize Lady Edna's center of power .

His fuming foot slowly turned in her direction, power began to accumulate on his legs while he prepared to sprint toward the ground .

His focus rose as he inspected his surroundings, everyone's attention was on the fainted Lady Edna, no one was watching him .

Yet, it was at that point that Elder Julia appeared in the middle of the battlefield .

Everyone's attention went on her, and the cultivators of the Utra nation began to take steps back when they saw that another rank 5 entity had appeared .

However, her next words surprised both groups .

"Let's go, we are done here . "

Elder Julia's words resounded in the area and stupefied both groups .

Elder Austin had just defeated Lady Edna, and now even Julia had appeared, they clearly had the upper hand, why would they retreat?

"The higher-ups are having a meeting, they called a truce until an agreement is reached . "

Elder Julia explained before slowly flying toward the southern coast .

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A few hours before, while the siege on the territories colonized by the Empire was still happening .

A large table made of marble floated high in the sky over the sea between the new and old continent .

Four seats floated next to the sides of the table, and a middle-aged man sat on one of them, calmly sipping what seemed tea from a cup .

The man had short black hair, dark eyes, and a short beard, and his expression was incredibly calm as he waited for the other three guests to join him .

Minutes passed in which he didn't move from his position, he simply took short sips from his cup from time to time .

Then, a man appeared and neared the table without taking a seat .

"I must warn you, if this is some kind of trap, I'm more than willing to make the entire archipelago detonate . I reckon half of the Empire will be destroyed in the shockwave . "

The man who had just appeared and spoken was Chasing Demon, the patriarch of the Hive .

"Do not fear, young one, the Almighty just wants to find an agreement . "

The man answered without raising his gaze from his cup .

Chasing Demon inspected him for a while before sighing and sitting in his opposite direction, caution lingered on his eyes as he watched his surroundings .

More time passed, and another figure appeared .

It was a man who wore a golden crown, and a golden robe, surprise mixed with arrogance were exuded by his expression when he saw the two men sitting next to the floating table .

"Why is the closest man to god summoning me? Is the Empire so scared about the attack on its territories?"

The newly arrived cultivator was King Elbas, the ruler of the Utra nation .

"King Elbas, please, just call me God's Right Hand and sit . We are just missing a guest for the meeting to being . "

God's Right Hand spoke while pointing to the seat to his left .

King Elbas didn't move and simply turned his gaze toward Chasing Demon before speaking once again .

"Why is he here? Our three nations are enough to colonize the piece of Immortal Lands . "

"Because greed has won over one of you, we need a fourth power to secure the coasts peacefully, or we will never make it to the center of the new lands . "

A female voice resounded in the air which answered King Elbas' question, a beautiful middle-aged woman appeared immediately after and sat on the remaining seat .

"Thank you for joining this meeting, Great Elder Diana . "

God's Right Hand spoke and turned toward King Elbas, the other rank 6 existences on the table did the same and waited for the ruler of the Utra nation to sit on the table .

King Elbas hesitated for a while before heaving a sigh and sitting in front of Grand Elder Diana, her shining blue eyes watched him through the whole process before turning toward the envoy of the Empire .

"First of all, I'd like to ask for a truce for the duration of this meeting, no killings on the new lands while we are here . "

God's Right Hand spoke, and his words made both King Elbas and Grand Elder Diana complain .

"You can't ask for something like that when your territories are under siege . "

"I agree with King Elbas, the Empire has no right to stop the attack, we can have the meeting after the battle ends . "

God's Right Hand revealed a calm smile before answering those complaints .

"Very well, we'll talk after the battle ends . "

It was at that point that an explosion resounded from below them, and a blue pillar appeared in the new land .

The cultivators around the table were quite surprised by the power behind the blast, but they were rank 6 existences, such an explosion couldn't affect them .

King Elbas and Grand Elder Diana immediately picked their inscribed notebooks and remained in silence as they listened to the reports of the troops on that battlefield .

It took a while, but, in the end, both of them sent one last message through their items before turning toward God's Right Hand and speaking a single word at the same time .

"Truce . "

The three rank 6 cultivators then turned toward Chasing Demon who simply shrugged his shoulders before repeating that word .

"Truce . "

Chapter 543

The rank 6 cultivators of the four nations were aware of the events that had disturbed the peace in the piece of Immortal Lands in the last period .

A heroic cultivator of the Papral nation had been killed, and her death kindled the battle intent of the three big countries, ultimately leading to the attack on the territories of the Empire .

The specifics about Elder Cheryl's death were still unclear though, a culprit had yet to be found, which forced the interested nation to consider everyone else as their enemy .

Of course, there was someone among the four powerhouses that knew everything about that messy situation .

Chasing Demon did his best to appear clueless about the political situation of the new continent .

The fact that God's Right Hand had contacted him meant that the Hive could gain something from that meeting, he couldn't waste that chance .

"First of all, I would like to say that every faction has lost something, so we can skip the part where we ask for compensation . Do we all agree on this point?"

God's Right Hand's calm voice resounded in the air, the clouds above him seemed to stop when his words traveled through the sky .

Yet, the power carried by his voice wasn't able to affect the existences in front of him, and King Elbas immediately snorted before pointing at Chasing Demon to deny his statement .

"Every faction except for the Coral archipelago! Actually, I would really like to know why the Hive was in my territories . "

Chasing Demon listened to King Elbas' words and shrugged his shoulders once again before answering with an expressionless face .

"An external force has just hired my men, my organization can't sustain the expenses of two different wars, we just wanted to make some quick gains while also weakening you all . "

King Elbas' eyes sharpened when he heard those words .

Chasing Demon's lie had been flawless, and he had also avoided hiding the real intentions behind the attack .

