

Chapter 461 - 461. Failures

The temperature of the new muscles of the slave rose at a high speed, the skin above them wasn't able to sustain such heat and began to burn, emitting gray smoke in the process.

Noah knew that he did some mistake at that point and that it was too late now for the slave.

That's why he didn't stop merging the two bodies, he wanted to gather as much experience as he could before the slave died and the experiment failed.

The fusion of the muscular system was completed and Noah's focus went on the skeletal system.

The bones of the magical beast began to liquefy and enter the body of the slave, cracking sounds resounded as the bones of the man were modified due to the Elemental forging method.

The slave had never stopped screaming since the experiment began, his body was being modified while he was wide awake, it was as if he was experiencing a Pain Tribulation at that moment.

Then, before Noah could even fuse half of the skeletal systems, the skin of the man was completely burnt and the slave died.

Noah's first experiment was a failure.

That was to be expected, Noah couldn't hope to obtain some result so soon, especially when attempting in something that no one had been able to do.

His mental energy quickly entered the shining lines on the walls of his sea of consciousness, the Divine deduction technique helped him to quickly find the reason behind that failure.

'The fusion of the skins wasn't good enough, the capabilities of the skin of the magical beast weren't passed down due to that. Well, it's better to say that such a lax fusion couldn't express its qualities.'

The skin of the slave didn't obtain the qualities of the magical beast so it wasn't able to endure the burning muscles under it, leading to the death of the slave.

'It seems that I can't disregard a good amalgamation even in the early stages of the fusion or there could be deadly repercussions. My will is also a bit off but it doesn't seem to cause a failure just yet. At least now I know that the abilities of the creature can be passed down, a perfect hybrid should be able to carry the capabilities of both worlds.'

It took only one experiment for Noah to be able to pick so many details, the Divine deduction technique coupled with the mental energy produced by a rank 4 sea of consciousness was already showing its power.

'I need to take it slowly, I must be sure that the skins have completely fused before passing on the muscles. The same must be done for bones and organs, meaning that the procedure will take longer than I had predicted.'

Noah had initially thought that he could just fuse everything and then make it take the form of a human body but that approach wasn't possible.

The body of the cultivator would begin to mutate as soon as the fusion reached a certain point, meaning that the abilities of the magical beast would appear during the procedure.

Noah then took one of his white sabers and opened the corpse of the slave, he was basically performing an autopsy.

He couldn't leave any detail behind when performing such an invasive experiment, he had to actually see the changes happening inside the human body.

The bones of the slave had many cracks, that was expected since Noah had just started to modify them.

Yet, the muscles of the man had gray hair growing from them, it seemed that part of the skin of the beast had been mixed with them during the fusion.

Both problems had been caused by Noah's lack of control but it could also be said that he couldn't help it.

He was a rank 4 mage, his consciousness was so strong that Noah's control neared perfection.

However, near perfection didn't seem to be enough.

'I still have some "Breath" of the fire element left in my mind, I'll try again with a Fire wolf and with a fire cultivator.'

Noah thought when he had finished analyzing the first experiment.

He was attempting something unheard of with an unreliable inscription method and a liquid "Breath" that didn't match his element.

Being imprecise was something that he couldn't avoid at his first attempt, he needed to become familiar with the procedure to minimize the lack of control, he needed experience in the procedure, and he had to find the other hindrances that waited for him as he went deeper in the experimentation.

Noah quickly cleaned the room using the black smoke of the Demonic form spell, nothing remained of the dead slave and the maimed corpse of the magical beast, he didn't want anyone to know what he was doing after all.

Another slave was taken from its area and brought to the central room of the underground structure by Noah, he quickly chained it to the wall and went to kill another Fire wolf.

This time, Noah knew that he would probably fail.

The slave was a woman while the magical beast was a male, Noah was quite sure that genders would affect the fusion but he wanted to test it to gather more information.

With the remaining refined red "Breath" inside his mind and by placing his hands on both slave and beast, Noah started his second experiment.

As expected, the two bodies showed signs of rejection since their skin began to fuse.

Piece of flesh directly exploded as the skin of the magical beast was fused, Noah tried his best to contain the rejection but he ultimately failed, another experiment turned out to be a skinless corpse.

'I can't mix genders which means that obtaining precise resources will be slightly more troublesome but there should be no problem after the connection with the archipelago is set, I will have a wider variety of both magical beasts and liquid "Breath" at my disposal at that point.'

Noah thought as he cleaned the area again.

As a rank 4 mage, he was still far away from reaching his limit, even with the constant usage of the Divine deduction technique.

Chapter 462 - 462. Behaviour

Screams resounded non-stop in the underground structure.

Noah experimented almost without break, that was the first time that he was actually testing the limits of his new mental sphere and the results made him incredibly satisfied.

The sea inside his mind seemed endless, he felt as if the only thing that could lower its quantity was the Divine deduction technique.

Yet, even in that case, the mental energy depleted was quickly refilled, his mind simply produced it at an incredible speed.

'This is really on another level, no wonder there is such a difference between the heroic and the human ranks.'

Noah vaguely thought as he used the smoke of his Demonic form spell to clean the experimentation area.

By then, he had attempted to fuse the body of a magical beast with that of a human sixty-four times and he had always failed.

During that period, Noah had rested only once, even the continuous usage of the Elemental forging method couldn't tire that powerful mind too soon.

'I should be the first rank 4 mage in the history of the Elemental forging method, I don't think anyone has survived to this level.'

Noah guessed as he took another slave from the other area.

The Elemental forging method had basically disappeared and Noah had all the records about its past practitioners.

None of them had survived until the fourth rank, all of them had died or were permanently injured due to the backlash that accompanied the inscription method.

Noah was the only exception.

His early advantage had given him a sturdy mind since birth, his mental sphere had only enlarged faster thanks to the Elemental forging method, he had long stopped feeling pain because he stored "Breath" inside his sea of consciousness.

Sixty-four failures, coupled with the constant use of the Divine deduction technique, gave him a lot of insights for what concerned his experiments.

He had tested many approaches, initiating the fusion from different tissues.

He had initiated the fusion on the skin, on the internal organs, on the muscles, and on the bones, he had even varied the order in which the fusion progressed and stopped it mid-way.

