

Demonic 2181

Chapter 2181 - 2181. Fun

The world had two factions, and its colors clearly showed them. The sky's light wasn't as intense as before, but it still existed and tried to seep into the higher plane. However, the landmass didn't allow that.

The entirety of the higher plane was dark. That color even tried to push back Heaven and Earth's light, creating a constant conflict right above the sky's edges. The scene was spectacular, and Noah's forces gazed in amazement at what they had created.

It seemed that the higher plane had fallen into a constant night that had a single, massive star in the distance. Noah couldn't help but feel restless as he inspected the sky standing past the landmass' darkness. Caesar had confirmed it, but that scene highlighted it. The final battle was only one step away.

The event was so meaningful that King Elbas forgot to complain about his recent mission with the Foolery. Even the winged pig stopped caring about teasing his companion. Everyone watched the culmination of the project in silence and excitement.

"We got a banner in the end," Steven commented. "Robert would have liked it."

"Robert would have liked all our recent feats," Noah responded.

"That's only natural when we behave as true demons," Divine Demon announced.

"More forces are coming to reach the landmass," King Elbas revealed.

"I can't see Alexander and Wilfred," Sword Saint exclaimed.

"They are probably together somewhere," Noah reassured.

"Where?" Great Builder asked. "We have literally become the higher plane. I would have considered separate realities, but we have the guy who does them right here."

"I haven't been called "guy" in eras," Cursed Reality replied.

"He wants to make you feel young," Supreme Thief joked.

"You know the answer," Noah stated, ignoring the jokes that had begun to resound around him. "They are probably busy doing something in the sky."

"That's oddly perfect since we are headed there," Supreme Thief exclaimed.

"Do you think Heaven and Earth want to use them as baits?" Steven asked.

"Do you think Heaven and Earth can keep those two trapped?" Sword Saint questioned, and the group instinctively turned toward Divine Demon, King Elbas, and Noah.

"We would have noticed it if Heaven and Earth were up to something," Noah reminded. "This is probably something that the privileged cultivators are doing on their own."

"They better not lose against those weaklings," Divine Demon snorted.

"I can't imagine them losing," King Elbas admitted. "They are strong, and Alexander isn't a complete idiot either."

"I want to see Xavier's rankings in idiocy," The Foolery declared.

"Divine Demon and you are in the last spot together," Noah answered.

"I bet he even has many empty spots before his name," Sepunia giggled.

"You just went down by one spot," King Elbas stated.

"No, you added an empty spot before my name," Sepunia corrected, and King Elbas rolled his eyes to avoid confirming the statement.

"Xavier suddenly became cuter," Vesuvia commented.

"You have one annoying kink," June sighed.

"Why do you think we put her on the floor?" Queen asked.

"Can we go back to my breakthrough?" Supreme Thief suggested.

"We might be able to distract this greedy idiot for a few millennia," Great Builder guessed.

"Do not worry!" The Foolery exclaimed. "I shall remind him of the mission every day!"

"It obviously got everything wrong," King Elbas sighed.

"Let's go to the orange city," Noah ordered. "We need the dragon anyway. Also, we must make sure that our influences keep transforming the landmass."

"Who is staying behind?" June asked.

"Cursed Reality has his part of the project to handle," Noah explained. "Vesuvia's presence is necessary down there, and I won't bring the old rulers anywhere close to the sky. A few experts who know how the landmass works should also remain behind. As for the others, you are free to do as you wish."

"I won't miss a mission inside the sky," Steven announced.

"I'm not doing something as boring as remaining behind," Divine Demon declared.

"I must come to make sure that you won't die," King Elbas sighed.

"My role is obvious," Supreme Thief snorted.

"A trip to the sky sounds fun," Sepunia giggled.

"I want to remain behind and have fun," The Foolery complained.

"Then, do that," King Elbas uttered.

"But Divine Demon will scold me again if I slack off," The Foolery whined.

"What is taking Heaven and Earth so long?" King Elbas cursed.

"I also think that I should work harder," Maribel added.

"We have the team," Noah announced. "Everyone else, just do as you wish."

The group dispersed and flew toward different areas of the landmass. The rank 9 experts did their best to take control of empty spots that wouldn't end up clashing with other worlds. They also avoided the areas already occupied by magical beasts to make sure that diverse environments continued to appear.

Meanwhile, Noah, June, King Elbas, Supreme Thief, Sepunia, Maribel, Divine Demon, the Foolery, and Steven flew toward an area hidden behind a thick array of orange lightning bolts. The orange city had claimed a spot on the landmass, and its forces had spread in the nearby areas.

Numerous packs of improved magical beasts altered the artificial lands created by arrays of formations by devouring the blue bushes and expanding their influence. Multiple suitable lairs had already appeared in that short time, but more work was needed.

Noah and the others only glanced at those areas before entering the orange city. The array of lightning bolts opened to allow the experts' passage, and the team soon reached the deep pit.

"We never thought we would have seen the higher plane reach a similar state," The old rulers announced as soon as the experts landed at the bottom of the pit.

"Don't try to take over the landmass while we are gone," Noah warned.

"Oh, we have prepared plans during the whole project," The old rulers joked.

"Does it count as a betrayal if I steal the landmass for myself after the old rulers take it?" Supreme Thief wondered.

"Our creation would be a failure if it were so easy to corrupt and steal," Divine Demon commented.

"Do you want to make a bet?" Supreme Thief asked.

"You are rank 9 experts," King Elbas scolded. "What can you even gain from a bet?"

"The landmass?" Supreme Thief questioned.

"A demon doesn't need gains to jump into a gamble," Divine Demon exclaimed.

"I swear I heard you say the opposite thing in the past," June scoffed.

"A demon doesn't need to be reasonable!" Divine Demon responded.

"That sounds convenient," Maribel politely added.

"Did you expect something different from the leader of the idiots?" King Elbas sighed, and Sepunia giggled.

"How is the dragon?" Noah asked while ignoring his group.

"It grew," The old rulers replied. "However, piercing the sky in its current state might be too hard even for a creature with such peculiar abilities."

"Can't you see my underlings?" Noah stated while pointing at the experts around him. "They will probably kill each other if I don't give them something to do."

"We are indeed surprised that the landmass is still in one piece," The old rulers joked.

"Never say never," Divine Demon laughed.

"Did you forget about the mission again?" Supreme Thief asked.

"I did!" The Foolery squealed, happy to have found the chance to speak.

"The dragon," Noah reminded.

"It's getting a speech from the time dragon and space dragon," The old rulers revealed. "They have actually requested your presence.. We'll have fun with your companions in the meantime."

Chapter 2182 - 2182. Promise

Noah followed the old rulers' indication and left the pit to fly toward one of the areas around the orange city. He could instinctively recognize the environment influenced by the dragons' auras, so he soon landed in front of three huge figures.

The time dragon and the space dragon had their eyes closed as growls left their mouths. Those cries had no specific meaning, but Noah could sense the knowledge that they carried.

The odd dark dragon was among them, and it also kept its eyes closed as that knowledge echoed in its ears. The creature appeared completely immersed in the process, and Noah didn't dare disturb it.

Noah's gaze fell on the environment while he waited for the dragons to complete that passage of knowledge. He could sense the many formations hidden under the dark ground that had covered the area. They stretched everywhere and naturally fused with the various features of the lair.

A series of mountains were growing all around Noah. They were still too short to host the entirety of the dragon pack, but the auras that filled the environment slowly made them stretch upward.

The formations were also caught in the process. They were part of the environment, so they stretched inside the mountains and adapted to all the changes that the dragons' auras caused.

Noah knew that similar scenes were happening everywhere on the landmass. His creation was turning into a proper higher plane capable of becoming a home for an endless number of species. It only needed time to reach a perfect state.

