

Chapter 401 - 401. Flaw

The clash of the two Third Forms generated an explosion between Noah and his copy, they were both flung back by the power released in the blast.

Meanwhile, Heilong and its copy had also separated, they returned to their masters as they prepared themselves to charge again.

Noah wore a stern expression behind the armor of smoke, his eyes carefully analyzed his opponents as he tried to plan his next approach.

'My copy is virtually unharmed and Heilong's one has just a few scratches, I need to find an opening before I deplete my reserves.'

The Demonic form was extremely powerful, Noah had yet to find someone on his level that was able to fight it.

However, when matched with his copy, every little advantage mattered.

Noah was about to charge again when he noticed that his Blood companion had recovered before the opponent's one.

'What is happening?'

Yet, his thoughts were interrupted since he saw his copy being covered in black flames.

Noah's pupils shrunk as he hastily turned, slashing in a certain point behind his back.

Black flames appeared in that position and an attack of identical might clashed with his slash, the copy had warped behind him and used the Third Form, even its battle style matched Noah's one.

The two dragons came out in the open again, they protected their respective masters as they entangled themselves in a violent battle.

Shockwaves resounded under Noah's feet as he charged toward his copy, another piercing line tried to vertically sever the world in front of him but it could only clash against a similar attack.

BOOM BOOM!

Explosions resounded in the arena as the Third Forms of the Ashura continued to meet each other mid-air.

Noah attacked madly, he was doing his best to expose his own flaws.

Yet, that wasn't easy.

Noah had always pursued power, his battle style had been perfected through his constant training and hundreds of battles, it could be said that there weren't actual flaws in his technique.

However, as the battle continued, it was clear that Noah was gaining the upper hand which didn't make sense considering that his copy seemed to match his every move.

Another clash between the two martial arts occurred, Noah tried to understand the reason behind his advantage but his thoughts were soon forced to a stop when he felt a piercing pain to his heart.

A few drops of blood came out of his mouth but the liquid "Breath" in his circulatory system quickly healed the light injury on that organ.

Noah knew his abilities better than anyone else, he immediately understood what had happened.

'It hid a few Ghostly claws behind the Third Form!'

Noah had obtained that spell only a short time ago and he had only tested it once in battle, it was obvious that he hadn't explored all the possibilities that his new attack method offered.

Yet, his copy had used it in a way that he still hadn't tested and it seemed even more skillful than him in that aspect!

'Don't tell me, my copy can express the full potential of my abilities even if I'm still unable to do so!'

That thought worried Noah but it also confused him: If his copy could coordinate its abilities better than him, why was he gaining the upper hand?

Black flames covered the copy and Noah quickly recalled Heilong as he shot in the air.

Black flames appeared behind his previous position but a fuming dragon soon came out of them as the copy realized that a simple-looking needle had been thrown toward it.

**BOOM!**

Another explosion resounded, Heilong's copy endured the might of Noah's Hidden blast, its scales were shattered but they soon regenerated.

Noah carefully observed from his position in the air, his eyes analyzed every detail of the battlefield as he tried to understand what he had missed until now.

Then, a smirk appeared on his fiendish form, he had finally understood the flaw in the copying technique!

'Heilong's copy has the same power of my Blood companion but its defense is only at the peak of the lower tier; my copy has never used the Shadow sprint but only relied on the Warp spell as a movement method; my corrosive smoke is slightly more abundant than its, its sabers might be black but they don't contain any corrosive ability.'

All those little details became obvious once he watched the battlefield from above, the weakness of the copying technique became even more obvious when he used one of his new Hidden blasts to attack the copy.

'The effects of the Elemental forging method can't be copied!'

Noah's eyes shone when he realized that, the battle had suddenly become extremely easy!

Noah dove toward his copy, once he knew about its weakness, he had no more reason to act cautiously.

The fiendish copy raised its sabers and was about to perform the Third Form when it saw five spiked spheres falling toward it.

Heilong's copy immediately covered its features, the spheres exploded when they reached the borders of its cloud of smoke.

BOOOOOM!

A loud blast made the whole arena tremble, Noah was using the Instabilities that he had prepared before joining David's team, which meant that he had used rank 3 "Breath" in the gaseous stage during the forging!

His newly forged Instabilities and Hidden Blasts were rank 3 inscribed items at the peak of the lower tier!

The scene in the arena was quite peculiar, there were two black clouds, one high in the air and one on the floor, a third gray cloud was between them.

A dragon was at the center of the black clouds, both Noah and his copy were relying on the protection of their Blood companions to defend against the fuming spikes released by the Instabilities.

Heilong's defense had reached the middle tier of the fourth rank thanks to Noah's forging but that of its copy was still in the lower tier, the amount of

damage it took from the spikes vastly surpassed that of Noah's Blood companion.

That forced the copy to deplete more "Breath" to reform it.

#### Chapter 402 - 402. Divine Demon

Noah recklessly dove between the barrage of fuming spikes, his Blood companion took less damage than the opponent's one, he couldn't care less about his reserves if the enemy's expended more of them!

Also, he wanted to find a chance to clash directly with the copy's weapons.

When using the Third Form while in the Demonic form, the increased sharpness and corrosion of the Demonic swords could almost be neglected because they didn't directly touch the opponent.

However, if Noah managed to force a direct clash, he was sure that the capabilities of his sabers would cut his copy in half!

The copy's sabers were strangely at the peak of the second rank like his, yet, they didn't seem to carry the same corrosion nor his same meaning, they were just good inscribed weapons.

'The technique has probably tried to compensate for what it wasn't able to replicate... Well, this battle is mine anyway.'

Endless coldness was radiated as his focus sharpened, Noah was ready to take the approach that would end the battle in the quickest way.

Heilong flew through the barrage of spikes and crashed on its copy, the latter was already heavily damaged by the Instabilities and its body further broke under the weight of the Blood companion.

Noah couldn't find an opening in the copy's defense so he simply threw more Instabilities.

The two Blood companions were entangled as they fought while protecting their masters inside their bodies.

The Instabilities exploded, their blasts together with the spikes they released injured the dragons.

Yet, while Heilong was still able to fight due to the low number of injuries that it suffered, its copy was beginning to have difficulties in its reconstruction.

