

DEMONIC 691

[Chapter 691 691. Requiremen](#)

The two Demons worked together to send Thirty-seven back inside the separate dimension at that point.

They couldn't control the automaton, but the fact that it was losing energy, coupled with a few promises, convinced him to return to the Hive.

Thirty-seven could travel through the dimension freely since he had set its structure, and he wasn't affected by its length like ordinary cultivators.

He could just travel from side to side in a matter of hours since he could directly fuse with its fabric.

That greatly helped in setting exits in strategic points since Chasing Demon couldn't just leave the headquarters of the Hive.

Flying Demon had to learn how to create entrances and exits in the years spent inside the tunnel, but it didn't take him much to achieve that with the help of the automaton.

Yet, in the end, the Hive obtained a tunnel that connected the desert in the southwestern coast with the Coral archipelago and the Udye mansion.

Noah and the two Demons followed Ian that led them in the private quarters of the powerhouse of his family.

Daniel, Octavia, and two other heroic cultivators went with them and bowed when the aged figure of a rank 5 cultivator appeared in their view.

Noah and the Demons performed polite gestures too when they saw an elderly man sitting in the middle of a hall illuminated by a multicolored light.

The elderly man had long white hair and a long white beard, but he appeared refined and full of energy.

The source of the multicolored light was a peculiar fire burning behind the cultivator.

The color of the tongues of flames changed every second in a perpetual cycle.

They would go from the brightest red color to the darkest blue shade, only to return red after passing through other colors.

The trio from the Hive could immediately understand that the cultivator used that fire to gain enlightenment on the laws of the fire element.

"The power of your family is surprising."

Dreaming Demon said after the doors of those quarters closed behind her back.

Noah couldn't help but nod internally at that compliment.

Noble families usually struggled to have heroic cultivators in their ranks, but the Udye family had five of them in the fourth rank and one in the fifth!

'This is surprising even for the strongest noble family. The other big nations are lucky that the power of the Utra nation is so fragmented.'

Noah thought as he updated his calculations concerning the assets of the other forces.

The Hive had a bit more than sixty heroic cultivators after the growth experienced in the last years and the return of the two Demons.

However, he knew that the big nations were bound to have a few hundred of them.

The Papral nation and the Utra nation didn't have a united front though, so that number didn't reflect the actual power that the Council and the Royals could unleash.

"Please, my family isn't worthy of your compliments when it failed to achieve the same feats of the archipelago. I'm Amos Udye, and I officially welcome you to my family. May our plan benefit us both."

Amos stood up to perform a bow after he said those words, and some of the nobles in the room showed complex expressions at that sight.

Their family had asked the help of the Hive, which was renowned for being the house of traitors and criminals.

Also, Amos had bowed toward Noah too, who was more than famous for his crimes against the nobility.

The end justified the means, but some of those nobles weren't happy to see what they considered criminals receive so much respect.

Of course, Noah and the Demons simply ignored the reactions of the rank 4 cultivators and neared Amos.

It didn't matter what those nobles thought.

They would still be stronger than them.

"How is the situation? Do we have a target already?"

Dreaming Demon asked when the trio reached Amos.

She was the politest of the three and the most refined too, so she would obviously be in charge of those negotiations.

"Yes, we have prepared a detailed map."

Amos waved his hand, and a table that had the map of the Utra nation drawn on its surface appeared among them.

The other nobles neared the table, and the nine heroic cultivators in the room simply gathered around it, waiting for more explanations.

"The Utra nation has twelve large-size families, thirty-three medium-size families, and fifty small-size families still inside its borders. The arrival of the new continent has deeply modified the previous political environment, and the Royals didn't hesitate to exploit that event to their needs."

The trio from the Hive nodded when Amos began to explain, but only Noah could understand how deeply the situation had changed there.

'There used to be far more noble families in the past. I bet that most of them have moved in the new continent or pledged loyalty to the Royals in these years.'

Noah thought, without moving his gaze from the map.

His eyes wandered on the southern part of the nation, where the Balvan mansion was.

Even the Demons were busy memorizing the map.

The separate dimension required precise calculations to avoid mistakes in placing the exits, which was why the Hive had to wait for the Udye family before appearing in its mansion.

"We should take out the small-size families still loyal to the Royals and then move to the medium-size ones."

Flying Demon said at some point, and Amos could only nod at his words before pointing toward one of the small dots on the map.

"This is the Carner family, and it only has one incomplete heroic cultivator in its ranks. We have already planned a safe road-"

"No need, we just need to know the exact location."

Flying Demon's interrupted Amos's phrase, and the latter showed an expressionless face at that gesture.

It was clear that the Hive intended to use its methods during that battle and that it wanted to keep them a secret from the Cause.

Yet, the Udye family couldn't just open the doors of the Utra nation to an enemy nation.

The Cause would just exchange one ruler for another at that point.

To tell the truth, the Hive had no interest in that territory.

It just wanted to plunder as many resources as it could, while also weakening one enemy.

However, the Udye family couldn't be sure of that, and it had to take as many precautions as it could in that matter.

Amos remained silent for a while before giving voice to his conditions.

"My family will provide all the information that you need, but you must take Daniel with you."

"Impossible."

Dreaming Demon quickly rejected Amos' offer, but the latter took out a token that radiated the power of the fifth rank before adding a few words.

"Bind him to an oath, but take him with you. The Cause won't be on your side if you refuse even this small requirement."

[Chapter 692 692. Experience](#)

'They are scared.'

Noah thought when he saw that Amos was willing to use an oath in the fifth rank just to include Daniel in their team.

Flying Demon shot a glance toward his lover, but Dreaming Demon just shook her head.

The Hive couldn't trust such an inscribed item so quickly, and it wasn't ready to reveal the existence of the separate dimension to the world.

The tunnel was the perfect tool to ambush enemies without leaving any trace, and the elders were sure that they could use it to take advantage of certain situations.

Yet, they also needed the information of the Udye family to know the exact layout of the Utra nation.

"We'll need to inspect it."

Dreaming Demon said after a short moment of silence.

Both Amos and the group from the Hive were hesitant, but the latter didn't strictly need to complete that task.

On the other hand, the Cause would be powerless against the assets of the Elbas family without the help of the fourth force in the Mortal Lands.

One side had to take a leap of faith, but the Hive didn't need to be that side.

In the end, Amos handed the token to Dreaming Demon, and she gave it to her lover, who returned to the garden.

One of the nobles accompanied him, but Flying Demon simply disappeared inside the separate dimension, carrying the token with him.

The other cultivators waited in silence for his return, but Noah and the elder knew that it would take at least half an hour for their companion to contact Thirty-seven and make him analyze the token.

