

Demonic 2301

Chapter 2301. Confusion

"I recall that ability," Decumia announced once the scuffle in the distance ended. "Go on. Make it. I want to see how it changed after your breakthrough."

The Foolery and Wilfred turned toward Decumia to show their cold expressions. The privileged cultivator was underestimating them, and the pig couldn't let that go.

"I only need a fraction of my power to defeat you!" The Foolery squealed. "We won't use my creat-!"

"Shut up!" Wilfred scolded while pulling the pig from its neck. "Make that damned plant already."

"But she is insulting us," The Foolery complained.

"We'll get back at her by destroying her world," Wilfred declared. "That's the best form of revenge."

"I don't know," The pig sighed. "Taking a dump on her would be more satisfying."

"Do that after giving me some energy," Wilfred ordered as he tried his best to keep his cool.

Decumia snickered while she admired the argument. Her laugh carried her complete lack of concern for her opponents' plan. She wasn't even trying to hide how little she cared about that strategy.

"I'm going to take a dump on her now," The Foolery snorted, but Wilfred tightened his legs around its neck to stop its reckless charge.

"She is taunting us!" Wilfred shouted.

"I'm really not," Decumia responded. "I'm simply curious."

"Your curiosity will be your doom!" The pig proudly announced while lifting its head, uncaring that the gesture flung Wilfred above it.

"How?" Decumia wondered. "Your power is interesting, but your companion fails to qualify as a worthy opponent. A breakthrough won't change the shallow essence of his world."

The second insult was more personal, even if Decumia had no mean intentions behind it. She was merely stating the truth, and Wilfred knew that she was right.

Still, the insult succeeded in ending the argument. The Foolery couldn't stand hearing Decumia belittling its companions. The pig lowered its head, and a deep fart came out of its butt.

Wilfred let go of the Foolery as smelly gas accumulated behind them. He wore his cold expression again as he waited for something worse to come out of the pig's butt, but nothing similar happened even after a few seconds passed.

"Aren't you doing your thing?" Wilfred eventually whispered.

"What thing?" The Foolery asked.

"Aren't you creating your plants?" Wilfred specified.

"What?" The Foolery exclaimed before understanding what Wilfred meant. "No, I was only expressing my anger."

The fart suddenly stopped, and Wilfred found himself speechless. He finally experienced what King Elbas had to go through whenever he was with the Foolery, and he couldn't wait for that situation to end.

"Can you do your thing now?" Wilfred almost begged.

"I'll kill her on my own if you aren't fast enough!" The Foolery declared as if the previous interaction didn't happen.

Decumia laughed, but she let the two complete their preparations. The Foolery released a louder and longer fart that stretched behind it and condensed to take the form of a smelly environment.

The Foolery didn't stop there. It retreated to immerse half of its body in the smelly environment before lifting its head. The dense gas hid the results of its efforts, but both Wilfred and Decumia knew what was happening.

"It's ready," The Foolery stated in a deep tone. "Don't be late."

Wilfred struggled to take that statement seriously. Disgust and a tinge of fear appeared in his expression while he inspected the smelly area. The Foolery had created a proper domain, but the place resembled a poisonous trap rather than a technique meant to benefit Wilfred.

"It can't be worse than being useless," Wilfred sighed before stepping toward the smelly domain and disappearing inside it.

The Foolery nodded while inspecting the scene, but its gaze soon moved to Decumia. The privileged cultivator didn't even bother to suppress her grin, which enraged the pig even more.

"Prepare yourself!" The pig ordered.

"Why would I do something so boring?" Decumia giggled.

The Foolery couldn't take that mocking anymore. It flapped its wings, farted, and used the smoke around its figure to create an incredible sprint that Decumia couldn't follow at all.

The charge resembled a teleport due to how quickly everything happened. The Foolery left behind after-images as it appeared before Decumia to slam the entirety of its momentum on her.

The impact pushed Decumia on the white layer, but the Foolery noticed how nothing about her figure broke. Injuries opened, and blood flowed out of her mouth, but she remained mostly intact. Moreover, her grin widened after the crash.

"You don't get it, do you?" Decumia laughed as her injuries closed and her complexion improved. "Well, that's why you are so interesting. When paired with intellect, your unreasonable ability might actually fail to express so much power."

The Foolery didn't care about Decumia's statements. It lowered its head and charged ahead again. Decumia welcomed the attack and let the pig attempt to squash her on the sky, but her body held strong.

"I will thank you once I turn you into my pet," Decumia announced while the Foolery continued to push. "You showed me a field that my chaos had yet to affect. I'm confident I'll be able to defeat Divine Demon once this battle is over."

An expanding purple halo followed Decumia's words. Her light stretched past her figure and tried to envelop the Foolery, but the latter appeared immune to that influence. It didn't take long before that power flowed toward it in the form of nutrients.

The light abandoned its shades to become colorless and transform into the toxic gas that Decumia had summoned before. Yet, the Foolery continued to eat without showing any suffering.

"Right," Decumia laughed. "Who said that something poisonous can affect you? Did you turn yourself immune to my technique?"

The Foolery didn't reply. Its full attention was on Decumia's energy. It kept eating and absorbing as much as possible, but the privileged cultivator didn't show any reaction.

"No," Decumia exclaimed. "You altered the nature of my attack. Anything is possible with you, isn't it? Defeating you is almost a pity."

The Foolery's eyes widened in surprise when Decumia placed her hands on its head and pushed it away. She wasn't relying on any special technique. Her sheer physical strength seemed able to overcome the pig, which didn't make any sense.

"To be clear," Decumia stated, "You are hurting me. My condition is far from ideal. I need to sacrifice something to push my chaos into your realm, but your reaction makes it worthwhile. I can feel my power growing stronger by watching your confused face."

"This must be a trick," The Foolery claimed.

"Sort of," Decumia giggled as she patted the Foolery's forehead. "It's nothing special. I'm turning my chaos into pure energy by cutting it away from my world. Your companion did something similar not too long ago."

The Foolery couldn't connect that behavior to Sword Saint's previous achievements. It barely understood what was happening, but the situation was more than clear. Its power failed to overcome Decumia.

Decumia's arms broke as soon as intense anger shot out of the Foolery's figure. Its power intensified, and its influence deepened as it summoned more of its unreasonable power.

Decumia's skin withered under that deeper influence. The energy inside her fabric vanished and left behind flesh that turned into dust. Her bones and organs suffered the same fate, and the turn of her world soon arrived.

An uneven, bright sphere appeared once the entirety of Decumia's figure vanished. The Foolery didn't hesitate to bite down on that world, but its mouth broke when its teeth stabbed its edges.

The Foolery didn't give up, but its determination couldn't stop what was happening. Violent storms came out of the openings dug by its teeth and pushed it away, destroying vast chunks of its flesh in the process.

The storms were so massive that the Foolery had the chance to seize control of its body only after slamming on the sky and rolling over it for half of the higher plane. The attack heavily maimed its figure, ripping away two legs and one wing, but its wounded face carried no pain. The pig felt only confusion.

Chapter 2302. Technique

The openings in Decumia's world didn't release her usually purple energy. They had directly unleashed powerful storms that didn't carry any connection to her, which was obviously surprising due to their source.

Decumia's world seemed to have energy that didn't belong to her existence, but that was theoretically impossible. Yet, her ability to create chaos could stretch into strange realms, and the Foolery had gotten a taste of them.

The Foolery didn't care about its injuries, but the last exchange forced it to study the situation. Decumia didn't only overcome its physical strength. She had also placed defenses in her very world, which required a more strategic approach.

Yet, the Foolery had never been the intelligent type. Its ability had remained simple even after absorbing Steven. Its idiocy could create unreasonable wonders, but Decumia seemed able to predict them.

The damage on Decumia's world vanished in no time, and purple energy soon seeped out of its edges. Her body quickly materialized and hid the source of her power. The Foolery soon saw that annoying grin again, but it didn't give in to its anger at that time.