Heilong assaulted recklessly, its copy was able to endure its attacks but the damages suffered from the spikes forced it in a passive position.

Meanwhile, Noah threw even more Instabilities and Hidden blasts toward the copy of the dragon.

Also, ten ethereal claws came out Heilong's body and entered its copy, they quickly found Noah's copy and attacked its internal organs.

Noah was going all out to force an opening in his opponent's defense!

Whenever Heilong's copy was about to reform, Noah would throw more bombs.

Ethereal claws would follow the explosions, a barrage of attacks filled the area where the two dragons were fighting.

Heilong had started to break apart, the corrosion from the opponent's Demonic form, the clash with a companion of similar strength, and the spikes of the Instabilities had ultimately started to affect even its superior defense.

However, since it was in that condition, its copy was in a far worse state.

The dragon's body was in pieces, Noah was almost able to see the fiendish figure of his copy inside it.

Hidden blasts were launched together with ethereal claws inside the fissures of the enemy dragon, Heilong stabbed its head in those fissures as soon as the needles exploded.

A hole was created in the copy of the dragon, Noah's copy was out in the open, enduring the damage that the Ghostly claws caused.

Noah came out of Heilong's head as he ordered it to keep the hole open, his sabers became one and the air around it curved, the veins on his arms exploded as the Second Form was performed.

The Second Form after he mastered his martial art was Noah's strongest attack in close combat!

The copy couldn't do much, it raised its weapons as it mimicked Noah's attack, two black sabers clashed inside Heilong's copy.

Just like Noah had predicted, the copy's sabers couldn't endure the sharpness and the corrosive abilities of the real Demonic swords.

Noah's attack cut through the enemy's Second Form and reached its body, dividing its torso diagonally.

The copy's abilities seemed to freeze when that slash was completed, the smoke released by its Demonic form stopped moving and even its companion halted its reconstruction.

Then, everything started to vanish into nothingness.

Noah saw that and dispersed his spells, he had gone all out in that battle, the only reason why he didn't suffer injuries was due to Heilong's protection.

Yet, once he had understood that the copying technique couldn't reproduce the effects of the Elemental forging method, the battle had been completely one-sided.

Using the Instabilities and Hidden blasts that he had prepared before joining David's team, he has slowly destroyed the companion's defenses.

Then, he used the superior defense of Heilong to pave a way toward his copy, it was just a matter of making their sabers clash at that point.

'It didn't hesitate in using the Demonic form though, I hope that those who have faced our team are dead.'

Noah sighed when he saw how uncaring his copy was in revealing its abilities, he couldn't help but think again at the possibility of having his identity revealed.

He was about to sit on the floor to recover when the light of the formation shone again.

'What now!? I'm almost exhausted!'

Noah had fought using the Demonic form for the entirety of the battle, it was the only method he had to defend against the enemy's corrosive smoke.

Also, he had used the Ghostly claws many times, together with both his martial arts and the expenditure of "Breath" needed to reconstruct Heilong, it could be said that he was almost empty of energies.

No matter how he cursed in his mind though, he couldn't stop the light from surrounding him and applying a familiar pressure on his mental sphere.

'I'm being teleported!'

Noah immediately recognized that pressure but there was nothing that he could do to oppose it.

The scenery changed in front of his eyes, the dark-area transformed into a large hall filled with the light radiated by the azure sand.

Twelve pillars stood straight at the sides of the hall, six per each side, Noah saw how one of them was broken.

Void surrounded the hall, that place resembled some sort of isolated platform.

A tall throne made of an azure mineral was placed at the end of the hall, a middle-aged man could be seen silently resting with his head supported by a hand.

'Who is him?'

Noah thought as soon as he managed to have a complete view of the hall.

The mouth of the man moved and an aged voice resounded throughout the entirety of the hall.

"I'm the Divine Demon, the creator of this dimension."

Chapter 403 - 403. Ancestor

Noah's eyes widened, not only did the man just answered his thoughts, but he had also used the word "divine".

'Is he a God?'

"My main body is, I'm just the will that he left before ascending in the Immortal lands."

The man on the throne spoke again after Noah thought, he opened his eyes and straightened his posture after he finished his phrase.

Noah felt n.a.k.e.d under the man's gaze, he felt as if his entire life could be simply read by that mighty being.

A torrent of questions arose in his mind, be it his godhood, the Immortal lands, or the many doubts that he had about the separate dimension, his mind was filled with uncertainties.

"Slow down, young one. The Inheritance is already yours, there is no point in being so anxious."

Divine Demon spoke again and tapped his index on the armrest of his throne. Light came out from the void that surrounded the hall, it converged on the powerless Noah, entering his body and centers of power.

Noah felt his mental sphere and dantian being refilled at an unimaginable speed, even the small cracks on Heilong's half-transparent image inside his sea of consciousness were fixed.

The membrane around his heart was refilled as well, it took only a few seconds for Noah to return at his peak form.

Also, his centers of power seemed even more sturdy after the light dissipated, Noah felt as if his condition had slightly improved.

"Don't even bother to bow, I know how little those gestures mean to you. Mh, Elemental forging method, what a reckless inscription method, no wonder it has almost vanished."

Divine Demon continued to speak, it seemed to be sorting Noah's knowledge as he casually commented it.

Noah didn't feel good to have his mind read so easily, he suppressed the irritation growing inside him and masked it with his usual cold aura as he waited for that mighty being to finish playing with him.

'He calls himself "Demon", does he have some connection with my sect?'

"Exactly, the Inheritance would have opened only when one of the twelve demon sects reached the Coral archipelago and was strong enough to use it. Well, eleven right now."

Divine Demon answered Noah's thoughts again as he moved his gaze toward the broken pillar, traces of anger appeared in his eyes but they were soon suppressed as he focused back on Noah.

'Strong enough? Is it because of me that the sect met the standard required by the dimension?'

That time, Noah's thoughts were answered by a loud laugh.

Divine Demon laughed and shook his head before he finally decided to reply to Noah's thoughts.

"Don't think too highly of yourself. You are surely amazing for your level but you are just a mortal, the dimension opened because the Chasing Demon has recently reached the sixth rank, I guess that you weaklings weren't aware of that."