The result was that, no matter how hard he tried, starting with the skin and then slowly approaching the interiors was the most stable form of fusion.

Noah had been ultimately forced to slow down the fusion to make the affected tissue stabilize to prevent rejections when he started to fuse the more internal tissues.

That led to an even longer and painful procedure that most slaves weren't able to endure but it also provided better results.

During his last experiments, Noah had been successfully able to fuse skin, muscles, and bones, the only problem remained the internal organs that seemed to always suffer from some sort of rejection.

It was only when the sixty-fourth slave died that Noah understood that he was missing something, the failure in the fusion wasn't his fault anymore at that point.

'The only variable that I didn't calculate is the compatibility on a behavioral level.'

Noah thought as he went back to his area to deduce.

Gender, aptitude, cultivation level, Noah had already made sure that those fields matched when choosing a slave and a magical beast.

Yet, it seemed that the fusion would always encounter some form of rejection when he started to affect the most internal parts of the human body.

That led Noah to think that he had to find a slave and a magical beast that matched on a deeper level, meaning that even their personality had to be similar.

'This is quite troublesome, magical beasts don't really have a personality and I'm working with slaves that had been trained to serve a master, any trace of their real behavior might be already gone forever.'

Another hurdle appeared in front of Noah.

But then, he had become used to the procedure, he had just to tune those details to succeed.

'For the magical beasts, I can only use my instinct to classify their behavior in human terms. As for the slaves, I guess I can only ask them.'

Noah sighed when he reached that conclusion, human interactions had never been his strong point after all.

The next day, Noah went into the underground area where the slaves were kept.

The area seemed larger now that only thirty-six slaves remained, Noah carefully examined each one of them before deciding who approach first.

The slaves had gazes devoid of life, the screams of their companions and the cries of the chained beasts didn't affect their mood in the slightest.

Noah couldn't help but curse at that sight: Those slaves seemed to be well-trained but, for what concerned his situation, that quality was actually a disadvantage.

"What can you tell me about yourself?"

"What do you like the most?"

"Describe yourself with a few qualities."

"Do you think of yourself as an aggressive person?"

Noah asked those questions as he interrogated the slaves, he wanted to create a complete profile of their personality before resuming with the experiments.

Luckily for him, the inscribed chains binding the slaves forced them to answer Noah's questions honestly.

Even if their personality had been suppressed or almost broken by their training, Noah was still able to pick up some clues and to create a general profile for each slave, he had just to match each one of them with a corresponding beast now.

Noah knew that each species of magical beasts had a different behavior: Some species were more aggressive, others were more reckless, others were canny, many qualities could distinguish them.

For example, Fire wolves liked to form large groups but they were quite disorganized and reckless in their behavior.

On the contrary, Lightning wolves formed less numerous packs but had better teamwork and could even combine their attacks.

The way Noah saw it, Fire wolves would be a better match for naïve and insecure cultivators while the Lightning ones were more similar to humans with a noble status and good training.

It was considering those small details that Noah decided the next slave and magical beast to fuse and resumed his experiments.

#### Chapter 463 - 463. Lightning

Noah was left with only thirty-six slaves before he decided to take a different approach but only twenty of them could be matched with the magical beasts chained in the underground structure.

That number further diminished as Noah continued with his experiments.



It took a few attempts before he could tune his instincts, more slaves died when the fusion reached the internal organs, but, ultimately, he managed to achieve some small success.

Noah's concentration was at its peak as he controlled the fusion between an elderly man and a Fog hawk, refined liquid "Breath" of the wind element continued to be depleted as the organs of the slaves were modified.

That was the twelfth time that he had reached that point, three slaves had died before his instincts became able to match the perfect magical beast for each cultivator but he had finally reached the final part of the fusion.

The eleven slaves before that had either died due to the pain or to some form of rejection that Noah was still unable to suppress.

Yet, after sacrificing seventy-eight slaves, Noah seemed to have finally mastered the procedure!

Almost nothing remained of the corpse of the magical beast, only part of its organs remained solid.

Noah couldn't just fuse them together, he had to modify them one by one and wait for the fusion to stabilize before moving to the next one.

He had started with the organs that were less vital to the beast and that didn't express its capabilities with much intensity, Noah had learnt long ago that he had to be sure that the body could handle the abilities of the beast before he proceeded in passing them to the cultivator.

The most important organs of the Fog hawk were its eyes, they were able to clearly see through an environment filled with fog or smoke and could also recognize where the "Breath" was thicker in those locations.

Fog hawks could innately use those spots to burst with a sudden acceleration that could catch any prey by surprise.

Noah didn't know how much of that ability would be passed down on the slave, most of that knowledge could only be tested once a hybrid was forged, he was focused only on creating the procedure right now.

However, for how things were proceeding, it seemed that he was going to discover it soon.

The internal organs of the magical beast liquefied one by one, Noah carefully fused them with those of the elderly man and contained the rejection before using the refined liquid "Breath" to liquefy another organ.

Little by little, the fusion between the slave and the beast was being completed.

There was something that he hadn't noticed though and that even the elder of his group couldn't sense due to the propeties of the mystical fog that surrounded the underground structure where he was working.

As the fusion proceeded, black clouds began to form on the sky right above Noah's facility.

Lightning cracked inside them, the aura radiated from their shape carried an ominous feeling which seemed to target the red ground below them.

Noah was unaware of that event and continued to focus on the fusion.

The hearts fused, the lungs did the same, even the brains were successfully mixed, Noah took a deep breath as he moved his gaze on the eyes of the elderly man.

The slave seemed to have lost consciousness as the internal organs survived the Elemental forging method, it was as if his body shut down to become used to its changes.

Noah memorized those details but he didn't think much about it, there would be time to analyze the procedure with the Divine deduction technique after the first hybrid was forged.

The eyes of the Fog hawk liquefied under the influence of the "Breath" of the wind element, nothing was left of the beast, Noah could place his other hand on the cultivator now that it was free.

The liquefied eyes entered the cultivator's ones and began to modify their structure, blood came out of the shut eyelids as the unnecessary parts were expelled under Noah's control.

