

## Chapter 511

Noah flew across the azure plain and picked more of those azure bushes before reaching the mountain chain in the distance .

However, his consciousness and instincts detected an immense danger hiding inside those mountains, Noah felt forced to retreat before even entering the air above that environment .

The danger he felt surpassed that radiated by the rank 5 Giant sandworm, he didn't identify the cause of that threat but he knew that it had to be something of a higher rank .

That realization dispersed the satisfaction that he had felt after defeating a rank 4 magical beast in the upper tier with his bare hands, the wild and unruly aura that had accompanied him since he became a hybrid vanished only to be replaced by his usual sharp coldness .

'It's only when you reach a certain height that you realize how high the sky really is . '

Noah thought as he released a loud sigh .

The mountains were still in front of him but he didn't dare to fly over them, all his struggles and accumulated power were nothing when they were put against something so strong .

'The path is long and my ambition is limitless, I will reach those ranks as long as I don't die . '

Noah closed his eyes as he said those words in his mind .

He had never thought that he was better than those around him, he had always believed that he had achieved his current power through his dedication and hard work, something that anyone could have .

Yet, as time passed, he had surpassed all the cultivators that had been a match for him or that had been far stronger than him .

William, Daniel, Kevin, June, Nina, the black robes in Odrea nation, Roy, they had all been surpassed by Noah's growing speed for one reason or another .

That slowly gave Noah some sort of confidence, he knew that he would continue to grow stronger as long as he remained alive .

'The sky is filled with monsters and I've just entered their world . I don't know how the elders managed to live for so long without improving their ranks . '

Noah opened his eyes and turned as he thought about that, Elder Laurel and the others had remained in the gaseous stage of the fourth rank for decades, maybe even centuries, their situation was something that a workaholic person like Noah hoped to never understand .

'The meaning of the darkness element... The meaning of the darkness element...'

Noah repeated those words in his mind as he flew over the azure plain, he could only think about increasing his power after sensing the threat hidden in the mountain range .

His attention was on the shining black gas that entered his dantian through the black ring, his mental energy continuously fueled the Divine deduction technique as he studied the laws that the absorbed "Breath" carried .

Meanwhile, a white saber was in his hand .

Noah casually slashed toward the ground, aiming for the rank 4 Saber-toothed tigers that ran on the plain .

His mind would improve with the fifth Kesier rune and his dantian was continuously enlarging, he could only ponder on the laws of the darkness element and eat to increase his power .

Noah dove on the ground every time a tiger died and calmly ate it before returning in the air and swinging his saber again, he felt his body slowly becoming stronger as he devoured those powerful beasts .

Five days passed quickly, Noah and Elder Hope reunited in the air over the forest of White woods .

"What happened to you?"

Elder Hope asked when she saw the state Noah was in, his long black hair was disheveled and dirty, the upper part of his robe was missing and its lower part was torn in many spots, and traces of blood could be seen everywhere from his hands to his face .

Also, a cold aura surrounded him, Noah resembled a wild beast that had just come out of a harsh battle and that was ready to jump straight into another one .

"The mountain range toward the east is too dangerous for us but the azure plain can be colonized, we can begin clearing the area immediately if the others are done with the teleportation matrix . "

Noah didn't answer her question as he summarized the last five days, he directly flew on the ground toward his three companions after speaking those words .

Elder Hope watched his back for a few seconds before following him, she had the faint feeling that his power had increased in that short period .

Also, his mindset seemed to have changed, there was some sort of determination that had been absent during the journey through the sea .

The three elders tasked with the creation of the teleportation matrix were completely focused on the terrain as they traced shining lines on the ground, Elder Morgan had her eyes closed as her fingers dug the terrain and Elder Duke oversaw her work, only Elder Laurel glanced at the trees around her from time to time .

"How was your trip?"

Elder Laurel asked when she saw the two figures carefully flying across the white crowns of the magical plants, Noah took a few branches of the azure bushes from his space-ring and threw them at her as he landed on the ground .

Elder Laurel's eyes lit up when she saw the plant, she immediately began to analyze it and murmur in a soft voice as if she was speaking to herself .

"These are Azure Credits, in their raw form at least . They are called after the Obsidian Credits since their capabilities are similar, they are basically containers of "Breath" . The continent doesn't have many of these, a complete bush could be worth tens if not hundreds of Credits depending on how many leaves it has!"

Noah pointed toward the azure plain after hearing Elder Laurel's words and wore an expressionless face as he spoke to her .

"The plain after this forest has a large number of these plants growing on its surface . I guess we found something similar to a mine of Obsidian Credits then . "

Elder Laurel nodded and gave the branches back to Noah, her gaze went of Elder Hope as she silently waited for her report .

Elder Hope waited a few seconds before speaking words that left the group speechless .

"I think I've found traces left by divine beings . "

Chapter 512

Elder Hope, Noah, and Elder Duke immediately set off after the former revealed that information, Elder Morgan and Elder Laurel were enough to take care of the teleportation matrix .

The three heroic cultivators flew at a high speed toward the southern coast as Elder Hope led the way toward her discovery .

They crossed the area inhabited by Poisonous frogs and flew around the domain of the rank 5 Giant sandworm, a large area filled with lava appeared in front of their eyes as soon as the desert was crossed .

Red rivers dug canals across a rocky wasteland, they stretched themselves till the southern coast where the lava fell into the sea, even its heat though couldn't melt the ice formed by the spell of the God of the Empire .

Elder Hope led her two companions toward what she said was the source of that lava, the group flew over the rivers, reaching a red lake that radiated an unbearable heat .

Noah found hard looking at the lake for too long, even his hybrid body couldn't withstand the hot waves that were radiated by the lava inside it .

It was needless to say that the state of his two companions was worse than his as they floated over the lake .

"Do you have any suggestions?"

Elder Hope asked as she looked at Noah, she had reason to believe that such heat could only be caused by magical beasts in the divine ranks .

As he looked at lava, Noah knew that she was right!