It must be said that they were all aware that the Hive was attacking the old continent, thousands of cultivators had landed on the shores of a weak territory in the area of influence of the Empire and had begun to submit its inhabitant .

Chasing Demon's alibi was perfect, but he felt like adding something to his statement .

"We are not greedy, we will just wait for the inevitable war between your three factions before claiming the southwestern coast . The Hive has experience in stealing nations after all . "

Chasing Demon opened a flask full of wine as soon as he finished speaking and began to drink in silence, his performance was over, now he only had to listen to the real rulers of the Mortal Lands before deciding how to exploit the meeting to his advantage .

King Elbas wanted to retort, but he knew that Chasing Demon was right, even one of the three big nations didn't have the power to stop a fourth organization from taking over part of a completely new continent .

Of course, he and the other three rank 6 entities would be furious to know that the Hive had explored the piece of Immortal Lands for months by then, but they were far from suspecting something like that .

"I agree, just go straight to the point . "

In the end, King Elbas spoke those words while turning toward God's Right Hand .

"Same here, just reveal the reason behind this meeting . "

Grand Elder Diana agreed and turned toward the envoy of the Empire too .

Chasing Demon simply nodded when he saw that God's Right Hand was waiting for his answer .

"Very well . "

God's Right Hand revealed a smile after those words and waved his hand over the table .

An image appeared over its surface, the other three cultivators quickly realized that the picture illustrated the known territories of the new continent .

Chasing Demon's eyes immediately went on the southwestern coast and sighed internally when he saw that those areas were dark, only the vague shape of its borders was drawn .

The same went for the northwestern and southeastern coasts, those areas were dark, only the coastlines had been depicted .

However, the territories on the northeastern coast were depicted in detail .

God's Right Hand had revealed the layout of those territories, leaving apart only the traces left by divine beings that the Empire had discovered!

"What does this mean?"

Great Elder Diana asked while she memorized the information revealed by the picture, even the other two powerhouses wondered about the meaning behind that action .

"We all know that there are traces left by divine beings on the new continent and that the density of "Breath" in the environment increases as we explore its depths . Yet, we have all limited our explorations to the coastlines because we are aware that only rank 6 existences can explore the center of the continent!"

God's Right Hand spoke, revealing an essential piece of information that Chasing Demon promptly noted in his mind .

Silence fell on the meeting, both King Elbas and Great Elder Diana were aware of that truth, but they didn't speak about it .

The inland territories were simply too dangerous, and too many powerful beings inhabited them, even rank 6 cultivators couldn't explore them that easily, not alone at least .

After all, the new continent had once been an environment that only divine beings could explore, it wasn't a surprise that it hid dangers that even peak heroic cultivators feared .

"What are you suggesting?"

King Elbas asked .

His tone was far more polite compared to before, it seemed that the topic deeply interested him .

"I say that we can stop caring about the coastlines and make an alliance to explore the most dangerous areas, we can resume killing each other after the entirety of the continent is mapped . "

God's Right Hand answered and pointed at the map before adding something .

"There is no point in wasting assets with so many resources at hand, and we can't continue to hold ourselves back just because we belong to different factions . Let the weaklings fight over the coastlines while we explore the rank 6 danger zones together, we are all aiming to the Immortal Lands after all . "

God's Right Hand explained further .

The rulers of the three big nations had to remain in their domains as a last line of defense, even Chasing Demon needed to stay in the archipelago to operate the copying technique .

Yet, the envoy of the Empire was suggesting to drop those enmities to finally explore those dangerous areas .

"And whose word can we trust to form this alliance?"

Chasing Demon spoke at that time .

As the weakest organization, the Hive would be the first to be attacked if its strongest power was to suddenly disappear .

God's Right Hand took a shining token from his storage device and answered while wearing a reverent gaze .

"The Almighty's, of course!"

Chapter 544 - 544. Pact

The token shone with a soft light but radiated an ancient aura, King Elbas, Great Elder Diana, and Chasing Demon could immediately realize that the power contained in the inscribed item surpassed their realm.

"A pact?"

Great Elder Diana asked.

That kind of item was often seen in the cultivator world, many pacts and agreements were sealed through tokens or sigils.

Of course, a token able to force four rank 6 existences to follow an agreement had to be in the divine ranks.

"Yes, reveal the details of the territories that you've conquered, and you will join God's Left Hand and me in the exploration of the depths of the new continent. There must be a reason why these territories have fallen from the Immortal Lands, the cause is either on the other side of the sky or at the center of the new continent."

God's Right Hand ended his explanation with those words, the Shandal Empire was basically offering the help of two rank 6 cultivators to explore the depths of the new continent!

It was needless to say that such an offer was incredibly enticing for the three guests, the chance to explore areas that could benefit them despite their high rank was something that they would rather not miss.

King Elbas was the first to act, he touched the shining token and browsed the conditions of the agreement in his mind before waving his hand toward the map.

Names and lines of demarcation began to appear on the southeastern coast, the dark areas were replaced by detailed drawings that depicted the environment on those territories.

Then, he touched the token again, and a shining rune appeared on the back of his hand, the ruler of the Utra nation had immediately agreed to the alliance!

Great Elder Diana did the same, she checked the terms of the agreement and waved her hand before sealing the alliance.

The territories on the northwestern coast of the map obtained names and details, only the traces left by divine beings weren't mentioned on the map.

The three of them then turned toward Chasing Demon who wore a solemn expression.

He knew that he was the weakest of them and that his organization paled compared to those of the forces sealing the agreement.

Yet, obtaining something that could benefit him despite his rank couldn't be missed, it was possible that nothing else in the entirety of the Mortal Lands could offer him such a chance.

