

DEMONIC 911

Chapter 911 911. Collapse

"So," June said as she analyzed the black star contained inside the cubical formation, "This is what made the great Noah Balvan worried."

June then remained silent for a few seconds while she tried to make sense of what she was seeing. Yet, she could only guess that Noah had amassed a large amount of "Breath" in one place.

"What exactly is that?" June eventually asked as she turned toward Noah, who was sitting cross-legged at some distance from her.

Noah wasn't meditating. June had arrived while he was inspecting one of his new creations, and he didn't mind spending some time teasing her.

He remained silent as his gaze moved between the various inscribed items lying around him and the cubical formation. In the past days, he had forged random weapons to see how far his higher energy could push materials at the bottom of the fifth rank.

The results had always been exceptional. Noah's higher energy would improve the outcome of his forgings, and he often ended up with items that he couldn't usually make without an extensive period spent performing tests.

As Noah acquired more experience with the higher energy though, he started to feel that it was still an imperfect form.

Noah began to pour more darkness inside the cubical formation. The only way that he had to improve the current form of the higher energy was to push the black star toward a denser state.

Also, he needed to find a way to carry that vast sphere around. Increasing its density would reduce its width in theory, which would save him from asking Thirty-seven a method to compress it.

June knew that Noah was ignoring her on purpose. The last time that they had seen each other, she had pressed to remain with him because Noah had helped her create her higher energy.

She wanted their relationship to benefit both of them instead of being the only one asking for help.

Nevertheless, she understood the magnitude of Noah's experiments when she analyzed the dark star. Noah's procedure didn't even come close to the safe dual cultivation that they had done in the past. It was a weapon of mass destruction that he exploited to elevate his darkness.

June crouched behind Noah and hugged him while he poured his "Breath" in one of the links that would send it inside the cubical formation.

"I wanted to protect you," She said as she laid her head on his back. "Yet, I can't protect you from yourself."

Noah revealed a smile at that point. He knew that his methods were reckless and dangerous, but that was how he had reached his current level.

It didn't matter if he had to cut one of his arms or spend entire years going mad to create his darkness. That was how Noah discovered and advanced, and his ruthless approach made him create wonders.

"Just like I can't stop you from being yourself," Noah said as he stretched to lie on her lap. "We strive toward the individualities at the beginning of the journey, and they end up limiting us in one path. We are who we are, June."

"And we are together," June concluded his phrase and lowered her head to kiss him. It was time for the couple to have the moment of intimacy that they had delayed since her return in the neutral city.

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June came and went in the separate dimension. There was an entrance inside the Hive's training area of the neutral city, so she could go there whenever she wanted.

It was still a peaceful period. The matter with the ambush had been suppressed by the invading forces to preserve that temporary peace, and the invasion of the old continent wouldn't happen soon either.

Daniel had the training area all by himself and would cultivate there, while Faith was still nowhere to be seen. Only June had interacted with her during the period after the ambush.

"Here," June handed Noah a luxurious letter.

The two of them were sitting in front of the dark star, taking care of their matters while giving in to their desires when they felt like it.

The number of inscribed items lying on the floor of the separate dimension had increased, and the massive sphere made of darkness had become far bigger in the last period.

Noah had continued to cultivate, forge, and pour his "Breath" inside the cubical formation. He had reached the point where he was waiting for his higher energy to take another step forward in its evolution before approaching the next stage of his experiments.

Yet, that procedure took time since Noah had to pour massive amounts of darkness to increase the density of the dark star now.

He had added that procedure to his schedule since he wasn't in a hurry to complete his project. He would add fuel to the huge sphere whenever he had "Breath" to spare.

Focusing only on his experiments would slow down the improvements of his centers of power, and that wasn't something that he was willing to do.

Noah opened the letter and found out that it contained a list of sects with short descriptions next to them. Faith had signed that letter too, and the aura that the signature contained made Noah sure that it wasn't a fake.

"She has been investigating Ravaging Demon's affiliations," June explained as she played with one of the Instabilities laid on the floor. "This list isn't much, but the internal matters in the Papral nation are quite messy. No one is willing to talk unless the Council steps forward."

"This is already great," Noah said as he memorized that long list of names before storing the letter. "The Hive will eventually clash with Ravaging Demon's factions. Gathering information is the best that we can do now."

June's focus wasn't on him. She kept on looking at the inscribed items in the fifth rank sparse on the ground. Any expert would pay a lot of Credits to get their hands on one of them, but Noah couldn't even bother to store them.

Of course, Noah had his reasons for that. He wanted to have everything connected to his higher energy in his view to become more familiar with it.

Noah started to pour his darkness inside the cubical formation. It had become a habit for him to do it whenever he was over with his training. Yet, something different happened at that time.

The darkness in the outer layers of the dark star began to collapse and fuse with the layers below. That triggered a chain reaction that made the whole sphere condense and reach a new level of density.

Noah directly stood up and moved toward the borders of the cubical formation. It seemed that his higher energy was finally ready to reach what Noah considered to be a perfect state.

The lines of the formation shone as powerful flares erupted from the condensing sphere. It was as if the star wanted to send away some of the weaker energy contained in its form.

Chapter 912 912. Small star

Noah quickly contacted Thirty-seven, who appeared in a matter of minutes. The automaton then controlled the formation so that the energy radiated by the flares would flow into other parts of the dimension.

"Are you sure about this?" Thirty-seven asked. After all, that was the darkness that Noah had poured for weeks inside the cubical formation.

"Yes!" Noah shouted as he stood on the verge of the formation. "Just let it happen."

Noah's memories of his past life weren't helpful in that situation. He didn't study the stars enough to affect the procedure without risking to disrupt the natural evolution of his darkness.

So, he had decided that it would let his "Breath" regulate itself. Noah felt confident that its laws would force it to act according to his needs.

The flares became less intense as the less dense darkness flew away from the formation. The collapse of the star continued though, and it eventually stabilized when it reached a small spherical form.

Silent seconds passed as Noah, the automaton, and June inspected the small sphere that had replaced the massive star.

The sphere was so dark that their eyes found it hard to define its edges. It was as if light couldn't even come near that form, which made it appear as a black orb that distorted the air around it.

However, Noah had familiarized himself with his higher energy in the last period. He could understand that the same type of energy made the sphere, even if it appeared far denser than before.

The surface of the sphere remained still. Not even a ripple ran through its shape. Still, it floated on its own, and the trio could feel the intense gravitational pull around it.

Noah suddenly took a step forward, ignoring the surprised glances that landed on its back.