"Are you trying to think?" Decumia mocked. "That's so unbecoming of you."

The Foolery didn't answer. It explored the depths of its mind in the hope of finding something that could end that battle. Still, the process didn't lead anywhere. The pig actually felt the arrival of a headache due to that unusual behavior.

"You are so funny," Decumia laughed when she saw the pig's frown. "Don't worry. I'll explain it to you. I don't want to ruin your power."

Decumia raised her arms, and purple energy gathered between her palms. That power took the shape of tendrils that stretched into the void and tried to affect its functioning, but they turned out to be too shallow for that deeper realm.

"You can counter this," Decumia announced. "You can eat it easily even, but chaos has its way of finding unexplored paths."

The tendrils exploded and generated massive colorless storms that tried to disperse into the void. Decumia summoned more purple power to contain them, and a spherical cage soon filled the space between her palms.

The energy generated by the detonation became easy to study. Decumia had created a half-transparent item that could condense those raging storms. Their immense power was almost in the open, but they remained pretty mysterious due to their peculiar nature.

The storms expressed Decumia's chaos without having any connection to her world. She appeared able to make her power pass for a natural calamity without lowering its overall might.

Of course, the Foolery couldn't understand much, even after studying the scene for a while. The pig relied on its instincts to get an idea of what Decumia was using, but it failed to place that power into a specific category. Doing that wouldn't help it either since its ability didn't rely on its knowledge.

"My state as a privileged cultivator allows you to counter me," Decumia declared. "However, I still have more power than you, and my world is far deeper. I can get access to better energy. I only need to transform it before using it against you."

Decumia opened the sphere, and the storms didn't hesitate to shoot out. The hole in the cage pointed toward the Foolery, so most of those gales flew toward it and captured its figure in raging winds.

The Foolery was injured, but that didn't prevent it from summoning its power. Its hunger spread and turned the gales into nothing more than nutrients. Yet, its influence failed to match the wind's speed.

The pig managed to eat, but the gales remained too fast and powerful. Decumia had created something that the Foolery couldn't match even after the breakthrough. Its absorption speed couldn't keep up with the amount of power falling on its body.

That difference in power put the Foolery in a pickle. It loved to eat, so it didn't dare to use its ability to escape that situation. However, injuries opened and closed on its body due to the fury of the storms and the absorbed energy.

Decumia shook her head at that scene. She enjoyed seeing the Foolery immersed in its instinctive urges, but that situation had to end. After all, she also knew that Heaven and Earth were about to return.

"This transformation costs me greatly," Decumia admitted while stepping forward to fly toward the Foolery. "I need to sever that energy from my world while spending power on reinforcing its nature. I basically maim myself whenever I launch something that can hurt you, and I retain no control over it."

Decumia took a while to reach the Foolery, but the storms still raged there by that time. The energy invested in that attack had been immense, so seeing it alive wasn't surprising.

"An ordinary expert would have already died by now," Decumia announced while covering her figure with purple light to enter the storms safely. "Yet, my chaos deepens whenever it stretches into untouched realms. You are the reason I'm growing stronger."

Decumia flew through the storms until she arrived in front of the Foolery. The pig's cheeks and belly had inflated due to how much unabsorbed energy ran through its body. It was so busy eating that it had forgotten to digest.

"How cute," Decumia giggled. "I think it's time to end this. I should be able to affect your mind without hurting you too much."

Decumia took a deep breath before placing her hands on the Foolery's forehead. She couldn't use her normal energy to affect its mind, but she couldn't generate random storms either.

The previous exchanges had allowed Decumia to gain some experience in that new field. She wasn't entirely confident, but she didn't want to waste more time. The Foolery would probably suffer major injuries during the process, but she was okay with that.

Purple energy accumulated on her fingertips before generating small explosions. Thin gales came out of those detonations and seeped through the Foolery's skin, digging deep holes in it as they tried to approach its mind.

The process was probably painful, but Decumia didn't see any suffering on the Foolery's face. The pig was too busy eating to care about anything else, and Decumia didn't mind that.

Decumia couldn't control the thin gales diving into the Foolery's mind. They didn't belong to her world, so she could only improve the initial orders imparted before the severing while the process continued.

"I reached your mind!" Decumia eventually exclaimed. "I wonder how simple it will-! What is happening?"

The thin gales inside the Foolery's head suddenly disappeared, and the same went for all the storms in the area. Everything became peaceful, but Decumia came next. The energy inside her body vanished, and a foreign force tried to reach her world.

"I get it now," The Foolery whispered. "I can finally understand the true source of my hunger."

Decumia didn't know what had happened, but she didn't panic. Her new technique was nothing more than an experiment. It was almost normal to see it fail after so few attempts.

"What's the source of your hunger?" Decumia asked while she studied the recent events to understand what could have gone wrong with her technique.

"The source of my hunger is my unparalleled might!" The Foolery squealed.

The answer was so idiotic that Decumia gave a spontaneous response. "No, it's not that."

"Then it's my unparalleled intelligence!" The Foolery continued.

"Definitely not that," Decumia replied.

"My unparalleled beauty!" The Foolery shouted.

"You are a pig," Decumia pointed out.

"My unparalleled might!" The Foolery repeated.

"You just said that," Decumia laughed. "Did you even get enlightened?"

The Foolery had lifted its head, but it lowered it to inspect its opponent. Decumia saw pure seriousness in its gaze, and the line that followed that gesture generated evident traces of fear in her mind. "Who said that I need to be enlightened to add depth to my world?"

Decumia wanted to say something, but an unstoppable force suddenly landed on her back and sent her back on the sky. Her body lacked energy, so her world appeared in the open again.

Chapter 2303. Unstoppable

Decumia knew that something had changed even before the destruction of her body. Her world appeared in the open when she touched the sky, but energy came out of it to rebuild her figure.

Her eyes moved toward the source of the unstoppable force as soon as they reformed. The scene triggered a laugh that Decumia couldn't suppress, but her reaction didn't reflect the seriousness of her mindset.

The smelly domain had remained still during the fight between the Foolery and Decumia. Its poisonous nature had also prevented the advance of mental waves in its insides. The battlefield had experts with minds that could pierce that gas, but everything stank so much that none of them had dared to inspect that area.

Moreover, Decumia was the only expert involved in that battle, and she didn't care about Wilfred, so she didn't bother to check the smelly area. Yet, something had changed while she was attempting to subdue the Foolery.

Currents had formed among the smelly domain. They had shrunk due to their loss of energy, and azure shades had also appeared among their brownish color.

An immense tunnel had eventually cut through the whole domain to deliver an unstoppable blow on Decumia's back. The attack had destroyed her body and had pushed her away, but it didn't reveal the culprit.

"Come out already," Decumia announced while keeping her eyes on the smelly domain. "I want to see if you have finally become interesting."

The smelly domain exploded after those words. Currents carrying the awful scent of the Foolery's farts expanded through the higher plane, but all of them dispersed into the void quite soon.

The explosion left nothing but void and a fuming figure at its center. Wilfred became visible again, but his expression was far from happy. He didn't seem to care about his new cultivation level.

"That wasn't worth it," Wilfred sighed as he blew over his left shoulder to remove the last trace of the Foolery's fart.

The gust of air spat out of Wilfred's mouth expanded and transformed into a rotating storm that cleaned his body. Those winds grew violent during their spinning motion, but the void eventually claimed them.

A heavy aura unfolded once the storm disappeared. The power that only a solid stage expert could carry expanded through the area and revealed Wilfred's new level to the entire higher plane. His time inside the smelly domain had allowed him to reach the peak of the cultivation journey.

"Now I must kill you," Wilfred exclaimed. "I need to give value to that torture."

"I wonder if you can reach me at all," Decumia teased.

Wilfred inspected his body and tightened his fists. The muscles on his arms bulged until they reached an inhuman size, and the process soon spread through the entirety of his body.

