

DEMONIC 1381

Chapter 1381 1381. Proud

Noah had to avoid entering Divine Demon and Boss Van's range during his search for the enemy troops. He couldn't lower his guard for even a second when two experts at that level fought.

After his cover vanished, everyone could see him moving through the forest.

"Could you not announce me when my opponent is an entire platoon?" Noah asked in an annoyed tone.

"Go and make me proud, my heir," Divine Demon replied before moving his attention on Boss Van again.

It didn't matter how intensely Noah stared at Divine Demon. The expert ignored him to focus on his opponent and prepare for the next attack. Noah remained alone in the middle of the enemy gazes.

"Take care of him quickly and help me," Boss Van said before focusing on Divine Demon.

Chief Ash and the other underlings didn't hesitate to prepare spells after that order. All their attacks would aim at Noah to make sure that he died as fast as possible.

'Why do I even surround myself with maniacs?' Noah thought as a loud sigh escaped his mouth.

Noah had located the troops after their first wave of attacks toward Divine Demon. They had cloaking devices, but they could make them invisible after they discharged such a massive amount of energy.

He only needed to expand his consciousness to see that those troops were pointing at him as "Breath" amassed inside their bodies. Something massive was about to arrive, and Noah felt that he couldn't dodge it.

'Luckily, I have come prepared,' Noah thought as he bent his legs and crouched toward the enemy army.

Multicolored lights shot out of the group and flew toward Noah, but his figure disappeared before those spells could hit him. Chief Ash and the others couldn't see him anymore, but a loud clash resounded among their ranks and made them turn toward the source of that noise.

The various Chiefs turned and saw that one of their companions in the liquid stage had vanished. Noah had appeared in his place, and countless patches of fresh blood covered his robe.

No injury had appeared on his body. That blood didn't belong to him, but the other cultivators couldn't find its source. Then, they noticed that one of their six liquid stage cultivators had disappeared.

Fear and disbelief filled their minds when they considered the possibility that Noah had killed one of their strongest members in less than an instant. They couldn't explain how that was possible on multiple levels. They didn't even see Noah move when the spells crashed on his previous position.

'The movement technique works well,' Noah thought as that blood flowed inside his separate space.

The rest of the expert's body also was inside his black hole. Noah had used his movement technique to reach him and destroy his head before he could activate any annoying defensive spells.

Noah had to leave something for later when he meditated inside the Hellish Landscape. Making use of the red crystals retrieved in the Evolution Pit would take too long, and he didn't want to keep Chief Ash waiting for too long.

Still, he had improved core aspects of his battle style, and one of them was his movement technique.

Noah couldn't use his movement technique in the Immortal Lands before. The world's fabric was too thick for him, and opening a path through its structure was impossible at his previous level.

Yet, the breakthrough to the liquid stage had opened the path for various improvements. The Divine Deduction technique could also show its real power, so solving that issue didn't take him long.

The previous movement technique made use of multiple abilities to work. Noah fused his physical might, his Merging spell, and his sharpness to create a hole through the world's structure and cross a vast distance instantly.

The new technique didn't involve any dimensional travel. Noah had taken inspiration from Night to create that version of his ability. When he shot forward, he used his physical might to bring the Merging spell to a superior level that turned him into an invisible sword.

Noah wasn't untouchable anymore when he sprinted, but the new version of his technique featured a far higher speed and allowed him to conserve more momentum during his offensive. The liquid stage cultivator he had targeted couldn't even react before his body transformed into meat pulp.

Dark matter and corrosive smoke came out of Noah's skin before the other experts could attack. The dark world unfolded in the area, and two layers of his fiendish armor covered his figure.

The cultivators in the gaseous stage weren't a problem. Noah could handle them easily, even without the dark world. Yet, he needed that technique to take care of the Chiefs.

His movement technique was deadly in a one versus one situation, but he couldn't rely on its power with five liquid stage experts focusing on him. He needed all his abilities for that battle.

A wave of suppression fell on the guild's experts. Their laws felt weaker inside that dark environment, but they didn't let the darkness divine them. A few spells flew out from the group, but those cultivators soon stopped trying to pierce that technique.

The dark world could move as it wished. The dark matter was resilient energy that followed Noah's orders. The guild's group did not have a chance to leave that technique without giving Noah an opportunity to strike.

Seconds of silence passed inside the dark world as the group waited for something to happen. They saw shadows flying through the darkness, but they never managed to understand their features.

Low roars spread through the dark world as the group waited. They knew that something was about to arrive, and they were ready to face it.

A few reptilian heads became visible among the dark matter as dragons made entirely of higher energy charged at the group of cultivators. They were all magical beasts in the middle tier created through the workshop, but a black radiance came out of their almost empty eyes.

The second part of Noah's seclusion had involved the workshop. Noah had learnt how to complete the blueprint needed for the workshop after his battle with Lady Lena, so he could now use his expertise to create different and more complicated creatures.

The black radiance coming out of their eyes came from fake cores that he had installed inside those creatures. Those dragons were now perfect puppets that could show their real power once they joined a battle.

The guild's group launched attacks against those beasts, and they died quickly, but more reptilian heads peeked out of the darkness and fixed their eyes on those cultivators.

That army counted more than three hundred specimens after the reptilian heads stopped appearing. Only a few of them had eyes that radiated a black light, but the others weren't too weaker than them.

Still, they were less durable, so they took the vanguard as they charged toward the group of experts. The swarm of dragons crashed on those cultivators and struggled violently to inflict as many casualties as possible.

Noah didn't even need to move. He could watch that battle from a safe position with the Demonic Sword and Snore waiting for their moment to shine.

Chapter 1382 1382. Relentless

Boss Van and Divine Demon ignored Noah's battle. They stared at each other and waited for their opponent to make a move even after a black cloud covered part of the region.

"The next one will be stronger," Divine Demon announced. "You might want to use more years."

Divine Demon wore a mocking smile when he talked to his opponent. Boss Van didn't reply, mostly because he knew that the expert was correct.

The last attack had injured him even after he had used two defensive spells. Divine Demon's attacks were powerful, and the whole world worked with him to increase his spells' strength.

The previous torrent didn't contain much energy. Divine Demon had thrown a simple spell fueled with a small amount of his "Breath", but the world had turned it into an attack that could threaten an entire guild.

Boss Van had silently decided to play along with Divine Demon's game. He only needed to survive two more attacks to kill him, and Divine Demon wouldn't back off from his bet since his individuality depended on it.

Fighting Divine Demon when he used all his spells was too troublesome. His gamble had given Boss Van hope to complete that match without suffering any significant injury.

"Get ready," Divine Demon said as he spread his arms and pointed his palms upward.

Even more matter in the world converged toward his figure and transformed under the effects of his law. Entire chunks of the Immortal Lands' tough ground rose in the sky and morphed into drops of water that began to float around him.

Divine Demon's aura intensified as he raised both palms and clasped them above his head. The water around him surged together with his gesture, and an even bigger torrent flew upward to engulf Boss Van with its might.

Boss Van didn't want to face the attack, but the water was too fast for him. Dodging it was impossible for him. He could only rely on the gales that came out of his figure to defend and save his life.

"One hundred years!" Boss Van shouted, and the sky divided itself into two parts.

