DEMONIC 1031

Chapter 1031 1031. Chrysalis

The Kesier Apes taken captive in the hidden world remained inside Snore for a while before Noah remembered them. He had kept them inside a sack of dark matter for so long that he had grown used to their presence. Moreover, they were always quiet due to the innate pressure that he radiated.

His mind's condition had forced him to cut off most external inputs. Still, he assigned them to Thirty-seven once he noticed them, and he even left a few chunks of the black metal to the ecstatic automaton.

Healing all the cracks in his mind took almost three years. Noah had left them there for months, so the injury had taken roots. His crystalized mental energy had to remain in place for a long time before turning into part of the walls.

Noah didn't push his body after the limits of the fifth rank right away. He cultivated both mind and dantian for a while so that he could prevent any form of stagnation.

He didn't know how long the chrysalis would last at that time. His fourth center of power was a variable that had no priors in the cultivation world. He couldn't even begin to guess how much his body would take to turn it into part of Noah's existence.

His dantian's training went as smoothly as ever. Noah could see the laws of the world and study them directly from the matter in front of him now. Those pure and simple forces often carried true meanings that reflected shades of his existence.

Destruction and creation were everywhere he looked, but he went after those that resembled his individuality, improving his understanding and increasing the speed at which his dantian enlarged.

Those weren't his laws. They belonged to Heaven and Earth. Noah could only use them to study how they wielded the matter so that his expertise could reach the peak, and he could start becoming his law.

As for his mind, Noah only made sure that it recovered part of its past sturdiness, which wasn't hard since he had a piece of fur with the Sixth Kesier rune and his spherical rune.

Noah resumed eating two years after focusing on his mind and dantian. His body crossed the limits of the fifth rank when he took the first bite of the giant lizard, and his period of accumulation began.

That was the time to accumulate nutrients to use for the evolution of his body. Magical beasts would need an average of a hundred peak rank 5 creatures to make their breakthrough safe. Yet, Noah knew that his requirements were anything but ordinary.

His mind had warned him. His instincts feared the breakthrough. Something told him that even the entire body of a rank 6 magical beast wouldn't be enough to fuel the evolution.

Noah considered his options after his body had fully digested the lizard. Eating creatures on a higher rank always was a troublesome and long process, but his body had handled that better than he expected.

The main issue was that the drowsiness had already arrived, and he felt that it wouldn't take long for the chrysalis to form. However, the energy accumulated in his tissues wasn't enough, according to his instincts.

Noah had the time to take a teleportation matrix, reappear in a rank 6 danger zone, hunt down the area's leader, and digest it before the breakthrough kicked in. Yet, he wasn't sure if even that would suffice for the requirements of his body.

It took him less than an instant to decide on his next step. A divine aura spread in his mansion as the quasi-rank 7 winged beast appeared in his room.

What had once been a creature capable of defeating the world's powerhouses was a stuffed statue now. Shandal had taken away all its interiors and valuable body parts, but its skin was still in place.

Noah knew that he couldn't hurt the beast. His power wasn't enough to pierce its skin even after it had lost most of its body. As for eating it, he didn't even dream about it.

Nevertheless, any creature would release "Breath" upon its death, and the remains of the winged beast followed the same rule.

Noah placed his mouth on its hand before he started sucking. His instincts begged him to take a bite, but his teeth could do nothing against that skin. All he could do was licking away the primary energy released due to its deterioration.

Waves of power spread through Noah's body as he ate the thick primary energy accumulated on the creature's skin. He had never eaten something so pure, and the feeling of satisfaction that it gave him was addicting.

He had learnt to control his hunger though, so he could control himself and continue to stuff his body with energy that no other beast in the fifth rank had ever gained access to.

Noah continued even after he felt full. The drowsiness wanted him to fall asleep on the spot, but he suppressed it as long as he could.

Eventually, he collapsed on the floor, and he had only the strength to put the winged beast back inside his space-ring before his mind went dark, and a crystal-like substance filled the entire room.

Noah didn't dream about his Demonic Sword or the Light-devouring Dragons' past. Not even Snore's sensations appeared in his vision as his mind wandered.

What he saw was a starry sky becoming closer and zooming on the stars that he had pursued all his life. He watched matter burn and fuse as those majestic celestial bodies illuminated the dark void.

Noah didn't have his usual sporadic moments of awareness during that breakthrough, but he was in a nigh-conscious state through all of it.

He immediately realized that those dreams were only about him and signaled how his existence had broken free from his world's limits and aimed for the stars.

An existence with four centers of power was otherworldly. It didn't belong to Heaven and Earth's system, and it wasn't a natural occurrence. Its place was in the void, among other unique existences.

Noah's consciousness awakened at some point, and the simple opening of his eyes shattered layers of crystals in front of him. His hands closed to form fists, and that sudden movement caused shockwaves that reduced more crystals into pieces.

There wasn't any burst of hunger or prideful roar of success. Noah was calm, and he felt entirely in control of himself.

Noah could immediately sense that some of his features had changed. His nails were still black and pointy, and his hair didn't lose their metallic properties. However, the scales had disappeared, and his skin had become whiter as if it had reached a new purity.

His entire body felt hot. He didn't sense the heat, but he realized that his temperature was far higher than usual.

Smoke came out of his mouth when he breathed. There seemed to be a furnace inside him, and the cause was his heart. A black star had replaced his organ.

Chapter 1032 1032. Reports

A black star rotated at the center of his chest, right under the sternum and between the lungs. Noah's heart had disappeared, replaced by a dense rotating sphere that executed his organ's previous functions and added new ones.

Noah closed his eyes to feel his body in its entirety. The black star had become part of the innate absorption of "Breath" performed by the magical beasts. It gathered energy inside its core before turning it into primary energy that nurtured his tissues.

Yet, that primary energy appeared slightly different from usual. Its structure didn't change, but there seemed to be more power contained in its fabric. It was as if the dark matter had improved its nature, making it become a better nutrient for his body.

The same went for his blood. The black star filtered and improved its structure before sending it back in the blood vessels. Noah felt his body becoming stronger after every full rotation of the sphere, but the cause wasn't a superior amount of energy.

Noah felt purer. The dark matter elevated his tissues and nutrients toward a higher form of existence, distancing him from the labels commonly used to evaluate hybrid bodies.

'Quantity, intensity, and purity,' Noah thought as he became aware of the immense strength that ran through his veins. 'The cultivation journey has forced me to pursue different goals as my rank improved. I'm elevating myself now.'

Noah faced the ceiling as he recalled the images seen during his dreams. He didn't open his eyes, but he saw the stars calling for him. Both his body and mind had begun to walk toward them.

'This is too different,' Noah realized at some point. His mind was strong enough to give him full control of his instincts, but not feeling them concerned him.