His hesitation was soon replaced by determination, and he reached for the token, accepting the terms of the alliance that the item contained.

The four major forces of the Mortal Lands had sealed the contract created by the God of the Empire!

Each of those powerful entities had a nation that relied on them for protection and guidance, but they were still cultivators, the weight of their organizations couldn't hinder their path to power.

Families, sects, soldiers, and nations were notions that belonged to the human world, there was no place for them in the solitary life of those that strived for the stars.

Of course, Chasing Demon didn't add the information that he knew about the southwestern coast to the map, those areas remained dark.

The light of the token flickered when the alliance was sealed, and the item rose in the air before shooting in the distance, toward the territories of the Empire.

No one asked about its destination, it was clear that the token was returning to the only being that could control it.

"Now, we just have a few matters to settle."

God's Right Hand stood up as he resumed to speak.

"The alliance divides the four corners of the new continent between our countries, but there are many territories that have yet to be claimed under a banner, especially for what concerns the southwestern coast."

Chasing Demon's expression didn't flicker when he heard those words, he knew that the time to obtain official claims over the new lands had arrived.

"It's not fair to divide the coastlines into four equal parts, the Hive didn't bear the expenses of the colonization in these last five years so it can't gain such rich and vast territory for free. Our nations need a chance to conquer some of them without too much bloodshed."

The alliance aimed to preserve the current strength of those four nations to focus on the complete colonization of the new continent, it would be pointless to start a war right after sealing the pact.

"I might have an idea that should satisfy all the interested parts."

God's Right Hand said before revealing his thoughts to those that were now his companions.

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Back on the piece of Immortal Lands, on the eastern coast.

Elder Julia flew at high speed toward the southern coast, followed by the rank 4 cultivators of the Hive.

They had left the territories controlled by the Utra nation in a hurry after the truce had been called, and, until then, they had been unable to learn more about that matter from Elder Julia.

At some point though, a figure descended from the clouds and joined Elder Julia in her flight.

The figure was Elder Austin, the rank 4 cultivators behind him were immediately able to recognize him.

Also, they were able to notice that his complexion was quite pale and that brown runes seemed glued to specific spots of his body.

"Damned Edna, she was able to retaliate even in her injured state, her status as inscription master can't be underestimated."

Elder Austin cursed loudly, and his words resounded in the space behind him, Noah and his companions could clearly hear them.

Then, right when the snowy plain became somewhat visible in the distance, the inscribed notebooks of all the members of the group received a mental message at the same time.

The message seemed extremely important since dense mental waves were contained in it, and there was only one being in the entirety of the Hive whose mind could produce that energy.

The cultivators quickly listened to the message, Chasing Demon's voice resounded in their seas of consciousness and summarized the events that concerned the meeting between the rank 6 existences.

The last phrase of his message though made them so surprised that they all halted their flight to watch the expressions of their companions.

Only Noah's head remained lowered on the inscribed notebook, Chasing Demon's last phrase echoed in his mind and filled him with eagerness.

'The three big nations won't leave the southwestern coast to the Hive for free, but bloodsheds must be avoided per the terms of the alliance, so one versus one battles have been issued to decide the owners of those territories.'

Chapter 545 - 545. Endurance

One versus one battles to claim the ownership of a territory, that was the condition placed over the conquest of the southwestern coast.

Specifics about the battles and the agreements were sent alongside Chasing Demon's message, Elder Austin was particularly annoyed when he read that the Hive would only obtain the desert without fighting since it was situated at the exact corner of their coast.

Powerful sandworms inhabited the desert, and one rank 5 specimen had even been confirmed, it was virtually useless as an asset.

Another aspect of the agreement was that the territories on the coastlines could only feature battles between rank 4 cultivators, while rank 5 cultivators had to fight for the areas more inland.

Simply speaking, Elder Austin couldn't fight for the ownership of the lava lake, he could only join the battle for the azure plain or similar territories that had yet to be explored.

'The lava lake and the forest of White woods must be maintained, but it wouldn't be bad to win all the battles.'

Noah thought as he reviewed the outline of the new continent in his mind.

The lava lake contained traces left by divine beings, it was the most valuable territory explored by them and had to belong to the Hive.

The Coral archipelago had more than doubled its human assets in the last years, but it lacked methods to nourish its heroic cultivators, the lava lake could provide that service, for what concerned those with a fire aptitude at least.

As for the forest of White woods, the Hive had already set a teleportation matrix and many defenses there, it had to keep ownership over that land, or its efforts would be wasted.

Also, the fact that it had already infiltrated the new continent would be revealed if the forest passed on the enemy's hands, something like that had to be prevented at all costs.

Elder Austin turned toward the rank 4 cultivators behind him, his eyes moved between the elders with a fire aptitude, it was clear that he was choosing who would fight for the lava lake.

The group obviously noticed his actions, Elder Jason, Elder Pansy, and Elder Laurel wore a solemn expression when they understood that they were being evaluated.

Elder Austin's expression became resolute, and he was about to speak, but a voice interrupted him and claimed the attention of the group.

"I'll fight for the lava lake, my endurance surpasses the benefits obtained by the fire element."

Noah said as he fixed his gaze on Elder Austin.

The battles for the territories had to be fought in the sky above them, meaning that the fight for the lava lake would happen above it.

Noah didn't think that he could last more than a rank 5 cultivator in that environment, but he was more than sure that he surpassed all rank 4 cultivators in that field.

After all, he was a rank 4 hybrid in the upper tier, no human on his same level could match his endurance.

The three elders of the fire element were about to complain, but a heatwave swept them and interrupted their actions.

The heat engulfed Noah too, flames had appeared around Elder Austin, which were slowly nearing the four of them.