A hurricane engulfed his figure and connected the sky with the ground as it pierced the massive torrent that was pushing him higher. His dense winds fought against the raging waters that attacked his body, and pieces of his skin disintegrated during the process.

When that exchange ended, Boss Van descended from the sky with the aspect of a young man. Hair grew from under his chin and chest, but the blood flowing out of his injuries hid most of those new features.

Boss Van didn't lose any limb in the last exchange, but most of his skin had disappeared. His muscles were out in the open, and his blood flowed freely from them.

No more winds came out of his figure to heal those injuries. His individuality didn't work well with his poor condition, so he had to limit his spells to contain the blood loss.

However, Boss Van wore a wide smile. He had already survived two attacks, and he had yet to go all-out. In his mind, that battle was over.

The shockwaves released during their exchanges unleashed chaos in the environment. Even the insides of Noah's dark world couldn't avoid but suffer from them.

The army of dragons and part of the dark world shattered when those shockwaves reached the black cloud. The cultivators from the guild and Noah ended up puking blood as their insides trembled under the power unleashed by two solid stage experts.

'Why am I even fighting so close to them?' Noah cursed in his mind as he controlled the dark world to resume the workshop.

Black orbs came out of his separate space and fused with the dark world while the dark matter rotated to give birth to more dragons. Those cores entered some creatures and filled them with Noah's darkness, giving them the stability that most of their companions lacked.

The workshop was working perfectly. Its only weakness was in Noah's shortage of cores. If he had more time to prepare, he could create an army made entirely of puppets that resembled middle tier magical beasts in power.

Still, the technique was showing its power even during that flawed execution. The army of cultivators had turned into a small group of experts that struggled to continue to fight.

Chief Ash and the other four Chiefs were still alive, but injuries filled their bodies. Instead, most of their underlings had died under the dragons' relentless assault and the corrosive smoke that flew through the dark world.

The value of the workshop was immense. Noah could fuse the suppressing effects of the dark world with an endless army of powerful beasts. No force could withstand that offensive for too long.

Moreover, the dark world allowed Noah to ignore most of the workshop's weaknesses. The technique required many materials in Great Builder's version, but Noah could use the nigh-unlimited dark matter inside his black hole for the task.

The black hole also had its limits, but Noah's darkness always refilled it. He could use the energy contained in two centers of power to keep the workshop active, which translated into an immense number of magical beasts.

Noah could also cultivate while the workshop was active to refill his dantian and obtain more dark matter. In theory, his technique didn't have limits since it didn't weigh on his mind.

'I need to end this and leave those two to their fight,' Noah thought as Snore and the Demonic Sword released understanding cries. 'I'm suffering injuries only because I'm too close to them.'

The five liquid stage experts continued to fight against the horde of dragons while they watched their underlings die. Gaseous stage cultivators couldn't survive in that environment for too long, and the Chief didn't have time to protect them.

The dragons' assault was reckless and relentless. Those creatures stopped at nothing, and they suicided in an attempt to add another injury to their opponents' bodies.

Fighting that type of enemy was exhausting. The Chiefs would have already planned to escape the dark world if it wasn't for Noah's previous show of power.

Noah had demonstrated that he was too fast. Some of them would surely die if they tried to escape the dense cloud.

Yet, the situation had become so dangerous that even the most reckless plan had gained a decent appeal. Remaining inside the dark world would lead to certain death, so risking their lives to escape was the only strategy that could make them survive.

The Chiefs exchanged an understanding glance before a series of multicolored lights exploded outward and fended off part of the dark matter that enveloped them.

Noah sensed five figures shooting in different directions in a desperate attempt to leave the dark world. Their plan was a simple one but quite effective since their opponent was alone.

Of course, that was a miscalculation on their side. The Demonic Sword shot after one expert. Night came out of the separate space to chase Chief Ash. Snore fused with the dark world to fly after another cultivator. Noah joined the hunt and went after one of the remaining targets, and the army of dragons flew toward the edges of the dark world to seal any possible exit.

Noah's companions didn't have to win. They only needed to keep his opponents busy for a few seconds, and he would reach them with his movement technique. Still, Night, Snore, and the Demonic Sword took their task as a chance to prove their power.

The Demonic Sword gathered and generated dark matter as it flew toward one of the Chiefs. The weapon had become a massive blade by the time it reached its target, and the dark world enhanced its power when it released a slash.

Night was subtler. Chief Ash didn't even sense when the Pterodactyl fused with her body and began to sever her law.

Snore limited itself to appear in front of its target and launch its dark beam. The dark world enhanced that attack, and a wave of violent dark matter ran through the entire cloud.

Chapter 1383 1383. Bickering

When Noah was inside the dark world, he had the power to defeat an entire army of rank 7 cultivators that contained five experts at his level.

That battle prowess was absurd for an existence who had just advanced to the liquid stage, but Noah wasn't an ordinary cultivator. His new power also came from the Great Builder's inheritance, so it wasn't a surprise that he could express such strength.

However, every ability had weaknesses. The workshop was an incredible technique, but its creations were valuable only when Noah used them to overwhelm his opponents. In a situation when everyone was doing their best to run away, the dragons couldn't express their real power.

Noah used his movement technique to reach his target in an instant. Chief Barret soon appeared in his vision, but Noah only saw a blur as he flew through his body.

The expert was under the suppression of the dark world. He couldn't sense Noah. His body exploded before he could even understand what was happening around him.

The Demonic Sword had transformed into a massive blade during its slash. The dark matter inside the dark world and generated by its body had filled it with so much energy that its target couldn't react to its power.

The slash unleashed a storm of dark matter that severed everything on its path. A hole also appeared on the cloud due to the massive amount of higher energy moved during the attack.

The sword's target could only crumble when a sixth of the dark world fell on him. It didn't matter that the living weapon was still in the lower tier. That amount of higher energy could kill any cultivator in the liquid stage if it hit them.

Chief Ash felt safe for most of her escape, but her body split in half when she was about to reach the edge of the dark world. Disbelief filled her mind when she saw her consciousness growing dark. During her last instant of awareness, she saw a strange Pterodactyl leaving her figure to merge with the black environment.

Snore's dark beam was Noah's strongest attack. That violent dark matter existed only to destroy even if it carried the power to create. It was the most offensive form of the copied elements, so it could disintegrate all the originals.

The Chief struck by Snore's beam tried to fight back with a series of spells, but they crumbled under the might carried by the violent dark matter. The Blood Companion defeated its target in an instant and created another hole in the cloud due to the higher energy moved during its attack.

The last liquid stage expert was an old woman with long gray hair called Chief Taylor. A series of dragons came out of the blackness and threw their fangs at her while she tried to escape from the dark world.

Those puppets often managed to damage her body, but she never stopped escaping. Even when the dragons bit their left arm off and cut away one of her legs, she continued to fly toward the edge of the dark world.

Chief Taylor's individuality allowed her to transform her skin into a crystal-like mineral featuring high defensive properties. The suppression of the dark world had slowed down the activation of that technique and had made her suffer severe injuries. Still, wounds stopped appearing on her after she completed her ability.