"No wonder my old law couldn't reach these heights," Wilfred sighed. "No punch can make use of this power efficiently."

Decumia waited for Wilfred to get used to his new level, but boredom soon took over her. She opened her mouth to say something, but an explosion abruptly resounded behind her and forced her to turn.

"Movement techniques," Wilfred cursed while straightening his position on the white layer. "They are so annoying. I'm far better with arms."

"You are fast," Decumia smirked. She didn't see Wilfred approach her, but something told her that his technique wasn't anything special.

"Where is your chaos?" Wilfred asked while walking on the white layer to approach Decumia.

"I wanted to give you a free attack," Decumia laughed. "I changed my mind."

The whole area suddenly turned purple. Decumia filled that chunk of space with her aura in an instant, and her energy immediately started to condense into an array of tendrils that shot toward Wilfred.

Wilfred found some tentacles already on him. Those limbs slammed on his body but failed to inflict any damage. Yet, purple patches appeared on his skin after the impact, and some of his veins also popped out to show similar shades.

Decumia's chaos knew that physical prowess wasn't the answer against Wilfred. Her attack had instinctively targeted his energy and limbs, but a surprised expression appeared on her face when she established a connection with his body.

"What is that?" Decumia gasped.

Wilfred was too annoyed to answer. His muscles bulged, and the purple infection left his body. Faint clouds gathered around him, but they dispersed as soon as he raised his arms.

That simple gesture generated violent gales that shot in every direction. Decumia had to use some of her tentacles to avoid getting flung away, but that gave Wilfred the chance to shoot forward.

The momentum carried by Wilfred's sprint created a hole in the barrage of tentacles and allowed him to reach Decumia. His palms landed on her chest, and the power released during the attack touched levels that even Decumia struggled to comprehend.

Wilfred was by no means a complicated expert. His world had gained techniques thanks to Supreme Thief, but he had kept sheer physical strength as his core.

In theory, something so simple would fail to affect mighty privileged cultivators who had touched profound meanings. Yet, that exchange taught Decumia that anything could work as long as there was enough of it.

Wilfred's physical strength didn't belong to the realm of hybrids. It simply made no sense, and Decumia didn't know whether her mind could even begin to understand its limits. It could be bottomless for all she understood.

Simple martial arts also enhanced that sheer might. Wilfred had turned himself into an unstoppable force, and Decumia didn't need to put much thought into it. She knew that his attacks couldn't be blocked.

The energy released by the palms dug a hole through the layers of purple energy and reached the world behind them. Decumia's core remained fine, but her whole existence trembled, and her body directly disappeared in the shockwave that followed.

The pure violence carried by the impact slammed Decumia's world on the sky again. Her existence remained intact since Wilfred's attacks couldn't reach her deep realm, but he turned her powerless for a second nonetheless.

Decumia didn't hesitate to expand her aura in every direction once the tremors ended. She knew how to handle Wilfred. She only needed to stop his attacks before he could complete them, and her chaos could do that easily.

However, her energy disappeared before it could get too far. A heavy influence replaced it, and a big figure materialized before the maimed pieces of her body that she had managed to recreate.

"I allowed him to act cool," The Foolery announced. "It's my turn now."

The Foolery opened its mouth, and a pulling force came out of it. The few rebuilt chunks of Decumia's body vanished, and the edges of her world started to tremble under that influence.

Decumia willingly created an opening in her world to create a storm far bigger than anything launched before. The Foolery's head would probably disappear if those gales landed on it, but Wilfred handled the attack.

Wilfred teleported before the Foolery to place a hand right above the opening. The storms landed on his palm but failed to push back his arm. He even managed to condense them by closing his fingers.

"Eat her up," Wilfred ordered.

Chapter 2304. Mocking

King Elbas sighed as he patted his clothes to remove the white dust that had accumulated after the last exchange. He and Divine Architect had gone through a series of casual attacks that involved inscribed items again, and she had come out on top, even if only slightly.

Everything was going according to King Elbas' predictions. He was extremely arrogant, but that never affected his judgment. Divine Architect probably was one of the few experts who could claim to be his match, and he was okay with that. He would actually feel disappointed otherwise.

Nevertheless, the evolution of the battlefield was adding pressure to that casual and laid-back behavior. King Elbas knew that something had to change soon, and Divine Architect also realized that. The two were simply holding back to see who would be the first to give in.

"Are you scared?" Divine Architect announced when the silence became too dull to bear. "Did I overestimate you?"

"Why would I be scared?" King Elbas snorted.

"All the other major battles are reaching their breaking point," Divine Architect commented as her crystal eyes released a white flash. "Heaven and Earth are also about to come down. I thought you'd try your best to kill me before that. Did you start doubting yourself?"

"Your arrogance limits your imagination," King Elbas sighed. "You think that I got scared because I'm still playing around. You can't even imagine the possibility that I only need one attack to defeat you."

"Bluffing doesn't suit you," Divine Architect coldly replied. "You aren't bad, but you'd need to deconstruct all my work only to create the chance to hurt me."

"To kill you," King Elbas corrected.

"That's impossible," Divine Architect stated. "You would have already made your move if you had any confidence. Instead, you are hesitating. Even your inferior mind can't close itself to the truth. Isn't that why you tainted my castle with your influence during the past exchanges?"

"I knew you noticed that," King Elbas casually acknowledged. "I was wondering why you didn't do anything about it. Is my influence too hard to stop?"

"Don't overestimate yourself," Divine Architect declared. "Studying is a core aspect of all inscription masters. You chose to face me for a reason. The least I can do is find out why."

"Don't search for a complicated answer," King Elbas mocked. "I came here because I'm better than you."

"Go ahead then," Divine Architect challenged. "I let you infect my castle. You can destroy it by snapping your fingers."

"Why would I do that?" King Elbas asked.

"To seize some imaginary advantage," Divine Architect explained. "I'm in control of the battlefield now, but that will change if you destroy this castle. At least, that's what you think."

"I never wanted to destroy this castle," King Elbas snorted. "I was only searching for your stash of materials. I never thought you would use separate dimensions to hide it."

"I bet you will somehow connect this behavior to a weakness," Divine Architect guessed. "I'm hiding my stash because I fear someone might reach it, am I right?"

"I wouldn't insult you like that," King Elbas reassured. "Well, I would have done it, but you ruined the joke. It lost style after coming out of your mouth."

"You are so childish," Divine Architect sighed. "Your stay within that lousy organization tampered with your potential deeply. You are only a shadow of what you could have become."

"That lousy organization is giving yours a hard time," King Elbas chuckled. "Maybe you should give some credit to those idiots."

"We both know that all of this will become pointless once Heaven and Earth arrive," Divine Architect explained. "Go ahead. Defeat the other leaders. That won't change the outcome."

"You are one of the leaders," King Elbas pointed out.

"I can't be defeated," Divine Architect declared.

"Let me guess," King Elbas voiced, but the battlefield suddenly captured his attention and made him interrupt his line.

Divine Demon's insane burst of power, Sword Saint's crazy battle, and other significant events happened almost at the same time. The battlefield was changing again, and King Elbas knew what would happen next.

"How can you hope to win against me when your companions distract you so much?" Divine Architect mocked.

"I agree," King Elbas stated. "I've developed bad habits after looking out for those idiots for so long."

"You can go if you want," Divine Architect uttered. "Our fight is pointless anyway. I'll preserve your energy and mind to study them once everything is over."

"Are you praising me now?" King Elbas laughed.

"If you consider that a praise," Divine Architect sighed. "Sure, you'll be the best guinea pig in my collection."

"Funny how our minds work," King Elbas commented. "We really are perfect expressions of our field. You lack flexibility but do not worry. I'll put your energy and collection to better use."

"Your mind can't even comprehend the limits of my power," Divine Architect stated. "How would you even improve on that?"

