

DEMONIC 621

[Chapter 621 621. Help](#)

Noah began to improve his abilities and techniques according to the schedule that he had just established.

He didn't hide nor create a cave to go through those processes, the rocky wasteland with the lava lake was silent and devoid of any living being, it was perfect for his needs.

The surface of the wasteland was too hot for most rank 4 cultivators, and the rank 5 elders wouldn't spy on him out of respect for his status.

Also, he wanted to stay in the open to let his lungs freely absorb the light around him.

The power of his body backed his flames, they had instantly become one of his powerful attacks after the breakthrough.

So, he wanted to nourish them by being in one of the most illuminated areas under the control of the Hive.

Modifying his martial arts was quite easy, he was their maker after all.

He just needed to perform a few tests to find the best balance between his physical strength and a somewhat sustainable expenditure of "Breath".

The testing for his all-out attacks took a bit more since his dantian kept on being emptied after a few executions, but Noah managed to tune that aspect quite soon too.

The translation of the diagrams in his possession could only proceed slowly, but Noah wasn't in a hurry to complete it.

He took the translation as additional training for his mind that he could perform whenever his dantian was empty, and his training session with the fifth Kesier rune was over.

His mind resumed its steady enlargement, and Noah even began to store "Breath" inside his mental sphere again to accelerate its growth further.

His cultivation technique autonomously removed Heaven and Earth's will from the absorbed "Breath", and the will that managed the technique could give a meaning to that energy without making it enter Noah's mind.

Noah didn't need to store "Breath" inside his mind unless he needed it to perform a forging, but he wanted to accelerate the growth of that center of power.

His instincts were too intense, and his rank 4 sea of consciousness wasn't able to adequately handle them.

Also, his mind was the key to understand the kind of existence that he had become with his rank 5 body, which was something that could benefit him in his entirety.

Creating an improved version of his cultivation technique was quite easy too.

Noah had mastered the blueprint of the item that he used to cultivate a long time ago, and the appearance of the new continent had lowered the price of the "Breath" blessings by a lot.

After all, the three big nations didn't need to increase the density of "Breath" in the air anymore since their habitable lands on the piece of Immortal Lands were already the best training areas for human cultivators.

The Hive purchased and provided to Noah the necessary materials for the creation of a second black ring that could handle his improved greed for power, and Noah succeeded in forging the item at his first attempt.

The inscribed ring turned out to be a rank 4 item in the middle tier, something which even Noah found surprising.

However, everything could be explained by the intensity of the hunger that his new body had.

The biggest issue with his new cultivation technique was that he could barely hurt himself, let alone pierce his low-waist to reach his dantian.

Nothing in his arsenal could help him in that matter, so Noah felt forced to ask for help.

"Are you really sure?"

Elder Austin asked while wearing a stupefied gaze.

Noah had asked for a meeting and reached his quarters situated under the invisible dome in the area with the poisonous rivers.

However, as soon as he arrived, he asked the elder to pierce his low-waist and create a wound that connected his skin with his dantian.

"Yes, just make a hole here."

Noah answered while pointing at the spot directly over his dantian.

Elder Austin didn't know what to do, but, in the end, he simply gave up and followed Noah's orders.

Flames appeared around the elder, and a small sphere fell from them to land on his palm.

The shape of that sphere changed inside the elder's palm and became a shining needle that began to float in the air.

"Are you really, really sure?"

Elder Austin asked again, but Noah simply undressed the upper part of his robe and exposed his bare low-waist.

The elder could only sigh at that sight and launch the needle toward the center of power of the most promising cultivator of his organization.

However, to his surprise, the needle was only able to dent Noah's skin, and not even a drop of blood came out of it.

"Elder, could you use a bit more power? You know, my body-nourishing method is quite peculiar."

Noah asked when he saw that the attack wasn't able to hurt him.

He could understand that Elder Austin was trying his best to contain his power, but he needed to replace the black ring inside the wall of his dantian.

On the other hand, Elder Austin was utterly astonished.

He was concerned about Noah's well-being, but he still intended to do as he asked.

The power behind his attack surely wasn't enough to reach Noah's dantian in one go, but he would have never expected to leave him completely unharmed.

"I'll put more power."

Elder Austin said at some point and quickly created another red needle from his flames.

The needle managed to pierce Noah's skin at that time, but it wasn't able to cross the barrage of dense muscles under it.

Also, when the needle vanished, Noah's skin healed in a matter of seconds.

"Ehm, maybe not just a bit."

Noah revealed a helpless smile when he said that and Elder Austin simply gave up on trying to evaluate the power contained in his body.

Yet, he didn't recklessly charge his needles with more "Breath" and mental energy, he didn't want to risk injuring Noah's center of power after all.

It took him four more attempts to finally complete Noah's task and create a wound that exposed his dantian.

Noah quickly exchanged the cultivation techniques and threw his old ring inside his mouth as soon as it appeared out in the open.

The ring would just keep on accumulating "Breath" without a dantian next to it, which would turn it into an explosive item with the power of the fourth rank.

Noah didn't have any use for it, so he simply ate it instead of destroying it.

Storing it wasn't a possibility either since he would need to empty one of the formations inside his space-ring, and it was pointless to do that for a useless item.

"Do you need anything else? Do you want some potion for the wound?"

Elder Austin asked after Noah was done with the replacement.

However, Noah hadn't contacted the elder just for his power, there were some questions that he needed to ask too.

"Elder Austin."

Noah began to speak in a polite tone.

"Is the sea of consciousness connected with the soul?"

[Chapter 622 622. Explanation](#)

Elder Austin was a bit surprised by that sudden question, but he soon understood that Noah was simply having doubts about his centers of power.

It was normal to linger on certain questions since the heroic ranks differed on a deep level from the human ones, it wasn't just an absorption of energies anymore.

"The word soul hasn't been used to indicate the minds of the cultivators for a while. In the past, the sea of consciousness was called soul world, but the experts were forced to abandon that nomenclature since it was too limited."

Elder Austin began to explain as he sat on the rocky terrain of his quarters.

Noah had won the lava lake, preserving the elder's training area, but the latter had yet to give him a substantial reward.

It couldn't be helped, the situation on the new continent was too messy, and they were both busy with their training.

Then, the crisis arrived and postponed that trivial matter.

However, Noah was actively asking for his help now, and Elder Austin felt that he had to do anything in his power to provide him with the best guidance that he was capable of.

"All living beings have a soul, which is just a messy mixture of instincts and thoughts that have yet to be defined. Your soul is the expression of what your mind contains, so you should be able to understand that the word "soul" can't express the real might of that center of power."

Noah sat in front of the elder at that point, he wanted to give him his utmost attention.