It was as if he had become something entirely different. He didn't feel like a hybrid anymore.

Noah blew on his hand, and the world around him lost its light for a second before a small flame landed on his palm. His fire had turned black, and it released an aura that darkened the air around it.

Its power was on a completely different level too. The remaining crystals from the chrysalis fell apart as soon as Noah's fire appeared in the room.

'What have I become?' Noah questioned himself, even if he was sure that there was no answer. There was nothing in nature that resembled his species anymore. He was the first of his kind, and his potential was unknown.

The Demonic Sword soon barged in the room and greeted him with happy roars. Noah had tasked the Hive to feed it while he was in seclusion, but its show of affection appeared far more intense than the previous times.

A series of sheets and items laid right in front of his mansion. The Hive had periodically delivered news and materials that he could use during his seclusion, and Noah didn't hesitate to sweep through them.

He couldn't understand how long he had spent inside the chrysalis. His mind had improved with the spherical rune, but he had yet to become used to its pace now that he was in the sixth rank.

The sheets quickly solved his doubts. He had spent fifty years in seclusion, which made him almost five hundred years old. Still, there were problems regarding the world's current situation and how that affected him.

Noah's return didn't go unnoticed, and many Elders of the Council had seen Skully flying together with an army of cultivators. Some had even noticed the runes on her body, and they couldn't help but link them to the legendary Kesier species.

The years after Noah's reappearance saw a stream of envoys coming to the Hive to request audiences and meetings. Noah's name often appeared in those, but the Elders dodged every question while they waited for him to come out of seclusion.

Chasing Demon and the other higher-ups had questioned Skully after Noah isolated himself. The incredible story of the hidden world and the spectacular events concerning its end made them gasp in surprise.

The fact that Noah had singlehandedly taken care of a divine being, freed the human troops, and destroyed an entire world left them speechless. Still, they had realized since that the Demon Prince's growth had surpassed their wildest expectations since his return.

Those events eventually caught the Elbas family's attention, which managed to gain access to pieces of information through spies and by bribing weaker cultivators.

The Royals almost went mad at the hint that the Hive owned specimens belonging to the Kesier species. Hordes of inscription masters let go of their hatred against Noah's recent actions and flew to the Hive to schedule meetings.

They even brought gifts in advance!

However, the Hive's Elders stalled their requests indefinitely, and the other forces soon understood that they had to wait for Noah to reappear before managing that matter.

Skully and the rebels went through a few rounds of inspections from Thirty-seven before moving in different environments. The human cultivators ended up in schools and academies under the domes and received special treatment to make up for their poor techniques.

Instead, the heroic experts and Skully chose to live among the hybrids and manage their lands. Elder Roy and other inscription masters accompanied them to explain how the inscription field had changed in the past years.

Moreover, they desperately needed new cultivation techniques that reflected their individuality. Skully's method had allowed them to reach the fifth and fourth ranks, but their power and battle prowess were lacking.

The sheets went on, listing a series of evaluations on the black metal and the current state of the reservoir of Kesier Apes, but Noah could only skip those parts when he saw June's name appearing on those reports.

Noah had seen her during the battle above the poisonous swamp, but his mind's condition was too poor to focus on multiple things. He had seen her wearing Eccentric Thunder's hats, but he didn't expect her situation to be as severe as the report stated.

King Elbas had even arrived shortly after, forcing him to seize the first chance that he found to leave that place.

The reports stated that June's condition had worsened after the battles ended. Surges of orange sparks had often shone in the sky above her quarters, and many experts from enemy nations had noticed that.

She had eventually become so unstable that the Royals sent her to the other Mortal Lands. The Hive didn't know the details behind that decision, but it seemed that she had refused any treatment from her organization's inscription masters.

Noah knew why June wouldn't let anyone come near her centers of power. Any inscription master would notice her higher energy at that point, and her life would end on the same day.

Still, the reports weren't over, and his eyes became cold when he read that hybrids had risen from the sea of the other Mortal Lands and were invading the landmass. Witnesses confirmed the presence of creatures in the sixth rank.

Chapter 1033 1033. Laughs

Chaos marched toward the landmass of the other Mortal Lands, and June happened to be there.

June didn't need saving. She had built her power on top of Eccentric Thunder's inheritance, but her individuality was only hers. There was the chance that she had even moved past the old cultivator's teachings after obtaining the higher energy and the book in Shandal's dimension.

Noah barely understood how her cultivation technique worked. He couldn't help her in that field. Yet, that didn't mean that he didn't want to be with her.

'I didn't notice it,' Noah thought as the images of his last battle appeared in his view. June was there, turned toward him as she stared at the destruction that he had unleashed.

The sporadic sparkle let off by his dark matter illuminated the part of her face that the large hat couldn't cover. Noah could only see half of her lips, but he saw no emotions in them.

'She didn't want me to notice,' Noah concluded, and the sheets in his hands turned into ashes as his dark heart spun faster. He felt uneasy whenever he recalled that half mouth.

Something serious was going on with her centers of power, and whatever it was, she didn't want Noah to be involved.

'She must have noticed my injuries,' Noah thought as he sat on the ground of the separate dimension. He didn't feel at fault for how her situation had evolved, but he wanted to do more for her.

They had been apart for too long, and Noah had finally reached the point when he could stop abiding by the rules of the political environment.

As for June, she had been in charge of her family for quite a while by then. The only problem was finding the right opportunity to escape the clutches of the Royals.

She knew too much about the underground activities of the Elbas family. Most structures of the academy granted access only to the Elbas bloodline, but she was the first on the list of cultivators to call in case there was dirty work to do.

It was time for the two of them to be together in the open, but they had to plan it thoroughly to respect their wishes.

Thirty-seven materialized next to him at some point, and the teleportation matrix near the mansion lit up before revealing the two Demons walking in his direction.

"Quite a show you pulled off down there," Flying Demons said. White flowers grew wherever he took a step, and ice spread on the ground around them. They radiated an eerie aura that appeared able to stabilize the environment of the dimension.

"Skully told us everything you did," Dreaming Demon said. The air of the dimension bent due to the mental waves surrounding her figure. It was as if it couldn't resist the authority that they carried.

Both Demons had improved during those years. Dreaming Demon was nearing the peak of the fifth rank, while Flying Demon had crossed the halfway mark of the solid stage.

Moreover, their auras were far more intense compared to those of experts at the same level. Their individualities were vast, and their ambition made justice to their divine Master.

"You look good," Noah said, revealing a faint smile.

"You look better," Flying Demon replied before letting out a short laugh.

Noah wished that he could catch up with them in front of a few jugs of good wine, but June's situation bothered him. He could use the rank 6 hybrids' invasion to look for her and see if he could be of any help.

