

DEMONIC 661

[Chapter 661 661. Return](#)

There was a zone devoid of life inside the mountain chain that divided the areas of influence of the Elbas family and the Shandal Empire.

That feature was quite peculiar in a rank 5 danger zone, especially since some heroic cultivators believed that it hid a rank 6 existence inside its perimeter.

An area devoid of life in a lair of powerful magical beasts was unusual, but the mountain chain was treated in a similar way to the mystical fog.

It was a danger zone that could be easily crossed on the western coast through the city of Slyfall, so there was no point in venturing through its dangerous territory.

Yet, the terrain of that particular spot began to show traces of activity for the first time in millennia at some point.

Shining lines appeared on the ground and spread through a few hundreds of meters vast area, creating an array that illuminated the surface of the mountains around it.

The light radiated by the large formation increased until it became a blinding halo, only to vanish shortly after.

Noah, Flying Demon, and Dreaming Demon's figures had appeared on the ground when the blinding light of the array vanished.

The shining lines under them slowly stopped shining and began to disappear.

Also, some of them even showed slight cracks in their shapes.

The trio knew that the detonation of the palace had started a chain reaction that would slowly shatter the fabric of the separate dimension in the next months.

Those cracks were just one of the after-effects of that event.

The truth was that only Noah and Dreaming Demon had noticed those details since Flying Demon was wholly captivated by the sight of the starry sky.

It was nighttime when they came out of the separate dimension, and the elder had stared at the dark-blue starless sky for a thousand years in solitude.

Seeing a different environment after so much time gave birth to many emotions inside him, he could finally sense that his hardships were over.

Flying Demon stared at the sky for a while and closed his eyes to calm his mind when he felt satisfied.

Noah and Dreaming Demon remained silent by his side.

They were set on giving him all the time that he needed.

Then, he began to speak without opening his eyes.

"Demon Prince, I want to make one thing clear."

Noah turned toward the elder when he heard those words.

"I know that my lover didn't predict your arrival, but you still saved both of us. A few lifetimes might not be enough to repay this debt, and my assets can't even begin to cover it. Yet, I can promise you our eternal gratitude. Our powers will be at your disposal whenever you desire."

Flying Demon opened his eyes when he finished speaking and began to fly in the sky to take a better look at the world.

Dreaming Demon shot a warm smile toward Noah before following her lover in the sky.

They had been away for one thousand years, their eagerness to see how the world had changed was understandable.

'I wonder if he would still speak in that way if he knew that I thought about eating both of them.'

Noah shook his head as he suppressed that thought.

Buzzing sounds began to resound inside his sea of consciousness as his inscribed notebook received the mental messages that had accumulated while he was inside the dimension.

Noah had disappeared for less than five years, and the elders of the Hive knew that the exploration of a separate dimension could take far more.

Yet, they still sent a few messages to question him about his status and to update him about the main progress of the Hive.

Noah read through the contents of those messages as he flew toward the elders that had begun to stare toward the west with wide eyes.

They had learnt about the fall of the piece of Immortal Lands from Noah, but the sight of the new landmass in the distance still made their imagination wander.

"Prepare a welcome banquet. We have guests."

Noah limited himself to send that mental message to the Hive when he saw the expressions of the two Demons.

Only time and willpower would heal the injuries that their individualities carried, and seeing how the Hive was flourishing under the rule of their old friend might help in that matter.

"This way. We can directly fly to the Coral archipelago and take a teleportation matrix there."

Noah said as he flew past the elders toward the archipelago.

Staring at the new continent from a distance couldn't be compared to the feeling of flying over its sky, he knew that too well.

The elders returned to reality when they heard his words and began to follow him while taking glances of the territories around them.

Everything felt new to them, and they couldn't help but take short breaks whenever they found something interesting.

Their flying speed turned out to be rather slow due to their curiosity, but Noah didn't mind waiting a bit to appease them.

After all, his mission was over, and there was only a long period of meditation in front of him.

Then, a familiar figure greeted them when they reached the sky above the city of Slyfall.

"It's so good to see you again, Lord Balvan. Would you make use of the services that my city can offer to you and your esteemed friends this time?"

Drew, the son of the governor of the city of Slyfall, gave voice to those words while performing a bow to greet the three heroic cultivators.

Noah felt quite surprised that Drew was bold enough to speak to two rank 5 cultivators, but his amazement further increased when he saw Thirty-seven materializing next to them.

Thirty-seven didn't say a word as he shot toward Drew and began to study his inscribed robe.

The automaton was captivated by those inscriptions, and he would exclaim random phrases as he traced those shining lines with his ethereal fingers.

"The inscriptions' field has made a lot of progress in these years."

"Oh! I see Zave's teachings inside this line."

"Why is the inscription master doing such shabby works?"

Drew stood still as the automation evaluated the inscriptions on his robe, but traces of annoyance appeared on his face when he saw that Thirty-seven didn't seem willing to stop anytime soon.

"My Lords, could you please make him stop?"

Drew asked, but the trio only revealed stern expressions.

Noah and the elders were Thirty-seven's Masters, but the automaton was an intelligent rank 6 automaton.

He had a will of his own, which made him difficult to control with their power.

"Why don't you give him your robe? He seems captivated by its fabric."

Dreaming Demon asked at some point, and the friendly feelings radiated by her smile forced Drew to obey her request.

Flying Demon showed a smug smile at that sight while Noah turned to leave toward the archipelago.

Drew was able to recover only after even the elders had left, which was when he realized that the trio had robbed him.

[Chapter 662 662. Ineptitude](#)

"The inscription's field has made a lot of progress in the past six thousand years. It's such a pity that the same can't be said for the inscription masters."

Thirty-seven kept on evaluating Drew's robe as the group flew toward the Coral archipelago.

He wouldn't remain silent nor return inside the pendant on Dreaming Demon's neck even when she asked him nicely, so the group had to hear his endless comments for the whole duration of their travel.

"Look! That animal has wasted such an amazing use of Zave's teachings! How can they even sell such a failure!"

Thirty-seven exclaimed while trying to find some common ground with the members of his group.

However, Noah and the elders had no idea what he was talking about.

Noah's inscription method was atypical and very personal.

It could be considered a branch of the inscriptions, but it also worked in a completely different way.

Flying Demon had only a general understanding of the various schools and could use simple methods of all of them.

Yet, he wasn't an expert in any of them.

He had just learnt how they worked since some of the techniques of the demon sects required them.

Dreaming Demon also trained in a very personal method.

She wasn't able to perform inscriptions, but her peculiar mental waves worked in a similar way to the meanings contained in the runes.

Her methods were exceptional in their uniqueness, and she could only be labeled as a pioneer of a school since she was already able to create spells.

The flight became a bit awkward because of that.

Noah simply ignored Thirty-seven, while Flying Demon limited himself to nod every time the automaton turned toward him.