"Cultivators improve their mental spheres in their journey, and that center of power eventually defines the nature of their existence. I might say that your soul is violent and cold, Prince, but that evaluation won't express the entirety of your individuality, which is why the terminology eventually changed."

Noah repeatedly nodded as the elder explained.

In the end, soul and mind were just words, the cultivators had just chosen the most general one to express the same feature.

"I will give you a demonstration of my individuality and how it should affect the centers of power of a cultivator."

Elder Austin said at that point.

His guidance couldn't just stop at the history of the nomenclature of a center of power, he wanted to do more for the Demon Prince.

Flames surrounded his figure once again, they flowed around his body in an orderly manner.

Noah saw how the violence of that element was suppressed to the point where the flames had assumed liquid features, they resembled red rivers that flowed in the air.

"I've reached the fifth rank with cultivation techniques created by others, my current level is the result of my understanding of the laws of the fire element. My individuality didn't allow me to rely on such a wild element, so I've always pursued techniques that gave me high control over my flames. I believe you can understand why I value the lava lake so much now."

Noah nodded at the elder's words.

Powerful flames that flowed in an orderly way, the lava lake clearly matched Elder Austin's individuality.

"The new insights that the lake gave me expanded my individuality, which eventually affected my other centers of power. The flames created with the "Breath" inside my dantian are slowly turning into magma because my mind expresses the features of a volcano ready to explode. My body is the hard terrain that contains these unstable energies."

Elder Austin pointed at his low-waist, head, and heart in succession as he explained the nature of his centers of power.

Noah felt that he could really see him now, the elder was a quiet mountain ready to explode and release rivers of lava whenever he wanted.

However, there was one point in his explanation that he didn't completely understand.

"Did your individuality modify the nature of the "Breath" inside your dantian?"

Noah asked.

According to the elder's words, his "Breath" took that fiery but liquid form because of his individuality.

Yet, Noah had never gone through similar changes during his enlightenments, only the aura naturally released by his mind had been affected.

"Prince, you are still young, and your amazing battle prowess isn't linked to the depths of your individuality. Rank 4 cultivators have just begun to fuse their individuality with their centers of power, the aura that you radiate changes often after all."

Elder Austin smiled when he said those words.

He knew that Noah had improved a lot since his Heaven Tribulation, but those improvements weren't that substantial in his eyes.

Noah was still in the gaseous stage, and the growth of his dantian was mostly related to the cultivation technique that he had personally created.

"Am I still that far away?"

Noah asked, and his helplessness could be clearly understood from his tone.

"The exact opposite. I'd say that you are improving far faster than any other rank 4 cultivator in history, how many do you think have managed to create a rank 4 cultivation technique in the human ranks? No

one! It is possible to reach similar results with the backing of a powerful existence, but you are still far ahead of anyone else. Yet, that's not thanks to your understanding of the darkness element."

Elder Austin explained the situation as clearly as he could.

The creation of a personal cultivation technique allowed Noah to improve extremely fast, even if his understanding was lacking.

Ordinary newly advanced rank 4 cultivators would take decades to reach the level of his dantian.

"Prince, it took me one hundred years to cross the entirety of the fourth rank and reach the fifth. I've pondered over the meaning of fire and explored the depths of my individuality for decades only to reach my level. I understand your eagerness, but the heroic ranks are too vast. You can't hope to become a god in a few years and not even in a few decades."

Elder Austin stood up at that point.

He had explained his individuality to Noah and showed the capabilities of his centers of power, there was nothing else that he could do to guide him.

The cultivation journey was lonely and personal, and imitating someone else could only bring small benefits.

Noah had to ponder over his issue and solve it on his own, everything had to start from inside him.

"Prince, your individuality seems incredibly vast and ambitious. I see sharp blades, a cold death, violent energy, a burning ambition, a magical beast, and a cultivator whenever I look at you. Yet, you must go deeper, you must link all those features together and let them influence your other centers of power. Don't force it though, enlightenments can't be controlled, they are something that you will naturally gain when you are ready."

Elder Austin concluded his explanation with that phrase and left his underground quarters, leaving a pensive Noah still sitting on the rocky terrain.

[Chapter 623 623. Forging](#)

Noah's mind was quite messy when he left Elder Austin's quarters.

The elder's explanation had cleared many of his doubts, but there wasn't much that he could do with his new understanding of the higher ranks.

He was still in the gaseous stage, and the "Breath" inside his dantian didn't show any sign of being affected by his individuality, meaning that his essence was still too murky.

'I can't force the arrival of enlightenments, but I can choose the environment where to meditate.'

Noah thought as he flew toward the lava lake.

He had yet to modify his secret art, but the conversation with the elder had given him new ideas on how to use his centers of power better.

'Brute force is useful, but can a simple secret art express the full potential of my body?'

Noah knew the answer to that question.

His secret art had been instrumental in overwhelming his opponents in melee combat and in making his martial arts reach the power of the spells.

However, his body was now far stronger than before, and a regular secret art couldn't use all the nutrients contained inside it.

Also, consuming those nutrients would lead to the need to refill them, which was a troublesome issue.

Noah's body was in the fifth rank, and only other rank 5 magical beasts could appease his hunger and make him grow.

The pills created by the Udye family could make up for the after-effects of his current secret art, but what would happen if Noah managed to improve it?

Noah knew the answer to that question too.

'A secret art suitable for my body would surely push my physical strength to amazing levels, but I don't know if I can sustain the expenditure of food needed to cancel its after-effects. I need to find a better way to use the energy inside my body.'

Noah concluded in his mind.

He couldn't use rank 5 body parts just to make up for the damages that a secret art would cause on his body, it was simply not worth it!

Yet, every fiber of his body contained an incredible amount of energy, which was simply wasted if it was used only to obtain physical strength.

'I wonder if I can modify a secret art to use the energy that it releases to fuel spells and martial arts.'

Noah's idea was quite simple.

He wanted to redirect the energy released during the activation of his secret art to make up for his weak centers of power instead of using it to improve his physical strength.

He didn't need more strength, he was barely able to use his martial arts in his current state.

What he needed was more "Breath".

'Improving my secret art can only give me expenditures that I can't sustain. Instead, if I modify my current one, I can gain access to the energy stored in my body.'

The more he thought about that, the more he realized that it was possible.

After all, his body was already doing that whenever he launched his flames, he just needed to make it use his dantian and mind instead of his lungs.

'The centers of power would eventually be modified and connected due to the individuality of a cultivator. I can force something similar through the power of my body!'

Of course, Noah didn't hesitate to pursue that idea as soon as he found it more reliable than his previous plan.