The elder had simply decided to test them!

The three cultivators with a fire aptitude revealed a determined expression as they closed their eyes to focus.

Being chosen for that battle was a great honor, and Elder Austin would probably reward anyone that managed to keep his training area, having the favor of a rank 5 cultivator was something quite valuable.

On the other hand, Noah simply stared at the incoming flames.

He had continuously eaten during the flight, and he had even managed to eat Professor Roy's dantian as the group left the territories of the Utra nation, his body was at its peak form and had also improved slightly.

The sight of the flames didn't force him to turn his gaze away, his icy reptilian eyes weren't bothered by their brilliance.

After all, his were the eyes of a dragon, flames were part of his bloodline now.

Elder Austin's flames neared the four cultivators, increasing the heat that surrounded them.

The four of them began to sweat, and traces of struggle could be seen on the three elders with the fire aptitude.

It wasn't only a matter of enlightenment, the power behind the flames was too strong, they felt as if all the liquids inside their bodies were boiling due to the high temperature.

Noah was sweating and experiencing their same sensations, but they didn't have such a harsh impact on him.

His body expended nourishments at a fast pace to oppose the heat, but their depletion was far lower than the "Breath" contained in the bodies of the three elders.

His body was simply too strong, it needed less energy to do the same work.

Also, Noah absorbed part of the "Breath" contained in the radiance of the flames with every breath, he felt his lungs improving when that energy nourished those organs.

One by one, the elders began to crouch and retreat, unable to sustain the heat of the flames anymore.

The first one to give up was Elder Laurel, quickly followed by Elder Pansy.

Only Elder Jason struggled to remain in his position, but his determination was broken when he opened his eyes to stare at the contender next to him.

He saw Noah coldly staring at the flames while his long black hair fluttered due to the heat waves that they released.

He recognized the emotion hid by his reptilian eyes: There was eagerness, battle intent, and ambition.

Elder Jason tried to look at the flames to see the emotions that their sight would bring to him.

He felt awe, respect, and a deep reverence for the being able to create such a wonder.

In that short exchange of gazes that Noah didn't notice, he understood what he lacked as a cultivator, and something deep inside him changed.

Elder Jason closed his eyes once again and spread his arms while stopping opposing the pressure radiated by the flames.

His body was immediately pushed back, and the heat burned part of his skin, but a smile soon appeared on his face.

Elder Austin dispersed his flames at that moment, Noah had won the competition by a large margin, he was clearly the perfect cultivator for the battle in the harsh environment above the lava lake.

He and Elder Julia turned without saying a word and resumed their flight toward the southern coast, the rest of the group quickly followed them in silence.

Noah ignored the gazes that went on him and was about to resume his flight when Elder Jason arrived next to him and bowed before following the group.

Noah guessed that he was just being respectful and put the matter in the back of his mind as he chased after his companions, he didn't notice that Elder Jason's eyes were now carrying an ambition quite similar to his.

Chapter 546 - 546. News

The news of the alliance sealed between the powerhouses of the four nations quickly spread in the old continent.

Peace had been reached once again on the new continent, that period would last until the rank 6 existences of the countries returned from the depths of the piece of Immortal Lands, and the entirety of its surface was mapped.

The details concerning the battles for the ownership of the territories of the southwestern coast were also leaked, many cultivators were excited about that opportunity, and the organizations behind them didn't hesitate to organize fitting events.

The one versus one battles were an excellent opportunity to select promising heroic cultivator to nurture, the Utra nation and the Papral nation quickly organized tournaments to choose the contenders that would fight the elders of the Hive.

Also, powerful envoys reached the southwestern coast to analyze the territories, both nations had to know the battlefields to select the best candidates.

As for the Shandal Empire, the pact prevented it from joining the battles on the southwestern coast, which was one of the reasons why the other rank 6 cultivators accepted to seal it so quickly.

The Utra nation would attempt to claim the territories on the southern coast while the Papral nation had to fight for those on the northern coast, that division had only geographical reasons, it would be hard to control a land on the other side of the continent after all.

Another piece of information though spread as quickly as those concerning the alliance: Noah Balvan had killed Professor Roy of the academy!

Through the years, Noah's name had become quite renowned.

He was a criminal of the Utra nation who had escaped both his family and the Royals, gaining whatever he could from both of them;

He was the Hooded Devil of the Odrea nation, his explosive inscribed items had been a pain to deal with even after he left that country, the losses suffered by the Empire because of him were uncountable;

He led the human assets of the Chasing Demon sect in the war for the independence of the Coral archipelago, helping in making it become a country that aimed for the title of fourth big nation.

Also, many believed that he had been the one to obtain the inheritance in the separate dimension under the Great whirlpool, his status as Demon Prince of the Hive was taken as a proof of that achievement.

Yet, the fact that he had killed a heroic cultivator could only mean that he was a heroic cultivator himself, and a complete one too!

That news shook many cultivators forced to halt their growth due to their status, Noah had fulfilled their secret dream to escape the shackles of servitude and to rise to the realm of the heroic cultivators.

What was even more surprising was that Noah wasn't even forty!

"We lost the youngest heroic cultivator in history over a mortal woman."

Thomas Balvan said after reading the report in his hands.

He was inside the main hall of the Balvan mansion, and his sons had their heads lowered as they stood around him.

The main hall of the mansion seemed far more luxurious compared to the past, many ornaments filled its walls, and even the concentration of "Breath" inside it was considerably higher.

Thomas Balvan looked at his youngest son before sighing in disappointment and reading the report again.

Reading that his bastard grandson had reached the heroic ranks so soon made him feel incredibly old, his over two hundred years of life began to weigh on his mind when he realized how much his family has lost.

