

DEMONIC 931

Chapter 931 931. Beas

Noah hadn't seen Icy Cascade since Chasing Demon's mission when he had to find the remains of the Demon sects. She had been a rank 4 cultivator in the gaseous stage back then, but she had improved in those years. She was now in the solid stage of the fourth rank.

That growth wasn't spectacular when compared to Noah or the other talents of his generation, but the fact that icy Cascade didn't stop improving showed that she had some potential.

After all, only a complete stop in the growth could lead to the stagnation of the centers of power. There was no problem with cultivators who had slow but steady improvements.

More heroic cultivators appeared behind her. They all wore flashy inscribed armors that shone with a dark-red color and stepped forward while glancing at the battlefield with stern expressions.

Then, their focus went on the heroic cultivators of the invading forces on the other side of that region. It was evident that the Empire was ready to take those battles more seriously now that the attackers were nearing the borders of its domain.

"They are the Wardens," Elder Ingrid said when she saw those heroic cultivators. She was aware of the force tasked to defend the Empire's borders since she had handled the Lutren nation for quite some time.

Noah knew about that force too, but he didn't expect that the Empire still had so many powerful cultivators in its ranks.

There were a dozen rank 5 cultivators among those reinforcements and more than fifty soldiers in the fourth rank. Also, Noah didn't see any of them in the battles in the new continent. That meant that they had spent all those years in those areas.

'I shouldn't expect any less by the Empire,' Noah thought as he straightened up his posture.

The Empire was an organization created by a god who had lived for more than fifty thousand years. It had been able to produce two powerhouses, and one of them had even ascended!

The fact that its number of powerful assets appeared endless didn't come as a shocking surprise for Noah. Still, he had to admit that the Empire was revealing itself as a formidable opponent.

Losing the new continent wasn't enough. The most powerful organizations in the entirety of those Mortal Lands attacking it, but it was still capable of holding its ground.

No matter how many cultivators the invaders deployed, the Empire always appeared able to match them.

The members of the Wardens didn't move. They remained in the sky behind the human troops as if waiting for the attackers to make the first step.

That seemed a trap, but Noah didn't sense anything different with his innate awareness. It was as if the Wardens wanted to face the enemy heroic cultivators without making use of their advantage as defenders.

The group of Royals took out a series of inscribed items to study the environment, looking for eventual formations or defenses in place. However, even their advanced scanning methods didn't find anything out of the ordinary.

An exchange of glances happened between the heroic assets of the invading forces at that point. There was a bit of hesitation in their expressions, but the lack of defenses made them decide to advance toward their enemies.

Noah had no intention to reveal Snore so soon. It had been a long time since he had abilities that the world wasn't aware of, and he would prefer to keep it in that way for as much as he could.

Yet, he still wanted to seize dantians to feed his body. After all, the breakthrough of his sword had just increased his need for nutrients.

The situation didn't seem ideal for his usual battle style.

The members of the Wardens remained close without dispersing through the battlefield. They didn't appear inclined to choose different opponents and to fight them separately.

'It might be a good moment to test the new runes,' Noah thought as he stopped at some distance from a short man that radiated the aura of a rank 5 cultivator in the liquid stage.

His allies had similar ideas and didn't get too close to the Wardens. However, they still chose opponents that matched their cultivation level.

Noah glanced at the rank 4 cultivators under him. They were imitating the higher-ups by choosing suitable opponents, but they were too close to the experts in the fifth rank.

There were even rank 5 cultivators in the solid stage above them. Being right under them while they fought could kill them in a few exchanges.

Nevertheless, the rank 4 soldiers of the Empire didn't seem to mind that aspect and prepared themselves to face the dubious invaders.

Noah felt a series of glances landing on him. His weaker allies were worried that his renown smoke would kill them even before the shockwaves were released from his battle.

The Demon Prince of the Hive wasn't famous for his consideration in battle. The rank 4 cultivators could hope that the other higher-ups would try to hold back due to their presence, but they didn't have any faith in Noah.

"Shall we rise?" Andrew Elbas gave voice to everyone's thoughts at that moment, and the weaker cultivators under him breathed a sigh of relief when they heard him.

Yet, the Wardens replied by kicking the air under them and releasing a massive amount of "Breath" that filled that entire area of the sky.

A series of blue lines appeared under the Wardens' feet after that action, and the event wasn't limited to the higher-ups. Even the rank 4 cultivators had executed the same gesture and had blue lines spreading under their feet.

The invaders quickly took a few steps back when they saw that strange phenomenon. They weren't ignorant about what was happening, and they didn't want to face it before understanding its actual power.

The Royals' knowledge covered almost every kind of inscription method, and every sect in the Papral nation taught those techniques. Also, the Elders of the Council had used those formations during the war in the new continent. So even the cultivators of the Hive could recognize that ability.

The Wardens were using a battle formation that involved a dozen cultivators in the fifth rank and more than fifth in the fourth rank. It was pointless to say that the power of a technique activated by so many powerful existences was bound to be threatening.

Noah and the others retreated until they exited the range of the technique, but their eyes never left the Wardens. They kept track of how the blue lines spread in the sky and enveloped all the heroic cultivators of the Empire to take the shape of a vast magical beast.

Noah couldn't believe what he was seeing. A vast Tyrannosaurus had appeared and shone with the blue light of the inscriptions that made it.

It even had strange features that didn't match any record about that extinct species. The creature had two long horns, two pairs of massive claws, and three pairs of broad meat wings behind its back.

Also, it radiated the power of a quasi-rank 6 existence.

Chapter 932 932. Creature

Noah wasn't surprised that the members of the Empire knew a lot about extinct and ancient creatures. Shandal had lived for so long that he had probably had the chance to study many different species that didn't manage to survive the passage of time.

Instead, what astonished him were the various features of the beast that didn't match the records concerning that species.

There weren't many pieces of information about Tyrannosaurus and their various kinds, but Noah was sure that they didn't have wings. Those two pairs of massive claws didn't match any legend.

Also, the fact that it radiated the aura of a quasi-rank 6 hybrid made that creature appear even more dangerous.

Noah and the others were already on the other side of the battlefield by then. They didn't know how fast the creature was, but they were quite confident that it wouldn't chase them so far away.

After all, the Wardens were there to defend the borders of the Empire. They had already shown that they wouldn't advance further because their task didn't concern any territory outside of its domain.

Still, they remained there, inside the shining magical beast that glanced at them with a challenging gaze.

Noah turned to look at the other higher-ups near him. He had to admit that he didn't know what to do in that situation, but his allies knew far more than him in battle formations.

His focus was on the cultivators in the solid stage of the fifth rank since their judgment was bound to be accurate.