"A true master never reveals his secrets," King Elbas scolded. "I'm sorry. You'll die without getting answers."

"This is getting boring," Divine Architect uttered. "Your voice threats without staying true to them."

"We both know that you are doing the same," King Elbas joked. "Admit it. You still can't accept that I surpassed you."

"You didn't," Divine Architect corrected. "Your current power comes from Heaven and Earth. You would have died without stealing their understanding."

"But I didn't die," King Elbas pointed out.

"A meager achievement that anyone can imitate," Divine Architect replied.

"Why didn't you then?" King Elbas wondered. "I am arrogant, but I also know when something is truly amazing. My final energy is a masterpiece that even you envy."

"I do desire your energy," Divine Architect admitted, "Just like I desire any precious material hidden in the universe. You are no different from a rare chunk of metal in my eyes."

"I'm glad we agree on that," King Elbas stated. "Though I don't care about you. I only need your stash to improve myself. Your existence can't give me anything."

"An inscription master doesn't need a superior existence to stand at the peak," Divine Architect declared.

"As I said before," King Elbas laughed. "You lack flexibility."

King Elbas snapped his fingers, and a series of spears came out of his body to fly toward Divine Architect. The latter didn't bother to move since tiles separated themselves from the balcony to appear in the weapons' trajectory.

However, golden light appeared at the center of the tiles and forced them to explode. The detonations weren't violent, but the event cleared the path for the spears, which accelerated to take Divine Architect by surprise.

Divine Architect found herself unable to react. The spears landed on her body and tried to dig through her skin, but they failed to leave any injury. Even her robe remained intact while the weapons continued to express their momentum.

King Elbas snapped his fingers again, and the spears took fire. Golden flares shot out of those weapons and added power to their thrust, but they remained unable to pierce Divine Architect's robe.

The spears eventually lost their power and turned into golden dust that dispersed on the balcony. The attack had been pointless, but Divine Architect appeared pissed nonetheless.

"See," King Elbas exclaimed. "You noticed my influence, and you also found the three different types of infections that I sent through the castle. Still, you didn't see the fourth, fifth, and sixth."

"I don't look out for ants," Divine Architect claimed. "You didn't create something that can ignore my senses. My defenses didn't react because your items were too weak."

"That sounds like a victory to me," King Elbas pointed out.

"A useless victory," Divine Architect sighed, "Like the entirety of this battle."

"Please," King Elbas mocked. "It must burn. This is the second time I came out on top. Maybe you aren't as unbeatable as you think."

Chapter 2305. Armies

Divine Architect had never lied during her conversation with King Elbas, and the latter knew that. Divine Architect was better in countless fields. Yet, King Elbas had shown that he could beat her.

Rank 9 cultivators could survive apocalyptic events and world-shattering attacks, but they had weaknesses, especially when it came to those at the very peak of the journey. Those experts had founded their power on years of training and firm faith in themselves, so insecurities and similar feelings could create massive flaws.

Divine Architect didn't belong to that group. Her world was vast and deep, but she used her knowledge as her source of power. That made her the perfect inscription master, but it also exposed her to dangers that she found unrealistic.

The matter was truly simple. Divine Architect believed to be the most knowledgeable cultivator in the higher plane, but King Elbas had shown how her understanding of the world had gaps. They weren't huge or significant, but they remained flaws nonetheless.

"Only ants would rejoice at such a shameful achievement," Divine Architect announced.

"Stop lying," King Elbas laughed. "I can feel the chaos in your mind. You didn't expect my last victory. It's clear that I can touch you."

Silence fell between the two, but Divine Architect and King Elbas could sense the heavy meaning among that absence of words. Something was about to change in their battle. They were only waiting for one of them to make the first move.

"Very well," Divine Architect exclaimed while standing up. "You seem desperate to test my power. I will indulge you."

"How kind of you," King Elbas mocked. "We both know that you aren't doing me any favor. You are merely pissed that my attack escaped your understanding."

"You are correct," Divine Architect acknowledged as her dense aura came out of her figure and filled the void past the castle. "You have succeeded in affecting my emotional state. You can find some comfort in this once death looms over your mind."

"Let's not fight here," King Elbas stated, ignoring the threat. "I don't want to ruin my loot."

"I won't fake arrogance just to play along with your joke," Divine Architect snorted.

"No style at all," King Elbas sighed before snapping his fingers.

A golden light suddenly came out of multiple tiles and other pieces of the castle. The radiance expanded until a net covered the structure and transformed it into an ethereal building.

King Elbas then waved his hand, and the castle followed his gesture. The ethereal structure flew past the two and stopped in a random spot between the sky and the landmass.

"I knew that you knew," King Elbas pointed out.

"Why did you even try to take me by surprise then?" Divine Architect wondered.

"I wanted to see your reactions," King Elbas revealed.

"You wouldn't have gained anything even if I had an emotive reaction," Divine Architect stated.

"I would have had fun teasing you afterward," King Elbas declared.

"Fun," Divine Architect repeated. "Such a waste of my time."

Divine Architect raised an arm to point it at King Elbas, and her aura immediately reacted. The white radiance coming out of her figure condensed until hundreds of portals opened on its surface.

King Elbas couldn't help but smile in front of the army of inscribed items appearing around Divine Architect. He could see avatars, strange creatures, weapons, and far more while everything came forth and occupied specific spots.

That deployment ended in a mere second. Divine Architect showed her true might to King Elbas. An army occupied the areas in front of her, weapons floated above it, and strange crystals hovered under it.

Moreover, many ethereal mirrors floated around Divine Architect and reflected different shades depending on their targets. They tuned gold whenever King Elbas' reflection appeared inside them, but various colors came out once they pointed at the void.

"Interesting," King Elbas exclaimed while inspecting the mirrors.

"Are they?" Divine Architect asked before tapping on one of the mirrors to make it spin faster. "These are mere tools meant to enhance my senses."

"You created items to inspect the meanings hidden in the void," King Elbas uttered. "Were you planning on leaving Heaven and Earth?"

"Depending on Heaven and Earth was never part of my plans," Divine Architect revealed. "It's only normal to seek alternatives when dealing with such a powerful existence."

"You improved on what you created in the Mortal Lands," King Elbas commented. "You built an item to gaze at higher worlds back then. You have done the same now."

"Are you surprised?" Divine Architect wondered.

"I wouldn't insult you like that," King Elbas replied. "The entire higher plane is aware of the level of your expertise. Still, you remain disappointing."

"You couldn't do any better," Divine Architect stated.

"I was busy preparing a war against a quasi-rank 10 existence," King Elbas pointed out. "I didn't give up and changed sides as soon as things became difficult."

"You know that's not what happened," Divine Architect replied.

"I'm teasing you, remember?" King Elbas reminded. "You really are no fun."

"Just do it already," Divine Architect ordered. "Stop trying to surprise me."

King Elbas' eyes flickered, but he eventually chose to stop playing around. He snapped his fingers, and most of Divine Architect's army exploded due to the golden infection he had applied during the conversation.

The detonations were quite violent, but nothing managed to reach Divine Architect. An invisible barrier covered her figure and protected her from any wave of energy or fuming shard.

King Elbas was ready to show his proud face, but his expression grew cold when he counted how many assets had survived his infection. Three-quarters of the army had turned into dust, but the rest of it was more than fine.

"How often do you plan to use the same attack against me?" Divine Architect asked. "Your existence can give birth to countless iterations of the same infection, but all of them are part of my knowledge. It won't take long before I start to predict which ones you are going to use."

"You will remain defenseless by that time," King Elbas declared.

"Will I?" Divine Architect asked before her crystal eyes released a blinding flash.

The light radiated by the crystals spread through the entirety of the higher plane and affected all the items that carried Divine Architect's aura. Those creations shattered and transformed into energy that flowed toward Divine Architect to fuse with her power.

