

DEMONIC 1011

### **Chapter 1011 1011. Shoulder**

Noah climbed the red waterfall next to him and sat on the other side of the black sky once he reached the sea of magma. He wasn't going to miss Skully's battle. She was a rank 6 existence other than his second artificial hybrid!

Skully sat on her throne as she floated directly toward the sea area filled with orange sparks. She didn't seem to care about her safety at all as the barrier around her fell apart, and her bare body dived directly into the Heaven Tribulation.

The sparks crackled with more intensity and released thick lightning bolts that landed directly on the burnt fur. Large wounds appeared on Skully's body, but her face showed only an ecstatic expression.

Skully looked no different than an injured Kesier Ape. Only her skeleton had fused with the creature, so no changes happened on the core body.

She was five meters tall, with long arms and legs. Her mouth was big, and her jaw covered more than half of her face. Her eye sockets were empty, and most of her fur was nothing more than a charred mess. Cuts and injuries filled her body too. Noah's higher energy didn't manage to fix many of them.

Moreover, dark matter leaked out of Skully's skin whenever a lightning bolt hit her. The harmony that the black star had enforced was slowly slipping away as she suffered more damage.

Some of the injuries that the period inside the black star had managed to fix reopened. Blood even started to leak from her eye sockets as the Tribulation raged on her.

Nevertheless, a smile never left Skully's ape face. The sole fact that her skin was able to feel something again made her ecstatic.

Skully had come to accept her poor condition after millennia spent as a skeleton. She had completely given up on herself and had used all her knowledge to gather as many rebels as she could.

It wasn't a case that the rebellion had many experts in its ranks. Human cultivators could only inhabit a few safe areas, but the experts in the heroic ranks could live near the black palace and benefit from her knowledge.

They would then spread such knowledge in other underground structures during the summoning and free as many tribes as possible. That provided a constant stream of experts, even if most of them ended up falling for the God's calling due to the limited area of the safe zone.

Only those who managed to reach the fifth rank and survive the lava lake's environment could completely escape the calling. Anyone weaker than that would have to return to the tribes and train until that level.

However, Noah's arrival had given Skully hope. She had regained a body together with the ability to join her revolt. She just had to overcome the Tribulation now.

Skully continued to smile as the lightning bolts crashed on her, but her aura slowly changed. She had yet to learn how to move her body, but her mind felt freer than ever.

Skully could sense all the matter around her, and she felt sure that she could move it at will. Her thoughts resembled countless tiny hands that spread from her mind and reached everything in her range.

More lightning bolts flew toward her as her aura changed. The Tribulation didn't care that she had finally decided to act and continued its relentless assault.

Yet, the bolts suddenly stopped when they were about to crash on her. They even tried to explode to catch her in their detonation, but an invisible force suppressed their entire form.

The Heaven Tribulation didn't stop, and more lightning bolts flew toward Skully only to remain stuck in place when they were about to hit her. The invisible force blocked all of them and prevented their detonations.

The situation reached the point where the immobilized lightning bolts hid Skully's figure from every angle. It was as if she had created an array of uneven spears to defend herself.

A dangerous feeling surged in the back of Noah's mind at that sight. His instincts told him that something massive was about to arrive, and he didn't hesitate to descend into his hole.

He remained inside the red waterfall though, and his consciousness continued to inspect the powerhouse's battle.

Skully felt the limit of her mind approaching and decided to release the lightning bolts outward, creating a series of explosions that made a mess of the magma controlled by Heaven and Earth's will.

The shockwaves spread through the entire area and created violent currents that made the waterfalls overflow. The pressure was so high that the holes in the sky enlarged as pieces of black metal broke and fell into the lakes below.

The amount of magma pouring into the hidden world was so high that the main lake expanded until it engulfed many smaller ones in its tides. The catastrophe didn't stop there since the waves made of lava submerged even the nearby territories, expanding the lake outside of the safe area.

Noah and the other experts dodged the many black metal pieces falling from the sky as they remained in the air to probe the Tribulation's status. It seemed that Skully's attack had defeated all the sparks, which meant that she had earned her right to live as a hybrid.

One of the biggest waterfalls opened and revealed Skully's injured figure floating on a throne made of lava. Blood flowed everywhere, but a smile never left her face.

Noah noticed that faint trails of black smoke came out of her injuries to patch them. His higher energy focused on the most destabilizing wounds and aimed to enforce some harmony in that body again.

"You have ruined years of work," Noah said before heaving a loud sigh. All the time spent patching the Ape's body up had been wasted by her reckless behavior.

With the Tribulation being weaker than her actual level, Skully could have defeated it as soon as she gained control of her mental faculties. However, she had preferred to bathe in her newfound sensations before facing the challenge seriously.

That decision led her to suffer multiple injuries and reopen old ones. Moreover, the stability of her body had been endangered, which would make her healing process longer.

Noah neared her to inspect her conditions. The magical beasts' innate resilience was already working on fixing her body, but she lacked proper nutrients.

'She must have trained with the Seventh rune for a long time,' Noah thought as he glanced at her empty eye sockets.

Skully didn't show any instinctive behavior, which was rare for hybrids. Her mental sphere was far stronger than her body, which allowed her to remain in control of her faculties.

"I think I'm hungry," Skully said as she expanded her consciousness to look for enemies. The "Breath" released by the Tribulation didn't satisfy her. She needed prey to hunt.

"I'll explain everything on the way," Noah said as he sat on the air behind her back to stare at a white rune on her shoulder. "Be sure to remain still."

### **Chapter 1012 1012. Breakthroughs**

Skully flew above the nearby regions, destroying any pack of magical beasts that she could find and feeding on them to satisfy her hunger. Yet, she avoided going for the specimen in the sixth rank since her situation was still unstable.

Noah followed closely behind her, together with a few rank 5 cultivators that wanted to follow his example. They knew that the miraculous events in the last period had happened because of him. They felt that imitating his behavior could make them as unique as him.

Skully had now become a portable training area for the seas of consciousness of various levels. It was too dangerous for weaker cultivators to stare at her due to her runes. Still, she was perfect for those in the fifth rank.

Noah and the others could train their minds while she was busy feeding herself. Her runes seemed to have a better effect too since they weren't copies placed on standard sheets.

The number of nutrients that a rank 6 body needed was immense, and the fact that she was injured didn't improve her situation.

Skully hunted rank 4 and 5 magical beasts of various species for an entire month before she could feel the slightest satisfaction. Her power didn't increase after those meals, but her existence solidified as she became used to her new body.

She had yet to walk, but she had started to move her fingers. The magical beasts' innate resilience was even pushing away Noah's higher energy to make room for a normal healing process.