The gravitational pull became stronger as he neared the minute star. Yet, he was a hybrid in the upper tier. Enduring that traction force was something that he could do with a bit of effort.

His mind started to expand as he neared the floating sphere. More insights on the laws of creation appeared in his thoughts under the influence of the higher energy.

Noah decided to slow down his advance at that point. He didn't know how many enlightenments the sphere could provide, but he felt that it was better to focus on them before interacting with the result of his procedure.

Thirty-seven and June watched in silence as Noah took small steps and many breaks as he walked toward the little star. His eyes would often be closed too since his focus was on his mind.

Noah spent half a day like that, slowly nearing the most stable result that his procedure had been able to produce.

However, he eventually reached the sphere, and that was when he decided to touch it.

Noah's fingers stabbed the surface of the star easily. It was scorching, and it wasn't solid at all. Instead, it seemed made of a dense gas that acted as if it was a liquid floating in the air whenever someone affected its shape.

Noah felt even more insights on the laws of creation fusing with his mind and becoming something similar to soft instincts as he kept his hand inside the fist-sized star. He needed an entire day at that time to exhaust the enlightenments that his higher energy could provide.

'I see,' Noah thought as he retracted his hand. 'Improving the outcome of my forgings is just a side effect. This energy hides far more, but I'm still unable to see it.'

Noah had begun to evaluate that hypothesis since his various experiments with the Instabilities and other disposable weapons. His higher energy seemed to have a specific purpose that he had yet to identify.

Nevertheless, Noah didn't worry about it. He was bound to discover that. The issue now was to find a way to carry it around without risking leveling cities.

The star had become slightly smaller than a man's fist. His initial idea had been on point, and adding more darkness had led to a natural compression that didn't require any of Thirty-seven's methods.

'Even if I manage to carry it around,' Noah thought, 'How can I avoid setting up a similar environment to refill it every time?'

That was a major issue than Noah wanted to solve to make his new power suitable for battle.

Having to resort to training areas and formations to refill his stash of higher energy was too troublesome. Noah wanted something that became part of his power, not a tool that he could use only after a long preparation.

The truth was that Noah had an idea that would solve the issue. Still, that was another reckless idea.

"You won't like it," Noah said to June as soon as he came out of the formation and picked his inscribed notebook to contact Elder Austin.

The Elder arrived a few hours later and lost himself in the sight of the small star floating inside the cubical formation before focusing on the two cultivators. Thirty-seven had left in the meantime since Noah didn't need him anymore.

"What is it, Prince?" Elder Austin asked with a curious tone.

It was rare for Noah to contact him since Elder Julia handled most of the matters concerning the higher-ups of the Hive. Yet, Noah was the Demon Prince, and his recent achievements made all the Elders of the Hive feel indebted toward him.

June felt curious too since Noah didn't reveal the reason why he needed the Elder to move forward with his experiments.

"Elder," Noah spoke, and his expression started to reveal his usual coldness even when he conversed with friendly faces, "I need your help to remove large patches of skin and muscles."

Elder Austin had reached the liquid stage of the fifth rank in those years, and he had already helped Noah in a similar situation. Still, he couldn't help but release a loud curse when he understood that Noah didn't lose his self-harming attitude.

On the other hand, June didn't immediately understand what was happening, but the Elder's unwillingness gave her some hints. Also, Noah followed with more details.

"Don't worry, Elder," Noah said as he tried to reassure Austin. "I only need you to skin the entirety of my back, and maybe part of my chest too. I don't need too many muscles, just enough to reinforce the organ."

"What organ!?" Elder Austin shouted. "And what only!? You can't ask me to skin alive the second-most important figure in the whole Hive!"

"You accepted to pierce my dantian last time!" Noah replied. "That was far more dangerous than this. I won't die even if you happen to hurt a few internal organs in the process!"

"This doesn't reassure me at all!" Elder Austin shouted.

Noah and Elder Austin continued to discuss right in front of June, who remained silent as she accepted what was happening. A smile appeared on her face when she saw her lover arguing to convince the Elder to hurt him.

She didn't like the idea of seeing Noah's wounded, but she couldn't help but admire his ruthlessness.

Chapter 913 913. Materials

Noah knew his body and its limits. After all, he had created it and kept track of the changes that his many breakthroughs applied.

The resilience of the magical beasts had made his body evolve together with his other centers of power. He had been a simple cultivator with a beast body in the past. Now, he was a harmonious being, with centers of power that featured the perks of both worlds.

His dantian was sturdy and didn't need any external force to advance. His mental energy could devour the wills of his prey and control other magical beasts with its power. His body had the strength of a creature, but it had access to the martial arts of the humans.

That was the reason why he believed that his body would adapt if he added another center of power.

His idea to solve the issues connected with the higher energy was to create an organ capable of storing it. That would allow him to carry it wherever he wanted and refill it even when he was fighting.

His body would then improve that condition in the next breakthrough. It would make the new organ part of Noah's harmony, creating a being capable of wielding three different types of energy.

Elder Austin eventually accepted to help Noah. He didn't have a say in the matter, but he felt that it was in his right to complain before yielding to his demands.

Flames began to flow around the Elder. They took the form of two sharp knives under his control, and Noah could see how the aura that they radiated was different from the past.

There was some violence in the Elder's flames. They radiated a threatening instability that appeared ready to explode.

It seemed that Elder Austin had taken to heart Chasing Demon's pointers and had moved his individuality away from its previous path. His flames now contained the explosiveness of a volcano.

Noah sat on the ground of the separate dimension with the upper part of his body uncovered. His back faced Elder Austin, who neared him while wielding the two flaming knives.

June was still with them, and she kept her attention on her lover even when the Elder started to cut his skin.

Elder Austin's hands were steady as they moved the fiery knives to perform precise cuts on Noah's back. His cutting speed though was low since he was dealing with materials in the upper tier of the fifth rank.

The knives allowed the Elder to pierce Noah's skin, but they struggled to pass through the thick layers of muscles. Still, that was intended since Austin preferred to hold back until he understood how strong Noah's body was.

June saw how her lover's expression didn't change when the Elder started to skin his back. Noah didn't even flicker when his interiors were utterly exposed.

Instead, he had the time to turn to look at the large piece of skin in the Elder's grasp and do some quick math.

Noah already had a blueprint of the new organ in his mind, and he could guess the requirements in terms of materials. The skin of his back was enough for two sessions of forging.

"You can move to the muscles," Noah said after confirming that he didn't need to use the skin on his chest too. "Take a few layers. You don't need to go too deeply."