The pack of magical beasts, the hybrids, and the various human forces would be free to thrive on that immense landmass. The area wouldn't ever suffer from a shortage of resources due to the Foolery.

Daniel would probably find it hard to handle everything due to the immense size of his new home, but the experience would definitely benefit his world. He wouldn't even be alone in the process, so Noah could feel at ease.

"I must thank you, Defying Demon," The time dragon eventually spoke and claimed Noah's attention. "I never thought I would be able to witness something so amazing after everything the higher plane went through."

"It's funny how a selfish desire is helping so many packs," Noah exclaimed. "I really have a soft spot for magical beasts."

"You can't deny your nature," The time dragon responded. "You radiate the pride of a leader. Guiding your underlings toward a better future is part of your instincts."

Noah sighed as his consciousness transformed into countless tendrils that rained on the landmass and allowed him to inspect many environments at the same time. He could see thousands of magical beasts roaming freely in their new lairs and going back to a lifestyle that the higher plane didn't witness in a long time.

It was all coming together now. Noah's initial interest in the magical beasts' field had turned him into the creator of a world that those creatures could populate. It almost felt fated, but Noah didn't dare to think in those terms due to Caesar's existence.

"I wonder how much of this will remain after the final battle," Noah said. "No matter the outcome, I won't be here to rebuild the landmass."

"Worlds have died and reborn countless times before your rise to power," The time dragon declared. "They will continue to do so even without you. Maybe this plane won't survive the final battle, but that's not the point, am I right?"

"Freedom is the point," Noah stated. "We must open the path toward the depths of the universe, the path past the ninth rank."

"Our existences have always suffered from heavy limitations," The time dragon sighed. "The magical beasts can't evolve as fast as cultivators. We are children of a desperate attempt to oppose Heaven and Earth. Don't forget us when you claim your victory."

"You might survive the final battle," Noah laughed. "There is no need to be so pessimistic."

"My companion and I are different from the other magical beasts," The time dragon explained. "We are avatars of a past system clinging desperately to life. Our nature will die even before Heaven and Earth's awakening."

Noah immediately connected those words with the nature of the two dragons. They had inherited their personalities, power, and overall existence from the past world, but those features would change once the old rulers improved their species.

The transformation would affect the two dragons differently from the other magical beasts. Their existences were too deep, so the improvements would transform their characters as a whole.

"When are you going to go through the procedure?" Noah asked.

"After your departure," The time dragon revealed. "I'm afraid this is goodbye."

"I see," Noah whispered before falling silent.

Words were pointless in that situation. Noah didn't want the two dragons to lose themselves, but he knew that their transformation was necessary. They had to become valuable assets that Heaven and Earth's Cancer could deploy during the final battle.

"Don't feel bad for us," The time dragon continued. "In one way or another, we will fulfill our purpose."

"The world will remember us," Noah announced.

"We don't care about memories," The time dragon growled as it raised its head to glance at a random spot in the distance. "You said that freedom is the point. Make sure that your words don't apply only to the cultivators. This is my last request."

Deep thoughts surged in Noah's mind. Ideas appeared and shattered as the time dragon's words echoed inside his consciousness. He felt a profound respect for the upper tier creature. It had lived its whole life for the magical beasts' sake, and that won't change even in death.

"I'll pave a path for them," Noah promised.

"That's good," The time dragon nodded while the space dragon opened its strange eyes and set off to fly toward the rest of the pack.

The odd dragon also opened its eyes after the event. The creature's aura exploded outward and revealed its middle tier level. It had grown stronger during the last period, but its power couldn't surprise Noah.

"Leader," The odd dragon exclaimed when it saw Noah.

"Did the other dragons teach you some manners?" Noah joked.

"I have grown past my unwillingness," The odd dragon replied. "Do you need me to defeat Heaven and Earth?"

"Something close to that," Noah declared. "Follow me. I'll explain the mission along the way."

The odd dragon nodded and set off before hovering above the lair. The creature expected Noah to join it right away, but the heavy atmosphere on the ground told it that it would have to wait a bit.

"Goodbye then," Noah growled while performing a polite bow. "Thank you for everything you have done for me and the world."

"Hurry up and leave," The time dragon laughed. "Don't waste time losing yourself among memories. That's a privilege that only those about to die can seize."

Noah didn't add anything else. He gently kicked the ground and shot in the sky. Still, a faint growl reached his ears during the flight.. The time dragon's cry resounded inside his mental sphere and translated into a clear "I leave the rest to you, Defying Demon, strongest dragon".

Chapter 2183 - 2183. Anger

Different roars began to resound on the landmass and spread in the sky. The time dragon's whisper had triggered a reaction in its entire pack, and Noah found himself in the middle of that noise.

His mind grew heavy as the sad cries resounded, and even the odd dragon at his side couldn't help but remain affected by the event. They both knew what was happening, but they couldn't do anything about it.

Noah reviewed the time dragon's words multiple times during the flight. He even slowed down his movements to delay the return to the orange city. He didn't want to stop thinking about the matter, and a decision eventually became clear.

"Go ahead," Noah ordered at some point. "The old rulers will show you the path toward the rest of your teammates. I have something to do first."

The odd dragon wasn't in the mood for words, so it simply nodded and continued the flight on its own. Meanwhile, Noah turned toward a familiar dark spot in the distance and didn't hesitate to shoot toward it.

Soon, the spot expanded to turn into the figure of the old landmass. Noah had made sure that the structure fused entirely with his new creation without losing what made it unique. The area had become a core part of the new higher plane, but its population had decreased.

That event was inevitable due to the new environments that the landmass offered. Many packs in Noah's old creation had long since begun to feel cramped in those areas, so they had left as soon as a chance appeared.

Some packs had migrated far away from their initial lair, but they couldn't escape Noah's consciousness and his expertise in following tracks. He quickly found his target, and the latter also stopped when it sensed his descent.

A series of hisses resounded in the area and suppressed the distant cries that had continued to echo from the dragons' lair. Many reptilian heads rose toward the sky to fix their eyes on the small figure descending toward them. Anger built up in the area, but lingering respect retained control over the atmosphere.

"It's been a while," Noah exclaimed.

"What do you want?" The leader of the eternal snakes asked through a low hiss.

"Aren't you tired of roaming into my lands?" Noah mocked. "I'm beginning to think that you like being my pet."

A loud hiss followed by a reckless charge unfolded before those words stopped echoing in the area. Noah found himself with a palm placed on a massive dark-green head. The snake had attacked him, but it couldn't even make him budge.

"You are weak," Noah commented. "Why did you bother reaching the upper tier? Your whole path is a waste of energy."

The snake hissed in anger again, and its underlings began to jump into the sky. However, Noah mocked the creature before the whole pack could converge on him. "Do you need your whole pack just to make me move?"

The snake felt challenged, which led it to hiss another order. Its underlings immediately stopped attacking and returned to the surface. They obeyed their leader faithfully, but their expressions told Noah that they could see the truth behind the situation.

"You can't win with anger alone," Noah declared, but the upper tier snake seemed unable to hear him.

The creature opened its mouth and spat a silver river that quickly turned into ice. The entire region soon froze, and Noah found himself trapped inside that vast structure.

However, roots pierced Noah's skin in multiple spots and destroyed all the ice around him. The parasite even tried to stretch toward the snake, but Noah forced it to focus on the frozen areas.

The vast frozen structure vanished, and the land under it transformed into an empty plain devoid of resources. Noah had destroyed one of the new lairs in a matter of seconds, and he didn't even need to move to accomplish that.

"Can you see it now?" Noah asked. "You used to be strong and fearsome, but you are nothing more than a beast in my eyes now."

The snake's anger didn't diminish at all, but it didn't blind it. The recent events had proven how Noah had reached unmatchable realms, and the creature didn't find any point in attacking him again.

