

DEMONIC 831

Chapter 831 831. Predict

Even if the assets of the three invading forces had specific roles to play in the battle, all of them had joined the fray and had fought against suitable opponents. However, when the inscriptions on the mountain chain lit up, the Elders of the Council stepped forward to activate a battle formation.

The battle formation resembled a dance of some sort, nothing like the forms that Noah had seen when he fought against the disciples of the Charming Demon sect. The Elders in the fifth rank moved above those in the fourth rank in a synchronized ball that formed golden platforms under each cultivator involved in that technique.

Golden lines then came out of the platforms and gave birth to a tall shield that clashed with the blue light coming out from the inscriptions on the mountain chain. It seemed that the protection had managed to stop the creation of the blue pillar by blocking the spreading of its light.

The shield eventually shattered, and the formations on the mountains went dark, signaling the failed activation of the first defensive method of that territory.

Loud cheers followed that scene, and both armies didn't hesitate to resume their battles now that the situation was safe. Noah and Countless Wings started their cycle of attacks and chase again, but the cultivator from the Empire noticed how her opponent had blood on the corners of his mouth.

Noah had used that short break to eat a few pieces of a rank 5 magical beast to refill some of the energy inside his body. That meal didn't do much since he had only suffered minor injuries during the previous exchanges, but every slight advantage mattered in a fight between rank 5 cultivators.

On the other hand, Countless Wings had to use her consciousness to stop her wounds from bleeding. After all, her missing arm and foot weren't an issue in the short-term, but they could influence the outcome of the fight since she was aiming to exhaust Noah.

The chase resumed, and Noah didn't hesitate to use all his power to push his opponent's reaction speed to its limits. He only needed to hit a vital spot once, and the battle would be over!

Countless Wings did her best to be one step ahead of Noah always. She even started to overestimate him just to fight in the safest way possible. However, there was a limit to how effective the same tactic could be, especially against someone that owned the Divine Deduction technique.

Noah had begun to feel the consequences of using so many spells at the same time before the pause caused by the defensive measure. He wasn't tired yet, but his thoughts had started to feel sluggish.

That was only a natural consequence of how fast he was depleting his mental energy, but his sea of consciousness was still fine. It had yet to reach the point where it started to affect his battle prowess.

Nevertheless, that sluggishness made Noah consider the possibility that Countless Wings could win if they kept fighting like that.

Noah intended to pressure her until she committed a mistake. After all, it had already happened three times, and he had managed to exploit those opportunities. However, she was being too careful now and didn't reveal any opening, which forced Noah in a pointless chase.

As he watched his attacks missing every time, Noah calmly accepted that his opponent wouldn't commit any other mistake.

'I expected nothing less from an old monster,' Noah thought as his determination surged.

That realization forced Noah to decide between two options. The first one was to retreat and pick an opponent that wasn't so prepared to fight him. The second one was to use even more mental energy to find a flaw in that battle style.

Of course, Noah decided to follow the second approach. Changing opponents now would only create more problems since he would have to spend some time learning their abilities. Also, Noah wanted to prevail. He couldn't accept that Countless Wings could defeat him just because her strategy was troublesome to handle.

Noah activated the Divine Deduction technique as he continued the cycle of chase and attacks. The inscriptions on the walls of his mental sphere helped him in sorting all the images of his clashes with Countless Wings.

As he kept on fighting, more images appeared in his mind and joined the pile analyzed with the help of the divine technique.

Noah quickly confirmed that Countless Wings was simply perfect in the execution of her strategy. It was her ignorance for what concerned his power that had caused her initial mistakes, but she had quickly become used to his real strength and had adapted her reactions.

No matter how much Noah analyzed, there simply wasn't any flaw. Yet, that didn't mean that there wasn't a way to defeat her.

Countless Wings performed an evasive maneuver every time Noah attacked her with his second form. The direction in which she escaped was casual, and she even managed to hide any type of habit.

However, she could only escape in a limited number of directions, and Noah could decide which ones she was most likely to pick with the amount of data analyzed by the Divine Deduction technique.

Another series of inscribed arrows flew toward Noah and met a large Black Hole spell.

Noah jumped through the explosion and prepared the attack that he had launched more than fifty times in that battle, but he didn't unite all his arms at that time. Instead, he decided to use a weaker version of his second form, but that was capable of releasing two powerful slashes aimed in the directions where Countless Wings was most likely to dodge.

When Countless Wings noticed that Noah had changed his approach, it was too late for her to do anything about it.

Countless Wings saw the space on her right vanishing when one of Noah's attacks reached her position, but she showed a confused expression when she sensed its power. Yet, pain suddenly spread from her back and forced her to focus on the state of her body.

The only problem was that most of her body was missing.

Countless Wings' eyes widened when she saw that the left part of her body had disappeared. It wasn't only her back. Even her left leg was nowhere to be found.

It was needless to say that she couldn't maintain her speed anymore with that injury. Noah had cut her in half, and she was managing to remain conscious just because her head and heart were still attached to that wreckage of a body.

Countless Wings dived toward the ground at that point. She knew that she could still preserve her life if she managed to reach a safe position.

However, a black sword suddenly appeared in her vision, and her world became dark.

[Chapter 832 832. Defensive methods](#)

Noah dispersed the Demonic Form to hold Countless Wings' maimed corpse from its neck. His free hand then went for the remains of her low waist to find a shining organ that radiated an immense amount of energy.

An eerie silence spread through the battlefield. Every asset was busy fighting suitable opponents, but the death of a rank 5 cultivators didn't go unnoticed.

The eyes of the heroic cultivators went on Noah, who didn't hesitate to eat the organ right in front of everyone. There was no point in hiding his hybrid's habits anymore, and waiting would only spoil Countless Wings' dantian.

Noah felt an immense amount of "Breath" filling his body and fusing with his cells that broke it down until it became primary energy ready to nourish them. The burns caused by his reckless battle style started to heal when he absorbed those nutrients, and his hunger almost vanished in the short minute that it took him to make that energy his.

Not even the magical beasts in the middle tier of the fifth rank provided so much energy. The dantian of a rank 5 cultivator that was nearing the peak of the gaseous stage contained so much "Breath" that even stronger creatures found it hard to match that amount of energy.

Noah kept his consciousness on the battle, but he closed his eyes to enjoy the incredible sensation of having his hunger fulfilled. Also, as the nutrients became part of him, he started to sense the limits of the middle tier!

'It took me more than forty years!' Noah exclaimed in his mind when he understood that the breakthrough in the upper tier was drawing near. Yet, he couldn't help but feel slightly worried about the potential repercussion that such an improvement could have on his mental state.