'June linked her centers of power together through the Perfect circuit, but I know nothing about formations, I can only achieve something similar with the Elemental forging method.'

Noah thought as he pondered over that matter.

He had many conversations with June about individuality and cultivation techniques, so he knew something about Eccentric Thunder's training methods.

However, he had to do something in line with himself, and that could only be forged with his inscription method.

'An inscribed item that gathers and stores the energy released during the activation of my secret art, but that can be connected to my centers of power. It should have similar features to the Black hole cultivation technique, but it can't carry the same greed. It should work as the black membrane that I had with my Yin body, a warm reserve of energy that I can use when my dantian is empty.'

The Divine deduction technique was active and provided Noah with countless ideas on how to proceed.

Noah quickly sorted through those ideas and found the best approach to his issue.

It was clear that only his body could be used as a material, anything else would just conflict with his other centers of power.

'The energy contained in my body can only be stored by something equally powerful. Blood it is.'

Noah decided that his core material had to be his blood.

A series of experiments followed that decision.

Hurting himself was a troublesome issue, but he could force himself to spit a bit of blood if he wanted.

That blood was then molded to assume the form of clots to increase its storage capabilities.

As for the meaning, Noah used something similar to his greed.

The images of June's departure appeared in his mind as the gaseous "Breath" of his dantian was immersed in the sea inside his mind.

Violent emotions originated from those images, but there was also a firm determination.

A determination to wait, a commitment to endure until he obtained enough strength.

That determination was what had allowed Noah to hold himself back from stopping June, and was the only meaning that an organ forged to contain a massive amount of power could have.

Noah encountered some difficulties in his experiments, but he quickly found solutions to each one of them with the help of the Divine deduction technique.

Also, the core material was his blood, he had an innate understanding of it that couldn't be expressed by the simple expertise.

In the end, he succeeded in creating a stable inscribed item.

A satisfied smile appeared on Noah's face when he stared at the shining orb under him.

The orb glowed with a dark-red light, and its form trembled slightly whenever the "Breath" inside it moved.

Its walls weren't stable, Noah had purposely kept the liquid capabilities of his blood in his final product.

The item acted as a dantian, it could store a certain amount of "Breath" and release it when needed.

However, its form wasn't fixed, Noah could control it to make it separate in many small spheres and join them back together once they had gathered enough energy.

'I need to improve the amount of "Breath" that it's capable of storing and test it inside my body. My search for the remains of the other demon sects will start after I've completed this phase.'

Noah thought as he picked the sphere under him and ate it, he was almost ready to travel again!

[Chapter 624 624. Liquid dantian](#)

Noah spent almost one year to reap the benefits that his new body could offer.

He had stayed on the hot and rocky wasteland around the lava lake for most of that period, he didn't know any other place that could be so illuminated and silent.

That period of seclusion was needed to become used to his new strength and to bring the necessary improvements to his techniques.

He would need to travel a lot and venture in enemy territories to complete his next mission, he wouldn't dare to approach that task unprepared.

One year after the breakthrough of his body, he felt that he had completed such preparations.

His martial arts and cultivation technique had been improved, and he had translated the diagrams of some of the spells that he was interested in modifying or that were valuable to his combat style.

The Mental tremor spell and the Ghostly claws spell were a must in his view.

They were his only mental attacks, and he felt the need to prioritize such a reliable offensive method.

Also, he had translated the Black hole spell and the Dark blast spell due to their high utility and apparent compatibility.

Noah could already imagine how the energy absorbed by his defensive spell could fuel the other one, they even had similar shapes!

However, he had decided to leave the translation of the Ethereal form spell and the Death area spell for the future.

The first spell couldn't be used right now due to the power of his new body, he simply couldn't force it to turn ethereal since that diagram was made for humans.

Noah was still unsure what to do about it, his best defense was his skin after all.

On the other hand, the Death area spell was simply too weak.

Its effects were somewhat useful in specific situations, but they were too easy to counter.

Noah wouldn't translate it unless he thought about some modifications that could make it useful.

In the end, he had even forged an item that could exploit the power of his body in ways that a secret art couldn't.

His dantian had absorbed "Breath" autonomously, and his mind had been under extreme pressure through all that period due to his many projects.

His centers of power had improved steadily, especially his sea of consciousness.

That gave Noah some confidence in managing his intense instincts, he was sure that he could safely return to the human society.

Also, his centers of power would eventually catch up with his body.

The energy needed by a rank 5 hybrid to advance was simply absurd, Noah barely felt anything when he ate peak rank 4 beasts.

'Let's try it one last time.'

Noah thought as he stood up from his spot in the rocky wasteland.

His focus went on the clot that lingered on the surface of his heart, it resembled a small jelly sphere that could move according to his will.

The clot divided itself into many small strands that spread through his body and reached for his muscles.

Noah activated his usual secret technique when all the strands reached their set positions.

His muscles began to release energy as the nutrients inside them were consumed, and the strands next to them quickly absorbed it.

The dark-red strands began to shine as "Breath" accumulated inside them, the power behind that energy could match the "Breath" of a rank 4 cultivator near the peak of the solid stage.

Then, when Noah felt that the strands were reaching their limits, he stopped the secret art and gathered those shining threads back on his heart.

The dark-red clot was now shining, and Noah couldn't help but nod in satisfaction at that sight.

'The Liquid dantian works as intended, I just need to eat a few rank 4 magical beasts' corpses to make up for the energy lost to fill it. I'm ready to leave now.'

Noah thought and set off in the direction of the invisible domes.

Liquid dantian was the name that he had given to his new inscribed item after he perfected its functioning.

Noah would be able to use the "Breath" that made his rank 5 body thanks to the Liquid dantian, and fueling his attacks with that energy could push them far beyond the limits of his other centers of power.

"The Patriarch is busy deploying the copying technique in the area before the snowy plain. You would have to settle for my goodbyes."

Elder Julia appeared in the air and said that when she noticed Noah flying over the dome in the Azure plain.

"I need something that confirms that I don't have mean intentions, my fame would just make them treat me as a threat."

Noah said after performing a bow toward the rank 5 elder that had appeared next to him.

He would use the teleportation matrix in the forest of White woods to return to the old continent, but he first needed something that prevented the three big nations from attacking him.

After all, he wasn't exactly a peaceful cultivator, the three big nations would never allow his presence inside their domains unless Chasing Demon vouched for him.

The pact that enforced peace on the new continent had long stopped being in function, the four countries were maintaining a peaceful behavior simply because it was more profitable to act in that way.

However, the old continent was different, few territories could be crossed without entering one of the areas of influence of the three big nations.

"The Patriarch has given me this diplomatic token before going on the southern coast, you can use it to explain your task to the enemy forces."

