

DEMONIC 951

## **Chapter 951 951. Fire**

Noah and the others regrouped with the injured assets to summarize the situation. The sudden appearance of the blue dome had startled the heroic cultivators that had remained behind, but its properties surprised them even more.

The dome had cut off the invaders from the core regions of the Empire, taking away any advantage that the Hive had gained by exposing the properties of Elder Julia's individuality. It was up to the leaders of the armies now to seal a deal that could benefit their organizations.

As for the other assets, they settled in the regions on the other side of the defensive walls. After all, the districts already featured many habitations that they could use. There was no point in building a poor encampment with so many buildings available.

Still, they decided to take control of the districts near the defensive walls to avoid affecting the negotiations. That matter was quite tricky due to the outcome of the war. The invaders had won, but the Empire had put them in a position where they couldn't advance any further.

Noah could guess that Elder Julia and the other leaders would have a hard time negotiating the terms of the Empire's surrender. Yet, there was a high chance that the powerhouses would settle everything privately, so the solid stage cultivators there would act only as messengers.

The wounded cultivators started to treat their injuries while they waited to hear the results of the negotiations. Others even organized events to celebrate the end of the war and discuss their achievements in battle.

After the leaders returned from the blue dome, the atmosphere among the three factions would become tense again. The war had only delayed the various investigations that concerned the ambush at the exit of the Odra nation, but no one had forgotten about it.

Once the Empire went out of the political scene, the Hive, the Council, and the Elbas family would have to face the issues accumulated during their period as allies.

There was bound to be a period of peace after the end of the war, but that truce would be frail, ready to fall apart at the first sign of conflict.

Noah didn't care about the incoming political struggles. The fact that the Chasing Demon sect and the Elbas family seemed to have a secret alliance bothered him from time to time. Yet, he couldn't do anything to affect the situation, mainly if his power remained in that state.

He had realized something on the battlefield. His battle prowess was already stepping outside the limits of the liquid stage, even when he didn't use the most potent weapon in his arsenal.

The power that he was capable of expressing due to his many assets was unheard of. The fact that he was the creator of those weapons and abilities made his achievement even more incredible.

Noah had understood that his individuality hid an endless potential. His greater drive was his boundless ambition in the end. It didn't surprise him that his existence wouldn't put limits on his abilities.

However, there was a lot of work to do to express all his potential. Only his higher energy would require countless experiments to see how far it could go. As for the school that fused martial arts and spells, Noah was working on it while he waited for the return of the leaders.

He didn't feel like celebrating. In his opinion, he had met a barrier that he couldn't piece, and he had only his power to blame.

The more he climbed the ranks of the cultivation journey, the more he was forced to face monsters that had lived for centuries and millennia more than him. The simple exploration of the Empire had made him encounter divine items and the will of a god!

'I wonder if it will be the same in the Immortal Lands.' Noah thought as he tried to create a martial art that could fit the Merging spell.

He had been forced to rely on the Hive a lot during his journey through the heroic ranks. That was mostly about resources and studies, but he had benefited from carrying its banner too.

The other organizations couldn't target him openly since there was such a powerful force backing him. That had given him time to grow and become the threatening existence that he was now.

However, he didn't like that situation. It wasn't about the Hive. He felt grateful for all its help, and he had friends among its ranks. Still, the limits imposed by the political system continued to bother him.

'I'm thinking about this again because I'm close to ignore these restrictions,' Noah thought, suppressing the topic in the back of his mind. It wasn't his first time thinking about that. After all, he was still a lone cultivator in his mind.

He had never been blinded by loyalty or faith. He felt a sense of belonging to the Hive, but he wouldn't die to protect it.

Nevertheless, he knew that the strongest existences in the Hive had a similar mindset. The aim of every ambitious cultivator was the higher plane. Chasing Demon and the others like Noah wouldn't sacrifice their organization for that purpose nor sacrifice themselves for its sake.

'Maybe that's why we couldn't rout the Empire,' Noah concluded before a sudden dangerous sensation hit his mind.

That feeling startled Noah, mostly since it disappeared after a few instants, replaced only by a tense atmosphere that weighed on his mind.

Noah interrupted his experiments and came out of the training area that he had taken after the invading army settled in the various districts. His consciousness expanded to analyze the site, but he didn't find anything out of the ordinary.

Even the other cultivators didn't notice anything and continued with their celebrations or recovery. He seemed the only one to have sensed that sudden event.

Noah had learnt to trust his awareness over the decades. His survival instinct was something unique to his peculiar existence. Even the other hybrids couldn't match that ability since their minds were still in the middle of becoming used to their mental instabilities.

The tension didn't go away as time passed. It remained there and grew in intensity with each passing second. It was as if a catastrophe was about to happen, but Noah couldn't pinpoint its cause no matter how he looked.

The other higher-ups soon noticed his abnormal behavior. Their expressions became severe at that sight. After all, they knew that Noah didn't act causally or without any reason.

They reached him in the sky and started to imitate the behavior of his consciousness. Their analysis of the environment though gave the same results. They couldn't find anything out of the ordinary.

A voice suddenly resounded in the minds of the heroic cultivators. It belonged to their respective leaders and announced the end of the negotiations. Yet, as the leaders were about to explain their deal, flames expanded to cover the entire area.

### **Chapter 952 952. Flower**

Dodging the flames was impossible. The fire had spread so quickly that Noah didn't even have time to activate one of his spells before it swept him and his allies.

The two beings connected to him reacted due to their instincts. The Demonic Sword and Snore argued a lot, but they bypassed Noah's thoughts and followed his survival instincts as soon as the danger in his mind reached its peak.

The Demonic Sword hid inside his robe, and a dense black membrane appeared over his body as the flames enveloped all the regions inside the defensive walls of the Empire. They even crashed on the blue dome, but they didn't manage to do any damage to that structure.

However, the various districts fell apart in less than an instant. They turned into ashes as soon as the flames touched them, and even their remains vanished.

Any form of vegetation on the ground burned, and the terrain itself took fire. What had once been the home of the strongest organization in those Mortal Lands became nothing more than a black land filled with cracks and burning boulders.

The scene became a spectacle of red shades with the occasional blue light of the dome managing to cross the sea of flames and shine into the world. The red sea remained in place for a while. Then, it retracted and condensed in the form of a man that gazed at his destruction with a satisfied smile.

His expression became slightly annoyed when he saw that the blue dome didn't suffer any damage, but his smile widened when he looked at the invading forces.

There were only a few cultivators still standing in the air. Elder Regina and a few rank 5 cultivators stood behind a massive golden door that had managed to absorb most of the power of the flames. Still, their bodies had countless burns, and some of them showed charred bones too.

The activation of the golden door wasn't intentional. That protection was an item that the Council had given to Elder Regina to preserve her life. It was an inscribed shield that would activate on its own if she was to face a deadly attack.