Only Dreaming Demon showed gentle smiles when Thirty-seven mentioned her.

Still, the twitches on the corners of her mouth revealed how even her patience was reaching its limits.

Thirty-seven didn't seem to mind their reactions and continued to complain as if it was completely normal.

His theses used arguments of experts that had lived even ten thousand years in the past!

'He can't speak about Divine Architect, but he doesn't have the same limitations when it comes to other cultivators and schools. I wonder if he is stable enough to hold classes for both heroic and human cultivators.'

Noah thought as he listened to the vast knowledge of the automaton.

The Hive lacked experts in the inscriptions' fields.

Even the purchase of books and scrolls that contained some teachings could only give birth to a limited number of new inscription masters.

The type of instruction that the Hive could provide was below the average of the three big nations, which was something that couldn't be solved in a short amount of time.

The Utra nation was the most advanced country in the inscriptions' fields because the Royal academy instructed human cultivators since they were still in the first rank.

However, the Elbas family had invested a lot in the academy.

The Royals had even accepted that their enemies could benefit from the subjects taught there to increase their experts.

The other big nations used less capable methods to provide that kind of instruction to promising cultivators, but they still needed to invest a lot in that field to reach that point.

Instead, the Hive had just begun to pave its path toward the level of power of the three big nations.

Its human assets were steadily increasing, and the training grounds gave them real combat experience.

That training was bound to show its results in the future, especially if it gave birth to more heroic cultivators.

Yet, inscriptions were critical too.

Heroic cultivators would need them at some point to create personal techniques or spells, and it would be almost impossible for them to reach the sixth rank otherwise.

The beings in the sixth rank were the expression of the real power of an organization, so it was normal for each country to create favorable conditions for their birth.

The lack of proper teachers in the Hive could be solved if Thirty-seven proved himself able to educate both human and heroic cultivators.

The first classes could give birth to a series of inscription masters that could consequently hold courses of their own.

The Hive would need to purchase a large number of precious materials required by the students in those fields, but there wasn't a better period to do so.

The prices for the cultivation resources were at their lowest since the appearance of the new continent, and they were still struggling to stabilize.

Flying Demon and Dreaming Demon ultimately accelerated since Thirty-seven's presence was becoming unbearable, and the group managed to reach the Coral archipelago in less than three weeks.

Elder Roy welcomed them when they reached the islands, but he couldn't recognize the two rank 5 cultivators next to the Demon Prince.

He limited himself to follow Noah's orders and allow them to reach the teleportation matrix leading to the new continent.

The group reappeared under the white crowns of the forest of White Woods, where the central array had been built.

Noah and the elders had finally reached the headquarters of the Hive!

The elders showed amazed expressions when they sensed the high density of "Breath" in the area, but they didn't leave the perimeter of the formation.

There were many defensive layers around them, and only Noah was authorized to cross them without causing any adverse reactions.

However, there was someone in their group that couldn't help but complain when he saw the shining lines on the ground.

"What is this atrocity!?"

Thirty-seven shouted those words as he came out of the pendant on Dreaming Demon's neck to take a better look at the formations around them.

"What is this level of ineptitude!? The power output is completely off the scale for the tasks executed by this array. These animals have just piled one formation over another without even caring to restore some harmony!"

Thirty-seven shouted as he floated from one core of the formation toward another.

Elder Julia saw the entire scene since she had decided to greet Noah when the cultivators in the archipelago informed her that he was with two rank 5 entities.

She was standing outside of the formations, and her eyes would follow the automaton as she evaluated every mistake that he pointed out.

She had helped to set the defenses in that area, and she had even linked the energy gathered in the shining lakes to those lines.

So, those comments seemed directed toward her.

Noah noticed her furrowed brows and was about to explain the situation, but an oppressing aura suddenly covered the area and forced the automaton to stay still.

Elder Julia and Noah were immediately able to recognize that aura.

Still, Flying Demon and Dreaming Demon took a while before linking those sensations to their memories from one thousand years ago.

However, they showed broad smiles when they realized who was the owner of that aura.

Their gazes then went for the white crowns where they saw an amazed Chasing Demon flying toward them.

[Chapter 663 663. Masterpiece](#)

"These... Lines... Bad... Inscriptions!"

Thirty-seven struggled to complain even under Chasing Demon's suppression.

However, the three Demons didn't mind his words.

They didn't see each other since the exile of the demon sects, and they weren't even sure about their survival.

Chasing Demon had lived hidden in the exoskeleton of the Purple corals, afflicted by anger and vengeful thoughts.

The Chasing demon sect had thrived in the islands of the archipelago, but it didn't have the power to peek at the lands ruled by the three big nations in those years.

The Patriarch of the Hive couldn't look for the remains of his companions even when the Coral archipelago became independent.

The Hive was simply too weak.

Years spent in regret and sorrow had honed his individuality, leading him to create a cultivation technique and reach the sixth rank even if part of his potential had been wasted.

Instead, the other two elders had stayed in the separate dimension for the whole time.

Dreaming Demon had it easy because of her sleep, but Flying Demon had to live in solitude, feeding his body to commoners with the hope of awakening his lover.

Yet, those Demons were now standing under the same forest, and simple words couldn't describe the emotions that filled their minds at that moment.

The automaton continued to struggle under Chasing Demon's pressure.

He didn't seem to care that his very form was in danger, he only wanted to point out the mistakes in the formations around him.

On the other hand, Elder Julia couldn't understand the actions of the Patriarch.

Chasing Demon left his underground training area when he needed to deploy the copying technique, but he spent the rest of the time cultivating.

He was the powerhouse of the Hive after all, and his eyes gazed for the lands above the sky.

However, he was currently out in the open, and he wore an incredulous expression that radiated traces of warmth and happiness.

Elder Julia instinctively turned toward Noah at that point.

She wanted to understand what was happening, but she stopped creating her mental message when she noticed that Noah had reached the liquid stage.

There didn't seem to be a limit to how much a simple scene could surprise her.

"Arthur, Tisha, how is this possible?"

Chasing Demon said as he landed on top of the shining lines right in front of Noah's group.

Dreaming Demon limited herself to smile while Flying Demon released a laugh before adding a few words.

"Haha, we were just taking a break when your Demon Prince arrived and begged us to join the Hive."

Noah snorted when he heard the elder and replied with a few mocking lines of his own.

"I was just passing by and decided to bring these fossils with me."

Chasing Demon was able to notice Noah's new cultivation level only after he spoke, but his focus didn't leave the two rank 5 elders even at that point.

He had tasked Noah to look for the demon sects, but he was expecting him to return with a few human cultivators and a couple of forgotten techniques.

Finding the Charming demon sect and the slave carrying the bloodline of the Enduring demon sect was already a massive achievement in his mind.

However, returning with two rank 5 Demons couldn't possibly have a fixed value.

After all, the Hive only had five rank 5 cultivators, but that number had instantly increased to seven!