Elder Austin nodded while wearing an annoyed expression. He didn't like that task, and the fact that his knives would leave patches of charred tissues on Noah's body didn't help his mood.

Yet, Noah didn't complain nor cry in pain, which made the Elder's work far more comfortable to bear since he didn't meet any obstruction.

The gathering of materials took less than an hour, and Noah stored his body parts inside the space-ring before starting to feed on a rank 5 magical beast in the middle tier.

He now had the materials that he needed for the Elemental Forging method. He only needed to heal and to perfect some parts of the procedure in his mind before approaching his creation.

"I will call you again if I need more materials," Noah said when he saw the Elder leaving.

"Surpass me already, so I won't have to do this again," Elder Austin said after a snort before stepping on a teleportation matrix and disappearing from that area of the separate dimension.

June and Noah ended up alone again, but the former was in no mood to flirt, and the latter was injured.

"How long will it take to heal?" June asked as she neared Noah to inspect his open wound.

Blood flowed slowly outside of the large patch of missing skin. Noah's healing abilities had already kicked in and were suppressing that injury.

Still, Noah would need a while to return to his peak. His body was exceptional, but it was in the last tier of the fifth rank. His skin and muscles contained a large amount of energy, which meant that he needed to eat a lot if he wanted to increase his healing speed.

"Two months, maybe three, it depends on how much I work in this period," Noah answered, but his words only irritated June.

However, she quickly suppressed it. They had just fought about that same topic and conclude that they couldn't alter what they were, even if that would lead them to make a reckless decision.

June was a battle maniac, and she would probably decide to face enemies stronger than her for the sake of fighting. In the same way, Noah would do anything for power, even if that meant hurting himself in the process.

"Will you put it in your body?" June asked as she glanced at the small star in the distance.

June knew that Noah had already altered his body and that he had done so with far more invasive procedures. Yet, the energy contained inside the star was immense, and its gravitational pull was even stronger.

That wouldn't normally affect cultivators since they could use their "Breath" to defend against those effects. However, Noah planned to put the star inside his body!

The internal organs of both beasts and humans were usually frail, and even Noah couldn't claim to have the best of them in the hybrid world since there were body-nourishing methods that improved them.

"It is unclear what I will become," Noah explained as he straightened his position and continued to eat to his fullest, "But I would solve most of the issues connected with the higher energy with that."

Another powerful magical beast's corpse appeared in front of him, and Noah continued to eat until his hunger reached average levels of intensity.

The months spent healing gave him the time to focus more on the blueprint of the organ and on where he would put it. The choice eventually happened to be his heart since it was the only organ that had absorbed the qualities of the Yin Body other than the features of a magical beast.

Chapter 914 914. Forging

The Yin body had created a black membrane around Noah's heart when he was still a human. Then, when he had fused himself with a Cursed Dragon, the membrane and his heart had merged to become a single organ.

That had improved Noah's healing abilities. His injuries would close far faster than those of similar beings on the same level. Also, it made his heart one of the strongest organs in his body.

Noah needed a place inside his body where he could put the organ containing higher energy. He couldn't leave something capable of such gravitational pull near tissues that it could break apart easily.

Of course, that was relative to Noah's situation. Every tissue in his body surpassed the human standards, but he was dealing with an organ meant to contain a star.

He had to make sure that he wouldn't incur in ugly repercussions after the transplant.

Nevertheless, Noah had yet to create the actual organ, so he didn't spend too much time planning what would come after that.

In his mind, the organ had to be reasonably simple. He would use his muscles to make the internal parts and his skin for the external ones. Then, he would forge them together with higher energy imbued with a specific meaning.

In the end, Noah would add a modified version of his spherical rune to improve the overall containment of the higher energy.

It took Noah a bit more than three months to heal, but that only because he refused to stop cultivating in that period. The massive wound on his back would start to bleed again whenever the Demonic Sword sent darkness to his dantian.

Still, Noah returned to his peak and approached the forging once he made sure that he had studied every aspect of the procedure.

Generally speaking, creating an organ meant only to contain energy was simple. After all, Noah would use his body parts to make it, which meant that there wouldn't be any rejection after the transplant.

The real issues were the actual capacity of the organ and whether it could contain that incredible amass of energy. Also, there was a problem connected to how resilient Noah's body was.

The new organ would be a center of power containing energy dense enough to level cities. Anyone would have second thoughts when the idea of putting it inside their bodies became doable in their minds.

Yet, Noah couldn't be sure of those features until he tested the item.

Noah took a small bit of higher energy from the cubical formation and inserted it in his mental sphere. That seemingly solid gas entered the sea in his mind and came out in the form of a rotating orb that radiated a gravitational pull similar to that seen in the dark star.

The meaning that he had used when he imbued the higher energy used his ambition as a fuel. Noah had imagined himself flying toward the starry sky and destroying everything in his path with his bare hands.

He wasn't a blade in the dream. He had human features as he strived for the peak.

Noah had to imagine the entirety of himself as he reached for the stars since the new organ was bound to change his existence. After all, he was going to have four centers of power if the transplant was a success.

As for what concerned the small star inside the cubical formation, its form became a bit unstable when it lost part of its energy. Noah would have to pour more darkness inside it to restore its balance.

Noah completed the forging at his first try. The only real difficulty was the manipulation of rank 5 materials in the upper tier, but his higher energy smoothed the process since it was far stronger than his darkness.

Also, its natural features helped to avoid failures and creating a complete product that didn't require any tweak to reach a perfect form.

The insights gained during his study of the higher energy helped too. Noah's instincts now seemed able to understand how to handle certain parts of the procedure so that he could maximize the power of the finished product.

What he obtained was a rank 5 inscribed item in the upper tier. It had the form of a small sphere, with dark features and a rough surface, and its power put them somewhere in the lower part of the upper tier of the fifth rank.

Noah enveloped his creation with a spherical rune that he had made for that event.

Its power couldn't compare with the products that the separate dimension had seen in those years. Still, it was better to play it safe and add as many containing devices as he could.

Noah had to wait until the small star inside the cubical formation regained its past stability before trying to move it inside the new organ.

June watched as Noah held his new organ in his hands as he neared the small star. His connection with the higher energy made him capable of manipulating it, but there was still the chance that the star would react in strange ways due to that transfer.

The higher energy moved quickly inside the organ who forced it to compress itself further to fit it. The transfer was surprisingly smooth. No major complication appeared during the process.

Even the nature of the higher energy didn't change after being compressed once again. It seemed that it had reached a form that was unwilling to let go.