Elder Julia threw a token depicting a giant, purple octopus that protected a series of islands with its tentacles.

Peaceful emotions and the word "Recruiter" appeared in his mind when he swept the token with his mental energy, it was clear that it was an inscribed item.

"Remember that your task is to find and gather the demon sects that had been exiled from the Papral nation, not to start a war over them. Don't cause too much trouble and try to wear something that isn't burned or torn."

Elder Julia added when Noah took the token, and she handed him a series of sleeveless but luxurious robes that had the emblem of the Hive embroidered on their back.

Noah stored everything in his space-ring and left for the teleportation matrix in the forest after performing another bow toward the elder.

The truth was that he was quite eager to travel, he wanted to see the old continent with his new eyes.

Also, the political situation in the new continent was too suffocating, Noah couldn't act as he wanted due to the severe repercussions that his actions could have on the Hive.

He couldn't pursue his individuality in that state, not with so many social chains binding him.

'My first target must be the city of Slyfall, it's the only certain information in my possession after all.'

Noah thought as he descended through the white crowns and the forest and landed on the teleportation matrix.

[Chapter 625 625. Sea](#)

Noah reappeared in one of the central islands of the Coral archipelago after the teleportation.

Many years had passed since his last time in that area, and he could see how the growth of the Hive had modified the entirety of the archipelago.

Luxurious and tall buildings could be seen everywhere, even on the outer islands.

Some of the larger islands had been emptied to create training spots that made use of the copying technique, but the scenery as a whole began to resemble that of Elbas city.

The Hive was striving to become the fourth big nation, it was evident that the territories under its domain would see improvements as its growth continued.

Elder Bruce and Elder Roy quickly came to greet him when the news of the arrival of the Demon Prince spread through the archipelago.

Noah noticed how both of them had managed to improve slightly, especially Bruce, but their advance couldn't be compared to Noah's.

Roy had become a rank 4 mage in those years, claiming his spot among the complete heroic cultivators.

However, his dantian hadn't grown that much, the absorption speed of cultivation techniques created by others had substantial limitations on that aspect.

Bruce seemed to have gained some insights about his element, but he struggled to show any real breakthrough too.

"Prince. Noah."

Bruce neared Noah and began to speak in a soft voice so that Elder Roy wouldn't hear him.

To put it simply, Bruce wanted Noah's advice on a particular matter.

Bruce wanted to move to the new continent to cultivate next to the famous lava lake, but Sarah was struggling to make the preparations required for the breakthrough to the fourth rank.

He was simply worried that the piece of Immortal Lands would be too dangerous for Sarah since she was still a human cultivator.

Noah gave him a brief description of the current situation on the other continent.

As for advice and similar, only Bruce and Sarah could decide if the journey was worth the risk.

Both of them would surely benefit from the environment of the new continent, but that area was dangerous in ways that they couldn't even imagine.

Bruce bowed toward Noah after his explanation and handed him a detailed map of the old continent that had been prepared for his mission.

The map had been updated recently, it featured the changes in the political borders that had occurred in the continent after the three big nations decided to focus their assets on the new landmass.

'The areas of influence of the three big countries are receding, they are releasing their grip on the peripheral lands. However, the Hive is the same, all the encampments that it had on the old continent have been disbanded during the conquest of the Lutren nation.'

Noah summarized in his mind as he analyzed the map.

The Lutren nation was the country in the area of influence of the Empire that the Hive had conquered while its heroic assets were busy ambushing the forces of the Utra nation.

That country was quite barren and valueless, but it gave the Hive more land in the area of the old continent.

The Hive used that country as a gathering spot for all the criminals, traitors, and soldiers that wanted to join its forces.

It led them to the archipelago only after a thorough analysis of their profile.

However, Chasing Demon couldn't bother to deploy the copying technique in that nation, that land wasn't worth the precious materials expended in the process.

Noah flew away at that point, he had no reason to linger on the archipelago any more than that.

Also, he desired to reach places where political limitations couldn't control his actions.

His individuality would only suffer if he were forced to continue to hold himself back, he felt the need to experience again the freedom that he had when he was still on the run.

That feeling though couldn't appear so soon since Noah reached a familiar nation as he flew toward the western coastline of the new continent.

Noah saw the borders of Odrea nation, the poor country forced to live inside the protective formation of its patriarch.

More than twenty years had passed, but Noah still remembered the period spent there.

He remembered how Nina had been able to make him accept peaceful feelings, and he remembered how his ability in the Elemental forging method had improved a lot there.

Also, he still used the Mental tremor spell that he had obtained there.

'Twenty years aren't a lot for my current status, I feel that I could spend them sleeping when my belly is full. However, human cultivators don't have the same mindset.'

Noah thought as the memories of his life in that country appeared in his mind.

He didn't know if any of the cultivators that he had met was still alive, nor what consequences his weapons had caused after his departure.

Yet, there were too many political limitations around that country.

Odrea nation was a training area of the Empire, and its deceased patriarch had a peculiar relationship with the god of the attacking force.

Noah would like to annex that nation to the Hive and explore the depths of the Mausoleum, but he couldn't risk incurring in the wrath of a rank 7 existence.

He wouldn't do it for June with his current power, there was no chance that he would do it for a nation that had initially thought of exploiting him.

'I've conquered the river only to meet the endless sea. The heroic ranks are a world full of monsters, and I've just managed to take one significant step toward the higher powers.'

Noah didn't feel any hurry, he knew that the power of his body could make him match entities that had cultivated for centuries more than him.

He had just entered the sea, but he wasn't a lost fish.

Noah then turned toward the south.

The mountain chain that divided the areas of influence of the Shandal Empire and the Utra nation could be vaguely seen in the distance.

Still, Noah was interested in the small city that thrived along the western coastline.

'I know that I should recruit the remains of the Charming demon sect, but they have tried to use and kill me, I can't go too easy on them. I hope that Gillian is alive.'

Noah smiled when he thought about those past events and began to fly along the western coastline in the direction of the city of Slyfall.

[Chapter 626 626. Gillian](#)

Noah flew across the western coastline for a few weeks before reaching his destination.

The vast mountain chain that divided the two big nations appeared in his view, but Noah's attention was on the small city that stood on the coast.

The city of Slyfall hadn't changed in those years, it still appeared as a pirate's hideout, with simple buildings and dirty streets.

His presence though didn't go unnoticed since a figure neared Noah as soon as he flew over it.

Noah saw a middle-aged man flying toward him.

His robe didn't carry any emblem, but his well-kept aspect showed that he was somewhat remarkable in that city.