An irrepressible hunger filled Noah as he forced his eyes to analyze the lake, his mouth autonomously produced saliva as his dragon's side gave him the confirmation that something extremely nourishing was hidden under the lake .

It took a while for Noah to calm himself down, he felt as the Saber-toothed tigers did when they watched the corpse of their leader being eaten by him, he knew that the corpse of a powerful magical beast was there but he didn't have the power to reach it .

"There definitely something strong down there, I can't be sure about its rank but I know that it's dead . It's probably the corpse of some body parts of a mighty creature and I'd say that there is a high chance that it's something near the divine ranks seeing how it's affecting the environment . "

Noah gave voice to his thoughts as he evaluated the area, the lake was just one of the repercussions that the presence of such a powerful being had caused .

"We need heroic cultivators of the fire element and Chasing Demon, he might be the only one able to explore the depths of the lake . "

Elder Duke spoke as he retreated higher in the sky, he couldn't endure the heat in the air above the lake anymore .

Elder Hope and Noah followed him, even they were reaching their limits, they would have had to use the "Breath" inside their dantians to remain there .

Elder Hope and Elder Duke began to discuss the matter, most of their plans couldn't be carried out before the connection with the Coral archipelago was created but they still evaluated as many approaches as they could .

Noah, however, was completely silent, his mind was still on the lake below him .

'I wonder how much my body would improve if I could take even a small bite from that corpse . '

That was his constant thought .

Eating magical beasts of a lower rank didn't increase his power by much and even those on a higher level only slightly boosted his strength .

A hybrid needed more "Breath" to advance compared to normal magical beasts and even time took part in that process, Noah could only fulfill his hunger and wait for his body to completely assimilate those nutrients to improve .

Yet, things would surely be different if a divine beast was to be his meal!

Noah was almost sure that he wouldn't need to wait if he had such a nourishing flesh, he knew that his body would most likely immediately reach the fifth rank with just one bite!

"What do you think about that, Prince?"

Elder Hope's voice brought Noah back to reality, he found the stares of his two companions on him as they waited for some sort of answer .

"We should secure the azure plain, that area is the best place to colonize and create a foothold . As for the lake..."

Noah took one last look at the lava below him before releasing a loud sigh and continuing his phrase .

"We can't affect this zone with our power, there is no point in wasting time over something that we can't touch . "

Noah's words were harsh but also true .

Elder Hope nodded and gestured to the group to return to the forest of White woods, there was nothing that they could do about that place for now .

As they returned to the forest, Elder Duke went back on the ground to help the other two elders while Elder Hope and Noah flew toward the azure plain .

They began killing the Saber-toothed tigers, the remaining specimens were in the middle tier at best, the two of them could easily kill dozens of them each in one day .

Days went by in that way .

The group was doing its best to be efficient with its time there, they had to make up for the four years of advantage that the three big nations had on the Hive .

The population of Saber-toothed tigers diminished as time passed, Noah made sure to always store the corpses inside his space-ring, his storage device was the best of the group after all, the value of the magical beasts could be easily preserved thanks to that .

Of course, the sudden decrease in the number of tigers opened up the way to other magical beasts that had been cast out in the past .

Weak Poisonous frogs tried to expand their territory and bear-type magical beasts began to descend from the mountain range and invade the azure plain .

The fauna in the plain seemed to be refilled each day, almost undoing Noah and Elder Hope's efforts .

Yet, after a few weeks went by like that, the teleportation matrix was completed and the connection with the Coral archipelago was created!

#### Chapter 513 - 513. Elder Austin

The Hive barely had forty heroic cultivators in the entirety of their ranks.

There was a limit to how much support the Coral archipelago could give to the group exploring the new continent, its situation wasn't as stable as that of three big nations.

Defending its territory and trying to create footholds in the old continent was already requiring most of its assets, it couldn't just expose itself and risk to lose the stability that it had finally gained.

After all, even the Papral nation and Utra nation had been forced to ask for the help of the sects and noble families to preserve their richest territories while continuing the exploration of the new land, the Hive simply couldn't match them.

Also, colonizing the new continent was a real challenge: The atmosphere there prevented any human cultivator from inhabiting that land and the three big nations were extremely secretive about the methods that they were using for that task.

Due to all those reasons, the Hive was only able to send three heroic cultivators through the teleportation matrix in the forest of White woods.

Elder Laurel carefully inspected the area under the white crows of the magical plants as the lights of the teleportation illuminated the forest, she breathed a sigh of relief when she saw that the White woods didn't feel threatened by those waves of energy.

Three figures became visible at the center of the formation when its lights faded, two men a woman appeared and revealed surprised expressions when they felt the density of the "Breath" in the air.

"Elder Austin, I wasn't aware the Patriarch was going to send you."

Elder Hope bowed toward the cultivator with the aspect of a middle-aged man.

Noah and the others had gathered there to greet the reinforcements sent by the Hive but they were all surprised when they saw the three newcomers.

Two of them looked old just like Noah's companions and were both in the gaseous stage of the fourth rank.

However, Elder Austin was different, he had scarlet hair, no beard, and a pair of shining green eyes but, most importantly, he was a heroic cultivator in the fifth rank!

"I've decided to come as soon as you discovered traces of divine beings linked to the fire element, Elder Jason and Elder Pansy have decided to follow me for the same reason."

Elder Austin spoke as he explained the reason behind his presence there.

He was one of the few rank 5 cultivators of the Hive after all, his status was lower only to that of Chasing Demon!

'They all have a fire aptitude, I wonder how much they will improve thanks to the red lake.'

Noah thought as he kept his eyes on the rank 5 elder, he clearly felt that the latter was stronger than him but he wasn't able to discern his exact power.

He felt that his mental waves melted as soon as they reached for Elder Austin, even his sea of consciousness was inferior to such a mighty cultivator.

Elder Austin noticed Noah's attempts to probe his power and turned his gaze toward him while revealing a smile.

Noah simply retracted his consciousness and bowed at that gesture, he knew that trying to probe him had been impolite but he hadn't been able to hold himself back when he had understood that the elder was a rank 5 cultivator.