There were ways to break oaths, and the automaton had to make sure that there wasn't a method prepared beforehand.

Noah continued to study the map during that silence, and he completely ignored the curious glances that Daniel, Ian, and Octavia shot toward him.

The fact that Noah had reached the liquid stage in those few years was just one of the many surprises that his figure hid.

His body had reached the fifth rank, and there seemed to be an incredible amount of energy contained in it.

Also, his mental sphere was far more potent than before, and even Amos was surprised to notice that it was nearing the peak of the fourth rank.

All of that while Noah wasn't even sixty.

Daniel didn't even try to probe Noah with his mental energy since the latter was surrounded by a sharp aura that threatened to destroy everything that came near him.

That alone made him realize that Noah had increased the distance between them even further.

'Asking about the Balvan mansion is easy, but how do I learn more about the Ballor family without making them suspect anything?'

Noah thought as he pondered about that issue.

Almost everyone in the world knew about his hatred toward his family, but only the elders were aware of his relationship with June.

Noah wanted to keep it that way for now since they had both agreed on that part, but he still wanted to find a way to see her.

However, the branch of the Ballor family was on the new continent, so he couldn't be sure that the Udye family knew its exact position now.

'I wonder if I can use Daniel for that.'

Noah continued to think in silence until the doors of Amos' training area opened again, and Flying Demon returned to the meeting.

His simple nod was enough to confirm that the token was fine and that they could take Daniel with them.

Of course, the Demons didn't hold back in their conditions.

Daniel would be able to talk about the results obtained, but the oath would force him to keep everything else a secret.

The conditions covered the discussions that he heard during their missions too, meaning that Noah and the elders could even speak freely in his presence.

Amos didn't care about those strict conditions, and Daniel seemed quite eager to join the group.

After all, the Udye family only needed to know that the Hive wasn't planning something behind their backs.

They would never dare to scheme against an organization that had a rank 6 existence in its lead.

Amos revealed the coordinates of the Carner family when Daniel sealed the oath, and the four of them immediately returned to the separate dimension after that.

"How did you obtain something like that?"

Daniel asked when the insides of the tunnel appeared in his view.

Noah and the Demons didn't answer him and simply turned their gazes toward the ethereal man that was taking form on the brown ground.

Thirty-seven already knew what he had to do.

He flew toward the noble and began to analyze him thoroughly.

Daniel was initially surprised by that sudden event, but the cold gazes of the three heroic cultivators next to him forced him to stay still.

"He's clear, and the oath will cover everything."

Thirty-seven returned inside the fabric of the dimension after he said that, and Daniel could finally relax at those words.

"I don't understand why did they send you. This is not exactly a training mission."

Flying Demon complained as soon as the automaton disappeared, but Noah quickly solved his doubt.

"He has a light aptitude. He is the banner of the Cause."

Daniel wanted to retort, but Dreaming Demon had even sharper comments about that matter.

"I see. Your family hopes that you can start to resemble our Prince. Good luck with that."

The two Demons were unaware of the details behind the Udye family.

They only knew that it was the most powerful noble family outside of the control of the Royals.

Yet, now they understood that there had to be some sort of relationship between Noah and Daniel.

"I won't become like him. I just need experience."

Daniel answered, and Flying Demon could only shake his head at that reply.

Daniel was older than Noah, but he had lived a comfortable life.

His family had trained him well and provided him with everything he needed, but he was aware that he was lacking in many aspects.

"Do what you want. However, you must make yourself useful since you joined our group. You'll help the human assets in clearing the Carner mansion while I take care of the fake heroic cultivator."

Noah ordered as he moved toward the north of the dimension.

The Hive had the coordinates of the Carner family, but it still had to make the dimension reach the area under it, and Daniel couldn't see them doing that.

The oath prevented him from speaking about what he learnt there, but he could still use that knowledge to plan strategies in the future.

So, he couldn't learn how it worked.

"Wait! I can help you. Why should I fight against human cultivators?"

Daniel complained, but a pair of cold gazes landed on his figure when he questioned Noah's orders.

The Demons instinctively felt angry when they saw Daniel's lack of respect, but Noah's next words made them reveal a smirk and relax the pressure that they were radiating.

"Because I say so."

[Chapter 693 693. Raid](#)

Daniel could only obey Noah's orders in that situation.

His role was simply to report the Hive's achievement to the Cause so that the latter's forces would know that the Ultra nation wouldn't be taken away from them.

As for the strategies and the methods, they were in the Hive's hands.

Flying Demon led Daniel through one of the branches of the tunnel, where he found a series of hooded human cultivators camping on the barren ground.

They were the forces previously prepared by the Hive and teleported through the entrance placed in the Coral archipelago.

Moving from the southwestern coast of the new continent to the old one would simply take too long, so the entrance on the islands was a strategic checkpoint.

The Hive could just teleport its human assets in the archipelago and deploy them inside the separate dimension from there to shorten their travel.

Yet, some elders were already building specific formations inside the dimension to solve that issue.

They just didn't have time to do it until then.

Thirty-seven's teachings were too valuable, especially for heroic cultivators that had never gained access to inscription methods.

The Hive had chosen to prioritize its power rather than the layout of the dimension.

Meanwhile, Noah and Dreaming demon focused on stretching the tunnel toward the coordinates provided by the Udye family.

The process was slow, but they had become used to it by then.

Also, Dreaming Demon had tuned some of her peculiar mental waves to exploit the weaknesses of the dimension in that period, which considerably quickened its enlargement.

Daniel felt tremors spreading through the structure of the dimension while he was with the human assets, but he couldn't understand what Noah and the elder were up to from his position.

Two weeks had to pass before the group managed to reach their destination, and Noah directly contacted Flying Demon at that point.

"Today's mission is simple: Kill every cultivator, and seize every resource. Don't leave anything behind, or you'll be in the frontline in the next war."

Noah gave voice to those orders when the human assets gathered in the spot right under the Carner family.

Flying Demon was busy placing the door to the outside world, and Noah was using that time to instruct the troops about the task.

The key was to kill anyone witnessing their arrival and to take care of the higher-ups of the family.

The human assents under him showed resolute auras after his words.

The Demon Prince would personally lead them into a mission.

There wasn't a higher honor in the minds of those rank 3 cultivators.

Also, they were elites chosen due to their achievements in the training grounds in the new continent, so they had always known that a chance to show their prowess would come.

"We are ready."

Flying Demon said, and Noah nodded at him while landing on the newly built array.

Daniel and the human assets followed him, and the light of the teleportation soon enveloped their figures.

The coordinates provided by the Udye family were so accurate that Flying Demon managed to place the door right at the center of the Carner mansion.