Also, he was a rank 4 cultivator in the gaseous stage, it would be impossible to reach that level while living in that city unless he had some sort of control over its resources.

"My Lord, I'm Drew, the son of the governor of this city. It's been such a long time since someone of your rank visited us, please join me in-"

Drew stopped speaking when he took a good look at Noah's face.

The city of Slyfall gathered information from both Utra nation and Empire, Noah's wanted poster couldn't possibly have escaped the sight of the force that ruled it.

Drew's social skills weren't bad, he had dealt with criminals and traitors for all his life in Slyfall.

However, Noah's cold gaze froze his mind and made him unable to show his skills in entertaining influential guests.

Noah felt hunger rising inside him.

Drew was weaker than him, he had probably advanced to the heroic ranks in the last two decades, which put him below Noah's level.

'Slyfall claims to be an independent city, but it enjoys the backing of certain powerful factions of both Elbas family and Empire. The so-called governor has probably been planted here from one of the two sides.'

Noah suppressed his hunger when he thought that.

There would be time to act as he wanted, but doing it right next to the Utra nation wasn't the smartest choice.

Also, killing a rank 4 cultivator wasn't exactly a small matter, especially one who was possibly controlled by two big nations.

Their battle would inevitably affect the city below them, and Noah believed that such a den of criminals would have been already destroyed if the two big nations didn't benefit from it.

Noah turned his gaze toward the city at that point while taking out the diplomatic token that the Hive had prepared for him.

The word "Recruiter" appeared inside Drew's mind when his mental energy swept the token, and he could finally breathe a sigh of relief when he understood that Noah wasn't there to create chaos.

"L-lord Balvan, the city of Slyfall has many entertaining activities suitable for your status. Please, follow-"

"Is the Broken Cup still selling stolen items?"

Drew managed to show his social skills when that oppressing gaze left his figure, but Noah suddenly interrupted him to question him about a simple tavern.

"Ehm, I would never allow such a treacherous business in my city! I can assure you that I would personally take down anything-"

Drew began to speak again, but Noah put an end to his phase with another intense stare.

Drew felt as if a powerful beast was observing him and evaluating which parts of his body were tastier, Noah was making him feel as if he was a common prey.

It didn't take him much to realize that it was pointless to pretend in front of the famous Demon Prince.

"Yes, the tavern still hosts an underground market. I can set up a meeting with Gillian, the manager of the market if the Lord wants."

Drew explained everything without holding even Gillian's name back, but Noah declined his offer with a few words.

"No need, she is an old friend."

The Broken Cup was still the same.

Drunk men and women still filled its insides, and the waitresses handled the occasional small fights on the floors.

It was a typical day for those rank 1 cultivators and commoners, no significant business happened in that city after all.

However, the tavern suddenly began to tremble, and the sunlight began to illuminate its interiors to their surprise.

Those men and women raised their gaze only to discover that the roof of the tavern had disappeared and that not even a small debris had fallen over them.

A young-looking cultivator was floating above the now open ceiling, but those simple drunkards couldn't understand the depths of his cultivation level.

"Out."

Noah said just one word, but all the commoners and weak cultivators left the tavern after it.

Only the waitresses remained inside the tavern, and their faces clearly showed the fear that they felt when they looked at the heroic cultivator above them.

'This formation can fend off my mental waves, quite impressive. Yet, I can smell the presence of a few people in the underground chamber.'

Noah thought before diving toward the underground area.

The lines of the protective formation appeared and flickered when Noah touched the floor, but they weren't able to hinder his motion at all.

Noah simply pierced the floor and landed in the underground room where he found a naked Gillian sitting over a tied man.

The man wasn't entirely conscious, it seemed that something was being drained from him as Gillian kept on moving over him.

"I knew you would return. Can you let me finish before killing me? I would like to enjoy myself one last time."

Gillian began to speak without turning.

Noah could finally make out her level: she was a rank 3 cultivator in the solid stage with a rank 3 mind and a rank 4 body in the middle tier.

Also, he was able to sense that there were other chained men hidden inside that chamber, but they were little more than corpses.

It seemed that even a small touch could make them crumble into pieces.

'She has realized who I am even if her mind can't see me, it should be the work of the formation.'

Noah thought before applying a bit of pressure on all the men in the room.

The mental spheres of those men exploded under that pressure, they died in less than an instant as soon as Noah willed it.

"Cold as usual. Go ahead, kill me. My organization has survived battles on a level that you can't even conceive, the fact that you have reached the heroic ranks won't scare me."

Gillian turned when Noah killed those men, and her naked body was wholly revealed to him.

Gillian was quite beautiful, but her body seemed surrounded by a peculiar halo that made her figure extremely captivating.

Of course, Noah wasn't affected in the slightest.

"The battle you are talking about is that between Ravaging Demon, Charming Demon, and Devouring Demon? I would like to hear more about it."

Noah spoke, and Gillian couldn't help but show an amazed expression, she was beginning to understand that Noah wasn't there to kill her.

[Chapter 627 627. Exile](#)

"So, the Chasing demon sect has thrived in the Coral archipelago. No wonder Chasing Demon wants to reunite the other demon sects, they owned half of the Papral nation in the past. However..."

Gillian said after Noah gave her a brief explanation of the situation.

It wasn't a secret that Chasing Demon was the Patriarch of the Hive, but the human cultivators of the world weren't aware of the matters that concerned the heroic ranks.

Even someone living in a city built to gather information couldn't know about them, it was possible that Slyfall's governor wasn't aware of it too.

"They are weak and scattered now. Yet, the Hive will grow, and the demon sects can return to their past glory under its banner. Also, the remaining techniques and diagrams in each of them might give birth to new unorthodox techniques. We are natural allies, just migrate to the archipelago, and the Hive will handle the rest."

Noah concluded her phrase.

He knew that it would be hard to find any surviving heroic cultivator in the remains of the demon sects, most of them didn't end up in a territory where they could contain their losses after all.

Yet, the techniques and diagrams of those sects could be instrumental if coupled with Chasing Demon's knowledge and Divine Demon's inheritance.

Improving the teachings available to the human cultivators would give birth to more powerful heroic assets, reuniting the demon sects was simply an investment to stabilize the foundation of the Hive further.

Also, Noah guessed that Chasing Demon was a bit emotional about that topic.

"We will obviously migrate, no one would refuse such a selfless backing. I don't know how to reach the archipelago though, we don't have any-"

"I'll escort you. There will be ships waiting for you after a few months of travel, I just need you to tell me everything that you know about the exile of the demon sects."

Noah interrupted her phrase once again.

All her worries seemed pointless in his mind.

After all, he was there, it would take a powerful heroic cultivator to hinder his path, and no nation was willing to offend the Hive over a few human cultivators.