Excitement rose inside Noah as he saw that the fusion was almost completed, he just needed to mix the last bits of the beast and wait for that organ to stabilize before he could start studying the capabilities of his creation.

However, just as the eyes of both beings were about to fuse completely, a bolt of lightning fell from the black clouds in the sky and landed on the ground above the underground structure, piercing it with its might.

Noah felt a sudden dangerous feeling coming from above him, he instinctively retreated when his consciousness calculated the trajectory of the attack, detaching both his hands from the almost complete hybrid.

The bolt of lightning missed him but landed precisely on the elderly man who was just about to open his eyes.

An explosion resounded in the underground area where Noah performed his experiments, Noah expanded his consciousness as much as he could to understand what had happened.

The first thing he noticed was that the slave was dead, the lightning had centered his head, dividing his body in two and carbonizing those two halves, only a few burned pieces of flesh remained on the floor.

Then, he noticed the black clouds on the sky, they seemed focused on the area where Noah was and dispersed shortly after the slave was killed.

Noah stared at the sky through the hole created by the lightning bolt with a pensive gaze but his thoughts were soon interrupted by the arrival of a powerful consciousness that neared him at full speed.

"Prince! Are you ok? Don't tell me that you failed the Heaven Tribulation!"

The voice of the elder of his group resounded in the underground structure, the meaning behind his words slightly startled Noah.

"I'm fine, Elder Ian. Why would you think about the Tribulation though?"

Noah answered when an elderly man wearing a purple robe with red tentacles embroidered on its sleeves appeared next to him, he had long white hair and his eyes showed the relief he felt when he saw that Noah was fine.

After hearing his question though, his gaze returned serious and he raised his eyes toward the hole created by the lightning bolt before answering.

"That was the lightning that Heaven and Earth use during the Heaven Tribulation."

#### Chapter 464 - 464. Flags

'Lightning of the Heaven Tribulation!'

Noah understood something when he heard the answer of the elder.

"Elder Ian, are you really sure about this?"

Noah asked once again before making any supposition.

Elder Ian nodded without moving his gaze from the hole on the ceiling and gave more information about that event.

"Black clouds carrying the wrath of Heaven and Earth unleash lightning of great might to destroy the cultivator that aims to reach the heroic ranks. I remember those bolts of lightning too well to be mistaken."

Elder Ian was a heroic cultivator, meaning that he had survived the Heaven Tribulation to reach that level.

"You weren't attempting to reach the fourth rank of the dantian, right?"

Elder Ian asked as he moved his gaze on Noah.

He was aware that Noah was a peculiar existence but he also knew some details about the level of his dantian.

After all, he had fought as a gaseous stage cultivator in the war for the independence of the archipelago, it was impossible that Noah had reached the peak of the solid stage in those years.

Also, before his Earth Tribulation, his cultivation level was completely exposed to the elders of the Hive, he simply didn't have the power to hide it.

That's why Elder Ian was quite sure that he hadn't approached the Heaven Tribulation and that the lightning bolt must have been caused by something else.

"No, I was busy with something and all of sudden the lightning came."

Noah answered without revealing much, the gaze of the elder went on the remains of the slave after he heard those words.

"I don't know what you are doing here but it seems that Heaven and Earth don't like it. I suggest you stop or take the necessary precautions before continuing, the next time the lightning bolt might aim at you."

Elder Ian spoke without probing Noah's affairs.

Every cultivator had its secrets, especially someone like Noah who was periodically provided with an incredible amount of resources.

The elders of the Hive had long guessed that he was attempting in creating a cultivation technique or a nourishing method, many of them were doing the same after all.

It was custom among cultivators to never probe someone else's techniques or researches, they were strictly linked to the power of a cultivator and knowing exactly how they worked could reveal eventual weaknesses.

Also, Noah was the Demon Prince, his position was quite important and he had shown many times that he was worthy of it, it was simply better to not create any enmity with him.

Noah was silent.

The words of the elder had given him enough clues to understand what was going on.

'It seems that the last hurdle in the creation of a hybrid is Heaven itself...I need to ask for the help of the Hive once again.'

Noah immediately decided to rely on his organization when his thoughts reached that point, he simply couldn't solve that problem by himself.

"How long will it take for the connection with the archipelago to be completed?"

Noah asked as soon as he set his mind, he needed for the teleportation matrix to work before he started the next phase of his experiments.

"Kate is almost done, it won't take more than a week before this encampment becomes able to transport living beings."

Elder Ian answered and Noah nodded in satisfaction, he had enough time to prepare his next steps.

Noah didn't spend time in the underground facility in the following days, it was clear that Heaven and Earth didn't want to see the birth of a hybrid so he needed to make the right arrangements before continuing to forge.

He met with the slave trader again in those days, only fifty slaves with a rank 3 body were purchased that time, Noah was quite sure that they would be enough.

Also, Noah had requested for the less trained ones that time, he needed slaves that had still traces of their personality to match them with a proper magical beast, he couldn't risk purchasing someone who was already devoid of any will.

The slaves would be forced to do anything Noah said anyway, he had learnt long ago that he could just order them to do their best instead of giving them false hopes, the first method turned out to be more effective during his experiments.

Then, Noah made a list of the magical beasts that he needed and notified the Hive about his request.

Magical beasts were hard to subdue but Noah had only asked for creatures in the third rank, one heroic cultivator was enough to complete his task.

The listed beasts perfectly matched the personality of the newly bought slaves and that of those still chained inside his underground facility.

The connection with the archipelago was about to be set up, Noah wasn't limited anymore to the fauna of the mystical fog.

In the end, he requested liquid "Breath" in the third rank of various elements, that was the fuel for his Elemental forging method after all.

The preparations were completed one day before the teleportation matrix was completed, the Efrana nation and the Coral archipelago were finally connected after that!

A group of cultivators came out of Noah's mansion that day, they were the new troops that the Hive had decided to send to the encampment but they were only rank 2 cultivators, only their captain was in the third rank.

That manpower was needed to recruit more tribes and to further enlarge the area covered by the encampment, the main intention of the Hive was to increase the power of its human assets in the end.

The captain though carried the resources requested by Noah, as well as a rank 4 inscribed item!