"Planning to go somewhere?" Flying Demon said while wearing a wide smile. The ashes of the sheets were still there. He could understand the kind of reaction that Noah had after reading them.

"We have built the tunnel for the Utra nation," Dreaming Demon continued while using her hand to cover her soft laugh.

Noah felt confused only for an instant before understanding the situation and standing up to question the Demons. "Why would you want to come? There are creatures in the sixth rank there."

Dreaming Demon's aura surged, and Noah felt forced to expand his consciousness to maintain control of his body. The intensity of her pressure continued to rise until Noah saw it breaking through the limit of what rank 5 minds could express.

He had never heard of mental waves capable of such prowess. Even his mind had always been so predominant only because of its high level.

"I'm Divine Demon's disciple, Prince," Dreaming Demon said as her voice twisted inside her dense aura. "Surpassing limits is what we do."

"And we are so bored after cultivating here for centuries," Flying Demon added while releasing his usual laugh. "The Royals even cut us off from the battles for no reason. Still, your performance was amazing. I feel enlightened every time I hear the story of the lizard."

"Should I remind you that the lizard ended up in my stomach?" Noah replied as a smirk appeared on his face. It was pointless to convince the Demons to drop the matter. They would have died inside Divine Architect's dimension if they weren't the most stubborn cultivators that he had ever met.

"Can you three leave already?" Thirty-seven eventually said. "I'm too busy to waste time with maniacs."

Noah glanced at the automaton, and his sack of dark matter opened, revealing another piece of the black metal retrieved in the hidden world. Thirty-seven's ethereal eyes widened at that sight, and a smile quickly appeared on his face.

"I need more space-rings and a detailed description of the evolution of the fauna in the other world," Noah ordered, and the automaton disappeared, only to return a few minutes later with the items that he had requested.

"Just one last thing," Flying Demon said as he turned to look at Noah with a severe expression. "Don't tell me that swinging magical beasts is your new technique."

The sound of his laughs echoed through that area of separate dimension as the trio moved toward the teleportation matrix. The Demons told Noah funny anecdotes happened while he was away, and Noah went through his version of the hidden world's events.

Now that peace had spread among the three organizations again, they could use the dimensional portal freely. Yet, they decided to take the fastest path for the Utra nation since every expert in the world was looking for Noah.

The three of them reached the dimensional portal in a few weeks and found troops wearing golden armors deployed in front of it.

Their arrival alerted the troops who rose in the air to meet the trio, but the soldiers began to slow down when they became aware of their identity. There was only one rank 5 cultivator among the troops. The rest were soldiers in the fourth rank too scared to even look at the trio in the eyes.

"I-I need to see your authorization," The captain said with a trembling voice, but Noah and the Demons glared at him.

The captain didn't even last a few seconds before lowering his head and moving out of the way, leaving the path open.

Chapter 1034 1034. Doubts

Noah crossed the dimensional tunnel for the first time in centuries. He barely knew about the laws back then, but his eyes and mind could see them now.

There were no laws in the void. The trio leaked them as if it was a natural occurrence in that environment, and they dispersed once they crossed the ethereal walls of the tunnel.

Noah and the Demons could wield the laws, but they appeared unable to contain them when exposed to that blackness. They concluded that only gods could cross the void without being affected by its properties.

After all, they were only borrowing true meanings that existed in nature. They didn't produce them, and their individualities were too weak to contain them inside their centers of power.

That experience was new even for the Demons, and the group silently agreed to quicken their pace to avoid any problem.

A starry sky appeared in their vision when they crossed the exit. The various forces had dug the volcano away and built a fortress that protected the dimensional tunnel in those years.

A city unfolded around the fortress. That was the center of the new world's alien forces, so the many buildings had an orderly layout that resembled a military camp.

Many layers of protection surrounded the various quarters and progressively increased the number of defenses that the city had since they stretched till its peripheral areas. Tall walls encircled the whole settlement too, and many cultivators patrolled on top of them.

The other world had taken the colonization seriously. Noah and the Demons couldn't help but feel amazed when they thought about the resources invested in that place.

They immediately realized that even existences on their level would find it troublesome to breach all those defenses, let alone the fortress at their center. It felt surreal staring at the wonders that the four leading organizations could do when they worked together.

"This place has better defenses than Rufus' quarters," Flying Demon conveyed through his consciousness. The Copying Technique alone wasn't enough to match those countless protections stacked on each other.

Noah now understood why the forces deployed in that world didn't panic nor request help when the rank 6 hybrids rose from the sea. They didn't fear them.

That city was the only neutral area in the other world. It worked both as a big market and as the center of the teleportation matrices connected to the landmass's various research structures.

Ordinary cultivators would have to go through a series of procedures before being admitted to the teleportation matrices, but Noah and the Demons were far from standard experts. Mental messages flew faster than cultivators in the dimensional tunnel, so the other side's forces already knew about their arrival.

A series of rank 4 Elders of the Hive welcomed the trio with deep bows and invitations to banquets organized in their honor. Flying Demon felt inclined to accept those offers, but Noah and his lover's stern glances convinced him otherwise.

Their arrival created some tension among the forces deployed there, and Noah was the reason behind that event. The news of his actions above the poisonous swamp had reached the other world, and the cultivators of the Elbas family didn't see him in a good light.

Noah had destroyed an army of heroic cultivators that featured even experts in the liquid stage. Many of them were heads of specific branches of the Royal family, while others were factions' leaders inside that organization.

He had only needed a few minutes to ruin their future and disrupt the entire power balance inside the Elbas family. It felt only normal that many factions resented him.

However, the hateful gazes shot toward him from a distance weren't enough to make him waste time. He had come there for June and to hunt rank 6 creatures. The resentment of those cultivators didn't occupy his thoughts even once.

"Demon Prince," A peak rank 4 Elder of the Hive said as she kept her head lowered. "I can only describe what I've seen. I'm sorry that my expertise in the magical beasts' field isn't to your satisfaction."

Noah didn't answer and continued to read a thick pile of sheets that described the fauna's evolution from the Worldwide Heaven Tribulation until that day.

Thirty-seven had given him a similar report, but Noah wanted to hear it from the experts on the field too. The only problem was that the cultivator in charge at the moment had a limited cultivation level.

Noah had a significant doubt regarding the invasion of those powerful hybrids. Years had passed since the transformation, but only weak hybrids had come out of the sea before the attack.

That was normal since powerful beasts would often live far away from the landmass. Their natural habitats were the depths of the sea, where the echoes of Noah's cry couldn't reach.

There was a chance that a powerful creature had happened to swim near the coastline right at that moment, but that alone didn't explain the presence of three rank 6 hybrids leading a large-scale invasion.