His body improved faster than his other centers of power, almost too fast. He knew that its growth would eventually slow down due to the lack of suitable prey. Yet, his mind was still not ready to handle the power of the upper tier.

'I still need some years,' Noah thought as he reopened his eyes. 'It's time to resume devouring the wills of the magical beasts to push my mind as much as I can before the breakthrough.'

Noah couldn't think of any other solution at the moment, and he wasn't willing to slow down his growth when he could just train harder. Also, he didn't use the abilities of his mental energy at all in the last years, which gave to the walls of his sea of consciousness time to reach new levels of sturdiness.

His mind would be fine even if he abused those devouring abilities for a while.

Noah let Countless Wings' corpse go when he finished absorbing the primary energy. It would take a few days for all his tissues to grow according to the nutrients gained. Still, they had already improved by a lot in that short minute.

'Now they have even seen that I can split my strongest attack,' Noah thought as he moved his attention to the crowd of cultivators looking at him.

The truth was that the split version of the second form of his martial art wasn't too powerful, but Countless Wings had focused on dodging his attacks rather than blocking them.

For example, that split version wouldn't have been enough to pierce the entirety of Peaceful Storm's distorted space. Yet, it was perfect for Countless Wings, even if Noah had to take a significant risk when he decided to pursue that approach.

His mental energy had reached a critical condition. Using the Divine Deduction technique together with his other spells had weighed on his mind even worse than Noah had expected.

His mind felt quite sluggish now. He felt the need to rest, but it didn't seem that his enemies were willing to give him time to recover.

The cultivators of the Empire were shooting hateful gazes toward him, but their opponents quickly forced them to resume their battles. Noah had managed to kill the first asset in the fifth rank in the fight, so it was the perfect time to force the rest of the army into a corner.

A wave of casualties followed Countless Wings' death. Heroic cultivators had already started to die before the appearance of the blue light. Still, the defeat of one of their leaders further increased the numerical advantage of the invading forces.

The weaker rank 5 cultivators of the Empire found themselves against two enemies on their same level, which eventually led to substantial injuries. The defending assets in the fourth rank faced a similar issue too, even if it was harder to isolate cultivators when they were in the middle of an army.

Meanwhile, Noah waited for his mental energy to recover and analyzed the battlefield to see if he could help in some battles without wasting too much power.

The formation on the mountain chain lit up again at that point, and a series of shadows set off from the ground to join the fray.

Noah saw a shadow coming toward him and launching a series of black bullets that resembled the copy of a spell of the water element.

'It's inferior to the Copying technique,' Noah evaluated as he let his Demonic Sword handle the incoming shards.

The shadow seemed to have the power of a cultivator at the bottom of the fifth rank, but its attacks were so frail that the Demonic Sword alone could take care of them.

That was the second defensive method of the territory, and there wasn't a real way to counter it, according to the Council. The invading forces could only hold their ground until the Empire stopped providing energy to that part of the formation.

Something capable of making bad copies of rank 5 cultivators would deplete an incredible number of Credits to function, and even the Empire would have to stop at some point. The biggest issue with that defensive method was that it was quite weak and only meant to support the actual troops on the battlefield.

Also, there was a limit to how many cultivators it could copy, which turned out to be barely enough to make up for the numerical advantage of the invaders.

'It's similar to my new spell, but I don't think they have any awareness,' Noah thought as he watched the battle between his weapon and the shadow. 'They even repeat the same attack over and over. They can only be annoying in this situation.'

Such a defensive method would have been useful if both armies had a similar power, but the invaders were more numerous, and the Empire had already suffered some critical losses.

Noah remained still in the sky as the battles unfolded. He felt it necessary to study his potential opponents, but he didn't limit his analysis on the cultivators of the Empire. After all, that alliance was bound to end at some point.

Then, the ground shook, and a series of holes appeared on the sides of the mountains. Roars soon filled the battlefield as a series of powerful hybrids revealed themselves.

[Chapter 833 833. Horse](#)

The hybrids came out from holes on the side of the mountains near the battles between the human troops, but their roars forced them to pause the hostilities.

There were more than sixty hybrids in the heroic ranks, with seven of them being in the fifth rank, and the human cultivators of the invading forces stared at them in fear. They didn't know if they were the target of those mighty creatures.

However, the hybrids soon shot in the air toward the battlefield featuring heroic cultivators and revealed the massive chains that kept them linked to the bottom of those fissures.

The chains were inscribed items similar to those used to restrain the slaves. It seemed that the Empire had managed to improve its iconic inscribed chains so that they could work even on those creatures. Also, most of those hybrids weren't perfect beings but were Elite beasts that had developed a sea of consciousness during the transformation.

Noah found the fact that the chains were able to control them quite amazing.

'I can join this one,' Noah thought as he called the Demonic Swords and dived toward one of the incoming hybrids in the fifth rank.

Due to his vast knowledge in the field, Noah could choose the creature that would require the least amount of mental energy to defeat. His target ended up to be a Horned Horse in the middle tier of the fifth rank.

The Horse was six meters tall and had two pairs of horns coming out of its forehead and pointing ahead. It was a magical beast of the earth element that could control the ground to sprint toward its opponent, but its innate abilities were far weaker in the air. Also, the specimen that Noah had chosen as his target was a perfect hybrid, which meant that it had access to an inferior version of "Breath".

Just when Noah thought that the Empire was wasting the power of the creature, the Horse created a series of platforms under its hoofs to sprint toward him.

Noah found the horns of the Horse threatening to stab his chest in less than an instant, but he had reacted in time and slashed with the Demonic Sword to deviate the sudden attack. He felt surprised though. It seemed that the inscribed chains were forcing the hybrid to control its instincts and use all the abilities at its disposal.

'Sanity in exchange for slavery?' Noah smirked when he thought that. 'This can't be a solution to the issue.'

He knew the effects of the inscribed chains of the Empire. They were able to suppress even the essence of a living being, which turned it into nothing more than a puppet.

His solution to the mental instabilities of the hybrids was a form of suppression too, but it wasn't something so thorough that even his will was affected. He simply used his superior mind to keep his instincts in check and have the possibility to decide to let them take control.

The Horned Horse found itself high in the sky when it managed to stop its charge. Yet, Noah was already behind it, ready to slash with his divided Demonic Sword.

The weakness of that species was that it needed a run-up to make that sudden acceleration, which meant that Noah only had to keep pressuring it to block its most potent attack.

The Horse controlled the "Breath" around it once again when it noticed that Noah was already attacking, and a layer of rocks appeared to form a protective armor. Also, the Horse even used the "Breath" inside its dantian to add more layers of protection to its defensive spell.