Noah had completed the easy part at that point. Now it was the moment to transplant the organ inside his heart.

The Demonic Sword didn't like to hurt Noah, even if he had his permission. Yet, it accepted to help him since their connection made the weapon understand that Noah needed it.

Noah was a hybrid in the upper tier, but his other centers of power were still lacking. His spells could only reach the limits of the gaseous stage in terms of strength, and that wasn't enough to pierce his skin.

Noah could only use his physical strength to create a passage for the higher energy.

Minutes of silence passed in the separate dimension while Noah reviewed everything that he had done in the last period. He controlled that he had considered every possibility before moving to the next phase of his project.

June limited herself to stare at him. Her eyes couldn't help but fall on the hole that he had cut on his chest.

In the end, Noah pushed the small organ inside that hole made with his weapon before activating another round of forging to make his heart fuse with it. The dark organ reached for his heart and landed on its surface before the Elemental Forging method melded the two materials.

Noah's heart fused with the new center of power and created an organ capable of carrying out different functions. Yet, a few seconds after the end of the forging, Noah felt as if his whole chest was on fire.

Even the insides of a fire-breathing dragon didn't seem able to withstand the heat generated once the two organs had fused.

Chapter 915 915. Burning hear

Noah would usually avoid inscribing an item that had already gone through one round of forging.

The Elemental forging method required specific meanings for each product that he wanted to create, and fusing items that had already been inscribed usually led to a conflict of wills.

However, Noah didn't need to change the will when fusing the new center of power with his heart. He had used the same imbued higher energy to force their tissues to merge.

That was necessary to make his body consider the new organ as part of Noah's existence. He couldn't just place it there because he needed to rely on the resilience of the magical beasts to harmonize that addition.

Yet, the real harmonization would arrive after the next breakthrough of his body. Now he had to deal with the consequences of his new organ on his own.

Noah felt as if the insides of his chest had turned into scorching magma after the two organs had fused. His body had been able to endure the heat radiated by the new center of power when it wasn't part of his tissues, but it didn't seem able to do so after the second forging.

Noah fell on his knees as his consciousness gathered around his heart and tried to suppress the heatwaves. Blood fell from the wound on his chest when he crouched on the ground in a hurried attempt to contain that outcome.

The new center of power didn't have access to his circulatory system. It was part of Noah's heart, but it was separated from the four chambers of his organs.

Noah had only fused it with its tissues so that it could become part of his body. He wasn't so idiotic to put his blood in direct contact with the dark star.

However, the heat had arrived anyway, and it spread on the rest of his torso since his mental energy couldn't stop it.

Most cultivators would try to revert the process or label the experiment as a failure at that point, but Noah had faced worse repercussions in his life.

He knew that his body could take a while to adapt to such invasive modifications. After all, he had to die when he fused with a Cursed Dragon to reset the laws that held his body together.

Something similar had happened with the Forging of the Seven Hells too. Death would always loom around him whenever he performed one of his unorthodox experiments, and a simple scorching sensation wasn't the worse that had happened to him.

June had felt the urge to run toward him as soon as she saw him crouching on the ground. Still, she suppressed that instinct to give Noah enough room to operate.

She was an expert in the formation field, but Noah was messing with the anatomy of his body. That kind of organic inscriptions wasn't something that she could affect with her expertise.

Noah roared in anger, and the world around him lost its light for an instant as he released a wave of flames. His instincts had told him to disperse some heat, but the issue didn't originate from his lungs.

Trails of gray smoke came out of Noah's mouth as he gasped for air. He was starting to act as a magical beast since his mind focused on confining the heat spreading through his body.

Noah spent entire minutes in that condition. He would punch, roar, and spew flames in the hope that releasing some of his energy would help to solve the issue.

However, his body only needed time to accept that new energy.

Noah's condition slowly stabilized as time passed, and the heat became more bearable as his heart became used to its new chamber.

It soon became apparent that Noah had mistakenly taken that scorching sensation as a consequence of the fusion of the two organs. That sensation was only an instinctive reaction of his internal organs adapting to the new source of heat that had appeared inside his body.

June breathed a sigh of relief when she saw Noah calming down and sitting cross-legged to meditate. She could see through her mental energy that her lover's consciousness had let go of its tension and was merely analyzing his body now.

Noah watched his heart with his mind. His heartbeat was strong, and the addition to that organ didn't affect the normal functioning of his circulatory system.

Instead, he felt a strange power coming from the spherical chamber that had appeared on his heart.

It wasn't the gravitational pull or its temperature. Noah felt as if his entire existence was striving for something different from its current state. Something that he couldn't define yet.

'Let's see if this works,' Noah thought before moving his focus on the new center of power.

A small piece of his higher energy came out of his heart and appeared on his palm. Still, Noah's attention remained on his chest to analyze how withdrawing power from the dark star had affected its state.

Of course, Noah had tested that before fusing his heart and the new center of power. Yet, he wanted to see if something had changed after the forging.

The dark star remained stable even after it lost part of its energy. The fact that the center of power compressed it helped in maintaining a steady form.

However, Noah knew that he couldn't let it become too unstable or withdraw too much higher energy. His new organ wouldn't be able to contain the dark star if it returned to its weaker form when it was still a vast mass of rotating energy.

'I need to keep the star to optimal levels,' Noah concluded in his mind and started to withdraw small pieces of the dark star to see when it would show signs of instability.

He had yet to find a way to use it in battle but knowing its limits had the priority. Even if he developed a fighting method that made use of his higher energy, he wouldn't resort to it until he knew exactly how much density the star could lose before returning to its giant form.

It turned out that the compression of the center of power kept the dark star stable even when half of its energy had gathered on Noah's palm. That gave Noah some confidence and eased his worries.

His training and tests would take a long time if the star were to become unstable as soon as he withdrew some energy. Still, it seemed that he could act quite freely as long as he didn't go under half of it.

"It seems stable," Noah said as he reabsorbed the higher energy floating on his palm. A sudden weight landed on his chest when he did that, but that sensation disappeared in a few seconds.

June neared him after those words, and her hand went on his chest, where the wound had finally stopped bleeding.

"It's hot," She said when she placed her palm on him. "Your fourth center of power is a burning heart."

Chapter 916 916. Sparks

Noah spent the following weeks continuing his tests with his new center of power. He needed to become used to its limits before focusing again on the higher energy that it contained.

Noah would study how long it took for the dark star to return to its peak, how quickly he could withdraw the higher energy, and how much of his darkness he needed to divert on his heart to refill it.