Noah inspected the contents of the rings before nodding in satisfaction and sending the captain away, everyone had a role in the encampment so he didn't need to handle it, he could completely focus on his experiments.

Yet, he still needed the help of the elder to use the rank 4 item.

"Please, Elder."

Noah bowed as he handed a set of eight small flags covered in runes to Elder Ian.

The latter simply took them and injected his "Breath" inside them before stabbing the flags on the ground in the area where Noah's underground facility was.

The flags lit up when all of them were on the ground and the runes on their surface slowly flew in the air before landing on the area demarcated by the flags.



The runes of the flags covered the ground above Noah's underground facility, they formed some sort of pale shield that enveloped the entirety of the area above the structure.

That was the effect of the defensive item that Noah had requested, the flags were a rank 4 inscribed item meant to protect cultivators during their Heaven Tribulation, it was pointless to say how valuable it was.

"This isn't the most powerful protective method of the Hive but it should be enough for your needs. Anyway, I'll keep an eye on the sky from now on."

Elder Ian spoke when the protection was set, he wanted to reassure Noah that his facility was safe now.

Noah bowed toward the elder as a sign of gratitude and entered the underground structure, he was simply too eager to study the capabilities of the hybrid to waste more time.

He had the new batch of slaves, the liquid "Breath" needed to activate the Elemental forging method, and a few magical beasts were still caged inside his facility, he could immediately resume his experiments without needing to wait for the Hive to send the magical beasts that he had requested.

Those creatures would be sent soon anyway, he could just exhaust his resources in the meantime.

Noah immediately resumed his experiments, he had seen that the elderly man killed by the lightning bolt had almost opened his eyes when Heaven struck, he knew that the procedure that he had mastered was flawless.

A slave of the fire element and another Fire wolf were taken and brought to the experimentation area, Fire wolves were abundant in the mystical fog, it was normal for Noah to have many of them caged.

The personality of the slave also matched the species of wolf perfectly according to Noah's instincts, he was sure that the fusion would be a success at that time.

Noah killed the beast with his consciousness and performed the Elemental forging method, the red refined "Breath" inside his mind was expended as the tissues of the beast liquefied.

Noah had repeated and analyzed that procedure too many times, his execution was perfect and his control didn't waver for even an instant.

The screams of the slave couldn't reach his ears, Noah complete attention was on stabilizing the merging tissues.

The skins soon fused and Noah waited a few minutes before moving to the muscular system.

The muscles fused, heat started to be radiated by them as soon as the capabilities of the beast were passed down.

Each species of magical beasts had different abilities which originated from different sources, meaning that Noah had to slightly modify his approach depending on what creature he was using.

Fire wolves had two crucial parts that expressed their abilities: Their lungs and their muscular system.

Their lungs produced a special gas that could be ignited by the heat of the muscles, creating flames that could be launched from their maws.

The issue with those qualities was that the interiors of the slave's body were still human while the muscles had already become hybrid parts.

The interiors of the slave would be burned if they weren't modified as soon as possible but Noah was aware of that.

His studies and experience made him knowledgeable about the important parts of each species of magical beasts, he could decide how to approach the procedure before it even started.

Noah didn't wait for the muscles to stabilize, time was key in that particular fusion.

The bones of the beast immediately liquefied and were merged at high speed with those of the slave, cracks appeared everywhere on the skeletal system of the cultivators due to the external substance that was modifying it.

Noah hurried that step to prevent the heat radiated from the muscles from injuring the interiors of the slaves, the bones soon fused and Noah waited for a short time before he focused on the internal organs.

He was just making sure that they wouldn't fall apart before the two bodies were fused completely, that hurried approach would leave the hybrid injured but he couldn't care less about it, he just needed to be sure that the slave would keep its life.

The internal organs were modified one by one, Noah left the lungs for last and part of his consciousness went on the sky as he proceeded to take that last step.

Black clouds had formed again in the sky above the underground structure, they seemed to appear every time the fusion reached the last steps.

'I hope the protective item works as intended.'

Noah thought as he proceeded to fuse the lungs of the Fire wolf, the procedure was completed, he had just to stabilize muscles, bones, and internal organs and the forging would be completed!

While Noah focused on stabilizing his creation, the black clouds in the sky released a lightning bolt aimed for the ground above Noah's facility.

A thick orange bolt fell at high speed from the sky and was about to land on the terrain but the runes that covered that area lit up and the shield formed by them shone with a soft light.

The lightning bolt crashed on the shield but it was unable to pierce it, only a bit of gray smoke came out from the spot where it had landed.

Noah observed the scene with his mind and heaved a sigh of relief when he saw that the shield could oppose that attack.

More lightning bolts were released by the black clouds, they illuminated the mystical fog as they crashed on the terrain but the runes kept on protecting the area under them.

Meanwhile, Noah controlled the rejections happening inside the slave's body.

It took a while but, eventually, the muscles stabilized, the bones solidified even if some cracks remained on their surface, and the organs started harmonizing with the rest of the body.

Noah watched with a heated gaze as the body of the middle-aged man on whom he had experimented took life and started functioning in a normal way.

'It's done!'

Noah exclaimed in his mind, lightning bolts had continuously fallen from the sky and they didn't seem to stop even after the slave opened his eyes and spoke a few soft words.

"What... is... this... hunger?"

Chapter 466 - 466. Feeding

The slave spoke, the chains holding him still shook when he tried to examine his body.

Noah had his eyes glued on him, he tried to pick up as many details as he could before studying him more in-depth.

"Should I take care of the clouds?"

A voice reached his consciousness while he was busy watching the first hybrid, Noah moved his attention to the sky where the black clouds were still releasing lightning bolts aimed for the underground structure.

"Please, Elder."

Noah answered the voice through his mind and resumed observing the chained man, the slave had started to struggle when he realized that something about him had changed.

Meanwhile, Elder Ian flew in the sky in the direction of the clouds and waved his hand.

A blizzard was born next to the clouds, snow and shards of ice attacked the area filled by Heaven and Earth's will.

The elder's spell soon destroyed the black clouds and made them disperse in the air, the lightning bolts finally stopped crashing on the shield created by the runes of the flags.

Noah nodded in satisfaction when he sensed that scene, he knew a bit about the Heaven Tribulation but now he had seen how it should be dealt with.