Noah's weapons crashed on its armor and dug deep cuts in it. Black smoke spread from the Demonic Sword too, and the layers of rocks began to crumble.

Noah battle intent rose when he saw that the Horse could endure his physical strength. Most of his opponents would just explode if he were to land such a powerful attack directly on their bodies.

The Horse neighed when Noah's aura surged, and the latter answered with a roar that spread white flames all over its body. The hybrid didn't hesitate to turn its armor into a series of spikes that shot in every direction and flung Noah back as he defended against them.

The Horse finally had some space at that point and retreated only to perform the iconic sprint of that species with the help of platforms made of "Breath" of the earth element.

Noah had just finished defending against the spikes when four horns appeared in front of him once again and threatened to pierce him from side to side. However, he quickly let go of the Demonic Sword to grab those horns and allow them to push him backward.

Noah and the Horned Horse flew for entire kilometers, dividing the battlefield into two sides and running over multiple cultivators, hybrids, and shadows on their path.

The Horse eventually understood that slamming Noah on other living beings wouldn't be enough to make him land on its horns, so it changed direction and began to sprint downward. Impaling him to the ground seemed far more feasible than keeping on running around until his physical strength gave up to the countless clashes.

Of course, Noah was just waiting for an opportunity to gain the advantage of the situation.

When the two of them were almost on the ground, Noah spun on himself and used the momentum generated by the Horse to slam it on the side of the mountain right under them. The earth shook, and a huge crack formed in the area of impact, but Noah didn't hesitate to grab the chains and pull them with all his strength.

The Horse struggled, but its physical strength was slightly inferior to Noah's due to a matter of species and progression in the middle tier. It shot in the air as Noah pulled and it met his punch when it reached him.

Noah sent the hybrid back on the ground, but he pulled again to deliver another strong punch. The process repeated itself for a few times until the Demonic Sword reached him, and he wielded it to replace his punches with powerful slashes.

Noah pulled, slashed, and flung the hybrid back on the side of the mountain multiple times. The Horse would manage to cast a defensive spell between one attack and another, but deep cuts appeared on its skin most of the time.

The cuts eventually deepened and reached for the strong muscles of that specimen, but the chain in his grasp started to shine at that point, and the Horse answered to that unusual event with a loud neigh followed by human words. "I will kill all of you!"

Noah didn't know if the hybrids intended to kill the invaders or if its words were directed to the Empire, but he didn't care. He was only interested in the powerful dantian of the creature.

[Chapter 834 834. Giants](#)

That sudden awareness gained from the Horned Horse allowed it to find a way out of Noah's incessant offensive. When Noah pulled the chains again, the hybrid used its innate ability to sprint even faster than before while covering its body with a layer of rocky armor.

Noah sidestepped the charge, but one of his four horns managed to stab his chest and leave a long horizontal injury as it went past him. Since he was still holding onto the inscribed chains, he started flying alongside the charging Horse.

'Did the chain just force it to suppress its mental instabilities?' Noah thought as he flew through the battlefield again as he kept his grasp on the inscribed item.

He didn't miss the flashes radiated by the chains while he was beating the creature, but he only managed to link them to the change in the behavior of his opponent now. It was as if they had forced it to regain its consciousness.

'Is it due to the absolute control that these bindings have once connected to a slave?' Noah pondered about that feature, but the Horned Horse had managed to stop its charge at that point and was waiting for him with its horns pointed straight at his flying figure.

Noah didn't hesitate to dive among the horns with his Demonic Sword pointed toward the center of its forehead. A series of rocky layers appeared in the trajectory of his weapon, but Noah completely disregarded them and continued to pour his darkness into the sword.

The Demonic Sword began to release black smoke that helped it pierce the defensive spell of the hybrid and stab its forehead. Yet, it didn't manage to reach the brain of the creature since its skull was too sturdy.

Of course, the battle would have ended far sooner if Noah used his spells, but he was trying to refill his mental sphere at the moment, and he didn't need them to defeat his opponent.

The Horse had just used three spells, which weren't even that effective against him. There was a limit to how much a sudden acceleration and an exploding armor could do to him after he had to face Countless Wings' strategy.

'It probably was a Flawed Human before the transformation.' Noah thought as he delivered a punch to pull the Demonic Sword from its skull. 'It doesn't have a great diversity of spells, and the platforms are just a trick that allows it to use its innate ability in the air.'

The Horse neighed in pain, but Noah interrupted its cry with another series of slashes. The corrosive smoke released by his Demonic Sword started to envelop its figure, but the rocky armor appeared again and forced him to break it with another series of attacks.

'Even someone so inexperienced can survive this long just because it's a hybrid,' Noah thought when he began to feel annoyed by the resilience of his opponent.

Strictly speaking, the Horned Horse wasn't strong, and it even fought poorly for a creature capable of complex thoughts. It had its sporadic moments of awareness when it managed to use its hybrid status to be threatening, but its lack of spells made it just a bit more resistant than a magical beast.

Its physical strength was above the average of its species, but Noah had fused himself with a dragon. The only beings that could surpass the qualities of his body were beasts that were specialized only in one field.

In the end, it was the same as in the other world. Noah had to face beings that were innately stronger than both magical beasts and humans, but with no idea how to use that power.

"We are ready!" A loud shout resounded from the ground at that point, and Noah's attention went there only to see a series of Elders of the Council messing with the inscribed chains. There were members of the Elbas family there too, and they wielded some strange kind of inscribed swords that they aimed at the links connected with the bottom of the fissures.

Every cultivator that was fighting with a hybrid retreated by a few steps after that warning and Noah wasn't an exception. Then, the Royals slashed their weapons at the links, which broke and fell apart.

The inscribed chains started to flicker madly and sent waves of pain to the creatures connected to them. The collars around the hybrids began to shine too, which further worsened the pain that they felt.

The hybrids began to thrash their bodies around as they tried to suppress that intense sensation, but it did little effect. They continued to suffer until their sea of consciousness eventually broke and announced the death of those slaves.

Noah grabbed the corpse of the Horned Horse when it began to fall lifelessly toward the ground and opened its lower body to retrieve a shining organ that had already started to disperse its energy. He then ate the dantian of the hybrid in the open again and stored the rest of the corpse.

That was still a creature in the fifth rank. Noah wouldn't throw anything away.

Another intense wave of energy filled his body and pushed its level further toward the peak of the middle tier. Even if the Horse had initially been a Flawed Human, it still had a dantian with power near the bottom of the gaseous stage of the fifth rank.

The battles resumed with even more vigor at that point.