Generally speaking, an organization would have to wait centuries to see the birth of just one of those powerful individuals.

The path toward the higher ranks became longer in the heroic ranks, and it wasn't strange for rank 4 cultivators to remain stuck on their level for centuries.

Also, that stagnation would affect their potential.

Rank 4 cultivators who had remained on the same stage for centuries had little hope to reach the higher ranks.

Their dantians would become unsuitable for the absorption of laws due to the stagnation.

Only a constant improvement could make full use of the potential of a cultivator.

It must be said that the two Demons weren't even newly advanced rank 5 cultivators.

They were experienced warriors who had once been in charge of the unorthodox sects of the Papral nation.

Their battle prowess and knowledge were on par, if not superior, to the strongest rank 5 elders of the Hive.

They were elites among beings in the fifth rank.

"Never... Pile... Formations... Always... Harmony!"

Thirty-seven continued to complain, and his words were finally able to ruin the joyous reunion.

Chasing Demon shot an angry gaze toward the automaton who didn't even seem to notice it.

The ethereal man was set on pointing out mistakes, it was as if his programming ordered that behavior.

"Is he useful?"

Chasing Demon asked while pointing at the automaton, and the trio slowly nodded.

"Yes, sadly."

Flying Demon even added that line as he began to stare at the suppressed automaton that was crouched on the terrain.

Thirty-seven was slowly crawling along the shining lines to inspect their forms better and find other complaints.

Nothing else seemed to interest him.

However, he revealed a curious when Chasing Demon directed his words to him.

"Spirit, do you want to see the formations of our Master?"

Thirty-seven stooped complaining at that point and repeatedly nodded toward the Patriarch of the Hive.

He could see how Chasing Demon was a rank 6 entity, so he could quickly deduce that his master had to be even stronger than him.

Thirty-seven shot a glance at the pendant on Dreaming Demon's neck, and she threw it toward Chasing Demon without the slightest hesitation.

The automaton was simply too annoying, and she couldn't wait to give it to someone else.

"Follow me."

Chasing Demon said as he grabbed the pendant and flew toward a spot inside the forest of White woods.

The automaton was forced to follow him due to the distancing pendant, and the trio didn't hesitate to fly after him.

Elder Julia was still a bit confused about the whole situation, but she decided to follow the Patriarch nonetheless.

She was the elder in charge of the southwestern coast when Chasing Demon was busy cultivating, so it was in her duty to be always informed about everything.

Chasing Demon flew past the western coast and dived toward the layer of ice under the new continent.

His presence triggered some reactions in the azure rocks right above the layer of ice, and a path opened when he neared them.

The group followed Chasing Demon through the passage at the bottom of the piece of Immortal Lands, and sped through the azure tunnel filled by inscriptions.

The growls of magical beasts began to resound in the area, and that made Noah understand where they were going.

Chasing Demon stopped when he reached a large underground room filled with shining lines that spread toward many tunnels.

The spirit automaton had been silent for the whole duration of the flight.

Still, he couldn't help but give voice to a word when the array appeared in his view.

"Masterpiece."

[Chapter 664 664. Coerce](#)

Thirty-seven couldn't contain his excitement when he saw one of the core areas of the copying technique.

"Breaking the limits of the Attunement method! Amazing! Amazing!"

The automaton repeated himself as he began to study the shining lines under him.

Even Flying Demon and Dreaming Demon felt surprised in front of that scene.

It was clear that Chasing Demon was the only one in the entirety of the Hive capable of building something so intricate and powerful, but that still surpassed the limits of his cultivation level.

The growls of powerful beasts echoed through the azure walls of the underground room, and Noah's body instinctively analyzed them.

Noah felt a series of information reaching his mind in a matter of seconds, and he gained a general idea of the kind of creatures trapped behind those tunnels.

'Chasing Demon has been busy in these years.'

Noah thought when he understood that the Patriarch of the Hive had captured more than two hundred different specimens!

That feat was even more surprising since Noah could sense the presence of ten magical beasts in the fifth rank, as well as a familiar one.

There was a familiar screech coming from the tunnels on the south.

Noah could recognize that screech since it belonged to the rank 5 Giant sandworm that ruled over the desert.

The defenses of the Hive would be extremely sturdy with so many and variegated beasts to copy, but that realization brought a bit of worry on his mind.

'The number of rank 5 specimens dwindles as the colonization advances. I'll be forced to travel a lot in the future. I might even have to explore the depths of the sea.'

Noah evaluated when he understood that the available prey on the new continent were diminishing.

Yet, that thought didn't dishearten him.

His body was already strong, and his instincts were so intense that his rank 4 sea of consciousness found them hard to control.

Also, the drawback of his body-nourishing method would become a real issue only when he reached the higher tiers of the fifth rank.

He could still feed on peak rank 4 creatures and weak rank 5 beasts at the moment, it was pointless to worry about beings that he couldn't hunt.

'My focus right now must be on my other centers of power. I need harmony, and I need to deepen my individuality.'

Noah put that matter aside at that point and focused again on the group around him.

Elder Julia was silently floating in the back of the group, and the Demons remained silent as they stared at the excited automaton.

The three of them didn't know where to start with their story.

The bad memories that accompanied the past events didn't help in that matter.

Then, Dreaming Demon broke the silence.

"Rufus."

The cultivators in the area turned toward her when they saw that she was beginning to speak.

Of course, Thirty-seven kept on studying the formation and wholly ignored the humans above him.

"You were one of the weakest among Master's disciples, but you stand at the very top of the heroic ranks now. Also, you have been able to wield Master's teachings and make them yours. I'm honored to have been your companion in the past."

Dreaming Demon bowed when she finished her phrase, and Flying Demon imitated her gesture.

The feelings behind her voice were honest, and she really meant what she said.

Chasing Demon had managed to survive the exile of the demon sects and reach the sixth rank without anyone's backing.

There was some luck involved with his feat, but that wasn't enough to reduce the greatness of his achievement.

Chasing Demon went from being the weakest disciple of Divine Demon to the leader of the fourth force in the Mortal Lands!

"Friends, please, straighten yourselves and tell me your story. We will drink for days once these matters are settled."

Chasing Demon replied as he waved his hand to break their bow.

The two elders could only reveal helpless smiles when they saw that their junior was now able to affect their movements with his mental energy.

Yet, that discovery only made them more willing to help him and the Hive.

The Demons began to speak at that point.

Their story started from the exile and went through the events in the separate dimension.

Flying Demon didn't mention many details, but Dreaming Demon made sure to add them every time her lover tried to hide something.

She didn't do that to put shame on her lover, she only wanted Chasing Demon to have a complete understanding of the situation.

Also, she wanted him to know how much did Noah sacrifice to help the two of them.

They didn't have resources in their possession, just some techniques that the other Demons had shared with them.

Only Chasing Demon had the assets to reward the Demon Prince appropriately.