Generally speaking, Heaven Tribulations had a fixed amount of power, a cultivator reaching for the fourth rank of the dantian could either endure the lightning bolts until the "Breath" contained in the black clouds was depleted or directly destroy the clouds.

Of course, destroying them required a great power, only heroic cultivators could have the confidence needed to deal with them.

Clinking sounds resounded next to Noah as the slave continued to struggle, it seemed that he was instinctively irritated by the chains restraining him.

"How do you feel?"

Noah asked, that was the first time that he saw a slave trying to break free, even the less trained ones that he had recently purchased didn't try to escape the inscribed chains.

"Hungry! I am HUNGRY! What have you done to me!? This need is driving me crazy!"

The slave spoke, small tongues of flame came out of his mouth as he raised his voice, it seemed that the abilities passed down by the beast had been triggered by his mental state.

'His mental state isn't completely stable but that it's probably caused by the low level of his sea of consciousness. Yet, the abilities of the Fire wolf had been passed down and they don't seem to conflict with the new body.'

Noah's eyes shone when he saw that the hybrid worked as intended, he was now sure that a cultivator could obtain the body of a magical beast while keeping its other centers of power!

"Here, eat this."

Noah spoke as took out a handful of Obsidian Credits and handed them to the slave, the bloodshot eyes of the latter glued themselves to the shining crystals when Noah left them on the floor in front of him.

The slave hesitated for a few seconds but, in the end, he picked the crystals and put them inside his mouth.

Crunching sounds resounded in the area, Noah stared at what looked a human eating Credits for nourishment.

The teeth of the slave seemed able to munch the crystals, it took only an instant for him to completely eat them.

"More!"

The slave shouted after gulping the crystals but Noah wasn't listening to him, his focus was on the body of the cultivator and on the "Breath" contained inside the Credits that he had just eaten.

Obsidian Credits generally had "Breath" of various elements inside them, they weren't limited to just one.

Yet, when that "Breath" dispersed inside the hybrid, his body was slightly strengthened.

The increase in power was minimal, Noah wouldn't have noticed it if his attention wasn't completely focused on the slave.

"Wait a moment, I'll be right back."

Noah spoke as he stood up and went to pick another Fire wolf from where the magical beasts were caged.

He killed the wolf before laying its corpse in front of the hybrid, at that point he simply waited for the latter's reaction.

The slave seemed to struggle at first, Noah guessed that his human part was still unsure about the capabilities of his new body.

After all, cultivators didn't eat magical beast, only those with a rank 4 body could eat the low-level ones after the "Breath" contained in their bodies was dispersed.

Cultivators didn't have ways to absorb the "Breath" inside those creatures, specific techniques that needed it existed but humans generally didn't have a use for it, leaving only the stiff and hard meat which wasn't that tasty.

Then, the magical beast's instincts kicked in and the slave grabbed the corpse in front of him and directly bit it!

The fur on the corpse of the wolf didn't stop the slave from eating it, pieces of skin were torn apart and munched by his teeth under Noah's attentive gaze.

It took a while but, eventually, only the bones of the Fire wolf remained, the slave had tried to eat them but he hadn't been able to break them while chained.

The "Breath" contained in the corpse of the magical beast was absorbed by the hybrid and boosted the power of his body by a little bit, the growth wasn't minimal like before but it was still too little to matter.

'It seems that the body of a hybrid needs more "Breath" compared to that of a magical beast, its power should also be greater though.'

Noah thought as he calculated the amount of "Breath" that the slave would need to reach the next tier of the third rank, he was only in the middle tier now.

According to Noah's deduction, fusing a human and a magical beast would create something stronger than both of them, at least for what concerned the body.

The consequence for that would be the need for higher quantities of "Breath" to reach the breakthroughs, meaning that each hybrid would grow slower than other magical beasts.

'The results of the fusion are amazing for now, I can't wait to test the actual power of the hybrid and its limits. However, I need to be sure that it can feed on anything first.'

Noah thought, his cold gaze went on the area where the other slaves were kept.

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Noah completed testing the feeding capabilities of the hybrid, the results left him completely satisfied .



The body of the hybrid acted as if it was a proper magical beast, it could eat anything and absorb the "Breath" from any source without minding its element .

Also, the dantian of a cultivator generally contained more "Breath" than the body of a magical beast, the hybrid soon abandoned his hesitation when he discovered that humans could satisfy his hunger for longer periods .

The body of the hybrid could become stronger by naturally absorbing "Breath" from the environment and by feeding on other living beings, Noah had succeeded where the cultivators of the past had failed, he had managed to create a procedure that perfectly copied the training method of the magical beasts .

Now, it was time to test its power .

Noah undid the bindings that tied the slave to the wall, only the inscribed chains around his wrists and neck remained on his body .

The hybrid trembled when Noah's gaze went on him, his instincts told him to run away and hide when Noah's consciousness enveloped his body .

Yet, the following orders forced him to act .

"Attack me . "

Noah ordered .

The inscriptions on the chains lit up when Noah's order resounded in the area, they were the inscribed item that made any slave follow the orders of its master but, in that situation, it seemed as if the hybrid could somewhat resist their effects .

However, even as a hybrid, he was only a rank 1 cultivator, he couldn't do anything against the power of the inscribed item restricting him .

The hybrid pounced Noah, flames came out of his mouth as he launched himself toward him .

Also, he was growling, it seemed that his magical beast's side was completely revealed when he attacked .

To Noah though, that charge and even those flames were nothing more than child's play .

The slave tried to wave his hand to attack Noah, his fingers were stretched and resembled the claws of a beast as they tried to cut Noah .

Yet, Noah's hand shot and grabbed the hybrid's wrist to stop him .

Noah felt the power behind that attack, the physical strength of the slave had long surpassed that of a human and was in the realm of the magical beasts .

Noah had a rank 4 body, he could easily stop the blow of a rank 3 beast with his bare hands but the hybrid's strength seemed to surpass all the rank 3 creatures that he had met in his life .

'He is indeed stronger than the magical beast that had been fused with him, my hypothesis was correct . '

Noah evaluated as he pressed a hand on the slave's mouth to stop him from spurting flames before ordering him to stop .