The dragons couldn't hurt her anymore at that point. They had managed to pierce that ability before, but they didn't have enough time to do it now. Their attacks could only make her bounce through different areas of the dark world until she eventually left that blackness.

Noah and his companions couldn't stop her. They had too many opponents, and the shockwaves radiated by Divine Demon's battle had destroyed most of his fake cores. The puppets that had gone after Chief Taylor didn't have enough power to stop her advance.

The Demonic Sword, Night, and Snore proudly returned toward Noah after they defeated their enemies, but he revealed an annoyed expression at their sight.

"I killed him, Father!" The Demonic Sword exclaimed as roars mixed with its human voice.

Snore hissed to convey the same message, and it raised its massive reptilian head to express its pride. Only Night remained silent and took out Chief Ash's maimed corpse from its empty insides.

The Demonic Sword and Snore froze at that point. They understood that they had forgotten something vital for Noah. Their attacks had been so massive that their targets had turned into dust.

"Nicely done, Night," Noah said as he stored Chief Ash's corpse.

He also stored his target, and the dark world brought him the corpses of the other cultivators who had died in its range. His black hole would suppress the intact dantians and preserve their energy for later.

The dark world even brought all the storage items that floated through its blackness. Noah would study them later. He had to chase after Chief Taylor and put an end to his battle now. He would take care of his gains only after his targets were dead.

The dark matter flowed inside his chest as Noah recalled his technique. The three companions' bickering resounded inside his mind, but he ignored it to search for his target.

His consciousness expanded as soon as the outside world became visible again, but he couldn't sense anything other than Divine Demon's intense aura. Noah didn't even need to turn in his direction to understand that he had to prioritize his escape in that situation.

The entire region had turned into Divine Demon's personal world after Boss Van survived his second attack. The environment sensed that Divine Demon could lose that bet, so it expanded his influence until it enveloped an even larger area.

The region had transformed during those short seconds. A large chunk of the ground, part of the sky, and all the remaining trees had turned into multicolored water that rose to surround Divine Demon.

The world was giving him the power that he needed to win that bet. Laws transformed on their own to create the perfect environment for his abilities.

Boss Van didn't feel worried. It didn't matter how much power Divine Demon amassed. He believed that nothing could kill him at that point, especially since he had many years left.

"Buying time won't help you," Boss Van taunted Divine Demon. "I acknowledge the power of your individuality, but it's something too troublesome to handle. What happens if you lose even once? Do you need to live without knowing defeat to advance?"

Noah heard Boss Van's words even if he was flying at full speed away from that region. Nothing could force him to stay in an area that was about to witness Divine Demon's last attack.

Noah shared some of Boss Van's concerns. Divine Demon was a monster, but his individuality seemed to work against him. It forced him to turn any situation into a hard challenge, and it even made him risk his life against opponents that he could defeat easily.

Still, Divine Demon had managed to ascend and reach the solid stage with his individuality. Noah had to believe in his ability. The Demon was a maniac, but he wasn't weak. Even his most reckless move hid boundless confidence.

Chapter 1384 1384. Math

Divine Demon sighed when he saw that Boss Van had survived his second attack. An annoyed expression appeared on his face even when the world continued to give him energy to use for his spells.

He didn't like that outcome. He wasn't scared that Boss Van could survive his third attack, but he didn't feel happy to have reached that point.

"I can't allow myself to lose, can I?" Divine Demon said before sighing again.

Boss Van continued to smile, but traces of doubt formed inside him when he studied his opponent's expression. The lack of fear on Divine Demon's face gave him a bad feeling that didn't come from the massive amount of energy accumulated around him.

"I have lived for nine thousand years," Boss Van said. "I use one thousand to increase my cultivation level. I can pour the rest in my spells, and I've barely needed one hundred of them to block your previous attack. There isn't a single solid stage cultivator capable of making me use eight thousand years with a single ability."

Boss Van wasn't bragging. His math came from his experience. After all, he wasn't an aloof member of one of the powerful organizations. As a guild leader of a minor force, he had to fight multiple times and earn his place in the solid stage.

"Your math isn't wrong, but you have missed an important detail," Divine Demon said as he pointed at the energy around him. "I always make things hard. Battles that I can win in a few exchanges transform into deadly challenges that I have to face seriously. Betting my life is the only way I have to improve my power."

"You have found the limits of your individuality then," Boss Van said. "Hurry up. Attack. I will take your life afterward."

The redness radiated by Divine Demon's eyes intensified after that line. The time for taunts was over. He had to launch his last attack and see if his cultivation journey could continue.

"One stream can pierce the ground," Divine Demon said, and the energy around him condensed to create a small trail of water that flowed across his arm.

"A waterfall can pierce rocks," Divine Demon said, and more energy flowed inside the river that began to shake uncontrollably.

"The ocean can pierce the world," Divine Demon said, and all the energy around him fused with the stream.

The small river began to shine and radiate a multicolored light while it rotated around Divine Demon's arm. Its waters obtained intense violence that made them release surges of energy into the environment.

Boss Van immediately noticed that the small stream was different from the previous spells. Divine Demon's attacks had been nothing more than simple torrents before. Yet, his third ability carried peculiar features.

The stream appeared far more complicated. The energy inside it had condensed in a peculiar manner and had begun to move according to a strange rhythm. It was a proper ability instead of a simple display of power.

"I don't like fighting seriously," Divine Demon said as he pulled his arm backward and opened his palm. "Every battle ends quickly if I do. My cultivation level barely improves whenever I use my real power."

Divine Demon's "Breath" came out of his dantian and fused with the stream at that point. The multicolored water became white after that process ended. It had transformed into a type of energy that surpassed the normal limits of the "Breath".

"Still, I am a Demon that feeds of victories," Divine Demon concluded. "It doesn't matter how boring it is. I have to win, even if I need to perform a miracle to achieve that."

Noah studied the battle from a safe spot in a region nearby. Surprise filled his mind when he saw the river rotating around Divine Demon's arm. He couldn't be sure of that, but it seemed that the "Breath" had transformed into a type of higher energy on its own!

'What exactly is his individuality?' Noah wondered as disbelief replaced the surprise.

Creating higher energy and using it in spells required years spent in seclusion and a multitude of tests. It wasn't something that a cultivator could learn to do in the middle of a battle.

However, Divine Demon didn't respect that common sense. He needed to win his challenge, so his individuality had forced his attack to evolve. Noah didn't know if that was the Demon's usual battle style, but he felt almost sure that his white water didn't carry the stability that higher energy should have.

'Don't tell me that he has created it on the spot,' Noah thought as his eyes remained glued on the battle.

Noah was about to witness the exchange between two solid stage cultivators. He wouldn't miss it for anything in the world.

"Your chest will disappear now," Divine Demon said as his palm shot forward.

The river rotated faster during the attack. Divine Demon's arm shone with white light as it stretched toward his opponent and released the energy that he had accumulated.

No water came out of his palm. Divine Demon sent his energy flying toward his opponent during the attack, and a white flash illuminated the area before disappearing in the following instant.

The whole attack had lasted less than a second, but Divine Demon found himself without energy left. A tired expression also appeared on his face since his dantian had emptied its insides to fuel that spell.

The world didn't send more energy toward Divine Demon. His aura also shrunk and returned inside his figure. His individuality didn't affect the matter anymore. He was defenseless and exhausted now.