Nobles had a fair number of traditions that could be exploited, and one of them saw them placing their training rooms or halls right at the center of their mansions.

The Patriarch of the Carner family was lazily training with the fourth Kesier rune inside his quarters when he saw shining lines appearing on the reinforced floor of the room.

His surprise quickly turned into fear when he saw a group of twenty or so hooded figures appearing right above the array.

Yet, he didn't even have the time to muster his strength since a hand suddenly filled his field of view.

Noah's alertness was at its peak since he entered the formation, and Lord Carner's presence didn't escape his senses when he resurfaced.

Instants were vital in a battle between heroic cultivators, but Lord Carner only had a rank 4 dantian in the gaseous stage.

Also, his mind was in the third rank, which put him far behind Noah's reaction time.

Lord Carner didn't even feel pain when the hand reached him, his vision simply went dark in less than an instant.

He didn't even feel that his head had been turned into a pulp.

Daniel stared at Noah's hooded figure with wide eyes.

He hadn't been able to follow Noah's movements, but the latter had killed the strongest cultivator of a small-size noble family in the time that he took him to notice his action.

However, the human cultivators around him began to move, and that forced him to suppress his amazement to join them in the raid.

Screams and shouts echoed through the mansion as the troops from the Hive spread through its corridors and rooms.

Noah didn't move from the training area, but simply seized the dantian and the rings of the dead Patriarch and waited for everyone to regroup.

He didn't believe that the Elbas family would be able to blame the Hive since there wasn't any proof of its movements, but Noah still wanted to avoid leaving traces of the darkness element when he could.

'I obtain the same amount of nourishment from peak rank 4 magical beasts. These nobles...'

Noah sighed when he felt the amount of energy absorbed by his body after he ate Lord Carner's dantian.

Small-size families were way too weak for his level, and the less powerful of them could even lack complete heroic cultivators.

'Taking them down with these preparations is simply too easy. However, things might become troublesome once we move to medium-size families.'

Noah thought as he stored the corpse of the Patriarch when he sensed that his troops were already regrouping in his position.

There were exceptions in the political system of the Utra nation, and the Ballor family was an example of that.

June's family had two heroic cultivators even if it was considered a small-size family.

That amount of power came from the fact that the Ballors had declined over time.

They didn't have the wealth to be considered a medium-size family, but they were still far more potent than the Carner family.

The same was true for large-size families that had declined.

The Hive would have to face nobles without enough wealth to reach a higher social status, but with enough assets that matched it.

'The Ballors live near the Capital, so I can't discover their position from the outside world. Still, I might be able to do something for the Balvans. The only issue is that I don't know how powerful the Shosti family is.'

Plans and schemes surged in Noah's mind as the human assets and Daniel returned to the central area.

Their black, hooded robes were covered in blood, and Noah was even able to notice that Daniel was wearing a sour expression under his hood.

However, Noah ignored the matter and activated the array that brought them back inside the separate dimension.

[Chapter 694 694. Indifference](#)

The two Demons waited for the group to leave the formation before launching attacks on the barren ground of the dimension.

The shining lines just created fell apart under the might of two rank 5 cultivators, and any trace of the door disappeared on the outside world alongside them.

Creating doors that worked both as entrances and exits required a series of precious materials.

Still, the Hive was confident in covering those expenses with the resources plundered in the attack.

Also, losing money wasn't a problem for the Hive since the elders knew that they would start to make some real gains only when their assault started to target medium-size families.

"They were powerless."

Daniel whispered as he lowered his hood.

It was clear that he didn't like joining the human assets in the raid.

Killing human cultivators while being in the heroic ranks was simply too easy, and having to do that had affected his morale.

Leaders would often forget the cruelty of the slaughters among the pawns, and Daniel didn't ever experience it before.

The chaos of the battlefields was something that Daniel couldn't possibly know due to his lofty status, but that wasn't the most disturbing aspect of the raid in his mind.

That battle had made him feel for the first time that a human life wasn't so important.

His thoughts were enough to kill the human assets of the Carner family, and his role had forced him to take care of any escaping soldier or cultivator.

That experience affected his view of the world, and some parts of him began to understand the reason behind Noah's past actions.

Life was worthless unless there was enough power backing it.

Daniel had taken a glance at that mindset, and he was finding it hard to understand how he felt about that.

There was the Cause on one side, and what he believed was the behavior that a cultivator should have on the other.

That contrast left him confused, but Noah didn't care about his mental state enough to slow down their plans.

"Let's return to the Udye family and reorganize. You stay here and wait for further orders."

Noah ordered, and the two Demons immediately followed him after the human assets gave their gains to the trio.

Daniel took a while to notice that they were moving, but he chased after them when he saw that they were leaving him behind.

Of course, Noah didn't assign that role to Daniel on purpose.

He simply wanted to remain alone when he seized the dantians of the heroic cultivators, but the Udye family wanted Daniel to witness the attacks.

Killing the human cultivators was the only available role, so Noah had tasked him with that.

The raids were supposed to be a real-life training for the troops of the Hive, but Daniel's presence eased the already low difficulty of that task.

However, even though Noah noticed that Daniel's mind was going through some changes, he didn't care enough to ponder about it.

He didn't care that his casual decision was forcing Daniel's mindset to improve.

The news of the assault on the Carner family soon reached the medium-size family that controlled it.

The situation was strange since no trace of the assailants could be found around the mansion.

All the cultivators present during the assault had simply been killed, and most of their resources had been seized.

Also, Lord Carner couldn't be found anywhere, and there were only traces of his blood left inside his training area.

Worry mounted among the medium-size family's ranks, which immediately notified the large-size family in that domain.

There weren't many forces that could attack and destroy a noble family without triggering the defenses of its mansion, nor that had the power to do so.

Actually, there were only two powers that could do something like that in the Utra nation: The Royals and a stronger noble family!

Those speculations led to the only known conflict in that nation, and the name "Cause" often appeared during those investigations.

However, another small-size noble family saw its destruction just three weeks after the Carner family.

That family wasn't even in the same region of the Carners, but it experienced a similar raid, and the corpse of its Patriarch had disappeared too.

One time could be an isolated incident, but twice in three weeks hinted to some sort of conspiracy.

Yet, the Elbas family didn't intervene even at that point and simply relegated the matter to the loyal large-size noble families still inside the Utra nation.

Noah and the elders purposely held back their offensive for an entire month after their second attack, but they could only be pleased when they learnt that the Royals didn't want to interfere.

'Elder Austin was right. They have already lost any interest in this land.'

Noah thought when the Udye family updated them about that matter.

Destabilizing a nation was a slow matter that had to be approached carefully.