He had confirmed his physical capabilities but humans had three centers of power, he needed to be sure that the superior aspect of the cultivators wasn't affected by the fusion .

The slave that he had turned into a hybrid though had never had access to any spell, he was a rank 1 mage but his status before becoming a slave couldn't provide him those precious scrolls .

Of course, requesting for a low-level spell of the fire element was just a small matter for Noah, it didn't take even an hour before two scrolls were sent from the archipelago to the encampment .

"Memorize them . "

Noah handed the scrolls to the slave and went back to his personal area to deduce, he had to be sure that the hybrid kept his qualities as a human before continuing with his experiments .

The scrolls contained a rank 0 and a rank 1 spell of the fire element, Noah had to wait a day before the hybrid was able to memorize them .

Then, he retrieved the scrolls and ordered him to perform the spells .

The hybrid executed the order, the rank 0 spell covered his hands with a layer of flames while the rank 1 one created a fireball that could fly for a few meters .

Nothing seemed off if not for the fact that casting the spells consumed less mental energy and "Breath" than what Noah had initially predicted .

Also, their power was a bit stronger than usual .

'It seems that being a hybrid somewhat affects your spells, it's as if his aptitude has increased after merging with a magical beast . '

Noah quickly found the reason behind those differences, magical beasts had innate abilities and some of them concerned their elements .

In that case, Fire wolves were innately able to sprout fire from their maws, that ability increased the power of anything fire-related when matched with the centers of power of a cultivator .

That discovery made Noah even happier about his creation, he had only intended to create a body-nourishing method at the beginning but now it seemed that his experiments directly improved the natural status of a human .

The body and the innate abilities of a magical beast fused with the sea of consciousness and the dantian of a human, it was as if Noah had found a way to remove the weaknesses of his species without any repercussion .

Truth to be told, some negative effects had shown themselves while he tested the abilities of the hybrid .

The slave showed signs of mental instability from time to time, it was as if his human side and his beast side were fighting inside his brain to take control of his actions .

Noah had already thought a lot about that issue and there wasn't a solution .

Two different existences had been fused, some conflict was bound to remain especially when considering the psychological side .

The way he saw it, there were only two ways to avoid that problem .

The first one was to have a strong mental sphere, suppressing the beast's instincts wouldn't be a problem with that .

The second one was to find a better match for the human personality .

In the second case, the instincts of the beast would completely merge with the human's ones, forming a harmonized personality that could express the best of both worlds .

'This problem shouldn't affect me since I plan to respect both requirements, I already have the fifth Kesier rune and I don't plan on choosing my magical beast lightly . Now I just need to test if I can further improve this creation before moving the testing phase to cultivators with a rank 4 body . '

Noah thought when he summarized all the information that he had discovered about his creation, the moment when he would finally perform the procedure on himself was nearing .

Noah completed testing the feeding capabilities of the hybrid, the results left him completely satisfied .

The body of the hybrid acted as if it was a proper magical beast, it could eat anything and absorb the Breath from any source without minding its element .

Also, the dantian of a cultivator generally contained more Breath than the body of a magical beast, the hybrid soon abandoned his hesitation when he discovered that humans could satisfy his hunger for longer periods .

The body of the hybrid could become stronger by naturally absorbing Breath from the environment and by feeding on other living beings, Noah had succeeded where the cultivators of the past had failed, he had managed to create a procedure that perfectly copied the training method of the magical beasts .

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This problem shouldnt affect me since I plan to respect both requirements, I already have the fifth Kesier rune and I dont plan on choosing my magical beast lightly . Now I just need to test if I can further improve this creation before moving the testing phase to cultivators with a rank 4 body .

Noah thought when he summarized all the information that he had discovered about his creation, the moment when he would finally perform the procedure on himself was nearing .



The magical beasts that he had listed were sent from the Coral archipelago and arrived in Efrana nation through the teleportation matrix inside Noah's mansion.

Meanwhile, Noah had continued testing the limits of the hybrid and of the procedure itself.

There were things that he had to be sure of before entering the last part of his experiments, when he would start fusing beings with a rank 4 body.

First of all, he had to be sure that the hybrid created from a human and a magical beast was the best he could forge, he didn't know if he could add further enhancements to that already amazing being.

Noah tried to fuse the hybrid with another magical beast of the same aptitude, a Fire fox that, in his opinion, matched the new personality of the slave.

The experiment though ended up in the death of the hybrid, Noah wasn't even able to fuse the skins of the two beings before uncontrollable mutations happened inside the slave's body, killing him in a few minutes.

The loss of his first creation didn't demoralize him, he still had his batch of slaves and the newly arrived magical beasts that he had personally selected.

Noah began to create other hybrids that he then tried to fuse with other magical beasts.

There was still a chance that the procedure would fail and Noah needed to remove that chance before approaching the last steps of his experiments.

Also, he wanted to learn how to create the most perfect version of a hybrid before performing the procedure on himself.

Bolts of lightning fell non-stop on the ground above Noah's facility, the other cultivators in his group watched with wary gazes at the shining lights that illuminated the depth of the mystical fog behind Noah's mansion.

The encampment was going well, the cultivators of the Hive were successfully recruiting the members of the nearby tribes and sending them back in the archipelago to increase its manpower, their mission was going smoothly.

It must be said that they were still in on the borders of the Efrana nation, the powerful tribes had yet to notice their doings.

Yet, even if they became aware of the presence of the Hive, they wouldn't care that much.

Efrana nation was already under the influence of two big nations, adding another weak force to its environment won't affect the behavior of the tribes at all.

However, rumors began to spread in the encampment due to Noah's actions.

He was the Demon Prince after all, anything he did would catch the attention of his fellow cultivators.

The rumors concerned the ominous aura that surrounded his underground facility, the cultivators stationed there saw how slaves and magical beasts were sent there but none of them ever came back.

Also, the bolts of lightning that fell from the sky didn't improve the image of that area.

Cultivators weren't stupid, they were aware that some sort of nefarious act was happening inside the structure that they had built but all they could do was watch it from the distance.

Noah's image didn't benefit by those events, the respect that had accompanied his title soon turned into wariness when the rumors reached the archipelago.