"Laurel, Jason, Pansy, you three will come with me and cultivate next to the lava lake, the rest of you will focus on protecting the teleportation matrix and exploring more territories. The Hive has yet to discover how the three big nations are attempting to colonize this land so it's pointless to waste time in it, it's better to use your power to search for more traces of divine beings."

Elder Austin ordered before flying in the sky, followed by three elders.

He had obviously become the leader of the group as soon as he stepped in the new continent and decided for the heroic cultivators with a fire aptitude to focus on the lava lake, they were the only ones who could gain some benefits from it.

"I can remain here and protect the formation, Elder Laurel has taught me how to handle the White woods, there shouldn't be any problem."

Elder Morgan spoke to the remaining three cultivators on the ground.

"I will come back often and remain in the areas nearby, you can take care of the territories more in the distance."

Elder Duke said as he nodded to Elder Morgan, his eyes often went on the formation on the ground, he seemed extremely interested in it.

Elder Hope turned to look at Noah, it was clear that she was waiting for his words before deciding what to do.

"I think I'll explore the west coast now, it's impossible to colonize the plain without the support of the Hive and the center of the continent seems too dangerous for my current level. I could still gather resources from the plain while you take care of the southern coast though, unless you have a better plan."

Noah spoke, explaining the approach that he wanted to pursue.

Elder Hope thought for a while before nodding and adding a few words.

"The center of the continent is indeed too dangerous to us, it's better to remain on the coastline. Well, good luck, everyone is on its own now."

Elder Hope flew away after those words and Noah did the same after nodding to the two elders that had decided to supervise the teleportation matrix.

'Eight heroic cultivators, one in the fifth rank, one in the liquid stage of the fourth rank, and six in the gaseous stage, our forces here are shallow but it's

the best that the Hive can do at the moment. Four elders are busy with the lava lake since it matches their element while two cultivators will oversee the formation, leaving only me and Elder Hope to the exploration. I should use this chance to reach the upper tier...'

Noah thought as he turned toward north a flew past the forest of White woods, his consciousness eagerly searched for powerful magical beasts as he analyzed the environment below him.

#### Chapter 514

The period after the reinforcements from the Coral archipelago came was quite messy for Noah .

He flew north, along the western coastline and past the forest of White woods in his solitary exploration of the new continent .

The fact that the lava lake didn't suit his element and that the corpse hidden under its surface was out of his reach didn't discourage him, he actually felt quite calm at that moment .

The reason behind that sensation was that he was alone .

Noah had always preferred to be alone, even before transmigrating, there was some sort of silent freedom when he was left on his own .

That feeling had only increased through his second life, he felt as if he could truly be himself only when he was alone after all the escapes and pretenses that he had been forced to perform as he pursued his goal .

His fusion with the Cursed dragon further accentuated that preference, the egoism of the magical beasts was part of him now and he knew that the procedure had forever altered his mental state .

His mind wandered as he flew over a seemingly empty lake that had appeared after the forest of White woods, his mental energy continuously fueled the Divine deduction technique as he pondered about himself .

He had gained some insights after he attempted to probe Elder Austin, the mental waves of the rank 5 cultivator resembled a scorching defensive layer that melted any energy that tried to pass it, it was as if Elder Austin's mind was made of fire itself!

That realization made Noah understand something: The entirety of a cultivator would change after it began to understand the laws of its element!

Of course, that was mostly a hypothesis in Noah's mind, he couldn't be certain of that after just a brief interaction with Elder Austin .

Yet, he had to start somewhere and that was the only clue that he had managed to pick up about the understanding of the laws of one element .

'Before searching for an external meaning, I should thoroughly understand the depths of my individuality . I don't have to understand all the laws of the darkness element but only those that suit myself and that I can make mine . Everything must start with me . '

Noah thought as he slowly descended toward the surface of the lake .

The water in the lake was murky, only the azure radiance released from the ground made him able to see part of its depths .

That radiance though seemed to diminish every time Noah breathed, his lungs continuously absorbed the "Breath" contained in the light around him, creating a dark halo that followed him everywhere he went .

'A being that feeds on light to empower its darkness . '

Those words entered Noah's mind before he analyzed the depths of the lake with his consciousness .

The way Noah saw it, he needed to reach a deeper enlightenment about himself before he could understand the laws of the darkness element that matched his individuality .

He had already done something similar when he had chosen the magical beast to fuse with his body but he had become something completely different after the fusion .

Also, he was now a complete heroic cultivator, the standards of the human ranks weren't enough to define him anymore .

A tentacle came out from the surface of the lake and tried to pierce Noah with its sharp tip but his hand shot toward the slippery limb of the beast and stopped its attach before it could reach his skin .

Noah's hand squeezed the large purple tentacle and held it still, its tip resembled a sharp hook that was as large as Noah's chest .

'I don't know this species of octopus-type magical beasts, it can hide its presence due to its ink but it also has a powerful body which doesn't really suit its former capability . Well, it's only in the middle tier anyway . '

Noah increased the strength behind his squeeze until the skin of the beast was torn into pieces, a hole appeared on the tentacle where there once was Noah's hand .

The water of the lake became darker, Noah knew that the octopus hiding in the lake was trying to hide its presence with its ink before attempting in a surprise attack .

'A being that uses darkness as a cover for its lethal attacks . '

Noah thought as he stared at the scene, his mental energy was continuously depleted to keep the Divine deduction technique active, Noah felt as if he had entered a peculiar mental state that allowed him to see part of himself in the environment that surrounded him .

Ten tentacles shot from the dark lake and converged in Noah's position, he didn't even look at them as a pair of white sabers appeared in his hands and slashed toward them .

Black lines appeared in the trajectory of the tentacles and directly severed them from the main body, Noah casually picked one of the severed limbs of the beast and bit it, his eyes never left the dark water of the lake during that gesture .

'A being that feeds on others to grow stronger, the hated union between two species . '

His mind continued to play his deepest thoughts, he sensed that he was understanding something about himself when his status as a hybrid was mentioned .