The upper tier snake returned to the surface and heaved a hiss meant to gather its underlings. The pack would migrate somewhere with more resources, and no one would speak about Noah anymore.

"Is this fine with you?" Noah asked before the snakes could go away. "Is that all you want to be? Will you keep crawling like a worm even during the final battle?"

"What do you want?!" The upper tier snake hissed.

"Why are you suppressing my influence?" Noah questioned as his consciousness condensed into the shape of a dark pillar that shone on the upper tier specimen.

The pillar shrunk until it focused on a spot somewhere in the middle of the creature's body. Its dark-green scales then turned transparent and allowed everyone to see its insides.

The focus of the pillar was on a black oval organ surrounded by silver ice. A dark influence seeped out of that structure and spread throughout the snake's insides, but it appeared too weak to cause significant changes.

"Why don't you want to evolve?" Noah asked.

"Mind your own business," The snake scoffed.

"You will never amount to anything like this," Noah continued.

"Shut your mouth!" The snake shouted.

"You'll watch unworthy beings climb to higher heights," Noah added. "That's how the rest of your life will be with that attitude."

"You don't know that!" The snake hissed as its pride spread in the barren area and gave birth to new ice. "You don't know anything about me. You don't know anything about my species. You built a throne to stare at us from above. Tell me, how are you different from Heaven and Earth?"

Anger instinctively flowed inside Noah's aura as he lifted his head to voice a roar. He couldn't accept that comparison, but he understood what was happening. The snake's pride was poisoning its mindset.

"Prove it then!" Noah roared. "Come into the sky with me and prove that you have what it takes to go past the peak!"

"Why would I join you?!" The snake angrily hissed.

"Because you are useless right now!" Noah shouted. "I don't care what method you use, but I won't stay silent when you choose to remain useless. You are more valuable as a source of meat in your current state."

"How dare you?!" The snake voiced another angry remark before leaping toward Noah again. However, he waved a hand and delivered a slap that flung the creature back on the ground.

"This is where you belong," Noah announced. "Your current form is an insult. Do everyone a favor and go back on being a worm."

The upper tier snake hissed and leaped toward Noah, but he flung it back on the ground with another slap. Some of the scales on the creature's head broke, but the ice in the area fixed the injury in an instant.

The snake didn't give up. It shot toward Noah again, but the latter didn't slap it away at that time. He stabbed his fingers into the creature's head and kept it locked into his grasp.

"Come with me into the sky," Noah growled. "Show me that you can be useful."

"Are you threatening me?" The snake hissed.

"You aren't worthy of my threats," Noah revealed a cold smirk.

"You arrogant creature," The snake said in a low voice. "I will make you regret this day. I won't stop until every inch of your existence melts inside my stomach."

"That's more like it," Noah laughed.. He knew that the mission had just gained a new teammate.

Chapter 2184 - 2184. Drill

The team's final structure became clear, and the experts didn't take long to gather in a random spot under the sky. Noah, June, King Elbas, Supreme Thief, Sepunia, Maribel, Divine Demon, the Foolery, the odd dragon, Steven, and the Eternal Snake found themselves staring at the immense white layer, and hesitation inevitably built up inside their minds.

The sky had transformed in ways that even Noah and Steven couldn't predict. Their worlds allowed them to gain deep insights into Heaven and Earth's power, but they remained silent as the inspection continued.

The same went for King Elbas. His knowledge was immense, but his items couldn't find much about the sky. Divine Demon was also unable to find answers through his miraculous methods, so the experts accepted that preparing properly was impossible.

That issue didn't help the group's tense atmosphere. Divine Demon and June were problematic characters, and the Foolery and the Eternal Snake only worsened that situation.

Noah had no idea how to make the group work together. The Foolery simply couldn't shut up, and the Eternal Snake hissed in anger whenever it felt a comment aimed at its power. Meanwhile, June and Divine Demon kept babbling about a potential fight.

The troublesome characters even mentioned King Elbas often, and the others couldn't do anything to appease the tension. Maribel didn't want to be part of that mess, Supreme Thief didn't care, and Sepunia limited herself to laugh.

Steven and the odd dragon were the only potential allies, but Noah knew that they wouldn't be able to appease anything. The strange dragon was too silent and out of place, while Steven's full attention was on the sky.

"I'm telling you that we have to break everything!" Divine Demon announced as blood-red energy gathered in his palms. "A grand gesture is the key to the demon's path!"

"This idiot will kill us all," King Elbas sighed.

"I want to turn the sky blue," The Foolery added.

"I don't think we can be stealthy anyway," June commented while glancing at the Eternal Snake.

"Only a cultivator could find my size troublesome," The Eternal Snake scoffed.

"Can we go in already?" Supreme Thief exclaimed.

"Why don't you come up with a way to enter the sky?" King Elbas snorted. "We are doing this for you in the end."

"Come on, use that knowledge of yours," Supreme Thief lazily whined. "I'll just steal it and do the mission by myself if you can't use it properly."

"Do you think your power can handle my knowledge?" King Elbas coldly laughed.

"That's a battle I'd like to see," Divine Demon teased.

"Do you mind if I join it?" June wondered.

"I have to build muzzles for all of you," Noah whispered.

"I want to see you try!" King Elbas shouted.

"I'll die before wearing one of your creations!" The Eternal Snake hissed.

"Can I eat part of it?" The Foolery asked.

"Of course, you can," Divine Demon reassured while patting the pig's back. "That's what muzzles are for."

"Don't teach it this stuff," King Elbas cursed. "It will become even dumber."

"Noah always had a kinky side," June giggled.

"Can we move back to the main topic?" Supreme Thief questioned.

"Which is?" The Foolery wondered. "I forgot."

"I am the main topic," Supreme Thief reminded. "Hurry up. Open a path and fight for me while I steal what I need for the breakthrough."

"I'll never fight for a cultivator!" The Eternal Snake hissed.

"You didn't mind eating the resources that we created for entire millennia," June mocked.

"Do you want to get eaten so soon?" The Eternal Snake threatened.

"I wish to see you try," June exclaimed as sparks came out of her skin.

"Elbas, start the mission already," Noah ordered.

"You can't always order me around like this!" King Elbas complained. "What makes you think that I have the best plan for the mission?"

"You have it, am I right?" Noah said.

"I obviously have it!" King Elbas shouted.

"Just go with it then," Noah sighed. "I'm starting to regret putting so many rank 9 existences together."

"You meant idiots," King Elbas continued before taking out a series of items from his figure.

Noah studied the group while King Elbas assembled the item needed to start the mission. The Eternal Snake was the only existence at the peak of the ninth rank, but it was also one of the team's weakest assets.

The odd dragon occupied the same spot, but its innate ability made it a priceless asset to the team. Meanwhile, all the other experts were in the liquid stage, but their battle prowess stood on very different realms.

"Come here," King Elbas eventually ordered while pointing his finger at the odd dragon.

The multiple items that had come out of King Elbas' figure had assembled to take a giant triangular shape. The structure resembled a drill, but nothing in its fabric hinted at its spinning ability.

The odd dragon followed King Elbas' order and approached the drill. The expert pointed at a spot on the item's base, and the creature activated its innate ability to release a dark liquid.

Everyone could study the odd dragon's true power now. Its dark liquid radiated features that went directly against Heaven and Earth. Noah and Steven's instincts even rejoiced to be so close to such an incredible substance.

King Elbas made sure that all the liquid fell on the drill. The item absorbed everything in its insides and allowed its color to change. The blinding golden radiance darkened, but the power that it carried intensified.

"Can't you hurry up?" Supreme Thief asked while waiting for the dark liquid to fill the entirety of the drill.

"Don't speak about things you don't understand," King Elbas scolded. "Besides, this is Noah's fault. I didn't expect him to bring the snake."

The Foolery approached the Eternal Snake and whispered in its ear. "He is saying that you are fat."