The invading forces didn't regain the upper hand immediately. The shadows had disappeared, but they had suffered their fair share of losses due to the two consecutive defensive methods.

The rank 5 cultivators of the three forces though didn't seem disappointed by that outcome. Even if some of their powerful assets had died, they wouldn't have to face the hybrids again in the next battle. After all, it would be impossible for the Empire to refill its stash of slaves, with the three organizations unwilling to trade with it.

Noah resumed his wait to recover his mental energy and began to feed the Demonic Sword to give it a well-deserved meal.

After his victory against Countless Wings, the other cultivators of the Empire had understood that he was a dangerous variable in that war, and none of them wanted to abandon their battle to fight him. Even those that won against the invading forces would rather help some of their companions than challenge him in a one versus one fight.

The real issue was that Noah seemed always to surpass their expectations, which made the level of his battle prowess quite unclear.

Truth to be told, both Peaceful Storm and Countless Wings had been his opponents because of their suitable abilities, but they weren't among the strongest rank 5 cultivators in the gaseous stage in the world. Peaceful Storm had his accumulation of talismans, but his power was still lacking.

Then, just when the battle had resumed a regular course, seven castles lit up, and seven massive giants formed in the sky.

[Chapter 835 835. Elemental formation](#)

The giants pierced the battlefield and stood behind the troops of the Empire wearing a menacing look on their emotionless faces. They were bald, humanoid figures with an ethereal body that radiated an intense light.

All the giants were identical, except for the fact that they shone with a different light and exuded "Breath" of a specific element. Noah was amazed to notice that the white and the black ones were made of "Breath" of the light and darkness element.

His amazement didn't stop there. The power of the giants was a problem since all of them had an aura that matched inscribed items in the upper tier of the fifth rank!

"Elemental formation!" A rank 5 cultivator of the Elbas family shouted when the giants appeared.

The other Royals seemed to understand something at those words, and their eyes widened in surprise when they recognized that formation. Curiosity and unwillingness soon appeared on their expressions, but they soon started to retreat without moving their eyes from the giants.

Their reaction confused the other heroic assets on their side who shot questioning looks at the experts from the Elbas family. After all, seven puppets in the upper tier of the fifth rank were threatening, but a formation still created them. There had to be something that they could do since they had so many experts in their army.

"We can't defeat it right now," The same Royal that recognized the formation announced to the entire army. "Let's retreat."

The heroic cultivators of the other organizations showed even more confusion at those words. The assault was going well all things considered, and they wouldn't mind testing the limits of the Elemental formation for a while to see if it was as unbreakable as hinted.

Preparation was everything. In the end, the sole reason why the invaders had managed to trounce the first three defensive measures was that the Council had tested them beforehand. However, the Royal was firm in his decision and ordered the assets of his faction to leave the battlefield.

It must be said that even some of the members of the Elbas family showed some unwillingness at that decision, but they still decided to follow their leader. The Council and the Hive felt forced to retreat too when they saw more than a third of their joint army escaping toward safe territories.

Noah didn't hesitate to retreat either. His mental energy wasn't in a critical spot anymore, but he was far away from having a full sea of consciousness.

Also, his relationship with the Elbas family wasn't friendly, but he trusted its judgment when it came to the various inscription fields. That was the kind of trust that he could give only to forces that he respected for their achievements, and the Elbas family had already established its value as an ally.

The seven giants didn't move at the enemies' retreat, and the forces of the Empire stood still too. It seemed that there was some kind of condition to trigger a reaction from the formation, and the Empire didn't dare to attack without it.

The rank 5 cultivators of the three invading forces regrouped in one of the central territories that they had conquered during the war and began to discuss the recent events. It was needless to say that their conversation wasn't peaceful.

"Why did you order the retreat of all of a sudden, Andrew?" An Elder from the Council asked the Royal that ordered the retreat. "We had the advantage, and we could have tested those damned things first!"

"It would have been a slaughter, Regina," Andrew Elbas answered. "I would normally agree with you, but we know what that formation does in this case, and I'm telling you that there are precise conditions to meet to break it."

Regina and Andrew Elbas were rank 5 cultivators in the solid stage of the Council and the Royals and were also the leaders of their respective armies. Elder Julia was the leader of the troops of the Hive, but she had just reached the solid stage and wasn't on the level of the other two.

"And what exactly are those conditions? How do you know that we couldn't meet them during the battle?" Regina pressed on with her questions, but Andrew remained calm and began to explain the specifics of the Elemental formation to the heroic cultivators gathered there.

It turned out that the Elemental formation was an ancient inscription that used seven types of "Breath" to materialize pure forms on energy in the shape of humanoid giants. Its lines were quite complex, and they needed seven cores where cultivators had accumulated large amounts of "Breath".

The most peculiar aspect of those cores was that only cultivators with that specific aptitude could fill them, which meant that the Empire had used cultivators of the light and darkness element to complete the formation!

That piece of information surprised most experts on the scene. After all, cultivators with those aptitudes were extremely rare, and only two of them had appeared in more than a century.

However, the Empire had lasted for millennia, and its political system provided cultivation resources to all of its citizens. It was different from the other forces where potential cultivators with rare aptitudes could remain commoners for the entirety of their lives.

That method simply gave the Empire more chances to find the carriers of those rare aptitudes.

Of course, it was very likely that the Empire had prepared the cores centuries ago and just used them now that it had to protect the traces left by divine beings. There was even the possibility that it had set them in the old continent in the past just to move them in the new one once a more valuable territory appeared.

"There is a fatal weakness in the formation though," Andrew Elbas raised his voice when his explanation reached that important topic. "The giants can be difficult to face even for experts in the solid stage, but they would crumble easily if we manage to gather cultivators with all seven aptitudes."

At his words, everyone on the scene turned toward Noah.

He was eating one of the legs of the Horned Horse as he listened to the conversation. Danielle was next to him, and she stared at the piece of meat in his hands with an intense gaze, but she struggled to keep her calm. It seemed that she took that as some form of training for her mental instabilities.

As for the other Elders of the Hive, their eyes sharpened when they listened to that last part.

It wasn't a secret that the Hive had a cultivator with a light aptitude in their ranks. After all, Amos Udye was right behind the Elders. Yet, the plan seemed to require both of their rare cultivators, which gave birth to suspicion and hesitation.

However, Noah cut the exchange of stares short as he gulped the meat in his mouth and spoke to Andrew. "Explain."

[Chapter 836 836. Daniel](#)

The strategy to disable the seven giants wasn't too hard to perform and didn't have strict requirements, except for the need of cultivators with seven different aptitudes.