Those words reverberated throughout the hall, Noah was speechless when he heard them.

'The Chasing Demon, my patriarch, reached the sixth rank?'

Noah's mind was a mess, the sixth rank was one step away from godhood after all!

"Hmph, don't be so surprised, that kid had the right attitude for cultivation and he also had my guidance, he should have reached this level long ago"

Divine Demon snorted and continued his explanation before Noah could even think about anything.

"As you have already guessed, I'm the ancestor of the demon sects of the Papral nation. I and the God who created the orthodox sects left the Mortal lands long ago but we made sure that our Inheritances would be accessible by our descendants."

'How exactly is this place accessible? All the organizations in the archipelago are attempting to obtain the Inheritance.'

"Spare me your sarcasm, young one, I'm actually disappointed that it took someone like you to make a demon sect succeed. Your fellow disciples are a bunch of demons just in name, they have long lost their instincts as unorthodox cultivators due to the lofty lifestyle that they make here. Truth to be told, only a lone cultivator like you reflects the characteristics that I'm looking for in an heir."

Noah was now used to the fact that his thoughts were directly answered, he even gave up on trying to cover them and he couldn't just stop thinking.

"I know nothing about formations."

Noah spoke for the first time, the meaning behind his words was quite obvious, he was referring to the copying technique of the dimension: Even if he was to obtain it, he wouldn't know how to use it.

Also, a lot of work was needed to place the various formations: Noah recognized the power behind that technique but he would rather have something that increased his personal power.

"I think that you have misunderstood my intentions regarding this dimension."

Divine Demon spoke and stood up from his throne.

He had long black hair and was dressed in a seemingly luxurious robe, he stretched his hand in front of him and images began to appear in his palm.

"Teamwork, ambition, a various set of abilities, survivability, those were all the characteristics needed to pass the tests in the labyrinth."

The images in his hands depicted the nine trials that Noah had faced, he didn't dare to move his eyes from the being's hand.

"Yet, all of these are useless if you can't fight other cultivators, hence the tenth trial."

The images fused into one that replayed the battle of David's group, everything that had happened inside the mountain range had been registered.

"However, even that would be useless if one wasn't able to take a path different from the one chosen by Heaven and Earth."

The images changed again, Noah's battle against his copy played out, the fight between the two fiends seemed spectacular when seen from outside.

"My copying technique is the maximum expression of the Attunement inscription method, it can't reproduce things in the divine ranks nor creations that aren't under the rule of Heaven and Earth. Tell me, young one, why was it so easy for you to defeat your copy?"

Divine Demon asked and Noah's eyes were filled with understanding.

Chapter 404 - 404. True path

Noah knew the answer to his question but he felt that he was still missing the main detail behind that reason.

'The Elemental forging method is strong but it is just another inscription method...'

Divine Demon didn't speak at that time, he calmly waited for Noah to finish his mind process.

'Maximum expression of the Attunement method he says... The theory behind that method is to understand and copy the meanings contained in the "Breath" so it can't emulate the meanings set by cultivators. Wait, did he mean that the Attunement method can't go past the heroic ranks?'

Noah raised his gaze when he reached that point in his thinking, he looked Divine Demon in the eyes, waiting for further explanations.

"That's not exactly correct. The method isn't flawed in its form but Heaven and Earth would never let anyone hear ways to reach the divine ranks. In my long life, only one being was able to reach godhood with a cultivation technique created with such a method. You have heard of him, I'm talking about the God of the Shandal Empire."

Divine Demon revealed with a smile, the surprise felt by Noah had long surpassed what his face was able to hide, his mouth was open in amazement when that information entered his mind.

"So, there is a way around it!"

Noah exclaimed but his phrase was met by a loud snort.

"What's the point of reaching godhood if the path ahead is blocked? Will you ever be satisfied in forever being the weakest God?"

Some pressure was released by the mighty being's will as he spoke, Noah could only honestly shake his head in answer, he knew that he would never pursue a flawed training method like that.

"The Attunement method leads to a dead-end, it is how Heaven and Earth forbid the paths to true divinity. Only an entity who has created its personal road can hope to reach the realms after the seventh rank!"

Divine Demon lifted his head toward the sky, his hair fluttered as a dense aura was exuded from his body.

Ambition!

Pure ambition!

His figure reflected in Noah's eyes seemed to take the place of one of the stars in his imaginary sky, Noah suddenly realized that he was looking at the will of one of the stars that he wanted to reach.

"Please, teach me."

Noah bowed as he said those words, the emotion behind that gestures were real, he was asking for the guidance of a God after all!

"Sure, but let me ask you something first. Why do you think you are here while the others that have managed to defeat their copies are still in the mountain range?"

That piece of information was revealed to the unknowing Noah, he was speechless when he heard that.

'So, I wasn't the first.'

Divine Demon pointed his hand toward Noah as he answered his thoughts.

"You weren't the first, nor the strongest. The reason why I've chosen you is that you are the only one who has created a technique. The Shadow sprint martial art was your ticket to this place."

Noah's eyes widened but he chose to remain silent, there was too much that he didn't understand.

"Currently, you have three spells that can accompany you through the entirety of your journey: The Demonic form which bases most of its power on the Kesier runes inside your mind; The Body-inscription spell which needs a magical beast of a matching rank; The Warp spell which needs for your mental energy to see the place where you want to teleport. As you can see, all spells without a rank have restrictions, it is hard to create something that can last till the divine ranks."

Divine Demon took a step forward, he walked on the air as he closed toward Noah.

"However, you were able to modify a rank 0 spell and transform it into a rank 4 martial art through your inscription method. This proves that you can walk the path to godhood."

The middle-aged man landed in front of Noah and pointed a finger toward his mind as he spoke.

"The sea of consciousness is easy, the Kesier runes already are a sort of defiance against Heaven and Earth but keeping the "Breath" inside it works too."

His finger then pointed at his low-waist, where the dantian was.

"Dark vortex cultivation technique enhanced with the Dantian's opening. I suggest you create a personal technique before breaking through the heroic ranks to maximize your individuality."

In the end, he placed his hand on Noah's shoulder.

"Sadly, your body is already in the heroic ranks but it's not too late. Always remember that you must pursue individuality, your Yin body is not your body, it's just a training method invented by someone in the past, it will never suit you as well as something you create."