Elder Julia remained silent on the side as the three Demons caught up, but it was evident that she was extremely interested in their stories.

The events in the separate dimension mentioned a divine being, and there were three disciples of another divine entity right in front of her.

Her eagerness to learn more about those lofty cultivators was understandable, and that feeling even increased when Flying Demon mentioned the gains obtained in the palace.

No one cared about the delicacies and wine, they would only be able to reduce the usual expenses of the Hive slightly.

Yet, the vast knowledge stored inside Noah's ring and the automation expert in many inscriptions' fields were precious.

They could probably solve one of the most significant weaknesses of the Hive and make it improve in all the aspects that an organization had to have.

The issue was that the automaton didn't seem intentioned to follow anyone's orders.

Chasing Demon finished listening to the story of his companions and turned his gaze toward the ethereal man studying the shining lines at the bottom of the area.

Thirty-seven's only interest was the inscriptions and all the schools connected to them.

So, it was clear in Chasing Demon's mind that he could only be coerced in aiding the Hive through those methods.

"You, Thirty-seven. Would you be willing to pass down your knowledge to the members of my organization? You could create inscription masters able to meet your standards in that way."

Chasing Demon tried to persuade the automaton, but the latter simply ignored him.

Thirty-seven had eyes and ears only for matters that interested him, threats and kind words couldn't stop.

His personality was even more stubborn since he was an automaton, he didn't have values that would usually force a human to compromise.

Then, Chasing Demon decided to use his most valuable asset to grant a proper teacher to the Hive.

"Thirty-seven, I'll make you take a look at the original lines of this technique if you manage to educate inscription masters."

The automaton halted his actions when he heard the Patriarch's words and raised his head toward the mighty existence in the air.

Everyone in the room could guess from his expression that the Hive had obtained another expert.

[Chapter 665 665. Bored god](#)

The three Demons left once Chasing Demons persuaded Thirty-seven to help the Hive.

They wanted some time alone to speak about private matters, and no one could force them to attend social events until they decided otherwise.

Thirty-seven went with them since he was linked to the pendant, and Noah explained Elder Julia that he would spend some time sorting the knowledge retrieved in the palace before giving it to the Hive.

Elder Julia simply spread the news of Flying Demon and Dreaming Demon's arrival to the other heroic cultivators after everyone left.

The Hive had just gained two rank 5 elders, its power as a whole had drastically increased with that single event.

Also, she wanted the other elders to know that the merit for that accomplishment had to be assigned to Noah.

The morale of the assets had to be taken into consideration when managing such a powerful organization, and giving to the weaker cultivators someone to strive for could be a strong motivation.

After all, Noah had barely lived for half a century, but his feats already outclassed cultivators that had been in the fourth rank for decades!

His fame could only grow after that information became public domain, but he didn't care much about it.

Others could worship or look up to him if that helped them, but he couldn't be affected by their behavior.

'This is the trap hidden behind the safety of the organizations.'

Noah thought as he sat on one of the couches of his mansion.

The elders that he had met when he flew toward the invisible dome in the azure plain revealed heated gazes when they noticed his cultivation level.

Most of them had been in the gaseous stage of the fourth rank for decades, and some even for centuries.

Their potential dwindled with every year that they spent without making any progress, and the sight of Noah having surpassed their level could only give birth to deep respect.

However, Noah didn't feel happy when he noticed those emotions.

Instead, their situation made him ponder about the reasons behind their stagnation.

'Most of them have reached the fourth rank while their organizations still hid under the surface of the archipelago. There were no hindrances on their paths, and the legal factions didn't dare to oppose them. A life with no struggles can't forge an individuality.'

Noah picked one of the tomes inside his space-ring as he let his mind wander in those thoughts.

Isolating to cultivate was an approach that worked in the human ranks, but that could end ruining a cultivator's potential in the heroic ones.

Gaining insights on the laws of an element was a slow and random procedure that required in-depth knowledge of a cultivator's individuality.

Yet, organizations provided resources and a safe space, which ultimately hurt the drives of a cultivator.

Someone that relied on an organization too much would eventually become used to that practice and stop pursuing a power that belonged only to himself.

Noah knew that far too well, that was the reason why the nobles in the Utra nation usually failed to pass the Pain Tribulation.

'Being in an organization is needed because most techniques and methods could only be found there. Still, one should always be careful not to become a simple pawn that carries a banner.'

Noah put that matter in the back of his mind when he began to focus on the tome.

He couldn't affect the behavior of the elders stuck in the gaseous stage, but he didn't mind that Elder Julia was using him to rekindle their ambition.

Improving the power of the Hive could only benefit him, that was the reason why he had decided to help the Demons in the end.

The tome he was reading was one of those containing information about the Immortal Lands, according to Thirty-seven.

The tome though didn't reveal anything unusual, and it mostly contained theories made by powerful beings.

Noah quickly took another book at that point.

The automation had sorted the tomes and scrolls in the palace, and Noah had ordered the spirit of his ring to keep them tidy.

He intended to read through everything that could give him a clearer picture of the higher plane before providing that knowledge to the Hive.

There wasn't any hidden meaning behind that action, he simply wanted to read it before focusing on other matters.

Most of the knowledge regarding the Immortal Lands was like that.

There were only clues, or confused thoughts written down by cultivators that had discovered something at the cost of their sanity.

'Those that managed to learn something important have most likely kept the information for themselves. Something that could reveal part of the path for the divine ranks can't be made public so easily.'

Noah concluded once he finished reading a scroll.

He had already read a dozen tomes and scrolls by then, but he only found small details and a large number of theories.

Most of the cultivators that had suffered a backlash from pushing their consciousnesses near the higher plane described a blinding light and visible emotions.

It was as if the scenery of the Immortal Lands couldn't be grasped entirely by the sea of consciousness of beings in the heroic ranks.

Also, there were many mentions about material wills, sounds, and emotions that could only be linked to the presence of divine beings.

Yet, all of that was predictable.

Those cultivators had just confirmed some of the many hypotheses formulated throughout the years.

However, many studies claimed to prove some of those theories too, without the need for actual proofs from the higher plane.

'The Immortal Lands are expanding, and this cultivator even claims that Heaven and Earth are annexing more worlds to their domain. I know that they are sentient entities, but does that mean that they have a goal?'

Noah couldn't help but wonder about that aspect of the world.

Earth had spoken during his Tribulation, and Heaven had tried to interrupt his experiments with the fusion between species.

Nevertheless, enforcing rules was different from pursuing a goal.

The first action could even be executed by wills or automaton, while the second required a drive and an ambition.

Then, Noah found a piece of peculiar information as he continued to browse through the knowledge retrieved from the palace.

It wasn't something that regarded the Immortal Lands, Noah was still reading the introduction to that historical period when he noticed that something was off.

'The following pages describe Master Linus' theories, a cultivator born after the fall of the Shandal Empire.'

Noah read that line, and his interest immediately rose.