Countless bubbles appeared on the surface of the lake, filling Noah's mind with a dangerous feeling .

Black flames covered his figure, making him disappear from his position just before a massive hook pierced the air there, creating a shockwave that made the water of the lake fall into chaos .

Noah reappeared far away in the air, his eyes stared at what seemed the tentacle of a rank 5 magical beast before going back on the lake where the tall waves were dispersing the ink that had previously tainted the water .

'A being that Heaven and Earth wanted to destroy, a being that Heaven and Earth couldn't be bothered to dismantle . '

More than half of his mental energy had been depleted since he had activated the Divine deduction technique, it seemed that the peculiar mental state that he had reached required more fuel to be maintained .

Yet, he felt that he had obtained some sort of realization, something that he believed could be his starting point .

'I am a mistake . '

## Chapter 515

Noah repeated the word "mistake" in his mind as he tried to link that realization to his element and his cultivation .

'A mistake that strives for power . The sole fact that I'm alive is an act of defiance against Heaven and Earth but my defiance is not what drives my life, it's just a consequence of my pursuit for power . '

Noah didn't choose to defy the rules of Heaven and Earth and to train in unorthodox methods because he preferred that path, he had been forced by the many dire situations of his life to walk on that road .

His status as bastard had forced him to train in the Forging of the Seven Hells to obtain a rank 3 body, his family would have never given him an orthodox body-nourishing method due to his father's obstruction .

He had learnt the Elemental forging method because that was the only inscription method that he could train in, he needed to learn it or he would have had to rely on techniques created by others to raise his level .

He had fused himself with a magical beast because that was the only inspiration that he had obtained regarding body-nourishing methods, he had to wait to pass his Earth Tribulation to reach that enlightenment .

The reason behind all those choices had been his pursuit of power, he had always had the chance to stop training or to slow down his growth after all .

Yet, his ambition led him to his current path, making him become a being ready to do anything to increase his strength .

'The mistake was starting cultivating, Heaven and Earth wanted me to remain as a commoner and live inside the family, they didn't predict my ambition...'

Earth itself had given that information to Noah, he was sure that his reasoning was on point .

'Yet, how do I link these qualities to my element?'

His understanding of the darkness element was still poor, he had just started studying the laws contained in the "Breath" that he absorbed after all .

However, his peculiar mental state and his knowledge about himself made him understand a few things .

'Darkness is everywhere, just like light . It fills the world, it can envelop everything and devour it . Nothing can stop it and everyone feels it at some point, I've felt it many times in my near-death experiences . '

Noah remembered the darkness that was about to invade his mind every time he was about to die and even that when he had actually died .

'Darkness isn't simply the absence of light, it exists and thrives, just like me . '

Noah reviewed the scenes that he had seen in the Granite Abyss .

The environment there had been deeply affected by the rank 5 Cursed dragon, even his rank 4 body wasn't able to see anything there .

'A darkness that feeds on light to become void, a cultivator that shouldn't exist but that continues its pursuit of power, void that exists . . . '

Noah came out of his peculiar mental state after he thought that, his mental energy stopped fueling the Divine deduction technique as soon as he realized that something had changed about his dantian .

It wasn't something that concerned his Black hole cultivation technique, the whirlpool continued absorbing "Breath" as usual and his will in front of it didn't affect it in the slightest .

Yet, Noah felt as if his dantian was enlarging a bit faster, it was as if it didn't oppose its enlargement as strongly as before .

Also, part of the laws that the "Breath" carried weren't destroyed anymore by his cultivation technique but were instead nourishing his dantian .

That nourishment was minimal, Noah was barely able to notice it .

Yet, he felt as if something deeper about him had changed again, as if he was slowly beginning to tune with laws of the darkness element that suited him .

'These laws... I don't know what they represent but they don't have a connection with Heaven and Earth anymore after they nourish my dantian . I guess they are feeding my individuality . '

Noah thought as he analyzed the process, the fact that his center of power was improving faster without the help of his cultivation technique felt amazing, he didn't even know that something like that was possible .

'It seems that I've taken the first real step on my personal path . This might be the reason behind the Tribulations, heroic cultivators steal Heaven and Earth's laws to improve after all . '

The deeper understanding of his status as a heroic cultivator made Noah realize why Heaven and Earth didn't want to see the birth of such powerful beings, everything made more sense now in his mind .

A plain filled with thick vegetation followed the lake inhabited by the species of octopuses, Noah slowly flew back on the ground as he prepared himself to explore it .

Remaining in the new continent was a must in his opinion, its environment was simply too perfect for his rank, he knew that he would require the Hive's help to create a training area that matched that place .

Also, there was the slight chance that he could find traces left by divine beings that matched his element, Noah couldn't let go of that opportunity, no matter how slim it was .

After all, cultivators of the light and darkness element were extremely rare and, even when one of them managed to enter the cultivation journey, it would be forced to bear the incredible costs that the techniques and methods of its element carried .

Most of them didn't even go after the fourth rank, the hindrances that afflicted all heroic cultivators were even harsher for those with a rare aptitude, leaving the creation of techniques and spells as the only alternative available .

However, only a small percentage of the cultivators could learn inscription methods and even fewer of them could succeed in that task, Noah knew that the chances of finding something left by a divine cultivator of the darkness element were nearly zero .

Yet, he could still find remains of magical beasts of the same element and even simple corpses of powerful beings that he could eat, the only thing that he could hope for was that his power would be enough to seize those benefits .

Noah walked on the ground as he continued his solitary exploration, a dark halo followed him as the light around him kept on being absorbed by his body .

## Chapter 516

Noah's centers of power steadily improved as his exploration continued .

He trained with the Kesier rune often, he would stare at the sheet containing it for hours when he decided that it was time to take a break .

His dantian benefitted from the environment and his recent enlightenment concerning the laws of the darkness element, Noah actually had to slow down the absorption speed of his cultivation technique from time to time to give to his center of power a period of rest .