Noah felt that there was something else. The other world was the perfect place to actuate unorthodox and condemned experiments since the news would reach the central powers slowly. Some of them might even go missing for mysterious reasons.

'Who would even create an army of hybrids on this level?' Noah questioned himself. Even if he found it easier to believe that experts had given birth to that pack, he couldn't find an explanation to justify their actions.

The Demons eventually joined him in that structure. They had gone to another department that handled espionage operations and kept track of most teleportation to investigate June.

"Here," Dreaming Demon handed Noah a report containing June's travels, and he saw that she had moved toward the other side of the landmass, right where the hybrids were resurfacing.

The report was seven years old though. June could have moved anywhere on the continent at that time.

"Do you think she is still there?" Flying Demon asked, but Noah shook his head.

"I think she went deeper into the danger zone," Noah explained as a smile appeared on his face. "A battle maniac solves problems by fighting."

"Shall we move then?" Dreaming Demon suggested without showing the slightest amount of fear. The fact that their target was inside a rank 6 danger zone didn't make her hesitate for even a second.

"Just one last thing," Noah said before his aura spread inside the entire room and cut off any form of communication. The expert in front of him almost fainted when his mental waves reached her mind, but Noah's piercing eyes kept her awake.

Then, his cold words reached her ears and forced her to be completely honest. "Do you think there is a rebellion brewing here?"

Chapter 1035 1035. Instabilities

June sat inside a cave dug under the broken palace where she, Noah, and Faith had met the last ancestor. A large metallic hat laid on her head and the flow of energy inside her Perfect Circuit became smoother whenever it neared her inscribed item.

The roars of hundreds of magical beasts and hybrids echoed through the ceiling and walls of her cave, and countless heavy steps made the whole island tremble.

She was in the middle of the invading pack, and she didn't reach that position by chance. June had flown on the opposite side of the continent to remain alone, but she had pressed forward once she learnt about the hybrids.

Being among experts in her current state was akin to exposing her higher energy, and June had to protect that secret to avoid the consequences of her betrayal.

She had to protect her relationship with Noah too, but her priority now was to fix herself without being exposed.

The truth was that the instability of her energy was her fault. She had failed to comprehend how powerful the higher energy would become when paired with her insatiable battle drive.

June had replaced her "Breath" with her dark sparks. Her centers of power expressed her individuality and used higher energy as fuel for her abilities and their expansion.

However, June was only human. Her centers of power couldn't endure the magnitude of her energy because their level was too low compared to the strength that she was capable of unleashing.

The True Thunder Body didn't help her either. The dark sparks didn't exactly belong to the lightning element, and Eccentric Thunder didn't predict that his heir would gain access to such powerful energy so soon.

It was an issue of power output. June's Perfect Circuit couldn't handle all that violent energy since she was a cultivator in the liquid stage of the fifth rank.

The issue became even more significant when her individuality came into play. June was a battle maniac, and her centers of power would produce more energy as her fights continued. That put even more stress on her, which made the power surges inevitable.

June would have been able to suppress her instabilities completely if she stopped cultivating. No higher energy through her Perfect Circuit meant no more power surges. Yet, that solution only worked if she halted her progress forever.

As soon as she started cultivating again, the instabilities would return.

June couldn't possibly accept to see her cultivation journey end. She would rather die trying to find another way than live the rest of her days as an expert incapable of using her power.

She only regretted not spending more time with Noah. Yet, she didn't want to burden him with her mistake, which was why she hid her condition when he assaulted the battlefield.

'What did you even do to injure your mind?' June thought. Noah rarely showed anything other than his cold face in the open, so he had revealed that there was something wrong with him when he massaged his temples.

Of course, many wouldn't even bother to analyze that gesture, especially when there was the corpse of a rank 6 beast hanging from his hands. However, June had noticed it, just as Noah had seen that her stern expression hid her grave condition.

The sounds of steps intensified before calming down all of a sudden. June could sense that the pack had taken the island as its lair. Her prediction of where the beasts would stop had turned out to be true.

June planned to force a breakthrough, and she could only do that by putting her life on the line. She needed a desperate battle, something that could push her far beyond her usual limits.

She had initially thought to fight any creature that she found, but then the pack led by three rank 6 hybrids arrived, as well as her chance. June would fight it until her Perfect Circuit improved, or her higher energy overwhelmed her centers of power.

It was a desperate action, but the only solution that she had. Noah's face appeared in her mind one last time before she shot outside of the cave, and dark sparks surrounded her body.

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Noah and the Demons activated a teleportation matrix inside the city while wearing solemn expressions. Noah's guts had been on point. According to the expert in the magical beasts' field, rumors about a rebellion echoed in the other world.

It was only typical for forces distant from the main branches to feel separated from them. It had been the same in the Coral Archipelago, with the only difference that there were kilometers of void dividing the interest parties at that time.

The rebels only needed to block the dimensional tunnel's exit to separate the two Mortal Lands forever, and the defenses in the city had enough power to stop even powerhouses.

'Rebellions inspire rebellions,' Noah thought as a different scenery appeared in his eyes. The Hive had shown that the world's leading forces were vulnerable and could lose with the right tools, so anyone with some ambition dreamt of doing the same.

If his guess was right, the sudden appearance of such powerful hybrids wasn't a natural event. A threat on that level would keep most troops busy if it ever were to reach the city.

Noah and the Demons reappeared in a structure of the Hive dedicated to the capture and enslavement of hybrids. It was similar to the hunting guild in Noah's past, but with hunters in the heroic ranks.

The trio had chosen that place for its position on the other side of the continent. From there, they could reach the area invaded by the pack in a few weeks.

The hunters wanted to hold a banquet in their honor and show how valuable that structure was, but Noah didn't care, and the Demons followed his lead.

The three of them set off immediately and flew toward the island where Noah had met the last ancestor. The latest reports stated that the pack had halted its advance and that the leaders had returned inside the sea.

That was the perfect moment to attack and skim their ranks, but the city sent no assets as if the forces there knew that a revolution was brewing.

Noah activated the Divine Deduction technique as he flew. He didn't do it to study the political situation there, but to analyze his techniques.

His mind and body were in the sixth rank now, and the improvements they brought to Noah's prowess were immense. He only needed to make his techniques able to use that new power.

The most significant changes had happened in his body. He felt stronger after every rotation of the dark star in his chest, and his entire being became purer thanks to his new heart's effects.

Noah had initially thought that it would take a while to find traces of his lover, but the scene found on the island changed his mind. The trio reached their target only to see hundreds of magical beasts' corpses filling the red ground.

Chapter 1036 1036. Lead

'June,' Noah thought when he saw the island filled with magical beasts' corpses. Even among those bodies, his nose smelled her peculiar scent, confirming that she had been behind that slaughter.