Truth to be told, the Elbas family had granted countless benefits to the members of the Balvan family after Noah's identity was exposed.

What should have been a slow decline became instead a stable growth thanks to the help of the Royals.

New heirs were nurtured with the first-rate techniques of the academy, the future of the Balvan family was bound to be great with the support of the rulers of the nation.

Yet, nothing could compare to the value of the youngest heroic cultivator in history who also had one of the rarest aptitudes.

"Father, I'll go to the new continent."

Adrian Balvan, the oldest son, spoke as he raised his head.

He had taken care of the new generations of the family and acted as the patriarch since Thomas spent most of its time in seclusion.

Also, he was the only other heroic cultivator in the entirety of the family.

Thomas stared at his firstborn for a while before asking something.

"Do you want to fight him?"

Adrian nodded and lowered his head again as a form of respect.

"Go but return alive at all costs, the Royals won't cover for the losses caused by Noah this time."

Thomas accepted Adrian's request while adding a warning.

"Do you think he can beat me?"

Adrian asked.

He was nearing one hundred years of age, he didn't feel good when his father hinted that he could die when meeting someone sixty years younger.

"I don't know, that guy keeps on breaking records! Heck, I wasn't even able to fly properly after I entered the heroic ranks, but he is already fighting against old monsters, I don't know what to expect!"

Thomas dismissed his sons with those last words, his mind was too messy to be bothered with those political matters.

Similar scenes could be seen in the mansions of the noble families whose heirs had encountered Noah or suffered by his hands, and the same was applied for the branch of the Royal family that handled the creation of a secret army of criminals.

A young-looking woman with long and wild silver hair sat on the roof of a mansion situated near the capital of the Utra nation.

A golden spear was laid next to her as she read a report in her hands, her fingers trembled slightly when she understood the contents of those words.

Max Ballor was behind her, his expression was solemn, but traces of concern appeared in his eyes when he looked at his daughter.

He was incredibly proud of her.

June had single-handedly raised the status of the Ballor family to a medium-size noble family and had provided it the support of the Elbas family.

The family had to relocate to fulfill the role assigned by the Royals, but the benefits obtained through that job vastly outclassed the expenses.

Yet, June had long stopped seeing him as a father, and she was even colder with the rest of the family, she only used them as tools to obtain materials and techniques that she needed.

"Father."

June spoke after she read the report a few times.

"You are only a human cultivator, you can't affect his life."

Max gave voice to those words, he knew exactly what his daughter was thinking at that moment.

However, June completely ignored his statement and gave him an order.

"The colonized areas on the new continent are the best training ground for human cultivators. Contact the Royal family, I want to go there."

Chapter 547 - 547. Wild

Noah was obviously unaware of the events happening in the old continent, but he could imagine most of them.

It wasn't hard to guess that the two big nations would bring their most talented heroic cultivators to the southwestern coast to join the battles and that everyone now knew his status.

Yet, there was very little that he could do about that, he had decided to stop hiding after all.

He was a heroic cultivator chasing after his individuality now, he couldn't walk that path afraid of being seen.

'Defensive inscribed items aren't allowed, and a cultivator can only have inscribed weapons at its same rank or lower. Also, both contenders can surrender and give the territory to the opponent's faction. I guess they really want to preserve the heroic assets of each nation.'

Noah reviewed the conditions of the one versus one battles in his mind as the group returned to the forest of White woods.

He felt satisfied with most of them, the ability to use defensive items would just favor the more prosperous nations, for example.

However, he didn't really like that his opponents could just walk away, it didn't happen so often to have the chance to decrease the enemy power while also obtaining dantians for his body.

The group quickly landed on the ground under the white crowns of the magical plants, more than a month had passed since the pact had been sealed.

Elder Laurel assured them that the envoys from the old continent wouldn't be able to sense the teleportation matrix, but Elder Julia still wanted to add a few covers through her methods.

It wasn't clear when the battles would occur, the rank 6 existences didn't set a specific date, it was up to the three interested nations to come up with a time.

'How can I improve in this period?'

Noah asked himself when he saw his companions starting their preparations.

Elder Austin disappeared after a quick exchange of words with Elder Julia while the others sat on separate areas of the forest to cultivate.

'I've just discovered a way to create spells, but I would need countless tests to find the right method, I need to create something as complex as the laws set by Heaven and Earth after all.'

Noah had found a way to create spells after he was enlightened by the beasts trapped inside the dark gorge, but that method required time and a lot of mental energy to fuel the Divine deduction technique.

It wouldn't be wise to focus on it with the impending battles, experiments were for moments of peace, there would be time to create wills after the Hive acquired an official position in the new continent.

Noah stood still next to the teleportation matrix as he pondered about the matter.

'Improving my body is obvious, but I wish there were something more that I could do.'

Noah analyzed any possibility inside his mind, but he had reached the point where he could become stronger only through methods that required a lot of time.

His dantian and mind were far away from a breakthrough, there was no point in stressing his centers of power more than that only to improve slightly faster.

The creations of spells and the understanding of the laws of the darkness element would take even longer, and he had no control over those matters, he could only test and meditate until he obtained some results.

'Body and martial art then. I guess I can spare some time to begin testing with the wills.'

Since there was nothing that he could do to increase his battle prowess abruptly, he would just continue training in his usual way.

Noah flew in the air and went for the azure plain.

That area featured many rank 4 magical beasts and had countless Azure Credits growing there, it was the place where his body would grow the most.

The contenders were forbidden from intentionally destroying the territories below them during the battles, but the agreement didn't consider the fact that the Hive was already there.

Noah could feed on the magical beasts and plants of the azure plain freely, he only had to pay attention to the envoys sent by the continent to inspect the southwestern coast.