Noah followed her closely while the other experts respectfully alternated turns to occupy the spots behind him. No one dared to complain about his favorable position, nor about the fact that he collected all the Kesier runes left behind.

Noah took the time to analyze the changes in Skully's body while his mind expanded at an incredible speed. She was a pool of information regarding the creation of hybrids in the heroic ranks, so he wanted to study her thoroughly.

The procedure had been relatively smooth, but Noah knew that he wouldn't find the same extraordinary conditions if he were to perform it again. Skully didn't have an individuality, and her personality was so fragmented that she suited the Kesier Apes perfectly.

'She still needs the higher energy to remain in one piece,' Noah thought as he followed the powerhouse. 'It's a pity for her dantian, but maybe I can fix that after a few breakthroughs.'

The hunting team didn't go easy on the rank 6 Ape. Its body had many injuries that would generally make it unable to function. Yet, Noah's higher energy was replacing some essential tissues until it healed.

As for the dantian, Noah could create weaker versions of that organ, but he couldn't link it properly to the rest of Skully's existence. Placing an improvised center of power in her would do more harm than good.

The rebels and Noah returned to the black palace after the hunting session was over. The mood among those forces had changed now that their leader could act again. The discussions concerning revolutions never stopped, and some even called for an all-out invasion of some regions.

Of course, most of those ideas were delusional dreams of cultivators that had yet to realize how untouchable a God was. Still, there were some approaches worthy of being considered.

The Ape God's behavior was predictable. Its summoning happened every fifty years, but it didn't manage its species as a proper army.

Most of the specimens of the Kesier species formed packs that had no role in the summoning. The God left them free to thrive and controlled only some of them when it needed to escort cultivators.

The only constant in their behavior was their hatred toward humans and their rule over them. Most heroic Apes ruled over tribes out of their own will and even clashed with preexistent packs to control those regions.

That layout gave the rebels many chances to strike back and free more tribes. Creating a good army didn't seem so unreal anymore. The only issue was that they didn't have a place to stay since the safe area was too small and deadly for weaker cultivators.

A couple of years passed, and the rebels had yet to come up with a proper strategy. They limited themselves to cultivate and prepare for any eventuality since their knowledge of the cultivation world was limited. They could only rely on Noah and Skully to find a solution.

"I have something," Skully suddenly said as she waved her right arm. She and Noah were alone in the throne hall, with the former busy gaining control of her body and the latter staring at the Sixth Kesier rune on her fur.

"About?" Noah asked with an uncaring tone. The way he saw it, it was better to free as many cultivators as they could and escape.

Everything would be more accessible if he had access to the separate dimension, but the layers of magma and metal that isolated that place were bound to affect its functioning. Also, Noah didn't want to return to the surface to ask Thirty-sever for fear of losing any access to that place.

There were almost thirty rank 5 cultivators among the rebels, and Skully was a hybrid powerhouse. The experts were weak, and Skully lacked a dantian, but they were still a force that could bring the Hive to the apex of those Mortal Lands.

When considering the amount of Kesier runes, Ape's corpses, and the Seventh Kesier rune, Noah didn't have any doubt that retreating was the best option.

However, Skully wanted to free the tribes and inflict a loss on the Ape God. She knew that her idea wasn't feasible, but she still wanted to achieve something similar.

She even had an iron will. The millennia spent as a skeleton made her lose any fear of death. Noah's threats to remove the higher energy from her body didn't faze her. He had tried to do that and failed already.

"I recalled a method to create a habitable area," Skully said as she tried to turn without any success. "But I need years and resources."

"Don't move!" Noah shouted as he stood up to move Skully back in place. The Sixth rune on her right shoulder had gone behind the throne during her failed attempt to turn, interrupting his training.

"Did anyone ever tell you that you are a cultivation maniac?" Skully said in an ancient but friendly voice. Even if he had threatened her and used her only to cultivate, Noah was still her savior.

Noah ignored her. His mind had never grown so quickly, and even his other centers of power were improving at an unbelievable speed. Only his body was a bit slower since he purposely suppressed his hunger.

The breakthroughs that appeared so far away had finally shown their presence. Noah's existence had been ready to advance for a while by then, but Noah had understood it only when his mind improved. Now he only needed to train for a few decades to reach them.

### **Chapter 1013 1013. Stability**

Noah's individuality had advanced by leaps and bounds since he had gained access to the higher energy. The many battles and his achievements in the inscription field had widened his existence and made it reach incredible depths.

He had various elements at his disposal, a puppet capable of expressing astonishing power, a branch of techniques that only he could perform, and items able to take down a rank 6 creature.

Both his destruction and creation had crossed the limits that his cultivation level could hold. The only thing that Noah lacked was the years of training required to improve his centers of power.

His individuality had advanced so quickly that it had left the centers of power behind!

That became clear as his mind grew. Training with Skully's rune made his sea of consciousness enlarge so quickly that it touched on the world of the laws quite often now.

Nevertheless, even his improved understanding couldn't give him a precise estimate concerning the arrival of breakthroughs. That was a complex topic, especially when it came to matters related to the world of laws.

His initial estimate had been that the first breakthrough would arrive in some decades, but the time of the summoning came without any of his centers of power advancing.

Noah had followed Skully everywhere in that period, and he had even helped her managing magical beasts' packs at times. Moreover, he had explained to her the many advantages of a hybrid body.

Skully didn't have a dantian, but she had access to primary energy like him. Also, she could use the inscription method of the natives of the other Mortal Lands, but she had to modify the walls of her mind first.

She could theoretically use martial arts in the same way as Noah. Her only problem was balancing the consumption of primary energy and finding a secret art that could give her access to it.

As for the possibility of having a dantian, the two of them discussed the matter and agreed that they would wait for Noah to become more powerful.

The population of Kesier Apes diminished rapidly in those years, but that event concerned only the regions near the lava lake. Skully didn't dare to get too close to the lair of the God.

She had started to fight rank 6 creatures though. Her control over her new body had even improved so much that she could walk by herself. It wasn't a complete control yet, but she was getting there quickly.

Noah spent the period during the summoning on the other side of the black sky. It wasn't that he didn't trust the safe area, but he didn't want to risk it. The Ape God was bound to realize that something was happening in its blind spot, and Noah didn't want to be there to see it that affected its behavior.

'It's been more than fifty years already,' Noah thought as he remained immersed in the magma, protected by a layer of dark matter.

Noah didn't even realize that he was more than three hundred years old most of the time. Entire months could pass in the blink of an eye, and years went by whenever he focused on his training.

Almost two hundred years had passed since he reached the liquid stage, and even more since he became a rank 5 mage. However, Noah barely felt the passage of time.