There were many dead creatures at the peak of the fifth rank on the ground and countless more in the lower ranks. Noah felt surprised to learn that June could unleash such power. After all, she technically was a liquid stage expert.

Cultivators on that level could deal with stronger magical beasts quickly, but there were hundreds of corpses on the ground. Even with her higher energy, June must have gone all out to defeat that army.

Noah could immediately understand that she was up to something reckless. He wouldn't mind it in normal times, but her actions appeared desperate. It was as if her life depended on them.

The dark star on his chest began to spin faster as soon as he had that impression. His consciousness expanded, and his thoughts became instincts that he could understand without turning them into words.

His mind processed traces and clues at an unbelievable speed. It skimmed through any input found by his body and consciousness with the only purpose of understanding where June had gone.

Noah felt as if he had activated the Divine Deduction technique, with the only difference that his body had started that process independently. It had reacted to Noah's intentions and had empowered the features that made his innate awareness.

It took him less than a minute to find the trail of smell that carried June's distinct scent and discover that it led to the sea. To his surprise, Noah didn't feel any anger when the Heaven's Spark's odor reached his nostril.

'Am I even a hybrid anymore?' Noah couldn't help but think as he led the way for the Demons. The three of them dived into the sea and waited for Noah to find more traces.

There were other magical beasts' corpses in the sea. Their maimed bodies floated in those murky waters, leaving a trail of death that the trio hoped led to Noah's lover.

The pack was far greater than the reports said, or it had been at least. June had killed hundreds of creatures in the fourth and fifth rank, without leaving even one specimen alive.

Noah and the Demons didn't even know if the rest of the pack existed. The only certain news concerned the existence of three leaders in the sixth rank that didn't reappear since they vanished in the sea.

'Is she going after them?' Noah wondered, but he couldn't believe that June had become so reckless. If she did, it was because her situation was utterly hopeless, and she was looking for a miracle.

That realization made him even more focused on finding her, which pushed his dark star to spin even faster. His senses reached a level of sharpness that made him see June's traces on the laws around him.

Noah felt surprised by the abilities of his body. He believed that part of his astonishment came from his first real appreciation of the sixth rank, but something told him that he had become even more unique.

His new heart made him a peculiar being, but that wasn't his most fantastic feature. He felt as if his body was actively pushing him to become stronger without requiring any fuel.

That went far beyond the inherent advantage of the magical beasts. Those creatures had an easy path, but Noah's body explored that field further. Its constant purification was a sort of preparation for Noah's ascension!

The trio continued to follow June's traces until they sensed a wave of energy coming from the seabed.

Noah didn't even warn the Demons at that point. He directly shot toward the depths of the sea, creating a series of shockwaves that spread on the seabed and gave birth to an earthquake.

Even the simple act of sprinting made nature in awe of his strength. He had become a natural calamity that had to hold back to live among cultivators now.

That event forced the Demons to activate defensive spells, which deflected the might of the shockwave. Meanwhile, Noah reached the bottom of the sea in an instant only to find a cloud of black sparks moving forward.

Noah was about to dive toward it when his instincts warned him of the presence of multiple life forms at some distance from him.

His innate awareness gave him a complete view of the lair. He saw an even more numerous gathering of magical beasts, and he sensed the three powerful leaders resting right at their center.

'Hydras,' Noah thought when he saw those creatures. The leaders of the pack were three Seven-headed Hydras in the lower tier of the sixth rank!

Noah's thoughts processed all the pieces of information concerning that species as he resumed his descent toward the crackling cloud.

Hydras were peculiar. Their potential depended on the number of heads, which meant that those leaders could reach the seventh rank at best. Also, they shared many traits with dragon-like and snakes-like species, being right under them when it came to their bodies' strength.

They had different innate abilities too, one for each head, which made them quite troublesome to face. Yet, Heaven and Earth's fairness made them quite dumb, forcing them to remain isolated on the dark corners of the sea's depths.

Hydras were extinct in the other world, but no one missed them since they brought more troubles than value. The only issue was that they had become hybrids in those Mortal Lands, solving their only natural weakness.

Noah felt even more convinced that someone was behind their transformation. Those creatures would have never come near the coastlines, and it wasn't in their genes to form such diversified packs. He had even started to believe that someone had instructed them to act in that way.

Of course, that was purely hypothetical. Many experts capable of brainwash rank 6 hybrids, even if they had newborns' minds and were stupid by nature.

He would understand if one of the powerhouses had gone through the dimensional portal in those years, but the records said otherwise.

Noah dived through the array of dark sparks, destroying them with his bare body, and landing right behind the figure that had appeared walking inside the cloud.

June stopped when she sensed that familiar aura. Part of her felt warm thinking that she couldn't hide anything from her lover, but the rest of her didn't like that he had arrived right before her final act.

"You shouldn't be here," June spoke, and her works became sharp sparks that exploded in the water around her, echoing her voice.

Noah could sense from her tone how unwell she felt, but he didn't understand how her Perfect Circuit worked even when he analyzed it with his new mind.

He noticed June's cultivation level. She radiated the power of an expert that had almost reached the peak of the fifth rank, even if her centers of power only reflected her status as a liquid stage cultivator.

Chapter 1037 1037. Drug

"You'll die if you go against them," Noah conveyed through his consciousness, but June didn't turn. She continued to walk forward with her head hidden under her giant hat.

Most of June's superior battle prowess came from her higher energy. She was like Snore, capable of surpassing the level of her centers of power because her fuel was far superior to the "Breath". The only problem was that June's individuality pushed that advantage further, making her Perfect Circuit unable to withstand her power anymore.

Noah couldn't understand much from a simple glance, but he noticed how June's body seemed on the verge of exploding. Her centers of power didn't have the time to push the higher energy outside of her that more black sparks formed inside them.

"Why did you try to hide this from me?" Noah asked as he raised his voice. The cloud of black sparks dispersed due to the sound's intensity, and the water retreated, creating an empty area right in the middle of the sea's depths.

June stopped at that point, but she didn't turn. Her perfect circuit began to leak higher energy again, but Noah's consciousness expanded and dispersed the second cloud while it kept the water around them still.

The more June avoided answering his questions, the more Noah understood how severe her condition was.

"I can't help you if you don't tell me what the problem is," Noah said, but a power surge suddenly spread from June's body and gave birth to another crackling could.

Noah saw how June turned to face him even if her hat kept her face hidden. She remained silent for a while before deciding to speak for the first time. "You can't help me."

Noah remained silent as he waited for June to continue. She only hesitated a few more seconds before explaining. "If you fix this for me, I'll feel defeated forever."