Also, there was something that he wanted to try.

The cries of the creatures trapped in the dark gorge had enlightened him, which meant that his dragon side could be one of the sources from which gaining understanding of the laws of the darkness element.

Noah wanted to immerse himself in the wild life of the piece of Immortal Lands, he wished to attune his peculiar existence with his mindset, further exploring his individuality in that way.

His Demonic swords appeared in his hands, and he undressed the upper part of his robe, he had become so used to fight with his torso uncovered that he felt more comfortable in that outfit.

Days had to pass for the blue plain to appear in his view, Noah directly landed next to a pack of rank 4 tiger-type magical beasts when he reached it.

His mind was calm, and mental energy fueled the Divine deduction technique as he slowly walked toward the tigers.

The beasts began to roar as soon as they noticed his closing figure, they felt as if another creature was challenging them for their territory.

'With every step, chaos spreads.'

Noah repeated those words in his mind while the pack quickly surrounded him.

Only part of his focus was on the imminent battle, most of it was reviewing the emotions felt when he heard the growls of the creatures trapped in the gorge.

'Heaven and Earth lose control over the things that I touch, my existence carries their mistake, and I spread it to the world.'

The tigers began to pounce at him, but Noah slashed with his sabers and kicked away those that his weapons couldn't reach.

The entirety of the body of a magical beast was a weapon, Noah had yet to adapt that asset to his fighting style completely.

'What I destroy becomes mine, I add it to the foundation of my power. I steal the raw materials from Heaven and Earth to build my own world.'

The tigers either died or were heavily injured in the clash, those mere rank 4 magical beasts in the lower and middle tier couldn't compete with a hybrid in the upper one.

'Yet, stealing isn't the last step, my apex must be creating those same raw materials from nothing.'

Chapter 548

Noah's mind wandered as he fought the pack of rank 4 tigers .

His existence affected the world, and he could transform the energies around him in part of his power, but that was only a form of theft .

Cultivators absorbed the "Breath" in the world, but most of them didn't remove Heaven and Earth's will from it, even heroic cultivators still kept the laws of their element created by the world .

Yet, creating something from raw materials that already existed in the environment wasn't enough, his path had to bring him to a status similar to Heaven and Earth .

To put it simply, Noah felt that he needed to reach a state where his existence could create something similar to the "Breath" .

After all, he knew that Heaven and Earth were intelligent beings, he couldn't possibly imagine the power that they held, but it was evident to everyone that they could create the marvelous energy that filled the world .

Of course, Noah was only dreaming for now .

His path was clearer than before, but he didn't have the power to imagine its end, he could only keep on gaining insights that would eventually lead him to the absorption of other laws of the darkness element .

Understanding the laws that suited your individuality and growing until you become your own law, that was what Noah knew about the path to godhood!

'All starts by yourself . '

Noah closed his eyes to better experience the sensations running through his body .

The bodies of the magical beasts that made the pack of tigers were lying lifelessly around him, he had killed all of them while his mind wandered .

He could clearly feel the destructive power contained in his body, its hunger, its pride .

Everything about his beast side seemed made to destroy the world created by Heaven and Earth, he felt as he was some sort of enemy of the "Breath" .

However, there was also creation .

He created black lines every time he waved his sabers, and his lungs were able to turn pure energy into flames .

Noah used the energy stolen from Heaven and Earth to fuel his attacks, and his body and mind to control them .

'The "Breath" is the fuel, but the mind sets the blueprint that will eventually determine the final effect . My body is just an organic blueprint with very specific behaviors . '

Noah thought as he stored the corpses of the beasts and let the spirit automaton of his ring handle them .

He needed to store as many rank 4 creatures as he could to be prepared for any eventuality, they were his main food and also the most common nourishment for his body, he didn't expect to obtain many dantians in the imminent future .

'The more I attune myself with my dragon side, the more I find ways to improve my combat style . I still think too much as a human when I fight, I need to use my legs and even my teeth if necessary . '

Noah knew his weaknesses better than anyone else because he was the only one who knew the full extent of his power .

'I guess I can spend this period to fix this issue and gather enough resources, I should also plunder as many as those azure bushes as I can . '

After he thought that, Noah went deeper into the plain, searching for another pack to fight .

Time passed in the new continent .

Ships continuously landed on its shores, carrying many ambitious human cultivators .

The alliance between the four nations had delineated the borders of the dominions of the three big countries and brought peace once again, only the manpower needed for the complete colonization was lacking .

Even the envoys tasked to analyze the territories of the southwestern coast arrived, Elder Julia politely escorted them through those areas while pointing out the details that the Hive had discovered in that period .

Of course, her actions were only another performance meant to solidify the lie about their arrival, her methods were more than enough to cover the traces left by her group during the past months .

It was needless to say that the envoys ignored most of the territories after they reached the lava lake, the Elbas family felt fortunate when it learnt that traces left by divine beings were situated in a land that they could obtain .

Noah had been forced to stop his wild lifestyle while the envoys analyzed those lands, he couldn't show them that he was plundering anything that contained "Breath" in the azure plain .

The last weeks harmed his aspect, but he felt more confident than ever in his abilities after the prolonged period spent exploring the depths of his dragon side .

Experiencing the simple life of a magical beast had been quite refreshing, he did nothing but battle, eat, and train all day, without anything else bothering him .

His body improved steadily, but his other centers of power benefitted from that lifestyle too .

His mind was always under pressure due to the constant battles and the threats that the areas around the plain hid, and his dantian was nourished by the laws of the darkness element whenever he gained some insights about his path .