He had lived longer than any human in his previous world, and that thought didn't even disturb him. He had become completely detached from the commoners, and he couldn't consider himself human.

His aspect had barely changed even. He still looked as if he was in his twenties, but there was a mature vibe around him. Also, the features given by the Light-devouring Dragon made him look fierce.

'It's time,' Noah thought as he felt the muscles around his dantian contracting. He released his grip on the Demonic Sword placed on low-waist and waited for his body to do the rest.

He had returned inside the metal palace and was cultivating in one of the training areas when he sensed the breakthrough coming. His excitement mounted at that point, and he let the Demonic Sword fly freely in the room as he focused on his dantian.

The muscles around his center of power contracted and pressed on its walls, increasing the density of the liquid "Breath" contained inside. Noah felt his darkness becoming hotter as it started to take a solid form.

Waves of power surged inside him as his cultivation advanced. His darkness soon took the form of a minute shining crystal with the shape of a saber.

Noah bathed in the sensation of power that filled his body. His mind automatically reached the world of the laws and made him understand more about his current situation.

The fifth rank's solid stage was the phase when heroic cultivators had to perfect how they wielded laws. The next step would see them striving to become a law, which was more an elevation of their existence than a learning process.

Noah felt the sharp, destructive force contained inside the crystal and its capability to become a material for his creations. It was a fuel that carried both aspects of his individuality, which he had to perfect if he wanted to step on the sixth rank.

The Demonic Sword flew back into his grasp and resumed its functions as the core item of his cultivation technique. The dantian that had returned to its smallest form began to expand again, and a second crystal soon appeared inside it.

As "Breath" flowed inside his center of power, his heart began to beat faster until the higher energy compressed inside it applied a pulling force on his energy. Noah saw pieces of his solid "Breath" coming out of his dantian and reaching his heart, only to enter the valve that contained the higher energy.

The process happened on its own, and Noah had no control over it. It seemed that his body had automatically connected those centers of power and was working to restore some balance.

The dark matter inside his heart became denser, raising his organ's temperature and increasing the gravitational pool that it applied to its surroundings. The black star there became even smaller, but its form started to grow unstable. Small flares appeared and released large quantities of dark matter outside of his heart.

The flares became more prominent, and the stability of the star fell apart. All the dark matter expanded, creating a large sphere that had Noah at its center.

'Dammit!' Noah cursed in his mind as he felt the walls of his heart stretching. His center of power wasn't meant to endure the higher energy in that form. The dense waves floating outside of it threatened its stability.

There wouldn't be any problem if his body had already fused his heart and the other valve, but there were instabilities solvable only during a breakthrough.

The situation was quite dangerous now. Noah feared that his heart could suffer if he continued to let his dark matter run wild.

## **Chapter 1014 1014. Abilities**

Noah didn't fear for his life, but he didn't want to risk suffering such an insidious injury and possibly lose his fourth center of power. His healing abilities were off the scale, but the heart was too delicate to ignore the danger.

The Demonic Sword roared as it understood his intentions. The weapon was still in his grasp, so Noah only had to place it on his dantian to resume cultivating.

The black star in his heart had become unstable because his darkness's structure had changed when it reached the solid stage. The old harmony didn't work anymore now.

The solid "Breath" was heavier and required a higher density to evolve. The only solution for the current situation was to pour more energy inside the dark star until it found new stability. However, Noah had just advanced, so his dantian was mostly empty. He had to cultivate before he could fill his burning heart.

"Breath" gathered on the blade of the Demonic Sword, which turned it into primary energy that the rune on Noah's waist transformed into darkness. His dantian had long since created a connection with the rune, so the "Breath" was in the solid stage when it reached the center of power.

The gravitational pull then forced the darkness away from the dantian and added it to the black star, increasing its width and traction force. The sphere kept on expanding, and it soon reached the walls of the room, bending the sturdy metal as it pressed on them.

Small bumps appeared on the walls, but they held on against the pressure. Noah's training area had always been extremely resistant in the end, and he had even created a black star there before.

Noah felt his heart expanding as the dense area of the star became wider inside his organ. He had already surpassed the past density, but the harmony seemed still out of reach.

More "Breath" became darkness, and more darkness became dark matter. Cracking sounds came out of the walls of the room, but nothing broke. Yet, the pressure began to go back at him and weigh on his body. Noah could sustain it easily initially, but it became harder to hold his weapon correctly as time passed.

Noah didn't stop filling his dantian with as much energy as he could. He didn't want to get rid of the higher energy for even a second, and he was too eager to see the new power that he would obtain to stop now.

The temperature rose beyond what the lava lake could do, and small cracks appeared on the walls. It seemed that the old structure was about to give in to the relentless pushing force.

The star suddenly began to collapse on itself, relieving the room of some of the pressure that Noah had released. The dark matter converged toward Noah's heart and amassed inside his fourth center of power.

Noah's breathing became ragged as his heart became hotter. The tissues of his organ expanded to make room for the new dark matter. His dantian never stopped absorbing "Breath", but the process appeared to be ending.

The dark matter disappeared from the room and gathered inside Noah's heart, creating a small black sphere that his organ compressed further. His fourth center of power had a star again, but it was brighter. It was a shining blackness that could blind any human.

Noah cultivated until his dantian began to expand at a slower pace. He then switched to training his mind using the Sixth Kesier rune obtained from one of the rank 6 Apes hunted before the summoning.

He inspected the changes with his higher energy only after all of that. His fourth center of power needed to stabilize itself anyway, so an early analysis would have given false results.

The dark matter was the same as before, except for its unusual brightness given by its newfound power. The higher energy was at least twice as dense than before, and containing so much power eventually gave birth to that strange phenomenon.

Noah could create all his previous elements with his new higher energy, and Snore had its agenda. The Blood Companion was already benefitting from the improvement, but Noah intended to review its structure after it evolved independently.

'I wonder what will happen when I become a rank 6 cultivator,' Noah thought, trying to suppress the imagines of an actual black hole from appearing in his mind.

The reaction would be too dangerous at that time, and it could kill him. However, his body would already be in the sixth rank, meaning that the burning heart would be part of him.

Noah came out of his room with the intent to test his new power and found Skully inspecting a rune with the entirety of her consciousness. She could take her of herself, but the rune in her hands was the First Kesier rune. He couldn't possibly understand what she was doing with it.

His doubts didn't last much because the powerhouse noticed Noah's presence and decided to speak to him. "Do you remember the secret ability of those Apes? I should be able to do the same."

Noah understood her point, but he knew her potential better than anyone. The only problem was whether there were conditions to meet for the activation of that ability.

"You are a Kesier Ape," Noah began to explain as he strolled across the room. "You have that ability in you. Still, you once said that the other beasts had sacrificed willingly to the God."