"My size is my pride!" The Eternal Snake hissed.

"I'll leave some of you inside the sky if you don't shut up," Noah threatened.

"That would be fun!" Divine Demon laughed.

"Is this thing ready or not?" Supreme Thief insisted.

"Almost ready," King Elbas sighed.

"Dragon, don't make me steal your innate ability," Supreme Thief continued.

"Elbas?" Noah called.

"It's ready!" King Elbas exclaimed, and the bickering finally ended.

Everyone's focus went on the drill. King Elbas pushed the item forward until its tip touched the sky. The white layer tried to dissolve that dark-gold fabric, but bubbling noises soon came out of it.

The dark liquid inside the drill began to boil, and its fumes fused with the golden structure. A strange aura came out of the item as its entire fabric started to shake. No rotation happened, but the sky suffered anyway.

The drill sent the strange aura forward through its tremors. The sky began to cave in due to the toxic influence slowly entering its fabric. It was clear that the process was working, but it was incredibly slow due to the new properties of the white layer.

"Too slow," Divine Demon eventually expressed everyone's thoughts and waved his hand.

"Stop it!" King Elbas pleaded, but blood-red energy shot out of Divine Demon's figure and reached the drill before the former could do anything about it.

Divine Demon's energy fused with the drill and enhanced its properties. The item started to rotate, which allowed it to condense the features of the dark liquid in its insides.

The drill's effectiveness sharply increased, but a sudden event made its power pointless. A big chunk of the sky melted and retreated on its own to create a giant passage.. It seemed that Heaven and Earth were inviting the experts inside.

Chapter 2185 - 2185. Chance

"I didn't expect Heaven and Earth to be so kind," Divine Demon laughed.

"They have probably acknowledged the importance of the mission," Supreme Thief announced.

"Noah?" King Elbas called.

"I think they are protecting the sky," Noah guessed while focusing on the drill. "Did you tune the drill to give us a chance to pass unnoticed?"

"Of course," King Elbas scoffed. "It's a pity that a certain idiot ruined my plan."

"A demon must show no fear," Divine Demon exclaimed.

"Protecting the sky," King Elbas repeated while ignoring Divine Demon. "Heaven and Earth have never cared about the state of their world. They actually benefited whenever we destroyed parts of it."

"The situation has changed," Steven stated. "It's possible that their energy reserves are running short."

"Maybe Heaven and Earth need to preserve the sky for now," Noah wondered.

"We should destroy as much as we can then!" The Foolery shouted.

"How would you do that?" King Elbas sighed. "Heaven and Earth can liquefy the sky at will. Even my modified item can't destroy it fast enough."

"You meant improved item," Divine Demon teased.

"I meant what I said," King Elbas snorted.

Noah ignored the bickering happening around him to focus on the issue. Heaven and Earth's reaction had opened the path for a different approach. Attacking the sky might be a good option since the rulers seemed to care about its state.

Noah instinctively glanced at King Elbas before moving his gaze back on the vast passage. His companion could probably make more drills in no time, and Divine Demon could also improve all of them. Planning an all-out attack against the sky was far from impossible.

However, that approach would force Heaven and Earth's hand. Noah had a vague idea of their actual power, so he knew that his organization wasn't ready for the final battle.

Surpassing Heaven and Earth's numbers was impossible. That was something that no one could deny. Noah's group had to rely on the advantage given by the world's fairness during the final battle to win. Still, they had other tactics.

Noah had never liked placing his life in someone's else hands, especially when it came to an unreasonable power that tried to enforce balance. Yet, he didn't have many options. Heaven and Earth virtually had no weaknesses in their current state, and their long rule had made them superior to their opponents in almost every field.

That almost was Noah's main focus now. His side wasn't a match for Heaven and Earth, except when it came to the individual strength of its assets.

Noah and the others had already proven how they could surpass the privileged cultivators, which were Heaven and Earth's best assets. Tricks and plans could work in the final battle, but Noah believed that enhancing the only strong point of his organization was the best approach.

Attacking the sky could hinder Heaven and Earth's plans and delay the arrival of the final battle. Yet, Supreme Thief's path would also suffer from that approach since he would lose his chance to steal something necessary for his breakthrough.

The expert might cause problems on the black landmass if something like that was to happen, but Noah's thoughts never reached those topics. He made up his mind even before considering Supreme Thief's character. He wanted to prioritize his underlings' growth, so the other approach had to wait.

"Let's go in," Noah ordered, and his words claimed everyone's attention. "It's pointless to wait any longer, especially when Heaven and Earth have decided to take away one of our greatest problems."

"Did you make up your mind?" King Elbas asked in a severe tone. He had understood the conflict inside Noah, so he couldn't help but express his curiosity.

"We would never win through smart tactics and traps anyway," Noah sighed. "Individuality is our only advantage. We can't take paths that risk hindering it."

"I agree with you," King Elbas stated, "But that path also has flaws."

"We'll control what we can control," Noah announced while his mind played the flaws mentioned by King Elbas. "We'll kill what tries to go against the plan."

The approach chosen by Noah had a single but significant flaw. Enhancing the individual power of many rank 9 beings could lead to internal fights.

The outcome almost sounded inevitable when Noah thought about it. After all, those who could reach the peak of the cultivation journey were unreasonable maniacs. Divine Demon and the others didn't cause internal battles due to their friendship. Yet, that didn't apply to every force on the landmass.

The discussion with the Eternal Snake was only one of the many problems that could appear due to the numerous powerful existences on the black landmass. The old higher plane handled those issues by sending everyone in the stormy regions, but Noah couldn't use a similar solution.

Noah's organization had to remain on the same landmass, even if that led to a clash of worlds. The future appeared grim and troublesome, but Noah couldn't find other paths. He could only make sure that his core team remained stronger than the other forces.

"Let's go!" Supreme Thief eventually announced before shooting inside the opening.

King Elbas cursed, but he went after Supreme Thief. Noah and the others didn't hesitate to follow the two experts, so the entire team soon found itself inside the tunnel opened by Heaven and Earth.

The rulers didn't set a specific path. The team soon reached its end, but more chunks of the sky melted when Heaven and Earth understood where Noah and the others wanted to go.

Noah didn't like Heaven and Earth's cooperative behavior, but he didn't complain. He didn't even question the lack of avatars and special forces on the path. The rulers had probably understood the team's plan, so they preferred not to send assets toward Supreme Thief.

Supreme Thief wasn't looking for anything specific. He wanted something to steal, but that wasn't limited to the worlds of the privileged cultivators.

Each inch of the sky carried Heaven and Earth's laws. They weren't intense in the path that Noah and the others were crossing, but they remained able to attract Supreme Thief's interest from time to time.

Of course, that lack of intensity prevented Supreme Thief from stealing enough to approach the breakthrough. He needed something big, something able to push his vast world into the last step of the cultivation journey.

The requirements for the breakthrough didn't stop Supreme Thief from indulging in occasional thefts. Stealing was more than an urge for him, so his special pulling force came out of his figure whenever he found something interesting.

Noah and the others never hindered Supreme Thief's behavior. Azure light came out of the expert whenever he noticed an appealing law. Heaven and Earth managed to hide those weak meanings many times, but they also failed to salvage them now and then.

Supreme Thief's mood worsened whenever the rulers prevented him from stealing something. That made him slightly vengeful, which affected his interest in the laws around him.

The expert could steal when something attracted his interest, but Heaven and Earth's behavior lowered his standards. Supreme Thief's pulling force began to appear more often since he began to rob the sky for the sole sake of hurting the rulers.

Noah and the others didn't intervene, and they didn't feel surprised at all when white light flashed a few times next to them. Three solid stage experts materialized among that radiance, and one of them spoke before her physical features became clear. "Stop this. Accept Heaven and Earth's kindness and only steal what you need."