Of course, Noah couldn't care less about his public image, his sole and only objective was to become stronger, he wouldn't mind being labeled as a monster if he managed to obtain the power that he desired.

Noah came out of his underground structure almost a month after the teleportation matrix inside his mansion had been set.

The reason why he left it was that all the slaves and the magical beasts inside had died during his experiments.

Noah had never intended to let any of them survive, he needed to gather as much data as he could before moving to the final phase.

The last experiments on the hybrids had given him a lot of insights on the procedure and made him completely used to it.

He had managed to perfect the procedure, Noah was now able to create hybrids with a rank 3 body without any chance of failure.

Also, he was certain that the hybrids kept the capabilities of both humans and magical beasts, their centers of power didn't conflict in any way.

There were some issues with particular beasts and some troublesome body parts like wings and tails.

Noah wanted the hybrid to have a human body without any mutation of the sort, meaning that wings and similar didn't have a place on it.

The issues were solved by simply merging those parts with the skin, muscles, and bones of the human, it was pointless to create something stronger than both humans and magical beast if then it kept some weak spots that hadn't been fused.

As for why he wanted for the hybrids to maintain the shape of a human, it was due to both psychological and physical factors.

The psychology of the hybrid would be heavily affected if its body was to change appearance all of sudden and it would be harder to have human thoughts if it saw itself as a monster.

Also, the body of the hybrid would suffer from some sort of rejection since most of its body would be created by the fusion of a human and a magical beast while its wings, or similar troublesome body parts, would just belong to the magical beasts' world.

Because of that, Noah had deduced that the procedure was only possible if the hybrids maintained a human's shape.

Another discovery was that, no matter how he tried, a hybrid couldn't be fused anymore with other magical beasts, one human and one magical beast seemed the limit that a single body could contain.

Wary gazes fell on Noah as he returned to his mansion to prepare for the next and last phase of the experimentations, the cultivators from the Hive still bowed at his passage but they immediately whispered between themselves after he was gone.

Yet, Noah was a rank 4 mage, he could hear all the voices that filled the encampment.

'I guess I'm no different from the Mad doctor now, it seems that I really can't walk on the orthodox path.'

Noah thought as he ignored the whispers of his fellow cultivators and entered his mansion.

His inscribed notebook appeared in his hands and his consciousness went on the sky where Elder Ian was.

What he needed now were slaves with a rank 4 body and rank 4 magical beasts, those weren't resources that he could ask lightly, he needed to personally contact the Coral archipelago.

Chapter 469 - 469. Issue

'For the procedure to succeed, the human and the magical beast must have the same aptitude, gender, and cultivation level. Also, the personality of the human and the behavior of the species of the magical beast must match or rejections would appear while fusing the internal organs.'

Noah summarized all the data that he had gathered during his experimentations in his mind as he prepared his requests for the archipelago.

'The hybrid forged in this way can't have body parts originating only from one of the two species, everything must be fused to obtain a harmonized body with the shape of a human. Also, one body can only contain one human and one magical beast, the hybrid can't be further empowered in any way.'

Those details were sorted inside his mind, the data came from the experiments that he had performed after the creation of his first hybrid.

'A hybrid would maintain the best capabilities of both worlds, meaning that it can have a body slightly more powerful than a magical beast while keeping a dantian and a mental sphere. Also, depending on the magical beast used in the Elemental forging method, the aptitude of the hybrid can benefit from the fusion, meaning that attacks related to its element will obtain some benefits. The only downside is the conflicting mental state of the hybrid, something that should be avoidable with a strong mental sphere or a creature more fitting for the human.'

One hundred and fifty slaves with a rank 3 body, almost two hundred rank 3 magical beasts, and liquid "Breath" of the third rank of various elements, those were the resources that Noah had expended to reach his current level of expertise in the procedure.

All the slaves and the magical beasts had died during the experiments but Noah could now claim to have the confidence in beginning the last part of the experimentation: Fusing a rank 4 magical beast and a cultivator with a rank 4 body!

Noah knew that the reason behind his fast progress in the creation of his body-nourishing method was mostly due to the Divine deduction technique, his mind was extremely powerful now that he was a rank 4 mage but the technique obtained by Divine Demon was able to further improve its capabilities.

Noah didn't dare to imagine how long it would have taken to obtain the same results without that powerful technique, he guessed that he would have needed at least three times those resources to achieve the same.

However, there was a problem that he didn't encounter while experimenting with cultivators with a rank 3 body and that he knew he would find when he moved on those with a rank 4 body.

The body of a cultivator would be almost entirely reconstructed by the "Breath" during the Pain Tribulation, meaning that it would carry traces of Heaven and Earth's will.

That will would surely oppose the fusion, the black clouds that had appeared in the sky every time a hybrid was created made Noah sure that the procedure won't be smooth with humans with such a body.

Magical beasts were different, they underwent the Pain Tribulation during their breakthrough to the fourth rank but the "Breath" used to reconstruct the body had been previously stored through their training method, it could be said that, differently from humans, their body wasn't a type of reward.

Also, the body of the magical beasts would be liquefied under the influence of Noah's "Breath", meaning that any trace of Heaven and Earth's will that still remained inside it would be suppressed and destroyed by Noah's will.

The issue was then limited to the human side.

'I have a few ideas on how to deal with Heaven and Earth's will but I need to test them before undergoing the procedure myself.'

Noah thought as he contacted the slave trader and set up a meeting after expressing his requirements, he knew that the purchase at that time won't be cheap.

He was spending those days inside his mansion training with the fifth Kesier rune and deducing with the Divine deduction technique, it was normal for him to have already thought of some ways to solve the issue.

The first one was to forcibly remove the parts of the rank 4 body that had been affected by Heaven and Earth's will.

That approach would maim the cultivator and endanger its life but it would prevent any conflict from happening during the fusion.

Yet, it would also remove any capability that the body had, almost bringing its power back to the third rank.

Also, those missing parts would eventually lead to a weaker hybrid once the fusion was completed which was something that Noah wanted to avoid.

The other approach would see Noah forging the human body before attempting to fuse it with the magical beast.

The procedure would then have two rounds of forging, meaning that there would be a higher failure rate and that the final power of the hybrid could be affected.