The white glow expanded again and generated even more portals. King Elbas soon found an even bigger army occupying the space between Divine Architect and him. That force was only a fraction of what Heaven and Earth had unleashed, but its quality seemed to surpass that.

"Do you want to infect my creations again?" Divine Architect asked. "Maybe I should make them attack before that."

Those words worked as an order that the army didn't hesitate to follow. The various avatars, weapons, creatures, and crystals began to radiate white glows as the energy inside them fueled their best attacks.

King Elbas didn't even need to think. He knew that he didn't have the time to take out the army stealthily. Attacks started to fly toward him even before he could come up with a proper plan, but that didn't make him powerless.

Countless white rays with various shapes and natures shot out of the army and converged toward King Elbas, but a golden light soon filled the area and overwhelmed Divine Architect's offensive.

Roars that carried nine different tones resounded in the area as a giant figure replaced King Elbas. A massive nine-headed hydra expanded in the void while the white offensive fell on its body and failed to inflict any damage.

Chapter 2306. Truth

The nine-headed hydra appeared immune to the white attacks that fell on its body. Actually, part of their energy even fused with the golden radiance to add fuel to that giant creature.

Divine Architect didn't falter. Her emotionless eyes flickered while she inspected the hydra. The creature was expanding and growing stronger, but its level remained unworthy of her worries.

The hydra roared, and each head voiced a different cry. Some expressed pride, others pure arrogance. A couple even carried disdain toward the inferior life forms that dared to stand on their path.

"Nine main meanings," Divine Architect concluded after her short inspection. "How do you hope to win against my diversity?"

"You should land an attack before getting arrogant," King Elbas' voice came out of the nine heads.

"The density of your creation is exceptional," Divine Architect admitted. "Still, its incredible features aren't the result of advanced inscription fields. You are merely relying on your superior energy."

After those words, the army attacked again, but the offensive was clearly different. The many rays took the shape of rotating pillars that converged to create a massive, pointy figure that crashed on the hydra's belly.

The golden fabric of the hydra endured the attack for a while, but the pointy weapon eventually created a path. The creature didn't voice any cry of pain, but its body still ended up with a giant hole at its center.

The hole didn't take long to close, but the outcome of the attack was undeniable. Divine Architect could hurt the hydra without even going all-out.

"Is my arrogance still misplaced?" Divine Architect asked.

"Of course," King Elbas spoke through the heads before the hole in the hydra's belly reopened to launch an identical pointy pillar that turned golden during its flight.

Divine Architect's army had items meant to protect her from incoming attacks. Some avatars and tens of four-legged creatures with wall-like heads stepped forward to stand in the pillar's path, but the power released during the impact surpassed Divine Architect's expectations.

Golden light took control of the area and forced Divine Architect to rely on her mirrors to inspect the situation. The exchange had caused an explosion that destroyed her defenses and sent part of its violent energy everywhere. Needless to say, many of her creations crumbled in the process.

The destruction didn't end there. The golden light ravaged many creations during its expansion, but it soon turned into a series of currents that targeted specific inscribed items.

Moreover, the hydra roared to spit nine pillars that carried different natures. Some were dense and slow, while others were nothing more than a rain of needles.

The new attacks fell on the army and joined the golden currents in their violent flight. Divine Architect's creations seemed powerless in front of that offensive, but King Elbas didn't feel any pride in that apparent victory. He knew that Divine Architect was allowing that to happen.

The nine heads didn't limit themselves to simple attacks. Their mouths remained open as more energy came out of them and fell on the army.

King Elbas changed the nature and density of the attacks while they continued to fly. He could alter everything from his position inside the hydra, and the army suffered in front of that incredible power.

Divine Architect remained still until the entirety of her army became nothing more than dust hovering through the void. King Elbas' offensive didn't stop even at that point. The gales and pillars converged toward Divine Architect, but she ended everything by taking a step forward.

King Elbas couldn't help but feel surprised when he saw all the energy carried by his attacks failing to pierce Divine Architect's palm. The privileged cultivator had come out of her barrier to stop the offensive with her hand. Still, disappointment filled her face when she saw that her gesture had been enough to protect her.

"Your inscription methods are outdated," Divine Architect announced while closing her hand into a fist.

The giant mass of energy imitated her fingers and condensed into an unstable golden line. The attack seemed on the verge of exploding, but Divine Architect used her other hand to tap on it. White shades expanded through the golden fabric until everything turned into dust.

"I'm not even comparing these methods to mine," Divine Architect continued. "The higher plane featured inscription masters with advanced schools. Did you ignore all of them?"

"You know that I didn't," King Elbas spoke through the nine heads. "I simply don't need to use those advanced methods."

"That's your limit then," Divine Architect declared before going back among her mirrors and clapping her hands.

Her aura expanded, and hundreds of portals appeared. An even bigger army soon occupied the areas in front of Divine Architect. Her stash of creation seemed countless, but King Elbas had expected something like that. After all, Divine Architect had spent numerous years inside the sky.

Laughs came out of the hydra's heads once the army created battle formations. Divine Architect ignored that reaction, but her eyes lit up once she understood that something was wrong.

However, Divine Architect ended up being one step too late. Golden lights appeared inside each member of the army and destabilized their structure before forcing all of them to explode.

The ethereal barrier shielded Divine Architect from the energy and shards flying toward her, but she barely cared about that. Her whole attention was on the hydra. She almost couldn't believe that King Elbas had tricked her again.

"Three," King Elbas spoke through the hydra. "This is my third victory."

"You lied," Divine Architect cursed.

"How?" King Elbas laughed. "I said that I didn't need advanced methods. I never promised that I wouldn't use them."

Divine Architect had to admit that she couldn't read King Elbas. Her fighting style involved inspections and reactions, but her opponent didn't allow her to come up with proper countermeasures.

The situation wasn't simple. King Elbas couldn't beat Divine Architect when it came to sheer knowledge, but he had a significant advantage. His final energy allowed him to turn obsolete inscription methods into fearsome weapons.

King Elbas was turning Divine Architect's knowledge into a flaw. She relied on her long and thorough studies to predict King Elbas' behavior, but he followed different laws. His final energy made that possible.

"It must burn," King Elbas mocked. "How is your world doing? How does it feel to lack the means to understand my power?"

"You underestimate my resilience," Divine Architect replied as her mirrors reflected different areas of the space that divided her from King Elbas. "I simply don't know enough about your energy to develop a complete evaluation, but I'm getting there."

"I'll explain this only once," King Elbas stated. "Even if you learnt every secret of my energy, you won't be able to understand my full potential."

"Every living being is predictable," Divine Architect declared. "Rank 9 cultivators are extremely complicated, but they aren't exceptions."

"I am," King Elbas laughed. "Well, do you plan on losing until you seize that understanding? You might die before that."

"Defeating disposable items must feel like an incredible achievement for you," Divine Architect sighed. "Do not worry. I'll show you my true collection. If I fail to understand the final energy before your death, I'll take the truth from your corpse."

Chapter 2307. Six

King Elbas knew that he didn't face anything special. The previous armies had mainly featured inscribed items in the upper tier with special effects. Yet, none of them had been incredible.

Divine Architect wasn't a random privileged cultivator. Heaven and Earth had chosen her for her talent in the inscription field, which had given her the chance to build wonders freely for countless years.

King Elbas disagreed with that approach to the cultivation journey, but he could see its advantages. He could imagine what kind of wonders he would have created in Divine Architect's place, so he knew she had yet to show her true power.

Of course, Divine Architect was very different from King Elbas. The latter couldn't predict the nature of her next attack. He only knew that she wouldn't give him the chance to hold back.

Divine Architect inspected what remained of her previous army for a few seconds before raising her arm. Her aura accompanied her gesture and spread in her surroundings, but only a few portals appeared at that time.

The portals expanded until they reached an incredible size. All of them were bigger than the golden hydra, but that alone didn't make King Elbas activate his best ability.