He had even resumed forging weapons in his spare time, he had way more rank 4 materials that he needed, and he didn't want his ability in the Elemental forging method to become rusty .

That led him to accumulate a few disposable weapons again, he couldn't create stable items with materials of different elements, but he had succeeded in making them reach the fourth rank nonetheless .

He didn't think that he could use them to win a battle against a heroic cultivator, but they could be useful if another situation like that next to the obelisk happened again .

In the end, the envoys returned to their respective nations, and he could resume his wild lifestyle .

'I must say that I enjoy battles more since I became a hybrid, I even feel more in general . '

Noah thought as he laid on the ground of the azure plain .

He had decided to rest that day, the stars in the sky were particularly shining at night, so he had chosen to let his mind wander as he stared at them .

'To think that I would become more human by fusing myself with a magical beast, or maybe it's just this freedom that makes me express my true self . '

He analyzed himself as the light of the stars was reflected in his reptilian eyes .

Only rank 4 beasts inhabited the plain, Noah was basically the strongest creature in that area .

He was experiencing what being at the peak of an environment meant, it was as if he had reached his lifelong goal in that zone .

'Yet, monsters that I can't even approach live right next to me, and the stars still shine over me . '

Noah didn't know how much time he had spent in the plain, he had long lost track of it, but he knew that he was only living in an illusion of his dream .

Then, a voice resounded in the air .

"Prince, it's time . "

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Then, a voice resounded in the air .

Prince, its time .

Chapter 549 - 549. Solid stage

The Utra nation and the Papral nation were ready.

The tournaments on the old continent had ended, and the contenders for the territories of the southwestern coast had been chosen, it was time for the one versus one battles.

The Hive couldn't know it, but the three big nations had issued events even in the settlements in the new continent, friendly fights would happen between the promising cultivators inhabiting the cities built in those lands.

Of course, those battles were just an appetizer for the main event.

Large crystals had been placed throughout the cities on the piece of Immortal Lands, they reflected images featuring the territories where the fights between heroic cultivators would happen.

Crowds of human cultivators filled the streets next to the crystals and to the stages that would feature the battles between human cultivators, the three big nations treated that even as a festivity.

The atmosphere was completely different in the group from the Coral archipelago.

Noah had reunited with the rest of his group only to be greeted by the tense air that surrounded his companions.

Elder Jason had notified and accompanied him in the area above the desert inhabited by the sandworms where the rest of the group was waiting, they couldn't use the forest of White woods with so many eyes on them after all.

Noah saw some new faces when he reached them, the Hive had made its selections too, bringing a few elders in the new continent to fight the battles.

'It's finally time.'

Noah thought when he sensed the anxiety in the air, even those mighty existences would become nervous when the future of the Hive was at stake.

Also, their performance in the battles would influence their reputation and possibly affect the future behavior of the Hive toward them.

"Prince, you can't fight with those clothes."

Elder Austin spoke to him as soon as he noticed his arrival.

Noah had lived as a magical beast for months before that event, he would be mistaken for a beggar if a powerful aura didn't surround his figure.

He was about to change into one of the robes that he kept inside his space-ring when Elder Austin threw some clothes to him and added a few words as soon as he caught them.

"Wear this, you will be fighting as the Demon Prince of the Hive today."

His words were simple, but they carried a deeper meaning.

The incoming battle would put the future of the Hive at stake, but it wasn't only a matter that concerned the conquest of resources that were beneficial to heroic cultivators.

The elders knew that the battles would be seen in the cities of the new continent, and possibly even in those of the old continent, performing well could inspire many exploited and restricted human cultivators, making them migrate in the Coral archipelago.

"My battles don't really inspire though."

Noah said as he undressed and wore the new clothes.

The Hive had prepared for him a luxurious robe that matched his preferences, it was tight and could be easily opened to reveal his upper body.

Blue tentacles were embroidered on his sleeves, and a series of purple dots decorated his back.

The tentacles were the symbol of the independence of the Coral archipelago, and the purple dots represented the islands where the Hive thrived, everyone would understand his origin when he wore that robe.

It was clear that the elders wanted their Prince to appear majestic, but Noah's fighting style was far away from that description, especially after his period of isolation in the wilderness.

"Don't worry, the Utra nation is going all out to conquest the lava lake anyway, we are confident only in keeping the forest of White woods."

Elder Austin heaved a helpless sigh after he spoke those words, and he handed a report to Noah before flying toward the azure plain.

The report contained the information discovered by the Hive in the last period, such as the contenders that they would have to face and some of their abilities.

Noah's eyes sharpened when he read that a rank 4 cultivator in the solid stage would be fighting for the lava lake.

'They are going all out for the traces left by divine beings. Well, I couldn't have expected anything less.'

Noah thought before reading the rest of the report.

Elder Laurel would handle the battle for the forest of White woods, she had studied that environment so much that she was now able to cause the increase of toxicity in the air with her abilities, that fight wouldn't be a problem.

Elder Austin would be fighting for the azure plain and face a certain Elder Doyle from the Papral nation.

Noah felt gazes fixing on him for a short time before going away, and he felt the concern that those stares carried, it was clear that his companions were worried about his well-being.

'Solid stage... I can endure a few attacks, but I can't beat it, not under normal circumstances at least.'

He knew that he had improved, but that didn't allow him to fight against cultivators on higher stages, he barely had the confidence to face a rank 4 cultivator in the gaseous stage after all.

Yet, he didn't really have to beat his opponent, he only needed to endure the heat radiated by the lava lake for more time than the contender.

'This solid stage cultivator should be in the early phases of the stage, or it would need a rank 5 body to contain its center of power. I can totally use the environment to my advantage or just escape until it is exhausted. I can do this.'

Noah's battle intent rose as he thought that.