Noah's reply gave Skully an idea. She had tried to make a connection with the rune until then, but she had never tried to force the process. After all, her roars could make any existence in the human ranks bow.

Skully's aura changed as she tried to absorb the First Kesier rune. It became more domineering, but it had some subtle mental waves among them. They worked as orders disguised as angry reprimands of a more powerful existence.

To her surprise, his domineering cry affected the rune. The patch of white fur in her hands began to emit a faint light, and an instinct surging from the back of her mind made her place the shining hair on her forehead.

The whiteness in the piece of fur disappeared at that point, and Skully released an excited growl when she understood that she had succeeded. She had managed to activate the secret ability of the Kesier Apes, even if only on the First rune.

"What about you?" Skully said once she suppressed her excitement. "My underlings told me to watch over your room for fear that something could explode."

Noah knew that the destabilization of his dark matter had probably scared all the cultivators inside the palace. Yet, he didn't expect that Skully would come to prevent any harmful repercussions.

"I think it's time to understand how strong the Ape God is," Noah said as battle intent filled his mind. It was time to understand how strong he had become.

### **Chapter 1015 1015. Hunger**

The hidden world was an environment filled with ancient species and forgotten creatures, but it wasn't useful as a territory. Nothing could beat the piece of Immortal Lands in terms of resources and density of "Breath".

Noah had been ready to leave that place as soon as he restored the powerhouse's body. Still, the rebels had no intention to leave before saving as many tribes as they could.

Since Noah wasn't willing to leave without the Seventh Kesier rune and those heroic assets, he decided that it was time for him to help them properly.

That wasn't his first rebellion, and he had become used to wars throughout his life. His experience in battles of that kind and his prowess could help the rebels end that matter faster.

Noah went on a solitary exploration once his dantian reached the solid stage. He had yet to adapt his techniques to his new power, but the process would be faster if he had opponents that could endure his blows.

Skully had defeated most of the packs around the lava lake, so he had to venture in farther territories to look for worthy opponents. Still, that world didn't lack powerful creatures, so finding them didn't take him much.

Noah descended toward a small lake where a series of deer-type magical beasts had set up their lair. There were three specimens in the fifth rank among them, with one at the upper tier's peak.

Noah didn't recognize that species, but he could understand most of their qualities with a glance at their physical features. The deer had long and intricate brown horns made of a metallic material. The strongest creatures among them were four meters tall and seven long. All of them had thick brown fur that stood up whenever they moved.

The air around them was tense. Noah could easily guess that they had a lightning aptitude, but that didn't affect his plan. After all, their power couldn't faze him.

'Let's start with the basics,' Noah thought as the Demonic Sword flew in his palm, and he performed a casual slash.

The solid darkness in his dantian moved together with his arm, completing the first form of his martial art. The black line that came out of it was a massive slash that divided the lake into two halves and spread a vast cloud of corrosive smoke.

Noah had purposely missed all the beasts, but every specimen in the fourth rank or lower died when the shockwaves released by his attack spread in the region. Even the casual slash of a hybrid on Noah's level was too much for them to handle.

The entire region trembled after the attack, and the underground structure of the area destabilized as the slash dug in its depths. The simplest of Noah's gesture was akin to a natural calamity in a mortal plane.

The three surviving rank 5 deer let out angry cries as the ground trembled under their legs. Yet, they went silent when they identified the existence that had dared to invade their lair.

Noah's body had been in the upper tier's last phases for a while, but that wasn't the scariest aspect of his figure. His entire existence spread destruction that generated primary energy, and even the world's pale light dimmed around him.

Everything about him appeared meant to destroy, and his reptilian eyes radiated the sharpness of his existence. His cold gaze was enough to scare away the weaker deer.

The leader of the pack couldn't think of any way to defeat the flying invader. Its instincts told it to flee and never look back, but the pressure around it intensified when it was about to roar the order.

Noah's eyes shone with a cold light as he stared at the leader. His simple glance was enough to make the creature understand that it couldn't go anywhere.

Snore slowly took form after the deer gave up on escaping. The Blood Companion's size had increased since the denser dark matter began to flow into its body. Its dark shape even sparkled with a black light from time to time, showing that Noah's breakthroughs were affecting it.

Its level had increased too. Snore had lingered on the lower tier of the fifth rank before, but it had suddenly risen to the middle tier now. Moreover, the new dark matter had yet to fill all its body, so that wasn't its limit.

Of course, that classification was something that Noah used to understand Snore's growth better. The fact that the Blood Companion had higher energy as its fabric made its power impossible to classify with standard labels.

Snore appeared majestic as it coiled around Noah. The Albino Snake's will cheered as it sensed its new power and released a loud hiss to express its excitement.

'The flames should be enough,' Noah thought as he sat on the Snake's head. He didn't care about the creatures on the ground. All he wanted was seeing the destructive might that he could unleash now.

Snore spread its mouth, and a column of black flames fell on the remains of the pack. The three deer could only lower their heads and accept their fate when they saw the attack coming for them.

The land became a charred wasteland in a few seconds. Snore's flames didn't leave anything behind, and even the vegetation at the bottom of the lake became nothing more than ashes.

Entire layers of the ground burned as the flames lingered on its surface. A massive black cavity replaced that once green environment.

As for the three rank 5 creatures, only a few body parts survived the black flames. Even such strong beings couldn't do anything against Snore's attack.

'This is far better than I expected,' Noah thought as he inspected the effects of the flames. The solid darkness had improved his battle prowess by a lot, but those boosts multiplied when it came to his higher energy.

'I might become a match for weaker rank 6 cultivators once all my assets become used to my new level,' Noah pondered.

Ravaging Demon's surprise attack had shown him how the higher energy was already making him ignore the gaps between the stages. Yet, he had now reached the point when he could begin to consider facing an actual powerhouse on his own!

Noah gathered anything valuable from the area and returned to the black palace. He had decided to improve his techniques and hunt a rank 6 creature later to test his strength.

A peculiar scene appeared in front of him when he returned to the throne hall. Skully sat on the floor, holding a piece of fur that had the Third Kesier rune on its surface while her mental waves surrounded it.

The white hair turned black as her mind absorbed the power of the rune, but saliva drooled out of the corners of her mouth as the procedure continued. Skully's smile was strange too. She appeared to be wholly captivated by that sensation.

'Don't tell me,' Noah thought before Skully turned and looked at him with a hungry expression. He couldn't see any human emotion on her face. There was only hunger.

### **Chapter 1016 1016. Mental state**

'She has abused it!' Noah shouted in his mind as he understood what had happened.

He had learnt to know Skully during the past years. She was a wise and driven powerhouse, but her long period spent as nothing more than a skeleton had left her with a massive flaw in her personality.