Also, the Hive always had to make sure not to leave any trace.

After all, the big nations couldn't allow for an ability like the separate dimension to remain in the enemy's hands.

Nevertheless, Noah and the elders were set on continuing their raids as long as no one started to blame them.

Ten more small-size families fell in the following months.

Noah kept on taking care of the leaders in the heroic ranks, and Daniel continued to oversee the work of the human assets.

There were times when the doors didn't lead the group directly in the training areas of the patriarchs and matriarchs, but Noah's awareness prevented any problem from appearing.

He always had to face cultivators at the bottom of the fourth rank or that weren't even complete heroic existences.

They didn't even have the time to react to the invasion, so there was very little that they could do when a hybrid in the fifth rank shot toward them during their surprise.

The other families decided to take harsh countermeasures when the twelfth small-size noble family fell, and they couldn't find any trace of the culprits.

The remaining weak nobles were forced to move their mansions next to the medium-size families that controlled them, which gathered the heroic assets in the Utra nation.

That put a stop to the Hive's offensive since it couldn't find easy targets anymore.

"Why aren't they acting? Don't they care about their credibility?"

"I don't know, Prince. I think we are past the point where they can pretend not to care."

"Which means that they are up to something."

Noah, Dreaming Demon, and Flying Demon said as they reviewed the situation of the Utra nation inside the separate dimension.

The fact that the Elbas family didn't act was good for them, but the complete lack of reactions was starting to bother them.

Then, Noah decided that it was time to take the raids to the next step at that point.

"Let's force their hands."

The Demons showed cold smiles when Noah gave that order.

They knew that their time had come.

[Chapter 695 695. Royal Inheritance](#)

There was something that the other big nations couldn't possibly know about the Elbas family, and that was the Royal Inheritance in the Nerere country.

The Hive knew about it thanks to Noah, but it couldn't affect that matter even as the fourth force in the Mortal Lands.

The exact location of the inheritance had been kept a secret for all those years, which prevented the Hive from seizing it through the separate dimension.

Yet, the Elbas family had never stopped trying to retrieve it even during the matters in the new continent.

June had always been a core part of the exploration team, but she discovered that a new teammate had been added to her party after the winged beasts' crisis.

To her surprise, that new entry was her lover's grandfather, Thomas Balvan!

What was even more surprising was that his dantian had reached the fifth rank!

He wasn't a complete rank 5 cultivator though since his mind was still in the fourth rank.

June immediately felt the need to warn Noah at that sight, but they had decided not to have any form of contact that could reveal the nature of their relationship before their separation.

After all, they didn't know how thoroughly the Royals would have investigated June, so it was better not to leave any trace.

Thomas' arrival quickened the exploration of the Royal Inheritance, and his might allowed the exploration group to reach its end in a few years.

The party had been disbanded and rewarded accordingly when it delivered the reward of the inheritance to the Elbas family.

Still, even the Elbas family ignored the nature of the item retrieved in the last layer of the tower.

The Royals had directly brought the item in the new continent to study it since they were already moving part of their most valuable assets there.

Those studies had also taken some years, and the Elbas family could uncover the nature of that item only some time after the events with the black flowers.

What they discovered claimed even the attention of King Elbas, and the Royals could only disregard the fact that small-size noble families were being destroyed right under their nose at that point.

There was a series of large structures built among the spiked roots on the eastern side of the new continent.

A series of powerful formations prevented any unauthorized cultivator from entering that place, but most heroic assets under the Elbas family's banner could access it nonetheless.

That was the new academy that the Royals had completed after the crisis of the winged beast, and all its experts were loyal nobles.

The arrival of the new continent had given to the Elbas family the chance to fix the issue of the fragmented power of the Utra nation.

The Royals could simply place conditions to whoever wanted to migrate, which forced even some of the nobles loyal to the Cause to switch sides.

It couldn't be helped, the new continent opened the path to many possibilities, and it would obviously be the focus of any organization in the future.

The old continent had been exploited for too long, while the piece of Immortal Lands still had an environment that vastly surpassed the standards of the Mortal Lands.

There were a few areas inside the new academy though that only those carrying the blood of the Elbas family could reach.

A series of rank 4 and 5 cultivators had gathered in one of those restricted areas a few months after Noah led the raid in the twelfth small-size family.

All those cultivators had golden hair, but the brightness of their color changed depending on how pure their bloodline was.

There were five cultivators with silver hair in front of that group, and all the Royals in the room were keeping their heads lowered toward the crowned man floating above them.

"Repeat the outcome of the tests once again."

King Elbas said, and one of the five silver-haired cultivators immediately stepped forward before listing a series of data.

"Out of fifty rank 4 cultivators in the gaseous stage, twenty-five of them have reached the liquid stage after seven years of meditation inside the pool. The others died during the process, and the pool fed on their power to keep working."

King Elbas didn't show any reaction when he heard those words, but his gaze became more intense as he looked at the reward of the inheritance that had been moved at the bottom of that area.

The item was a fuming pool that radiated an eerie aura, and that contained a murky, oily liquid.

There wasn't any inscription on it, which was why it had taken years to study it.

"Drawbacks?"

King Elbas asked, and the same silver-haired cultivator promptly gave him a detailed answer.

"We can only make suggestions for now, but the dantians of all those cultivators were tainted during the prolonged immersion. There should be some potential lost in the process. Still, the breakthroughs aren't affected by the stagnation of the center of power."

"Limits to the effects?"

"It should work on rank 5 cultivators, but we have yet to test it. We were thinking about blaming some of the large-size families in the old continent for the recent chaos, but we wanted your approval before proceeding."

The silver-haired cultivator answered each of King Elbas' questions without the slight trace of hesitation, but the latter fell silent at that point.

No one in the room dared to speak while the leader of the Royal family thought.

"Leave it. The Mortal Lands will need all the available assets in the next years. You all should prepare too. Political borders will soon lose their importance."

The five silver-haired cultivators showed excited expressions when they heard those words, but the Royals behind them didn't understand the meaning behind King Elbas' words.

King Elbas disappeared from that room at that point, and the heroic assets there relaxed when their Patriarch left.

Their questioning gazes though went on the silver-haired cultivators since they were the only ones that could explain the plans of their leader.

"King Elbas has worked on an ambitious project for a while by now. The appearance of the black flower might have finalized his research."

Gasps and resounded in the room when one of the silver-haired cultivators explained the situation.

Still, a mental message reached their inscribed notebooks at the same time before they could disperse.

Another series of surprised gasps echoed through the air since the message stated that a medium-size noble family and the small-size ones near it had been destroyed.