Elder Julia, Elder Regina, and Andrew Elbas wore curious expressions as they inspected the blue beast. They felt that its power surpassed the limits of the fifth rank, but they were also sure that it couldn't compare even to the weakest rank 6 existence in the world.

The Tyrannosaurus seemed weaker than rank 6 magical beasts at the bottom of the lower tier, but it was stronger than any of them. The main question in their mind was whether it was stronger than all of them when fighting together.

The battle between the human troops continued to rage on the ground, and only some of those cultivators had the time to notice the massive blue figure that had appeared above them.

As for the heroic forces of the invaders, they remained still, waiting for the leaders of the three armies to decide if the battle formation was something that they could face.

The fact that there were only those heroic cultivators on the scene wasn't a case. The invading forces had gained more territories to manage in the new continent after the defeat of the Empire.

That forced many experts in the heroic ranks there to handle tasks that human cultivators couldn't even hope to face.

Yet, the three organizations could still deploy them in the war and deal with the consequences of their absence in those territories later. After all, the worst that could happen was the return of those areas to a wild state. That could lead to the destruction of structures built in the past years.

Of course, defeating the Wardens now could only benefit the invaders. Also, their temporary retreat would lead to many casualties in the human cultivators fighting on the ground, which was something that any organization always wanted to avoid, if possible.

That didn't mean that heroic cultivators had to risk their lives to save some human assets. Still, there were methods to test the power of the creature without overexposing themselves.

"A battle formation is inherently weaker than a real creature," Andrew said. "We might test its stability and see if it holds."

The rank 4 cultivators backed down at those words. They didn't want to remain too close when the higher-ups launched spells.

Instead, the Elders of the Council stepped forward and deployed the golden shield that they had used to fend off the explosions of the blue pillars.

Then, Andrew, Elder Regina, and Elder Julia stepped forward to cast spells toward the massive blue creature.

A giant made of water, hundreds of wind blades, and a series of peculiar worm-like puppets appeared in the air and shot toward the Tyrannosaurus in the distance. The energy that those spells radiated as they flew created large cracks on the sky that recovered only a few seconds after their passage.

The creature didn't move. It only unfolded its broad meat wings and waited for the spells to arrive.

The attacks trembled when they neared the battle formation. It was as if an external force was affecting them and shifting their trajectory so that they would land on the wings.

The wind blades were the first to give in to that external force and fly toward the wings. Every heroic cultivator on the scene kept their eyes fixed on Elder Julia's spell only to see it disappear inside the blue light radiated by the creature.

The giant suffered from the same foreign force, but it managed to grab one of the Tyrannosaurus' claws while that pull tried to drag it inside the wings too. The beast though lowered its head and bit the spell's limbs off to remove its handhold.

The giant disappeared inside the meat wings too, and the limbs still hanging on the beast' claw soon turned into "Breath" that dispersed in the air. Even Andrew's spells had failed to do anything to the battle formation.

As for the worm-like puppets, they reached the Tyrannosaurus and coiled their bodies around its claws to avoid the suction force of the wings.

The creature lowered its head again to free itself from that spell, but the puppets started to bite its radiant skin in a desperate attempt to enter its body. They even exploded whenever the maws of the Tyrannosaurus were about to destroy them.

Their detonation could only slow the creature down for less than an instant, and eventually, all of them exploded to give enough time to one worm to pierce the surface of that battle formation.

The last puppet managed to stab its head inside the creature before the Tyrannosaurus reached it and forced it to explode too. That final detonation caused a series of ripples to spread across the entire beast.

However, the ripples soon stabilized, and the Tyrannosaurus began to shine with a brighter light. Even its power appeared to have increased after that quick exchange.

It wasn't much stronger than before, but that detail didn't escape the focused minds of the rank 5 cultivators of the invading forces. Each one of them understood that the battle formation could heal itself due to the energy absorbed by the wings.

A voice that carried multiple tones came out of the Tyrannosaurus and spread through the sky. "You had to go through me if you want to enter the Empire!"

The Wardens challenged the invaders openly, but none of the higher-ups moved.

It was evident that the words of those soldiers had a deeper meaning. They wanted to scare the attackers off or bait them into getting close again.

They ended up being effective since the leaders of the armies turned and ordered a full retreat.

Chapter 933 933. Help

The Shandal Empire wasn't in a rush to end the war. It was the opposite.

Being against three of the most powerful organizations in those Mortal Lands made the outcome of the war obvious. The Empire couldn't aim for victory without the help of their Patriarch. So, it did its best to appear difficult to conquest and defeat.

There were only two possible outcomes to that war: A complete defeat or a surrender with conditions. Being difficult to conquest would improve the terms of its submission.

The more the invading forces suffered to advance, the more generous their offer to the Empire's surrender would be.

Of course, the invading forces wished for the exact opposite to happen. They knew that destroying the Empire was almost impossible since they were fighting it in its home. Still, showing their superiority on the battlefield could force it to accept harsh conditions.

However, there were many secrets that the Empire had kept hidden from the world during its rule, and facing them in battle turned out to be more troublesome than expected.

The invading army retreated after the appearance of the Tyrannosaurus. Many human troops died due to the sudden withdrawal, but the higher-ups of the organizations didn't mind that.

Their minds could only think of ways to deal with the powerful battle formation and prepare plans in case the Empire had more troublesome assets at hand.

"As long as we disrupt it from the inside," Regina said to the other rank 5 cultivators gathered around her, "We can defeat that thing."

Noah and the others had gathered in one of the encampments built in the newly conquered territories in the old continent. They were having a meeting to discuss how to deal with the battle formation.

They didn't have a problem finding out the main weaknesses of the Tyrannosaurus. After all, the Royals' knowledge of inscription methods was almost boundless, and the Papral nation was the home of those techniques.

The main issue was the power of the Tyrannosaurus.

Battle formations required synchrony for them to work. All those involved in the technique had to execute precise forms together with their companions.

A single misstep could make the formation lose power or directly crumble. That weakness was the main reason why those techniques weren't widespread in the world.

That made the battle formations' field ignored and researched only by experts that had devoted themselves to their organizations. Ordinary cultivators would focus more on their power instead of using their time for something that didn't benefit them directly.

It was needless to say that the Hive didn't know much about that field. Only the Demons knew more about it since they came from the Papral nation.

Generally speaking, battle formations were useful and powerful. They were capable of great might and could turn a group of weak cultivators into a terrifying monster.

Their effects varied too. Cultivators could use them both for offensive and defensive purposes, other than for more specific tasks.

It took time to learn them though. A group of experts needed to train together for extended periods to achieve the synchronization required to activate those techniques.

"Its skin didn't seem too tough," Andrew Elbas said. "But we didn't see all its abilities. Those wings might not be the only troublesome feature of that creature."