To deactivate the Elemental formation, the seven cultivators had to attack the source of the giants at the same time through specific items that would destabilize their form. The power of the attack didn't matter too much, even simple rank 4 cultivators would do, and the Elbas family would also take care of the creation of the items.

The only issue was in making those attacks land on the castles while the troops of the Empire defended them. Yet, the invading army had more cultivators, so creating a path was feasible. The hybrids had died too, so the Empire had lost one of its defensive methods, meaning that the next assault would lead to fewer casualties.

Noah wondered how an inscription method with such an evident weakness could have survived until the current era after hearing the explanation. However, the truth was that the Elemental formation was quite outdated, according to the standards of the Eblas family, at least.

Also, the Elemental formation wasn't inherently weak. It was hard for a single organization to put together a team made of cultivators with different aptitudes, especially with the elitist political system that most forces had.

It was a case that three of the most potent forces in the world were fighting together to take down the strongest one and that there were cultivators with the rarest aptitudes on the invading side. Without that, the attackers would have to face and defeat those giants with their heroic assets, which meant using seven rank 5 cultivators in the solid stage.

"How is it?" Elder Julia asked Noah when the explanation ended. "Do you think he is up to the task?"

Noah didn't answer. He knew what the Elder wanted to know, but he wasn't in a position to confirm her doubts. Only Daniel could answer that question.

"I'll make a trip back to the southwestern coast," Noah said as he stood up. "I have the feeling that I should be the one to offer him this mission."

Elder Julia nodded and turned to discuss the specifics of the plan with the other leaders when Noah set off to return to his dome.

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Daniel had faced his fair share of setbacks in life.

As the heir of one of the wealthiest noble families in the Utra nation, he had always been quite privileged. His aptitude then pushed the nurturing of the Udye family to a higher level, which eventually made him become the hope of the Cause.

Yet, Noah's appearance had forced him to reconsider how talented he was.

From the events in the Bare Dungeon to the raids in the Utra nation, Noah had always managed to be a step in front of him, until he became an existence that he couldn't hope to reach.

Daniel knew that there were monsters in that world, but he had initially believed that he was one of them. It had taken him the banquet in the headquarters of the Hive to realize that anyone could have reached his level of power with the backing of a wealthy family and a rigid training schedule.

In short, Daniel had realized that he wasn't really talented. He was just lucky.

Of course, that wasn't true at all. Daniel still stood among the geniuses of his generation, but his lack of experience had ultimately made him fall behind his peers. It had reached a point where everyone was surpassing him.

However, after his privileged status began to fall apart and the dreams of his family vanished, he had started to understand his path. He realized that the political obligations placed on him since the discovery of his aptitude had blinded him for all his life.

It had all started from his conversation with Noah when he pointed out how Daniel's strength originated from his family. Then, it continued during the raids and culminated with the Hive accepting the entrance of the Udye family in its ranks.

Daniel had felt defeated for most of that period, and he had even reached the point where he wanted to stop cultivating because of the countless losses that he had to endure through the decades. He was continuing to train out of habit, but his individuality was regressing due to his lack of willpower.

Yet, seeing Noah returning from the new world as a complete rank 5 cultivator made him understand how meaningless all those titles and achievements were.

The length of the journey didn't matter. Surpassing other cultivators didn't matter. There was only the finish line and the path to reach it.

Daniel lost interest in the political matters of the world after that realization. His family wanted him to play an important role, but they were all cultivators striving for the sky in the end.

A setback was nothing. A defeat was nothing. Death was nothing. Only the willpower to keep walking toward the higher ranks mattered, and he had almost lost it because he was too busy comparing himself to his peers.

So, Daniel had decided that his willpower would become a light able to purify life from all those useless things. The other cultivators could either choose to follow his example or remain entangled in the messy political struggles of the various forces.

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Noah returned to his dome after a long trip and didn't hesitate to dive inside the mansion of the Udye family. After all, that region was under his control, so every building inside it was technically his.

A series of servants and cultivators bowed when they saw him walking through the corridors of the mansion in the direction of the training areas placed underground.

Noah reached the reinforced rooms and waited in front of one of them for the cultivator inside it to open it. His consciousness seeped through the walls and inscriptions on them and studied the whiffs of aura that filled its insides.

He couldn't understand much since the formations around the reinforced rooms were hard to pierce, but the Udye family had never needed to upgrade them. Only Amos had been able to reach the fifth rank, and he had a suitable training area already.

So, Noah could sense that there was a rank 5 cultivator inside the room.

The door of the training area opened, and Noah saw a cultivator with long, white hair throwing a series of materials in a large cauldron that trembled due to the substance brewing inside it. A white radiance shone under the cauldron, which heated it and forced the substance inside it to release its impurities in the form of gray smoke.

"Daniel Udye at your service, Demon Prince," Daniel said without moving his attention from the cauldron.

Noah didn't mind his behavior and gave a short explanation, followed by an order. "The Hive needs your element to disable a formation. Follow me to the army. You'll join the war."

"Perfect," Daniel said, "I needed to express my individuality."

[Chapter 837 837. Furious Water](#)

Daniel followed Noah as they flew back to the central territories where the army had momentarily decided to set an encampment.

During the travel, Daniel had never stopped heating the cauldron with his white light, which kept on exuding that gray smoke full of impurities. He would often pour "Breath" in the solid stage of the fourth rank inside it and add other materials until small whiffs of rank 5 "Breath" came out and entered his body.

Daniel had become a complete rank 5 cultivator in those years, and he had developed a peculiar cultivation technique, even if it seemed just an enhancement of his old one. The purification process expressed his individuality and made use of his expertise in the alchemy field, which made it quite suitable for him.

However, he had just experienced a breakthrough. The level of his mental sphere barely met the standards of the fifth rank and put him at the bottom of that level.

Yet, even with all his setbacks and poor level, Daniel was there, in the world where only elites could stand.

"I never thought that losing everything could bring such clarity," Daniel said as they flew. "But I can't be like you. I won't give up on my humanity just to pursue power."

"Who decides what's human?" Noah asked. "A fixed morality doesn't exist, just as there isn't a fixed path. We just elevate ourselves as we walk through the cultivation journey, and the world doesn't care if we are monsters or heroes. Also, you didn't lose anything. You have more now than you ever did in the past."

Noah's words managed to surprise Daniel, who revealed a weak smile. He wouldn't admit it openly, but Noah's mentality was still better than his when it came to his approach to the cultivation journey.

Daniel noticed how Noah's character had changed after all those years. There was a time where he would have barely spoken to anyone, but now he didn't seem to mind having a casual conversation that expressed part of their mindsets.