"Someone owes me resources," Divine Demon announced.

"We have all placed bets on the same outcome," King Elbas complained.

"We too smart," The Foolery exclaimed while lifting its head.

"Shut up and pick an opponent," Noah ordered.. "We can't miss this chance to kill some of Heaven and Earth's assets."

Chapter 2186 - 2186. Immortal

Heaven and Earth wouldn't have refrained themselves from attacking Noah's group directly if they were awake. However, their passive and condescending behavior told the team that they still couldn't show their faces.

That understanding made the following events far too easy to predict. Noah and the others knew that some privileged cultivators would have appeared, so they were ready when the battle arrived.

"I am more than enough to deal with all of them," Divine Demon shouted.

"Leave them to me!" Supreme Thief exclaimed. "They seem to be a good addition to my world."

"Let me prove myself!" The Foolery squealed.

"I shall not cooperate with anyone!" The Eternal Snake hissed.

"I'll kill anyone who gets in my way," June threatened.

"Don't you even think about leaving me behind," Steven announced.

"I also want to fight!" The odd dragon roared.

"Defying Demon, what do we do?" Maribel politely asked.

"Isn't that obvious?" King Elbas sighed. "You don't need to ask Noah that kind of stuff. Just ignore the idiots and join the fights."

"Did you just save Defying Demon some time?" Sepunia teased. "You acted as a proper underling."

"Why don't you join my battle and get in my attacks' trajectory?" King Elbas scoffed.

"I wonder if you'll really attack me," Sepunia giggled, and King Elbas limited himself to ignore her.

"Elbas, take the pig, Supreme Thief, and Sepunia," Noah ordered. "June will go with Steven, Maribel, and the dragon. I will handle the snake and Divine Demon."

"Why would I fight with the pig?" King Elbas complained.

"I will never join forces with you!" The Eternal Snake hissed.

"Can I complain even if I don't mind the current teams?" The Foolery asked.

Noah knew that those complaints were coming, so he focused the entirety of his attention on the three experts. They were clearly privileged cultivators, but their power stood on different realms even if they were all in the solid stage.

The middle-aged woman who had spoken acted as the leader of her group. The intensity of her aura surpassed her companions, and the same went for the disgust on her face.

The young-looking man at her left wore an uncaring smile. His presence was difficult to inspect, but his level remained undeniable. Instead, the third cultivator was an old woman who wore a cold expression while studying her opponents.

Supreme Thief instinctively sprinted toward the middle-aged woman, and the companions appointed by Noah followed him. Meanwhile, June and those in her team flew toward the old woman.

Noah didn't feel surprised by that division, and he didn't mind handling the least remarkable opponent either. The intensity of the aura didn't necessarily reveal someone's prowess, and he preferred to go against seemingly troublesome opponents. His team was perfect for them.

The snake didn't like to fight someone seemingly unremarkable, but it held back from opposing Noah's orders. Still, it shot toward the young-looking man before Noah and Divine Demon, and the latter let it do as it wished.

The three privileged cultivators separated and flew toward different areas to create multiple battlefields. Their expressions carried no fear toward the incoming fights, and it wasn't hard to guess why.

Noah and the others were in the middle of the sky. Even Noah's new influence would find it hard to create areas where the whiteness couldn't stretch.

In theory, Heaven and Earth had complete control over the area. Killing privileged cultivators in that environment would be almost impossible, but Noah and the others never refused a challenge, especially when the conditions favored them.

Heaven and Earth's inability to step into the battlefields directly was the most crucial aspect of that situation. They had even chosen to let Noah and the others enter the sky freely instead of opposing them. That spoke loudly about their condition and reassured their invaders.

'Maybe Heaven and Earth want us to kill these cultivators,' Noah thought as he watched the snake rushing toward the young-looking man. 'Maybe they want to seize what remains of their world after we win.'

That plan sounded reasonable. Heaven and Earth had their eyes on their strongest assets for entire years, but their lack of understanding had never allowed them to seize that power.

Heaven and Earth's new state probably didn't need the entirety of those incredible worlds anymore. Even shards of them could be enough to bring their power to perfection. Noah couldn't confirm that hypothesis, but he didn't stop his thoughts since they allowed him to come up with possible countermeasures.

Part of Noah had already decided that he wouldn't let anything about his opponent survive. Night, Snore, and the parasite silently acknowledged those intentions, and the same went for the swords that materialized in his palms.

"My heir, you think too much," Divine Demon laughed when he noticed Noah's pensive state.

"Someone has to do it," Noah chuckled. "Still, you are correct now. Let's just go all-out."

"That's the spirit!" Divine Demon shouted, and the two accelerated toward their opponent.

The Eternal Snake wasn't as fast as Noah, Divine Demon, and the young-looking man. It couldn't catch up with its opponent while he flew toward an isolated area. Still, an angry hiss left the creature's mouth when the cultivator stopped moving.

Noah and Divine Demon had the chance to surpass the snake and prevent its reckless charge, but they let it go first. The creature opened its giant mouth before closing it as soon as it reached its opponent.

The young-looking cultivator didn't seem to notice the incoming attack. He was busy glancing at a random spot in the sky when the mouth closed around him. Silver liquid even slid down the snake's fangs as it made sure to freeze everything inside its bite.

Noah and Divine Demon slowed down when they saw that scene. The Eternal Snake wasn't weak. It was actually above average for an upper tier magical beast. However, its opponent was a privileged cultivator in the solid stage. The world had nothing stronger than that.

That simple attack couldn't have killed the cultivator, but Divine Demon and Noah remained on the sidelines while they waited for something to happen. Yet, their decision only led to deep confusion since they felt their opponent's aura vanishing.

"Is he really dead?" Noah couldn't help but wonder.

"It can't be, right?" Divine Demon continued. "We can't be so unlucky. Should I revive him?"

"Try not to do that with our enemies," Noah ordered.

"But this was far too boring," Divine Demon complained.

The Eternal Snake gulped and opened its mouth to hiss proudly. Shards of silver ice fell from its fangs during the process, and the cultivator's aura finally vanished. The battle seemed to have ended there, but Noah and Divine Demon didn't let that strange event affect their concentration.

"I am the greatest being in the sky!" The snake hissed, but its expression suddenly froze.

A spot halfway through the snake's body began to inflate until it generated a gory explosion. The detonation almost cut the creature in half, but the figure that came out didn't care enough about the situation to benefit from it.

"Don't go around eating people," The young-looking cultivator complained as he removed all the blood and gore that had fallen on his body. "That might kill someone, you know?"

The Eternal Snake spat a river of silver water that froze part of the whiteness around it and created ice that fixed its injury. Its anger appeared unstoppable, but Noah landed on its head before it could charge ahead again.

"What do you mean by someone?" Noah asked while preventing the snake from pushing forward.

"Well, someone," The young-looking cultivator shrugged his shoulders. "Someone who isn't me."

"That sounded like a challenge," Divine Demon declared in excitement while appearing on the opposite side of the privileged cultivator.

"Don't bother," The young-looking cultivator yawned. "I can't die.. I am immortal."

Chapter 2187 - 2187. Idiot

Divine Demon's aura skyrocketed, but Noah found the young-looking man's words odd. He let them resound inside his mind, and an annoying feeling filled his body when he connected them to a certain expert.

Rank 9 experts could speak nonsense, but the young-looking cultivator didn't seem the type. Besides, Noah had witnessed the strange outcome of the last assault.

It seemed that the privileged cultivator's world had some connection with the true meaning of immortality, which made Noah's instincts scream. He couldn't help but notice a faint connection with Caesar's fate.

Everything could be a coincidence, but Noah couldn't believe that when the higher plane was only one step short from the final battle. His decision to bring the Eternal Snake and the meeting with an expert who claimed to be immortal felt way too perfect to be true.