The Elders near her had managed to use the protection provided by the golden door to save their lives. Yet, the human cultivators and those in the fourth rank weren't as lucky. Even their ashes had disappeared from the area.

On the other hand, Andrew Elbas had reacted in time. A giant made of ice had surrounded all the assets of the Royal family and had prevented them from suffering any injury.

Still, Elder Regina felt that his timing had been off. The giant had appeared even before the arrival of the flames, and Andrew didn't have the thinking speed necessary to perform that action in time.

The giant wasn't an automatic defense. Elder Regina could be sure of that because she had felt a surge of power coming from Andrew as soon as the first flame appeared.

That was her issue in the matter. If her senses didn't deceive her, she felt sure that Andrew Elbas had activated his defensive item before the flames started to spread!

Also, the ice giant had been able to block all the flames, which made her even more suspicious. After all, her item had been able to save her life, but it was a generic shield meant for every situation.

In Andrew's case, instead, the ice giant appeared meant to weaken attacks of the fire element. The leader of the Royal's army had a water aptitude. Still, the fact that he owned such a powerful item capable of countering the fire element sounded too coincidental.

As for the assets of the Hive, only Daniel, Elder Julia, and some other Elders were still in the sky. Noah, Elder Austin, Amos, and most of the weaker cultivators were nowhere to be seen.

Those still flying were full of injuries, and only Daniel seemed somewhat better off. He had activated the divine emblem at the last second, and its light had protected those around him.

However, he didn't manage to recharge the item entirely in those years, which made it capable of expressing only a power similar to the sixth rank.

"Ravaging Demon!" Elder Regina shouted toward the cultivator that had launched the flames. "How dare you attack us after everything the Council has done for you!"

Suffocating pressure followed her words. Ravaging Demon unleashed the entirety of his aura and showed to the world that he was a complete rank 6 cultivator!

The invaders still in the sky could finally understand how a single cultivator had managed to unleash such a destructive attack. In their minds, the powerhouses were able to shatter entire regions with a wave of their hands.

"I've requested two things when I sealed the deal with the Council," Ravaging Demon announced. "I wanted part of Divine Elder Tabitha's inheritance and the freedom to act as I wished. Regina, I've betrayed my brothers and sisters. You had to expect this."

Elder Regina spat a mouthful of blood and began to cough after those words. Her condition was far worse than her companions since she had been the first to face the flames that had surpassed the golden door.

She didn't give voice to any curse though. She only tilted her head to stare at Andrew Elbas, who had a worried expression on his face.

"You can drop the act," Elder Regina said as blood kept on flowing from her mouth. Her complexion paled after that effort, and she lost her foothold for a second as her consciousness wavered. Yet, one of the Elders behind her grabbed her and helped to stabilize her condition.

"I'm not here to mess with the Council today," Ravaging Demon said as he moved his gaze toward a spot where the defensive walls had crumbled. "I just want to retrieve what is rightfully mine."

Elder Julia and the other Elders of the Hive trembled when the Demon's gaze swept them to land in a spot nearby. They understood who his target was at that point, and gloom appeared on their expression when they realized that they had no power over that situation.

Noah had risen in the sky before the other cultivators and had been farther away from them when the flames spread. The defensive walls had crumbled over him when the fire reached that spot and Ravaging Demon's focus was on those burning debris.

As higher-ups of the Hive, the Elders knew that Noah had retrieved Divine Demon's inheritance, and Ravaging Demon's words made sense when they considered that event. The new powerhouse of those Mortal Lands wanted to obtain the legacy of his Master.

Ravaging Demon stretched his hand, and his mental energy went toward the burning debris. It was about to seep through them when his connection with his consciousness wavered, which dispersed those condensed mental waves.

"Who dar-," Ravaging Demon's started to curse, but his body stopped moving all of a sudden, and a white flower started to grow on his stretched hand.

### **Chapter 953 953. Reunion**

Time stopped for everyone in the area, and even the flames still lingering on the ground froze. Only the flower on Ravaging Demon's hand kept on growing.

Ice started to spread from the flower. It covered Ravaging Demon's hand and reached for the rest of his arm. Yet, when it was about to freeze his shoulder, the powerhouse tightened his fist and broke the ice.

Ravaging Demon didn't show any annoyance. Instead, he appeared in a daze as memories from more than a thousand years ago resurfaced inside his mind.

"I thought you were dead," Ravaging Demon said without even spreading his consciousness to analyze his surroundings. "No need to hide. I know that you are protecting the boy."

Two figures appeared from behind the crumbled defensive walls at his words, and time started flowing again after they stopped in front of the debris that had submerged Noah.

The Elders of the Hive heaved a sigh of relief when they saw the two Demons arriving in their aid, and Elder Julia couldn't help but nod when she saw that Flying Demon had reached the solid stage.

There were now three rank 5 cultivators in the solid stage in the Hive, and two of them were existences that had been trained by a god!

The forces of the Council and Elbas family showed surprised expression when the two Demons arrived. The Royals were mainly amazed that the Hive had managed to hide such powerful assets for so long.

On the other hand, there were a few Elders that knew the identity of the two powerful cultivators and finding out that they had survived the destruction of the Demon sects surprised them to no end. The fact that they had stopped Ravaging Demon from seizing Noah made the scene even more nostalgic.

One side featured Divine Demon's faction, while the other had the reason for the destruction of the Demon sects. It was as if history was repeating itself.

"One thousand years spent with a divine inheritance, and you have managed to reach the sixth rank only now," Dreaming Demon said while wearing an indifferent expression. "Pathetic."

"Rufus has run away and hid while you bathed in riches," Flying Demon said while wearing the same expression of his lover. "It seems that Master made a mistake. You were never meant for greatness."

Ravaging Demon's smile reappeared after he heard the two Demons, and he started to laugh loudly right in front of the tense invaders. The appearance of two solid stage cultivators didn't bother him in the slightest. After all, he was a powerhouse now.

"I know what you are trying to do," Ravaging Demon said as he rotated his hand, and a small flame appeared on his palm. "You think that Chasing Demon will come here in time to save the boy if you give your life to block the next attack. You are delusional. This is already my second flame."

The fire in Ravaging Demon's palm shone brightly and seemed to contain more power than his previous attack. Elder Regina could immediately understand that her golden door wouldn't save her life if those flames were to reach her.

"Destruction that generates destruction," Dreaming Demon said. "You haven't changed at all. I can't say otherwise, but my path has never been so hopeless."

"Also, you have misunderstood one thing," Flying Demon said as soon as his lover finished her line. "There is no chance that Divine Demon's heir would let others handle his battles."

As soon as the Demon finished speaking, Ravaging Demon sensed an intense surge of energy coming from the ruins under his old companions.

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Turning time back a little, right after the sea of flames destroyed most of the Empire's domain.

Noah found himself under a pile of debris when he regained consciousness. A sharp pain filled the entirety of his body, but his mind was fine, so he focused on understanding his state.