Divine Demon let go of Noah and crossed his arms as he stood in front of him.

"The difference in power between the cultivators in the heroic ranks is found in the amount of individuality that they can express through their cultivation techniques and spells. Ideally speaking, a cultivator able to enter the heroic ranks with all its centers of power thanks to techniques of its creation will be the strongest heroic cultivator ever, but I know that such a feat is almost impossible. Yet, your situation is just one step away from that."

Noah finally understood.

The academy had already taught him that cultivation techniques of different sources won't produce the best results but he had never thought that there would also be a sensible difference in power if one pursued that method.

"Your ancestor chose to go on his way and created a cultivation technique only after he reached the fifth rank. He was already a messy entity at that point, his centers of power couldn't express his true essence which is why his cultivation was slowed."

"Are you implying that I should stop searching for cultivation techniques and body-nourishing methods in the heroic ranks and create them myself? How? My level is simply too low!"

Noah complained, he would have already created them if he had the needed ability.

Divine Demon smiled when he heard those words, he knew that Noah had finally understood the true path.

"It's time to receive your Inheritance then."

Noah was stunned when he heard those words, he could only watch as Divine Demon raised his hand again and placed a finger between Noah's eyebrows.

An incredible pain hit his mind as inscriptions appeared on the walls of his mental sphere.

#### Chapter 405 - 405. Inheritance

The lines of the inscriptions dug the walls of Noah's mental sphere as they fused with it.

Noah wanted to fall on the floor and hold his head but Divine Demon's finger kept him standing, it was as if his forehead was stuck to him.

Noah endured the pain, it wasn't the first time that a spell was directly transferred to his mind but the process seemed slightly different from the last time: What was being passed wasn't a diagram but some sort of formation that directly attached itself to his mental sphere.

The inscriptions enlarged, filling even the part of the sphere hid by Noah's mental energy, it took a while but the entirety of his mind ended up filled by those shining lines.

Divine Demon retracted his finger and Noah fell on the floor, his eyes were closed as he tried his best to stabilize that center of power.

Then, light came from the void once again, it entered Noah's head and helped him heal his sore mind.

The walls of his sphere healed, the small cracks and holes caused by the inscriptions were mended, Noah's half-transparent figure opened its eyes only to see that the environment inside his sea of consciousness was filled by the light radiated by the inscriptions on its walls.

"What did you do to me?"

Noah struggled to give voice to his worries.

His mind had always been his real advantage in this life, he was extremely careful when it came to it.

"I gave you a way to create techniques and methods. Try to insert your mental energy into the inscriptions."

Divine Demon spoke and Noah sat cross-legged on the floor before following his instructions.

A small amount of mental energy rose from his sea and entered the inscriptions on the walls.

The inscriptions shone with a blinding light and the mental energy was consumed but nothing else seemed to happen.

'What is happening?'

'The light seems to have some kind of smoothing effect on my thinking but that's it, I don't feel anything else.'

'Did I just become the slave of a deity?'

'Is this guy a real God?'

'The God of the Shandal Empire is stuck at the bottom of the seventh rank, maybe that's why it didn't leave the Mortal lands.'

'What are the Mortal lands anyway? What about the Immortal ones then?'

'I wonder if I ended up in some mess.'

'Now that I think about it, each pillar in this room should correspond to the twelve demon sects, the broken one should be the Ravaging demon sect.'

'Wait, why isn't this old geezer answering my thoughts anymore?'

It was only when his thoughts reached that point that Noah raised his head to stare at the smiling will.

A drop of sweat was running down Noah's forehead, yet, in Noah's eyes, its falling speed was incomparably slow!

"Does it enhance my thinking faculties?"

Noah found the answer to his question quickly, his mind was working at an unimaginable speed after all, the answer appeared almost naturally in his mind.

"That's just one of the many usages. This technique is something I made to create my rank 5 cultivation technique. Of course, I've already given you the version that I perfected after becoming a God, it will be a huge help in analyzing and creating techniques and spells."

Analyzing and creating!

Divine Demon's words meant that Noah could use the inscriptions on the walls of his mental sphere to study the diagrams of his spells!

A sort of eagerness filled Noah, he wanted to test the limits of this new technique as soon as possible.

"Calm down, we aren't over yet. You are my heir now but I wish for most of the wealth that I've left behind to go to your sect. You can keep the Credits, the resources you need, and anything related to the darkness element of course, but leave everything else to the sect. Also..."

Divine Demons stopped speaking for a moment as he raised his hand and an old book materialized seemingly out of thin air.

"The copying technique is recorded here. My inscribing method is something that I've personally created, it fuses the attunement method with the study of formations but this technique can't go beyond the heroic ranks. I reckon your sect will need it if it wants to take control of the archipelago."

Noah was about to take the book when its form disappeared, a black ring replaced it in the palm of Divine Demon's hands.

"This ring contains everything left in the dimension, you can keep it but remember to share the items that you don't need with the sect."

Divine Demon handed the ring to Noah and then disappeared from his spot, only to reappear on the throne at the end of the hall.

"My main body is still alive somewhere in the Immortal lands, I can feel it. Look for me when you ascend, I'm sure he will want to see your progress."

The hall began to tremble, cracks formed on the floor and pieces of the pillars detached from their surfaces before falling into the void.

"Remember, only true individuality can reach godhood, the rank of a center of power means nothing if it doesn't carry the will of its cultivator. Keep using the

runes and the "Breath" to improve your mind, replace your Yin body with something that reflects yourself, and create a cultivation technique that doesn't follow the paths laid by Heaven and Earth. The world doesn't want you to become a God that's why all its paths lead to dead-ends. Avoid them, destroy them! Become an entity that Heaven and Earth can't imitate nor suppress!"

The hall began to crumble, only the azure throne remained intact as Divine Demon's will spoke.

"Oh, right. When you have time, kill that ungrateful kid who has betrayed the unorthodox sects."

After those last words, Noah's vision turned dark.

A heavy pressure was applied to his mental sphere, Noah couldn't help but faint after he failed to oppose it.

