

DEMONIC 551

Chapter 551 - 551. Fool

Noah descended through the heatwaves radiated from the lava lake.

The "Breath" around him was consumed at high speed to protect his body, but all of that was just an act to bait Amos.

Noah knew that he had no chance to win against a rank 4 cultivator in the solid stage, he had just begun battling those in the gaseous stage after all.

Yet, he had an advantage that many couldn't even begin to suspect: His body.

"Junior, I understand your eagerness, but there is no point in your actions. Fire can't enlighten darkness, no matter how brightly it burns."

Amos sighed after speaking those words, he felt that Noah was simply acting like an excited junior.

"Flames burn inside me too, they might be fueled by the darkness element, but they are still flames."

Noah replied to his comment.

His answer was honest, he had often seen his ambition as a bright fire that drove him through his life.

Amos' eyebrow arched when he heard those words, he immediately understood that Noah had already gained some insights about the laws of his element, and his admiration for him couldn't help but increase at that moment.

"Haha! You are really amazing! How much has it been since you entered the heroic ranks?"

Amos became excited and quickly neared Noah to descend with him, he felt as if he could gain some insights from that conversation.

"All the elements are similar and also extremely different. They can't be found on their own, they are always combined. The world is just the result of that union."

Noah revealed part of the insights obtained in his period of isolation in the azure plain.

He couldn't lie to a heroic cultivator that had reached the solid stage while keeping a youthful aspect, he had to give voice to his real thoughts if he wanted to obtain his attention.

"Look at this lake, isn't it made by liquid flames? Fire can flow like water, it can be subtle like wind, it can be sturdy like earth, it can pierce like lightning, it can shine like light, and it can engulf like darkness. Why shouldn't I be able to understand darkness through it then?"

Amos was stupefied when he heard those words.

He didn't create his own cultivation technique, his breakthroughs had come only from his understanding of his individuality.

That led him to be extremely confident in his path, he had already defined himself after all, he only had to dive through the laws of the fire element now.

Yet, Noah appeared incredibly vast in his eyes.

His existence seemed to encompass many fields while still being limited to one person, the depths that he reached seemed unfathomable.

The truth was that Noah's mentality was simply broader than that of a human since he belonged to a completely different species, he was able to have those thoughts because his body could absorb every type of "Breath" and transform it in its power.

What Amos didn't realize though was that, as they descended, even his protection began to waver.

However, he was too engrossed in that conversation that he didn't bother too much about it.

Also, he knew that Noah's "Breath" would be depleted before his, there was no reason to worry about the outcome of that battle in his mind.

"The world is a silent teacher, it gives you all the answers, but you can read them only when your mind is ready to accept them. Junio-, no, Noah Balvan, I thank you for broadening my eyes."

Amos honestly thanked Noah, but the latter ignored him and continued to descend, the edges of his new robe began to burn due to the temperatures around him.

Then, when Noah noticed the first drop of sweat running down Amos' forehead, he stopped.

"I'm amazed you can last so much, you must be nearing the peak of the gaseous stage to have such deep reserves."

Amos commented, but he couldn't know that Noah was refilling part of the depleted "Breath" through his cultivation technique at that moment, he had even removed his limitation to increase the absorption speed.

"Do you mind going deeper? I am enjoying this conversation, and I want to memorize the feeling of being near a divinity."

Noah lied as he turned toward Amos.

His words were polite, and even a bit of eagerness was reflected in his gaze, Amos couldn't find any reason to deny to such a talented cultivator the chance to admire the lake one last time.

"Sure, let's exchange insights until you are exhausted, I feel that this experience can benefit both of us."

Amos agreed to his request, and they both resumed their descent.

They soon reached a distance of a few hundred meters from the lava lake, the temperature at that point became almost unbearable and, no matter how much "Breath" both of them used to protect their bodies, the heat still affected them.

Noah's robe began to burn, and even Amos' clothes took fire, it was as if the lake forced everything over it to become ash.

Noah was sweating profusely, but so did Amos, it seemed that both of them couldn't last much in that area.

"This is the limit for those with a rank 4 body, even our clothes can't survive in this air."

Amos commented as the last bit of his robe became ash, his gaze went on Noah who was equally n.a.k.e.d.

"What do you think about Heaven and Earth?"

Noah asked, his aspect didn't give him the slightest concern.

Amos sighed when he saw that Noah still wanted to converse, he decided to answer only when he saw that the "Breath" around him had vanished entirely.

"They are everything, they are balance, they are fairness. They encompass every existence and are part of everything in this world. Only gods can somewhat imitate their status by separating themselves from their laws. Yet, I think they are innately good since they give their energy to every living being."

Noah fell silent when he heard those words.

He had never been able to understand the mindset of someone that trusted Heaven and Earth, he had been their enemy since he started cultivating after all.

However, he felt that he could finally understand what the privileged cultivators thought about them.

That realization made him laugh.

Noah managed to hold himself back for several minutes, but, in the end, he couldn't help but explode in a loud laugh.

Amos' body was nearing its limits, his "Breath" wasn't able to stop the heat at all at that altitude.

Yet, when he heard the man next to him laughing, he noticed that something was wrong.

Noah had long stopped using "Breath" to protect his body, burned patches of skin could be seen everywhere on his figure.

Nevertheless, when he laughed, he seemed still full of energy, it was as if those burns didn't affect his complexion at all.

Then, Noah decided to stop pretending and reveal what he knew about Heaven and Earth to keep him a bit more at that height.