His dantian and burning heart were ok, but a curse tried to escape his mouth when he saw the state of his body. Only half of his torso had remained intact. It seemed that the flames had managed to touch him before Snore intervened to protect him.

The left side of his body was gone or heavily injured, and there were patches of scorched skin everywhere. There was no trace of his left arm, and only half of his left leg had remained. Also, the left part of his face was a mess, and his left eye was gone.

Noah understood that only an existence that was above the fifth rank could hurt him so badly and without leaving him any chance to react. Guessing that the culprit was Ravaging Demon happened quickly too since he could feel his individuality on his wounds.

'He held back,' Noah concluded in his mind. Even with Snore's help, he was no match for a powerhouse. The fact that he was still alive meant that Ravaging Demon wanted to capture him alive.

'The Divine Deduction technique,' Noah found the answer to his doubts once again. Divine Demon's technique was the only asset in his possession that could force the powerhouse to keep him alive.

The arrival of Flying Demon and Dreaming Demon caused tremors in the environment that Noah didn't fail to notice. He could sense how Flying Demon had advanced after inheriting Shandal's individuality, but he knew that they wouldn't be enough to take him out of that situation.

'Where is the damned ring,' Noah thought as he struggled among the debris to find the black space-ring. He used to wear it on his left hand, so it had to be somewhere near him.

A black shadow moved among the debris and appeared in front of him at that point. Noah saw the Demonic Form releasing a low grow as it pushed his space-ring toward him with its tip. It seemed that the weapon had looked for the storage device while he was unconscious.

There were a few cracks on the sword, but it was overall fine. The fact that Snore and the Demonic Sword had put aside their divergences had given Noah a chance to join the battle against Ravaging Demon.

After all, he still had Divine Demon's rank 5 drugs inside the ring, and it also had multiple pills created by Daniel during his stay in the other Mortal Lands. The higher energy in his heart was fixing Snore's body too.

Noah was far away from his peak, but he didn't have a choice in that situation. He had to fight.

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Dense black smoke seeped out from the debris under the two Demons, and a draconic roar echoed through those regions. Even the humans on the scene could sense the intense anger contained inside that cry.

The smoke became even denser, and scales began to take form as Snore solidified its body. A pair of feathered wings appeared only to flap and push the Blood Companion upward. Its reptilian head then came out of the debris, carrying a badly wounded Noah, who was sitting right in the middle of its horns.

**Chapter 954 954. Sparks**

Everyone on the scene could see how bad Noah's situation was. Half of his face was a mess of charred skin and fuming patches. The left side of his torso was non-existent, and burns filled the rest of his body.

However, his figure radiated a surge of energy so intense that it was even affecting the air around him. The sky twisted wherever he passed, and small cracks appeared behind him as he rose while sitting on Snore's head.

Divine Demon's rank 5 drug was the cause of that strange phenomenon. It forced the regenerative properties of Noah's body to surpass their limits for a brief period. Still, he had to add many nutrients to make it work properly on his hybrid body.

Noah had emptied his stash of Daniel's pills and pieces of powerful magical beasts while he was under the debris. The immense energy they carried started to heal his body right away when coupled with the rank 5 drug and his innately high recovery speed.

New tissues would grow from his burns as Snore rose in the air to reach the two Demons. New skin appeared on the burned patches all around his body, and muscles formed on the missing part of his torso.

The process wasn't by no means immediate. Even all those nutrients couldn't fix Noah's body in time for his battle against Ravaging Demon. However, they helped in hastening Noah's recovery. By the time he arrived next to the Demons, there were already short bones stretching from his torso and left leg.

"You know," Flying Demon started to speak as he analyzed the massive snake coiling around the three of them. "I thought you were into dragons, not snakes."

"Can you fight?" Dreaming Demon asked, ignoring her lover, who kept his gaze on the Blood Companion enveloping them in a protective stance.

"I don't think I have a choice," Noah said with a voice mixed with growls. "Do you have the divine item?"

Dreaming Demon snorted and showed a bottle containing a pink liquid. The smelly fluid filled only three-quarters of the container, and the Demon revealed the reason for that with her next phrase. "How do you think we stopped him before?"

"Why does it have wings?" Flying Demon continued to ask about the Blood Companion, uncaring that Ravaging Demon showed a powerful flame only at a few hundred meters from them. "I like the horns. The claws are fine too. They add a nice aura to this creature."

Noah glanced at Flying Demon before turning to speak toward Dreaming Demon. "Is this an after-effect of the new individuality?"

"No," Dreaming Demon said as she heaved a helpless sigh. Yet, she couldn't stop a smile from appearing on her face when she looked at her lover. "He is just happy that he is on my stage now."

The trio conversed as if there wasn't a powerhouse threatening to unleash another sea of flames right next to them. Of course, they were buying as much time as they could so that Chasing Demon could come in their help. Still, Ravaging Demon was letting them act as they pleased since he had already done his math.



He had time to launch another attack. Chasing Demon was probably already on his way to those lands, but he wouldn't be able to stop the next flame even if he flew at full speed.

Ravaging Demon could take a few seconds to study the heir of his Master and see how he interacted with his old companions. Also, seeing that Noah was still able to talk so casually made him interested in Snore and his body.

According to his calculations, the first sea of flame would have left Noah in a nigh-dead state. Ravaging Demon had planned to burn most of his body and dantian with that attack and save only his mental sphere since it contained the Divine Deduction technique.

However, Noah had come out from the debris on his own, and half of his body was almost intact. Also, the various nutrients that he had used were healing him quickly. Ravaging Demon could even see his tissues growing with his bare eyes.

"You aren't bad at all," Ravaging Demon said while the trio kept bickering. Noah and the two Demons became silent when they heard those words and started to use mental messages to communicate.

They had always known that wasting time wouldn't work against such a canny existence, but it didn't hurt to try their chances. Still, now they had to prepare an actual battle tactic, and the fact that they were against a cultivator in the sixth rank didn't leave them many approaches available.

"Can we defeat him?" Noah asked through a mental message directed to both Demons.

"We can only try," Dreaming Demon answered using the same method. "I can weaken his connection with the spell with the divine item, but that will require all my concentration."

"I can hold back the flames for a breath of time," Flying Demon added. "The individuality of a god is incredible, but I can't do more due to my current power. You will have to exploit that chance on your own."

"Not on his own," A fourth cultivator joined their mental conversation at that point. Elder Julia conveyed that message as she neared Noah and the two Demons. She couldn't leave the three of them when their opponent was a powerhouse.

"I'm counting on that breath of time," A fifth voice joined the mental conversation. Elder Regina flew toward the group of the Hive too and prepared her most potent spell as she tried to ignore the Blood Companion.

Ravaging Demon had said that he wouldn't target the Council in that battle, but his words meant nothing to Elder Regina. Nothing would stop him from turning toward his old allies once he had seized Noah, so she had better chances of surviving if she worked together with the Hive.