Divine Demon's words resounded in his mind as he slept, the information about the path to godhood, the individuality, and the limits applied by Heaven and Earth rumbled as he tried to wake up.

When his eyes opened, he found himself in a purple environment, with David and the rest of his team angrily arguing with someone.

Chapter 406 - 406. Shore

Noah inspected his surroundings.

He was on a shore, sand illuminated by the purple halo radiated from the sea was all over him.

'This is an island of the Coral archipelago.'

He immediately understood where he was, the events inside the azure hall were still vivid inside his mind but the change of the scenery was too sudden,

he was almost inclined to believe that he had dreamt his meeting with Divine Demon.

Yet, two things negated that thought: The first one was the inscriptions on the walls of his mental sphere, the second one was the ring tightly held in his left hand.

'I wonder why he didn't speak about my first life, maybe he wasn't able to see it.'

That was his first thought when he accepted that his meeting with the creator of the dimension had been real.

He hadn't been able to hide his thoughts during that encounter but there was something that he had been able to suppress thanks to all his efforts: The fact that he came from another world.

'I don't know if it was thanks to me that this information wasn't revealed or if it was due to some other reason... Well, who cares, I have far more important issues to consider right now.'

Noah couldn't bother to think about past events when the road in front of him had just become steeper.

'According to Divine Demon's words, using techniques and nourishing methods created by other cultivators will ultimately hurt my individuality other than lower the power that I'll eventually obtain. Also, he said that the path toward godhood will be harder if I don't pursue my essence.'

Noah summarized the core of Divine Demon's teachings in his mind.

He knew that techniques and methods created by others would become less effective as his level rose but he had never considered the fact that they could endanger his future prospects, that information made the inventory of the sect far less appealing in his eyes.

"We didn't obtain the Inheritance, I won't say more."

David's voice resounded in the area, Noah was forced to return to reality when he heard it.

Noah had long noticed that his teammates weren't wearing their hoods, their facial features were exposed to the sight of the other cultivators on the shore.

As for the others, Noah recognized some of them from the seabed in the Inheritance ground.

"How could we trust the words of the unorthodox sc.u.m! Put your belongings out in the open for inspection, I suppose it won't be a problem if you didn't obtain the Inheritance!"

A man wearing the colors of the Papral nation spoke to David, he exuded a righteous aura but some traces of greed could be seen in his eyes.

Noah wasn't an idiot, the situation on the shore became clear in his eyes.

When he received the Inheritance, every cultivator in the dimension was kicked out and sent on this island.

Luckily for him, his status as heir wasn't exposed so the cultivators from the various organizations could only ask to inspect the rings belonging to the others.

Of course, two factions were immediately formed, dividing the shore between legal and illegal organizations.

To Noah's surprise, his side had fewer cultivators even though the underground organizations dominated in the archipelago.

'Divine Demon was right, these unorthodox cultivators are demons only in name.'

"What happened?"

Noah asked while wearing a confused expression, it took all his concentration to suppress the sighs that the current situation caused inside him.

"Oh, you are awake! Nothing much, the separate dimension kicked us out before disappearing completely. The cultivators that you see here are those that were still alive when the dimension closed."

Helga answered him, she hadn't noticed that Noah had awakened but her brows arched when she inspected his body.

Noah's upper body was n.a.k.e.d so it could be seen that he wasn't injured.

Meanwhile, almost everyone on the shore had still open wounds or pale complexions, only Noah had benefitted from the healing light of the azure hall.

Helga was about to give voice to her doubts when she felt a piercing cold gaze landing on her, she raised her head only to see that Noah had a threatening look on him.

Helga was a cultivator in the solid stage, there was very little that Noah could do against her.

Yet, she understood the meaning behind his gesture and kept her mouth shut, that wasn't the time to ask questions.

"Don't think that you can act as you wish, remember that your rule on the archipelago is just a façade."

David answered the man from the legal organization, his words were sharp and many cultivators in the latter's group almost exploded due to the anger they felt.

The domain of the underground organizations was something that everyone knew but that no one dared to speak of, pride was something important for orthodox cultivators after all.

However, since they had decided to act in such an overbearing way, David had decided to speak openly, he was threatening them not to go too far.

"I wasn't aware that demons were blind. Can't you see? We are far more than you."

The man spoke again, he hinted that a battle would occur if they didn't ask as he requested.

"Stop speaking nonsense, everyone must return to their organizations. This is an order."

A voice filled the area as a middle-aged man wearing a white robe appeared in the sky.

"The same goes for you, return to your headquarters."

Another voice resounded, the group from the Chasing demon sect recognized it as they raised their gazes on the sky.

Elder Iris was standing in the air, her white hair fluttered in the wind as she stared at the other heroic cultivator hovering over the legal faction.

Noah heaved a sigh of relief, he couldn't bother being surprised by the appearance of a heroic cultivator after he interacted with the will of a God.

The cultivators on the shore separated, each group returned on their respective organization to report about the events in the dimension.

David's group was the same, they followed Elder Iris as they moved toward one of the teleportation matrixes hidden on that island.

#### Chapter 407 - 407. Awkward

As Elder Iris led the way toward one of the matrixes connected with the insides of the exoskeleton, the group of cultivators behind her became more numerous.

The Chasing Demon sect had sent a total of five teams in the separate dimension and, from their survivors, it was clear that its losses had been huge.

Joel walked slowly, all the members of his team were nowhere to be seen and their state could be understood from his discouraged expression.

Alison was right behind Elder Iris, she and two cultivators were the only survivors of her team, her stern mood showed how much she had suffered in the dimension.

David's team was in the middle, five of its members had survived which was an incredible feat considering that only the non-affiliated newly advanced rank 3 cultivators surpassed that number, the latter hadn't even reached the seabed but that had allowed for more of them to survive.

As for the team created by Roy, none of its members could be seen on the shore, they had probably died due to their poor battle experience.

All in all, only twenty-six cultivators survived the exploration, the assets in the human rank of the Chasing demon sect had suffered heavy losses!

"Elder Iris, I-"

"We will speak once we return to the headquarters, there are too many prying eyes on the surface."

Joel tried to speak but Elder Iris promptly stopped him.

She had taken a risk in exposing herself in the open but she needed to salvage as much as she could, the balance of power will tilt toward the organization that had obtained the Inheritance after all.