Noah held his breath as he moved his gaze toward Boss Van. The scene that he saw made surprise take over his disbelief and his Divine Deduction technique activated on its own to review that attack.

No light came out of Boss Van's eye. Half of his head had disappeared during the flash of light, and his entire torso had met the same end. Divine Demon's attack had left only his limbs untouched.

'I didn't sense any shockwave,' Noah thought as countless images ran in his vision.

In theory, a cultivator couldn't attack without releasing shockwaves in the environment. Their intensity depended on the power of the ability. The energy inside those spells and techniques made the matter react to its passage.

Yet, Divine Demon's attack didn't radiate anything. All the energy accumulated from the world and Divine Demon's dantian had disappeared without leaving any trace. Boss Van's maimed corpse was the only proof of its existence.

'The world has opened a path to victory,' Noah thought as he understood what had happened. 'It prevented his attack from leaking energy and created an opportunity that Divine Demon could use to win. It's not only a matter of "Breath" with him. He seems able to turn any environment into a superior form of my dark world.'

Divine Demon breathed loudly after he saw Boss Van's corpse. His dantian began to produce "Breath" at high speed to refill its insides, and his mind did the same with its mental energy.

His cultivation level rose after Divine Demon finished refilling his centers of power. He instantly became stronger than before. Winning the bet had made his strength increase.

Chapter 1385 1385. Miracles

"Care to explain what was that?" Noah asked after he left his hiding spot and flew toward Divine Demon.

Noah knew that he couldn't even hope to copy the effects of Divine Demon's individuality, but he wanted to understand how he had created higher energy out of nowhere. Noah wanted to learn something that he could implement into his battle style.

"My heir!" Divine Demon exclaimed as energy filled his centers of power. "How was your battle?"

"One of them managed to escape because someone has forced me to fight in the middle of his battle," Noah said without hiding the annoyance that he felt.

"Wonderful!" Divine Demon shouted. "Maybe more of them will come then. Good, good. A Demon should never lack enemies."

"The Crystal City is already after me," Noah said as he massaged his temples. "I only needed you not to reveal my position."

"The Crystal City?" Divine Demon asked. "I think they have forgotten about me."

"Wait," Noah replied. "Can gods even forget things? Also, how did you survive the beast tide with that troublesome individuality of yours?"

"I simply escaped," Divine Demon answered in a plain tone. "I was so fast that the expert from the Crystal City didn't manage to take a good look at me. I'm not a brute. I know when I need to run."

Noah didn't expect that. He already imagined Divine Demon as a mindless maniac who threw himself into unwinnable battles to improve his cultivation level. Still, he felt glad to learn that he was wrong about him.

"I didn't know you could use higher energy," Noah eventually said as the two began to descend toward the ground.

"Higher energy?" Divine Demon answered as confusion appeared on his face. "What's that?"

Divine Demon's answer left Noah's speechless. His expression revealed the sincerity of his words, which made Noah even more surprised about the whole situation.

"That white energy during your last attack," Noah said while he imitated the palm strike. "That wasn't exactly "Breath", was it?"

"Oh, that," Divine Demon said as he put a hand under his chin. "I can't learn too many techniques and spells since they would ultimately hurt my individuality. I create new ones with the Divine Deduction technique during my challenges. They always change, and I don't memorize any of them, so I simply call them Miracles."

Noah reached new levels of speechlessness when he heard that answer. Divine Demon, the expert who had created techniques that had led the Hive to the top of the lower plane, didn't own abilities but only invented them on the spot.

"My individuality is what has allowed me to create such powerful techniques while I was only a heroic cultivator," Divine Demon explained. "I don't follow the normal process. I rely on my desire to win, and an ability eventually appears."

Noah had faced and studied countless individualities throughout his life. Most of them were simple expressions of laws that already existed in the world, and only a few were as complicated as his ambition.

Divine Demon's individuality was simple, but it was also the most complicated law that Noah had ever seen. The need to constantly challenge himself forced Divine Demon to live a troublesome life that other cultivators couldn't even hope to survive.

'He must have created the Divine Deduction techniques to make up for his innate weakness,' Noah thought as the two flew back in one of the cracks. 'His individuality would have killed him countless times already if he didn't have a method to enhance his mental capabilities.'

"The Crystal City might be a troublesome opponent," Divine Demon said after they returned in his underground hall.

Noah showed a confused expression at that remark. He didn't expect Divine Demon to label an enemy as troublesome without showing any excitement.

"I told you that I'm not a brute," Divine Demon continued while taking a jug of wine from his space-ring. "The guilds and all the smaller forces mostly have cultivators that couldn't meet the standards of the big organizations. They are generally weaker than the rest."

Noah reviewed his battle against Lady Lena when he heard those words. His cultivation level was slightly higher back then since his ambition was empowering his centers of power. Still, the expert from the Crystal City had managed to hold her ground for a while anyway.

Instead, the Chiefs of Boss Van's guild couldn't face him even after his cultivation level had fallen and stabilized at the bottom of the liquid stage. Noah had perfected his workshop and his movement technique since his battle with Lady Lena, but those improvements alone couldn't make a fight against five liquid stage experts as easy as it had been.

The Chiefs were clearly weaker than Lady Lena, but Noah didn't give the matter much thought at the beginning. Some cultivators just happened to be stronger than others. That difference of power could have been just a case.

Yet, Divine Demon's words said otherwise, and Noah could only believe them. The expert had lived in the Immortal Lands for far longer than him, and he had surely interacted with the human society more often.

"I need to destroy the Crystal City quickly then," Noah said as he sat on the ground and laid his back on the rocky wall.

"Remember to call me when you do," Divine Demon said as he joined Noah on the ground and prepared two cups. "I need stronger enemies. The secret organization only sends whimps after me. I feel underestimated."

Noah took a cup and drank together with Divine Demon. The duo remained in silence as strong wine entered their bodies and relaxed their mind. Part of the stress accumulated during the battle dispersed under the effects of that warm liquid.

"How are my disciples?" Divine Demon asked at some point.

"They are fine," Noah replied. "The other organizations can't compete with the Hive, and the other world should be more peaceful. The techniques of the other Demon Sects are also alive. They should arrive here in a few millennia."

"The lower plane has become messy after I left," Divine Demon said before giving voice to a short laugh. "That chaos spreads from here, the place closer to Heaven and Earth. Every change in the Immortal Lands affects all the other Mortal Lands. It's a never-ending cycle that will continue as long as the white sky remains above us."

"Have you seen the Outer Lands?" Noah asked. "Do storms fill them? Have you ever witnessed new regions fusing with the Immortal Lands?"

"You will see everything soon enough," Divine Demon replied as he refilled both cups. "The Legion controls a place that I want to explore, but they never let humans get close. I will use you to enter it."

"You could at least try to make it seem like a cooperation," Noah replied as a laugh escaped his mouth.

"What's the point," Divine Demon said. "You are my rightful heir, and you have even led what remained of my disciples to the peak of the world. Some friendships take centuries to form, but this one has needed a simple glance."

The duo continued to speak about various events after that line. They mostly conversed about the other Demons, but they also discussed matters related to their individualities.