[Chapter 696 696. Peak](#)

"That wasn't satisfying at all."

Flying Demon exclaimed when he and Dreaming Demon reappeared on the teleportation matrix inside the separate dimension.

Noah was training right next to the array, and he didn't fail to notice that there was a third figure together with the two elders.

Dreaming Demon was carrying an unconscious woman, and her robes revealed her identity as a noble.

Also, the woman was a rank 4 cultivator in the gaseous stage!

"Noah, we plundered everything that we could, but most resources have been destroyed in the attack. Yet, we captured her. A heroic cultivator should be worth quite a lot."

Flying Demon said as he smirked when he pointed at the fainted noble.

However, Noah already had another plan for her.

He didn't limit himself to enlarge his sea of consciousness through the wills of the magical beasts because they were more effective, but because the political situation didn't allow him to hunt heroic cultivators.

Also, he wasn't able to kill heroic cultivators without maiming their bodies.

The patriarchs and matriarchs killed during the raids would lose too much blood after Noah's attacks, which made unsuitable for the Body-inscription spell.

Yet, the two Demons had managed to capture one of them alive!

"The noble families must have understood by now that we can't be stopped so easily. They should move in the next months."

Dreaming Demon explained, but Noah had already stopped caring about the matters concerning the outside world.

His mental sphere had almost reached the peak of the fourth rank, and that noble could push it through those last steps.

It was needless to say that he simply requested her.

"I'll take her. She might be useful for my training."

Noah said, and the elders showed interested expressions before handing the fainted noble to him.

"My mental waves are forcing her to sleep. She won't wake up even if you take her life."

Dreaming Demon warned Noah before destroying the array and flying toward the rest of the group together with her lover.

The last assault saw the forces of the Hive attacking a medium-size noble family surrounded by four small-size families that had moved to create a united front against the mysterious assailants.

Their force amounted to five rank 4 cultivators who weren't assets that Noah could take on stealthy and quickly.

His current prowess made him able to fight them at the same time, but that alone wasn't suitable for the strategy of the Hive.

The assaults had to be quick and effective, and there was no room for long battles.

So, only the two Demons had the power to kill the heroic assets while also meeting the requirements of the raids.

Of course, their presence prevented the other troops from joining the battlefield since they would just die in the crossfire.

Their performance had been incredible nonetheless, and they had managed to destroy those families while also seizing many resources.

Noah moved toward one of the areas of the dimension that he usually used as a training spot.

It wasn't easy to find a private place since the dimension didn't have anything in its environment that could block the view of the other cultivators.

Yet, Noah had expanded the tunnel downward in that period to create a few small but secluded caves.

The group from the Hive had been under the Ultra nation for a year by then, and the tunnel had become far more intricate as the raids continued.

Human cultivators could train in the open, but Noah and the elders needed a private space to handle their situations.

Noah had his experiments, and the Demons needed some intimacy now and then, so private spaces were a necessity.

Noah carefully tore the side of the noble's neck as he began the preparation for the Body-inscription spell.

That was his first time performing the spell to a human, but he didn't intend to create a Blood companion.

'The will of a human should be far stronger than that of a magical beast!'

Noah thought as excitement mounted inside him.

He had trained his mind like a madman in the last years, but the enlargement of his mental sphere kept on slowing down as it improved.

The time required to take more steps increased as the peak of the rank drew near.

However, Noah was confident in shortening the process by using that noble.

Noah completed the preparations for the spell without imbuing any specific meanings in the blood and dantian of the woman.

The heroic cultivator died in the process, but she had already lost her value in Noah's mind.

Saber-shaped runes came out of his hand and took a humanoid shape as they floated in the air.

Noah added as many details as he could to the picture since he didn't know the requirements of the spell when it came to humans.

Then, he manipulated the runes to injure his chest when they reached a satisfying level of power.

Noah quickly spread the noble's blood in his wounds and ate her dantian before focusing on the insides of his mental sphere.

The ethereal figure of the noble rose from the sea inside his mind, but she didn't seem to have any trace of intelligence.

Instead, she radiated a peculiar aura that Noah hadn't been able to sense when she was sleeping.

However, there was a limit to how much that detail interested him.

Noah directly deployed all his offensive methods and submitted the noble's ethereal figure that fell apart.

He was able to tame rank 5 magical beasts, so the will of a rank 4 mage couldn't resist him.

Nevertheless, he had to admit that the battle wasn't easy since the will managed to struggle even more than some rank 5 creatures.

It didn't have their power, but it was far denser.

Noah's brown mental energy devoured the woman's will when it fell apart, and a tremor suddenly swept the entirety of his sphere.

The walls of the sphere enlarged until they met some sort of invisible barrier that forced the expansion to a stop.

Noah opened his material eyes at that point, and he was pleasantly surprised to discover that his mind had reached the peak of the fourth rank!

'Finally! It has taken me twenty-five years.'

Noah thought as he waited for his sea of consciousness to stabilize completely.

'Human wills are denser, which is only natural since they have a mental sphere. Yet, there was that strange aura.'

The noble's aura was peculiar, and Noah couldn't help but evaluate it when the procedure was over.

However, he quickly put it in the back of his mind since everything would be more evident once he became a rank 5 mage.

[Chapter 697 697. Breakthrough](#)

The best way to push his mind over the boundary of the fourth rank was the fifth Kesier rune.

The Kesier runes were the best training method for the sea of consciousness, as well as the safest.

Noah simply made sure that his mental sphere was stable before taking the sheet containing the fifth rune and starting his training session.

The internal pressure inside his mind intensified as the details of the rune became more material, and the walls of the sphere struggled to cross the invisible barrier that blocked their expansion.

Then, the fifth Kesier rune wholly materialized inside Noah's sea of consciousness, and a stabbing pain forced him to close his consciousness to endure the tremors that its materialization caused.

A humming sound echoed inside his mind and spread in the outside world through the mental waves that he unconsciously leaked during the process.

The sound was soft and subtle, but there were two existences in the separate dimension that didn't fail to hear it.

Dreaming Demon and Flying Demon were casually enjoying their well-deserved moments of intimacy in one of the caves built under the brown ground when they sensed that sound.

They recognized that noise since it was something that their minds had experienced too in the past.

It wasn't hard to guess who had caused that echo, but they weren't able to suppress their surprise anyway.

Some eagerness rose inside them and forced them to interrupt their intercourse to move toward the source of that sound.

They wanted to see the birth of the youngest rank 5 mage in history!

The two Demons quickly wore some clothes and flew in the direction of Noah's cave.

The sound became more intense as they neared its source, and even the air around them started to be affected by the energy that Noah was unconsciously releasing.