After all, that was a completely new organ, even if part of it still acted as his heart. It was different from his other centers of power since he had almost two centuries to explore their functioning and limits.

Noah forged, experimented with the Will-consuming runes, and even started to work on the living weapons again.

It was needless to say that Thirty-seven felt excited when Noah told him that they would start working together again. Still, that feeling only became more intense when the miraculous properties of the higher energy showed their effects on the organic inscriptions.

In the past, Noah had used his primary energy to perform the Elemental Forging method on weapons that had a different aptitude from his. Using his darkness would lead to rejections that increased the failure rate of the forgings.

Yet, such rejections didn't appear when he used his higher energy.

That discovery surprised even Noah. The higher energy was a product of his darkness in the end, and it still carried the features of the darkness aptitude. Rejections would only be normal in its case.

However, it seemed that the pure meaning of creation carried by the higher energy was enough to make up for the difference in the elements. The outcome was even slightly better than usual!

It was worth noting that the living weapons created in that way would carry a trace of Noah's aura, which made their attacks somewhat impure since there were different elements fused in one being.

That didn't affect the power of the weapons. Still, it worked as a signature that revealed the identity of their creator.

Noah didn't mind that after-effect for now since the living weapons had yet to enter the international market. Still, it was something worth keeping in mind in case he was to forge weapons for cultivators outside of the Hive.

Once the peculiarity of his creations became famous, any expert would be able to recognize his works.

His stash of magical beasts had started to become thin in the last period. Between the two healing sessions, the countless forgings, and feeding the Demonic Sword, Noah was starting to lack food for himself.

The only things that had stopped him from going outside and hunting for more creatures were his eagerness to study his higher energy and the fact that he could use part of the energy in the star to appease his hunger.

Yet, it had reached the point where Noah was seriously risking emptying his stash, which led him to come out of the separate dimension to hunt in the territories near the neutral city.

June had returned on the surface already in that period. She had to lead some minor cleaning operations in a danger zone for the Elbas family, and she would use that opportunity to visit Faith, who was still somewhere in the Council's domain.

Noah reappeared in the underground training area and found Daniel cultivating in the corner of the vast room. There was a large cauldron in front of him, and strands of dim light would come out of it.

It seemed that Daniel had stuck with his previous cultivation technique even after discussing his individuality with Shandal. Still, Noah guessed that there were minute differences that he wasn't able to notice.

Noah didn't know anything about alchemy, and Daniel had one of the rarest elements too. Darkness and light had many mysterious features that only their owners could understand.

Daniel interrupted his cultivation when he sensed Noah's arrival, but a disturbance in the environment soon claimed the two cultivators' attention.

Noah felt anger rising inside him as his body understood what was happening. His body was able to sense the arrival of a Heaven Tribulation even before its dark clouds gathered.

'Why does Heaven keep doing it?' Noah thought before shooting toward the surface.

The truth was that he had expected a Tribulation to come when he first created the higher energy, but the lack of reactions from Heaven and Earth made him ignore that matter.

Yet, the reaction arrived now that he had reappeared as an existence with four centers of power.

Noah flew above the neutral city and gazed at the dark clouds accumulating in the sky. Elder Estelle and the other rank 5 existences were already there and looked at him with helpless expressions.

Noah wanted to tell them that he would lead the Tribulation away from the city, but his mind suddenly expanded at the sight of the orange sparks running through the clouds.

A lightning bolt fell from the sky while his mind was still wandering in that sudden enlightenment, and it hit him directly on the chest, throwing him back on the ground.

That event surprised the rank 5 existences on the scene. After all, the Tribulation had the power of the lower tier of the fifth rank, and they had seen Noah fighting against cultivators at the peak of the gaseous stage.

They would have never imagined that the famous hybrid of the Hive couldn't react in time against that lightning bolt.

It soon became evident that something was wrong with that situation, and the experts made the silent decision of taking care of the Tribulation before it fell on the city.

However, before any of them could attack, a draconic roar carrying human words resounded in the area. "Don't touch it!"

The experts froze in place and turned toward the crater created by Noah's fall only to see a figure flying away from the city at high speed.

The clouds decided to chase after Noah, ignoring the dumbfounded experts that limited themselves to stare at the leaving Tribulation for fear to incur the Demon Prince's anger.

Noah flew toward the central territories until the city was nothing more than a dark spot in the distance. Then, he stopped and waited for the Tribulation to catch up with him.

The black clouds quickly gathered above him again and started to release lightning bolts aimed at his chest. Their target was the fourth center of power.

Noah didn't defend. He closed his eyes and let the lightning bolts hit him and hurl him on the ground.

His body felt sore after the impacts, but his mind was still lost in the sudden enlightenment that the Tribulation had brought.

'I see,' Noah thought as he slowly stood up from the crater that he had created with his fall and lifted his arms so that his palms would face each other.

The clouds didn't wait for him and started to release more lightning bolts toward him. Yet, Noah ignored them and focused on the higher energy in his heart.

'This energy is meant to create the world.' Noah thought, and black sparks formed between his palms.

Chapter 917 917. Meaning

Noah didn't know why he had suddenly felt able to create those black sparks. Maybe it was his period inside the Divine Architect's separate dimension, or his experience with the Tribulations, or even his connection with June, who carried the scent of the Heaven's Spark.

Yet, he knew that he had understood how to recreate the lightning element carried in the Tribulation as soon as he saw the black clouds.

Black sparks formed between Noah's palms and condensed to create a thick lightning bolt that emitted crackling sounds even if its form was mostly solid.

Meanwhile, some disturbance ran through the lightning bolts of the Tribulation that were falling toward him.

Noah was ready to receive the attack of the black clouds when he saw their lightning bolts deviating and falling on different spots of the barren ground. It was as if something had forced them to change their trajectory.

The same disturbance hit the clouds too. Noah saw how the crackling noise inside them became more violent, and their surface trembled.

It seemed that some battle was happening inside the Tribulation. Yet, Noah couldn't sense anyone else on the scene, and even his enhanced awareness couldn't pick up anything.

The aura of the Tribulation started to change during that struggle. It had only emitted a pure sense of destruction before, but some deeper meaning had begun to appear in the black clouds.

The lightning storm was slowly shifting from being a mere punishment sent by Heaven to destroy a rebellious existence to a fair trial that featured a reward. It was changing into the same kind of Tribulation meant for beings that were about to step on a higher level of existence.

'Who is doing this?' Noah thought at that sight. That strange event was taking over Heaven and Earth's will and changing the composition of the Tribulation.