When the bottle was over, they separated to cultivate in different areas for a few months. They would then regroup in that underground hall and travel together in the Outer Lands to meet the Legion.

Chapter 1386 1386. Departure

The underground structure of the region was vast. Noah and Divine Demon could choose different training areas inside it without distancing themselves too much.

Noah had a lot to go through after the battle with Boss Van's guild. His opponents didn't have special space-ring like the members of the Crystal City. He could seize all their items, even if his corrosive smoke and the army of dragons had damaged most of them.

The Soul Stones were sturdier than most inscribed items due to their peculiar nature, so Noah could add almost twenty thousand of them to his stash.

The same wasn't true for the other items. The various cloaking and defensive devices had suffered damages during the battle. Noah could only store them in the hope that an inscription hall would buy them anyway.

Those cultivators didn't have anything valuable. Their status inside the Immortal Lands was too low, and most of their profits went to the guild, so they never managed to accumulate riches.

The most significant gains from the battle were the many dantians seized from the experts' corpses. The Demonic Sword and Snore had failed to preserve their opponents, and Chief Taylor had escaped, but Noah had managed to get his hands on a high number of centers of power anyway.

Noah ate while he turned the black metal obtained in Great Builder's Pyramid into fake cores. He had lost most of his old stash due to the shockwaves radiated from Divine Demon's battle, so he needed to refill it.

Moreover, the workshop could show its real power only if he provided its creations with those simple centers of power. The dragons would be too frail to fight against cultivators in the liquid stage otherwise. His technique would lose most of its value if he depleted all his fake cores.

Finding a new material for the fake cores soon became one of his new priorities after Noah depleted the black metal obtained in the Pyramid. Still, he didn't worry too much about that issue. The Immortal Lands had enough materials to satisfy his needs.

The Demonic Sword advanced while he was busy polishing the workshop. The blade reached the middle tier easily since it depended on Noah's cultivation level.

Only Night was still in the lower tier at that point, but Noah couldn't quicken its growth. The Pterodactyl was different from Snore and the Demonic Sword. Its power didn't depend on Noah's might. He could only create unique darkness to help it.

After he finished dealing with the workshop, Noah could finally focus on other pressing matters. He had two main projects at hand, and he could choose only one before regrouping with Divine Demon.

Noah still had the red crystals obtained in the Evolution Pit, but every project that involved his companions always kept him busy for entire decades. Also, that material carried unknown capabilities that he didn't dare to test on those creatures.

Night, the Demonic Sword, and Snore were core aspects of his power. Noah alone was far stronger than his peers due to his hybrid status, but his companions made him a one-man army. The three peculiar living beings were divine existences that made his prowess increase by a lot.

'Night is only useful inside the dark world for now,' Noah summarized in his mind. 'I should just create a new Blood Companion and study the effects of the red crystals while I wait for it to catch up with my level.'

That decision led to another problem. Noah had Snore and the workshop, so he was already making the best out of the dark matter. Even if he used his higher energy as a core material, he couldn't surpass what he had already built inside the Snake.

It was better to take a magical beast with a useful and powerful innate ability and turn it into an intelligent puppet. His new Blood Companion had to be similar to Night, but Noah didn't know which species suited his current battle prowess.

The Immortal Lands had a different and vast fauna that Noah had yet to understand fully. He couldn't decide on his next Blood Companion without a clear vision of which species he could find in the higher plane.

He couldn't even create something to destroy it afterward since he planned to begin testing the red crystal with his next Blood Companion. That material was a precious resource that he had to handle carefully since he didn't have the power to steal more of it.

With the workshop completed and the matters about the Blood Companions put aside, Noah began to focus on the last field at his disposal.

Being able to use the movement technique again made his battle prowess skyrocket, and it also reminded Noah of how much power he could express when he used all the aspects of his hybrid status.

His personal arts were something that spells and techniques on the same level couldn't match, and Noah wanted more of them. That desire also involved his slashes since they had begun to feel too simple for the types of battles he was facing.

The key to being stronger than any cultivator and magical beast was in that field. Noah had to improve his personal arts if he always wanted to be one step ahead of his opponents even when they were at his same level.

The issue there was that he needed to invent forms capable of surpassing Sword Saint when it came to his slashes. The techniques he used were the best sword strikes available, and he could only overcome them when he involved his individuality.

Apart from the slashes, Noah didn't need to create another personal art, especially after restoring his movement technique. His focus had to go on those attacks.

Noah still had something else to improve after ruling out the other fields. The Divine Deduction technique was in its original form, which was a negative feature that he had yet to fix.

The Divine Deduction technique was incredible even in its current form, but Noah had to transform it into something that could suit his existence. Divine Demon had to do the same after his ascension, but the process was far easier for him since he was its creator.

Noah didn't get anything done during that period of training. His projects would take countless years, and he couldn't hope to complete them before regrouping with Divine Demon.

A few ideas had popped into his mind as he wondered about those three projects, but he eventually decided to wait until his meeting with the Legion to pursue them.

The Legion's members were hybrid. An organization of that kind would surely have studies about fields similar to Noah's personal art, so he felt quite eager to meet them.

The break lasted for almost six months in which Noah mostly ran simulations with the Divide Deduction technique and cultivated. He needed to accumulate experience for his projects to immediately begin them once he obtained the required materials or inspirations.

As for his cultivation, Noah focused on restoring his potential. He lacked an essential feature of his individuality now, and he could only rebuild it slowly during his training sessions.

After six months, Noah and Divine Demon regrouped inside the large underground hall and resurfaced to begin their march toward the Outer Lands.

Chapter 1387 1387. Shadows

The Outer Lands weren't a fixed place. Cultivators gave that name to all the regions outside of the human and magical beasts' domains, so their actual width was unclear.

Noah and Divine Demon marched for years, avoiding any human settlement that they found on their path. They had caused enough trouble already, and Chief Taylor was alive, so it was better to remain anonymous for the moment.

Their march was peaceful and filled with breaks spent conversing or cultivating. Divine Demon's aura scared away most magical beasts, and Noah's superior awareness allowed them to avoid any dangerous lair.

The two grew closer and learnt each other's characters during their travel. Their personalities had many common points, so they got along well and never second-guessed their decisions. They had become a well-oiled team in a matter of months.

The scenery slowly changed as they ventured farther away from the center of the human domain. Fewer settlements appeared on their path, replaced by multiple danger zones that featured various packs fighting over territories.

The magical beasts occupied every inch of the Immortal Lands. If it weren't for the cultivators defending their borders and sealing pacts with them, those creatures would have already conquered the entirety of the higher plane.

The environment also went through some changes as their march continued. The regions became wilder, and soft winds started to blow from time to time. Noah didn't need any explanation to recognize them. They were the same gales made of laws found in Shandal's separate dimension.

"The farther you go, the more intense these winds get," Divine Demon explained as they flew above a barren mountain chain. "They come from the edges of the Immortal Lands, where new territories appear every decade."

"Do Heaven and Earth never stop building?" Noah asked as he absorbed the laws that his destruction turned into primary energy.

"Who knows," Divine Demon replied. "Seeing the edges of the higher plane isn't an easy feat. Only truly powerful existences can reach them due to the barrier of storms."