Small pieces of matter began to crumble and release a basic form of energy whenever his mental waves turned violent.

Those events weren't able to hinder the advance of the two Demons, but even Daniel would have to struggle to near Noah's cave in that situation.

The elders reached Noah's cave in a matter of minutes, but the humming suddenly stopped when they arrived right above it.

Then, they saw the ground around it crumbling as Noah's standing figure rose in the air.

Noah had still his eyes closed as he immersed himself in the sensations that his new state was able to feel.

His consciousness seeped inside the fabric of the separate dimension and sent information back to his mind.

He sensed the two rank 5 cultivators, and he could also recognize the emotions carried by their mental waves.

He felt part of the meanings of their auras, as well as the power behind the existences causing them.

Dreaming Demon's aura was thin but also impenetrable since Noah lost control of his mental waves when they tried to reach for her figure.

Instead, they froze and fell apart when they reached for Flying Demon's figure.

Also, part of that coldness spread toward Noah's consciousness, which forced him to cut away those tainted mental waves.

Those were the innate defensive measures of the Demon's minds, which prevented any weaker being from investigating the nature of their centers of power.

Noah stopped focusing on the world around him at that point and redirected his mental energy toward the inscriptions on his sea of consciousness.

What he felt at that moment couldn't be expressed by simple words.

The inscriptions shone with a blinding light that enveloped the insides of Noah's sphere with their halo.

Countless ideas filled Noah's thoughts, and most of them concerned his two inscription methods.

Some thoughts concerned his cultivation technique and individuality too, and even new concepts on how to improve his spells appeared seemingly out of nowhere.

Nevertheless, the most crucial feature of his new state was that his mental energy now carried characteristics of his individuality!

Noah sensed how his mental waves could affect the matter around him and unleash destructive effects identical to those created with his liquid "Breath".

Of course, the amount of destruction that his mental energy was capable of unleashing was inferior to that of his "Breath" since it was a weaker form of energy.

Yet, the fact that even his other center of power had begun to radiate his individuality made him feel as if he was slowly becoming a different kind of existence.

"Understanding the individuality, expressing the individuality, wielding the laws, and becoming a law." Dreaming Demon spoke while Noah was still focused on becoming used to his new state.

Her words though claimed his attention and made him open his eyes for the first time after the breakthrough.

Noah's vertical pupils radiated a sharp pressure as they moved toward the elder, and the blue color of his irises shone due to the power wielded by his mind.

The two elders weren't affected by the pressure exuded by his gaze, but it was evident that Noah wasn't in the condition to stay near human cultivators.

"These are the four phases that cultivators have to cross as they strive for the divinity. Congratulations, Prince, you have just stepped in the second phase." Dreaming Demon explained, and Noah nodded at her words.

He already had a vague understanding of the matters that concerned the heroic ranks, but he also knew that his path was somewhat different.

His cultivation technique had allowed him to become aware of his individuality far sooner compared to other heroic cultivators, and his body carried properties that his new mind was still analyzing.

Noah felt the pride hidden inside his figure and the ability to rule over weaker beings buried inside his bloodline.

'I have so much to do.' Noah thought as he tried to condense his consciousness to prevent his natural pressure from leaking.

"Let's observe the reactions of the nobles for a while. I'm almost ready to make my move on the Balvan family, but I need to prepare for eventual countermeasures provided by the Royals. Also, I would need your help in the assault." Noah said as he landed on the reforming terrain.

He sensed for the first time the trail of the "Breath" used to power the functioning of the separate dimension.

Still, he didn't linger too much on that detail since he needed to instruct the Demons before secluding himself to focus on his new power.

"Ask Amos to investigate the current state of my family while I'm busy. We need to be ready for everything." Noah ordered, but he suddenly remembered something that concerned his training. "Right. Do you have the sixth Kesier rune at hand? I don't want to wait for the Hive to send it here."

The elders' eyes widened when they heard that question, and they exchanged a confused glance at that point.

Noah didn't understand the reason behind that action, but Dreaming Demon quickly hinted something with her question. "Prince, how many sixth Kesier runes do you think there are in the Mortal Lands?"

[Chapter 698 698. Scarcity](#)

Dreaming Demon's question hinted something that Noah didn't fail to understand.

The sixth Kesier rune was a rank 6 item even if rank 5 mages used it.

Its rarity was akin to rank 6 techniques and methods, which meant that there couldn't possibly be many copies of it in the Mortal Lands.

However, Chasing Demon was a complete rank 6 cultivator, so Noah was reasonably sure that he had it.

"Ten?" Noah tried to answer, but Flying Demon's snort made him understand that he was quite off from the truth.

Dreaming Demon decided to explain. "Fourth Kesier runes are quite common in the world because there are many experts able to copy them. Yet there are less than a hundred copies of the fifth Kesier rune around, and maybe five of the sixth one."

Noah couldn't help but be surprised when he heard those words.

Still, he was able to understand the reasoning behind that explanation.

Every organization that wanted to strive for power wanted the fourth Kesier runes to nurture their human assets.

So, they would just invest a lot of resources to purchase copies and build a vast stash of them.

There weren't many experts in the inscriptions' fields able to copy an item in the fourth rank, but even that small number was enough to supply the most powerful organizations.

Of course, that changed as the rank of the item rose.

Only experts in the fifth rank specialized in that field could copy the fifth Kesier rune, and most of them were busy striving for the higher ranks.

After all, why would they use their time to create training methods that only other cultivators could use?

There had been the necessity to do that during the worldwide hunt of the Kesier species.

Still, that had happened far in the past, and the organizations that had witnessed that event had long disappeared.

Copying the Kesier runes was considered a lost art since they weren't a necessity back then.

However, many millennia had gone by, and the number of sheets in the world had inevitably decreased.

Some cultivators would just carry them when they ascended in the higher plane, but most of them had simply been lost in the various danger zones or on some battlefields.

That led to the current situation where the available Kesier runes weren't enough to satisfy the high number of cultivators.

"When did you obtain the fifth Kesier rune?" Noah asked the two Demons when he understood how harsh the situation was.

"Rather quickly. After all, the demon sects were one of the ruling forces of the Papral nation back then. Yet, it still took me sixty years to become a rank 5 mage." Flying Demon answered before moving his gaze toward his lover.

Dreaming Demon smiled before answering. "I had to work on my individuality for a while before focusing on my sea of consciousness. I reached the fifth rank in forty years, but I was already a rank 5 cultivator by then."

Flying Demon showed a proud expression at her words, but Noah could only fall deep in thought at that point.

He knew that cultivators trained their minds for last, which always put them decades behind the rank of their dantians.

Yet, he had needed less than thirty years to reach that level!