'The strands of fate are strong here,' Noah commented in his mind as potential flowed inside his mind and allowed him to perform a better inspection of the area.

The inspection didn't reveal anything specific, but Noah trusted his instincts. He felt as if external forces had planned that battle. The current situation was probably happening in Caesar's palm, and he didn't know how to get out of it.

'Should I even bother?' Noah wondered.

Noah could guess Caesar's plan. The expert wanted to make Heaven and Earth's Cancer strong enough to force a final evolution in the rulers. That didn't apply only to Noah and the core assets of the organization. The Eternal Snake also had the potential to turn into a valuable stepping stone.

However, that also worked in Noah's favor. He could pierce Caesar's fate, at least part of it. His ability to work outside the expert's power would only increase as his level rose, and his underlings would probably experience similar enhancements afterward.

"What is it?" The young-looking cultivator asked when he noticed that his three opponents' offensive was on hold. "Did you really accept my words? That's quite lucky. It's my first time meeting someone so smart."

The snake hissed in anger, and Divine Demon laughed as his surroundings turned blood-red. They were both ready to launch an attack, but they instinctively waited for Noah's orders.

"I accept this challenge," Noah eventually growled as he stood on the snake's head and glanced at a random spot in the sky. "We'll use the final battle to decide who was right."

"Who are you even talking to?" The young-looking expert asked before yawning loudly. "Well, not that I care. Just do your best and get going."

"What's your name?" Noah questioned through a chuckle.

"My name?" The young-looking cultivator repeated while rolling his black eyes. "Recalling it is quite a bother. Let me see. It should be something like Phis, no, Philto. Right, it's Philto."

"Did you hear him, snake?" Noah asked while tapping his foot on the snake's head. "Philto claims to be immortal. That suits your power. I want you to make it yours."

"Who do you think you are ordering around?" The snake hissed.

"A weak underling," Noah laughed as his pride exploded and filled the entire area. "Now then. Go die a few more times."

"What?" The snake gasped, but it found itself unable to stop what was happening.

Noah stabbed his fingers on the snake's head before throwing the whole creature forward. Philto heaved an annoyed sigh, but he didn't dodge the incoming attack.

The Eternal Snake cursed Noah while opening its mouth to make sure that Philto fell inside it. The scenes from before unfolded again. The magical beast almost made the cultivator's aura disappear, but a detonation eventually happened.

Philto appeared as bored as always as he removed the gore from his body, while the snake only grew angrier as it spat silver liquid to freeze the whiteness and heal its injuries. The creature even glanced at Noah to express its anger, but the latter didn't care.

Noah laughed as he reached the Eternal Snake and threw it toward Philto again. The process resembled torture, but Divine Demon didn't interrupt Noah. He actually materialized a cup of wine to enjoy the spectacle.

The Eternal Snake ate and crashed on Philto multiple times, but the outcome never changed. Philto suffered injuries, but they disappeared whenever the enemy offensive ended.

That power went beyond simple regeneration. Noah even wondered whether it involved some deep meanings of time, but he quickly rejected that hypothesis.

Philto wasn't healing himself. He wasn't going back in time to deny the injuries either. His world simply went back to its peak power on its own, without using any specific technique.

"Stop it!" The Eternal Snake cursed, but Noah didn't care. He threw his underling toward Philto as his laugh continued to resound in the area.

"Can you stop it?" Philto asked as he came out of the snake once again. "It has long since gotten boring. Also, I think your underling won't last much longer."

Philto's words were on point. Noah had thrown the Eternal Snake many times already, and the effectiveness of the silver liquid had started to decrease during the last exchanges.

The issue wasn't with the Eternal Snake's power. The whiteness had simply developed a resistance to the silver liquid, which prevented the creature from generating enough ice.

The snake couldn't heal its injuries fully without ice, so wounds began to accumulate on its massive body as Noah continued to throw it toward Philto. Still, the creature's immense resilience allowed it to remain able to fight.

"Oh, I don't really care," Noah continued to laugh as roars mixed with his human voice. "I don't need useless assets. I'll keep throwing this idiot at you until it accepts its position in the food chain."

"Your underling will die," Philto commented.

"Let it die then," Noah declared while shooting toward the snake again.

The Eternal Snake tried to dodge Noah at that time, but its physical strength and abilities were no match for him. Noah easily reached his underling, grabbed its head, and threw it toward Philto.

"That was a good throw, my heir!" Divine Demon shouted from the sidelines.

"I'm getting better at this!" Noah laughed as he watched the Eternal Snake eating Philto. "I actually did something similar in the Mortal Lands now that I think about it."

"You should have turned it into a technique," Divine Demon suggested.

"I'll think about it if this idiot dies on me," Noah stated.

The Eternal Snake heard everything, but it couldn't answer its companions since an explosion happened inside its body. A bored Philto came out of the gory detonation, but he turned to wave his hand at that time.

The gesture sent a wave of energy that worsened the injury and cut the snake's body in half. Philto had finally decided to attack, but he didn't bother to launch other techniques afterward.

The snake's angry hiss filled the entire battlefield, but its silver liquid failed to create enough ice to reconnect its body. The creature could only watch as its severed flesh fell on the sky and vanished inside its whiteness.

"You basta-!" The snake tried to shout, but Noah suddenly landed on its head and interrupted it.

"Do you get it now?" Noah asked through a growl. "You talk big, but you aren't willing to do what it takes to reach the peak. You are the worst kind of weak in the world."

"I won't use your power to evolve!" The snake complained.

"Then eat it, you idiot," Noah laughed.

Chapter 2188 - 2188. Interesting

Pride was an important matter, especially for magical beasts that had reached the peak of the cultivation journey. That feeling was even more significant for the Eternal Snake due to its angry character.

Still, pride and anger easily led to misconceptions, and they could blind even the wisest existences. The Eternal Snake wasn't part of that group, but the many experiences accumulated in its long life didn't help it understand its flaws.

Remaining loyal to its species was a commendable effort, but it became stupid when it turned into a hindrance toward higher forms of power. The Eternal Snake wasn't willing to accept anyone's help, but Noah's actions had forced it to realize how weak it truly was.

Truth be told, the Eternal Snake was powerful. Only some species of dragons could overcome its innate abilities and sheer physical strength. However, the battlefield had long since gone beyond the mere struggles of the higher plane.

The Eternal Snake's mentality still belonged to the higher plane. At its core, it was a magical beast, so its desires still involved control over regions and similar environments.

Nevertheless, the world was far past those problems. The Eternal Snake could ignore that its pack was thriving on something Noah had created, but the latter couldn't accept that it continued to live like this.

Being arrogant was fine. Being prideful was even better. Yet, Noah couldn't forgive weakness, especially when it came from a bad mindset. He didn't care if the snake ended up hating him. He would force it to turn into something useful and deal with eventual problems later.

The Eternal Snake wanted to complain, but everything that tried to come out of its mouth sounded like childish whining. The truth was impossible to deny, and Noah had made sure to show it multiple times. A mere upper tier magical beast had no place among the sky.

"I will make you pay," The Eternal Snake threatened.

"I don't care," Noah coldly growled. "Just become strong enough to be useful."

"I will become strong enough to kill you," The Eternal Snake promised.

"Be careful," Noah chuckled. "There is a long line for that."

The snake hissed in anger, and the potential accumulated during the long life on the landmass finally broke free of the organ's limitations. Noah's miraculous energy fused with the creature's body, but it didn't take over the process.

Noah would typically create a chrysalis and manage the transformation so that his companion would turn into the best version of itself. Yet, he held back now and let the experiences accumulated by the snake rule the process.

Black lines appeared on the dark-green scales until they covered the entirety of the snake's body. Those marks enlarged and released smoke to create a chrysalis, and Noah did nothing to affect the process.

"Oh my," Philto sighed. "You are up to something troublesome. I can't let that happen."