"Have you ever traveled there?" Noah asked.

"Once, but there isn't much to see," Divine Demon answered. "You might get lucky and see a mountain appearing out of nowhere when you are there, but that's it. I went only to learn how the Immortal Lands worked, and I came back with more doubts than answers."

"The all-expanding theory isn't enough?" Noah continued to question the expert.

"It is correct, but far from enough," Divine Demon said as he pointed toward the horizon. "Where do Heaven and Earth even take the energy to build so many territories? Why do that at all? It would be easier to find answers if we were to observe the Immortal Lands from outside, but only those with a death wish leave the white sky."

The duo had conversed about those topics multiple times already. Noah didn't need to question the expert again to understand the meaning behind his words.

The white sky had holes equipped with dimensional tunnels that connected the higher plane with the lower ones. Powerful existences could theoretically fly through them and arrive in the void, but that effort was quite pointless.

The Immortal Lands had expanded for eras, and the same went for the white sky that enveloped them. Even powerful divine cultivators would take millennia to travel to the edges of Heaven and Earth's system to watch it in its entirety.

That wasn't even the main issue in the matter. The whiteness of the sky was blinding, and it hid its various holes. It was impossible to find the way back inside the higher plane once flying out of it.

Divine cultivators could survive in the void, but they couldn't live inside it. That environment lacked any form of nutrients, so their energy would slowly deplete until nothing remained of them.

The travels through the void were also dangerous since it was hard to understand where to go. Shandal had felt confident in the task because King Elbas' dimensional tunnel acted as a signal, but no cultivator would normally choose to venture there.

"It would be feasible if we knew how big the Immortal Lands are, but alas," Divine Demon eventually concluded before heaving a helpless sigh.

The storms of laws were too intense near the higher plane's edges, so no one knew for how long they continued. The cultivators had also forgotten how big the magical beasts' domain was since the wars with those creatures always forced them to migrate at some point.

The picture of the Immortal Lands that had formed inside Noah's mind was quite simple. He imagined the magical beasts' domain as cancer that continued to expand and the human domain as a white spot that never stopped retreating.

Countless regions called Outer Lands surrounded them, and their unclear width made any attempt to calculate the exact size of the Immortal Lands impossible.

The outside exploration was also impossible due to the threatening properties of the void and that unclearness. Even if powerful explorers prepared themselves for the task, they would risk spending pointless millennia searching for the end of the white sky.

"We can only accept this prison as long as we remain simple gods," Noah added at some point.

"You need to become an existence capable of producing "Breath" or something similar," Divine Demon replied. "Maybe that's what Heaven and Earth are trying to do. We might be nothing more than keys opening the path to the tenth rank."

The duo couldn't have proper answers. Theirs were only hypotheses generated after studying the clues in the Immortal Lands. Their cultivation level was too low to have any certainty in that matter.

"How long till we reach the Legion?" Noah asked after the second decade of travel went by.

"We are already in its domain," Divine Demon replied. "They are probably trying to find someone in the solid stage because of me."

"Don't start with your challenges," Noah said as soon as he saw the redness radiated by Divine Demon's eyes becoming more intense. "I need them as allies to learn what they have discovered about the hybrid statues."

"Can't you kill them and seize their studies?" Divine Demon asked as if it was the most natural thing in the world.

"I don't know where they keep their resources," Noah replied. "I also expect them to have rank 8 hybrids in their ranks. Their sole thought is enough to destroy me."

"Peaceful it is," Divine Demon quickly gave up arguing with Noah.

Divine Demon only wanted to win his challenges, so he didn't care how his relationship with the Legion ended up being. Instead, Noah was different. He needed those creatures to see if its members had created something to implement his battle style.

Noah suddenly stopped as their march continued. Divine Demon turned toward him to understand what was happening, and Noah's expression revealed everything he needed to know.

Multiple presences had appeared around them. Noah didn't know from where they had come out nor where they were hiding, but he couldn't see any of them from his position.

The region had nothing more than a few short mountains and rocky terrain. Hiding there was virtually impossible, but Noah's senses weren't lying.

Before he could reply to Divine Demon, two shadows came out of the terrain and charged at him. Noah didn't even think in that situation. His hand shot forward, and he found two hands stuck in his grasp.

Chapter 1388 1388. Test

Noah sensed an immense force landing on his arms, and his innate ability activated on its own to boost his physical strength. Dark matter filled his black vein as he studied the two figures that had attacked him.

Two hybrids in the liquid stage, a man and a woman, wore a surprised expression as their gazes darted between Noah's hands and his face.

Their cultivation level was similar to Noah's, and their bodies also stood at the same tier. However, Noah had been able to stop their attacks at the same time and was even managing to restrain them.

Noah had agreed with Divine Demon to approach the Legion peacefully, but he wouldn't hold back during a surprise attack. His fingers stabbed his opponents' tough skin and dug through their knuckles as his aura spread in the environment.

Divine Demon felt slightly annoyed that the hybrids had completely ignored him. He was about to unfold his aura when a powerful consciousness covered the area and forced him to divert his attention from Noah's battle.

He could understand the level of that expert from the consciousness. Divine Demon knew that an existence in the solid stage was somewhere in that barren region.

More auras unfolded as Noah waved the experts in his grasp whenever they tried to counterattack. Two more consciousnesses belonging to solid stage hybrids filled the region and converged toward Divine Demon.

Multiple weaker auras drew closer until Noah began to see shadows flying in his vision. A series of blows landed on his back before he could even understand what had hit him. He had to focus to sense that two more hybrids had appeared behind him.

'Do they have cloaking devices?' Noah wondered as blood climbed through his throat.

His insides shook after the last attack, but Noah didn't let go of the hybrids in his grasp. They had brought the fight to him, so he wouldn't hold back.

Noah waved the two restrained hybrids toward the existences behind him. The duo had to dodge for fear of hurting their companions, but they didn't expect a massive reptilian head to come out of Noah's body and launch a dark beam toward them.

The escaping hybrids could only dodge again, and Noah used those precious seconds to slam his enemies on the ground and kick them until they lost consciousness.

Multiple injuries appeared on the hybrids' bodies. Noah could hurt him with his physical might, so he didn't need the Demonic Sword and Night to come out just yet.

The hybrids that had escaped dived back toward Noah, but the world suddenly went dark and forced them to stop their advance. When the light returned, they found black flames covered in a silver radiance around their bodies and in that entire chunk of sky.

"Enough!" A loud voice spread through one of the consciousnesses belonging to a solid stage hybrid.

The black flames vanished as the shockwaves radiated by that voice spread through the environment, and the two hybrids under Noah began to float away under the effects of the expert's mental waves.

The hybrids above Noah also left the area and regrouped on top of one of the short mountains nearby. Noah and Divine Demon could finally see the entirety of the team that had attacked them by looking in that direction.

'Eight hybrids in the liquid stage and three in the solid stage,' Noah counted in his mind when he saw that small platoon.

The situation wouldn't have been dangerous if it wasn't for the three solid stage hybrids. With them on the scene, Noah couldn't do anything too overbearing since they could intervene.

Noah took out a piece of wood from his separate space and showed the claw marks on its surface to the group. The hybrids exchanged a few glances at that sight, but their expressions didn't lose their seriousness.