He couldn't use his drugs to keep it healthy, he simply had too few potions and pills that could be used on a rank 4 dantian, he knew that it was better to keep them for unexpected and dangerous situations .

The center of power that benefitted the most from the new environment though was his body .

The high density of "Breath" in the air gave it a constant stream of nourishments and Noah had never stopped killing and eating the magical beasts that he found along the way, that type of regimen wasn't something that he could afford in the old continent, there simply weren't that many rank 4 magical beasts in one place .

The plain that followed the lake inhabited by the octopus-type magical beasts was filled by rank 4 Lightning rabbits .

Noah was often forced to escape in the air since the rabbits were simply too many, they threatened to encircle him every time he killed a few of them .

Lightning rabbits didn't have powerful bodies but they could launch lightning bolts to attack and could momentarily boost their speed by gathering sparks on their legs .

Those qualities made them quite annoying to fight, especially due to their numerous population, Noah could easily endure a few lightning bolts but even he would die if he was hit by hundreds of them .

The plain though didn't have anything interesting, Noah spent many days there only to improve his body as fast as he could, feeding on so many rank 4 creatures pushed him toward the limits of the middle tier even though he had yet to completely absorb all those nourishments .

However, he eventually went past the plain to continue his exploration of the western coastline, his main targets were the traces left by divine beings and the corpses of powerful beasts after all .

A grassland filled with short hills appeared in his sight as he walked in the sky, a yellowish moss covered the entirety of the grassland, giving it an eerie aspect .

'This moss should be a magical plant of some sort, it seems that the entirety of this area is occupied by this species . '

Noah thought as he descended on the ground, he wanted to inspect that life form and even pick a few samples for Elder Laurel to analyze .

Yet, just when he was only at one meter away from the terrain, the moss moved, creating something similar to a claw that stretched toward Noah and tried to surround him .

Noah kicked the air and a shockwave expanded from under his feet, the quick activation of the Shadow sprint martial art brought him high in the sky in less than an instant .

'Countless rank 4 magical plants working together under the lead of few in the fifth rank, I bet that the entire grassland can work as a single organism . '

Noah thought as he watched the moss returning to the ground, he was amazed to discover that even his dragon's instincts hadn't been able to make him sense that threat .

'Another uninhabitable area, the Immortal Lands are really on another level, we can explore this continent so safely only due to the absence of flying beings . '

Escaping in the air was the safest choice most of the time due to the peculiar fauna of the new land, exploring it would be a far harsher challenge if flying magical beasts were present .

'Also, most of these creatures can hide their presence even from my instincts! All these lifeforms are simply too dangerous and this is only the coastline!'

The density of "Breath" increased as one went deeper into the continent, almost confirming the presence of stronger creatures there .

'I wonder what wonders can be found up there . '

Noah sighed as he looked at the sky .

The Immortal Lands seemed dangerous to explore even to rank 5 cultivators, only peak heroic cultivators or divine beings could have the confidence to brazenly uncover its secrets .

Mountains began to appear after the grassland, Noah chose to fly past that area since the moss didn't allow the presence of any other living being, it was simply pointless to spend more time there .

The environment on the mountains seemed somewhat dangerous: Many snake-type magical beasts lived under the trees on their surface and Noah was almost certain that a few rank 5 creatures were hidden near their bases .

Noah approached the new area slowly .

He first killed as many magical beasts as he could and stored the bodies of those that he wasn't eating, clearing a small area in the process .

Then, he dug a cave on the side of a mountain so that he could train in peace, he needed a safe environment where he could stare at the fifth Kesier rune until most of his mental energy was depleted .

He decided to remain in those mountains for a while, the snake-type magical beasts were powerful but also extremely nourishing, they were the best food for his body .

Also, there were many hidden areas between the mountains, exploring all of them would take time since he had to be careful of the rank 5 creatures that he knew were hidden somewhere .

However, something that he didn't expect happened .

Noah had spent a few weeks between those mountains by then, he was casually exploring an area where two packs of snakes were fighting over the corpse of a strong specimen when his consciousness sensed that another consciousness had entered its range .

Noah raised his eyes to the sky where he saw that a woman wearing a yellow robe was staring at him wearing a surprised expression, she looked at him for a while before her consciousness conveyed a mental message to Noah .

"Who are you?"

Chapter 517

The forces of the three big nations had explored the new continent for more than four years by then and had also kept most of the reports concerning the new land for themselves .

That was the main reason why the Hive had chosen to fly directly to the southwestern coast, which was the farthest area from the old continent and the zone that the three big nations had yet to reach .

However, four years was a long period and the three big nations had deployed an incredible number of heroic assets on the piece of Immortal Lands .

Also, the three factions were temporarily avoiding battles between each other, focusing solely on the exploration of that rich land and on seizing as many resources as they could .

It was needless to say that the pace at which the new continent was explored only increased through the years, especially on the areas near the coastlines since they were safer than those at the center of the land .

'Is she exploring this area alone?'

Noah questioned inside his mind as he inspected the woman that had appeared in the sky .

The mountains where Noah had lived for a while were still at some distance from the northern coastline, it was unlikely that one of the three big nations had created a settlement near there .

Noah knew that there was a high chance that the heroic cultivator that had appeared was alone, searching for anything that could benefit her cultivation just like him .

"I'm not going to ask again . "

The woman spoke again and revealed part of her aura, Noah remained silent as he stared at her with a cold gaze and analyzed her centers of power .

'Rank 4 body in the upper tier, rank 4 sea of consciousness that matches mine, rank 4 dantian at the peak of the gaseous stage... Also, she doesn't recognize me . '

Noah thought as he remained silent .

He knew that his name had spread through the old continent but many heroic cultivators were still unaware of him .

After all, he had been only a human cultivator back then and only the Elbas family could have some interest in someone so weak, there was no reason for the heroic cultivators of the other big nation to investigate him .

"So you've chos-"

"I'm Lord Cody of the Voydol family, I wasn't aware that the Papral nation had already claimed this territory . I will take my leave now . "

Noah interrupted the woman's phrase with a lie and turned to leave in the direction of the grassland, he didn't even wait for the reaction of the cultivator above him as flew away from those mountains .