Soon, giant figures stepped out of the portal. King Elbas could see an immense avatar that carried a flawed prototype of the final energy, a huge three-headed dog that released fuming saliva, and a thick mirror that seemed to contain unlimited power.

The deployment didn't end there. A telescope flowed out and pointed its large end at King Elbas. A cloud filled with ethereal gas also left a portal, and a giant castle soon joined it.

Six massive inscribed items at the peak of the ninth rank took their position around and in front of Divine Architect before unleashing their aura. The pressure generated by those weapons made the hydra's surface flicker, but King Elbas forced it to hold strong.

The scene would be a true spectacle for any inscription master, and that was even truer for King Elbas. He only needed a glance to realize how exceptional those inscribed items were, and curiosity inevitably left the hydra.

King Elbas' curiosity took the shape of a golden halo that stretched toward the six massive inscribed items, but the cloud didn't let that stand. Its gas shot forward and condensed to create a barrier that ate King Elbas' influence and prevented it from reaching Divine Architect.

"You won't even let me study them," King Elbas complained through the nine heads.

"Information is the key to victory," Divine Architect announced, "Especially in this battle. I'll learn faster than you anyway, but it doesn't hurt to widen that gap."

"It almost sounds like you are afraid," King Elbas mocked.

"No, it doesn't," Divine Architect responded. "This is the normal behavior of any reasonable cultivator. You simply let your companions alter your standards."

"My companions are idiots," King Elbas admitted. "All of them are, but I wouldn't underestimate them. Even I had to acknowledge their power."

"That only shows your inferiority," Divine Architect pointed out.

"We'll see about that after the next exchange," King Elbas stated.

Divine Architect snorted, and her creations understood her silent order. The giant shot through the gaseous barrier and generated enough momentum to reach the hydra in an instant.

The avatar was big enough to hug the nine long necks and attempt to squeeze them in its embrace. However, the golden fabric was too dense. It didn't budge even in front of that incredible physical strength.

"You dare fight me with this inferior product?!" King Elbas shouted.

Golden flares came out of the hydra's necks while its heads opened their mouths and pointed at the avatar. Energy gathered in their throats while the giant burnt under the influence of the golden radiance.

The flares dug holes in the powerless avatar, but the latter endured the offensive. Meanwhile, the rest of the inscribed items reached the hydra and surrounded it before launching their abilities.

The three-headed dog circled the hydra to stand behind it. Fuming rivers came out of its mouths and crashed on the golden fabric, where they created a white spot that expanded and released even more smoke.

The telescope flew above the hydra and pointed its large side at it. A faint ray shot out of its lens and pierced the golden fabric without inflicting any damage. The item's purpose didn't seem to have anything to do with the offensive, but King Elbas didn't underestimate it anyway.

The mirror took its place under the hydra, but it remained still. It reflected the creature without activating any ability. Meanwhile, the white gas split into countless minute currents that seeped into the golden fabric and vanished from the scene.

The castle was the last to arrive. The structure turned itself ethereal before expanding and enveloping the whole battlefield. The item remained still afterward, but King Elbas didn't ignore it either.

Divine Architect surrounded the hydra from every corner, but her offensive had just begun. The avatar was suffering some damage, but the three-headed dog was hurting King Elbas' creature. In those short seconds, the white spot had reached an incredible size, and King Elbas knew that instabilities were piling on.

King Elbas wanted to focus on the hydra, but he suddenly noticed that a white ray had landed on his head. The golden fabric around him didn't appear able to hinder the telescope's ability, and his survival instinct soon screamed.

Long and deep cracks opened throughout the hydra and revealed the white gas that had previously disappeared inside it. The castle also started to solidify, but everything turned white when the mirror released a blinding flash.

King Elbas couldn't understand what was going on. He had deployed sensors inside the hydra long ago, and he even confirmed that the blinding light didn't destroy them. Yet, he couldn't see anything. He could only hear the screams of his survival instincts.

The scene wasn't too different from the outside, but it revealed more details. The flash didn't immediately fill the area. The mirror released a dense pillar from its center that the castle replicated. The structure's sides generated similar attacks that covered its insides with the white light.

The castle wasn't completely solid, but its edges managed to contain the immense power unleashed during the attack. The sheer might that the six items had been able to produce while working together seemed to stand at the same level as Marcella's vegetation. Yet, Divine Architect had condensed all of that into a far smaller area.

Generally speaking, something so powerful could only have a single outcome. Noah and his core companions were monsters, but they had clear limits. Even they would find it hard to endure that attack without suffering serious injuries.

However, King Elbas was by no means exposed. His hydra had suffered heavy damage, and his senses could only see whiteness, but he was still in control of his power and creations.

Divine Architect's aloof face didn't tremble at all when a burning golden light filled her vision. Overwhelming power reached her senses, but her ethereal barrier protected her consciousness and allowed her to inspect the scene.

A power that didn't seem to belong to the ninth rank unfolded in every direction before six huge figures came out of the expanding golden halo. Divine Architect's creations returned to her side and showed their damaged structures, but she ignored them. Her eyes remained on her opponent and his fake quasi-rank 10 state.

Chapter 2308. Respect

The avatar had deep and large holes on its torso and arms. Part of the faces of the three-headed dog had melted, and the giant telescope featured cracks on its large side.

The castle appeared intact, but its ethereal figure flickered since part of its functions had suffered heavy damage. The white cloud had also shrunk. Only the giant mirror worked as intended, even if smoke came out of its edges.

Any inscription master would try to fix the damage suffered by their inscribed items, but Divine Architect was different. She remained still as her eyes flashed from time to time. Her whole attention was on the fiery hydra, and nothing seemed able to interrupt her inspection.

King Elbas remained calm while his world burnt. Reaching the fake quasi-rank 10 state required a heavy price, and he inevitably suffered while paying it.

Nevertheless, King Elbas didn't let that pain distract him. A cold realization filled his mind while his creation burst with power. Divine Architect's inscribed items had endured part of his full might, but they had remained mostly intact.

Generally speaking, quasi-rank 10 power should overwhelm peak rank 9 energy every time. Even the best creations at that level should shatter in front of something far superior.

King Elbas' quasi-rank 10 state didn't reflect the actual superior realm, but it still carried enough power to be unmatched in the ninth rank. Yet, Divine Architect's creations had survived the burst of energy.

The hydra condensed and shrunk. Its immense power took the shape of an unstable robe that covered King Elbas and made him illuminate the void.

Flares shot out of the golden robe from time to time, but its energy always returned to King Elbas. Containing so much power was hard, but King Elbas was doing his best not to waste any of it.

Golden flames came out of King Elbas' forehead before condensing into a bright crown. A fiery spear also appeared in his right palm, and the pressure radiated by its pointy tip made the void shake.

Divine Architect had already seen and studied that form while she was in the sky. Still, King Elbas didn't hold back from improving it.

Nine flares shot out of King Elbas' back. That unstable energy solidified to take the shape of scaled necks. Heads soon grew out of them to recreate part of the hydra, but Divine Architect could notice some differences. The creature carried far more power than before.

That wasn't even the end of it. King Elbas had always been in control of the hydra, but now it shared a deeper connection with him. Divine Architect couldn't help but compare the nine heads to additional limbs, which naturally worsened her situation.

"It's truly a spectacle," Divine Architect praised. "A fake breakthrough, an alteration of the cultivation journey. You might have cheated your way toward the final energy, but this remains a masterpiece."

"Kowtow to me nine times, and I'll let you be my disciple," King Elbas snorted. "Maybe I'll tell you the secret behind this power once your training is complete."

"I'll stick to taking that from your corpse," Divine Architect stated. "It won't take long before you burn yourself to death anyway."

King Elbas showed a cold expression. The six inscribed items' resilience was off the charts, and Divine Architect probably had something else in store. It wouldn't sound odd if her plan involved tiring King Elbas out.