Small help wouldn't affect her, and Noah lending a hand to create her higher energy wasn't a vital matter. Yet, June's life depended on her ability to fix her condition at that time, and she couldn't let anyone but her taking credit for that.

If Noah saved her life, she would lose her desire to fight him. Her individuality only needed a crack to fall apart, and Noah understood that after her words.

"Do you think that dying is the solution?" Noah asked. He wasn't ready to give up on June. There were ways in which he could help her without endangering the integrity of her individuality.

"This is the only way," June answered, spreading her arms to indicate the crackling cloud. "I need to force breakthroughs to contain this power."

Noah couldn't help but sigh when he heard that. June had chosen to act as a true battle maniac, but her odds of succeeding were horrible. Cultivators couldn't just force breakthroughs in the heroic ranks. The Royal pool wouldn't be so miraculous otherwise.

"Is there nothing else you can do?" Noah asked as he began to walk toward her. The black sparks tried to destroy his robe, but his dark matter fended them off.

"I-. You can't." June said while she tried to suppress her voice. Noah saw her holding back from speaking and shot forward, shattering the remaining cloud and pushing the waters backward again.

June didn't move even when his hand went on her hat to lift it. Noah saw messy hair falling everywhere on his lover's face as he removed that heavy inscribed item.

June's furrowed brows and closed eyes revealed the pain that she had been enduring in her condition. She dropped her act and her mouth and joined the rest of her face in expressing her suffering.

Noah had never seen her in that condition. She seemed on the verge of collapsing, and all her efforts were on making sure that her Perfect Circuit held strong.

"Let it go," Noah said as he caressed her face. June shook her head, but her expression eased up when his hand touched her cheek.

The couple remained in that position for a while, immersed in the sensation that they had been unable to feel for centuries. Noah didn't feel his arousal, but his mind calmed down when he touched her, and his dark heart spun faster.

His creation spiked when he came in contact with the woman at the foundation of his idea of life. Noah had expressed so much destruction lately that he had almost forgotten how intense that harmonious calm was.

June's hands rose to hold his, and her expression relaxed as a wave of higher energy came out of her Perfect Circuit. The black sparks were violent and threatened to hurt her body with their momentum, but they slowed down when Noah focused his mind on them.

Noah's consciousness forced the higher energy to condense and leave June's body in an orderly way. That was all the power that she had accumulated during her recent battles, so he had to disperse it to stabilize her condition.

Minutes slowly passed until, eventually, June's Perfect Circuit became devoid of any energy.

June's heaved a sigh and staggered when she felt empty, but Noah's hand was firm, and she could cling to it to keep her balance. Her eyes opened for the first time and reflected the reptilian pupils fixed on her orange irises.

Except for the scales, Noah's appearance didn't change much after the chrysalis. Still, June could notice the small details that the breakthrough had modified.

His icy-blue irises had slightly enlarged and irradiated the white of his eyes with that bright color. He had become taller, and his skin resembled hot metal that didn't have any crease on its surface.

Waves of heats filled his body whenever the dark star in his chest completed a rotation. His muscles were more pronounced, but only slightly. They didn't ruin the harmony that he expressed.

Instead, June didn't change much. Her look appeared a bit more mature, but she was still the young battle maniac met after the entrance test of the Academy in Noah's eyes.

She had lost weight, and her face revealed how tired she was, but those were only the effects of her condition.

The couple stared at each other for a while before they went for each other's lips and exchanged a slow kiss. They eventually separated to embrace each other and lose themselves in the feeling that their hug triggered.

"What are your other options?" Noah asked once he felt that she had completely relaxed and didn't risk activating her Perfect Circuit again.

"Dying in a massive battle against creatures in the sixth rank is a great option," June said, and Noah felt her mouth breaking into a smirk on his chest. "Are you sure you don't want to consider it?"

"I'm sorry," Noah said, "My stomach has booked those hybrids. You need to find another way."

June laughed, but her expression turned serious, and she left her chest to stare at Noah's eyes again. When she sensed the feelings that they contained, she couldn't help but reveal everything to him. "The Royal Academy has developed this new drug..."

Chapter 1038 1038. Rebels

"You want to raid the Royal Academy?!" Flying Demon shouted when he heard what June had in mind.

Noah had taken her away from the seabed, and the Demons had returned to the island with them. They sat on the floor of the destroyed castle now, and a few jugs of wine stood between the two couples.

"The Royals have developed a drug that improves the sturdiness of the centers of power," June said as she shot an annoyed glance at Noah. He was filling her body with dark matter to prevent another outburst of energy, but his heavy consciousness made June feel uneasy.

June had explained her second option to Noah and the Demons. The Elbas family had studied the ancestors' compound for centuries by then, and it had created many exceptional items by reverse-engineering its structure.

One of them was a potion that increased the sturdiness of the centers of power by fusing magical beasts' features into their structure. Its effects replicated the transformation on limited areas of the body, improving its overall functioning.

June's Perfect Circuit would become able to bear her higher energy in that way. The only problem was that the Elbas family kept all their prototypes and recent creations in a restricted area. Only the members of the Elbas bloodline had access to them.

As for turning her into a hybrid, Noah couldn't. June's individuality was a big issue, and she would feel in debt to her lover forever, which was an even greater problem.

"She has the expertise to break the defensive formations," Noah said once he finished applying a layer of dark matter around the cores and weak spots of the Perfect Circuit. June had pointed them before, so his work had been thorough.

June had chosen an old book full of teachings on the formation field as a reward from Shandal's dimension. Unknowingly to the Royals, her expertise had grown immensely, and her unique position made her aware of the defenses in place around the restricted areas of the new Academy.

"You forget one big problem," Dreaming Demon said when she understood the whole situation. "What stops King Elbas from appearing and killing you on the spot?"

June bit her lower lip at that question. King Elbas was the only reason why she didn't use the second option as her main strategy. The threat of the strongest powerhouse in the world was something that she couldn't ignore just because she was desperate.

It was better to try her luck against the magical beasts. Even with awful odds, she had more chances of succeeding there than in getting past King Elbas.

The Demons and June stared at the bottom of their empty cups as they pondered about the matter. She didn't have many choices. She could either jump into a deadly mission or rot at her current level forever.

"I can get him out of the scene for a while," Noah eventually said, and the questioning eyes of the three experts went to him.

Countless experts had tried to set up meetings with him to ask about the Kesier Ape spotted during his return. The best inscription master in the world would be interested in the topic too.

As for how he planned to make King Elbas leave the surface, that was the easy part. Noah only needed to lie.

The group had to solve one problem before devoting all their attention to June. The forces deployed in those Mortal Lands were planning a revolt, and an army with three rank 6 Seven-headed Hydras was waiting to invade.