The lack of evident weaknesses and insufficient knowledge about the Tyrannosaurus' abilities made those experts decide to take the only approach that could work.

"We need more cultivators," Elder Julia said, giving voice to the conclusion that everyone at the meeting had reached by that time.

A strategy soon formed, and each force contacted reinforcements that would join them in the next attack. Since there was nothing that they could exploit to defeat the Tyrannosaurus, the invaders would overwhelm it with sheer power.

Everyone would launch attacks on the battle formation to keep it busy, while the three leaders of the army would focus on disrupting its interior composition. It was a simple strategy, but the only one available for the invaders.

The Hive decided to deploy Daniel, Danielle, and Elder Justin, other than some more rank 4 cultivators, and it took four months for all of them to arrive since they had to settle matters on the new continent.

The other forces called for reinforcements too, and Noah saw June joining the army of the Elbas family in that period.

Then, once everything was ready, the invading forces decided to attack again, set on defeating that fearsome Tyrannosaurus with their improved firepower.

The human troops started to fight as soon as the battle began. Still, the higher-ups of each organization remained in the air, focused on the other side of the battlefield. The Wardens arrived in a matter of minutes, and they waited in the sky with stern expressions.

Everything was unfolding precisely like the previous battle, but the invaders knew what to expect at that time, and they faced it willingly.

Noah and the others flew toward the Wardens at high speed. There were more than twenty rank 5 cultivators crossing the sky above the battlefield to reach for the Wardens, who had begun to execute the battle formation at that sight.

Blue lines shot in the air and took the form of the familiar winged Tyrannosaurus that radiated the aura of a quasi-rank 6 being. That didn't scare the invaders, who continued to press forward until they were in its range.

Fighting from far away couldn't work if they hoped to defeat the battle formation. Most cultivators specialized in long-distance spells since they usually abandoned martial arts in the heroic ranks, but being closer to their target would produce better effects.

The Elders of the Council created a series of golden shields with their battle formations, and Noah and the others started to prepare spells and launch them at the enormous blue figure.

Noah let his aura go wild while a series of sabers gathered around him. Saber-shaped runes and Ghostly Sabers accumulated around his figure and created rivers of blades that flowed freely in the air.

The Ghostly Sabers didn't change in that period. Yet, the saber-shaped runes had seen an improvement to their structure after his success with the higher energy.

Noah had mixed part of the dark matter with his ambition and greed when he created that new version of his first Will-consuming rune. Now the black sabers came out directly with power near the peak of the liquid stage and continued to grow as they absorbed primary energy.

They still needed his darkness to come out in the open, but the fact that his higher energy was involved in the rune in his mind made every copy far stronger than Noah's current power.

'I can't use the Demonic Form with everyone so close to each other,' Noah thought as he controlled the sea of sabers. "But this should make up for that."

After that, he controlled the sabers to fly toward the massive beast that had already unfolded its wings.

Chapter 934 934. Exchanges

The Tyrannosaurus didn't do anything while the invaders assembled around it and prepared their spells. It was as if the cultivators of the Empire were challenging them.

Of course, that wasn't just pure confidence in the power of the battle formation.

The wings of the Tyrannosaurus absorbed attacks and turned them into a fuel that empowered that ability further. It was evident that the cultivators of the Empire wanted to exploit the ability to face the more than twenty rank 5 cultivators.

Also, that was another show of power. If the Empire managed to win again, it would force the invaders' hand and demonstrate that it would be hard for them to win. Every action of the Wardens was for the sake of obtaining better terms for the surrender of the Empire.

The attackers started to throw their spells at the battle formation. Various attacks of multiple elements flew through the air and targeted the massive blue figure that remained still at the sight of those abilities.

The traction force of the meat wings pulled most of those attacks inside their structure, and only the spells of the three leaders managed to land on the Tyrannosaurus body. They had little effect though, and the creature was quicker than the last time when dealing with Elder Regina's puppets.

The beast then shone with a brighter light after that exchange. The spells that it had absorbed increased its power, pushing it closer to that of an actual rank 6 creature.

Noah felt the connection with his sabers vanish after they entered inside the wings. It seemed that only attacks that had the power of the solid stage could ignore the traction force.

Also, there didn't seem to be a limit to how much the wings could absorb. Even the remains of the leaders' spells went right inside them without causing any adverse reaction.

However, the invaders knew that there had to be limits to the level of power that it could reach.

The main issue with battle formations was that cultivators were handling them. If the Tyrannosaurus became too powerful, it would begin to affect the soldiers of the Empire inside it.

The experts in the fifth rank would be able to handle that stress for a while, but there were rank 4 cultivators inside it too. They were bound to fall apart if the battle formation became too powerful for them.

Nevertheless, the Wardens soon showed that they had a way to lower the level of their creation.

The Tyrannosaurus spread its maws and released a pillar made of blue light that the Elders of the Council promptly blocked with their golden shields. That attack had been sudden, but the invaders were expecting some ability from that battle formation, so they reacted in time.

Still, the Elders handling the golden shield coughed blood after blocking that blue pillar. It was evident that they wouldn't be able to stop too many of them.

The other invaders hesitated at that point. The pillar had the power to kill most of them in one attack, and it wasn't advisable to face it without the proper protections.

Launching more spells that couldn't escape the traction force would only give the Tyrannosaurus more fuel for its abilities, which would lead to the destruction of the golden shields faster.

However, the soldiers of the Empire were done waiting. They had already proven their point by then, and giving their opponents time to think of a solution for that issue was suicidal.

The Tyrannosaurus swung its four claws, and a series of massive blue slashes came out of them. They ran through the air and targeted the weakest rank 5 cultivators in the invaders' group.

Those handling the golden shields managed to block some slashes, but some attacks reached a few cultivators that dodged or deployed defensive abilities.

The slashes had a power slightly above the peak of the fifth rank, but all the attackers had come prepared and owned defensive items. Some of them were just disposable talismans, but others were proper inscribed items with power in the upper tier.

The members of the Elbas family even had multiple defensive items that created a series of barriers right on top of their skins!

As for Noah, no slash came in his direction, which allowed him to focus all his attention on his sabers.

Noah didn't use the Ghostly Sabers at that time. He couldn't alter the power of that spell, and it had already proven itself useless against that kind of opponent.

Instead, he deployed his saber-shaped runes again and spread his aura in the environment to quicken the creation of primary energy.

The cultivators who didn't have access to a form of attack that could reach the power of the solid stage of the fifth rank moved their focus on defending those that could. Noah saw Daniel and the other Elders gathering around him in a protective stance while he waited for his saber-shaped runes to grow.