"Are you from the Legion?" Noah asked without waiting for them to speak. "Grace has given me this token. We just want to talk."

Noah's words didn't seem to cause any evident reaction, but he waited anyway. Those experts were his only lead in the search for arts that only hybrids could use freely. He didn't want to turn them into enemies so soon.

"You have to pass a trial to talk with us," One of the solid stage cultivators said.

"What kind of trial?" Noah asked with no hesitation.

"You have to fight our strongest warriors," The hybrid said. "If you win, I will personally answer your questions."

Noah felt slightly concerned that. He didn't even come close to a solid stage cultivator in terms of power, let alone a hybrid with a body in the upper tier. Yet, the solid stage hybrid soon reassured him about the rules.

"You have to overcome foes at your cultivation level," The hybrid said. "You will fight five of them in total and earn your place among us. We will talk then."

Noah thought for a few seconds before agreeing to those conditions. He would fight and prove his strength if necessary. He didn't fear anyone at his level anyway.

Noah took a few steps forward while Divine Demon retreated. That was a matter that only hybrids could handle, so the Demon didn't even dare to join the battle. He would let Noah take care of that situation.

"Go get them, my heir," Divine Demon cheered for him as he landed on the barren ground and took a jug of wine from his space-ring. He had decided that Noah was enough in the matter.

"Clement!" The hybrid announced, and a man with long curly hair shot in his direction without holding anything back.

The man was tall and brawny. Thick hair covered his exposed chest and arms, and a long black beard grew from his chin. His eyebrows were also thick. It would have been easy to mistake him for a gorilla that wore a robe.

Clement reached Noah in an instant, and he joined his hands to swing his arms upward. Still, Noah nimbly dodged that attack and rotated on himself to throw a kick to the hybrid's abdomen.

The sound of bones shattering and internal organs condensing filled the air. Clement spat a mouthful of blood and opened his hands to grab his opponent, but Noah punched the hybrid right in the middle of his forehead.

The attack flung Clement on the ground, and Noah promptly followed him. The hybrid didn't seem to have any desire to use his "Breath" and activate spells or technique, so Noah did the same.

"Enough!" The solid stage hybrid in the distance shouted before Noah could reach Clement with his descending blow.

Clement quickly stood up and glanced at Noah before flying back to his group. The two hybrids that Noah had injured before then shot forward even if the leader had yet to call them. They were too angry at Noah.

"Can I use my weapons and innate abilities?" Noah asked before those experts could reach him, and the team leader in the distance shook his head to answer.

'Why would they even test themselves like this?' Noah thought as annoyance filled his mind.

The woman opened her hands and straightened her fingers to form claws while the man kept one of his legs bent to accumulate power. Yet, Noah didn't let them have the initiative.

Noah was faster than them. He only needed to wrap his hands around their faces and slam them on the ground before they could release their attacks.

Chapter 1389 1389. Daring

Noah dived at full speed and stomped his feet on his opponents' chest. The two hybrids spat mouthfuls of blood after the impact, and traces of "Breath" leaked out of their figures when they sensed Noah's killing intent.

Their instincts were reacting to Noah's dangerous area. The two hybrids felt compelled to release their "Breath" to defend against whatever was about to come.

"Enough!" The team leader in the distance shouted, and Noah shot an annoyed glance in his direction.

Noah had enough of that façade. His black hole put his species above the hybrids. In his mind, testing his strength was a useless procedure.

The leader seemed to understand that Noah was far stronger than the average hybrid with a body in the middle tier. Still, he wanted to know how powerful Noah actually was.

"Jordan, go," The leader said toward one of the solid stage experts.

Noah showed a surprised expression when he saw the expert descending from the short mountain and walking toward him. It didn't matter how strong he was. He didn't have the power to face an existence in the solid stage.

His thoughts ran quickly, and his legs bent. Countless ideas on how to escape that situation surged in his mind. The hybrids were still under his feet, so he instantly decided to use them as hostages.

"You can use your "Breath" and mental energy," The leader suddenly said. "She can't."

Noah froze at those words. Hybrids weren't much different from magical beasts when it came to their physical prowess. The leader was basically asking him to defeat a creature in the upper tier.

'Can I do it?' Noah wondered while he studied his opponent.

His opponent was a tall young-looking woman with long brown hair and green eyes. She seemed slender, but her large gray robe hid most of her physical features. Noah couldn't even see her hands due to her clothes.

Yet, his mind barely managed to memorize her aspect. Jordan was quite beautiful, but Noah could only focus on her cultivation level while watching her getting closer.

Divine Demon stopped drinking but didn't lower his cup when the hybrid waked in their direction. A tinge of interest appeared in his expression, and his eyes darted between Noah and that new opponent.

The Demon felt quite curious about Jordan's battle prowess, but he also wanted to see what Noah would do in that situation. After all, Noah had the upper hand there since the two hybrids were still under his feet.

Before Noah could even make a decision, his legs relaxed, and he stepped off the two hybrids who immediately stood up to shoot in the distance. His desire to test himself had triumphed over the danger that he felt. He wanted to see if he could defeat that powerful existence.

Divine Demon exploded into a laugh and finished drinking his cup. He then turned toward Noah and Jordan before pouring more wine. He didn't want to miss that battle.

Noah didn't hold anything that could improve his physical prowess back. Corrosive smoke and dark matter came out of his skin to create the fiendish armor, and his higher energy also filled his black vessels to boost his strength.

Black flames flowed out of his mouth as if they were a river falling from a cliff. Noah didn't want to attack his opponent with them. He only wanted them to be in the environment in case he suffered severe injuries.

Noah arched his fingers to create to transform his left hand into a claw that he pulled back as he leapt backward. Jordan seemed to understand what he wanted to do, but she limited herself to raise her hand and reveal her open palm.

There was no arrogance in Jordan's expression. She was simply conscious of her superior power. Also, she had acknowledged Noah's prowess, so she didn't want to risk injuring him.

That exchange suited both of them, so they didn't complain nor retreat. They remained silent as they prepared and waited for the attack to begin.

Noah shot forward. The world in his vision became blurry, but he never lost sight of Jordan's palm. His figure morphed and transformed into a black sword that reached his opponent in an instant.

When the sword hit Jordan's palm, Noah's figure replaced the black weapon, and a loud shockwave spread in the environment. The ground under the two of them cracked and shattered, and the same went for the terrain behind Jordan.

Divine Demon laughed again when he saw Noah's sharp energy coming out of Jordan's back and flying in the distance. The attack had definitely hit, and its might was quite outstanding for an existence in the liquid stage.

Jordan kept an aloof expression until her feet began to slide on the ground, and a pinch-like pain reached her mind. Noah had managed to push her back, even if only slightly.

She pulled back her hand to stare at her palm. A minute cut had appeared at its center, and a drop of dark-red blood flowed out of the wound. Noah had also managed to injure her.

"Testing him any more is pointless," Jordan shouted as she raised her injured hand to show it to the leader.

The hybrids in the liquid stage remained speechless at the sight of that minute wound. Noah had used spells and martial arts, but that wasn't an easy feat nonetheless.