According to the small pieces of information that the Hive had managed to gather through the years, Noah knew that the woman probably came from the areas occupied by the Papral nation .

He also knew that the Elbas family had requested for the help of the noble families, the other factions couldn't possibly know all the heroic cultivators from the Utra nation that were on the new continent, they were mostly avoiding each other after all .

Noah's guess seemed on point since the woman didn't chase after him, she simply floated in the air as she stared at Noah's back .

Yet, just as he was about to reach the grassland, a pair of fiery wings appeared on the woman's back who began to fly at high speed toward him!

'Dammit . '

Noah cursed in his mind as he continued to escape, an inscribed notebook appeared in his hand which he used to send a mental message to his companions .

"I've been found!"

Noah was simply warning the other heroic cultivators of the Hive, he knew that they couldn't reach him anytime soon and that they would probably hesitate in sending reinforcements .

After all, the fact that the Hive was exploring the new continent was a secret, the other three big nations would probably use that information to inflict a harsh blow to the archipelago if they knew that it had divided its forces .

"The pacts signed two years ago leave seventy percent of the western coast to the Council, which means that you are either a criminal or someone from a different organization!"

The woman shortened her distance with Noah as she shouted those words, the spell that she was using made her far faster than him .

Noah kept his attention behind him, his consciousness carefully analyzed the area behind the woman as if he was waiting for someone else to appear .

However, no one appeared, it seemed that the woman was really on her own in that area .

'I wasn't aware that the three big nations had formally divided the territories of the new continent . This is a huge problem, the coastlines aren't as safe as we believe . '

Noah continued to fly as he stored his inscribed notebook back in his space-ring, he didn't have time to listen to his companion's answers .

'I might be able to defeat her if she is alone . '

Traces of battle intent began to grow inside Noah's mind but he forcibly suppressed them, he didn't want to reveal any clue about his next move to the woman behind him .

The heroic cultivator on his back continued to chase him, she was soon close enough to target him with her spells .

Seven fireballs appeared around her figure, they began to launch fire bullets toward the escaping Noah but they didn't seem to aim to his vital organs .

Noah kicked the air and a shockwave spread under his feet, his figure seemed to disappear due to his sudden acceleration, the activation of the Shadow sprint martial art made him dodge all the incoming bullets .

The woman's eyes sharpened, her opponent was doing his best to hide his abilities as he escaped, she didn't manage to discover anything with that simple spell .

Countless fireballs appeared around her figure, they quickly became spears that shot through the air and reached for the escaping Noah .

Noah felt hundreds of fire spears reaching for him and kicked the air again, the Shadow sprint martial art brought him far away in the distance but the enemy's spell seemed locked onto him and continued to chase him at a high speed .

Noah waited as he focused, the spears reached for him once again and hid his figure from the woman's line of sight .

It was at that moment that black flames covered him, right before the woman's spell crashed in his position and released a shockwave that made even the ground below tremble .

#### Chapter 518 - 518. Harmony

Noah didn't want to fight.

He was in an unknown territory that the three big nations had explored for more than four years, there were simply too many variables that he couldn't possibly be aware of.

Yet, the woman from the Papral nation didn't want to let him go, she chased and attacked him through the western coastline.

Noah's companions were far away, it would take them at least one day of full-speed flight to reach him, and that was only in Elder Duke and Elder Morgan's case.

The others were over the lava lake on the southern coast, and there was no way that Elder Austin and the others with a fire aptitude could come in his aid anytime soon.

Noah was left with two options: Either use all his abilities to escape the pursuit or fight!

The issue with the first option was that he would most likely reveal his identity and, consequently, the involvement of the Hive in the exploration of the new continent.

He didn't believe that the three big nations would attack the Coral archipelago because of its actions.

Still, the Hive would inevitably be forced to abandon the piece of Immortal Lands, which was something that Noah wanted to avoid at all costs.

That and the fact that the woman seemed to be alone pushed Noah toward his second option: Go all out and fight!

The fire spears converged and exploded in Noah's position right after his figure was enveloped in black flames, the shockwave released by that spell made the whole area tremble.

Black flames appeared in the sky above the woman, Noah had decided to teleport at a few hundred meters from his enemy to launch his attack.

His skin caved in as he swung his left arm, a black saber shattered the air in its path while radiating an ominous aura that sent chills down the heroic cultivator's spine.

The rank 4 Demonic sword made its first appearance in battle!

The woman was a heroic cultivator that had reached the peak of the gaseous stage of the fourth rank.

She was one of the many old cultivators that had chosen to explore the new continent looking for ways to improve her rank, and she had an incredible amount of battle experience.

She immediately knew that Noah's attack couldn't be blocked easily, she would need to use most of her defensive methods to stop it.

Hundreds of fire spears appeared between her and Noah and formed a thick wall, a giant eagle made of flames appeared at the center of the wall and covered that spot with its folded wings, a pale sheet came out from her space-ring and created a circular protective layer around her figure, she had even chosen to use disposable inscribed items to protect herself.

The air reformed as soon as Noah completed his slash, and a wide fissure appeared on the defensive methods of the woman.

The fire eagle was severed in two, and even the wall of spears was split in half, a corrosive black smoke appeared on the borders of the fissure and continued to consume the spells as it spread through their surfaces.

The circular defensive layer managed to endure the remaining power carried by Noah's attack, only some faint traces of his black smoke had reached the layer, but the woman's "Breath" quickly dispersed them.

Noah's attack wasn't even able to touch her.

Noah quickly stuffed a piece of one of the magical beasts stored inside his space-ring in his mouth, he needed to maintain his body in a healthy state since he knew that he would need to use the secret art many other times.

'She perfectly evaluated the power behind my attack and activated the suitable countermeasures... This will be hard.'

Noah thought as he stuffed another piece of a magical beast inside his mouth, his mind tried to find the best way to deal with such a powerful enemy.

Of course, the woman didn't wait for Noah to find a solution.