Similar scenes appeared in the other groups, and only Noah, one Elder from the Council, and some Royals ended up preparing attacks even if they weren't rank 5 cultivators in the solid stage yet. That put them on another level compared to their peers in the liquid stage, even if their spells still couldn't match those of the three leaders.

Noah waited until his saber-shaped runes reached the solid stage before launching them at the Tyrannosaurus that had kept on throwing blue slashes at the golden shields.

The weight that his spell had in his mind was immense and worsened his headache, but he held on and forced the sabers to fly in a straight line toward that massive creature.

Other spells flew together with Noah's runes. There were the attacks that the leaders had used previously together with fiery beasts and a massive golem that could run on the air.

A large area of the sky shattered when those attacks landed on the Tyrannosaurus.

Noah's sabers stabbed the blue skin of the creature, but they didn't manage to go any deeper than a few centimeters. The eagle and ape made of fire grabbed the creature's claws and kept them still to let the flames affect them.

The worm-like puppets bit the blue skin as soon as they managed to land on the creature, and Andrew's water giant enveloped the head of the Tyrannosaurus in an attempt to restrict its movements.

The golem pounced the creature and tried to fold its wings. As for Julia's wind slashes, they followed Noah's sabers to help them pierce the blue skin.

Having so many cultivators dealing with a battle formation started to push it to its limits. There were too many powerful attacks aiming to restrict or harm the creature that it couldn't even react.

The light radiated by its body though suddenly became dimmer, and Noah felt a dangerous sensation coming from the Tyrannosaurus.

A massive shockwave came out of its figure and shattered the spells clinging on its body, turning them into energy that its wings quickly absorbed.

Then, it spewed another blue pillar that landed on the golden shields and made the Elder creating them cough blood again.

Chapter 935 935. Wings

The last exchange forced the Tyrannosaurus to use a lot of energy. Its power started to near the limits of the fifth rank after the shockwave and the blue beam.

Noah and the others couldn't see the state of the cultivators inside the battle formation. Still, seeing how the light radiated by the creature had dimmed made them understand that their attacks were effective.

The same could be said for the invading side. The cultivators in charge of the golden shields and those targeted by the slashes had suffered from those attacks. Only the cultivators in possession of powerful defensive items and those capable of launching spells with power in the solid stage were in perfect shape.

There was hope to win the battle with those forces, but the fight was slowly turning into an endurance match, which was what the Shandal Empire wanted. The Wardens wished to resist for as long as they could.

Of course, that bothered the invading forces since they didn't want to deploy even more cultivators before entering the domain of the Empire. After all, there was still the chance that the defenders had some strategy to deal with that.

Hope had started to appear though. The last exchange had revealed many abilities of the battle formation, along with some evident weaknesses.

The Tyrannosaurus didn't appear able to refill its energy on its own. It always relied on the "Breath" absorbed from the enemy spells to launch powerful counterattacks. The only basic offensive that it was capable of was the blue slashes, but they were manageable.

Only the recent shockwave and the blue beams were troublesome to handle, but they consumed a lot of the energy contained in the creature's form. Fending off the spells without absorbing anything had made its power fall already!

Also, the Tyrannosaurus didn't appear able to move freely. There had been times where it could have charged and inflicted a lot of damage, especially on the golden shields, since they were mostly meant to fend off energy.

If the Empire wanted to win that battle, standing still and limiting itself to counterattacks wasn't the right approach.

"Can you two take care of the wings?" Andrew Elbas asked with a mental message sent through a special inscribed notebook that only the higher-ups of each force had.

That message echoed in the minds of the rank 5 cultivators on the scene, but everyone understood who he meant with his words. There were only two experts on the scene who had access to precise attacks with power in the solid stage.

Noah and Elder Julia exchanged a glance before nodding toward the leader of the Royals' faction. Both of them didn't know if it was possible to cut away the wings from a creature made through a battle formation, but they trusted Andrew's expertise enough to follow his strategy.

Elder Julia summoned hundreds of wind slashes that rotated around her body as she waited for the perfect chance to strike. Noah did the same with his saber-shaped runes, even if he needed to wait to push the power of his attack to its limits.

There was only so much that Noah's mind could handle. Manipulating spells that were far above his centers of power in terms of strength was a problematic matter that required mental energy and most of his focus.

However, he knew that he could push the saber-shaped runes a bit further instead of stopping to the beginning of the solid stage.

Noah had never stopped spreading his aura in the environment to increase the amount of primary energy available for him. That area of the sky had all the fuel that he needed, but it quickly vanished as his more than a hundred sabers fed on it.

The other invaders and the Tyrannosaurus continued to exchange attacks while Noah and Elder Julia prepared their offensive. Another series of blue beams and powerful spells flew back and forth between the two sides that only managed to weaken each other without causing casualties.

However, the invaders ended up being on the losers' end after they fought without Noah and Elder Julia's support. The Tyrannosaurus' light dimmed only by a little, while the cultivators managing the golden shields began to look pale.

It wouldn't take much before the invaders found themselves without defenses. All of them would be too busy blocking the creature's attacks to launch spells if the golden shields were to fall.

The sabers around Noah had started to near the halfway mark in the solid stage though. That level of power was the best that he could handle without losing his control over his spell. Still, it was enough for him to join the offensive again.

A simple nod was enough to make Andrew and Elder Regina aware that the two cultivators from the Hive were ready, and they didn't hesitate to launch another series of spells toward the tall creature.

The Tyrannosaurus reacted in the same way as before. It kept its wings unfolded and launched blue slashes toward the incoming attacks. Still, all of a sudden, a lump of black flames appeared under its body, and a series of saber-shaped runes came out of it.

Noah had resorted to the Warp spell to exploit a blind spot in the battle formation, and his runes crashed directly on the base of the three pairs of wings.

The entire beast started to flicker at that point, but it promptly released another shockwave to fend off the incoming attacks. Noah's runes became dust in less than an instant, and even the other higher-ups' spells became simple energy under that defensive measure.

Nevertheless, Elder Julia made her move at that point and unleashed her wind slashes. They went above the creature before it could even spew more blue light and crashed on the base of its wings.

Noah's sabers had already damaged that area, and the Tyrannosaurus had lost a lot of energy using that last shockwave. Its sturdiness depended on its level, and now it was close to the peak of the fifth rank.

So, it wasn't a surprise when Elder Julia's attack managed to cut away three wings in one go. Those shining body parts drifted away from the creature, and the light around them dispersed, revealing a few rank 4 cultivators.

Those soldiers of the Empire had pale expressions, but they didn't suffer any apparent injury. Their current state was only a consequence of Elder Julia forcefully cutting them away from the battle formation.

Andrew and the others didn't waste that chance and launched another series of spells that crashed on the Tyrannosaurus' body. The impact released shockwaves that killed those rank 4 cultivators in an instant, with only one of them surviving since it was at the peak of that rank.