The flaw didn't go away even after her mental state regained some stability. Skully had become addicted to the sensations that her new body gave her!

Noah knew that there wasn't anything more addicting than sensing the centers of power improve. Skully had probably lost herself while she absorbed Kesier runes, and she didn't stop even after her mind regressed to a wild state.

"Skully?" Noah asked in a cold tone as black smoke came out of his body. He didn't want to fight her, but he would go all out if necessary.

Skully gave voice to a deep growl as she crawled toward him on her four limbs. She moved slowly as if she was taking her time to inspect a powerful prey.

Noah's pride surged, and he released a roar that echoed through the entirety of the metallic structure. He even relied on his control over the dark matter inside her body to weaken her during her crawling.

Skully staggered, and her arms bent all of a sudden, making her slam her face on the floor. Confusion appeared on her expression, but a wave of anger soon replaced that feeling.

Skully roared, and injuries opened on her body as black smoke forcefully left her figure. Blood came out of her mouth, but that damage didn't stop her from getting back on her four limbs.

Noah's eyes sharpened when he saw his higher energy leaving her body. Skully's condition had improved so much in the last period that she didn't need the dark matter to function anymore.

A scaled armor appeared around him, and Snore took a solid form. The Demonic Sword released a draconic roar as it flew in his palm, ready to join him in the imminent battle.

Carl suddenly arrived in the throne hall, but he froze in place when he saw that scene. He immediately understood that there was something wrong with his leader, but he didn't dare to interfere.

All the natives of the hidden world had a limited number of spells and poor cultivation techniques. Skully had helped them when she recalled some inscription method, but their power mostly came from the struggles that they had survived and a prolonged period spent cultivating.

Their battle prowess was incredibly low, and even the natural features of their individualities were only faint abilities in their auras.

"Bring everyone away," Noah said without moving his eyes away from Skully. "I'll try not to destroy this place."

Carl quickly nodded and left the hall. He felt relieved that Noah didn't ask him to help in the battle. Skully was still his leader and the only reason why all of them had lived for so long without a mental brand.

Blood kept on leaking from Skully's mouth as she crawled near Noah. She then straightened her position when she reached Snore's body, but her consciousness's focus remained on him.

Noah felt her mental waves trying to crush his mind, and he let them apply their pressure on him for a few seconds. When he sensed that there wasn't anything human inside them, a lightning bolt shot from Snore's horns and landed on her chest.

Snore hissed, Noah roared, and the Demonic Sword released a loud cry as they deployed all their attacks. Six fuming arms became one and slashed downward, and various elements came out of the Blood Companion.

A loud explosion resounded inside the throne hall. The metal in the room bent and cracked after Noah's offensive landed on Skully, but a violent pressure soon covered the entirety of the palace.

The cloud that had formed after the collision dispersed, revealing a cracked invisible barrier that had protected Skully. Not even the second form of Noah's martial art had been able to touch her.

A formless force reached for Noah, but it found only a crack in the air when it arrived on its position. Cracks spread around the hall as Noah used his movement technique to make the Skully lose track of him.

Meanwhile, Snore pounced at the powerhouse, slamming on the cracked defensive shield and releasing its elemental attacks at close range. Its wings spread too, and their feathers stood up as they absorbed the primary energy in the environment.

Noah had one crucial advantage. Skully acted as if nothing was wrong with her body, but he knew about damages that dispersing his dark matter had caused.

Some of her internal organs were bleeding, and many of her joints had lost essential connections with her muscles. She was hurt, and her physical strength had almost diminished under the standards of a rank 6 creature.

Moreover, Noah didn't want to kill her. He only had to beat some sense into her until she regained her mental faculties.

The lack of killing intent in his blows didn't mean that he was holding back. It would be suicidal not to go all out against a being in the sixth rank.

Noah sprinted until he felt sure that Skully had lost track of him before casting the Black Hole spell. All the primary energy created during the past attacks gathered in the sphere next to him and Snore's wings.

Skully roared in anger as her mental waves became violent. The Blood Companion's body shattered in multiple spots when her attack swept it, but it didn't move. Even after part of its wings broke, Snore kept them unfolded and launched its feathers.

Skully endured those feathers with her bare body, but a few injuries were on her fur that made them somewhat threatening. Another mental shield soon appeared between her and the winged snake, blocking its attack once for all.

The powerhouse was about to use her thoughts for offensive purposes again when a six-armed dragon slammed on her shield. The third form of Noah's martial art and the barrage of feathers slowly pierced the defensive shield and hit Skully, who could only endure the blows.

A loud explosion echoed through the palace again, and a hole formed in the black wall that had seen Noah's most potent attacks converge. Shards of black metal fell from the cracks spread everywhere in the hall, but a tense silence filled the scene.

Noah activated his Demonic Form again as he waited for Skully to move. He knew that she was still alive, but he was unaware of the condition of her mind.

Snore remained in front of the hole, and dark matter came out of Noah's heart to fix its maimed body. The Blood Companion returned at its peak in a few seconds, with only its wings lacking most of their feathers.

Skully eventually moved and let out a pained groan as she supported herself on the wall's interiors. Her eyeless head moved in the room before she gave voice to a question. "Did something happen?"

## Chapter 1017 1017. Calling

"No more rune absorption until you learn how to be alive again," Noah said as he scolded the sour Skully, who was evaluating her injuries.

Most of her cuts came from when she had forcefully removed the dark matter inside her. However, there were some deep wounds that she couldn't link to that event.

The memories from when she had lost control of herself were slowly coming back, but they returned in the form of intense sensations that her hybrid brain turned into confused images.

There was something that she couldn't explain. Skully only recalled a fiendish figure and a tall winged snake when it came to her other injuries, which meant that Noah had managed to suppress her on his own!

That wouldn't be so surprising if he relied on his disposable items. Yet, there were no signs of his Instabilities in the throne hall. Moreover, Noah didn't suffer any injury, meaning that the battle had been utterly one-sided during those short minutes.

"Are you hiding a powerhouse somewhere?" Skully asked. Noah was only a newly advanced cultivator in the solid stage. Even if he was the best expert to have ever existed, no one should be able to ignore the barrier between the fifth and sixth rank.

"No eating either," Noah ignored her as he continued with his directives. "Focus on training your mind. There might be a chance to overcome your stagnation since you'll be staring at a divine item."

Skully had to stop training in the past because her body was too frail to endure an even more powerful consciousness. Her mind would have reached the divine ranks by then otherwise.

Carl was in the back of the broken throne hall together with a few experts. They stared at the interaction between their leader and Noah with wide eyes.

They would have never expected to see a similar scene in their life. A cultivator in the fifth rank was scolding a powerhouse!