Noah even linked the origin of the revolution to some faction of the Elbas family now. After all, June had just confirmed that the Royals had made significant advancements in that field. Their discoveries could be behind the sudden appearance of hybrids from the bottom of the sea.

Of course, June wouldn't join Noah and the Demons in that mission. She had to remain put until they solved the situation and returned to the main world.

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Noah and the Demons built a large cave in the seabed and used a few simple inscriptions to keep the water outside. They even had separate areas, so both couples could have intimate moments and cultivate in peace.

The group had decided to refrain from charging at the pack to study the situation. They had to prepare a battle plan anyway, and they had taken the chance to see if Noah's hypotheses held some ground.

If rebel forces were behind the sudden invasion, someone would eventually instruct the hybrids about their new task. Waiting there for something to happen didn't hurt anyone as long as the pack didn't move.

Dreaming Demon was in charge of analyzing the situation. Her individuality allowed her consciousness to spread farther than Noah's awareness. Moreover, he was busy meditating and catching up with June.

His mind and body were amazing, and he had yet to explore their full potential. Still, he had the time to focus on his techniques now, and his creation surpassed its old level since June was there.

Noah focused mostly on improving the spells required for his techniques, namely the Shadow Copy and the Merging spell. They were the cores of his offensive and movement, so he had to make them suitable for his new physical strength.

He even pondered about his elements from time to time. He needed only light to complete his full mastery, but Daniel's individuality was far different from his.

Only a month passed before something happened, and Noah didn't manage to improve even when using the Divine Deduction technique.

"Someone is coming," Dreaming Demon warned the group with her consciousness, and the three of them left the cave to move toward the pack. June remained behind because she had to abstain from using her centers of power.

The trio reached the pack silently, hidden by Dreaming Demon's mental waves. A rank 5 cultivator appeared in their vision, and she descended through the dark waters to near the hybrids.

The woman wore a golden armor and held a long wand in her hand. A shining red crystal stood on top of her inscribed item, and its light forced the creatures to lower their heads. Even the three hydras didn't dare to look at her directly.

Noah and the Demons exchanged a glance, and Dreaming Demon's mental waves expanded, affecting the waters and spreading until they reached the expert.

The woman lost her balance for a moment before her expression became dull. Then, she started to walk toward the trio, uncaring that some creatures had lifted their heads after her departure.

Once she regained her consciousness, she found three pairs of cold eyes fixed on her.

The woman belonged to the Elbas family, but her expression lit up in joy after seeing Noah, and she began to speak before the trio could start questioning her. "So it's true! You are the protector of the revolutions! Have you come to help us rebelling?"

Chapter 1039 1039. Rebellion

Noah had to admit that he didn't expect that type of answer from the rebel. He and the Demons were scary existences capable of exerting immense pressure, but the expert was only ecstatic to see them.

"I'm Angela Elbas," The expert said, "I'm the leader of the research team sent here by the Royal Academy. It's my honor to ask the hero of the Hive to join our revolution."

She had the aspect of a middle-aged woman with long blonde hair and brown eyes. Her facial features showed how her bloodline was quite distant from the main branch of the Royals.

The Demons turned to look at Noah, but the latter kept his eyes on Angela. Many thoughts surged in his mind, and some of them considered an eventual alliance with the rebelling forces.

However, he didn't see how helping them could benefit the Hive or their ally. It would be different if they could manage to seize control of the entire dimensional portal, but only King Elbas knew how it worked.

It was a battle lost before even starting. The Royals' leader had the most valuable and irreplaceable asset in his grasp. The revolt was hopeless unless the rebels didn't want to return to the other world at all.

Noah could never agree to that condition. The other world's value was immense due to the piece of Immortal Lands, and it had all the threats that he needed to feel pressured enough to advance.

"We only need to reach the dimensional crack," Angela continued with a voice full of excitement. "The forces on the other side will have no hope to reach this world once the only access is gone. We can reshape this continent in a paradise for cultivators led by a united organization."

The trio could understand that Angela's belief was solid, but they had seen too much to know that it was only a dream. Cultivators would often betray and kill to seize more profits, and every organization would eventually face internal battles and revolts.

Noah and the Demons remained silent as they exchanged glances, and Angela didn't fail to understand that something was wrong. Their expressions didn't become warmer, and their cold eyes didn't accept her as one of their kind.

Only at that point did Angela consider that the legendary Noah Balvan wasn't a protector of the oppressed nor a champion of the rebels. She saw the real him for the first time.

Noah wouldn't care about the revolution unless it benefitted him, but he was interested in the study that had led to the creation of those hybrids.

Angela's wand was in Dreaming Demon's hands, and she studied it while the three of them tried to understand how to use that situation better. The most obvious option would be to use their prisoner to find the other rebels, but they had to retrieve many studies before making their move.

However, they had underestimated Angela's faith. As soon as she understood that the trio wasn't going to help the revolution, she activated an inscribed item hidden inside her body.

The trio saw a series of tattoos appearing on her uncovered skin. They depicted chains that spread on her hands and neck before releasing a humming sound.

The wand's crystal began to shine when the humming noise resounded in the area, and the creatures in the distance started to release angry roars as it continued to echo.

One by one, the chains on Angela's body broke, and the intensity of the humming sound increased, agitating more creatures in the pack. The crystal's light became more intense too, and its radiance only made the beasts in the distance angrier.

The trio acted quickly. Dreaming Demon's mental waves spread to suppress the noise, Flying Demon froze the entire area, and Noah stomped Angela's face, reducing it into ashes and creating a large fissure in the seabed.

Nevertheless, their actions couldn't stop the following series of events. Their reactions had been immediate, but they didn't expect Angela's tattoos. Even Dreaming Demon didn't sense then, which meant that they had some concealing properties.

Noah and the Demons couldn't have seen them coming, but they understood what their activation had caused.

The scepter appeared out of control, and its crystal started to tremble, as if ready to explode. Noah was about to punch it, but Flying Demon gestured him to stop and used his individuality to freeze the item.

Meanwhile, the creatures in the distance rose from the seabed and turned in the red halo's direction. Their eyes and senses locked on the three cultivators still illuminated by that light before charging at them.

Noah quickly seized Angela's space-rings and stored her body to see if it hid some other secret. Then, he took a step forward, ready to face the massive army of powerful creatures swimming in his direction.

"Do we dispatch it?" Flying Demon asked while his lover stored the scepter. He wasn't an expert in the field, so he wondered whether there was a chance to do something productive with those creatures.

"The echo didn't stop in this area," Dreaming Demon said. "A dense part shot somewhere toward the landmass."

'She has warned the rebels,' Noah thought as the dark star in his chest spun faster. There was a high chance that the rebellion had already started, so they had to focus on weakening their enemies.