However, he needed to gather as much information as he could before choosing his next target.

Elder Julia and the other elders had collected every information that they could find while Noah was inside the chrysalis, but, even then, most of that knowledge was dated.

Noah was sure about the Charming demon sect because he had personally encountered it, but there were only rumors about the others.

"As you wish, Demon Prince."

Gillian showed a captivating smile as she sat on the bed behind her and began to explain everything she knew without even covering herself.

The clash between the orthodox and unorthodox sects of the Papral nation had happened around a thousand years ago, a few centuries after the two rank 6 existences of that country became gods and ascended in the Immortal Lands.

The highest powers left in the country at that time were rank 5 cultivators, but there was some sort of balance in the assets of both orthodox and unorthodox sects.

However, Ravaging Demon was a rank 5 cultivator, and his betrayal shifted the balance of those two sides in favor of the orthodox sects.

That, together with the intel provided by Ravaging Demon, led the demon sects to their exile.

"Charming Demon and Devouring Demon fought against the forces of the Council to let the other demon sects escape. Charming Demon died, and the entirety of the Devouring demon sect was destroyed, you can take it off your list. A rank 4 cultivator succeeded Charming Demon and managed to bring the remains of my sect here. Yet, she had been injured in the battle, and she was only able to survive for a few decades before passing the leadership of the sect to a human cultivator."

Gillian explained as she tried to tempt Noah, but he simply ignored her gestures.

'So, Great Elder Diana must have reached the sixth rank in the last millennia. I wonder what is Ravaging Demon's rank.'

Noah thought as all those pieces of information entered his mind.

The history of that world had never interested him when he was a human cultivator.

However, he was in a realm where cultivators could easily live for centuries, there was a high chance that he would meet some of the famous names that had left a mark in the history of the Mortal Lands.

"There has never been another Charming Demon after that point, no one managed to reach the heroic ranks. Most of our techniques had been lost in the escape, and we were refugees, no organization would sell anything to us. Yet, we endured and passed down our story. As the previous Matriarch used to say: Hope for fools, anger for demons."

Gillian then ended her explanation by pointing out the direction taken by the other demon sects during the escape.

Of course, those pieces of information were one thousand years old and had been passed down through six matriarchs, there was a limit to how accurate they were.

Yet, Noah still collected them and sorted them with the clues gathered by the rank 5 elders of the Hive.

He was already set on his next destination, but he had to escort the remains of the Charming demon sect to the ships of the archipelago before moving again.

Gillian seemed a bit disappointed that Noah wasn't giving any kind of attention to her body, but she didn't dare to push him.

Noah was simply on another level right now, she didn't have any power over him.

In the end, she gave up on tempting him and ordered the members of her sect to pack up and prepare to migrate.

Meanwhile, Noah flew back in the sky and sent a mental message to the Hive.

He could reach the appointed location in less than a week, but the remains of the Charming demon sect were mostly rank 1 and 2 cultivators, only Gillian was in the third rank.

They would need to walk along the coastline for a couple of months before reaching the spot with the ships of the Hive.

Drew observed the scene with a curious gaze.

He didn't care about the destruction of the tavern.

Still, Gillian and her sect paid a substantial amount of taxes due to the nature of her organization.

Seeing the waitresses packing up their belongings made him understand that he would lose that income from now on.

A bit of anger surged inside him, and he was about to complain when two vertical pupils landed on his body.

Drew felt an innate fear under that gaze, all his anger was dispersed and replaced by an intense survival instinct.

He could only slowly turn his head to face the young-looking cultivator that was sending hidden threats through his eyes to say a few words.

"Enjoy your travel!"

[Chapter 628 628. Challenge](#)

Noah and the remains of the Charming demon sect left the city of Slyfall in less than a day.

The group of disciples and Gillian walked at a steady pace along the western coastline while Noah flew over them.

The ships of the Hive would wait for them in a specific spot at a couple of months of travel, but Noah was confident in shortening that journey by a few weeks.

The route was planned according to the danger zones in front of them, Gillian and her group would generally avoid them if they were alone.

Yet, with Noah overseeing the situation, rank 4 danger zones could be treaded safely.

Just one glance from him was enough to clear the path from rank 3 and 4 magical beasts, they would run away in fear of the powerful creature that was approaching their territory.

They didn't encounter problems connected with the human society either.

Gillian's group was mostly made of alluring women that had trained in the methods of the Charming demon sect.

Still, the sight of the young figure floating above them in a cross-legged position scared away any potential assailant.

Also, the inhabited areas along that coastline were mostly filled with slaves that gathered Vostum, the terrain needed for the most common body-nourishing method of the Shandal Empire.

The soldiers managing those mining camps could only lower their heads whenever they noticed Noah's flying figure, it wasn't worth risking to offend a powerful cultivator only to pursue their lust for the women in the group.

Even the big nations mainly ignored the event.

The news that Noah had returned in the old continent quickly spread through the higher-ups of the three countries, but they didn't mind his presence too much.

Noah was just recruiting human cultivators from independent areas, they couldn't care less about it.

Also, they were somewhat glad that Noah wasn't spending all his time cultivating.

His potential was too scary, they would rather see him doing missions than training.

Of course, the assumption that Noah wasn't training was utterly wrong.

That slow and peaceful travel gave him all the time that he needed to focus on his centers of power.

His dantian was improving on its own, and his body kept on absorbing the "Breath" in the air when Noah didn't feed him.

So, he focused entirely on his mental sphere.

He diligently trained with the fifth Kesier rune and activated the Divine deduction technique to ponder about the diagrams that he had recently translated.

He spent the rest of his time letting his mind wander through the depths of his individuality and their connections with the darkness element.

The freedom that he was experiencing lifted his mood, and he sensed that his dantian was slowly benefitting from that situation.

However, there was one thought that had bugged him since his breakthrough.

'My cultivation technique works as intended, and my attacks didn't show any change. My mindset feels slightly different, intense emotions and incredible alertness are just a few of those small changes. Yet, there doesn't seem to be anything too substantial. Maybe, I'm overthinking it.'

Noah thought as he escorted the group.

He couldn't just ignore that his mental energy had become brown, but there didn't seem to be any consequence to that change.

'Maybe, its features will appear once my individuality starts to affect my centers of power. The greed inside the black ring pushed it to the middle tier after all.'

Noah continued to ponder over the matter, but he couldn't find a satisfying explanation.

He felt different, but he felt normal at the same time.

The travel was uneventful, so Noah managed to enter a meditative state for its whole duration, he only had to give a cold look at the beasts on his path from time to time.