'This book should speak about matters that happened nine thousand years ago! What did it mean with the "fall of the Shandal Empire"?'

Noah thought as his curiosity mounted.

He momentarily discarded the tomes that spoke about the Immortal Lands to look for the historical ones.

His search ended when he read the title of one of the oldest tomes in his possession.

'Rise and fall of the Empires of the bored god.'

[Chapter 666 666. Banque](#)

The book was written by a nameless rank 5 cultivator that had witnessed the fall of the Shandal Empire that happened nine thousand years ago.

The god of the Empire had granted a title to that cultivator when it reached the heroic ranks, but the latter forsook its name when it lost faith in the almighty ruler of its nation.

'I've seen the death of countless comrades that had fought with me in the endless wars ordered by our mighty ruler. I've seen an entity with the power to destroy any mortal throne disappearing when his people needed him. Understanding dawned upon me after those sights, but my mind was still too devoted to the Almighty to recognize his flaws.'

Noah read through the contents of the books with intense interest.

The cultivators of the Empire worshipped their god, and the same seemed to have happened in the past described by the nameless author.

Yet, that entity had turned into a heretic when it saw that the god didn't intervene to save its country.

'I've spent years struggling to forget the divine light radiated by my leader, and decades researching the past to appease my doubts. In the end, I found the truth about the Empire and the hobby of its leader.'

Noah could sense the contempt that the author felt toward the god of the Empire through its words.

The nameless cultivator didn't only lose its faith, it even filled that void with hatred.

'Records have been hard to find, but there were always one or two reports hidden in the knowledge of the other two big nations. I suspect that the god left them around to add some variables to his endless game.'

Then, the book revealed the meaning behind its title.

'I've looked for records even twenty thousand years old to discover that multiple Shandal Empires had reached the apex of the Mortal Lands through those years. All of them had thrived under the Almighty's divine light, and all of them had fallen under his indifference.'

Noah had been completely captivated by those lines by then.

The nameless cultivator claimed that the god of the Empire had been in the Mortal Lands for more than thirty thousand years!

Noah couldn't even begin to imagine what it felt to remain stuck at the same level for centuries.

So, he couldn't possibly comprehend the mindset of someone who had been blocked at the first step of the divine ranks for millennia.

The god had been trapped for thousands of years in a world that he can rule easily, without any interest or input.

'The word boredom is too weak to describe his feelings.'

Noah thought before diving again in the contents of the book.

'The Almighty builds an Empire a few millennia after the fall of the previous one and vanishes whenever one of his underlings ascends in the Immortal Lands. I didn't manage to understand why nor what is his purpose. Yet, I'm sure that we are nothing but pawns in his game.'

The book ended with those lines.

Noah had ignored all the details on how the nameless cultivator managed to gather such old information and directly skipped to its final consideration.

It would be up to the Hive to sort through all the knowledge inside his space-ring and summarize it.

After all, most of those data were dated more than ten thousand years, and there would be no available gain in the current era.

'Is the god trying to exploit the ascension of his underlings for personal interests? Still, building nations just to kill time seems a bit of a stretch.'

Noah couldn't believe that such a powerful existence had surrendered himself to his fate.

Cultivators had strong personalities, especially those that had managed to reach the peak of the heroic ranks.

The god of the Empire had to have a plan, something that could only be executed in the long life of a divine entity.

Of course, Noah had also considered the idea that Divine Architect's client was, in fact, the god of the Empire.

There was no one else whose authority and assets were able to affect another divine being.

'Maybe, he is doing all of this to reach the higher plane.'

That seemed the only reasonable explanation to the god's actions.

Noah soon put that matter in the back of his mind to continue his study of the tomes and scrolls related to the Immortal Lands.

The nameless cultivator had explored exciting ideas, but there wasn't much that he could do with that information at the moment.

He couldn't affect matters that concerned peak heroic cultivators and gods.

Yet, he could prepare himself to exploit the situations that they created.

There was bound to be a war once one of the two rank 6 cultivators of the Empire ascended if the nameless cultivator was right.

The Empire would lose the backing of its god and one of its powerhouses, bringing its power directly under the other two big nations.

The Elbas family and the Council would undoubtedly exploit that moment of weakness since they had been suppressed for so many years by the strongest country in the Mortal Land.

However, there was another variable in that era: The Hive.

'I can only make sure that I'm strong enough to join the plundering when those events happen.'

Noah concluded in his mind as new information about the Immortal Lands entered his view.

There wasn't anything sure in any of those tomes and scrolls.

One couldn't obtain a real knowledge of the higher plane by looking at it from the Mortal Lands.

Yet, there were a few details that concerned the other lower worlds around the higher plane.

First of all, the experts in that field were sure about the presence of magical beasts in all the known worlds.

Every plane inside Heaven and Earth's domain was enveloped in their "Breath", which led to similar life cycles in every environment.

Also, some even stated the presence of cultivators.

'I guess life has evolved in the same way as here. I wonder if this is another hidden rule set by Heaven and Earth.'

Random considerations appeared inside Noah's mind every time he finished reading one book.

He was sweeping through that mountain of scrolls and tomes without taking any rest.

He knew what he needed to do at that point in his cultivation journey, so he wanted to improve his foundation as much as he could before diving into his training.

Then, a mental message reached his inscribed notebook while he was still busy reading.

The message came directly from Elder Julia and stated the beginning of the banquet to welcome the new rank 5 elders.

Noah was almost tempted to finish reading everything before attending, but the last part of Elder Julia's message convinced him to arrive on time.

'The rank 5 elders will discuss their individualities, and the Patriarch will give pointers whenever he sees fit.'

[Chapter 667 667. Divinity](#)

The heroic assets of the Hive gathered in a vast underground area adorned with luxurious drapes that featured a giant octopus protecting a series of islands.

That area was part of Chasing Demon's quarters, but he gladly used it to hold the banquet to honor his long-lost companions.

Every rank 4 cultivator stationed on the new continent attended to that event, and all the rank 5 elders were compelled to join it due to the promise of Chasing Demon's pointers.

Individualities were a very personal matter, but countless mistakes and deviations could lead to a weaker expression of them.

The teachings of a rank 6 existence could broaden the vision of those beings that were already paving their paths and uncover eventual flaws in their enlightenments.

Discovering a misinterpretation of some insights while being in the fifth rank could be a vital factor in their journey.

After all, the dantians of the heroic cultivators absorbed laws according to their individualities.

Those in the fifth rank still had time to fix eventual flaws and deviate from their original path.

Yet, their road would be set once they advanced further in that rank.

Their dantians would progress only if they followed their previous path at that point, and their hope to reach the divine ranks would vanish if their understanding turned out to be flawed.

The path toward the divine was full of hindrances, and even one misstep could ruin your prospects.

Cultivators had to keep on improving if they wanted to avoid the stagnation of their centers of power, but they also needed to be sure that they were on the right road.