Noah remained silent, Helga's curious gaze would fall on him from time to time but he simply ignored it.

His mind was still a mess, he had always thought that it would have been enough to simply obtain stronger techniques to pursue power, he had never considered that his approach would eventually endanger his future progresses.

The powerful group slowly walked through the streets of the island, it was as if Elder Iris was purposely showing their path to anyone spying on her.

When she reached a certain building, she exhaled and a warm breeze swept the twenty-six cultivators behind her.

The cultivators were surprised but there wasn't much that they could do, the breeze ruffled their hair and made their torn robes flutter, seemingly without any additional effect.

Yet, some almost invisible golden grains were carried away by the breeze, the cultivators looked at them in surprise, it took Elder Iris' explanation for them to understand what the grains represented.

"Hmph, did he think that he could spy on my sect so easily? He must be confident that the legal factions have obtained the Inheritance."

Her words explained the current situation: Apparently, the survivors from the dimension had been unconsciously hit by an investigative method!

Elder Iris continued on her way, she took many turns and she even released more of that breeze to cover her path.

The group then reached another building and entered it, a matrix appeared on the floor when they stepped inside the main hall.

The pressure of the teleportation arrived and the scenery changed, the shining purple walls of the exoskeleton appeared in the cultivators' views, signaling that they had finally returned to the sect.

Sighs of relief and tired curses resounded in the area, the cultivators finally dropped their stern looks and relaxed, they were safe there.

Linus and a woman stood at the sides of the matrix, they began to trace lines on it and modify the formation as fast as they could, Noah understood that they were covering the tracks left by their passage.

"We don't know who obtained the Inheritance nor to which organization it belongs, yet, we won't give up on our rule over the archipelago. War will probably occur, the scales of power between the Hive and the legal organizations will shift, this is no time for sorrow!"

Elder Iris spoke, she was trying to lift the cultivators' morale while explaining the events that will engulf the archipelago in the future.

In her view, whichever organization obtained the Inheritance will have a sharp increase in power, the domain of the Hive and the Chasing demon sect will be endangered due to that.

The scene on the shore was quite self-explaining, the cultivators from the underground organizations had suffered far more losses and there was a high chance that the Inheritance was with someone from the legal ones, it was normal for her to predict the arrival of a battle.

'This is awkward.'

Noah thought as he kept an expressionless face.

Her speech and the rekindled will of his companions were quite pointless since he was the one who had obtained the Inheritance.

"These events have to be a lesson: Never allow yourself to be weak! The weak dies while the strong survive, this is the rule of the world. Use this experience to pursue power with even more dedication, I won't accept that the captains of my Chasing demon sec-"

"Elder Iris, a word?"

Noah interrupted Elder Iris' speech and the gazes of the other cultivators went on him.

Noah felt as if he had committed a huge crime due to the anger carried by those stares, his natural cold expression came out when under such pressure.

"Did you think that my words are so pointless that you can freely interrupt them?"

Elder Iris wasn't an exception, she was quite tense due to the repercussion that will eventually hit the underground organizations in her prediction, she hadn't expected for Noah to behave so improperly.

"Divine Demon told me to leave everything that I don't need to the sect. I intend to do so if the sect is willing to provide benefits of matching value."

Noah completely disregarded her question and gave voice to his intentions, he had yet to inspect the contents of the black space-ring after all.

"What do you mean? How do you know that name?"

Elder Iris didn't understand and expressed her confusion but Noah couldn't be bothered to answer now.

"I'll go to my cave in the residential area for rank 2 cultivators. Just wait for me to sort out the items of the Inheritance, we can decide my benefits later."

With those last words, Noah left the area, twenty-five cultivators in the third rank and one in the heroic ranks stared at his n.a.k.e.d back with speechless expressions.

Chapter 408 - 408. Spirit automaton

Noah hurriedly returned to his old cave.

He wasn't afraid that the other members of the sect would try to steal his belongings, the restrictions of the oath prevented that, yet, he was eager to inspect the contents of the Inheritance.

The black space-ring contained the items left behind by a divine being after all, he couldn't even begin to imagine the amount of wealth contained in it.

The entrance of his cave opened, Noah didn't change his habitation after he became a rank 3 cultivator because he was too focused on the separate dimension but now he could feel how lacking the density of "Breath" was for his current level.

He casually sat on the ground and held the black-ring in his hands, there was no mental imprint on it, Noah could easily inspect its insides.

The first thing he saw when his mental energy entered the ring was a sea of shining crystals.

Credits!

There were Obsidian Credits everywhere he looked.

Noah was able to divert his gaze only after he realized that it would take too much to count them, they value had long surpassed ten million Credits when he decided to look away.

Then, he was astonished by the width of the space inside the ring.

'This is simply too huge.'

Noah thought when he saw that the space inside the ring had the width of many kilometers.

'It seems that I won't need my rings anymore, this one is definitely above the human ranks!'

The black-space ring was already an extremely valuable item, coupled with the incredible number of Credits contained inside it, Noah felt as if his efforts in the dimension had been worth it!

Yet, that was only the beginning.

Noah moved his gaze toward a few hills at the bottom of the area.

He soon realized that the hills were just piles of items of different nature!

Noah's attention went to the most striking ones.

He saw how countless dragon's corpses were piled to form a small scaled mountain.

All the corpses belonged to rank 4 creatures of different elements and each one of them was in a perfect state, it was as if those dragons had just died!

'How is this possible, Divine Demon's time had to be even before the previous Royal dynasty, does this ring have improved storage capabilities?'

Noah quickly moved the Credits that surrounded the pile of corpses and he soon discovered that his hypothesis was right.

There was a large formation around the corpses which was similar to the one surrounding the inventory in Odrea nation.

Its purpose was clear, the formation kept the materials stored inside it in a perfect state!

'The value of this ring has just doubled.'

Noah noted that in his mind before inspecting the next pile of goods, he was just doing a quick overview of the resources obtained in the Inheritance, the sorting process would come only after he had a general idea of what he could find useful.

There was a smaller hill right behind the beasts' corpses.

The pile that time was made of inscribed weapons of various types and rank, Noah found some blades that radiated an ominous feeling as his attention focused on them.