Their respect for Noah increased even more after they saw Skully nodding under his stern gaze. Their leader, who had lived for more than one hundred thousand years, was agreeing with him!

"I'll take care of the rebellion for a bit," Noah eventually said after he finished giving Skully directives. The summoning had just come, so that was the perfect moment to free more tribes. Meanwhile, Skully could focus on recalling some techniques and inscription methods to teach to her underlings.

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Noah took the reins of the rebellion in the next years, but he rarely appeared in the battles. His priority was to let Snore improve and apply eventual modifications when necessary.

The natives of the hidden world expanded the cleared area around the lava lake and invaded deeper territories. They focused on defeating the weaker packs before grouping every team to fight against the strong ones.

There wasn't any Ape in the sixth rank left near their headquarters, so they could advance steadily and reduce the regions under the control of the God.

Noah didn't seclude himself in those years. He still trained like a madman, but he spent some time helping the digging of the sky.

The black metal was a valuable material that could work as the core for many weapons. Also, the Ape God used the sky to spread its mental waves, so enlarging the holes would hopefully reduce its influence on the world.

The Demonic Sword eventually evolved, reaching the upper tier. Noah's breakthrough had unlocked its path toward the higher ranks.

No major event happened during that period. The rebels advanced, the hole in the sky enlarged, and Noah improved. The human side of the hidden world became stronger, while the army of Kesier Apes became weaker.

The environment was slowly assuming the trend of the surface, with the magical beasts suppressed by cultivators. However, the rebels didn't believe that God would remain indifferent now that its species' slaughter had resumed.

The new dark matter pushed Snore to the upper tier's peak, and Noah's body reached the same level due to the hunts in those years. His tissues began to accumulate the energy necessary for the breakthrough in the sixth rank, but Noah suppressed his hunger at that point.

He had just seen Skully losing control of her mental faculties. Her situation was peculiar, but nothing stated that Noah wouldn't suffer from the same fate if he advanced before his mind was ready.

'I can't risk it,' Noah thought as he flew toward a red waterfall. Another fifty years had passed, and it was time for the God's summoning. He would spend it above the sky as usual, but he was curious about the situation on the ground at that time.

The lava lake's size had tripled since the last calling. The new troops in the rebel army and Noah's help had done wonders when it came to enlarging the holes in the sky.

A constant red light filled those regions due to the many large waterfalls that poured magma into the lake. Some of it ended up seeping into even lower parts of the world, but no one cared about that since the lakes expanded nonetheless.

Noah paid attention to the intact part of the sky as he meditated inside the sea of magma. The Ape God's mental waves spread as usual, but they covered only the regions with the black metal above them.

Their digging had expanded the safe area. Skully could adapt her plans to that discovery now and build habitations for human cultivators in regions far away from the Seventh Kesier Rune.

"This is a body-tempering technique," Skully said as she showed rank 4 cultivators immersed in the lava lakes. The harsh conditions forced them to fly out of it quite often, but their bodies appeared far sturdier after every session of training.

"I don't think the surface has them anymore," Noah said. The body-tempering techniques used extreme conditions to improve the bodies of the cultivators. They were akin to unorthodox methods, just slightly less dangerous.

Their effects though were somewhat inferior to what the surface had now. They didn't provide the explosive boost in power of unorthodox techniques nor the safety of body-nourishing methods.

Still, any technique was better than no technique. What Skully had recalled was even quite powerful according to the standards of her time. The new generations of cultivators would grow stronger thanks to that.

The powerhouse had even begun to build more structures on the lake and made them able to fend off the harsh temperatures. Human cultivators could live there, but they needed heroic experts to return to the land.

Noah actively freed more tribes after all his assets adapted to his new power. The might that he was capable of was unparalleled among beings in the fifth rank. Yet, Noah didn't test himself against rank 6 beasts since he didn't want to eat them and let his body improve. His mind was reaching the fifth rank's limits anyway, so he could wait a bit more.

Nevertheless, after only twenty-five years from the last calling, the Ape God's mental waves spread again, covering even the safe area.

### **Chapter 1018 1018. God**

The sudden summoning caught everyone by surprise. The natives of the hidden world, Skully, and even Noah had become used to the Ape God's routine and capabilities, so they didn't take any precaution against that event.

Noah was staring at the Sixth Kesier rune on Skully's fur when those ancient mental waves filled the world. He experienced the helpless feeling of having an unstoppable force taking control of his mind, leaving him unable to resist.

Skully and Noah executed mechanical movements as they straightened their position and began to fly in the same direction. Other cultivators joined them as they advanced past the lava lake, and all of them had their same empty expressions.

'This is a God,' Noah thought as his body moved on its own. His thoughts were free, but he didn't have control over anything else. Even his mental waves couldn't surge out of the sea in his mind.

Noah didn't feel angry. He had done everything by the book and acted according to what cultivators had learnt in millennia living there. He couldn't predict that sudden surge of power from the God.

'To think that something so faint can turn me into nothing more than a puppet,' Noah thought as his focus went on the force that was controlling him.

The mental waves of the Ape God were almost unnoticeable. They felt like nothing more than a whisper when they reached his mind, but his whole existence became powerless at that sound.

The God's mental waves weren't heavy, but they carried meanings so deep that even Noah's mind didn't understand why it was listening to them. Still, they felt simple, as if they were just casual thoughts generated by a superior being.

More and more cultivators joined the trail of experts flying in the sky. The calling of the Ape God was inevitable, and no human living in that world managed to escape it. Entire tribes came out of their underground homes, wearing the same empty expressions as everyone else.

A crowd of human cultivators gathered on the ground too. They were slower than the existences in the sky, and their resilience was lower. However, they kept moving forward even when the travel continued for more than a month.

An army of Kesier Apes soon appeared and escorted the crowds of humans through the various regions. Their destination was a solitary mountain placed in the farthest place from the lava lake.

Noah didn't dare to imagine how stressful it was to spend an entire life as a puppet, and his respect for the natives of the hidden world increased as he experienced the summoning first hand.

The helplessness that he felt could crumble any cultivator's spirit, making it impossible for them to advance in their journey. Yet, there was an army filled with experts ready to fight back. Their only weakness was their lack of techniques, but that wasn't their fault.

'They can decide to fight even after experiencing this countless times,' Noah thought as his ambition filled the entirety of his thoughts. 'How can I allow myself to do any less?'

Noah's change of mindset didn't affect his sea of consciousness, but it made him decide to go all out to avoid the impending crisis. He had a chance to escape that situation, so he would take it.

The Ape God's mental waves had surrounded his mental sphere and kept on affecting it as he flew together with the other cultivators. His mental energy couldn't move, but it was in direct contact with the creature's faint thoughts.