It wasn't a radical change. The violent and sharp aura that usually surrounded Noah was still there, but there was also a sort of calmness that enveloped it.

That was a feeling caused by the steadiness of his individuality and his conviction that he was on the right path. He appeared to Daniel as if nothing could sway him away from the road that he had chosen.

"I know that the Hive needs the magical beasts in the fifth rank in this period," Daniel said as he changed the topic, "But I should be able to make an improved version of the pills now."

Noah's interest rose at his words. The magical beasts' pills were quite useful in dire situations when he didn't have time to refill the nutrients inside his body quickly. They weren't life-saving items, but they could help to increase his already high stamina and stabilize specific critical injuries if needed.

Noah thought for a while before deciding on a solution that would benefit both him and the Hive. "You can go to the new world after the war is over. The hunting team will need an alchemist, but you need to take a few students too. The Hive needs more experts."

Daniel nodded, and their conversation ended. They didn't have much to talk about to begin with. Still, Daniel wanted to at least speak to the man that had indirectly rekindled his will to cultivate.

When they reached the encampment, the armies had already divided themselves into three different sides according to their organization.

Noah delivered Daniel to Elder Julia, who informed them about the progress in those past weeks.

The Elbas family was still busy building the seven weapons, while the other factions had created a battle plan that would allow the seven wielders to reach their respective castles. The battle would resume as soon as the Royals completed their task.

Noah simply cultivated as he waited for everything to be ready. After all, his role in the battle would be even easier since his allies didn't need to protect him so strictly. He could just rely on his hybrid status to run through any blockage and let the other heroic assets handle anything that he couldn't defeat on his own.

He began to spend some time visualizing his projects and how he intended to create them since he had some free time between each cultivation session.

When he picked Daniel from the southwestern coast, he had asked Thirty-seven to review the Body-inscription spell further to find the reason why it clashed with his darkness. He was still waiting for his answer though, so his meditation focused on other projects.

The creation of his higher energy had the priority in his mind. That would put him on a different level compared to his peers, and he knew that he would achieve some sort of completeness once he obtained it.

It wasn't only a matter of battle prowess. Even his individuality would benefit from it since he would have three different types of energies at his disposal. His destruction and creation would reach new levels at that point, allowing him to have a real advantage over the old monsters.

There were still living weapons to create. That field was new and had vast room for improvement. Also, Noah had yet to arm all the heroic assets of the Hive, which was something that he had to achieve before beginning to sell his creations.

Solving the mental instabilities of the hybrids would take time, but he was already thinking about the type of society that he could build with them once the war was over. After all, he was their leader, so he had to take care of their growth and behavior.

Noah had to create new spells too. His idea was to fuse martial arts and spells at some point and develop techniques that only hybrids could use due to the physical restrictions of the humans.

The Royals eventually completed their task, and the three armies gathered before shooting again toward the mountain chain so valued by the Empire.

The battle started almost instantly, and Noah had to face an unknown rank 5 cultivator at his same level that used a series of water whips to unleash a continuous offensive.

The cultivator's name was Furious Water, and he was a short old man with a few sparse white hairs on his almost bald head. He had a short grey beard, and his whips would often change shape to counter Noah's offensive.

It turned out that their combat styles were quite similar. They would try to overwhelm their opponents with countless attacks backed by an immense quantity of power.

Of course, Noah's attacks were stronger. Yet, Furious Water made up for that difference in power with numerous spells that changed the shape of his whips according to the type of attack that he was facing.

It was clear that the Empire had given up on countering Noah's abilities and had just sent a cultivator that had a lot of battle experience.

[Chapter 838 838. Ready](#)

Noah and Furious Water appeared evenly matched. Their attacks kept on clashing without revealing who had the upper hand in those relentless exchanges.

Noah was in his complete Demonic Form, filling a large area around him with corrosive smoke and launching countless slashes. The Black Hole spell was above him, absorbing the enemy's attacks and increasing its power as the battle kept going.

Furious Water controlled a barrage of blue whips that changed form mid-air as they reached for Noah. Most of them clashed with the black lines coming in his direction, and those that managed to cross the first line of attacks ended up absorbed by the gravitational pull of the black sphere.

The two of them seemed to have reached a stalemate, but Furious Water was starting to feel the pressure of fighting a long battle against Noah.

No conventional technique could block the second form of Noah's martial art. Only inscribed items or defensive spells fueled by a stronger "Breath" could hope to stop the incredible power carried by his most potent attack.

Furious Water was solving that problem by pressuring Noah so much that he wouldn't have time to summon the copies of his Demonic Sword, but the battle was slowly escaping his control.

The corrosive smoke was filling the environment, and it had reached a point where Furious Water's whips couldn't even clash with the black lines since the Demonic Form spell took care of them first. Noah was gaining ground, and escaping would only create an opening for him.

The blue pillar started to form, but Noah didn't stop his offensive since the troops of the Council stepped forward to create the golden shield. Some of the blue radiance landed on Noah, but he was pushed back for only an instant, and Furious Water didn't have enough time to retreat.

The rest of the battlefield was in a similar situation. The troops of the Empire were pushed back everywhere, and they could only wait for the activation of the next defensive measure to gain some ground.

The Empire decided to summon the shadows rather quickly since it feared that the current trend would lead to the loss of the territory before they had time to reveal all their defenses. However, there were fewer shadows compared to the last time because the formation didn't manage to copy too much with such short notice.

Noah didn't even care that a shadow had joined his battle and was trying to help Furious Water.

There was a vast cloud made of corrosive smoke all around him and a large sphere that applied an intense gravitational pull above him. The attacks of his opponents couldn't even hope to reach him in that situation.

Generally speaking, the best way to avoid that troublesome effect of the Demonic Form would be to change location often. However, Noah was keeping Furious Water still with his incessant offensive. As soon as his opponent turned to escape, he would launch the second form of his martial art and kill him on the spot.

"Damned monster!" Furious Water shouted as cuts appeared on his palms, and blood flowed in the whips that he was wielding, tainting them with a dark-red color.

The power of Furious Water's attacks suddenly increased, and Noah saw branches appearing on the various whips that started to push back the black cloud. The number of attacks multiplied too, which gave to the cultivator of the Empire some breathing room.

Noah was initially surprised by the power behind his opponent's spells, but he quickly understood why he didn't activate that technique sooner. Furious Water's body had begun to wither as his blood flowed in the whips, and his hands had become nothing more than bones in those short seconds.

The withering didn't stop. It began to spread on Furious Water's forearms too as a drawback for that boost of power.

'It's a secret art,' Noah concluded in his mind as he analyzed the technique and revealed a smirk through the Demonic Form at that realization.