Noah would benefit from destroying the clouds now. It wasn't a matter of survival anymore.

'Is it the world?' Noah thought before the lightning storm started again, and he felt forced to defend against the incoming attacks.

Noah saw a dozen lightning bolts coming in his direction, but he was ready at that time. He threw the black bolt in his palms before wielding his Demonic Sword to launch more attacks.

The Tribulation's lightning bolts exploded into a series of sparks when they met the black lines launched by the Demonic Sword. Noah's martial art was more than enough to deal with that threat.

Instead, his dark bolt created a loud shockwave when it met with the Tribulation's offensive. The two bolts destroyed each other and dispersed into the world when they clashed.

Noah didn't feel too disappointed about the power of his lightning bolt. That was his first time imitating a phenomenon of the world, and he didn't use spells either.

His sudden creation was just an imitation of the attacks that were coming at him, but they were far away from being optimized.

Noah could destroy the Tribulation quickly if he used all his powers. Nevertheless, he knew that he wouldn't get another chance like that.

How many times could a cultivator test himself against a Tribulation? And how many of them could test their imitation of Heaven and Earth's lightning bolts?

So, Noah decided to focus on his dark sphere and used only his lightning to fend off the Tribulation.

As he kept fighting, the differences between the lightning element and the darkness became evident.

The lightning element was direct and violent. It wasn't meant to be controlled. It only needed a target to pierce and destroy.

Noah felt the black sparks trying to escape his control as he manipulated them to take specific forms. They wanted to go wild and cause havoc everywhere, without even minding their targets.

On the other hand, the darkness element was vague. It encompassed almost every field, but it didn't have any specific feature or innate behavior.

Noah guessed that such behaviors were simply an innate feature of the elements. The less rare aptitudes had more transparent conduct compared to the rarest ones.

The Tribulation started to fall apart after some time. After all, Noah had kept launching lightning bolts like crazy through the entirety of the battle.

His ability to imitate the Tribulation increased as he kept fighting too. It had reached the point where his lightning bolts weren't just the imitation of that phenomenon again.

They kept on becoming stronger and denser until they were able to overcome the Tribulation's attacks and land on the black clouds.

Noah eventually destroyed the entirety of the Tribulation, and a humming sound spread in the area at that point. He felt as if the world was trying to announce something, but it didn't understand it completely.

He could only hear some random pieces of information, but most of his understanding came from the instincts that ran through his body.

He could understand that the world had reacted at the appearance of such energy. Winning against the Tribulation would make the world accept his higher energy as one of the matters allowed in those Mortal Lands.

The laws released from the Tribulation at the moment of its demise improved Noah's understanding of the laws of creation. Those effects weren't limited only to a quicker growing speed. They nourished his dantian too and pushed it toward a superior stage.

Noah felt that his dantian had started to compress under the influence of the muscles around it. The darkness inside it slowly turned into a single and minute drop of a dark liquid that seemed made of swords.

A roar escaped his mouth at that point. Noah couldn't help but express his triumph to the world since he had just taken a significant step forward in his cultivation.

He had become a rank 5 cultivator in the liquid stage!

'Finally!' Noah exclaimed in his mind. 'It has taken me a century to reach this level!'

He had become a rank 5 cultivator when he was only eighty or so years old. Yet, he had to spend the following sixteen years focused on creating his darkness so that he could cultivate.

Now, after a bit more than a century, Noah had taken another step forward in his path.

Noah meditated and cultivated for a few days right on that spot in the central areas of the new continent. He had yet to stabilize his dantian, and he wanted to review what his new understanding had brought.

Everything had suddenly become evident in his mind. Projects and ideas that he had stored inside his random thoughts appeared easier than ever.

It was as if he had been born to create. After the acceptance of the world, Noah had become a proper maker.

'I guess I can focus on my battle prowess now that I've found a path for my higher energy,' Noah thought as he opened his eyes and began to fly in the direction of the neutral city.

'I need to create a Blood Companion first,' Noah evaluated as he remembered the utility of the Body-inscription spell. 'I even know which will to give it.'

Chapter 918 918. Dark matter

Noah had always relied on Blood Companions through the course of his cultivation journey. The Body-inscription spell had been his first spell and a useful tool that had allowed him to overwhelm his opponent even when outnumbered.

Yet, his darkness had made him lose access to many of his previous abilities, which forced him to give up on creating Blood Companion until he found a solution to the issue.

His higher energy though had revealed itself to be a matter capable of recreating the world. It could replicate the lightning bolts of a Heaven Tribulation, and it had even caused a reaction in the black clouds meant to destroy him.

Noah now had the tools that he had lacked in his previous years and could devote himself to all the projects that he had set aside. The priority went to those that would improve his battle prowess.

Of course, his study of the higher energy was far from over. After all, he had just discovered that he could imitate other elements with that power, which was no small thing.

However, that research would take decades, and its results might be unclear. Even if it was a promising study project, Noah had to make sure that he was at the peak of his power before embarking himself in another long series of experiments.

Noah's return to Divine Market city created a wave of surprise and amazement.

The other rank 5 cultivators had seen him cause a Tribulation and lead it away from the city. Still, now they saw him returning as a rank 5 cultivator in the liquid stage.

His title as the most talented cultivator in history wasn't just for show. Noah proved to the world again that he was a monster capable of matching the exaggerated rumors about him.

Reaching the liquid stage in a little more than one hundred years was an outstanding achievement. It showed that Noah didn't meet any bottleneck along his journey and was continuing to advance at full speed toward the higher ranks.

Truth to be told, reaching the liquid stage in one hundred years wasn't too far off from the standards of the geniuses. It wasn't a monstrous achievement like those that he had earned in the past.

Yet, the matter spread far and wide nonetheless since it concerned Noah. Being a little above the genius level would still earn him the title of a monster since his previous achievements put him too far away from his generation.

Noah's notebook rang like crazy in those days. Every Elder of the Hive wanted to congratulate with him and set up friendly meetings where they could discuss their individualities and give pointers to each other.

Noah was inclined to accept them, but he had too many projects piled up, and he had yet to study his new darkness properly. So, he turned the invitations down as he prepared to approach the experiments with his Blood Companion.

Thirty-seven felt disappointed when Noah told him that they would need to stop experimenting on the living weapons until he took care of his matters. Still, the automaton decided to join Noah's new project anyway since it sort of concerned organic inscriptions.

Noah's idea was simple. In the past, he had initially thought that he needed to assemble a body that would suit his darkness to avoid the rejections that had made him abandon the spell in the first place.