The Tyrannosaurus revealed an ugly expression at that sight but didn't lose its cool. It just released more blue slashes toward the invaders.

Yet, black flames appeared under the creature's body again, and saber-shaped runes came out of them. Noah's spell landed on the remaining wings and cut them away.

Chapter 936 936. Advance

Noah's second wave of saber-shaped runes managed to cut away the remaining wings, which dissolved after separating from the Tyrannosaurus body and revealed a group of cultivators in the fourth rank.

They didn't last much since the other rank 5 cultivators in the invaders' group launched attacks without caring about their power anymore.

The meat wings capable of traction force were no more. Now even the cultivators that didn't have access to attacks with power in the solid stage could join the offensive against the battle formation.

The rank 4 soldiers of the Empire who were still in the sky outside of the Tyrannosaurus died when the more than twenty spells arrived. Their inscribed armors couldn't protect them from the shockwaves released by so many attacks in the fifth rank.

The light radiated by the Tyrannosaurus kept on dimming as the attacks landed on its body, and its skin started to become ethereal as it lost power. Human shapes became visible inside the beast as the offensive continued, and the invaders began to understand how that situation was affecting the soldiers performing the battle formation.

The soldiers of the Empire had pale expressions as they executed forms to keep the battle formation active. What had been a powerful technique capable of threatening their enemies had become nothing more than a defensive measure against the relentless barrage of attacks.

Noah and the others soon understood that they had been both right and wrong when evaluating the power of the battle formation. It appeared to be true that the Tyrannosaurus had limited maneuverability and seemed stuck in its place, but its strength didn't come only from the energy absorbed.

The creature suddenly released a burst of blue light and spewed a series of beams that the invaders quickly blocked with their methods. The golden shields protected part of them, but the others had to rely on their assets to defend themselves.

Noah saw a blue pillar coming in his direction and roared. The world turned black for an instant before the powerful attack swept him and torn his skin apart.

His flames had managed to block most of its power though, and they were still burning around him. His half ethereal half white fire had successfully turned a deadly attack into something that his body could handle.

The sudden burst of power of the Tyrannosaurus had come from the "Breath" of the soldiers of the Empire, but they didn't manage to make it return to its original power. They could only make it reach the level of a creature slightly above the fifth rank.

Noah's flames had been able to weaken the blue beam since the Tyrannosaurus had attacked multiple targets at the same time, and his fire was a weapon fitting of a beast in the upper tier of the fifth rank.

The light that swept Noah after that only had the power of a spell at the bottom of the solid stage, which was something that his body could handle.

Noah felt his skin cracking and suppressed Snore's instinct to come out and protect him. There would be time for the Blood Companion to make its appearance, but now he preferred to suffer a few injuries rather than revealing his most potent weapon.

His companions didn't have the privilege of choice in that situation.

Each separated beam had the power that neared the peak of the fifth rank. Most of the invaders had to resort to inscribed items to hope to survive that attack.

Luckily for them, they had come prepared for that eventuality since they knew the strength of their opponent. Yet, not all of them could block the full might of those attacks.

The weaker rank 5 cultivators among the invaders had to deal with the shockwaves released by the beams. Also, that blue light was hard to defend against, so others had to face part of its power directly.

Injuries piled on in the invaders' side. Some of them even saw their limbs explode as the blue light swept them.

Noah could see June gritting her teeth and enduring the part of the beam that the inscribed items of the Royals didn't manage to block. However, the light suddenly vanished when it pierced her skin. It was as if something had devoured it.

Of course, June was using her orange "Breath" when fighting together with the Royals and the Council. It was needless to say how badly that affected her battle prowess, mostly since she had founded her individuality on her higher energy after reaching the fifth rank.

Nevertheless, she still resorted to her dark sparks once the blue light threatened to enter her body. Yet, her action had been subtle, and everyone was busy dealing with the pillars, so no one noticed that irregularity.

Only Noah could notice that because his attention had gone on her as soon as he blocked his beam. His instincts had screamed at that sight, but he suppressed his wild emotions to focus on the battle formation.

The Tyrannosaurus appeared spent after that last attack. Its power was falling inside the solid stage of the fifth rank, and it kept on going down since the soldiers weren't using their "Breath" to refill it.

It seemed that the battle formation had finally pushed the cultivators of the Empire to their limits since cracks began to spread on the skin of the creature. Its blinding blue radiance had turned into nothing more than a pale halo too.

The three leaders of the armies were the only ones that had managed to come out of the last exchange completely unharmed, even if Elder Julia had been the only one of them to resort to an inscribed item. Yet, they were ready to put an end to a battle that had already cost them too much.

Their usual spells flew through the air and landed on the Tyrannosaurus body. They finally disrupted the stability of the battle formation that began to fall apart, releasing the cultivators inside it.

The soldiers of the Empire didn't wait for the second wave of attacks. They retreated at high speed and disappeared in the territories behind them in a matter of instants.

Some remaining rank 4 cultivators weren't fast enough and remained trapped inside the water arms of Andrew's giant that killed most of them, leaving only two of them alive. They would be necessary for the interrogations later on.

As for the rest of the invaders' group, those who could move and didn't suffer any severe wound pressed forward. They chased after the Wardens, who had already disappeared from their sight.

Noah was one of them, but his chase was less cautious since his innate awareness gave him a clear idea of where the danger lurked in those lands. There were threats everywhere, except for the area right before the Empire's domain.

The scenery changed as Noah advanced. Massive walls appeared in his vision, and a series of tall buildings filled the world on the other side of those defenses. Also, in the distance, he saw a small structure floating at a few kilometers from the ground.

Chapter 937 937. Path

The domain of the Empire appeared far different from the regions inside its area of influence. It lacked the barrenness and aura of desolation that filled the territories occupied by the slaves.

Instead, it was gaudy and full of life. Noah could sense countless humans going on with their daily lives in that environment filled with cities and tall structures.

The density of "Breath" was still low, but it didn't reach the standards of the peripheral territories. It seemed that the Empire had invested a hefty sum of Credits to keep its domain suitable for cultivators.

There were some traces of decay. Noah could see how some buildings had cracks on their surface or were in desperate need of maintenance. Still, that only concerned the minority of the structures.

Noah committed to memory the scene on the other side of the defensive walls. The Empire had arranged its population in large districts that had their most well-kept buildings at their center.

Those districts were similar to the domes in the Hive's domain, with the only difference that they were everywhere and that they occupied most of those lands.

It was as if the entirety of those regions functioned as habitable areas managed by small and separate governments made of heroic cultivators. Those rulers could also be soldiers in the fourth rank according to what Noah could sense.