The reasons for that achievement were apparent in his mind.

His cultivation technique was the most evident reason apart from the incredible sturdiness of his mind and his early advantage.

Noah didn't need to spend time focused on absorbing "Breath", which allowed him to focus solely on his mind.

Also, he spent his days pushing his mental sphere to its limits even after he was done with the Kesier rune.

The constant usage of the Divine deduction technique, his experiments with the inscription methods, the translation of his spells, and the devouring ability of his mental energy pushed his training speed to unseen limits.

He was spending every second of his life enlarging his mind!

Ordinary cultivators would divide their days between the training of their centers of power and would even neglect their minds, but Noah was the total opposite.

"Sixty years, rank 5 mage. Prince, there are no words to describe this achievement." Dreaming Demon added when she saw that Noah had fallen silent.

Noah simply ignored her compliment and brought the discussion back on the previous topic. "So, who has the sixth Kesier rune?"

"Chasing Demon has managed to salvage the one in possession of the demon sects during the escape thanks to Charming Demon. However, the rank 5 mages of the Hive are already sharing it. They exchange turns every year." Flying Demon explained the helpless situation, but he decided to add something else when he saw Noah's confused expression. "We are waiting for the previous cycle to be completed before claiming some rights over it. Meanwhile, we'll keep on using our alternative methods."

Noah's morale could only turn sour when he heard those words.

The Hive had seven rank 5 cultivators, and Noah would have to wait years for his turn even if some of them were still rank 4 mages.

That was troublesome, especially for him, since his mind had always been a core part of his superior battle prowess.

Also, his Demonic form spell used the Kesier runes.

Learning about the state of the Mortal Lands though made him wonder about another aspect of that field that he had never considered before.

Noah asked. "What about the seventh Kesier rune? How does a cultivator reach divinity without it?"

The two Demons could only shake their heads at that question.

The seventh Kesier rune was a divine item, which meant that it couldn't exist in the Mortal Lands.

The elders didn't need to explain that detail since it was an obvious conclusion once learnt about the scarcity of those items.

Silence fell in the area at that point.

The joy felt for Noah's breakthrough slowly turned into helplessness toward the lack of resources of the world.

However, cultivators were resilient beings.

The Kesier runes weren't the only training method for the seas of consciousness, and Noah knew that too well.

'I might not reach the same enlargement speed given by the runes, but I can stay very close to it with my many methods. I'm not ready to give up to my advantage yet!' Noah thought as the air around him fell apart as a natural reaction to the determination that his aura radiated.

"Notify the Hive. I want my turn too. Meanwhile, our role remains the same: Destabilizing the Utra nation. Study the reaction of the nobles and prepare more tunnels for specific locations. We will attack the Balvan family next if the situation allows it." He ordered.

The elders nodded when they heard him.

They knew how important that matter was to him, so they were set on preparing the field for his vengeance.

Meanwhile, Noah simply closed his eyes to focus on his body.

His mind had finally started to understand the kind of entity that he had become when he came out of the chrysalis.

[Chapter 699 699. Information](#)

Noah had known since coming out from the chrysalis that his body hid more than just raw strength.

Magical beasts only had one center of power, which defined the kinds of existences that they were.

The breakthrough had elevated Noah's being, but he had been unable to understand how thorough that transformation was before.

However, that changed when he became a rank 5 mage.

Noah could feel how his new mind was now able to understand the many sensations that filled his body.

Raw power was the most evident feature, but there were emotions hidden deep inside his bloodline and, in general, in the kind of lifeform that he was.

The anger against Heaven and Earth and his desire to devour everything that could make him improve were feelings that he had always noticed.

Yet, his pride seemed clearer now.

There were natural features in the various species of magical beasts, and one of them was their ability to submit weaker beings.

That skill reached a broader meaning when it appeared inside Noah.

The simple ability to instill terror that magical beasts used became an intense pride when it manifested inside a hybrid.

It became pride in his status and in the power that he was able to wield.

Noah innately felt that he could use that emotion to control weaker creatures and create an obedient pack, but there was something else that occupied his thoughts at that moment.

'This pride is an expression of the natural laws and wills contained in the magical beasts' bodies.' Noah thought as his mental waves focused in a specific spot next to him to create primary energy.

He had realized long ago that the magical beasts appeared to be some sort of natural enemy of Heaven and Earth.

The matter that made their bodies didn't contain Heaven and Earth's will and worked according to laws that belonged only to their species.

Noah had discovered that during his experiments with the slaves.

The fusion wouldn't have been possible if the beasts' laws couldn't replace Heaven and Earth's since the hybrid's body would have just fallen apart without something that dictated its functioning.

Noah hadn't been able to do much with that discovery back then, but his sea of consciousness was now able to radiate the innate feelings of his body.

Noah focused his consciousness on the primary energy forming next to him.

He set his mind on his pride as a powerful hybrid, and a thick aura began to surround his figure as he tuned to that feeling.

The primary energy acted normally at the beginning, but it started to show strange behaviors as the intensity of his aura increased.

It first slowed down its natural dispersion until it completely stopped to remain still right next to him.

Noah wasn't able to wield laws, but he could try to submit that energy with his hybrid's pride!

The intensity of his aura kept on growing, but the primary energy didn't show other changes. It merely stood still as if something was containing it.

Noah tried to force it to perform plain commands, but all his efforts didn't bring any result.

Preventing it from dispersing seemed the best that he could do without laws.

'I can work with this.' Noah thought as a satisfied smile appeared on his face.

The Divine deduction technique was filling his mind with ideas on how to improve his current abilities and create new ones.

Also, it provided many inspirations that concerned his two inscription methods.

'Ambition, hunger, and now pride, the number of strong meanings at my disposal is increasing. I need to create a second rune, and I must improve my first one too.' Noah thought.

Countless possible improvements surged inside his mind, and he didn't fail to understand why cultivators on his rank spent so much time in seclusion.

It wasn't just a matter of training and meditation on the laws of their elements.

Every breakthrough opened the path to new approaches, and all the tests required to study them would take years, if not more.

Noah had the Divine deduction technique, which shortened that process significantly, but he had to spend a lot of time too if he wanted to tread the possibilities revealed by his mind.

Luckily for him, the raids on the noble families were momentarily on hold since the Demons had to study their reaction before deciding on their next move.

One medium-size family and four small-size families had been destroyed even if the nobles had grouped to form stronger fronts.

The remaining families in the Utra country would understand at that point that the assailants had peak rank 4 cultivators in their ranks at least.

That was a power that most nobles couldn't hope to oppose and that without considering the possibility that the assailants had rank 5 existences with them.