The upper tier of the seventh rank wasn't a level that existences near the bottom of the liquid stage could affect. The fact that Noah had managed to piece Jordan's skin revealed how his battle prowess was off the scale.

"You and your friend have earned your meeting," The leader said before retreating on the other side of the mountain.

"I'm not only a friend!" Divine Demon shouted while the rest of the hybrids followed the leader behind the mountain. "He is my heir! I'm the Master here!"

The hybrids ignored him, but Jordan gave voice to a short laugh before moving her eyes back on Noah. She studied the fiendish armor and followed the trails of smoke that came out of it when Noah called it back before fixing her gaze on his reptilian pupils.

Jordan's pupils changed when they met Noah's eyes. They sharpened until they became two fissures. She also had reptilian eyes, but she kept them hidden.

Noah's instincts became alert, but they didn't sense any danger coming from the hybrid. Jordan exuded a strange aura that made him feel protected. It was as if they were natural allies.

"You earned this," Jordan said before revealing her palm to Noah.

The drop of blood was still there, and Noah glanced at Jordan before bending to lick her palm. A surge of energy suddenly entered his body, and his black hole quickly absorbed it to begin the purification.

"How daring," Jordan said as a smile appeared on her face. "You could have used your finger."

Noah didn't say anything and only watched as Jordan released a happy laugh and turned to join her team. In less than a minute, the hybrids had gone on the back of the mountain. Only Divine Demon and Noah remained in the area.

"Well done, my heir!" Divine Demon exclaimed as he stood up and stored his wine. "I told you it would have been easy with you here."

Noah ignored him as peculiar thoughts rose from his mental sea. It had been a long time since he had interacted with another hybrid, and he had to admit that it felt quite good to be among similar existences.

Chapter 1390 1390. Encampmen

Noah didn't feel strange or off. That simple gesture exchanged with Jordan had made him view the Legion under a perspective that he didn't consider before.

Humans and magical beasts couldn't offer him those interactions. Only hybrids could understand how desirable a drop of blood was and remain calm when someone liked it off their palm.

The action had lasted less than an instant, but it made Noah rethink Grace's words. She had spoken the truth, and Noah could understand it only now that he had experienced a second of life among existences like him.

Those thoughts didn't make Noah willing to throw away his desire for freedom, but they made him review his idea of the Legion. He felt more inclined to have that organization as an ally now.

Divine Demon couldn't understand what Noah was going through, and even June would struggle to sense that. The feeling of belonging to a species that they didn't even consider surprised Noah deeply.

'This is how everyone feels then,' Noah thought before following Divine Demon, who had already begun to walk toward the short mountain. 'I hope they don't do anything against me. It would be a pity to destroy them.'

The duo walked on the other side of the mountain, and an encampment unfolded in their vision. Simple tents made of rank 7 materials grew from the terrain and accommodated far more hybrids than expected.

The team they had seen before was only a small part of the whole platoon that had come to meet them. Noah could count more than thirty hybrids in the gaseous stage, twelve in the liquid stage, and five in the solid stage with his consciousness.

'How did they even manage to hide from my awareness?' Noah wondered, but his nose suddenly picked a faint scent that made everything clearer.

The scent created an invisible cloud that covered the entire encampment and remained on the hybrids' robes. Noah found it hard to lock his attention on the existences in the area, but that didn't stop him from pinpointing the source of the ability.

The scent came from one of the largest tents. One of the solid stage hybrids released it and hid the entire encampment with that ability.

The two hybrids that had fought together against Noah waited for the duo at the entrance of the encampment. Noah couldn't see any resentment in their eyes. He actually sensed that a faint trace of respect came out of their expressions.

"Let us accompany you to the team leader," The woman said as she took a step forward. "I hope you won't hold any grudge. We have to be wary of any outsider."

The duo didn't look at Divine Demon. They only addressed Noah with their words. It seemed that they didn't see the expert as an existence worthy of their attention.

Divine Demon didn't mind that. He was aware of how the three factions interacted. Both humans and magical beasts did the same when it came to existences belonging to different species.

Noah limited himself to nod, and the duo relaxed at that gesture. They even began to describe some aspects of the Legion after they told him their names.

James had short dark hair, dark eyes, and no beard. Elsie had long scarlet hair and similar dark eyes, and both of them were quite young-looking.

According to their words, they were among the new talents of the Legion. They were hybrids born directly into the higher plane, and that awarded them with a special treatment.

Just like Noah had confirmed with the Eternal Snakes, even the hybrids benefitted from growing up in the Immortal Lands. The higher plane's marvelous environments awarded them with greater potential due to the quality of nutrients they could provide.

James and Elsie had been in the higher plane since their birth, so they were the best possible hybrids in theory. Those who ascended from the Mortal Lands had a lower starting point compared to them.

The conversation then moved to the encampment. The duo explained how the Legion never sent hybrids into solitary missions because its priority was to preserve their lives.

The hybrids weren't a rare sight in the Immortal Lands, but they still shared the innate weaknesses placed by Heaven and Earth's fairness. They had low fertility, so any of them was a priceless asset in the Legion.

James and Elsie also explained how the Legion was in control of a few landing zones. That organization had fought for them in the past, and it had defended them until now. They were one of its primary sources of hybrids, so it was willing to wage wars to protect them.

As for the types of hybrids, James and Elsie couldn't give Noah a definitive answer. The Immortal Lands seemed to hold every kind of variant, so they had never bothered to study the small differences among them.

Only a few experts among the Legion could define the exact type of a hybrid. James and Elsie were like the natives of the other world with a human shape. They had fake dantians that fed on laws, but they didn't have individualities.

As for Noah, they labeled him as one of the strongest types of hybrid. He had a physical might that surpassed magical beasts and an individuality. That made his existence hard to improve but also gave him more power.

The only type that could match him was his direct opposite, hybrids who had individualities inside beast bodies. They were less common than Noah's type, but the Legion had many of them nonetheless.

According to the duo's words, those existences lived in the Outer Lands around the magical beasts' domain due to their aspect. Most of them were members of the region, but they operated in those creatures' territory because it was easier for them to mix among the fauna.

James and Elsie led Noah and Divine Demon toward a big tent that belonged to the team leader. The expert arrived after the two hybrids left, and he revealed his name before gesturing to the duo to sit on a praying mat that covered the habitation's floor.

The leader's name was Ian. He was a middle-aged man with short blonde hair and red eyes that shone with a darker glow than Divine Demon. He took a jug of wine from his space-ring once they all sat, but his face didn't show any trace of kindness. He was only polite.

"You wanted to talk," Ian said as he filled three cups.

Noah glanced at Divine Demon. He didn't have any specific questions to ask Ian. Meeting the Legion was his idea.

"There is a place in the Outer Lands that I want to visit," Divine Demon said as he picked one cup and raised it to his mouth.

"I'm not sure I can help," Ian replied. "The Legion doesn't handle transports. I can only organize an escort for the right price."

"Only the Legion can help me reach this place," Divine Demon continued when he lowered his cup. "I know that some of your members consider it sacred even."

Ian's eyes widened at those words, but he maintained his composure. He even refilled Divine Demon's cup as he waited for him to continue.

"I know that you show it to your important members," Divine Demon continued. "I want you to make an exception for us."