"Who are you? Which organization has managed to keep a heroic cultivator of the darkness element hidden?"

She asked as she raised her hands on the sky, she had understood Noah's aptitude, but it seemed that she didn't manage to link him to the Demon Prince of the Coral archipelago.

Noah was only thirty-seven after all, no one would think that someone that young had been able to cross the human ranks in that short period.

The barrage of flame spears appeared again, and an inscribed item in the fourth rank appeared in her hands.

The item seemed a simple piece of wood, but a blue flame burned on its tip, it resembled some sort of inscribed torch.

The torch began to affect the spears around her, blue flames covered the tips of the spears, which increased the dangerous aura that they radiated.

'Amazing.'

That was the only word that Noah could use to describe the scene.

He was fighting a heroic cultivator that had trained herself for decades, if not centuries, her spells, her weapons, her instincts had reached a harmony that

Noah couldn't possibly achieve since had been forced to bend his fighting style to the techniques and spells in his possession.

The spears shot in his direction and he waited until all of them were about to converge in his position before performing the Shadow sprint martial art while activating the secret art.

Noah reached an insane speed when his martial art was matched with his secret art, the woman was able to find his figure only after his burst of speed ended.

Noah had neared her with his last sprint, he was wielding two black sabers at that time, he had decided to wield even his second rank 4 Demonic sword.

Two slashes shattered the air in front of him as he attacked the woman, she didn't have the time to be surprised by the appearance of a second rank 4 inscribed weapon in the hands of her opponent since she felt once again that a threatening attack was reaching for her.

She focused, a large amount of mental energy and "Breath" were injected inside her torch as she called upon the connection between her weapon and the flame spears in the distance.

Noah had dodged the spears with his martial art, but they hadn't exploded that time, only a few of them had broken when they converged in his position.

Yet, when the energies fueled the torch, the flames that made the hundreds of spears in the distance disappeared, only to reappear in the form of an expanding blue sphere that had the woman at its center.

Two fissures appeared on the expanding sphere made of blue flames, they pierced its surface and released a corrosive black smoke that threatened to fill its insides.

However, the blue sphere detonated at that moment, releasing a shockwave that expanded outward and that flung Noah away from the woman.

#### Chapter 519 - 519. Harsh battle

An intense heat enveloped Noah as he was thrown in the distance, he felt that even his skin couldn't oppose the power behind the woman's spell.

'I need to enter in melee range.'

Noah thought as he created dense layers of "Breath" under his feet to stop his momentum, he managed to stop himself only when he was at more than a hundred meters away from his enemy.

He was in a pitiful state, most of his robe had been burned, and his skin was charred in many spots, even the lightning bolt that had hit him near the Granite Abyss hadn't been able to inflict so much damage.

The woman didn't wait for Noah to recover, she created hundreds of fire spears again which she empowered with her inscribed torch before launching them toward him.

Noah saw how the barrage of spears was reaching for him once again, his mind became incredibly calm once he accepted that he had to sacrifice something if he wanted to win that battle.

Noah threw many pieces of magical beasts in his mouth before kicking the air to activate his Shadow sprint martial art, the healing capabilities of his body were momentarily weakened due to the activation of the secret art, the burned skin didn't heal while he dodged the incoming spears.

The woman seemed to have understood Noah's goal, it was clear that Noah wanted to get close to her to unleash one of those threatening slashes when her defenses were at their lowest.

That's why she summoned the giant fire eagle once again and manipulated it to aid the spears in Noah's chase.

Noah felt surrounded: The fire spears chased behind him, and the eagle defended the area around his enemy, there didn't seem to be a way to near the woman.

Also, Noah was wary of the defensive blue sphere that had already defeated his offense once, he didn't know if the woman was able to use that ability again.

'I just need to touch her!'

Noah steeled his determination as he shot toward the eagle, blue flames filled its body when the woman understood that Noah was aiming for it.

Noah performed two vertical slashes with his weapons, two fissures appeared on the body of the eagle, severing it in three parts.

Also, Noah's attacks continued to fly toward the woman, two black lines became visible after part of their power was dispersed to pierce the fire eagle.

The woman saw the black lines and focused on her inscribed torch, the dispersing flames that made her eagle were absorbed by her weapon and created the same expanding blue sphere from before.

The fire spears remained intact since she had used the flames that made the eagle to create the defensive sphere, they were still flying toward Noah from behind his back.

The blue color filled the air around Noah, he found himself between the expanding sphere and the hundreds of spears, only the Warp spell could make him escape that situation.

However, Noah had no intention to escape.

The two black lines crashed on the sphere, releasing a black smoke that managed to pierce its surface, creating small holes in that powerful spell.

Noah's mental energy was depleted as hundreds of ethereal claws formed around him and shot toward those holes, reaching for the insides of the body of the woman and tearing everything in their path.

The woman seemed to have realized something after the Ghostly claws spell hit her, but she was forced to put a stop to her thoughts since Noah kicked the air again and reappeared in front of one of the holes in her defensive spell.

His eyes released a mental shockwave, a mental beam reached for the woman and threatened to crack her sea of consciousness with its might!

However, the woman knew the nature of that attack and immediately acted to counter it.

Her consciousness focused in the area in front of her mental sphere and dense layers made of flames appeared in the trajectory of Noah's mental beam, Noah could feel how those defenses depleted a large quantity of the power carried by his spell before it managed to hit the heroic cultivator.

The Mental tremor spell hit the woman's sea of consciousness, the walls of her mental sphere shook as they endured Noah's attack.

Noah saw that the holes on the surface the blue sphere enlarged when the woman's focus wavered, Heilong came out in the open and enveloped Noah as he launched himself through the blue flames.

Noah felt Heilong cries of pain, and cracks appeared on its ethereal figure inside his mind as he used his blood companion to cross the defensive sphere of his enemy.

Yet, the woman managed to make the sphere detonate while she endured the tremors that filled the walls of her mind.

Noah saw the detonation of the defensive spell and turned ethereal, part of Heilong's body was destroyed before it could hide inside his skin, but most of it managed to escape the deadly heat released by that attack.