Furious Water saw the mouth of the draconic helmet opening up to form a fiendish smile that showed a series of gaseous teeth. At that scene, he felt as if he was really fighting some kind of monster.

Noah felt pushed back, but he didn't stop attacking. If his opponent had to resort to a secret art to fight him, then he would give him a proper battle!

The roars of some hybrids spread on the battlefield, but Noah ignored them after understanding their level. Those creatures were just some reserves that the Empire had decided not to deploy in the previous battle, but they featured only a single being in the fifth rank. His allies could easily take care of them.

Furious Water's arms had become skeletal after activating the secret art for a few minutes, and the drawbacks were starting to affect his chest at that point. It wouldn't take much before the technique ended up killing him.

Noah wanted to avoid that outcome because he aimed to seize his dantian. So, he kept on attacking and waited until the drawbacks showed a fatal flaw in his opponent's battle style.

However, his instincts suddenly sensed a dangerous presence coming at high speed from below him.

Noah quickly launched the Black Hole spell downward, and the loss of that defensive measure increased the amount of pressure on him. Yet, only a couple of whips managed to hit his body in that situation before the detonation of the dark sphere forced both parties to separate.

Noah shot an annoyed gaze downward, where another rank 5 cultivator of the Empire was staring at him with a surprised expression.

Spark and black smoke had spread everywhere under Noah. It seemed that the newcomer had tried to take him by surprise with a spell of the lightning element, but his superior awareness had managed to notice the arrival of that powerful spell.

Yet, Noah now had two rank 5 cultivators and an annoying shadow as opponents, which was a level of power that he couldn't handle on his own.

Two cuts had appeared on his shoulders due to the empowered whips, but the armor had managed to block most of their power, creating only superficial injuries. Noah was basically at his peak, but he still couldn't face such strong opponents together.

Nevertheless, Elder Austin came to his help at that point, even if he remained at some distance due to the black cloud.

The Empire though couldn't sustain its losses anymore and triggered its next defensive method. The castles lit up, and seven giants appeared on the battlefield. The Empire had decided to activate the Elemental formation in the end, but the invading forces were more than prepared to fight it.

Noah deactivated the Demonic Form, and the rank 5 Elders of the Hive landed on the air next to him when the corrosive smoke had dispersed in the air. A metal orb then appeared in his palm, and Noah started to fuel it with his "Breath".

They were ready to assault the castles.

[Chapter 839 839. Coordination](#)

The army of the invaders formed seven groups, and even the existences in the fourth rank left their battles to support their respective teams. According to Andrew Elbas' description, the Elemental formation was powerful, so deactivating it had to be their priority.

Noah charged the metallic orb in his palm as he waited for the leaders of each group to give the order to attack.

He had hinted that there could have been a problem with the functioning of the item since his "Breath" wasn't exactly ordinary. However, after performing a few tests in complete secrecy, he confirmed that he could use his darkness to be one of the energies needed to take care of the Elemental formation.

After all, individualities always affected the composition of the "Breath" in peculiar ways, and Noah only needed to know if the metallic orb recognized his energy as "Breath" of the darkness element.

The enemy troops showed stern expressions at that scene and gathered in front of the castles to prepare for the imminent clash. It was evident that the invaders had come prepared for their defensive method, so they could just do their best to protect it.

"Charge." A single word resounded in the minds of the rank 5 cultivators of the invaders, but it was enough to trigger a series of battle cries that followed the advance of the seven groups.

Noah stood at the center of his team, and his Demonic Sword followed him closely, ready to protect him in case an attacker managed to pierce the blockade around him.

Of course, Noah could fight even if he was charging the orb, but he couldn't express his real strength if he fought among allies.

Multicolored lights spread in the environment as the seven teams crashed on the first line of defense of the Empire. Many spells flew and exploded as the various groups fought to pierce or block their enemies.

Shockwaves and loud noises echoed through the groups, but Noah could only hear muffled sounds in the middle of all those heroic cultivators. Meanwhile, inscriptions started to appear on the orb as his "Breath" kept on fueling it according to Andrew's instructions.

"Wind, you are going too fast. Slow down!" Andrew's voice resounded in the minds of the seven cultivators carrying the orbs. The Royal family had provided special notebooks that could keep track of the status of those items so that Andrew could monitor it.

Deactivating the Elemental formation required strict coordination, which gave birth to the need of a supervisor that warned the carriers whenever they didn't respect the planned schedule. Andrew had even chosen simple codenames to make their communication more intuitive.

"Prepare for impact!" Someone in Noah's group shouted, and he noticed how the black giant in front of his team had raised an arm to punch them.

Elder Julia raised her hand at that sight, and the giant suddenly stopped moving before a small tornado formed inside its raised arm. The hurricane spread until its entire arm exploded, preventing the puppet from completing its attack.

Noah's group began to cheer, but the giant quickly raised its other arm to attempt in another attack. Yet, Elder Julia stopped it again with the same spells.

The power of a rank 5 cultivator in the solid stage was incredible. It could directly incapacitate puppets that could potentially defeat other beings that were in the gaseous or liquid stage!

Nevertheless, the Elemental formation wasn't so easy to defeat. The Elbas family wouldn't have retreated the first time otherwise.

The arms of the black giant reformed in a matter of seconds and resumed their attempts to punch the team advancing through the allied troops. Yet, both of its limbs exploded again as Elder Julia created storms inside them.

That cycle repeated itself multiple times, and Elder Julia couldn't help with the advance of her team at all since she had to prevent the giant from landing its attacks on it. All the rank 4 cultivators would die otherwise, and there was a high chance to have casualties among those in the fifth rank too.

If the invading forces had decided to attack without any preparation, seven rank 5 cultivators in the solid stage would have been busy keeping the giants at bay. The army of the three forces would have been too weak to face the Empire in that case. After all, the cultivators on that level were the leaders of each faction.

Also, the giant didn't appear weakened by the damages that it was suffering and simply regenerated in a matter of seconds, ready to attack again.

The battles around Noah continued, and Elder Julia kept on fighting the Elemental formation as the team advanced. Andrew Elbas would shout orders through the special notebooks whenever one of the seven carriers didn't respect the schedule set beforehand.

The Empire did its best to stop the invaders. It even resorted to basic tactics such as leaving some castles unprotected, and focus all its troops on specific sources.

However, the invaders had prepared for that eventuality too and simply reinforced the teams that had to face more troops.

In the end, the numerical advantage and the losses inflicted through that year of wars won against the defenses set in the last decades by the most potent force in those Mortal Lands.