The assets of the Elbas family didn't move and remained behind the protection of the ice giant. June was among them, and she used all her focus to suppress her worry for Noah.

She had understood a bit more about the secret pacts of her organization. She didn't know about Ravaging Demon's betrayal, but she had seen how Andrew Elbas had activated his defensive item before the flames even began to spread.

However, June was stuck in that situation with the other Royals. It was evident from their expressions that some didn't know about the arrival of the Demon either. Still, she couldn't act as she wished there. Andrew would prevent her from leaving even if she wanted to blow her cover.

"You can't defeat me no matter how many ants join you," Ravaging Demon said as he saw the cultivators coming in Noah's help.

"Just go for it then," Noah said with a metal message as he nodded toward Dreaming Demon. "I'll use something that might go through the flames."

As he said that, black clouds accumulated in the sky, and strands of corrosive smoke started to come out of his body. Then, sparks crackled on Snore's horns.

### **Chapter 955 955. Ready**

The corrosive smoke of Noah's Demonic Form spread over Snore's body, and the crackling noise of the sparks running through its horns intensified. A scaled armor appeared over his body too, and it filled his missing pieces of flesh with its dangerous gas.

The black clouds gathering in the sky didn't carry Heaven and Earth's aura, nor had lightning bolts running through their surface. The world had reacted to the appearance of Noah's sparks since they resembled those used during the Heaven Tribulation.

Elder Regina and Elder Julia prepared their attacks too. A series of brown worm-like puppets formed in front of the leader from the Council and countless wind slashes began to rage behind the Elder of the Hive.

Dreaming Demon took a sip from her bottle at that point. The divine liquid entered her body and enhanced the power of her sea of consciousness. Her eyes started to exude a pink radiance too as the miraculous item showed its effects.

"Are you ready?" Ravaging Demon asked in a mocking tone. He had waited for his opponents to prepare all their attacks because he felt the need to prove that he was worthy of the sixth rank.

After all, the Demons' words were on point. Ravaging Demon didn't manage to reach the sixth rank on his own even if he had done everything in his power to seize as many benefits as possible.

Betraying his Master and the Demon sects wasn't enough, and even obtaining Divine Elder Tabitha didn't help his cultivation journey. Instead, Divine Demon's weakest student had managed to reach the last stage of the heroic ranks on his own, surpassing Ravaging Demon by more than a century.

Ravaging Demon took that event as an insult to his individuality. In his mind, he was the only cultivator worthy of being called "Demon".

So, he had to prove that he was superior to the cultivators that still followed Divine Demon's teachings. He had to show to the world that his betrayal was the right choice.

Ravaging Demon didn't wait for an answer at that time. A tremor swept the small flame in his hand before it expanded at high speed in every direction.

Noah and the others couldn't react in time to the spreading of the flames. The speed of a spell in the sixth rank wasn't something that their eyes and mind could see, especially when they were so close to Ravaging Demon.

However, the divine item was enhancing Dreaming Demon's mind. It made her able to sense the incoming attack and to interfere with it.

The air around the rank 5 cultivators trembled for an instant as Dreaming Demon consciousness affected the laws inside it. The same space started to bend to her will and act as she wished.

Her mental waves eventually reached the sea of flames coming for them. The destruction contained in the fire was so intense that some of Dreaming Demon's thoughts burned when they tried to affect their structure. Still, her will eventually seeped inside them and modified their purpose.

The sea of flames started to retract as Dreaming Demon's will replaced Ravaging Demon's. It was as if the fire had suddenly changed target and worked in favor of the rank 5 cultivators.

Yet, Ravaging Demon promptly expanded his consciousness and destroyed Dreaming Demon's will, which made him take control of his flames once again. That battle of wills had lasted for a little more than an instant, but that provided a window where Dreaming Demon's allies could act.

Flying Demon's individuality surged, and time stopped flowing in the piece of the sky in front of him. Both the sea of flames and Ravaging Demon stopped moving, and dozens of white flowers grew in the environment to spread thick layers of ice.

The scene turned into a large sculpture of ice, but Noah and the others knew it wouldn't last. Flying Demon had been able to stop the powerhouse only because he had exploited the moment when Ravaging Demon focused on his flames.

When time stopped flowing for Ravaging Demon, and his flames, Noah, Elder Julia, and Elder Regina unleashed their attacks.

The earth puppets and the storm of wind slashes shot forward to crash on the flames frozen in place. The crackling of the sparks running through Snore's horns intensified and created a sphere made of black lightning right above its head before releasing a dense bolt that had the vague shape of a sword.

Black smoke covered the sword-like lightning too, increasing its speed and adding corrosive properties to its form.

The three attacks had the power of the solid stage of the fifth rank, and they were even above the average of what cultivators on that level could launch. That matter wasn't too surprising when it came to the two Elders since they had used their strongest spells, but it was astonishing when considering Noah's level.

Elder Regina wanted to avoid studying the power of the Blood Companion since she was working with the Hive at the moment. Her idea was to remain polite and ignore the battle prowess of the Demon Prince.

Yet, she couldn't help but feel surprised when she saw that Snore was capable of such might. Noah using lightning bolts that resembled a Heaven Tribulation made her even more astonished.

The Blood Companion alone appeared to be a remarkable creature. A strange matter made its body, and its physical features belonged to different magical beasts.

Elder Regina was sure that Noah had built the creature. Something like that couldn't exist in nature, mostly since its power was hard to evaluate. Snore radiated the aura of a magical beast in the upper tier of the fifth rank, but any expert would place it far higher in the food chain when looking at it.

The three attacks slammed on the sea of flames and began to pierce it to reach Ravaging Demon's motionless figure. The Demons' attacks had weakened the power of the fire by a lot, but the three spells still struggled to move through the frozen flames.

That was only normal. The powerhouses wouldn't be so exceptional if a few rank 5 cultivators could defeat them when working together. Even one at the bottom of the sixth rank, like Ravaging Demon, was on a completely different league when it came to sheer power.

The worm-like puppets were the first to stop. Elder Regina's attacks had good piercing properties, but they required time to put them into use. Ravaging Demon would regain his ability to move soon. She couldn't rely on that skill.

The Elder decided to make the puppets explode as soon as they met their first hurdle, and their detonation opened a small path where the lightning bolt and the storm of wind slashes could proceed further.

The next one to give up was Elder Julia. Her attacks were frail and struggled to survive inside that scorching sea. The wind slashes couldn't stay for long in that environment, even with the ice suppressing the intense destruction radiated by the flames.

Elder Julia could only condense all her slashes into a small spot to open a path for the fuming lightning bolt.

### **Chapter 956 956. Mountains**

Noah's attack was dense, and it carried the intrinsic piercing properties of the lightning element. It was even a copy of the Heaven Tribulation, which made it one of the strongest kinds of lightning bolts in the world. Also, Snore's horns had condensed the black sparks to make it more potent.