Philto pointed his hand at the snake, but Noah and Divine Demon materialized in front of it. They had already unleashed their auras, and their dark and blood-red light took over the whiteness in their surroundings.

"Why would you attack now?" Noah teased. "Stay put and let the process end quietly."

"Attacking is a bother," Philto commented, "But I believe that this situation would last even longer if I don't do anything. I'm just pursuing the least troublesome path."

"Causing troubles is our specialty," Divine Demon announced. "Come on. I want to see what you can do when you try."

"Do you think this is the first time someone taunts me?" Philto asked. "Everyone is confident until the immensity of the sky becomes clear in their minds. You merely are a bit better than the others."

Philto didn't speak anymore. A wave of white energy left its hand and clashed with the shades released by Noah and Divine Demon. A clash of ethereal attacks happened mid-air, and a winner immediately became clear.

Noah and Divine Demon didn't hide their surprise when they saw the whiteness pushing their auras back. Philto's attack didn't carry any specific feature, but it remained strong enough to win against their opponents.

Of course, Noah and Divine Demon didn't accept defeat so easily. The blood-red radiance transformed into a series of dragon-like creatures that ate whiteness. Meanwhile, Night came out of Noah's figure and severed that annoying radiance into countless pieces.

"Are your ears even working?" Philto asked in his annoyed tone. "This energy is part of my world, and I'm immortal."

The whiteness destroyed and eaten suddenly reappeared in the area and overwhelmed the opposing techniques. The blood-red dragons crumbled while Night felt forced to retreat.

Noah and Divine Demon also had to retreat, but they couldn't go too far since the chrysalis was right behind them. The two felt forced to take the battle to the next level. Noah wielded his swords while Divine Demon generated a series of circular structures that quickly fused.

Noah knew what Divine Demon was about to unleash, so he decided to be the first to attack. Night returned inside his figure as he pointed his swords toward Philto. The entirety of his destructiveness gathered on his blades' tips before a wave of darkness filled the area.

The whiteness could only crumble in front of that massive wave of power. Noah's attack carried so many aspects of destruction that nothing could stand in its way. The areas inside the sky probably had the most stable fabric of space in the entire world, but they also failed to withstand the blow.

The battlefield fell into the void, and the sky in the distance remained the only source of white light. Even Philto suffered from the attack and found a giant hole at the center of its body.

The offensive didn't end there. Divine Demon circular structures finally fused to create a cylindrical item that featured multiple odd inscriptions. Noah didn't have the time to study them since Divine Demon unleashed his attack and covered the whole battlefield in bright blood-red light.

Nothing survived Divine Demon's attack. Noah even found himself praising that technique in his mind. His companion had proven once again to be an incredible monster.

The appearance of a white light among the blood-red area forced Noah and Divine Demon to focus on the battlefield again. They knew what was about to appear, and they felt no surprise when that radiance took Philto's shape.

"Troublesome, troublesome," Philto sighed while scratching his long, brown hair. "Look at the mess you have made. Heaven and Earth will wake up at this pace, and they will definitely scold me."

Philto's aura quickly spread in every spot tainted by the blood-red light to generate whiteness in its insides. The effect didn't only affect the energy on the battlefield. It also restored the fabric of space that Noah had destroyed.

Noah and Divine Demon could only watch as Philto restored the battlefield to its original state. It was as if the previous attacks didn't exist at all, but the event was different from what Noah had witnessed with Caesar.

"This is bad," Noah sighed.

"Bad indeed," Divine Demon agreed.

"Are you finally giving up?" Philto asked.

"Not at all," Divine Demon stated.

"I wanted to let the snake kill you," Noah explained, "But you are too interesting to take lightly."

Chapter 2189 - 2189. Mark

Divine Demon and Noah weren't battle maniacs, but they never backed out of interesting fights. Moreover, their desire to overcome their powerful opponent grew as their attacks continued to fail.

The simple desire of proving that their power was enough to defeat the strongest experts in the world was almost innate in their existences. Noah and Divine Demon knew that they were the best, and they wanted Heaven and Earth to see it.

'Immortality doesn't exist,' Noah stated in his mind as his aura darkened his surroundings.

Many powers in the ninth rank were unreasonable. Noah had a perfect example of that feature fighting at his side. However, limits existed, especially when it came to existences who had yet to step beyond the cultivation journey.

Supreme Thief and Great Builder had come back to life, but they had to rely on the deep properties that worlds obtained in the ninth rank. Those structures were extremely difficult to wipe out completely, so the two experts had the chance to resurrect them after fulfilling complicated conditions.

The situation was different with Philto. The expert seemed able to die and come back to life freely, and his power never suffered from that process. Yet, his attacks also failed to pose real threats, which hinted at a troublesome ability rather than an actual difference of power.

True immortality was impossible to achieve, but Noah could think of ways to get close to it. The trick was to review the matter from the perspective of rank 9 experts. It was clear that Philto's power had to involve the universe.

That was the only explanation behind such a flawless execution of a troublesome ability. Philto could endure countless attacks that many solid stage cultivators would find deadly without suffering any injury. His core had to reach a deep level of power, something that both Noah and Divine Demon had failed to touch during their offensive.

"I have a plan!" Divine Demon exclaimed while Noah was trying his best to come out with a valid strategy.

"I want my cup to be full if you are going to launch mindless attacks," Noah sighed.

"That's easy to do," Divine Demon laughed, and blood-red energy gathered in front of Noah to create a cup full of wine.

"Have fun," Noah stated before darting on the chrysalis and sitting cross-legged.

"I always do!" Divine Demon shouted as the whiteness around him fell under his control.

The white radiance condensed to give birth to blood-red light that accumulated behind Divine Demon. The expert didn't have any specific plan, but he wasn't the type to repeat the same mistakes.

Divine Demon had understood that his attacks had to reach the mark that Philto had left on the universe. That usually required a depth that only solid stage cultivators could achieve, but he planned to fill the gap through sheer power.

Noah knew that the approach could work, but something told him that defeating Philto wouldn't be easy. He had managed to create cracks in Cursed Reality and Caesar's techniques through a similar method, but Philto had a completely different smell, something that he had yet to understand.

The energy behind Divine Demon condensed until it took different shapes. Another cylindrical structure appeared above his head, but other techniques materialized at his sides and waited for his order.

Divine Demon only had to point his hand at Philto to launch his offensive. A series of tendrils shot forward and restrained the expert. Then, multiple orbs reached the cultivator's figure and started to erase his connection with his surroundings.

The world had given Divine Demon a plan that Noah could understand quickly. The many blood-red attacks wanted to separate Philto from the core of his world before launching a destructive offensive.

The tactic was sound, and Divine Demon also made the orbs continue their destruction until their light seeped into the space-time array. That radiance went deeper and deeper until it reached the void contained in the universe.

The radiance then transformed into a barrier that enveloped Philto and forced his power to exist inside those boundaries. The privileged cultivator seemed to have lost his connection to the universe, and Divine Demon unleashed his final attack before he could realize what had happened.

A wave of blood-red energy filled the battlefield and shattered everything on its path. Divine Demon's destructive power could reach unmatched levels, but Noah didn't let that scene surprise him.

More potential flowed inside Noah's mind as he did his best to study every change in the environment. He kept track of the space-time array and void as Divine Demon's raging energy destroyed everything. The offensive had been a success, but a white lump of light eventually appeared among that chaos.

"Why can't you just stop?" Philto's voice came out of the white lump of light as his body quickly materialized. "Everyone always rebels. Why can't you give up and let Heaven and Earth win? I'll finally have peace at that point."

"This is getting boring," Divine Demon commented as Philto reversed the destruction he had created.

"I wonder if ignoring him is the way to beat him," Noah laughed as he emptied his cup.