Both approaches didn't seem ideal but Noah had to actively test them before finding new inspirations, there was a limit to how much he could deduce without reliable data.

The day of the meeting arrived and Noah negotiated with the same slave trader the purchase of cultivators with a rank 4 body at the peak of the lower tier.

The value of those slaves was far higher than the others since they had a center of power in the heroic ranks, Noah saw three of his millions vanish to purchase only twenty cultivators.

Yet, Credits had never mattered to Noah, he was only interested in what they were able to buy.

After returning to the encampment, Noah led the slaves to his underground structure and questioned them about their personality.

When their profile was completed, Noah requested a series of rank 4 magical beasts that matched their personality.

Rank 4 creatures weren't easy to capture alive, even some rank 4 cultivator would find that task difficult.

Luckily for Noah though, he only needed beasts at the peak of the lower tier of the fourth rank, he was trying to reproduce conditions that were similar to his situation, the next step to his experiments would be his fusion after all, it was time to tune the procedure around his level.

Also, Chasing Demon had captured a lot of magical beasts while he set the copying technique all over the archipelago so the Hive was quite experienced with that practice.



It took almost two weeks but, in the end, twenty caged magical beasts were teleported in the encampment in Efrana nation, together with the liquid "Breath" requested by Noah.

#### Chapter 470 - 470. First will

Problems appeared even before that Noah could start experimenting.

Rank 4 magical beasts were powerful, Noah couldn't casually kill them as he did with those in the third rank.

It took a bit of thinking to find the method that would leave their bodies as intact as possible.

The Mental tremor spell was simply too strong now that Noah had a rank 4 sea of consciousness, his mind could affect the material world, the shockwave shot from his eyes would just reduce the beasts' brain into a pulp.

Noah had to find a subtler method to kill them, something that wouldn't waste that precious material.

In the end, he decided to use the Death area spell and the Ghostly claws spell.

Both spells had been empowered after Noah triumphed in the Earth Tribulation, those that once worked as supportive attacks now were threatening tools in Noah's hands.

The Death area would weaken the body of a beast to its utmost while the ethereal claws would attack the weak spots inside its body, all those small injuries would eventually cause the death of the creature due to its weakened state.

That process was long but left the body of the beast virtually intact, Noah didn't mind that effort as long as he obtained what he needed.

Then, there was an issue with the power of the magical beasts.

Noah was experimenting with rank 4 creatures, their bodies were far stronger than what he was used to even if they were only at the peak of the lower tier, he had to become used to that stronger material before he could express his mastery in the procedure.

A rank 4 mental sphere wasn't only a number though.

Noah wasted only two magical beasts before he felt confident in resuming forging hybrids, a request to refill those two missing spots was sent to the archipelago as soon as he decided to experiment again.

At last, what he had expected to happen, happened.

The fusion between a cultivator with a rank 4 body and a rank 4 magical beast failed since the very start, the skin of the slave rejected the external material as soon as it came in contact with it.

Also, when Noah tried to force the fusion, the skin of the cultivator would directly explode or self-destruct rather than allow the combination with a magical beast.

The will of Heaven and Earth was clearly against the birth of a hybrid, it would rather destroy the body in which it was contained than see it turn into an abomination.

Noah had wisely chosen to take it slowly because he had predicted such an event, that approach allowed him to stop the fusion in time and to save the slave from certain death, leaving it only in an injured state.

Yet, the problem remained and he could only keep testing to find a solution.

The two methods that he had hypothesized were only raw theories that would produce weaker hybrids, they would still be at least as strong as magical beasts but Noah didn't want to settle for that before he had tried everything,

he was planning to create a nourishing method that would accompany him through the entirety of his cultivation journey after all.

Also, those methods increased the failure rate of the fusion, they weren't reliable solutions.

'It's an issue created by a will, it's obvious that only a will can solve it. Yet, this will only make the procedure harder to perform.'

Noah sighed as he looked at the chained woman that was resting to heal her injuries.

She was the first slave with a rank 4 body that Noah had chosen for his experiments, her skin and muscles had suffered a heavy damage due to the self-destructive mechanism of Heaven and Earth's will.

'If I completely remove the will with my consciousness, the laws that make her body function will stop working, meaning that she won't survive unless the fusion is completed.'

Noah continued to think.

His idea was to use a strong will to remove that inside the slave's body.

However, since a rank 4 body was mostly composed of "Breath" carrying Heaven and Earth's will, Noah would be actively affecting the laws inside the matter.

Without the laws dictating how the matter should work, the body would just fall apart, meaning that the part affected by Heaven and Earth's will would simply stop working.

'All these problems only because I have a rank 4 body, I guess there is nothing I can do about it.'

Noah cursed in his mind.

Fusing bodies in the fourth rank was simply too troublesome, there doesn't seem to be a way to make the procedure safe.

'Risking my life to become stronger, this doesn't seem to change no matter how my power grows.'

Ultimately, Noah gave up on searching for other solutions and focused on creating a will able to deal with Heaven and Earth.

His mind reviewed the events of his Earth Tribulation, Earth's gaze full of contempt appeared when he closed his eyes.

Then, Earth's face morphed, it transformed into Rhys appearance but the same gaze remained, Noah felt as if he was just an ant in their eyes.

Everything had started because he was so worthless that Heaven and Earth couldn't even bother to dismantle his soul, Rhys acted so freely because Noah wasn't even worthy of being considered.

The feeling of being just a puppet moved by strings that he couldn't break enveloped him, Noah felt powerless, it was as if something stronger than him affected his fate.

Yet, a bright fire burned inside him which allowed him to endure all those hardsh.i.p.s.

That fire represented his endless ambition which fueled many other emotions that ultimately made Noah's personality.

One of those emotions was his hatred.

Noah's hatred was a dark fire ready to burn everything that it touched, it was the sum of the emotions that he felt toward anyone that tried to control or manipulate him.

Inside his mental sphere, a figure rose from the sea.

The figure had Noah's aspect but it was black and its surface undulated as if it was made of fiery flames.

Also, a destructive aura was radiated by the figure, the mental energy that Noah had gathered for its creation carried only his most negative and destructive emotions.

The figure expressed Noah's hatred and it was his first will.