The black smoke radiated by the lightning bolt improved its already high piercing ability, and the spells of the Elders left a path where it could pass without wasting too much energy. It had to clash with the flames multiple times, but it still managed to cross the entirety of the scorching sea to reach the figure at its center.

A loud explosion followed the impact between Noah's attack and Ravaging Demon. The ice that was spreading in the area frozen in time shattered at that point and a large cloud made of corrosive smoke enveloped the powerhouse.

The sea of flames dispersed when it freed itself from Flying Demon's ice. The rank 5 cultivators didn't know if their offensive had worked, but they felt happy to see that they had survived Ravaging Demon's second flame.

"Did you hit him?" Elder Regina asked, disrupting the silence that had fallen on the area after the flames dispersed.

"The attack landed," Noah said with a rough voice that was a mixture of roars and human words, "But I lost the connection with the lightning bolt right after the impact."

Elder Regina wanted to ask how a cultivator with a darkness aptitude could create a spell of the lightning element, but she suppressed her curiosity. That wasn't the right situation to investigate Noah's power.

The group eventually turned toward Dreaming Demon whose sea of consciousness was still under the effects of the pink liquid. The four of them could use their mental waves to investigate the area inside the black cloud too, but they didn't dare to expose themselves to a rank 6 cultivator.

After all, Ravaging Demon had a sea of consciousness in the sixth rank. Weaker cultivators had to be careful when interacting with the mind of such a powerful existence.

The powerhouse could have mental attacks or use his superior mental waves to startle those who tried to probe him. Among those on the scene, only Dreaming Demon could investigate his status without risking to suffer an injury.

Dreaming Demon's mental waves had started to reach for the area filled with corrosive smoke even before the four cultivators' gazes went on her. However, a series of flames sprouted from the black cloud and burned the gas, revealing Ravaging Demon's figure.

The powerhouse was still smiling, but his expression wasn't as happy as before. Also, the upper part of his robe was in pieces, with only a few ragged strands hanging out of his belt.

There was a large hole on his left shoulder, and his arm didn't fall only thanks to a small strand of skin that kept it attached to his torso.

The five cultivators had managed to injure Ravaging Demon, but his wound was nothing serious. It wouldn't affect his battle prowess.

However, the scene that followed the powerhouse's reappearance ruined the mood of the rank 5 cultivators. Ravaging Demon's shoulder turned into flames that remained in place for a few seconds before solidifying again in the form of a perfectly healthy shoulder.

The Demon now appeared completely fine, with only his ruined robe to indicate that Noah's attack had hit him.

Noah and the others revealed ugly expressions. They could try to attack him again since Dreaming Demon didn't deplete her divine item during the last offensive. Yet, the result would be the same. They had already used their most potent attacks in the end.

The Divine Deduction technique made Noah analyze all his possibilities in less than an instant. He evaluated battle plans of various kinds, and there were even some that included the detonation of his space-ring.

Nevertheless, all of them led to the same conclusion. Noah and his four allies would die as soon as Dreaming Demon used all her pink liquid.

The Demons and Elders had similar thoughts. They considered and evaluated every battle plan that came to their minds. Still, there was no way out of that situation. The sheer power of a rank 6 cultivator made every trick pointless. The difference in their level was too large.

'I was too slow,' Noah thought as he accepted that he could die in the following exchanges. 'I might have killed him if I were near the peak of the fifth rank.'

His mind sharpened as he thought that. Noah was ready to die, but he would fight until the end. He would show to that old monster what he had managed to achieve in two hundred years of relentless training.

Still, Ravaging Demon didn't raise his palm like the last time. He didn't show to the rank 5 cultivators his third flame. Instead, his gaze went on the sky to stare at something that Noah and the others couldn't even sense.

A massive figure covered the sun at that point. The entirety of the Empire's domain went dark as something enormous cut off the sunlight.

Noah and the others raised their heads, but a mountain fell in front of them, causing an earthquake to spread in the regions nearby.

Massive cracks appeared on the ground. The falling mountain had avoided all the assets of the invaders that were still on the battlefield, but it hit Ravaging Demon, who didn't even try to move. Also, it created multiple clouds of dust after its impact with the ground, which blinded the cultivators on the scene.

Noah wanted to investigate the cause of that sudden phenomenon, but a familiar aura soon spread in the environment. All the surviving members of the Hive couldn't help but smile at that point since they knew that their Patriarch had come.

Everyone's gaze went on the sky, and astonishment spread among the various groups. The scene above them was too spectacular for them not to lose themselves in their amazement.

There was a massive giant in the sky. It had a humanoid body and facial features that vaguely resembled Chasing Demon. The titan carried a mountain in its right palm, while the other was still stretched toward the ground.

Chasing Demon sat on the giant's shoulder. His gaze went on the surviving cultivators of the Hive for a short second before focusing on the spot where the mountain had hit Ravaging Demon.

Ravaging Demon's laughter echoed through the battlefield at that point, and flames spread from the mountain that had just fallen, turning it into a pile of ashes that dispersed in the wind.

His figure became visible again. There were multiple spots where his body was nothing more than a mass of flames, and even a corner of his head lacked its tissues.

"You raised them well," Ravaging Demon said as he showed his arrogant smile once again. "They have managed to seize their only chance to survive. They won't have one the next time."

Chasing Demon listened to his words but didn't answer. Instead, he controlled the titan to launch the second mountain at him.

## Chapter 957 957. Gathering

Noah and the others retreated when they saw the massive titan throwing the second mountain toward Ravaging Demon. They could finally escape now that Chasing Demon was here.

As for who would win that battle, there was no doubt in the assets of the Hive's minds. Ravaging Demon was only a newly advanced rank 6 cultivator who even a few experts in the fifth rank had managed to hit. Instead, Chasing Demon had lived for more than a century as a powerhouse.

The Patriarch of the Hive was even in possession of the divine puppet retrieved in Shandal's separate dimension. The fact that he had reached the sixth rank on his own was proof of his superior talent too.

The other assets of the Hive retreated when they saw Noah and the Elders flying on the other side of the destroyed defensive walls. The experts of the Council did the same, and they stopped near the five who had fought the powerhouse.

The Hive and the Council had formed a silent alliance in those short minutes. The fact that the Elbas family was probably working together with Ravaging Demon's factions made the two of them natural allies.

Also, they were the organizations that had lost the most in Ravaging Demon's sudden attack. All their human cultivators and experts in the fourth rank were gone. They had suffered casualties even among those in the fifth rank.

That loss could put the Elbas family directly at the peak of those Mortal Lands. The alliance between the Hive and the Council appeared mandatory in that situation. There was even the foundation for future cooperation.

If Chasing Demon were to win, the Royals would only have a rank 6 cultivator on their side. Annexing the remains of the Ravaging Demon sect wouldn't help the Elbas family take the spot of the strongest organization since it would have two powerful enemies near its borders.

Without the protection of a god, that could only lead to a slow and constant suppression from the enemy forces. The Royals would end up like the Shandal Empire, even if with fewer limitations.