Another formation that prevented the corrosion of the items in its insides was around the pile of weapons, Noah decided to stop guessing the value of the ring after he saw that.

The next pile was filled with shining bottles and luxurious caskets, that hill contained a seemingly endless number of potions and pills, the power held by some of them even surpassed what Noah was able to sense.

The last hill was composed of scrolls and books.

Noah's eyes shone when he saw it, it was clear that the accumulation of spells and techniques of Divine Demon was there.

His mental energy went to the first scroll in his sight, he wanted to analyze its contents and start sorting the resources in the ring when inscriptions around the walls of the separate space lit up.

'What is happening!?'

Noah was about to retract his mental energy from the ring when the light of the inscriptions converged in the air and a young boy wearing a luxurious black robe appeared out of it.

The boy had long black hair and icy-blue eyes, his facial features were delicate, almost womanly, he resembled a younger version of Noah.

Noah was about to speak when the boy's eyes shone and words resounded in the insides of the ring.

"Recollecting last known orders."

"New master: Noah Balvan, heir of the Divine Demon."

A robotic voice echoed in the area, the boy's eyes stopped shining when it ended.

He then performed a polite bow before speaking in a more human tone.

"Greetings to master, I'm the spirit automaton of the space-ring. My previous master, Divine Demon, has instructed me to help to handle this rank 6 storage device and has also left some guidelines on how to handle the resources inside."

Noah heard the words and was a bit surprised but he soon calmed down.

The ring was a rank 6 item, it was obvious that it would have special features.

Also, considering how big the space inside it was and how many items were stored, it was understandable that its creator had set an automatic helper.

"Did you copy my aspect or were you created like this?"

Noah asked as he relaxed, his mental energy transmitted his words inside the separate space.

"Spirit automatons usually imitate the aspect of their masters, though, I can modify it if you wish."

The boy politely answered but Noah didn't mind that aspect, he was just curious about the reason behind it.

"How precise are your estimations of the items inside the ring?"

Noah moved the topic to what interested him, the items contained in the Inheritance.

"I don't need to make an estimate, I know all the resources contained in the ring as well as their number, purpose, and name."

The automaton answered in an emotionless tone, it wasn't a will after all, it was more similar to a program.

"Give me a complete report then, don't be too specific though."

"Processing."

Noah ordered before the robotic voice of the automaton answered him.

"The ring currently contains eighty million Credits, five hundred rank 4 dragon' corpses of a various element, eight thousand four hundred thirty-three inscribed weapons of various rank, more than ten thousand potions and pills of various rank and usage, and about a thousand spells and techniques of various rank."

#### Chapter 409 - 409. Sorting

Noah listened to those numbers and his mind began to evaluate the many possibilities that such an amount of wealth gave him.

'I bet I'm richer than a medium-size noble family right now.'

He smiled internally when he realized that.

Yet, he knew that most of those items would be wasted in his hands, not only many resources required an element different from his, but he also had almost no use for the inscribed weapons.

Noah knew that the Demonic swords were the most suitable weapons for him and he couldn't use blades in the heroic ranks, his level simply didn't allow that.

"You spoke about some guidelines, what are they about?"

Noah asked the spirit automaton as his mental energy took a human form, it was easier for him to inspect the items from inside the ring rather than taking them out one at the time.

"First of all, there is a description of the four formations inside the ring, each one can almost stop the aging of specific items. As you can see, the formations must be used respectively for magical beasts, weapons, drugs,

and scrolls or books. Placing an item in a formation that doesn't suit its type won't activate its effects. If you wish, you can just send everything causally in the ring and leave the division process to me."

The boy spoke, pointing a formation whenever he mentioned its suitable type of item.

"Also, Divine Demon left some messages, would you like to hear them?"

"Sure."

Noah was surprised by the boy's statement but he was quite eager to listen again to Divine Demon.

The automaton opened his mouth and his eyes shone, it seemed that he had entered the "robot" mode again.

"Young one."

Divine Demon's voice resounded inside the ring, Noah's complete attention went on his words.

"I'm sorry that our meeting has been short, I had to preserve enough energies to destroy the separate dimension and to erase all my traces. Yet, you have my legacy now."

A short moment of silence occurred before his voice sounded again.

"The walls of your mental sphere now contain my Divine deduction technique, it is fueled by mental energy so it will give you better results once your rank as a mage increases. Oh, your version is limited to the seventh rank, you might want to upgrade it once you become a God."

Noah suppressed the urge to smile, Divine Demon seemed sure that Noah would reach the divine ranks.

"Just one thing. If I was to discover that you wasted my technique and trained in one of the cultivation techniques contained in my Inheritance, I will personally travel to the Mortal lands and kill you. Be safe, young one."

"..."

Silence.

A long silence followed those words.

Noah stood still, the expression of his half-transparent figure inside the ring was still stuck in the suppressed smile from before.

'I guess I don't have other choices now.'

"Oh, one last thing."

Divine Demon's voice sounded all of sudden, slightly startling Noah.

"I have a message for that kid, your patriarch. Remember to tell the automaton when you meet him. Hmph, I have a thing or two to say about how he trains the members of his sect."

After that, the boy's eyes stopped shining and he closed his mouth, only then was Noah sure that no more messages were coming.

"Anything else?"

Noah asked the automaton hoping that the threats of the God were over.

"Divine Demon advised giving most of the contents of his Inheritance to the sect. The Obsidian Credits are excluded of course."

Noah nodded, he didn't hate that idea.

After all, only a small part of the Inheritance was useful to him.

He didn't need any of the inscribed weapons.

He was just one cultivator, ten thousand drugs were simply too many for him.

The techniques and spells of the darkness element were just a small fraction of the entirety of the pile, everything else could just go to the sect.

As for the dragon's corpses, he was quite tempted to keep all of them.

Like everything else, only a few corpses belonged to creatures of the darkness element but, thanks to his bombs, Noah could easily transform the other dragons in disposable weapons.

'I can simply process their scales, fangs, and teeth to make the spikes for the Instabilities, I won't even need to exchange them for spiked magical beasts.'

Noah ran the various possibilities in his mind but he ultimately decided to keep all the dragon's corpses.