Noah's mental energy had inherited the devouring properties of the magical beasts when he became and hybrid. He could absorb the wills of any living being as long as it came in contact with his sea of consciousness.

The thoughts of the Ape God carried clear traces of his will. Noah had never seen such purity and intensity even when he used the theory of the Body-inscription Spell on rank 5 beasts to condense their minds.

The amount of power that those divine thoughts contained was immense, which meant that they would expand his mind faster than any other drug or Kesier rune.

Noah knew that he could survive that pressure for an instant. The simple glance at the Seventh Kesier rune had made him collapse, but he had survived without suffering any injury.

He felt confident that he could do the same with the Ape God's thoughts if he managed to devour a minute part of its mental waves. His only hope was that experiencing a breakthrough would temporarily free him and give him a chance to escape.

The only issue was that the God's calling was still resounding in the entirety of the hidden world. Gaining a few seconds of freedom wasn't enough to make him escape the range of its thoughts.

A plan quickly formed in his mind. His tricks and assets appeared in his view, and developed an intricate strategy that gave him a chance to escape the mental brand.

'I have to reach the meeting,' Noah concluded in his mind. Even after all his reasoning, he found only one approach that could give him a chance to survive. Yet, he had to admit that pulling that off would bring his destruction into another league.

The cultivators reached the solitary mountain, and the Kesier Apes led them through rocky tunnels that led to its insides. An intricate array of passages unfolded in front of Noah's eyes, but his mind was elsewhere.

He regained focus only when he reached an empty area at the center of the mountain, and his eyes moved on their own on a massive figure sat on a large rocky throne.

Noah saw a twelve meters tall Kesier Ape sitting cross-legged on a refined throne carved out of the mountainside. The beast's hands formed a circle in front of its lower-waist. It seemed that it was practicing a cultivation technique, but no "Breath" moved around it.

Its fur was black, but it shone with a mystical light. Noah's dark matter did the same, but they weren't even close in terms of intensity. Six patches of white hair formed six Kesier runes, but the purity of the aura that they radiated surpassed any other rune that Noah had ever seen.

There was a missing patch of fur on the Ape God's right cheek. Noah didn't even need to look at it to know where the Seventh Kesier rune had come from.

Nevertheless, he didn't expect the God to turn toward him and speak human words with a strange accent that resembled an ape's cries. "So, you are the foreigner that has started this chaos. I can see it in your soul. I can sense that your power is nothing more than a side-effect to Heaven and Earth's mistake."

Noah remained speechless. A magical beast was using human words to communicate with him, and it was speaking about the core of his individuality!

"Humans are all the same," The Ape God continued. "You think that you are stronger than any other being, but you are only lucky to be born in that species. If you were beasts, you would achieve less than worms."

### **Chapter 1019 1019. Dantian**

The Ape God's insulted the entirety of humankind, but there was truth behind its words. Cultivators didn't choose to be born with three centers of power, and the magical beasts weren't guilty of having only one of them.

Luck played an essential part in the cultivation journey, and its influence started as soon as a living being was born. The species itself declared the potential of a creature.

Of course, there were exceptional cases, but the magical beasts had a fixed fate unless random mutations or stronger beings' influence changed it. The creatures of the other Mortal Lands were the living statement that anything could happen in the cultivation world.

Still, those were rare events. Cultivations were stronger than the magical beasts. That was an eternal truth of the cultivation world.

Noah wanted to feign interest to gain more time, but his body didn't react to his commands. Luckily for him, the God forced him to stare at its figure, which gave him full access to the Sixth Kesier rune on its body.

'Push as much as I can before devouring,' Noah thought as he set his mind at ease in the hope that such behavior could improve his sea of consciousness faster.

His plan to get out of that situation without a mental brand was dangerous, but its chances of working had increased when he heard the Ape speaking. He could exploit its anger. Noah was ready to use any leverage when dealing with a divine creature.

"Heaven and Earth's decisions are completely random," The rank 7 Kesier Ape said before heaving a humanlike sigh. "This creates a broken system. I'll change it once I reach the Immortal Lands. I'll make it fair."

Noah found the God's words interesting, but he maintained his focus on its Sixth rune. His mind was improving more quickly, so he didn't dare to do anything else.

"You detain the power to cheat Heaven and Earth's system," The Ape said. "I need it. Give it to me."

Noah's thoughts became tense at those words. He expected something to happen in the next seconds, but the Ape remained still as if waiting for him to move.

The God then released a laugh and waved its hand, freeing Noah from its control. The latter staggered as his mind restored all the connections with his centers of power. His breathing became rough, but he stabilized it in a few seconds.

Noah cleared his throat as he glanced at the tall Ape on the rocky throne. He didn't understand what the God wanted him to do, but he didn't waste that chance to stare at its Sixth rune with even more intensity.

"No need to feign ignorance," The Ape said again. "I've already restored the mental brand to all the cultivators here. I know what you gave her."

Noah's thoughts froze at those words, and his eyes looked around the empty area. Skully was next to him, while the rebels' experts stood on other platforms that had appeared at the end of their tunnels.

That was the entirety of the elite force of the rebels. Skully's millennia of work had gone to waste as soon as the Ape God's changed its routine.

"What would you like me to do?" Noah asked when his gaze returned to the tall Ape. He wasn't going to agree to any of its requests, but there was something that he needed to know before acting.

The divine creature's hands closed, and both its forefingers pointed at its low-waist before it gave voice to its request. "I want that human organ. I need a dantian to compete with the monsters above."

"What do I get in exchange?" Noah asked with his usual cold tone.

"Your life," The Ape God cut the negotiations short. It didn't give him any hope to talk his way out of that situation.

"I want a story and an answer," Noah's answered firmly, and the Ape hesitated before it gestured him to speak again.

"I want your story," Noah said as he sat on the ground. "And I want to know how you learnt about my peculiar nature."

The Ape's eyes went cold when it sensed that Noah was plotting something. However, it couldn't understand what it was, which eventually convinced him that there wasn't any hidden reason behind his words.

Noah had all the hidden reasons of the world. They went from expanding his knowledge about the Kesier species to understanding the current power of the God. Moreover, he was gaining time for his mind to reach the sixth rank.

The divine creature eventually nodded and began to tell its story. "I've come here to escape your kind. My brothers and sisters gave their lives to push me to this stage, and I sacrificed their rune to create this sky. This is a paradise for our species. Kesier Apes can live free from any ruler here and not fear for their lives.

"I've known about the hole in the sky since before the rune fell. Creating a world with an imperfect divine power can only lead to that outcome. This is why I focused on growing a divine rune for myself rather than seizing my lost one back."