Some powerful auras came from the district directly under the defensive walls and the innermost regions, while the strongest one came from the floating structure in the distance.

'Wardens, normal soldiers, experts, and powerhouse,' Noah thought as he analyzed the layout of that organization. The disposition and power of the districts gave him a clear understanding of how the Empire divided its assets.

"Prince," Elder Julia said as she neared him, "We must go."

Noah nodded at her words, but he kept his eyes on the Empire for one last second before turning to join his allies in their retreat.

They had won the battle against the Wardens, and the human troops had defeated their enemies in the meantime. Yet, almost all the assets in the fifth rank had suffered injuries.

The invaders had won, but the Empire had managed to make them pay an annoying price. Those powerful assets would now need to spend some time recovering and reorganizing before attempting the attack on the lands beyond the walls.

Also, the assets of the Empire were packed. Each district bordered multiple quarters, which meant that the invaders couldn't launch an attack unless they were ready to face the full might of that organization.

The three attacking forces would need to deploy the entirety of their assets and inflict as many losses as they could if they wanted to avoid ending in a war of attrition. The only issue was that they didn't know if it was possible to avoid such an outcome.

The troops retreated in one of the encampments that they had built in those years. No meetings happened after the battle. All the higher-ups of the armies had silently decided that they would focus on recovering before planning their next move.

Noah had it easier than his peers. Any injury on his body would take more energy to heal, but his regenerative properties were off the charts. Also, the blue beam had only affected his skin, which was the easiest body part to fix.

He spent his time before the meetings meditating and focusing on training his centers of power. The power of the new saber-shaped runes left him satisfied, and they even had properties that he didn't have the chance to show against the Tyrannosaurus.

Since there was higher energy in their structure, the runes could abandon their solid form and turn into a black gas without losing the power that they had accumulated.

That feature wasn't useful in the battle against the Tyrannosaurus, but Noah knew that it would come out handy against cultivators. Anything that made his attacks less predictable could make the difference between victory and defeat in a battle.

His sessions of meditation mainly focused on the path in front of him. He had settled the issues with his centers of power after the improvements to his spherical runes, but he had just begun to improve his battle prowess.

There were parts of his existence that he had yet to learn how to express since they weren't a pressing matter. Still, he felt that he was now ready to face the next challenge in his journey. He had to invent a field that fused martial arts and spells into a single school.

Noah had other projects on hold. The miraculous properties of his higher energy still had a lot to reveal, and his burning heart had yet to harmonize with his existence.

However, Noah felt as if he had focused only on his creation lately. His destruction had to evolve too, and he couldn't help but prioritize it now that his creation put him on a path that would require decades to study.

Noah had always prioritized immediate power over long-term projects. His personality didn't only dictate that approach, but it suited the requirements that the world had when it came to survival.

As he meditated, he analyzed the second form of his martial art, which was his only example of the field that mixed martial arts and spells.

Nevertheless, he soon understood that he couldn't use that attack as an inspiration for his future techniques. The origin of the second form of his martial art came from the Three Forms of the Ashura, and Noah had been lucky enough to find two spells that could replicate its requirements.

Yet, that couldn't happen twice. Noah couldn't rely on his luck when it came to his power. Also, he didn't want to spend years of research to find spells and martial arts that he could fuse into a stronger technique.

Noah wanted to invent a proper school, a new field of techniques that only unique beings like him could execute.

Of course, Noah wouldn't bother to make the field generic. He couldn't care less about other hybrids, especially since his project would take far longer if he aimed to invent a school that any being similar to him could study.

He had already decided to make it as specific for his situation as possible, and he was ready to resort to the higher energy if his researches required it.

The only issue was to find a starting point that could become the core of the new school. Something that could evolve in many forms according to the technique that Noah wanted to create.

He needed to find a way to link physical strength, "Breath", and mental energy into sets of techniques that he could use for different purposes. In his mind, it would be better if he managed to create three sets that covered movement, offense, and defense.

There was no need to start with pure creation from the beginning though. Noah had always found himself more comfortable in using what he had at hand to gain experience in a field before proceeding in inventing something original.

Chapter 938 938. Last phase

Noah had to start from the basics. He needed to find something that could connect martial arts and spells so that he could build the foundation for his school.

That part turned out to be easy. Only the body could be the core of each technique since it linked both dantian and sea of consciousness together. Also, the "Breath" and the mental energy were easy to control, while the flesh had limits to its movements.

The "how" wasn't an issue either since spells could have various effects, especially those of the darkness element. Noah only needed to pair a powerful spell with a martial art that suited its effect. The physical strength of his body would do the rest.

Creating a martial art was tricky, but it was possible. Noah had done it in the past, and his current Dragon's claw was something that he had made as soon as he had become a hybrid.

The main problem was making a spell from scraps.

Noah had done that too. He had studied the Will-consuming runes precisely for that purpose in the past, and his saber-shaped rune was his first original spell.

The spherical rune had helped him creating the higher energy, but it had acted more as a cultivation technique rather than as a spell. Noah didn't think that it suited his plans, so he didn't consider it helpful for what it wanted to do.

As for his other spells, Noah had only modified them to suit his needs and to match his individuality. They wouldn't accept his darkness as a fuel otherwise.

During his analysis, Noah found flaws even with his saber-shaped rune. It wasn't a matter of its structure or functioning. What bothered him was the fact that he had taken inspiration from Ravaging Demon's spell to create it.

'They are all copies,' Noah thought at some point, but a more profound understanding soon dawned upon him. 'No one is ever truly original. Cultivators look at the legends of the past before paving their roads. There is nothing wrong with using concepts that others have already used. No one would pursue the laws otherwise.'

That realization gave him some peace. He understood that he had spent so much time trying to find something original that he had forgotten his place.

Noah was only a rank 5 cultivator. That level of power put him among the higher-ups of a lower plane, but it was still nothing when compared to the might of Heaven and Earth.

He had yet to learn how to wield laws, but he wanted to create something entirely new already. His ambition was blinding him. It tried to push him on a path that only divine entities could tread.

Taking something from the world and reshaping it to your image wasn't a misstep in the journey. Dantian absorbed laws to push existences toward a unique state. Therefore, he could do the same with spells and martial arts.

As long as they suited his individuality, he would be on the right path.

His peace vanished when his focus went on the laws. It became evident that he needed to follow where his individuality was going, but he needed to wield the laws if he wanted to express it on a level that suited his rank.

'I should focus on what I have at hand before diving into another project,' Noah thought when he understood that he couldn't control when his mind entered the world of the laws. 'Enlightenments will come naturally as my expertise increases. I can't let my greed stop my improvements.'

Noah was beginning to understand what Chasing Demon and Shandal had warned him about. The intensity and vastness of his individuality wanted to push him toward projects that he couldn't approach yet.