King Elbas had understood all of that right after the previous exchange. However, Divine Architect had cornered him. He needed the fake quasi-rank 10 state to fight her on the same ground.

"That avatar can adapt itself to any threat," King Elbas announced while pointing his spear at the giant and moving it toward the next inscribed item. "The dog is sturdy, but its corrosive saliva is its primary function."

"The telescope is an advanced scanner. It can probably see past any defense. The castle had multiple functions, but you will mostly use it as a container since it pales in other fields compared to your other items."

"Your knowledge won't scare me," Divine Architect commented.

"The cloud is similar to the avatar," King Elbas continued, "But its structure allows it to perform complicated functions. As for the mirror...."

"I know you will praise it," Divine Architect declared.

"It is quite the masterpiece," King Elbas admitted. "It's not a container. It's an artificial source of power, infinite power."

"I told you," Divine Architect reminded. "Relying on Heaven and Earth has never been part of my plans. I wouldn't mind remaining part of the sky, but I've long since been ready to leave."

"Try not to use the mirror too much," King Elbas requested. "Destroying it would be a waste."

"As if you had any control over this battle," Divine Architect sighed before pointing her arm at King Elbas.

The scanners around Divine Architect shot toward and took their place around the huge mirror. The latter flashed to launch a massive wave of energy that the other items absorbed and reflected.

A series of white rays shot toward the other five inscribed items. The energy released by the mirror perfectly fused with them and fixed their damage. It even strengthened their foundation and overall power.

Nevertheless, King Elbas didn't stay still. Golden light filled the area as his figure teleported above the giant avatar. He looked at the item in disdain before lowering his spear and stabbing it on its head.

The spear pierced the avatar's surface easily, and the power that came out of the fiery tip ravaged its insides. The inferior final energy couldn't do anything against King Elbas' attack, but that outcome didn't surprise Divine Architect.

The mirror flashed, and the scanners spun to send the entirety of that new energy toward the avatar. The other inscribed items also moved to encircle King Elbas, but his crown shone before they could unleash their attack.

The crown generated a heatwave so dense that only the cloud could pierce it without losing the entirety of its energy. Yet, its structure lacked too much power by then, so King Elbas remained untouched.

Meanwhile, the spear continued to unleash its fiery power. The giant mirror flashed multiple times to send energy toward the avatar, but nothing seemed able to stop its destruction.

Golden flames that made the very void churn and twist expanded inside the avatar. The item tried to use the additional energy to fix the damage, but the spear was unstoppable.

Divine Architect began to raise her arm again, but she eventually halted that gesture. Her mind made her aware of an unpleasant truth. She knew that she couldn't stop what was happening.

King Elbas snorted at the sight of Divine Architect's behavior, but he didn't interrupt his attack. The golden flames soon filled the entirety of the avatar and destabilized its structure, leading to a violent explosion that spread scorching heat.

Divine Architect's eyes flashed as she inspected the scene. She searched for the remains of her creation, but the golden flames were burning everything. They didn't leave a single trace of the inferior final energy in the area.

"I'm in my strongest state," King Elbas announced once the heatwave dispersed into the void. "Don't disrespect me with these inferior products."

Chapter 2309. Intercept

A snort tried to leave Divine Architect's mouth, but she suppressed it. She wanted to reject King Elbas' statement, but he was right. His fake quasi-rank 10 state carried a force that she couldn't underestimate.

The avatar vanished from the area without leaving any trace of its previous existence. King Elbas had burnt it thoroughly, and the other inscribed items couldn't do anything to stop his attack.

The exchange would generally push a privileged cultivator to change tactics, but Divine Architect didn't bother to send anything else. She had lost one of the creations, but the battlefield still had five of them.

Divine Architect pointed her arm at King Elbas, and her creations moved. The three-headed dog charged ahead, but three of the hydra's heads shot forward to stop its advance.

The telescope remained in the backlines and released its faint white ray. However, its ability appeared unable to pierce King Elbas' body now. Its ethereal energy couldn't go past the incredible heat that surrounded its opponent.

The cloud met similar problems. The item tried to surround King Elbas, but the heat radiated by his figure kept it away. The gas could only encircle him and burn while attempting to pierce his natural defenses.

The castle had it easier since it didn't touch the incredible heat. The structure turned ethereal and encircled King Elbas without activating any ability. It seemed that Divine Architect didn't want it to do anything yet.

The mirror remained in the backlines too, but King Elbas didn't forget it. In his mind, that item was the strongest asset in Divine Architect's possession, so he prepared himself for its imminent attack.

Of course, King Elbas' preparations didn't merely involve standing still. His world was burning, so he couldn't waste time.

Three of the hydra's heads had bitten on the dog's faces. The two sides appeared equally matched. The scorching golden surface countered the corrosive saliva, but things changed when fiery pillars came out of the scaled mouths.

Meanwhile, the remaining six heads spat violent attacks in their surroundings. There didn't seem to be a pattern in the massive pillars of golden light coming out of their mouths, but the situation was different in King Elbas' mind.

The castle's fabric flickered whenever pillars expanded in the scorching area. Cracks opened on its surfaces even if its structure was ethereal. King Elbas' power was so overwhelming that those ghostly materials couldn't help but suffer due to how close they were to the heat.

The telescope could avoid suffering during King Elbas' offensive, but its faint ray retreated due to his expanding domain. His influence had taken the shape of a dense golden halo that didn't allow any foreign energy in his surroundings.

The mirror remained outside that conflict, but the cloud couldn't imitate its approach. The gas was even closer than the castle, so the increasing heat burnt vast chunks of its fabric and reduced its overall size.

However, the situation changed again when Divine Architect's eyes flashed. The cloud ignored its burning fabric and reassembled itself to take the shape of countless needles that pierced the scorching domain and made their way toward King Elbas.

King Elbas ignored the incoming spikes and focused on the dog. The latter's heads were melting under the scorching rays spat by the hydra, but its overall structure was still holding strong.

That stability didn't last long. King Elbas slightly tilted his right wrist, and the spear disappeared. The weapon reappeared on the dog's belly, where it pierced its fabric until it reached the very center of its body.

There, the spear unleashed its fiery power. Blinding golden rays spread inside the dog and expanded until they filled every corner of its body. The creature stopped functioning for an instant before exploding into fuming shards.

Divine Architect didn't feel any disappointment when all the shards turned into powerless dust. They couldn't survive that scorching environment in that poor shape, and she didn't care enough about her creation to save it.

The needles pierced the explosion and approached King Elbas, but Divine Architect noticed something odd at that point. The hydra's head had disappeared, leaving King Elbas with nothing but his golden robe.

Divine Architect realized that her cloud had walked into a trap, but she also knew that it was too late to do anything about it. The golden robe unleashed a dense shockwave that expanded through a spherical trajectory and burnt anything that dared to stand on its path.

The shockwave didn't stop even after destroying the cloud. It expanded until it reached the castle's ethereal surface before morphing to imitate its shape.

The golden fuel replicated the castle while replacing its position. The final energy solidified at that point, and smoke came out of its fabric. A screech eventually resounded in the area, and Divine Architect's eyes flashed again.

The replica of the castle quickly crumbled and transformed into golden energy that flowed back toward King Elbas. His robe absorbed that power, and nine scaled necks came out of his back. The hydra returned, and its roar announced its small victory.

The ethereal castle had vanished, and the same went for the cloud. King Elbas had destroyed both of them with a single attack, and the event had appeared effortless.

Yet, Divine Architect knew how strong her creations were. She could calculate how much power King Elbas had to use to destroy them, so her confidence remained firm. She couldn't lose as long as things stayed like that.

King Elbas was aware of his opponent's confidence, but he planned to shatter it with his next attack. His right arm rose to point at Divine Architect, and the fiery spear teleported in his palm.

The weapon's movement generated a sharp and long trail of energy that shot forward. Divine Architect saw a giant slash flying toward her, but she ignored it while her attention moved to the telescope.