Noah joined the event on time, and he even dressed up for the occasion.

Elder Julia didn't hide her surprise when she saw that he wasn't wearing his usual ragged robes, but she understood that something about him had changed after the events in the separate dimension.

It wasn't only a matter of cultivation level.

There was a sort of acceptance inside him that had started to manifest since he brought June back to the Hive.

Noah was slowly turning into a leader.

Of course, she couldn't possibly know that everything had started after his body reached the fifth rank.

Ruling over weaker beings was an instinctive behavior in the magical beasts' world, even if those creatures mostly did that to expand their hunting area.

Those instincts became more human when they appeared in Noah due to his hybrid status, leading him to act as a leader even when he pursued his benefits.

Being part of an organization without affecting his individuality, that was one aspect of his cultivation journey that he was slowly exploring.

There was a long, rectangular table at the center of the underground hall, and many comfortable chairs had been laid around it.

The heroic cultivators of the Hive were seated according to their importance and power inside their organization.

The elders stuck in the gaseous stage of the fourth rank sat on the side farther away from Chasing Demon.

The rank 5 elders were near the Patriarch, and the two Demons sat on his sides since the banquet was in their honor.

Thirty-seven was nowhere to be seen, and Noah couldn't even find the pendant that contained him on the necks of the elders.

'I wonder how is Chasing Demon keeping him busy.'

Noah thought before noticing that Flying Demon was glancing at him while rhythmically tapping his fingers on the table.

The table was empty, no trace of food or wine could be seen on its surface.

Noah had initially believed that the elders would fill the table once everyone arrived, but Flying Demon's gesture hinted to something else.

Noah didn't fail to understand the meaning behind his glances and waved his hand while giving a few orders to the spirit automaton of his space-ring.

Part of the delicacies and wine retrieved inside the Mortal Palace came out of his storage device and softly landed on the long table in an orderly manner.

The elders showed smiles at that sight, and Elder Austin pointed at a seat next to him when Noah turned his gaze toward him.

Noah was still a rank 4 cultivator, and there a few were elders in the solid stage seated near those in the fifth rank.

Yet, the title of Demon Prince gave him a privileged position, which made him worthy of being right next to the most powerful assets of the Hive.

The banquet began as soon as Noah sat, and the elders started to converse while enjoying the contents of the plates peacefully.

Most of them didn't eat much and focused on the wine, but Flying Demon devoured everything in his grasp.

Heroic cultivators didn't need to eat that much, the "Breath" that they absorbed already provided some sort of nourishment.

However, Flying Demon ate as if his life depended on it.

The other rank 5 elders ignored his behavior, and Chasing Demon mostly laughed at that sight.

Yet, some of the weaker rank 4 cultivators began to imitate him, as if copying the actions of someone on a higher level could grant them some benefits.

Noah mostly listened to the conversations of the rank 5 elders during the banquet.

They discussed the current situation of the Hive, the available paths to improve its positive trend, and the benefits that the automaton could provide to both human and heroic cultivators.

Thirty-seven's knowledge was precious.

He could single-handedly groom a generation of inscription masters and further improve the foundation of the Hive.

His only issue was that most of his knowledge was dated and didn't cover the discoveries of the last six thousand years.

Nevertheless, only the Elbas family could claim to be the most advanced organization in that field, and the automaton's knowledge was more than enough for the current state of the Hive.

Also, the elders could still choose to purchase studies to improve the automaton.

Still, they had to test how effective he was first before deciding to invest in him.

Silence fell in the underground area at some point, and the eager gazes of the more than twenty rank 4 cultivators went on the powerful elders sitting on the other side of the table.

It was clear that they were waiting for them to discuss their individualities since they weren't even trying to hide their eagerness to hear them.

"I guess I'll start."

Elder Austin said and stood up when he saw that the situation was becoming too awkward.

"I'm a volcano ready to unleash my destructive force. I build power inside my sturdy foundation and release it in one huge burst of power. My fire is lava, and my mind is the trigger!"

Elder Austin announced while turning toward Chasing Demon.

His explanation wasn't detailed, but he purposely released his aura to give a taste of his individuality to the presents.

The expressions of the rank 4 cultivators became even more eager at that point, but Chasing Demon claimed their focus with one question.

"Can a volcano strive for divinity?"

[Chapter 668 668. Pointers](#)

Chasing Demon's question was simple, but it hid a profound meaning that the rank 5 cultivators didn't fail to notice.

Even Noah managed to pick up some clues, but he waited for him to explain before pondering about the matter further.

"My fire shall burn the limits of the heroic ranks."

Elder Austin answered after a moment of silence.

The rank 4 elders nodded and exchanged gazes between themselves, but some of those in the fifth rank didn't seem to agree.

However, no one spoke.

Even the strongest rank 5 elder couldn't give pointers about someone's else individuality.

Only Chasing Demon could have a clear picture of the higher ranks.

"Your fire might be as powerful as lava, but that alone can't represent a volcano."

Chasing Demon said when the focus of the presents returned to him.

"The matters concerning individualities are extremely personal. Yet, I can tell that your lava won't be able to touch the divine even if you bring its power to the peak of the heroic ranks."

Elder Austin revealed a confused expression when he heard Chasing Demon's words and didn't hesitate to ask for clarifications.

"Why?"

"The features of your fire are an imitation of something already existing in the world. However, your individuality is real. I can see the volcano."

Chasing Demon answered, but his explanation didn't satisfy the elder who continued to ask for more.

"What should I do then?"

"Follow your individuality. Gain inspiration from the world without becoming its imitation. The power of a volcano isn't in its burning blood, but in its blast!"

Elder Austin's eyes widened at that point, and he remained still for a while as the pointers of the Patriarch seeped inside him.

Noah noticed how the aura of the elder flickered and became slightly murky as understanding dawned upon him.

'A change in the individuality can affect a mighty existence in the fifth rank so thoroughly. Only a firm belief in your path can make you cross the hindrances of the cultivation journey without damaging your foundation.'

Noah concluded in his mind as he reviewed the exchange of words.

The individualities of the cultivators would begin to affect their centers of power as their rank rose, which meant that most of their battle prowess would depend on it.

Extreme confidence in the path taken was one of the main requirements for heroic cultivators that wanted to improve, but they still had to be careful not to delude themselves.

Noah had just taken the second step on his path, but that banquet was already teaching him the common mistakes to avoid.

Elder Austin bowed toward Chasing Demon before sitting back on his chair and lowering his gaze.

There was no trace of shame in his expression.

Instead, the elders could notice his eagerness to explore the possibilities that the Patriarch had opened for him.

A short moment of silence followed that gesture, and the rank 5 cultivators decided to resume speaking only when they saw that Elder Austin had raised his head again.

The next elder that stood up was Elder Justin, and he used even fewer words to express his individuality.

"I'm an immovable boulder. Catastrophes shall fall, and the world might change, but I'll remain the same forever!"