"Can you take care of one of them?" Noah asked while the three Seven-headed Hydras surpassed the rest of their pack to reach them.

"Can you take care of two of them?" Flying Demon said while exploding in a laugh. The Demons' auras surged at that point, and their individualities spread through the sea, creating personal areas filled with their laws.

Instead, Noah charged ahead, ignoring the threat that the three rank 6 hybrids posed to him. Something inside him told him that he had nothing to fear in a direct clash, and he was going to test his body's prowess anyway.

The first Hydra pounced at him with its four meters tall heads. Those specimens were huge and had long necks that stretched for more than twenty meters. They even had four thick fins that granted them good speed.

Noah didn't have access to his techniques, but he had enough assets to be deadly against creatures at that level. Sharp teeth filled his vision as the heads pounced at him, but he didn't change direction.

The Demons saw Noah slapping the head in front of him away and proceeding forward, leaving that hydra to them. His targets were the other two leaders that had fallen slightly behind.

As for the countless creatures in the heroic ranks behind the three leaders, Noah didn't even consider them as opponents. It would be strange if their joint attack could leave a dent on his skin.

In his chest, the dark star began to rotate at an unbelievable speed when he saw fourteen scaled heads attacking him. The dangerous feeling finally appeared in his mind at that point, but his mouth was already open, and the world lost its light for an instant.

Chapter 1040 1040. Starry sky

Noah didn't notice some flames' features right after the chrysalis, but they became impossible to miss when he used them in an attack.

He had avoided testing his abilities in the open after the breakthrough. After all, his attacks were on the powerhouses' level, so he needed a special training area to unleash them fully.

His dantian was still in the solid stage, but he could destroy entire regions with his bare hands now that his body had reached the sixth rank. His quarters couldn't contain him anymore, and even the separate dimension would suffer if he went wild inside it.

A tide of black flames spread among the depths of the sea and sucked the dim light that managed to reach those areas. The water burned as Noah's fire created a dark zone that made the Hydras and the pack behind them blind.

A few lights began to appear among that violent blackness. They were small flashes that illuminated the environment and shone on the crying creatures that had been unlucky enough to touch the flames.

It was as if a starry sky had appeared in the depths of the sea. Noah's innate ability had given birth to a scene that many would admire in awe.

The flames surprised Noah too, and they gave him hints on the being that he had become after the chrysalis. The properties of the Light-devouring Dragons had remained, but his existence had affected the nature of his innate ability.

It was as if the last breakthrough made him reach a real harmony in his fusion. His abilities weren't skills inherited by a different beast anymore. They were part of his bloodline, which appeared to be superior to any other life form in the world.

The Hydras roared in pain when the flames engulfed them. Noah's attack's prowess surpassed every magical beast's innate ability and stepped into the realm of the powerhouses. It had the power of a spell!

The water didn't do anything to weaken the black flames. They burned the scaled skin of the Hydras and limited their movements by injuring their fins. Yet, they managed to suppress the pain to counterattack. Noah saw fourteen reptilian heads spreading their mouth and launching various attacks directed at him.

Each of the Hydras' heads could unleash a different ability, but they remained specimens with a water aptitude. They had various attacks that shared the same element.

'They are smart,' Noah thought as he stared at the attacks. Heat, cold, poison, pressure, pulling force, deafening noises, and mental waves came out of their mouths and landed on him.

Noah didn't have time to dodge, but the water around him began to burn as his body's temperature rose. His dark matter also came out and applied a layer of protection.

The Hydras had been smart enough to counterattack instead of letting him take the initiative. Still, that wasn't enough to defeat him.

The attacks pierced his defenses and landed on his body. Noah felt a wave of pain spreading through his skin, and many cuts appeared, but nothing went past his muscles.

The fake "Breath" inside the hybrids' attacks dispersed as soon as it entered in contact with the heat released by the dark star. It rotated so fast that its innate gravitational pull absorbed all the energy released by the creatures' offensive.

Noah felt the cuts closing when his dark star processed and purified that energy. His rotating heart had diverted all the functions of his body on the healing process, making it able to fix his injuries in a matter of minutes.

An intense sensation of power filled Noah as he began to realize how much his body had improved. His strength and abilities were superior to his peers, but that was only a secondary effect of its main feature.

The dark star didn't only purify and elevate his whole being. It worked as fuel too, which put him on a different league compared to creatures on a similar level. It was as if magical beasts and hybrids used coal to function while he had already gained access to nuclear energy!

That didn't translate into an immense strength, but it improved all his body's functions to an unmatchable level. Moreover, the dark star reacted to the inputs generated by his mind without the need of thinking.

His instincts had become a silent brain that controlled the behavior of the dark star.

Noah had protected the Demonic Sword with his arms during the impact, but the power of his body made him understand that he couldn't use his living weapon until he adjusted his control. There was the chance that he would have to wait until it improved before wielding it again.

However, that didn't mean that it couldn't help him in battle. The Demonic Sword could fight alongside him.

The living weapon roared as he threw it upward. Snore formed around him, and the Demonic Sword stopped right above the battlefield, ready to support him.

Noah shot forward, uncaring of the fact that the Hydras had resumed their offensive. Fourteen attacks of various nature engulfed his figure, but they couldn't even leave a mark on his body after Snore weakened them.

Black smoke rose from his skin and covered him in a spiked armor that enhanced his already impressive physical prowess. The Hybrids were powerless to stop him in front of such a display of power.

Noah swam through the attacks and slashed with his clawed hands when he reached one head. Deep marks appeared on it, and a large part of its mouth fell apart after the impact. Green blood tainted the water too, but Noah's offensive wasn't over.

The corrosive smoke spread in the reptilian head's insides, and a dark cloud covered the whole upper part of the creature. With the black flames still burring around its lower body, the Hydra was entirely at his mercy.

Snore unleashed its elemental attacks, and the Demonic Sword launched countless slashes toward the cloud. The injured head could only endure that oppressing offensive, granting Noah the chance to cover it with a series of punches.

It took him only a few attacks to destroy that head, and Noah moved toward the next one at that point, spewing more flames to force the creature into a passive stance.

The other Hydra felt troubled. Its heads tried to bite Noah, but he was too small to catch when it swam among its companion's necks. Its instincts would generally tell it to unleash attacks anyway, but it didn't want to hurt the other leader.

As for Noah, he used the advantage given by his size to its fullest. He always remained close to his first target's heads or necks, making it impossible to catch.

One by one, the number of intact heads began to diminish. Noah punched, slashed, and spewed flames as he danced around the thick necks. His battle style was flawless and exploited all the weaknesses of that species while considering the improvements given by their hybrid status.

It seemed that the rebels didn't teach them any spells, so their intelligence only prevented them from hurting each other as they tried to catch him.