The Ethereal form spell allowed Noah to remain in his enemy's range, he calmly waited for his body to return material before kicking the air and appearing right in front of her.

The fire spears were still aiming at him from behind his back, but Noah had been too fast in the execution of his spells before sprinting again with his martial art, they didn't have any chance to reach him.

Noah performed a downward vertical slash with his left arm, the air cracked right above the woman's head before the saber's trajectory reached for her head.

It was at that point that red lines shone on the yellow robe of the heroic cultivator from the Papral nation, a seemingly impenetrable layer covered the woman's skin, blocking Noah's attack before falling apart.

The defensive capabilities of her robe gave her the time needed to stabilize her sea of consciousness and envelop her body with the blue flames contained in her inscribed torch, the heat that had previously burned Noah's skin enveloped his body once again.

It was at that moment that Noah activated his most powerful spell, black smoke rose from his skin and morphed him into a fiendish figure.

## Chapter 520

Noah had always known that the Demonic form spell was his strongest asset . However, there were many ways to counter the incredible power that his spell carried, especially when he was against experienced heroic cultivators .

His enemies could just stall for time and wait for his "Breath" or mental energy to be depleted, its excessive consumption of energies balanced the higher

power of the complete Demonic form, Noah would always end up exhausted before his enemies if he weren't able to defeat them quickly .

Also, the Demonic form spell was his signature move, his identity would be easily discovered if he was to activate the armor made of corrosive black smoke .

Once an experienced heroic cultivator learnt his identity, it would activate the necessary countermeasures, leaving his powerful body as his only hidden ability .

That was the reason why Noah hadn't activated his most powerful spell before being right in front of the woman from the Papral nation, he needed for his enemy to understand his identity only when it was too late for her to exploit the weaknesses of his spell .

Truth to be told, the woman had suspected Noah's identity since he had used the Ghostly claws spell, but the fiendish form that had appeared in front of her gave her the last confirmation that she needed .

"Noah Balvan, the reports said that you were a promising human cultivator, I know now that they had underestimated you . "

The woman's voice resounded from behind the blue flames, her spell and Noah's black smoke fought each other in the air as they tried to overwhelm each other .

Noah saw how his black smoke was pushed back by the combination of the woman's spell with her inscribed torch, she seemed to be able to drain all the fire still lingering in the sky to fuel her attack .

The spears behind Noah vanished as their flames were being drained to fight the Demonic form, the blue fire slowly burned the black cloud around Noah .

'I can't beat her . '

Noah realized when he saw that even his most powerful attack wasn't enough to defeat that heroic cultivator .

'Yet, I don't have to directly kill her to win . '

Noah thought as he raised his right arm in the sky .

The pressure radiated by the blue flames hindered his movements, Noah knew that he wouldn't be able to perform his martial art in that situation .

However, he had already decided to leave the killing to something else .

Noah stored his weapons as he lowered his right arm, his hand closed into a fist as it ran through the sea of flames to reach the woman .

The black smoke around his arm was burned as Noah punched through her defensive spell, that punch carried all the physical strength that his body was capable of .

A hybrid's body near the peak of the middle tier of the fourth rank, a secret art that brought the capabilities of such a body to its limits, and the Demonic form spell that further increased Noah's strength, there were very few beings in the fourth rank that could match such sheer power .

Noah felt the skin around his knuckles burn, the protection of the black armor had dispersed in that point, and the blue flames were consuming more of it as his fist continued to descend .

Then, Noah's fist connected with the woman's shoulder .

He had initially aimed for her head, but the obstruction of the blue flames had altered the trajectory of his attack, making it land on her left shoulder .

The heroic cultivator from the Papral nation had been initially confident against that attack, she believed that her defensive spell would deplete most of its power .

Yet, that confidence fell apart when she felt the power that assaulted her body .

Her shoulder directly exploded due to the impact, and the left side of her chest was torn apart by the might of Noah's physical strength, only part of her waist kept her linked to her lower body .

Other than that, she felt an immense force pushing her downward, her fiery figure was thrown toward the grassland where she crashed, creating a deep hole in the terrain under the yellowish moss .

She was still alive even when half of her torso had been reduced into bits, her survival instincts made her reach for the drugs inside her space-ring to stabilize her injuries, but she didn't expect the moss on the grassland to move and cover the remains of her body .

The moss engulfed her in its embrace, and she struggled as she felt her body being slowly eaten by those numerous magical plants .

Traces of flames began to reappear around her body, but, at that moment, she felt a stabbing pain coming from the remains of her low-waist .

The connection with her dantian was severed after her low-waist had been ravaged, she didn't have any method to escape that dangerous situation without her rank 4 "Breath", she could only use her fading consciousness to see what was happening above her .

She saw the moss in the area around her quickly converging in the pit and a human figure staring the scene at a few meters in the air above her .

Before darkness enveloped her mind, she understood that she had fallen for Noah's trap .

Noah watched the yellowish moss devouring the remains of the woman's body and left only after he sensed her death .

Blood stained the corners of his mouth as he flew toward the forest of White woods, he had dived toward the grassland as soon as the woman crashed into it to retrieve her dantian before retreating at full speed and eating it, he couldn't let go of her center of power .

'It's a pity that I couldn't retrieve her space-ring... Well, I should be happy to be alive . '

Noah thought as he flew back to the teleportation matrix of his organization, his consciousness analyzed his body to assess the damages that he had suffered during the battle .

'Forty percent of my skin is burned, and the muscles on my right arm are mostly gone . Also, I need some time to completely recover from the continuous usage of my secret art, I've never felt so weak after becoming a hybrid . I've reached the peak of the middle tier at least . '

The dantian of the heroic cultivator had pushed his body toward the peak of the middle tier, but the other nourishments were focusing the wounds that filled both his muscles and skin .

Noah took a large piece of one of the magical beasts inside his space-ring and began to eat it, he needed to recover as fast as possible and break through the upper tier since there was a high chance that more battles on that level were waiting for him .