'I explore the meaning of the darkness as I walk under the light. Chaos spreads whenever I take a step, but a simple gesture can reassemble the world in a different shape.'

Elder Austin's words often appeared in his mind as he explored his individuality.

'The elder is a volcano ready to explode, but I should be more similar to King Elbas. My bloodline carries unyielding pride and anger, but they do not rule me. They are just fuel for my ambition.'

There was one thing clear in Noah's mind: He wasn't a magical beast.

He could act like them and even imitate their combat style, but he remained a hybrid.

'A being of two worlds that strives for the stars. My birthright doesn't exist in this world, so it's on me to establish it. My same life is the expression of my individuality.'

An individuality didn't necessarily mean actions to be pursued.

The sole fact that Noah was improving was an expression of himself.

'Simple defiance is just a childish act that originates from my anger. Stealing from Heaven and Earth to give a new shape to those materials is more mature, but it's still far from reaching a level that can match their might.'

In the end, the group from the Charming demon sect reached the appointed spot and excitedly entered the ships waiting on the shores.

Noah sensed a series of alluring gazes being shot in his direction, it seemed that both Gillian and her disciples were interested in him.

However, they were just humans in Noah's mind, he could break them with a thought.

They couldn't have any value in his mind, they were too weak to occupy his thoughts.

'The creation must affect the very foundation of the "Breath". It's not about understanding the laws of the darkness element, I must create my own darkness!'

Noah thought as the ships left the shores and went toward the Coral archipelago.

The Charming demon sect would soon reach the Hive and become part of its ranks, it would be up to the elders now to analyze their techniques and see if they are somewhat valuable.

The Devouring demon sect had been wholly destroyed according to Gillian's story, so he had to look for eight more demon sects.

Noah didn't have any more certainties in his possession, there were only some clues in the information obtained from the elders and Gillian.

However, he didn't mind that situation, he could freely explore as he tried to gain insights about his element.

'The closest clues would lead me inside the Empire. There is a rumor that a group of cultivators used to practice unorthodox and complex techniques before the Empire enslaved them.'

The unorthodox techniques described in those clues seemed too intricate to belong to a weak force, there was a high chance that they came from one of the exiled demon sects.

Noah decided to investigate that matter, and was about to fly toward the territories of the Empire when his ears picked the echo of a low growl.

The growl came from a forest near him, it was one of the danger zones that divided the many encampments of the Empire.

The growl wasn't directed at him, the creature in the forest was simply challenging anyone in the area.

Of course, Noah turned to fly toward the forest.

[Chapter 629 629. Ox](#)

Noah slowly descended toward the forest near him.

That danger zone was called Ox Woodland due to the ox-type magical beasts that inhabited that place.

The oxen living there preferred to remain inside the borders of the vast woodland instead of invading the encampments of the Shandal Empire, its clearing operations were mainly limited to its peripheral areas.

Noah had seen it when he was escaping from the Utra nation, but the map in his possession at the time labeled it as a quite dangerous area, so he didn't enter it.

However, the challenge of the beast had attracted his attention, and he didn't hesitate to answer.

The crowns of the trees of those woods were quite large, but their trunks were slim, which left many open spaces between them.

Noah was quickly able to spot his challenger once he flew through the crowns of the trees.

He saw an eleven meters long and six meters tall ox staring at him and following his descending figure.

The ox had thick brown hair that covered the entirety of its body, four huge black horns, and was surrounded by dozens of corpses of beasts in the fourth rank.

'It has eaten them in the last months, they should have been part of its pack.'

Noah thought as he stopped his descent and hovered in the air at some distance from his challenger.

'Rank 5 Hairy ox in the lower tier. Earth element, can use its hair to launch long-range attacks and limit its prey's movement. It seems that its hunger has suddenly exploded, which led it to eat its whole pack.'

The information about the species of that creature immediately appeared inside Noah's mind, but he was mainly interested in the sudden outburst of its hunger.

The Ox Woodland didn't have a dense concentration of "Breath", it was barely suitable to sustain rank 4 creatures.

However, many living beings inhabited it.

'The leading pack has probably made up for the lack of "Breath" in the air by hunting often. The birth of a rank 5 creature in this area is an incredible event, but it's clear that it has already reached the limit of what it can endure.'

Noah became aware of the events that had led to that situation in a few seconds.

A pack of rank 4 Hairy oxen had ruled the forest and hunted as many creatures as it could.

Then, one of those specimens had managed to reach the fifth rank, but that danger zone couldn't satisfy its hunger anymore.

The hunts became more frequent, but that couldn't appease the mighty starving being, which began to eat the members of its pack.

That process had probably worsened during the last years, leading to a situation where all its pack was dead and only weaker beings inhabited the forest.

The rank 5 ox could only begin to look outside the forest for more nourishing prey.

'This was its last attempt, it would have left the forest afterward.'

Noah summarized when the situation became clear in his mind.

The rank 5 beast would have just tried its fortune outside the forest if no one answered its challenge, something that would have surely required the intervention of the higher-ups of the Empire to stop.

However, Noah was in the area and had decided to answer it.

Battle intent surged inside him as he studied the beast.

The ox was more advanced than him inside the lower tier of the fifth rank, but its species was far inferior to his!

'It's time to test my abilities fully.'

Noah smiled when he thought that and released a roar.

The ox understood the meaning behind his cry and released one of its own.

The hair around its body stood up and stretched to an unbelievable distance to reach for the figure in the sky.

Noah saw the strands of hair reaching for him and released a pillar of flames.

The white fire burned the hair and spread its flames until the ox that began to cry in pain.

The hair around its body fluttered to dissipate the flames, but the smell of burned skin began to fill the air during that process.

Noah's attack had been able to hurt a rank 5 beast!

However, Noah wasn't done.

He charged at the ox while it was busy defending against the flames and delivered a kick on its forehead.

The ox was kicked backward for a few meters, but it managed to tangle part of its hair on Noah's right foot during the clash.

Noah suddenly felt an incredible force pulling him toward the sharp horns of his opponent.

Zac appeared in front of him right before he crashed on the horns and managed to hinder the pulling force as its body was pierced.

Noah felt a stabbing pain coming from his torso, he could feel that the four horns of the ox had stabbed his abdomen and pierced his skin.

Yet, his muscles had stopped the horns from reaching for his internal organs.

The ox was slightly surprised by that outcome, it had used one of its strongest attacks against such a small figure, but it had only managed to inflict minor wounds!

Noah smiled at that sight and released another wave of white flames toward the huge figure in front of him.

A torrent of flames engulfed the ox, and most of its hair was burned in a second.

Large patches of charred skin could be seen among its burning figure, the ox was powerless to defend against the power behind Noah's attack.