Dragons were considered the strongest magical beast, Noah wasn't willing to let go of any of those materials.

'I think I should start sorting everything out, I'll leave the scrolls for last.'

As the thought about that, Noah, with the help of the spirit automaton, began to choose the items that he wanted to keep.

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A few days passed, Noah's mental energy had never exited the space-ring during that period.

There were simply too many items to evaluate!

The thought of selling any of the items in the ring has never crossed his mind, he saw Credits everywhere his gaze went, what was the point in obtaining more of them?

The spirit automaton was an extremely useful helper, not only was he aware of the name and capabilities of every item inside the ring, but he was also able to advise Noah basing his judgment on his current level.

Sorting the pile of weapons didn't take much, Noah eventually chose to keep a few weapons that matched his element and that he could find useful in the future.

He was keeping the white sabers for the same reason after all, being picky in front of all that wealth wasn't exactly the smartest choice.

With the pile of drugs, he had been far greedier.

The space-ring contained resources till the fifth rank, Divine Demon had carried everything in the sixth rank or above with him in the Immortal lands.

Yet, when it came to pills and potions, anything in the heroic ranks was enough to make Noah stupefied.

Of course, they were only a small fraction compared to the entirety of the pile, yet, they were still miraculous items!

Also, they were specific for each center of power: There were pills able to fix any injury on the mental sphere in a matter of seconds, potions able to regrow bones, even pills that contained "Breath" of various elements.

Noah simply couldn't let go of those drugs, they could save his life one day!

However, he gave up to the majority of the low-level drugs, to those that didn't suit him, and to those of which he had too many copies.

Only the pile containing the spells and techniques was left.

#### Chapter 410 - 410. Spells

"Hand me everything related to the darkness element and divide it according to their ranks."

Noah ordered, the spirit automaton could manage the insides of the space-ring far faster than him, it was better to leave those matters to him.

"Do you wish to create a separate block for those that don't have element requirements?"

"No, put everything together."

The spirit automaton began to divide the pile of scrolls and books after Noah's order, his eyes shone as he entered the "robot" mode.

Noah watched him work, he had probed his capabilities as he inspected the other piles and was quite surprised by the amount of information that he held.

As the spirit of a rank 6 inscribed item, the automaton contained a vast knowledge that allowed him to recognize almost every item that was being stored inside the ring.

'The ring itself is incredibly useful, just the four formations inside it are priceless. If I was to add the knowledge of the automaton, the price of this item would skyrocket!'

Noah thought as he waited for the spells and techniques to be sorted out, he was beginning to understand that the ring was one of the most important items of the Inheritance.

The automaton soon finished his task, less than eighty scrolls and books had been taken out from the main pile.

Noah wasn't disappointed, he knew that the rarity of his element was a troublesome issue, one of the reasons why darkness and light cultivators were so few was due to that.

'I think it's the first time I'm eager to read rank 0 spells.'

Eagerness was showed in Noah's half-transparent figure as it neared the sorted items.

According to Divine Demon, the Divine deduction technique allowed him to study the diagrams of the spells more easily, Noah wondered if he could create more rank 4 martial arts thanks to that.

After all, martial arts were the foundation of the battle prowess of a cultivator, they didn't deplete much energy and some of them had a power that matched spells!

Spells were generally used as supportive methods or finishing blows, they expended a lot of mental energy and "Breath", preventing a cultivator from using them recklessly.

Noah had currently mastered two rank 4 martial arts and their effects in battle were amazing.

The Shadow sprint art could be performed far carelessly than Warp spell, making him extremely mobile without the need for huge expenditures of mental energy.

If a spell couldn't lead to a finishing blow, it was better to use its weaker but cheaper version.

The majority of the items in the pile were rank 0 and 1 spells, techniques, and methods.

Noah recognized some names that he saw back in the inventory of the academy, rank 0 diagrams were easier to copy after all, it was normal to have the same scrolls spread in the world.

Blind, Shadow step, Void cover, Piercing darkness, Noah swept through those names quickly.

There were some effects that he would gladly integrate into his battle style but he was too eager to reach the scrolls of a higher rank.

Cultivation techniques and nourishing methods of such a low rank were simply worthless in his eyes, Noah had already decided to keep them only for research purposes.

The spells were his main concern, their diagrams could be turned into martial arts with enough study and those up to the third rank and above were useful for his level.

It was then time for those in the second rank, Death spire, Entangling darkness, and other spells that Noah had never heard of appeared in his eyes.

Noah quickly read their effects and put them aside, that was not yet the time to start studying their diagrams.

Only about twenty items remained in the pile that he had yet to inspect, most of them were rank 3 nourishing methods and cultivation techniques but there were some spells among them.

'Demon summoning seems strong, it's a pity that it's only up to the third rank, my Body-inscription spells is simply stronger right now.'

'Dark ray seems good, it might be worth memorizing it.'

'Dark cover increases my hiding abilities but only at night, it should be something worth learning.'

The rank 3 spells soon ended and it was time to step on those of a higher rank.

Noah had three books in front of him, they contained two body-nourishing methods and a cultivation technique, all in the fourth rank.

Noah held the cultivation technique in his hands, his eyes were glued to its contents, that was an item that he had searched for a long time, the key to become a heroic cultivator!

There was a lot that he didn't understand in its description, it seemed that he had to have access to rank 4 "Breath" before understanding some of the contents of the technique.

'It feels like another world. I wonder if I can create something like this.'

It took a while before he managed to let go of the book, he was only doing a general overview at that moment, he was just deciding what to keep of the Inheritance.

Three scrolls remained from the almost eighty items, they contained two spells up to the fourth rank and one up to the fifth.

'Ethereal form, up to the fourth rank. It's a defensive spell that allows me to become immaterial for a short time. It seems to consume a lot of energy though.'

'Death area, up to the fourth rank. This is an area of effect spell that weakens the living beings in its insides. Really, really strong, but also high consumption.'

The high consumption of mental energy and "Breath" of the spells of the darkness element was something Noah was used to, the Ghostly claws were the only exception that he had found.

'Black hole, up to the fifth rank. Defensive method able to absorb any type of attack, allowing the cultivator to use the pure energy absorbed in an attack.'

At once, Noah knew that he had to memorize that spell.