The assets of the Elbas family wanted to retreat too to avoid suffering from the shockwaves released in the battle between the two powerhouses. However, there was distrust in the experts of the Hive and the Council.

Both sides didn't know if they would fight in that situation. Yet, they were bound to discuss once they grouped again, which could only lead to conflict.

A pyre surged and destroyed the second mountain. Ravaging Demon appeared among the ashes and flames still lingering around him, but his body was in a poor state.

Almost the entirety of his lower body had turned into flames, and the same went for half of his head. It was clear that he was using a powerful defensive spell, but the impacts with the mountains had affected him.

Pieces of flesh replaced the flames after they condensed, but that process didn't happen on all his injuries. His head healed completely, but his lower body struggled to return to its original form. Only a leg reappeared, while the other was still in its fiery shape.

"This life," Ravaging Demon spoke as he glanced at the massive titan high in the sky, "Does it come from her? How can a Demon care so much for someone else?"

Chasing Demon didn't answer, but a faint trace of sorrow appeared on his expression. Yet, his memories didn't stop him from launching another attack.

The titan started to descend, leaving the Patriarch of the Hive in the air. Its enormous body fell from the sky and picked up speed as it aimed for Ravaging Demon.

A strong wind began to blow due to the movements of the puppet. Its body was so massive that its fall caused storms to spread through those destroyed regions.

Its brown body slowly turned red as the friction with the air increased its temperature. In that status, the titan resembled a meteorite with a humanoid shape ready to kill any lifeform on the ground.

The heroic assets on the scene showed worried expressions, and even Noah began to take steps back at that sight. The fall of the titan was akin to a natural catastrophe. There was a chance that the entire region wouldn't survive that attack.

He was even injured. He had yet to absorb all the nutrients inside him, but they wouldn't be enough to heal his body completely. Noah needed to rest to stabilize himself, and facing such a mighty event could only worsen his condition.

The Royals retreated too at that point. It didn't matter if the Council and the Hive suspected them. Being too close to that battle would kill even the strongest cultivator among them. Escaping was their only chance to survive.

No one could bother about starting a fight while something so dangerous was happening right next to them.

The titan continued its descent as everyone evacuated the area. Then, when it touched the ground, a cloud of dust filled the entirety of the Empire's domain.

The ground cracked and shook. Any lifeform in the area vanished as the shockwave spread. The mountains in the distance crumbled, and every building in the territories outside of the defensive walls fell apart, unable to withstand the immense power released in the impact.

The shockwave hit Noah and the other escaping assets too, but they had been quick in their decision to retreat, and that force only made them reach a higher speed.

Of course, the human cultivators and experts in the fourth rank of the Elbas family couldn't escape the range of its destruction. Some of them became nothing more than a bloody mass of flesh, while others felt their internal organs exploding due to the might of the impact.

The rank 5 cultivators were fine though. The losses of the Royals were still below those of the other organizations.



Once the shockwave dispersed, the escaping assets stopped to analyze the outcome of the impact. The dust settled and revealed a series of flame snakes flying above Ravaging Demon in a defensive stance. The giant stood above those creatures and limited itself to study them.

The experts in the fifth rank immediately noticed that there was something wrong with the scene. They could accept that Ravaging Demon had managed to endure the two mountains, but the titan was on another level. Its power could level entire nations!

They couldn't believe that those flames belonged to Ravaging Demon. After all, Noah and the others had managed to hit him. He would have used the fiery snakes against them if they were part of his power.

The answer to their doubts arrived quickly. A crowned silver-haired cultivator had appeared on the scene while the titan was falling. His flames had made those snakes, and they could stop the titan because he was on a superior level.

"So," Chasing Demon said without turning his head toward King Elbas, "You will interfere."

King Elbas was about to answer when a series of precise lightning bolts hit the heads of the snakes and dispersed them. Even Great Elder Diana had joined the battlefield.

#### **Chapter 958 958. Exchanges**

Four powerhouses had gathered above the Empire's domain in a matter of minutes. Their sides seemed set. They saw Chasing Demon with Great Elder Diana, and King Elbas with Ravaging Demon.

The rank 5 cultivators in the distance could only retreat even further at that point. They were strong experts close to the last stage of the heroic ranks, but they couldn't remain too close when four powerhouses threatened to unleash their power.

Their cultivation level varied though. Noah and the others couldn't discern who was the strongest among them, but the behavior of the rank 6 existences revealed that detail.

Both Chasing Demon and Great Elder Diana had disregarded Ravaging Demon and were eyeing King Elbas with stern expressions. It was evident that the Patriarch of the Elbas family was the most significant threat in that situation.

Noah had it slightly better than his allies and the other heroic assets. His instincts gave him a vague idea of who would be more dangerous to face, and the answer was King Elbas.

'He should be only a bit stronger than Great Elder Diana,' Noah thought as he analyzed the powerhouses while retreating. 'Yet, I can't imagine him losing.'

Noah didn't know the reason behind that feeling. No matter how hard he studied the situation, his mind couldn't picture a situation where King Elbas would lose.

'How many inscribed items does he have?' Noah thought at that point. His instincts had never failed to guess a situation correctly. If they felt that King Elbas couldn't lose, then there was a high chance that they were right.

That's why he thought about the inscribed items. They were the only variable that could make him triumph every time, even if his ally was just a newly advanced rank 6 cultivator.

Also, King Elbas was the leader of the most advanced organization in the inscription fields. He had even created the portal toward other Mortal Lands!

Noah wouldn't be surprised if the powerhouse had countless inscribed items on himself. He would find it strange if he didn't.

"Ravaging Demon dies today," Chasing Demon said as he looked toward King Elbas. His statement sounded like a promise when it reached the other powerhouses, and Great Elder Diana nodded to show that she would help fulfilling it.

"He is with me," King Elbas said in a plain tone. There was no fear in his voice, even with two powerful cultivators targeting him with their stern gazes.

Ravaging Demon kept on smiling as he watched the atmosphere becoming tense. He seemed to enjoy that his sole presence was the cause behind the possible clash between the strongest existences in those Mortal Lands.

"Stop me then," Chasing Demon said as he waved his hand. The titan had floated in the air after the fiery snakes blocked it, but it descended again at that gesture.

Ravaging Demon didn't move. He was right under the titan and stared with a fearless expression at the massive punch coming in his direction. The sole fist of the giant was as big as a mountain, and it created storms as it reached for the ground.

King Elbas sighed and pointed the giant with his right hand. A drop of blood came out of his index. It shot like a bullet toward the massive puppet that was about to punch the ground.

The drop of blood took fire during its flight, turning into a fiery phoenix that released a shrill cry spread through the battlefield. The soundwave was so powerful that cracks appeared in the sky and forced the rank 5 cultivators in the distance to cover their ears. It even stopped the titan's movements for an instant.

The cry gave enough time to the phoenix to reach the titan before it resumed moving. Still, a series of precise lightning bolts created a net that blocked the dive of the fiery bird.