Everyone in the hall could see elder Justin's firmness, but Chasing Demon had pointers for him too.

"How can you advance if you can't move?"

Elder Justin listened to his words and bowed before sitting back on his seat.

He didn't seem surprised by the Patriarch's doubts.

It was as if he knew about that flaw in his individuality already.

Chasing Demon couldn't help but nod at that behavior, and Noah didn't fail to notice that gesture.

'I guess discovering the path alone is better than letting others clear it for you.'

Noah thought as he memorized that detail in his mind.

Taking the best out of any situation had always been part of his behavior.

Also, that event was meant to help heroic assets.

His focus was devoted entirely to learning as much as he could about the path ahead of him.

Elder Julia stood up next, and everyone in the hall was surprised when the Patriarch didn't add anything to her words.

"I'm the air that fills your lungs. I'm the wind of the world."

Her aura was barely noticeable, but Noah could sense the incredible power hidden inside her figure.

'Bold.'

Noah could only think that when he heard the exposition of her individuality.

He had seen her battle during the one versus one fights, but her opponent had already decided to forsake that useless territory.

She didn't reveal much now either, but Noah could understand the intense drive behind her belief because it was similar to his ambition.

'Maybe, individualities need to be something grand enough to reach the divine ranks. Something too weak won't bring you past the sixth rank even if it suits you perfectly.'

That was another information that Noah added to his understanding of the heroic ranks.

The only clue that he had about that assumption was Chasing Demon's silence, but that had to be enough for the moment.

He was aware that the Patriarch was holding back his pointers on purpose because providing every answer would just have adverse effects on the elders.

Also, Chasing Demon wasn't omniscient.

He could broaden the elders' perspective, but he couldn't tell them what laws they had to pursue.

The rank 5 cultivators turned toward the two Demons seated next to the Patriarch at that point.

Flying Demon revealed a helpless smile at their gazes and shook his head.

Only his lover, Noah, and Chasing Demon could understand what was afflicting him.

The one thousand years spent alone in the separate dimension had disrupted his foundation, and there weren't any certainties that he could recover.

On the other hand, Dreaming Demon decided to stand and give a few words to the crowd.

"My thoughts can stop the wind and destroy worlds. My desires are laws, and my mind is the god spreading them."

Surprised gasps resounded in the underground area when the elders saw that Dreaming Demon was already considering herself as a deity.

'The will of a disciple of Divine Demon. She must be so strong because her individuality is already gazing at the divine. She is the strongest rank 5 cultivator in the Hive.'

Noah continued with his evaluations as the banquet kept going, but he soon noticed a series of eyes landing on his figure.

The heroic cultivators on the table had waited for their amazement to cool down before turning toward the Demon Prince seated right next to the rank 5 elders.

The situation became even more evident when Noah saw Chasing Demon nodding toward him.

'I have nothing to hide.'

Noah thought before standing up and wielding one of his rank 4 Demonic swords.

He had to admit that he was interested in the Patriarch's opinion regarding his individuality.

[Chapter 669 669. Titles](#)

Noah kept his weapon stretched in front of him as he poured liquid "Breath" inside it.

The Demonic sword radiated an innate sharpness due to the meaning imbued during the forging.

Also, it carried the destructive properties of the corrosive smoke since it was one of its core materials.

Yet, the aura radiated by its shape became violent when "Breath" entered in its form.

The sharpness carried by the blade began to affect the air around it, shattering its matter and returning it to a basic form of energy.

The destruction spread and even threatened to reach the elders around Noah.

However, he quickly stored the Demonic sword back inside his space-ring and turned toward Chasing Demon to hear his opinion.

The rank 4 cultivators on the back of the table showed amazed expressions at that sight.

After all, Noah was only a rank 4 cultivator in the liquid stage, but his individuality had already begun to affect his "Breath"!

He could achieve that feat only because he had created his cultivation technique, which was already an expression of his individuality.

Nevertheless, that didn't stop the rank 4 elders from glancing at him with newfound respect.

Even those in the solid stage showed a sincere interest, the fact that the Demon Prince had a lower cultivation level didn't bother them at all after that sight.

Most of their focus was on the destruction unleashed by his "Breath" and on the threatening aura that it carried.

It was violent but also sharp.

It was as if he had found a way to focus a chaotic force into thousands of small blades.

On the other hand, the rank 5 elders quickly ignored the destructive aspect of his "Breath" and focused on the energy released after the matter fell apart.

Such primary energy seemed incredibly pliable, and many applications in the inscriptions' fields could make use of it.

Of course, they couldn't link it to the magical beasts' world.

Only Noah could know that there were similarities between that energy and the nutrients inside his body due to his hybrid status.

The rank 5 elders could see that there was something else inside Noah's individuality, but they didn't probe further since the Prince had limited himself to that demonstration.

"A focused chaos, spreading destruction. Very interesting and ambitious! Maybe, too ambitious."

Chasing Demon began to comment, and the focus of the elders immediately went on him.

"Individualities need to reflect a pure form of yourself, without being tainted by imitations and external inputs. Yet, they also need to be powerful enough to reach the higher stages of the cultivation journey. Beware of that ambition though, it might be too vast for a single cultivator to handle."

The Patriarch of the Hive purposely gave general pointers at that point.

He didn't want to affect Noah in the slightest for fear of weakening his foundation, but he still wanted to explain how individualities usually worked.

Noah performed a bow at his words before sitting back on his seat.

His mind was already going through Chasing Demon's teachings, which further added to what he was learning about the higher ranks.

'There is a correlation with the might of the individuality and its potential. There is a need for a strong personality to become a law, but something too strong might be unable to be contained. Would I need to tune my ambition down?'

That question rose inside Noah's mind for the first time in his second life.

The thought that his ambition could become his limit seemed impossible, but Chasing Demon's words were clear.

However, Noah lingered on that doubt only for a few instants before steeling his resolution again.

'This is what I am. I'll face my doom with everything I have if my ambition turns out to be too grand. Also, human limits don't apply to me.'

Noah dispersed his doubts with those thoughts.

His ambition was the sole reason why he managed to travel that far in the cultivation journey.

It was the foundation of the meanings in the Elemental forging method and the fire that fueled all his other emotions.

It wasn't something that he could tune down, and he surely wouldn't do it due to some sort of requirements.

He would become more than a single cultivator if his individuality couldn't be contained, he already was more than a human in the end.

The banquet continued for a bit more after that last exposition.

There weren't many occasions to gather all the heroic assets of the Hive in the new continent in one place, and the elders just took their time to discuss what they had learnt.

Many toasts were made to honor the Demons, and some of them even included Noah.

The Hive had gained a lot thanks to his efforts, and the elders could only be thankful to have such a prepared and talented cultivator in their ranks.

Then, Chasing Demon called off the banquet, and the elders began to disperse to return to their duties.