Nevertheless, discovering that his higher energy was a pure tool of creation meant that he could assemble whatever he wanted as long as there was enough energy for the Blood Companion and himself.

He didn't even need the body parts of specific magical beasts. He could imitate them with his higher energy.

There were only two issues with his idea.

The first one was that Thirty-seven needed to reexamine the spell and change it according to Noah's requirements. The second one was that he needed a will if the automaton decided to follow the living weapons' approach.

Thirty-seven though was happy to mess around with spells that involved organic inscriptions, and Noah already had the perfect candidate for what concerned the second issue.

Noah had learnt after becoming a hybrid that the hunger of the magical beast was a curse. It was the sensation that drove all their actions, and that even took over their survival instincts at times.

Still, there were peculiar specimens in the world that had learnt to control their instincts and live without hunting all the time.

Noah didn't know why that happened. It was something that went against the beasts' instincts. However, he knew that he would have probably discovered it if he didn't have access to so many preys all the time.

Noah could hunt whenever and wherever he wanted. He didn't have a pack to feed, and his power always allowed him to target beings that were on the same level as his body.

The magical beasts couldn't do that. They would usually hunt for weaker creatures and slowly grow while they tried to survive the constant clearing operations of the humans.

So, some of them learnt to be patient and suppress their instincts, just like the Albino Snake, which was Noah's target.

Having the will of a beast capable of controlling itself would be amazing once created a Blood Companion. It would make a huge difference in battle, and Noah wouldn't need to fear any rebellion since it wasn't a hybrid.

Finding it wouldn't even be a problem since Noah could imagine where it was hiding. It had escaped in the territories of the Empire after the dimensional portal appeared in the Utra nation.

However, soldiers of the Shandal Empire filled the central territories of the old continent. They would have noticed something so big slithering through their domain.

So, the most obvious answer was that it was hiding inside the mountain chain that divided the two areas of influence.

There would be time for the hunt though. Noah now had to create a body that could make use of his individuality and turn it into firepower too.

Generally speaking, Noah would find specific body parts and forge them together to create a chimera. However, he could work more freely now that he had higher energy. He could use it as the primary material for his creation.

After all, that would even improve Noah's control over the Blood Companion and would prevent him from wasting time trying to piece exotic materials together.

Noah's project started with a long session of meditation accompanied by the Divine Deduction technique, in which he decided the features that his new Blood Companions would have. Also, he set its abilities and its anatomy according to his needs.

The actual experimentations happened only after that, and Noah could discover even more applications of his higher energy.

He wasn't wrong when he thought that he could recreate the world thanks to his black star. Noah had begun creating the spine from nothing when he noticed that his higher energy could solidify if needed. It could assume any forms.

That led Noah to call his higher energy "dark matter".

Chapter 919 919. Copy

Creating with the dark matter felt strange at the beginning. Noah had never met such a peculiar material, and assembling it in the form of a living being broadened his vision for what concerned its potential.

The higher energy could change form freely. Noah would forge it in the shape of a body part only to see it transforming into a gas whenever he wanted. Then, it could return to its solid form without losing the features that Noah had inscribed.

It was mysterious and atypical, but the possibilities that it opened were also incredible.

That wasn't always a good thing, especially in the initial phases.

Noah's understanding continued to grow as he continued to build a body, and that forced him to reconsider some of the initial parts that he had created.

He would suddenly find better ideas to put into use, or a sturdier structure, or even a completely different ability that was possible only thanks to the properties of the dark matter.

The fact that he had reached the liquid stage didn't help in the matter either. Noah's existence had taken another step toward the world of the laws after the breakthrough, and his mind would peek at it more often now.

His sessions of meditation became longer since his mind kept on reaching for the laws and understanding how to wield them better. That made him find more ways to improve his previous creation, which led him to review what he had been building.

It was a cycle where creating the body of the Blood Companion led to an increase in his understanding, which then made Noah review and modify what he had built previously.

Of course, that wasn't bad either. It only increased the amount of time that Noah would spend on that project.

Noah didn't let his eagerness to improve his battle prowess take the better of him and wholly focused on creating the best body that his expertise was capable of building. He even started over at times when he found structures that were far better from those that he had used before.

He didn't mind taking his time though. After all, Thirty-seven had yet to come up with a modified version of the Body-inscription spell, and the two of them would have to fuse their separate works at some point.

Nothing changed both in the separate dimension and in the outside world in that period. The three invading forces kept on growing and preparing for the attack on the old continent, and their assets focused on harvesting as many gains as they could from the new territories.

There wasn't a set date in their alliance that dictated when they would resume their offensive, but the atmosphere in the new continent became tenser as they years passed.

That wasn't the result of internal conflicts or specific meetings. The three organizations were keeping track of how many Heaven Tribulations appeared in the skies of their allies' domains to check their growth.

The Hive had surprised its allies in those years due to the troops from the Odrea nation. Still, the other forces had seen their fair share of breakthroughs too.

Almost fifty years had passed from their first attack on the Empire by then, and every organization had obtained valuable territories other than more experienced troops. It was only normal for all of them to see positive results in that period.

The more positive results appeared, the more the war drew near.

June eventually returned to the separate dimension and found Noah immersed in a black cloud that didn't let any light touch its surface.

The cloud would take the shape of a long, scaled body at times and return to its gaseous form whenever Noah found some instability in its structure.

There were even other features that became visible whenever the cloud turned solid. June could see a pair of large feathered wings too, and she even saw a claw once.

Also, the overall size of the creature was massive. It was even bigger than the Lazy Whale that had died in the war against the Empire!

It was evident that Noah was building some colossal monster that didn't exist in the world. However, June couldn't help but sense an absolute harmony in those forms.

Noah didn't forget that he had to create something functional. The Blood Companion needed a form that the will of a magical beast could control. It had to be a proper living being.

He couldn't just add every battle-related feature that he could think of. There had to be a harmony in the creature that he was building so that it could express its power without causing any internal conflict.

Also, Noah was trying to tune it with his darkness since his "Breath" would fuel the creature's abilities. That meant creating something in line with his individuality, and that wouldn't give birth to any rejection with his darkness.

In his idea, the dark matter would make the Blood Companion's body, his darkness would fuel its abilities, and its every move would generate primary energy in the environment.

The creature would express the peak of his creation since it made use of all the energies that Noah could wield. Its existence would even be one inclined to destruction, which would complete the representation of his individuality.

"Why am I not surprised that you started to create a monster as soon as you advanced to the liquid stage?" June asked when she saw Noah coming out of the black cloud.