The titan moved again and finished his attack, punching the ground where Ravaging Demon was standing. Due to the interruptions, the giant wasn't able to express its full power, but its punch created deep fissures nonetheless.

However, flames soon spread from the cracks on the ground and gathered in the air to take Ravaging Demon's form once again. His body appeared fine at that time, but his complexion was pale. It seemed that he didn't heal but just recovered his original shape.

Noah memorized every scene that he saw from the safe position reached during his retreat. The powerhouses were god-like creatures capable of destroying entire regions with a simple spell in his eyes. Also, they appeared incredibly hard to kill. Ravaging Demon was the weakest among them, but Chasing Demon could only hurt him with three attacks.

The phoenix exploded into countless small flames at that point. They flew toward the empty spots in the net of lightning and tried to cross Great Elder Diana's blockage.

Yet, small lightning bolts came out from the lightning bolts that made the net and aimed for the tiny flames. King Elbas' spell didn't have any chance to survive under that attack, and all his flames vanished in a few seconds.

The giant raised its humanoid head, and a crack appeared on the lower part of its face to take the form of a mouth. From Ravaging Demon's point of view, it was as if a massive cliff was forming right under him.

A series of small puppets came out of titan's mouth. They were smaller versions of the giant and were only twice a human's size. Yet, they had darker bodies, which signaled the presence of metallic features in their structure.

Ravaging Demon saw thirty or so puppets rising in the air and trying to encircle him in a raw battle formation. Each one of them executed different battle styles, even if their movements were clunky.

Still, they were puppets that radiated the power of the sixth rank. The Demon could guess that they could explode to release their energy. Nevertheless, escaping from them wasn't an option, mostly since the net of lightning blocked the path above.

Ravaging Demon decided to release his third flame. A sea of fire expanded from his palm and engulfed both puppets and giants.

A series of explosions followed the spreading of the flames. The puppets detonated when their bodies started to destabilize, and they created a storm of debris and metallic shards that raged inside the fire.

The titan straightened itself in the middle of the fiery sea. Ravaging Demon's fire didn't appear able to hurt it, and his flames only made its body turn red since they increased its temperature.

The sea eventually retracted, and an even paler Ravaging Demon reappeared. He wore a tired expression, but his smile was still in place as if mocking any effort to make him submit.

The giant raised its hand to grab him when he returned material, but King Elbas sighed again and used his finger to make a long wound on the back of his forearm. Then, he swung his arm, and an invisible slash cut both the net and the titan's arm.

### **Chapter 959 959. Orb**

It took Noah a while to understand that King Elbas' slash wasn't invisible. The blood that came out of his forearm had taken fire during the attack and had created flames so fast that none of the rank 5 cultivators on the scene could see them.

The net made of lightning bolts fell apart once a fissure spread on its surface. Its orange sparks dispersed in the air as the links crumbled. Still, cracks continued to appear in that area of the sky even after the spell was gone.

The slash even severed the titan's arm, which fell on the ground, creating another series of earthquakes. Ravaging Demon had managed to escape from its grip before it hit the terrain, and he had transformed in a series of flames that flew toward King Elbas.

Chasing Demon acted and controlled the giant so that its mouth would aim for the escaping flames. The insides of the titan started to tremble at that point. A condensed shockwave came out of its mouth in the form of a low cry, which reached its target instantly.

The trails of flames shook when the cry hit them. Most of them struggled to resist that attack only to disperse in the air. The fire that survived condensed into Ravaging Demon's figure, which had many missing body parts.

Both his arms were nowhere to be seen, and he only had his left leg. Half of his waist had disappeared too, and all his injuries leaked massive quantities of blood even if his "Breath" tried to close them.

Also, no flames appeared to rebuild his missing parts. Ravaging Demon was bleeding for the first time since the beginning of the battle, and he didn't seem able to suppress his injuries!

The offensive against him didn't stop there. Great Elder Diana pointed both her indices toward the wounded Demon, and small sparks came out of them. That attack consisted of minute lightning bolts capable of flying even faster than King Elbas' slash.

Holes appeared on Ravaging Demon's body as the lightning bolts hit him. The pressure caused by that relentless offensive forced him to perform evasive maneuvers. Still, they only managed to limit the amount of damage that the Patriarch of the Council could inflict.

Those lightning bolts were too fast and small. Ravaging Demon couldn't dodge them even in his flame form, and King Elbas' attacks weren't precise enough to intercept that offensive.

The Council and the Hive were finally gaining the upper hand in that battle. After all, they only wanted to secure the kill on Ravaging Demon in that situation. As for King Elbas, they could think of a way to deal with him in the future.

However, King Elbas didn't want to lose his ally. Ravaging Demon was only a newly advanced rank 6 cultivator. Still, his sole presence could help him balance the political environment that was bound to appear once the factions returned to their homes.

King Elbas sighed for the third time, and an orb appeared next to him. The sphere emitted a multicolored light whose brightness flickered continuously. It could radiate the brightest white light before turning into a black radiance that obscured the area around it.

"I hope you are worth it," King Elbas said as he glanced at the escaping Ravaging Demon before launching the orb toward the center of those regions. The light radiated by the sphere became unstable during its flight until it burst outward, enveloping the entirety of the battlefield with its chaotic aura.

Great Elder Diana didn't think much about the orb at the beginning. King Elbas didn't throw it at her, so she continued to focus on the new powerhouse before it managed to escape.

Yet, she started to lose control of her spells after the chaotic aura spread through the sky. She would still launch her attacks, but they became imprecise and messy when they tried to aim for Ravaging Demon.

Great Elder Diana retracted her indices at that point and shot an angry glance at King Elbas before shouting words that echoed through the entire area. "Since when did you study my individuality?"

King Elbas laughed, seeing that his creation had managed to incapacitate the second-strongest powerhouse of those Mortal Lands. His aura surged as his bloodline gained more importance due to that achievement.

Of course, a normal inscribed item couldn't stop a rank 6 cultivator. The orb was a disposable weapon in the sixth rank built only to counter Great Elder Diana's precise lightning bolts.

King Elbas had begun to create countermeasures to the other powerhouses since the battle against the quasi-rank 7 winged beast. The data gathered in that fight had given him a clearer idea of the abilities of the other rank 6 cultivators and made it easier to create something that could weaken their individualities.

Great Elder Diana's greatest strength was the precision of her lightning bolts. Cultivators with a lightning aptitude wouldn't be able to control their attacks most of the time due to the intrinsic wildness of their element. Yet, the powerhouse of the Council had turned that weakness her iconic ability.

King Elbas had built an item that unleashed a chaotic aura in the environment, creating an area where Great Elder Diana couldn't make use of her troublesome abilities. That chaos would affect even other cultivators, but they would apply harsher restrictions only on Diana's individuality.

Ravaging Demon had never stopped moving, and he had continued to fly toward King Elbas even during the detonation of the multicolored orb. However, when he was about to reach his ally, the titan released another cry.