There were two spells that he could work with already. He only needed to create martial arts that matched their effects so that he could obtain the same burst of power that he had with the second form of the Dragon's Claw.

It was better to focus on them and improve his expertise in the field for the time being. That would enhance his battle prowess immediately and still give him a good foundation.

'I need to learn how to create dust before creating a world,' Noah thought as his mind became calm again. 'I need to sharpen my destruction before spreading it through the Heaven and Earth's domain.'

The leaps in his power made him feel good, but they left him lacking in specific fields that were necessary for his journey. After all, he had seen it happening with his body since he didn't know how to find peace in his hunger.

Only half a year passed before the leaders of the armies summoned everyone again. That break had been necessary to gather more assets for the assault on the Empire's domain and to heal the injured.

The army didn't see many changes in its structure. There was only a sheer increase in the number of troops of various ranks. Even the cultivators in the fifth rank had seen some reinforcements joining them as they approached what was meant to be the last stage of the war.

There would be nothing else to conquer if the invaders took over the entirety of the regions in the eastern part of the central areas. Yet, they aimed to force the Empire to admit defeat and accept harsh terms for their surrender.

In that way, the invaders would salvage the researches and resources in its possession and gain more than a few regions that barely satisfied the needs of human cultivators. Total destruction wouldn't benefit them at all.

The massive army marched across the land that had seen its last battle until it reached the tall defensive walls that separate the area of influence of the Empire from its actual territories.

The human troops standing on the ground raised their heads to look at the figures walking on the sky at that point. They needed the help of the heroic cultivators to destroy that hindrance.

"Who wants to do the honors?" Andrew Elbas asked, moving his gaze between Elder Julia and Elder Regina. Rank 5 cultivators had joined the army in the six months of break, but those three were still the leaders of their respective factions.

Elder Julia shrugged her shoulders at that sight, and Elder Regina gestured to Andrew that he was free to act as he wished. The Royal felt satisfied with those answers and proceeded to cast a spell.

A torrent fell from his palm. The water created a cascade that gave birth to rainbows as the sunlight crossed it. Yet, when it reached the defensive wall, it pierced its hard material and dug a fissure right in the middle of its structure.

The fissure eventually reached the ground and spread, creating a large passage where entire platoons could pass.

That was the signal that the human cultivators had been waiting for, and they charged right through the passage. The heroic cultivators in the sky did the same, but they felt forced to stop their advance since they found a series of blue Tyrannosaurus of various levels waiting for them.

Chapter 939 939. Charge

The battle in the sky started even before the army on the ground met its enemies. The heroic cultivators on the invaders' side didn't fear the Empire's battle formation anymore, and they promptly divided themselves into groups to face the Tyrannosaurus that suited their level.

There were nine Tyrannosaurus. Three of them were similar to the one faced by Noah and the others in the previous battle. Instead, the others barely neared the fifth rank in terms of power.

It seemed that the Empire was short of rank 5 cultivators that knew how to perform the battle formation. Otherwise, there would be no point in creating six of them that any expert in the fifth rank could destroy.

Still, the invaders had prepared strategies for similar events. The various groups that they had formed were one of them.

Noah was with the higher-ups of the Hive. Since there were only three quasi-rank 6 Tyrannosaurus, the three forces could divide themselves according to their faction.

A crucial aspect of each group was the number of cultivators capable of launching attacks with power in the solid stage, which Noah and Elder Julia covered when it came to the Hive's team. Another important aspect was the defense, but the Council had deployed enough Elders to offer a golden shield to each group.

As for the other rank 5 cultivators, their role was to defend until those capable of an offensive in the solid stage destroyed the wings. At that point, everyone had to focus on attacking.

The battle on the old continent had already proven itself to be different from the war in the new one. Back then, the Empire had relied on formations powered by the marvelous ground of the piece of Immortal Lands.

Instead, it was now using techniques that no other organization in the world knew. Even the Royal family only had a few studies when it came to battle formations.

It couldn't be helped. Relying on formations in the new continent was only normal since its ground diminished the consumption of such inscriptions. Using them in the old landmass could make the Empire go bankrupt due to the immense quantity of Credits that it would need to fuel them.

The battle formations used the cultivators as their fuel, and the Empire had plenty of them. Also, they were quite effective since they forced any attackers to face them directly and suffer some injuries.

The only flaw in the Tyrannosaurus was that they found it hard to inflict casualties in the enemy army. The invaders were too cautious and prepared, while the battle formations had evident weaknesses that they could exploit easily.

Noah and Elder Julia took their time to cut away the wings of their target. They didn't have multiple cultivators able to express the power of the solid stage, so they could only take things slowly.

However, they had many rank 5 cultivators set only on defending them, which made their role safe. The only tricky part was controlling their attacks so that they would dodge the Tyrannosaurus offensive and still hit the wings.

More than ten exchanges had to happen before Noah and Elder Julia managed to destroy all the wings. The blue light around them dispersed at that point, and a series of rank 4 cultivators appeared. That event was the signal for the other cultivators of the Hive to start their offensive.

The Tyrannosaurus was a formidable opponent even after it lost its wings. After all, its power resembled a quasi-rank 6 creature, even if it had many flaws.

Those who weren't capable of launching an attack with power in the solid stage could only see the Tyrannosaurus' light dimming by a little every time of their attacks landed on its body.

The group needed to weaken it a bit before all the Elders could hurt it. There was little that the other experts could do while its power was still above the fifth rank.

Nevertheless, the battle went well. Noah and the others had many defenses in place and managed to slowly exhaust the Tyrannosaurus until the entirety of its blue body shattered and revealed the cultivators inside it.

The fight was far from over though. The soldiers of the Empire had the chance to escape back then due to the defensive walls and the injuries suffered by the invaders.

Yet, they had nowhere to run now. Those experts were fighting above their homes, and showing their backs to their enemies could only worsen that already tragic situation.

It was better for them to fight, especially since they had an unshakable faith in Shandal and his Left Hand, who was still managing the organization.

Noah chose his target in an instant. He was one of the few members of his group that had come out of the battle completely unharmed, and he didn't hesitate to dive toward a fight.

Elder Julia was fine too, and she led the path toward the enemies that were waiting for them. The other Elders were injured, but they didn't dare to remain behind during such a crucial moment. After all, Noah and Elder Julia's performance had been inspiring in their eyes.

As for Noah, he had decided to charge right at the soldiers of the Empire because he had recognized Icy Stare among them.

She had managed to escape death with the Second Life formation the last time, and her cultivation level had suffered a blow due to the consequences of the miraculous inscription method.