"The surprises have just begun," Noah said as he wore a smirk and lifted his hand to show her the black sparks.

June felt as if she was dreaming. It had never happened in the entire history of those Mortal Lands that a cultivator had been able to wield two elements!

Yet, as she analyzed the sparks further, she realized that they didn't belong to the lightning element. Instead, they radiated the same aura of the cloud, meaning that they belonged to the darkness aptitude.

Noah didn't wield two elements. His dark matter could recreate the lightning bolts of the Tribulation, but it remained an evolved form of his darkness.

"The maker has found his tools, and now he wants to play," June said in a soft voice. She was the only one that knew the entirety of Noah's individuality, so she could understand the path that he had taken with that energy.

"No one knows about this," Noah said, ignoring her previous words. "I still need to study how to use the imitation of the other elements properly before showing it in battle."

June couldn't help but feel happy when she heard that. She was the only one aware of Noah's secrets, and that made her feel as if they had their world that they weren't willing to share with anyone.

"What do you think you will do with it?" June asked as she took Noah's hand. Dark sparks came out of her palm too, and they entangled themselves with the black sparks.

"I only have a vague idea," Noah said as he pulled June closer. "Copy the elements, the matter, the world, and, eventually, Heaven and Earth."

Chapter 920 920. White mountain

Noah's plans for his dark matter didn't stop to an imitation. According to what he had understood of his higher energy, he might reach the point where he could create his world at some point.

Of course, that was purely theoretical. Noah had only managed to copy the lightning bolts of the Heaven Tribulation, and his work with the body of the Blood Companion was between pure creation and imitation.

Noah was creating body parts that already existed in other magical beasts and building entirely new tissues when he couldn't find something to imitate. His expertise with higher energy was what dictated his choices.

Imitating was easier, and Noah could create tissues that he had already studied in the past. Pure creation, instead, was challenging and required tests to see if his products worked as intended.

It was needless to say that the tissues built through pure creation suited his individuality better. Still, Noah wasn't skilled enough to make an entire living being without taking inspiration from the world.

Also, certain body parts were too perfect for what he had in mind, so he couldn't ignore the examples that the world provided.

June remained in the separate dimension and left it only when the Elbas family contacted her for specific meetings or assigned her missions.

That rarely happened though, so she spent most of her time training near Noah, who was entirely captivated by his project.

Noah and Thirty-seven had started to work together at some point since they needed to make sure that they were working toward the same goal.

They had both planned that the modifications of the Body-inscription spell had to lead to some advanced version of the living weapons. Yet, they needed to set a direction so that their researches could eventually fuse into a single ability.

Nevertheless, they quickly found common ground. Thirty-seven would try to modify the spell so that Noah would only need to transfer the will of the Albino Snake into the new body before inscribing it on his skin.

After deciding on their direction, Noah and Thirty-seven returned to their work and focused on completing their separate projects.

It only took a few years for both of them to complete their works. Thirty-seven even finished before Noah since his project only required him to modify certain parts of the Body-inscription spell.

The only parts that required special attention were the modifications to specific core aspects. Still, the automaton did its best to keep as much of the original diagram as possible.

On the other hand, Noah had needed a bit more to complete the body made with dark matter.

There were many instances when he had to rebuild entire parts of the Blood Companion because they caused instabilities in its form. At times, some of its organs wouldn't function correctly, which forced him to analyze and recreate tissues again.

Noah eventually completed his work, and that signaled the beginning of the last phase of his project. It was time to hunt down the Albino Snake and finalize the creation of the Blood Companion.

A vast black cloud started to compress, revealing Noah's features. The gas gathered on his palm, where it formed a small orb that Noah stored inside his space-ring.

There was enough room for the body of the Blood Companion after the years spent experimenting and testing. It wasn't a problem to store his creation now.

Thirty-seven came close and handed him a piece of leather that had a series of inscriptions on its surface.

"Just fuel it and place it on the ground," The automaton said. "The inscriptions will do the rest."

The piece of leather contained the modified version of the Body-inscription spell. Thirty-seven had created a disposable item capable of deploying the inscriptions necessary for its functioning so that Noah could perform the ritual wherever he wanted.

Noah didn't expect to find too many dangers on his path, but the mountain chain between the two areas of influence was a rank 6 danger zone. It was better to make upgrades to his arsenal as soon as he could.

June was there too, and she and Noah exchanged a quick kiss before he stepped on a teleportation matrix and disappeared from the separate dimension.

She would have loved to come with him even to relive the moments spent in the wilderness in the other Mortal Lands. Yet, she had to be available in the eventuality that the Elbas family summoned her.

Noah used three teleportation matrices in a row to reach the closest spot to his target. According to his investigations, the Albino Snake had escaped along the eastern coast of the old continent after the dimensional portal appeared.

That area wasn't exactly safe since the old academy was in those territories. Still, Noah had no intention to risk meeting the silver-haired Royals again and decided to avoid entering in the Utra nation.

The last teleportation matrix had brought him on the southernmost side of the old continent, and Noah flew above the sea until he crossed the eastern border of the Utra nation.

Then, he kept flying for a few days and landed on the eastern coast only when he felt that he had put enough distance between him and the old domain of the Elbas family.

At that point, Noah started to look for the traces of the Albino Snake and its pack.

Luckily for him, that side of the old continent was mostly uninhabited. After all, the Elbas family had pushed as many assets as possible to migrate to the new continent.

Noah found himself in a wild environment where only magical beasts tried to thrive even if the destructive effects of the dimensional portal were about to reach those lands. They were mostly creatures in the human ranks that ate each other to make up for the low density of "Breath" in the air.

Of course, Noah completely ignored them as he looked for the traces left by the Albino Snake, and they weren't hard to find due to the massive size of that creature.

Noah followed those traces until he found himself in front of the familiar mountain chain that signaled the end of King Elbas' domain and pressed forward while keeping his awareness to its peak.

It seemed that even the mountain chain had been affected by the appearance of the dimensional portal. Many creatures had migrated and mixed themselves with the environment of that danger zone, making it more crowded and chaotic.

Noah felt the urge to hunt the few powerful creatures that he found among those mountains, but he suppressed it to focus on the mission. There would be time to eat once he improved his power.

Tracking down a creature in the fifth rank wasn't a hard task for him, especially since he knew what he was looking for. Noah soon found himself in a valley between two tall mountains, and he saw a scene that made some of his oldest memories resurface.

He saw a small and white mountain surrounded by a sea of snakes.