Ravaging Demon's body was a mess. Blood leaked from the missing pieces of flesh and the holes created by the minute lightning bolts. The dense shockwave made him puke blood when it swept him, and even his consciousness wavered after that last attack.

The loss of focus put a stop to his flight and made him fall. The Demon wasn't unconscious, but he struggled to fend off the effects of the shockwave.

Chasing Demon waved his hand, and the titan started to run toward the falling Demon. Its feet eventually stepped on the air, making it sprint in a diagonal trajectory through the sky as it tried to intercept its target.

King Elbas' complexion paled at that point, and a single drop of black blood came out of his mouth. He then picked the blood and flicked it toward the giant, hitting it right before it could punch the falling Demon.

Flames spread through the entirety of the titan's body when the black blood touched it. That fire appeared able to affect its massive form since the rocky terrain that made it turned into lava that fell toward the ground.

The giant cried again as if expressing its unwillingness to fall apart before it could complete its task. However, King Elbas' flames were too powerful and liquefied its entire body before it could reach Ravaging Demon.

Chasing Demon's attack died with its arm stretched in a desperate attempt to reach its target.

## **Chapter 960. Struggle**

King Elbas had managed to defeat the attacks of two powerhouses and save Ravaging Demon at the same time. The latter eventually regained his foothold and resumed his flight toward the leader of the Royals.

Great Elder Diana couldn't interfere with him. She could use abilities that didn't rely on her precision, but their power would be lower than her main attacks. King Elbas would fend them off with some casual spell.

She was even on the other side of the battlefield, so she didn't have time to fly through the chaotic area and intercept Ravaging Demon before he reached King Elbas.

On the other hand, Chasing Demon was near the Patriarch of the Elbas family and could see Ravaging Demon rising in the sky toward his ally. His titan was no more though, so he lacked offensive methods at the moment.

Both Great Elder Diana and Chasing Demon had yet to attack King Elbas directly. They had avoided bringing their battle on that stage to maintain the focus on Ravaging Demon.

Once the three powerhouses started to attempt to their lives, the battle would gain different features. It wouldn't be a struggle to seize or prevent an advantage anymore. It would become an actual war between the three major organizations of those Mortal Lands.

The truth was that no one desired an all-out war. The three organizations lacked the assets necessary to pierce the defenses of their enemies, meaning that a proper battle among them couldn't lead to benefits.

After all, the three of them didn't manage to rout the Shandal Empire even when they were at their peak and were fighting together. Going against each other after suffering all those losses would be suicidal since none of them could gain anything from their enemies.

Chasing Demon found himself in a pickle. Attacking Ravaging Demon in that situation would force King Elbas to deploy more spells. Instead, attacking the Patriarch of the Royals would take away his attention from his ally.

That would create a window that Great Elder Diana could exploit, giving her more chances to finish Ravaging Demon. Yet, it would also start a war against the Elbas family since it couldn't ignore a direct assault to its powerhouse.

Countless thoughts surged inside Chasing Demon's mind as he looked at the flying Ravaging Demon. The hatred for Charming Demon's death still burned inside him, but he had to consider other aspects due to his political status.

The Hive was flourishing under his rule, but it had just suffered huge losses. Bringing it into another war would be a poor decision, especially since it could seal an alliance with the Council and suppress the Elbas family.

Also, the Hive could execute secret plans against the Ravaging Demon sect in complete safety with the separate dimension. Obtaining the location of its assets wouldn't even be a problem since the Council was bound to have countless reports about them.

In the end, Chasing Demon thought about the inheritance of his Master. His two old friends were improving, but they needed his protection to focus on their cultivation without worrying about the enemy forces. The same went for Noah, which Divine Demon had chosen personally.

Chasing Demon could choose to pursue the approach that gave him the highest chance of success in his vengeance, or avoid war and focus Ravaging Demon with his attacks. The first option would put Noah and all the assets of the Hive at risk, while the other would probably lead to the escape of his sworn enemy.

A series of boulders appeared around the Patriarch of the Hive. They morphed into tall puppets that had sharp claws instead of hands. They didn't have detailed facial features, but horizontal cracks spread on the lower part of their faces to form large mouths.

The puppets began to fly in a straight line toward King Elbas. They raised their claws while their insides trembled to charge a weaker version of the titan's sound attack.

King Elbas' eyebrow arched at that sight. He felt that he had underestimated Chasing Demon's hatred when he saw that he had decided to attack him. He wasn't scared about those spells, but defending himself and saving Ravaging Demon at the same time would force him to waste another powerful inscribed item.

Still, the puppets made a sharp turn and dived toward the rising Ravaging Demon as annoyance filled King Elbas' mind and the blood flowing out of his forearm turned into flames.

It turned out that Chasing Demon had decided to prioritize the Hive over his revenge. Targeting King Elbas had only been a distraction that had forced the latter to prepare a defensive spell.

Ravaging Demon was a mess. His body was nearing a critical state, and his consciousness was still recovering from the titan's cry. When he saw the puppets diving toward him, his expression turned ugly, and his smile finally disappeared from his face.

Massive quantities of blood came out of his mouth as flames spurted from his injuries. It seemed that he was neglecting his state to turn himself into fire to avoid the incoming attack.

Yet, the cracks on the puppet's heads spread at that point, and a series of dense shockwaves came out of them, engulfing Ravaging Demon with their tremors.

The Demon saw his flames falling apart, and the sound attack made his mental sphere struggle to maintain control over his "Breath". He stopped flying to stabilize his condition, but that break made the puppets reach him before King Elbas could activate a different spell.

The puppets slashed with their claws, which fell apart once they pierced Ravaging Demon's skin. Their rocky limbs took fire when they came in contact with his insides, but they managed to inflict more injuries nonetheless.

King Elbas suppressed a curse when he saw that Ravaging Demon was risking his life. The puppets wouldn't be too dangerous in a normal situation, but his ally was already nearing his limit.

The flames accumulated around him morphed to turn into small fiery birds that flew in Ravaging Demon's aid. They crashed with the puppets and made their bodies crumble. However, the destruction of the rocky constructs released the energy that they contained.

A series of explosions swept Ravaging Demon, engulfing his form into a cloud made of dust and rocky debris. King Elbas could only dive toward his ally at that point, and flames burned the entirety of the cloud when he reached it.

Once the cloud was no more, everyone on the battlefield could see an unconscious Ravaging Demon floating in the air with his body filled by ugly wounds.

Great Elder Diana and Chasing Demon prepared other spells while King Elbas analyzed the unconscious Demon. The latter was alive, but it was so weak that his figure barely emitted any aura.

King Elbas took out a large orb from his space-ring at that point, which sucked Ravaging Demon in its insides before exploding, filling the sky with a bright white light.

When the light dispersed, a pale and conscious Ravaging Demon was standing right next to the powerhouse of the Elbas family.