Only the largest families could have access to a similar power, but even the Udye family couldn't do anything if the two Demons were to appear inside its mansion suddenly.

Helplessness and fear spread among the nobles after the last raid.

All the families destroyed in the last year were loyal to the Royals, so the Cause became the main suspect.

However, the Elbas family simply ignored the situation, which further worsened the position of those helpless families.

Most of them felt forced to migrate to the new continent and seal new agreements with the Royals, while some of them decided to side with the Cause and remain in the Utra nation.

The recent assaults forced all the nobles to take a side even if they were still under the banner of the Elbas family on the surface.

The Hive had managed to reveal the weakness of a fragmented political system. Still, the Demons had to admit that the indifference of the Royals had played a significant role in their strategy.

Of course, there were exceptions to that event.

The Ballor family and the Royal academy, as well as other families deeply connected with the Royals, didn't migrate nor change side.

They already had branches on the new continent, so they didn't need to move their assets.

Also, their relationship with the Elbas family was the best insurance on their safety, which was one of the reasons why the Hive had focused on other targets.

The Balvan family remained on the Utra nation too, and it seemed that its influence in the area around its mansion increased.

To the surprised of the Demons though, the Udye family wasn't able to gather precise information about its location.

They couldn't possibly know that the Elbas family planned to officially recognize the Balvan family as a large-size noble family after Thomas' achievements in the Royal Inheritance.

That plan though couldn't be announced so easily since the matter of the Inheritance was a secret.

So, the Royals secretly provided a large number of resources and support while the Balvans were busy expanding.

Of course, that secrecy hindered the gathering of information that the Hive needed to prepare a battle strategy.

[Chapter 700 700. Pack](#)

The Ballor family shared the same kind of secrecy of the Balvans, and the same applied for the nobles strictly connected with the Royals.

The Elbas family usually annexed loyal families in their ranks through marriages and similar events, but some nobles liked to maintain their identity.

The Ballor family wasn't one of them, but June had no intention of marrying a Royal just for the sake of her family.

On the other hand, the Balvan family simply didn't trust the rulers of the country.

Noah had been able to thrive because the Royals wanted to add him in its ranks, and no one believed that they had simply neglected to check his identity.

Yet, they made up for that act with tons of benefits, and they had even helped Thomas in reaching the fifth rank.

Their relationship was strange, but they were allies.

Those details ultimately influenced the transformation that the Utra nation experienced after the raids.

The smaller families slowly gathered near the large-size families, creating vast empty areas that were soon occupied by bold packs of magical beasts.

The population divided itself into three crowded areas that were mostly inhabited by cultivators.

The northern side of the country saw the families loyal to the Royals moving there to stay near the capital. The defenses there were the best in the nation, and gathering there was a clear sign of subservience.

The eastern coast witnessed a similar event near the Udye family. Nobles loyal to the Cause or merely angry at the Elbas family for not handling that dangerous situation before had moved there to create a united front.

The last crowded area appeared in the southern part of the country, where the domain of the Shosti family was. The families that had moved there didn't want to choose a side even if they were inclined to

remain loyal to the Royals. Yet, they had chosen the southern territories to remain somewhat independent.

Nobles had their pride, and many of them wouldn't give up on their names to obtain some benefits.

Of course, that relocation wasn't cheap, especially since most activities handled by commoners couldn't just go with them.

The economy of the Utra nation soon took a heavy blow, but the cultivators there didn't feel it like the commoners. They found themselves without any protection against the tides of magical beasts that finally had the chance to explore those territories, which inevitably led to a high number of casualties.

The nobles didn't care about it. They only worried about the invisible threat that was destroying entire families without leaving any clue about its origin.

They didn't care if the economy of the country plummeted as long as they remained safe.

Also, the Elbas family had long since moved its focus on the new continent, so the activities on the old one weren't that remunerative in comparison.

"I don't see us reaching your family without being discovered, and Amos can't find much. It seems that the Balvans didn't reveal anything in their last years of cooperation with the Elbas family." Flying Demon said as he sat with Dreaming Demon right next to the entrance of Noah's cave.

A few months had passed since their raid on the medium-size family, and the forces of the Hive didn't have an opportunity to attack the nobles in that period.

"Noah, there are two large-size families there, and a total of thirteen weaker families. Also, the records about your family are too cryptic. There might be a lot hidden in those mansions." Flying Demon explained.

Noah heard those words but remained with his eyes closed inside his cave while the Divine deduction technique consumed mental energy to analyze the situation better.

'The large-size families didn't bring their full power here since they still have to defend their respective cities. The defenses of Mossgrove city are the only real issue.' Noah thought as his mental energy created a representation of the southern area of the nation inside his mind.

The Demons had given him many pieces of information, but there wasn't anything accurate about the Balvan family in them.

'We can't attack like this... I need to see the mansion with my own eyes before planning a move.' Noah thought.

He could only accept that as he reviewed the situation from every possible angle.

According to the Udye family, one of the two large-size families there had a hidden powerhouse in its ranks, which meant that the Demons might encounter some difficulty in taking care of them.

Also, the sheer number of heroic cultivators in that area was a problem.

Noah and the elders would be fine if they avoided the Shosti family's defenses, but someone was bound to notice them when the destruction began.

Noah couldn't reveal the presence of the Hive to obtain his revenge.

Sacrificing his backing and possibly causing a war against the Elbas family wasn't what he wanted.

His revenge was necessary in his mind, but everything would be pointless if he lost part of what was allowing him to cultivate in peace in those years.

It was his power that had brought him so close to his revenge, and he was fully aware that he would just be less than an ant without it.

'I need a distraction to gain the exact layout of my family. I should be able to use the magical beasts now.' Noah thought as he exited his cave and faced the sitting elders.

They didn't even try to hide their surprise when they saw him suddenly appearing in front of them.

After all, only a few months had passed since Noah became a rank 5 mage. That period was enough to become used to his new stage, but it was too short to tune his new power to his abilities.

They couldn't understand why he wanted to leave so soon, especially at a point when they didn't have a strategy.

"I believe there are new danger zones in the empty areas, right?" Noah asked.

The two Demons nodded, but they didn't gather specific information about that field. Even the Udye family had limited itself to study the movements of the other nobles and discarded the migration of the magical beasts in that period.

It couldn't be helped, no one would think that a cultivator could use them, especially not while the Hive was in the middle of its raids.

Yet, Noah wasn't a no one, and he didn't even know if he could consider himself as a simple cultivator anymore.

"I'll learn everything that I can from Amos. You stay ready to expand the dimension in the meantime." Noah said as he flew toward the array that connected the separate dimension with the Udye mansion.

In his mind, he was already set on building his first pack.