King Elbas materialized on top of the telescope, where he stomped his feet. His robe, spear, crown, and hydra's heads accompanied the gesture by releasing scorching waves of energy that fell on the item and ravaged its structure.

The telescope vanished in less than a second, but King Elbas found no happiness in his achievement. His speed had been incredible, and the same went for the power shown during the attack. Yet, Divine Architect had managed to follow his offensive.

The long slash fell on Divine Architect, but her ethereal barrier prevented it from reaching her body. Cracks appeared on the defensive technique while the golden energy expressed its might, and the former crumbled after remaining in that clash for a few seconds.

The slash tried to resume its flight and crash on Divine Architect, but its structure shattered at only one inch from her body. She didn't need to move since she had calculated that the attack would exhaust its energy before reaching her.

King Elbas didn't like seeing Divine Architect learning the limits of his final energy, but he knew that he couldn't do anything about that. His focus had to remain on ending the battle, so he performed another teleport.

Golden light accumulated in front of Divine Architect due to King Elbas' teleport. The movement technique was so quick that no rank 9 cultivator could react to it, but the mirror was an exception.

Before King Elbas could materialize, the mirror launched a wave of energy that intercepted him. The attack wasn't dangerous, but it still pushed him away and interrupted his technique before he could reach Divine Architect.

Chapter 2310. Crystals

The white wave of power unleashed by the mirror could put average rank 9 cultivators in danger, but King Elbas was far beyond that level. Yet, Divine Architect didn't try to hurt him. She only wanted to interrupt his offensive.

King Elbas felt powerless for a few seconds while the white attack pushed him away. The mirror's timing had been perfect. It had caught him in the middle of his teleport, which prolonged his helpless state.

The wave of energy pushed King Elbas into the distance and threatened to launch him into the void, but he exploded with golden power once he stabilized his condition. The giant attack instantly burnt at that point, and a bright halo filled King Elbas' surroundings.

Divine Architect snorted before pointing at a spot behind her. The mirror rotated and launched another giant wave of energy that targeted the designed area, suppressing the golden light that had begun to materialize.

"I can see you," Divine Architect said without bothering to turn toward the torrent of white energy flowing behind her.

Nevertheless, Divine Architect's crystal eyes released a short flash that made her sprint forward. Her perfect timing allowed her to dodge the vertical golden pillar that pierced the white river and interrupted the mirror's attack.

Nine scaled heads came out of the pillars and unleashed a fiery sea that caught up with Divine Architect in no time. The latter felt forced to summon her portals, but her domain soon disappeared among the golden flames.

"You are still disrespecting me," King Elbas said before stepping out of the golden pillar and landing on the sea.

The energy inside the pillar crumbled into waves that fused with the fiery sea. King Elbas advanced through his scorching creation, and his spear soon pointed at a seemingly random spot in the distance.

An unstoppable and blinding attack shot out of the spear and pierced the sea. Waves of flames formed as the structure opened to reveal a spherical white cage that had remained immersed among the golden flames.

The cage shattered as soon as the blinding attack landed on its surface, revealing Divine Architect's intact figure. She appeared defenseless in her current state, and the spear's ability still retained enough energy to fly toward her, but she didn't bother to move.

The giant mirror had spun again during King Elbas' offensive. Trembling energy had shot from its four corners and had gathered at its center, but that power shot forward once Divine Architect remained entirely in the open.

The mirror launched a tiny and seemingly forgettable white needle that flew at high speed through the void. The attack was so fast that it reached the spear's ability before it could land on Divine Architect.

The needle showed its true power once it fused with the blinding attack. The golden energy inside the ability lost its balance and momentum before falling into the sea.

Divine Architect had stopped the spear. The event was quite incredible, but Divine Architect was far from done, and King Elbas noticed that right away.

The fall of the blinding attack revealed a tiny white sphere that floated before Divine Architect. The energy contained in that small structure felt immense, so King Elbas didn't hesitate to make the whole sea crash on it.

The sea roared in anger. Flares and waves shot out of its fiery surface as the entirety of its fabric crashed on Divine Architect and her tiny white sphere.

The space-time fabric of the void struggled to endure the heavy pressure accumulated in the area, but it didn't break. King Elbas' offensive seemed able to get close to that realm, but it still fell short.

It didn't take long before Divine Architect and her attack vanished among the golden energy. The whole sea condensed and retreated to unleash the entirety of its power on its target, and King Elbas even helped with more attacks.

King Elbas pointed his spear and nine scaled heads at the unstable mass of golden energy that had surrounded Divine Architect. Attacks that didn't have a fixed form came out of his weapons and engulfed the area. The overall power contained in the offensive illuminated profound parts of the void, but King Elbas didn't feel satisfied just yet.

The crown left King Elbas and flew in front of him before rising toward the nine heads. The violent pillars of golden light coming out of those mouths converged toward the circular item to fuse into a dense and piercing attack that focused even more power on their target.

The uneven cage became visible again. Its unstable surface expanded as the dense attack filtered by the crown fused with its structure and increased its power.

Smoke appeared all around the expanding cage. The level of power reached by the golden fabric became so high that even the void started to burn. King Elbas wasn't affecting its space-time array, but he was getting close to that realm.

The shocking attack forced King Elbas to burn his world faster than before. He was going all-out without caring about the injuries suffered during the process. He only had one goal, and he would stop at nothing to achieve it.

The giant mirror in the distance lost connection with Divine Architect due to the massive interference caused by King Elbas' attack. The item spun on itself a few times before accumulating power to launch a reckless attack on the expanding golden cage.

King Elbas had predicted a similar outcome, and his robe reacted accordingly. The golden clothes left behind King Elbas and the hydra's necks as they shot toward the river of white energy and transformed into a vast wall that blocked that offensive.

A crazy smile appeared on King Elbas' face as he pressed on with his offensive. He could feel the destruction of his existence, but he continued to burn his world to remain in his incredible state. He appeared willing to die to complete his task.

Still, a humming soundwave eventually seeped out of the expanding cage. The noise flew through the entirety of the higher plane, even reaching areas of the void that almost matched King Elbas' achievements.

The soundwave didn't damage King Elbas, but he interrupted his attacks when he understood its purpose. The golden cage and the remaining energy flying toward it lost their momentum and started to crumble a few seconds after the humming noise entered their fabric.

King Elbas didn't even try to regain control of that crumbling energy. The humming noise had altered its fabric and turned it into something he couldn't control.

The golden rain allowed Divine Architect to come out in the open, but her odd appearance left even King Elbas surprised. Her clothes had disappeared, and the same went for most of her skin, but King Elbas couldn't see muscles or blood.

Divine Architect's insides were nothing more than white crystals. She didn't have muscles or organs. She actually resembled the old rulers, but her figure had far more details.

Moreover, King Elbas found it hard to inspect Divine Architect's insides. Her crystal body featured layers over layers of defensive measures that hindered his inspection and made him unable to evaluate her potential.

"Those are some thorough modifications," King Elbas commented before spreading his arms.

The golden wall abandoned the giant mirror and transformed into a robe that flew back toward King Elbas. The crown also fell back on his head, and his dense aura expanded in the void once again.

"Cultivators are flawed creatures," Divine Architect calmly explained. "Any decent inscription master should fix that issue. You did the same."

King Elbas didn't answer, but Divine Architect seemed to know that the topic was over. She glanced at a fuming spot on her shoulder, but the gas disappeared when her eyes glowed. Even the small crack on the burnt crystal vanished during her stare.

"Why aren't you bragging about your fourth small victory?" Divine Architect wondered while bringing her gaze back to King Elbas. "Are you out of taunts? Are you too tired to say anything?"

"I might have overestimated you," King Elbas snorted. "I've already exposed your true form. I'll have loads of energy left to fight Heaven and Earth at this pace."

"Predictable arrogance," Divine Architect sighed. "Well, I've studied you long enough. It's time to turn you into a corpse."