Nevertheless, the fact that it couldn't defend didn't mean that it couldn't do anything about that situation.

Tens of thousands of sharp hair came out of its charred skin and shot toward Noah.

Those new strands of hair seemed to carry metallic properties and managed to endure the white flames as they reached for the opponent.

Noah's instincts screamed at that sight, he knew that he needed to dodge that attack.

His hand shot toward the right eye of the ox as he kicked the air under his feet to activate the Shadow sprint martial art.

A large amount of the "Breath" contained inside his dantian was depleted to match the physical power expressed by that form.

Still, the propulsion of his martial art made him suddenly disappear from his position and reappear at a few kilometers in the air.

The wounds on his abdomen had enlarged in the process, but Noah completely disregarded them.

The attack of the beast landed on the terrain since its target was gone.

Large cracks spread on the ground of the forest for a few hundred meters, and earthquakes began to fill that once quiet environment.

A battle between two rank 5 creatures would inevitably cause profound changes in any area.

The ox though released angry cries when it discovered that its right eye had disappeared.

Noah stored the bloody eye in his palm inside his space-ring and controlled the Liquid dantian over his heart to release its energy.

That last clash made him decide to go all out.

[Chapter 630 630. Reptilian](#)

'I'm stronger and tougher than it, but my experience in these kinds of battles is lacking.'

Noah thought as black smoke surrounded his figure.

The rank 5 Hairy ox precisely knew how strong it was and how to express the maximum potential of its body.

Instead, that was Noah's first real battle with his new body.

'I'm able to hurt it, and my flames can inflict some damage. I should be able to win in an extended battle, but I can't waste this chance.'

Noah's species was superior, but he was much more than a simple magical beast.

The energy stored inside the Liquid dantian fused with large amounts of mental energy to activate the complete Demonic form.

Noah suddenly noticed that the fiendish figure created by the spell had changed after the breakthrough of his body.

His claws had shortened, but his horns and tail had stretched.

Even the part of the black armor that covered his face had changed: What was supposed to be his helmet had now assumed a shape that faintly resembled a dragon's head.

'It has affected something after all.'

Noah thought when he realized that his Demonic form had changed.

He didn't activate that spell in the period following his breakthrough because he was too busy tuning his other abilities.

Still, it was now evident that his mental energy didn't change only in color.

However, he couldn't overthink at that moment, his reserves of energies would rapidly deplete when he used the Liquid dantian.

The ox under him didn't seem to care about his transformation and launched another multitude of hair toward him.

The hair covered the few kilometers that separated the two rank 5 beings in a few instants, but that time was enough for Noah to act.

Noah kicked the air under his feet again, and another large amount of the "Breath" inside his dantian vanished to fuel the Shadow sprint.

The ox noticed that the dark draconic figure had reappeared next to it only when it was too late to do anything about it.

Noah had wielded his sabers during the sprint and used the Dragon's claw martial art to deliver two horizontal slashes at the huge beast.

A large share of the energy inside the Liquid dantian was depleted to fuel the offensive martial art, but the slashes produced in that way had a power that could match a rank 4 cultivator in the solid stage!

The ox couldn't block the attack, and two long wounds appeared on its body.

Blood began to fall from the wounds, Noah had been able to pierce its skin and even part of its muscles!

'It's still too slight. I guess these are the limits of a rank 4 cultivator.'

Noah thought as he stored his sabers and launched a wave of white flames.

The advantage of using human attacks was clear, his incredible power would be more precise and threatening in that way.

However, Noah couldn't use attacks on that level repeatedly, and those slight injuries didn't seem worth the effort.

He could obtain a similar result by using his bare hands, which didn't have the same limitations.

Of course, it would take many attacks to inflict the same damage, and the battle would become more dangerous because of that.

'My limited martial art is wasted if I can't inflict deadly wounds with it, I should just use it in specific situations.'

Noah quickly decided as he pounced toward the beast covered in white flames.

The ox was doing its best to use its natural capabilities, but Noah had too many and different offensive approaches, he could just adapt his combat style to his opponent.

Noah dived through the flames and delivered a powerful punch on the head of the beast before arching the fingers of his other hand and stabbing them in its open wounds.

The beast struggled to impale Noah with its horns, but he promptly grabbed one of them and put strength on both his arms.

The ox felt its body being lifted from the ground before being violently slammed back on it.

The terrain shattered at that point, its stability had been already affected by the previous attack of the creature and couldn't endure that last mighty clash.

Noah and the ox began to fall as the ground opened, and Noah exploited that chance to bite the creature on its neck.

The ox roared in pain when it felt that another part of its body had been taken away, and hundreds of thousands of sharp hair came out from its skin at that point.

Noah felt forced to retreat once again, he simply couldn't defend from that attack.

A trail of dust and debris formed as Noah escaped from the cracks where the rank 5 creature was falling.

Black smoke filled that gap in the terrain and further destabilized its underground area since Noah had kept the Demonic form active for the entirety of the clash.

Yet, the smoke seemed to have the same effect as his flames, it could only damage the skin of the beast.

'It's not coming out.'

Noah thought when he saw that the Hairy ox wasn't climbing back on the surface, but a sudden dangerous sensation forced him to sprint away once again.

Strands of hair pierced the terrain under him and began to follow his escaping figure, it seemed that the beast wanted to use the natural protection of the ground for hunting Noah down.

Nevertheless, the fact that he couldn't see the creature didn't mean that he couldn't attack it.

Noah activated the Dark blast spell and wielded his sabers again.

Black flames appeared in the trajectory of his Demonic sword as he slashed the air seemingly toward random directions.

Rumbles filled the underground area, and black smoke began to come out from the cracks on the terrain as Noah warped his attacks in the ox's position.

His mind could sense it, so he could target it.

The hair stopped chasing him at some point, but Noah wasn't done yet.

The Dark blast spell had reached a considerable size in those short moments, and Noah didn't hesitate to teleport that unstable sphere in the beast's position.

Also, he launched another series of slashes across the black flames and even added a wave of his flames.

Earthquakes spread in the area as explosions resounded from under the ground.

The trees of the Woodland were either shattered or flung away by the shockwaves released by the blasts happening underground.

Even the surface couldn't hold any more at some point.

A hole a few hundreds of meters large appeared as the terrain completely crumbled, and the sunlight once again illuminated the bloody figure of the rank 5 ox.

Its body was burned and full of wounds, and many of those cuts had even pierced its sturdy layer of muscles.

A large piece of its neck had been bitten off, and its remaining hair had lost its shine.

The creature couldn't do anything when black flames appeared next to it, and a black reptilian figure pounced at its neck with its maws open.