He had already endured an attack fueled by a power similar to the solid stage of the fourth rank, and he had improved since that time.

He had never been more confident in his abilities.

Elder Julia neared Noah at that point and lowered her head to speak a few soft words.

"The Utra nation wants the battle for the lava lake to be the first, it's your turn."

Noah nodded at those words and simply turned toward the east before flying in that direction, his focus reached its limits as he approached the fight.

Chapter 550 - 550. Fire

Noah didn't meet anyone during his flight, his senses perceived the presence of the sandworms in the desert under him, but no cultivators appeared on his road.

Then, when the environment began to change and the temperature began to rise, he saw a figure in the distance.

The figure was at many kilometers away from his position, Noah was only able to see a dark dot in the sky, but he knew that it was his opponent.

The rocky wasteland spread in front of him, he had reached the area of the battle, but he stood still, just as his opponent was doing.

Noah felt the hunger inside him increase as soon as he sensed the aura of the lava lake, part of him wanted to dive through the threatening red rivers just to have a chance to eat the source of that power.

Yet, he was also incredibly calm.

His period spent in the wilderness made him attune entirely with his body, there were no more human and dragon side, there was just him.

'It's not even charging at me, it doesn't know that its chances to win decrease with every second.'

Noah smiled inside his mind when he saw that the figure remained at the opposite border of the wasteland.

However, he kept a stern expression, he wanted to give the impression that he was putting his life on the line.

'Power brings confidence and delusions, only the light of the stars can keep us in check.'

Noah thought as he took a step forward, the temperature around him immediately increased as he neared the areas with lava.

His thoughts concerned the period spent in the azure plain when he was at the peak of the food chain.

He remembered that confidence, the feeling of being unrivaled in his kingdom.

'I bet it feels in the same way.'

The figure in the distance noticed his movement and began to walk too, Noah was slowly able to recognize the outline of what appeared to be a forty years old man.

'He looks young.'

Noah noted in his mind when he was able to see the facial features of his opponent.

A cultivator would stop aging as long as its power continued to grow, it was clear that the man in front of him had found very few hindrances in his cultivation journey.

Noah and his opponent continued to walk toward one another slowly, it took hours before they could reach a distance where their words could be heard.

Then, they both stopped at the same time.

'He clearly has a fire aptitude, the "Breath" around him can merge with the heat in the air, blocking most of the negative effect on his body. Yet, something still reaches him.'

Noah analyzed his opponent, and the latter did the same.

He saw how Noah wasn't countering the heat as well as him, the "Breath" around his body was fighting the environment instead of blending with it.

It was evident that the second method consumed more "Breath", but it managed to leave the body virtually unaffected.

"Junior, I don't want to bully you. I'm Amos Lochster, and I respect you."

Amos greeted Noah with polite words, but his behavior just made him smile even more in his mind.

'He is not a member of the Elbas family!'

Noah understood when he heard his name.

A Royal would have just pounced at him due to all the accumulated grudges, but the man in front of him was a noble who had said that he respected him!

'I don't really like to resort to tricks now, but he is in the solid stage, there isn't much that I can do.'

Noah saw a chance to exploit the situation after he heard those words.

The fact that he was using "Breath" to fend off the heat was just an act, he could just rely on his body and on the energy that it contained to survive in that environment.

"The tales of your journey have filled the country in the last months, I must say that I'm impressed by your determination."

Amos continued to speak after a short moment of silence.

"You are talented, maybe more than me. Don't waste your life over a territory that doesn't even match your aptitude and don't force me to attack someone far weaker than me. Just give up, your time to shine will eventually come, I'm sure of it."

Amos resembled a caring senior as he advised Noah, it almost looked as he cared about him.

Noah stared at him in silence, his expression didn't waver at all during his speech, Amos could clearly feel those reptilian pupils fixed on him.

Yet, the pressure that they radiated wasn't enough to make him tremble, he only felt as if a magical beast was looking at him.

Then, Noah turned his gaze toward the ground, in the direction of the lava lake.

Amos followed his line of sight and stared at the lake too, some eagerness could be seen in his eyes when the light radiated by the lava filled them.

"It's beautiful, isn't it?"

Amos asked, but it seemed that he was speaking to himself.

However, Noah answered at that time.

"Yes, let's take a closer look."

His words surprised Amos, but he didn't have time to reply since Noah had already begun to descend toward the red lake.

He was confused by that gesture at first, but he soon descended together with Noah.

He thought that Noah wanted to take one last look to a trace left by divine beings or that he wanted to admire such spectacle with a senior, he couldn't possibly imagine that everything was just a plan to weaken his body.

Noah stopped when he was at a few kilometers from the surface, the heat at that altitude threatened to burn his clothes, but he didn't really care, he was just glad that Amos was following him.

"Better?"

Amos asked when he reached him.

They stood side by side, watching the dense lava that filled the huge basin under them.

"Talk to me about the fire element."

Noah said after a few minutes of silence.

Amos turned to look at Noah, he saw how the protection of the "Breath" around him was slowly thinning, it wouldn't take much before Noah's body was exposed to the heat.

Meanwhile, his body was enduring a small part of those temperatures, but he depleted far less "Breath" and he was in the solid stage, his reserves were virtually infinite compared to Noah's.

"Well, fire can be an explosive force but also a gradual destroyer, it can affect the matter but it can also mend it. My flame burns inside me, and it will keep burning as long as I remain true to myself."

Noah nodded, but his eyes never left the lake under him.

His focus though was on the body of his opponent, he noted how even a rank 4 cultivator in the solid stage was starting to be affected at that altitude.

"I don't really understand, let's go deeper."

Noah said before descending even more under Amos' astonishment.