The seven teams reached the castles and opened a path for the carriers while protecting them from the enemy troops who were madly trying to break through the blockage. Noah flew at high speed toward his target enveloped in the black light of the darkness giant.

He couldn't understand anything about that kind of formation, but the amount of "Breath" of the darkness element contained inside that puppet was merely insane. It made him wonder if the Empire had hidden experts with a darkness aptitude through the millennia.

"Is everyone in position?" Andrew asked when his team reached their castle and shouted an order when all the carriers gave affirmative answers. "Throw!"

Noah threw the metallic orb in his grasp toward the castle, and the inscriptions on its shining form began to flicker as it neared the body of the black giant. A path opened in the ethereal body of the puppet, and the orb slid right through it before starting to destabilize.

Explosions resounded as the seven orbs detonated at the same time and spread the shining lines on their surface on the castles. The giants suddenly stopped moving when that happened, and the formation on the sides of the mountains began to release sparks.

It seemed that those lines, coupled with the "Breath" of the respective elements, had created a short-circuit in the part of the formation containing the Elemental formation. Those giant forms ultimately vanished as the effect spread, and the invading forces could focus once again on the troops of the Empire at that point.

As for Noah, he looked for a particular lightning cultivator that had tried to catch him by surprise.

[Chapter 840 840. Hun](#)

Noah couldn't have precise reports about the abilities of the rank 5 cultivators of the Empire because there hadn't been a major war for a long time. After all, no one had dared to attack the Empire for centuries. The only battles happened at the edges of the areas of influence of the three big nations, but they featured rank 4 cultivators at best.

The arrival of the new continent had revealed some of its assets. Still, the majority of them had remained hidden, just as they had done for centuries.

Also, Noah couldn't decide who was his opponent most of the time, so he didn't need outdated pieces of information. A list of the abilities of most heroic assets was bound to appear after that war, but it was too early to create a proper register after only one year.

However, that lightning cultivator had snuck up on him when he was about to defeat Furious Water. Noah felt as if someone had made him lose the perfect prey, which wasn't something that his instincts took lightly.

The fact that the cultivator had almost succeeded in taking him by surprise was another troublesome issue.

The world of the rank 5 cultivators was too variegated for Noah to be able to predict every battle style, and he was still too weak to fight multiple experts at once. So, he could only make an example out of him to stop other cultivators from imitating him.

Noah rose high in the sky and scanned the battlefield as if he was a flying beast looking for its prey. The various battles appeared in his vision, but he was only interested in one target at the moment.

Furious Water was nowhere to be seen. He had probably left the area to mend the injuries caused by the secret art. Yet, Noah managed to spot the lightning cultivator after a minute spent analyzing the area.

His target was a tall man with a head full of long black hair. He had no beard, and he appeared as a youthful man in his thirties.

Noah guessed that he was one of the new talents of the Empire that had managed to become a complete rank 5 cultivator just recently. Nevertheless, it seemed that he was used to those kinds of sneak attacks since he was trying to perform it on an Elder of the Council busy fighting a water cultivator of the Empire.

'Found you,' Noah thought as his expression became cold and began to dive at full speed toward him.

A draconic roar echoed through the battlefield. Noah launched a wave of white flames to stop the lightning cultivator from ambushing his allies as he continued his reckless charge.

The lightning cultivator was surprised that someone was targeting him, but he soon realized how dangerous the situation was when he saw Noah's figure behind the incoming flames.

Sparks filled his body, and he suddenly released them to retreat at high speed. The flames missed him, but Noah's reptilian eyes never left his figure.

Noah activated the Merging spell and sprinted, following his target tightly as he watched him escaping through various battlefields in the hope that Noah would lose track of him.

It was evident that head-on combat wasn't his specialty, but Noah wouldn't let someone that had tried to kill him get away so easily.

A series of Ghostly Sabers appeared around him, and Noah created a sea of saber-shaped runes too as he continued his chase. They were fastest ranged spells that he had, and they could even reach distances precluded to his other techniques.

The series of sabers flew ahead and tried to encircle the slippery cultivator who kept on dodging and using the other battles as a natural shield. However, Noah didn't mind if his spells hit other cultivators of the Empire and continued to command the various sabers to move forward.

Eventually, some of them landed on the body of the lightning cultivator, who spat a mouthful of blood as he kept running away.

Noah created more Ghostly Sabers, but his mind suddenly sensed a threat on his path, and he promptly wielded his Demonic Sword to slash at it. His weapon released a black line that clashed with a spark that the lightning cultivator had left behind as he escaped.

The spark exploded, but Noah ignored the shockwaves to focus on a series of lightning bolts that were converging at high speed toward his position. It seemed that the lightning cultivator had placed some kind of trap there, but the power of those attacks couldn't match Furious Storm's offensive.

Noah expanded his consciousness without activating any defensive measure. According to his target's behavior, there was a high chance that he would be nearby to watch if his trap was a success.

The individuality of the lightning cultivator seemed able to suppress the innate violence and flashiness of his element, which made his attacks quite suitable for ambushes. Yet, those sneaky features ended up taking away some of the power of his lightning bolts. Noah felt as if they were the weakest attacks that he had seen since the beginning of the war.

The lightning bolts drew near, but Noah waited until his consciousness found his target before deploying his defensive measures.

In the eyes of the onlookers, a gray cloud suddenly replaced Noah's figure when the attacks landed, but no one could understand how injured he was. They could only know that he was alive since they could still sense his consciousness.

The lightning cultivator watched the scene from a relatively safe position and felt satisfied by that result. His individuality didn't suit a battle with Noah at all, but he could slow him down, at least.

Also, the fact that he had become a complete rank 5 cultivator just a few decades ago left him with an imperfect battle style that he was still trying to understand.

'The Almighty has given me the title Silent Lightning, but there aren't many spells of my element with suitable features,' Silent Lightning began to think as he turned to look for another battle where he could ambush someone. Still, he suddenly felt that something was amiss when he tried to place his left foot on the air.

When he turned, he realized that the entirety of the left part of his body was gone.

Silent Lightning's eyes went toward the gray cloud that had become entirely black in the few seconds in which he had turned to retreat. A large fissure almost divided it into two parts, and a blurred fiendish figure came out of it as it flew toward him.

Noah dispersed the Demonic Form when he reached Silent Lightning, who was too stunned by his fatal wound to react. He even remained still when Noah's hand entered in his remaining low-waist through his injury and tore away his dantian.

"The Almighty will return, and doom-" Silent Lightning tried to give voice to a threat as his opponent ate his dantian in a single bite, but Noah simply waved his hand and reduced the rest of his body into a pulp.

The losers didn't have any right to speak.