Still, there she was, standing proudly on the air and radiating "Breath" in the liquid stage of the fifth rank. Also, she was keeping her cold gaze on Noah as her long blonde hair fluttered in the wind.

It was as if she was challenging him to come, and Noah didn't hesitate to accept her provocation since his awareness didn't sense any particular danger. If the Empire had managed to create a formation capable of hiding itself from him, he would face the consequences of his actions.

The other Elders of the Hive followed close behind him, and Noah couldn't help but curse at that sight. He couldn't use his full strength when it came to battles alongside his companions. His corrosive smoke was too wild.

However, he didn't slow down when flying toward Icy Stare. He wasn't the same newly advanced rank 5 cultivator as before. Now his body was in the upper tier, their cultivation levels matched, and he had many tools that he didn't have the chance to test against cultivators yet.

The Black Hole spell appeared on his palm and floated until it took its position above his head. The Demonic Sword split, and Noah wielded the two halves. Ethereal and material sabers formed a sea that surrounded him.

Noah's figure became unclear too, and he sprinted as the Merging spell pushed his speed to the limits.

He ended up arriving near the soldiers of the Empire at the same time as Elder Julia, with the only difference that he had already swung his blades by the time that he stopped.

Chapter 940 940. Chaos

Two black lines shot from Noah's swords and flew toward Icy Stare. The slashes were far faster than usual due to the momentum built with the Merging spell, but Icy Stare had learnt to know her opponent in the last war.

The air behind her had already turned into ice by the time that Noah's slashes appeared. Various figures formed inside it and began to fly toward the incoming attack.

Her allies weren't affected by the frozen sky since Icy Stare had limited the area influenced by her individuality. Still, that didn't diminish the number of figures that she was able to create.

Noah saw hundreds of shapes made of ice coming in his direction, but that didn't stop his charge. Even if he wasn't using the Demonic Form spell, he felt that he would be able to face those attacks head-on.

Of course, Noah didn't need to be so reckless, especially now that he was on Icy Stare's level. He could express all his experience without resorting to irresponsible tactics.

The black lines crashed on the figures made of ice and cut tens of them before Icy Stare's spells managed to block them. Yet, Noah's attack exploded into a cloud of corrosive smoke at that point and continued to wreak havoc inside the army created by his opponent.

At the same time, Noah roared and unleashed a wave of flames that made the world lose its light for an instant. His attack destroyed most of the remaining icy-figures and melted the ice that had begun to spread between him and his opponent.

Icy Stare maintained her cold expression as she looked at that scene. She wasn't surprised in the slightest that Noah could face her attacks even after she had advanced to the liquid stage.

Icy Stare had already suffered due to her arrogance. The Second Life formation had saved her life at that time, but she had learnt her lesson. She wouldn't commit the same mistake twice.

In her mind, she couldn't underestimate Noah Balvan anymore. It would be better if she overestimated him. In that way, she was sure that she could always predict all his hidden cards and avoid ending up like the last time.

It had been hard for someone like Icy Stare to reach that conclusion, mostly since she had lived for much longer than Noah. Still, she wasn't delusional. The Demon Prince of the Hive was worthy of her respect, and she needed to face him carefully.

On the other hand, Noah felt extremely confident. It would be enough for him to unleash Snore to gain an immediate advantage in that battle. Yet, he held himself back and decided to rely on his other spells.

The dark sphere was still growing above his head, but his Ghostly Sabers were ready, and his runes were bordering the limits of the liquid stage in those instants.

Noah slashed again and controlled his spells to shoot forward. Other icy-figures formed inside the frozen sky behind Icy Stare and flew toward the incoming attacks, but that clash ended up differently from the previous one.

The saber-shaped runes had already surpassed what an ordinary liquid stage cultivator could handle. Icy Stare was an expert and had plenty of experience when it came to battles, but even her army of icy-figures couldn't survive against that offensive.

The saber-shaped runes tore apart any figure that they met. Weapons and magical beasts of various kinds had their bodies filled with holes and shattered into countless shards after the clash with Noah's attack.

They managed to block the runes at some point, but Noah's offensive wasn't over. The Ghostly Sabers flew freely through the sea of icy-shards. They aimed for Icy Stare, and they lost only a small part of their power due to the mental energy still contained in the remains of the spells.

The black lines did the same, and they had no problem cutting through those remains to reach for Icy Stare.

The cultivator of the Empire found two different types of attacks coming in her direction and could only resort to the frozen sky behind her back to block them.

Icy Stare retreated among the ice that she had created with her individuality, and Noah's attacks clashed directly on it. The black lines exploded in a cloud of corrosive smoke soon after they met the defensive measure, but the Ghostly Sabers continued for a while before stopping.

Noah could sense through his connection with the Sabers that some of them had managed to enter Icy Stare's body before being destroyed. Those mental weapons had managed to stay only for a few instants inside her though, so they had done little damage.

The chaos of the battlefield had exploded around Noah while he was busy exchanging attacks with Icy Stare.

Elder Julia had started to fight with a solid stage cultivator of the Empire and had moved their battle higher in the sky. The other Elders of the Hive had done the same, even if some of them had preferred group fights.

Noah could sense Elder Austin and Elder Ingrid battling at some distance against two cultivators of the Empire that matched their cultivation level. Daniel and Amos Udye were doing the same in another corner of the battlefield.

As for Elder Justin and Danielle, they had chosen to engage in one versus one battles against other experts.

Most of the higher-ups of the Hive were on the battlefield, and only those that covered strategical roles or were incapable of attending had remained in the new continent.

Elder Colleen had to manage the Coral Archipelago, and the two Demons were still in Shandal's separate dimension. The powerful hybrids captured there had remained in the central territories too since their mental instabilities made them unsuitable for that kind of battlefield.

Also, the Hive didn't want to reveal all its assets. So, it tasked the hybrids with the control over the nature reserve before going to war.

There were more rank 5 cultivators of the Empire on that side of the battlefield. Each Tyrannosaurus with quasi-rank 6 power needed at least ten of them to reach that level.

However, the Elders of the Council that had previously taken care of the golden shield were handling them. That prevented them from ganging up against the cultivators of the Hive.

There were similar scenes on the other sides of the battlefield. The Elbas family and the Council had managed to defeat their Tyrannosaurus and were currently facing the experts.

Those two factions didn't require additional help since they had deployed enough assets in the fifth rank, but they were having a hard time finding a quick victory nonetheless.

The human troops had their messy battle on the ground, and the rank 4 cultivators were fighting in the air right above them to avoid the shockwaves released by the higher-ups. Chaos reigned everywhere, and most one versus one battles often interfered with the fights nearby.

Nevertheless, a change happened after the heroic cultivators had immersed themselves in their battles. The central buildings of the districts near the floating structure started to shine before releasing massive arrows made of blue light.