Noah could say that its speech made sense. He didn't know why, but his instincts told him that the Ape God wouldn't have managed to stabilize the black sky even if it took the Seventh Kesier rune back.

"Creating a world gives you a tighter connection with Heaven and Earth," The Ape eventually concluded. "I can understand what sort of mistake you are with a simple glance."

'I see,' Noah thought, 'A creator knows.'

More details about the Kesier species' leader became evident in his mind as he kept staring at its Sixth Kesier rune. Once his eyes became used to its divine halo, he could recognize the various flaws that filled its body.

Noah could finally see the exhaustion behind its eyes, its inflated belly caused by failed absorption of food, the missing teeth in its mouth, and the slight tremors that swept its fingers from time to time.

Time shouldn't affect a divine being, not in such a short period, at least. There was something strange with the Ape God, and Noah didn't fail to see it as his mind reached the limits of the fifth rank.

"What are you waiting for?" The Ape asked with a tinge of anger in its tone. Noah felt forced to close his eyes to endure the pressure generated by its words, but the violent force lasted far less than he expected.

It was as if the Ape was becoming weaker as their conversation continued!

"This is an act, isn't it?" Noah asked as a series of items left Divine Demon's space-ring and entered his new one.

Noah believed that all the cultivators in the area had a mental brand now, but he didn't think that the Ape God could pull that feat off every time. It had probably reached its limits since it had shortened his period of rest.

Then, Noah asked a question that made the divine beast shake. "Do you need a dantian to stop yourself from dying?"

### **Chapter 1020 1020. Rebellion**

Noah almost found it hilarious. The leaders of both armies had pushed the limits until they were almost about to fall apart.

Skully had traded her sanity, body, and dantian for more years of survival in which she could train new generations of rebels. Her efforts had been praiseworthy, but their execution ended up being relatively poor due to her flawed memory.

On the other hand, the Ape God had given up on its divine status to build a world for its species. Still, the origin of its divine power was flawed and imperfect, which eventually led to the fall of the Seventh Kesier rune.

The Ape then had tried to reach the divine ranks on its own, but it had failed, falling trap of a constant weakening process that made its power regress back into the heroic ranks.

That wasn't everything. The Kesier species' leader still had to restore the mental brands and perform the summoning, which were tasks that required a divine power.

Noah could guess how the creature had resorted to any possible method to stall the dispersion of its divine power and continue its unmatched rule of the hidden world.

Nevertheless, those methods had their limits, and Noah's arrival forced it to break its routine and perform a summoning far sooner than the previous ones. Its mind had endured that feat, and now its after-effects were appearing on its body.

"I don't need anything from the humans," The Ape God said as it restored its composure. "I only want more power. My desire is the most natural feeling in the world."

Noah sensed a faint tension in its voice, and its words had become even more similar to ape's cries now. Also, the fact that it wasn't questioning him about his moving of items made him even surer about his hypothesis.

The spirit automaton of Divine Demon's ring made the calculations in his place. Noah only needed to tell him what he needed, and the program executed the orders.

All the resources that Noah had accumulated through the years went into his second ring. Its width was slightly inferior to the first one, but it was meant to store strong prey, so it performed its task quite well.

Noah left the Obsidian Credits and anything useless in his old ring while moving everything else in his new one. That was true even for the two divine and quasi-divine items retrieved in Shandal's separate dimension.

He had to throw away many corpses and runes to make room for them, but he felt sure that he'd have more space soon.

The Ape God didn't flinch when it saw the divine scroll, but its body convulsed when the stuffed quasi-rank 7 winged beast appeared for an instant in the outside world before entering the other ring.

The Kesier species' leader began to droll, and its mental waves shot toward Noah once again. He lost control of its body for the second time, but his long speech with the Ape had given him the chance to seize as much as he could from the Sixth Kesier rune.

Now he could only proceed with his plan and hope that he won't suffer any lasting injury.

The Ape's mental energy touched Noah's mind, but a minute part of those faint thoughts suddenly disappeared. The quantity was so little that the God didn't even notice it, but it was a massive amount for a rank 5 mage.

Noah felt a sudden surge of power coming from the center of his mind and slamming on its walls. It was as if a series of angry wills had taken form and were attacking his mental sphere at the same time.

The process was excruciating, and Noah staggered inside the empty area at the center of the mountain. However, the energy dispersed when he devoured the God's thoughts freed him of its control.

Noah heard the sound of glass shattering as the pressure continued to expand his sphere. A series of cracks spread on the ethereal walls of his mind, sending waves of pain that made him feel like puking.

Noah had eaten the smallest amount of thoughts that his mind could divide. Yet, even that grain of divine power had been enough to crack his mental sphere.

Still, the injury wasn't severe. The cracks weren't deep and only spread in the walls' interior parts, which were the easiest to heal. Noah knew that it would take a long period of nurturing to fix them, but he could only think about their expansion now.

Noah's sphere seemed to surpass some natural limits as it kept spreading. He felt profound thoughts concerning the world of the laws invading his mind and enlightening more about his path, but he also sensed that he had to review his plan's details.

During the breakthrough, the feeling obtained suppressed the pain caused by the injuries on his mind and made him battle-ready. Yet, the Ape God didn't care about any of that.

"This is a useless act," The God said, without showing the slightest amount of worry in its tone. The fact that Noah had become a rank 6 mage could barely scare him.

Its mental waves moved once again to take control of its body, but Noah's new awareness made him ready for that threat and allowed him to react in time.

Noah snapped his fingers to fling Divine Demon's ring toward the rocky throne before his figure disappeared. Cracks spread between his previous position and Skully, and the rebels' powerhouse flew backward as Noah flung her away.

He then shot toward the rocky walls of the mountain, uncaring of the fact that he had to dig his path for a few kilometers to return to the outside world.

The Ape God had initially wanted to put an end to that mess. Noah's new power made him fast, but it was still a god. Moreover, he had stopped to help Skully, which had slowed down his escape.

However, Noah had perfectly evaluated the power of his assets. The God's mental waves could only stop chasing after the rebels and focus on the black ring flying in its direction since its instincts told it to activate some defensive measures.

Noah flew for his life. The scaled armor formed around him, but its shape morphed as the black branches spread on the Sixth Kesier rune that had condensed at the center of his sea of consciousness.

The black smoke radiated by his form became violent and raged in every direction as he shattered the rocky walls of the mountain and opened a path for the outside world.

Skully was still under the God's control, but the latter didn't have time to give her orders, so she slammed on the mountainside and cracked the rocky layers with her bare body. Noah's physical strength had given her enough momentum to leave that place.

Then, a deafening roar spread in the area, followed by a silence that preceded an earth-shattering explosion.