"That would be so nice of you," Philto exclaimed. "However, I can't let you go. Why don't you wait around until my companions are free?"

"What about the snake?" Noah asked while patting his hand on the chrysalis under him.

"I must kill that," Philto sighed. "Unless you want to deal with it yourselves. Let me see. We can take a break as long as you interrupt that transformation."

"He really is a boring guy," Divine Demon whispered.

"That's probably the answer," Noah revealed. "He isn't boring. He just threw away everything to achieve his current immortality."

"That sounds awfully easy to accomplish," Divine Demon declared.

"It takes a lot of resolve to throw away the entirety of a cultivation journey to reach the peak in a single field," Noah continued. "I wonder what happened to that determination. Did you grow bored of it after placing your mark so deeply into the universe?"

"Your ability to study beings connected to Heaven and Earth is as scary as always," Philto stated. "I didn't grow bored of it. You all forced it to go dormant. I don't even recall the last time I had to struggle to win a battle."

"Not losing isn't winning," Noah exclaimed. "I can probably show you the difference between them during this battle. Divine Demon, do you mind?"

"Not at all," Divine Demon shrugged his shoulders while teleporting on top of the chrysalis. "I thought he would have shown something interesting, but he is nothing more than a statue. That's not life."

"Every path is different," Noah sighed, "And, in the end, we face the consequences of our choices."

Noah darted forward and arrived in front of Philto in an instant. The expert waved his hand to launch white energy, but Duanlong ate it without needing to leave Noah's figure.

"What are you planning to do now?" Philto asked.

"Don't worry," Noah growled. "You only need to stay still. I want to see if I can reach the core of your world."

"That sounds troublesome," Philto complained as he prepared another attack.

"But I'll be able to kill you if I succeed," Noah replied. "Isn't that what you want?"

"No one wants to die," Philto stated. "Though, I guess experiencing something new isn't a bad thing."

'Night, your turn,' Noah thought as he withdrew his swords and placed a hand on Philto's forehead. 'I'll give you everything I have. Can you handle it?'

'I was waiting for you to say that,' Night said inside Noah's mind before the entirety of the ethereal blackness' potential flowed inside the creature.

Chapter 2190 - 2190. Panic

Everything inside the ethereal blackness was part of Noah's power. He could draw the abilities of all his companions and use them in one attack, but that wasn't the end to it.

Night, Snore, and the other assets inside the ethereal blackness could also benefit from that ability. They were part of Noah's world in the end, so they could use certain aspects of their companions' power.

Philto was a troublesome opponent that raw power couldn't overcome. His mark on the universe stood deeper than what Noah had to face against Cursed Realty and Caesar, and Divine Demon had shown how an all-out attack wouldn't work.

Noah's offensive had to be more specific to reach the depths needed to affect Philto, and Night was the perfect companion for the job. Its ability to seep into worlds and sever unique targets was unparalleled, and Noah had every intention to empower it with the entirety of his destructiveness.

Snore, the parasite, the Cursed Sword, the Demonic Sword, and some aspects of Noah's world carried destructive meanings that only a few experts in the entirety of the higher plane could match. Noah made everything flow into Night while adding potential, and the results were incredible.

Phildo's instincts warned him that something massive was about to happen, but his general laziness prevented him from reacting in time. Noah's ambition surged to incredible heights before unleashing everything it had through the palm placed on the expert's forehead.

The attack had the shape of a mere black dot that left Noah's palm and seeped inside Philto's forehead. That spot was obviously Night, who quickly gained ethereal properties as it made its way toward the expert's world.

Night had to use the entirety of the ethereal blackness' potential to endure all the power that had flown into its body. The intense destruction running through its fabric threatened to make it explode, but Noah's world didn't allow that.

Night had the chance to dive deeper than the previous attacks due to all the destruction accumulated in its body. The effort made cracks appear on its lines, but the damage didn't faze it at all.

The Pterodactyl was beyond ecstatic to have the chance to destroy something so powerful and close to Heaven and Earth. Night was willing to reach the depths of Philto's world even if the effort forced it to recover for entire millennia, and its determination led to incredible results.

Phildo's eyes widened at some point. Nothing happened in his surroundings. Noah didn't release a single strand of energy into the environment. However, the privileged cultivator knew that something had happened.

A shadow left Philto's figure and flew back inside Noah. The latter could sense Night's poor state and didn't hesitate to aid the healing process through dark matter. A wave of tiredness also filled him due to the potential consumed during the attack. Still, his senses remained on Philto.

Initially, Philto only experienced some uneasiness that didn't cause any consequence on his appearance. However, that changed after a few seconds passed.

A black spot appeared on Philto's white robe. The mark slowly expanded until it transformed into a line that reached the expert's head. Philto now had a shallow scar that ran through half of his body, and nothing he did seemed able to remove it.

"What have you done?" Philto asked as he wiped his hands over his face in a desperate attempt to remove the line.

Noah limited himself to reveal a cold smile. Meanwhile, Philto tried to use his methods to remove the black line that had marked half of his body.

The expert tried to release his white light to restore his original appearance, but that didn't lead anywhere. After a few attempts, Philto directly crushed the areas tainted by the black lines to heal them, but that also failed.

"What have you done to my world?!" Philto shouted as panic accumulated in his mind.

"Good job, my heir!" Divine Demon applauded in the distance while gulping his cup of wine.

Noah teleported back on the chrysalis and sat next to Divine Demon. The latter created a cup for him, and the two remained on their spot as they enjoyed the scene.

Philto's panic surpassed the duo's expectations. The expert continued to rip himself apart until he decided to blow himself up completely. The wave of energy that left his figure during the detonation was scary, but Noah and Divine Demon handled it easily.

Philto's self-destruction preceded his complete regeneration, but that didn't fulfill his desires. The black line that cut his chest and face in half had come back with him, and it had no intention to leave.

"What have you done?!" Philto repeated, but Noah didn't bother to address the matter.

"My heir left a nice gift for you," Divine Demon taunted. "A gift that you will have to wear forever."

Truth be told, the matter wasn't too hard to understand, especially for Philto. The expert was aware of his world's nature, so finding out what had happened would usually require nothing more than an inspection.

However, the panic that had filled Philto's mind prevented him from thinking straight. Moreover, Noah noticed how there seemed to be something else hindering the expert's inspection.

'How deep did you have to go to reach his mark on the universe?' Noah asked through his mental connection.

'It was hard to keep track of that during the dive,' Night weakly responded. 'Still, I can confirm that we have never reached such depths before.'

Night's statement didn't help, but Noah still came up with a hypothesis. Healing a world was a troublesome matter, but it was far from impossible.

The process usually required a long time and many efforts due to how powerful and complicated the worlds were, but every expert could recover. The matter would obviously be more difficult in case of a serious injury, but Noah knew that Night's attack had only left a harmless mark.

Still, Philto's panic and seemingly inability to remove that mark revealed something else. Noah didn't only believe that the expert had never suffered a similar injury since his arrival in the solid stage. He also felt sure that Philto couldn't reach similar depths anymore.

The hypothesis lacked clues, but Noah felt that it made a lot of sense. After all, Philto had reached depths that even Caesar and Cursed Reality couldn't match.

Philto had probably given up on everything to place his mark on the universe as deep as possible. Yet, now that he didn't have anything else to sacrifice, he couldn't reach his world anymore, leaving him unable to heal it or check its condition.

Noah felt a bit unsettled when he tried to imagine himself in Philto's situation. The sole idea of being unable to check his own world was scary, especially after someone had done something to it.

Philto's panic suddenly felt justified. He had changed in ways that he couldn't study. It didn't matter if that event was nothing more than a harmless mark. Philto couldn't understand what had happened, so a torrent of emotions filled his mind.

Of course, those emotions quickly found a target.. Philto forgot about his panic and stopped trying to remove the mark as he fixed his gaze on Noah.