Most rank 4 cultivators were simply busy clearing the areas around the domes from the presence of the magical beast, but some of them had more specific tasks.

There was the management of those territories to take into consideration, and there was an equilibrium to maintain to keep them as sources of income.

The azure plain had finally resumed giving birth to Azure Credits, even if in an impure form.

The poisonous land had become the source of strange and dangerous materials in the last years, and most of them were sold to the Utra nation.

The Elbas family was the only force ready to invest in newfound materials to experiment on them.

It was that behavior that placed them at the top of the inscriptions' fields after all.

Some projects concerned the other lands too, but Thirty-seven's arrival put a hold on them.

His help in the inscriptions' fields could bring the Hive's formations to a new level, and that had immediately become the main priority of the rank 5 elders.

Improving the domes and the shining lakes was paramount if they wanted to exploit the "Breath" in the environment to its fullest, and the automaton could help in that aspect.

Noah was one of the last to stand up from the table.

His mind was focused on searching for insights concerning the darkness element, and the good wine in front of him could only make this mental sphere calmer.

Yet, the three Demons approached him when all the other heroic cultivators had left the underground hall.

"Noah Balvan, the scourge of the Utra nation and hope of all the rebels of the Mortal Lands, come with us!"

Flying Demon said while performing wide gestures with his hands.

Noah wasn't sure if he was mocking him, or just showing his appreciation toward his famous past.

However, he knew that the elder's character wasn't bad, that was just his normal behavior.

As he stood up and followed the trio though, Dreaming Demon asked him a question that hinted something interesting.

"Do you know the meaning behind our titles?"

[Chapter 670 670. Devastation](#)

The title "Divine Demon" carried a distinct meaning, but Noah had never questioned himself about that of the other twelve Demons.

Every organization had its customs, and the unorthodox sects of the Papral nation took pride in being labeled as "demons".

Noah had never given much importance to the matter since their titles didn't seem to mean anything.

Only Dreaming Demon acted somewhat in line with her name.

Yet, her question stated that there was something else.

The Demons didn't speak anymore after that question, and Noah simply followed them as he waited for an explanation.

There was some expectation inside him though.

The heroic assets of the Hive were all busy during that period, and they wouldn't waste time on something that wasn't important.

Of course, Noah had immediately thought about possible rewards.

The four of them walked through the azure corridors to reach another large underground area.

There were many shining lines on the surface of that rocky terrain, and Noah was able to notice some similarities with those seen during his first encounter with Chasing Demon.

That was the personal training area of the Patriarch of the Hive!

Noah saw the refined figure of the automaton inside that area.

Thirty-seven seemed focused entirely on analyzing the vast array while his long, ethereal hair remained fixed on his back.

He didn't notice the arrival of the four heroic cultivators, his whole being seemed immersed in the study of those shining lines.

"I've tasked him to improve all the formations of the Hive, starting from my training area. He will have access to one page of Master's technique with each possible improvement or flaws that he finds."

Chasing Demon said as he led the group toward one side of the room.

The Demons showed traces of worry in their expression, and confusion appeared on Noah's face when those words resounded in the hall.

They didn't care about the well-being of the automaton, but they didn't understand how Chasing Demon could let someone modify his cultivation technique so easily.

The Patriarch didn't fail to notice those expressions and quickly explained further.

"I'll just make him point out flaws and describe possible approaches on how to solve them. Yet, I will use my methods to improve it. Don't worry. My individuality has always been open to the teachings of divine beings."

The two Demons could only nod at his explanation, but a strange light appeared in Noah's eyes when he understood that he might have a use for the automaton too.

'I'm still not sure if I can achieve what I want with my methods, I've yet to begin the testing phase for the next step of my individuality. However, Thirty-seven could help in pointing out paths that my limited knowledge ignores.'

Noah thought as he sat on the ground, forming a circle with the elders around him.

His original plan was to create a darkness element that was only his, but that idea was still in the early stages.

He had discovered that his individuality created primary energy that he could absorb or use, meaning that he had the core material for that project.

However, he had yet to seclude himself to begin his experiments.

He didn't have any free time between the crossing through the lightning storm, the knowledge of the palace, and the social events of the Hive.

However, now he was sure that Thirty-seven might help him.

"Master gave us our titles after we became heroic cultivators. These titles reflect our battle style, techniques, or behavior, and they aren't just random names."

Dreaming Demon began to speak when the four of them were all seated in a circle.

"Master didn't fail to notice the peculiar properties of my mental energy back then, nor its drawbacks. My name is self-explaining, and I'm sorry to say that I can't teach this ability. It's something that only belongs to me."

The elder turned toward her lover after her words, and Flying Demon continued quickly continued her story.

"My name comes from my ability to fly even when I was in the human ranks, which is quite peculiar for someone with a water aptitude."

Noah listened to the elder and turned toward Chasing Demon when he saw that his story was over.

He still believed that there was a real reason behind that discussion, such powerful entities wouldn't have called him just to reveal funny anecdotes.

Chasing Demon though didn't speak, and the two Demons smirked at that sight.

"Master named him in that way because he chased after Charming Demon."

Flying Demon whispered that as he bent toward Noah and Chasing Demon limited himself to snort when his story was revealed.

Noah couldn't help but reveal a slight smile when he learnt that.

The powerhouse of the Hive, a mighty rank 6 existence, was called Chasing Demon due to his love for a fellow disciple.

Chasing Demon let the trio smile for a while before coughing a few times to restore some seriousness.

Then, his expression turned stern before beginning to speak.

"Noah, your execution of the mission has been spectacular. You've retrieved the rests of both Charming and Enduring demon sect, while also bringing back my lost friends. There is nothing that the Hive won't do for you at this point."

Chasing Demon's tone was solemn as he officially listed his feats.

"Yet, there isn't much that the Hive can do at your stage. The world knows that you're a rare talent, and the three big nations won't sell any darkness spell to us. We can only give you part of the sect's knowledge, hoping that it can inspire you in creating your methods."

The Patriarch took a few scrolls from his space-ring at that point.

"These are some of the techniques of the demon sects. We have worked in the last period to transcribe them, and I've even had to contact an external inscription master to put into lines those that we had memorized."

Noah quickly took the scrolls and began to analyze them.

The descriptions on the sides explained the origin and the usage of those spells and techniques.

They even mentioned the pieces of information lost during their transcription.

There was the body-nourishing method of the Enduring demon sect retrieved from the corpse of the slave, the techniques of the Charming demon sect, and even the runes of the Bleeding demon sect.

However, what caught Noah's attention the most was a spell created by the traitor.

"Are you sure you want me to have this?"

Noah asked when he saw that the spell came from the Ravaging demon sect.

"Spells and techniques are tools, and I can't deny that one from you. Also, your individuality should match it."

Chasing Demon answered without showing any trace of anger, and that was enough for Noah, who read the basic description of the spell again.

'Devastation that generates power.'