"You are a fool."

Chapter 552 - 552. Enemy

"Balance? Fairness? Innately good!?"

Noah shouted to the confused Amos.

Noah had only been able to hold his laugh back because he needed to weaken Amos' body further.

Yet, when he saw that his skin had begun to burn too, he simply stopped pretending.

"Heaven and Earth are just powerful entities bound by their same rules, they would wipe out any cultivator, magical plant, and magical beast if they could. Why do you think there are Tribulations? Why do you think magical beasts can absorb any type of "Breath"? Heaven and Earth have set a balance that they can't escape!"

Noah revealed what he had understood after living as a hybrid for many years.

Of course, that was only a hypothesis, but Noah felt that it was quite close to the truth.

Why magical beasts could absorb any type of "Breath"?

Why did he feel like an enemy of that marvelous energy?

Why did Heaven fear the union between a human and a beast so much?

Noah believed that the fairness of Heaven and Earth caused all of that.

"They do not bless us, we are their natural enemy! Our only role is to bring balance to their omnipotence!"

Noah revealed everything that he thought about the world.

Amos was stunned, he had never considered similar ideas, he had always believed that the "Breath" was a gift and that the Tribulations were some sort of a test.

It took a while before he felt like speaking, he wanted to hear more about those ideas.

After all, Noah was an existence that viewed most living beings as enemies of the world, he had never seen such a peculiar individuality.

"How can you be sure of that?"

Noah shrugged his shoulders when he heard those words, and he revealed a simple smile as he answered him.

"I'm not, only gods can have a clear idea of the nature of Heaven and Earth."

Amos came back to reality after Noah's answer, he had noticed that something was wrong, but the latter's revelation had made him ignore that aspect.

Yet, now that he focused again, he saw that something strange was happening on Noah's body.

The patches of burned skin quickly healed, and "Breath" began to circulate again around it.

He had only pretended that his dantian was empty, the truth was that he had simply stopped using it to defend his body.

The same went for his injuries, Noah had allowed his skin to be burned, but he was far away from reaching his physical limits.

He was a hybrid in the upper tier after all, his natural defenses against those heatwaves were on a whole different level compared to a human body.

Also, the air around him was darker, Noah had continuously absorbed the light radiated by the lava lake to lower its power.

"What is happening? How can your body be fine after all this time and without protection?"

Amos asked.

He didn't retreat when Noah dropped the act, he didn't feel any fear for his life even when he revealed his wild aura.

However, he was still stupefied by his healthy complexion.

Amos was using solid "Breath" to protect his body, but the heat still managed to affect him.

Noah, instead, had stopped relying on his gaseous "Breath" for protection for some time already, but it seemed that he didn't suffer any injury!

That outcome should have been impossible since both of them had a rank 4 body in the upper tier, Amos simply couldn't understand what was going on!

Yet, Noah was done talking.

His attacks couldn't hurt Amos, but he was confident in prolonging the battle until the latter's body reached its limits.

Noah's skin caved in, and a pair of sabers appeared in his hands as he slashed toward him.

The air in the trajectory of his weapons shattered, but Amos promptly raised his hand to block the attack.

Two black lines appeared right next to the noble, but thin flames prevented them from nearing him, a simple wave of his hand had been able to block Noah's martial art empowered by the secret art.

'He really is on another level.'

Noah thought before kicking the air under his feet and shooting in the sky.

The previous attack was just a distraction, Noah needed that short instant to retreat from that area.

"Do you really want me to kill you?"

Amos asked before he realized that Noah had left a trail of spiked spheres and needles in his retreat.

Noah had created those rank 4 disposable weapons for unforeseen situations, he had never expected to use them so soon.

A series of blasts filled the area right over the lava lake, the power contained in those weapons made the rocky wasteland below tremble, but not even a ripple appeared on the surface of the lake.

Noah reappeared high in the sky, his reptilian eyes analyzed the gray clouds formed after the explosions, but a layer of black smoke soon covered them.

He didn't hesitate to activate the complete Demonic form when battling a solid stage cultivator!

Then, he sensed a danger that surpassed even that felt when he faced Fred's last attack.

A black sphere appeared in front of him, and Zac covered his body while his figure became ethereal.

Right after Noah deployed his defensive measures, a torrent of flames engulfed Zac's fuming figure.

Noah felt the Black hole spell shattering after it absorbed a huge amount of energies, he felt the flames destroying the defensive layers in front of Zac's shell, and he endured the pain of his Blood companion when the attack pierced its body to reach him.

The torrent of flames continued for a few seconds before dispersing and revealing Noah's charred figure.

Most of his skin had been burned to withstand the attack, but his internal organs had been unaffected at that time, his body had clearly improved since his battle with Fred.

Also, the Demonic form spell had provided another layer of protection, further weakening the attack of a true solid stage cultivator.

The torrent of flames had dispersed the gray clouds, revealing an equally burned Amos that couldn't hide his surprise when he saw that Noah was alive.

He was about to launch another attack when he saw that Noah was once again creating his defenses, the latter felt confident in surviving at least three of those spells.

However, Amos didn't have all that time.

His skin was completely burned, the heat had begun to affect his muscles, and his internal organs would quickly follow them.

Wasting time to launch another attack would injure him, and launching a third one would inflict him lasting wounds, Noah had perfectly calculated how much Amos' body could endure.

Also, the damage had spread so much that even retreating high in the sky won't solve the issue, Amos had to retreat and heal if he wanted to prevent further injuries.

Amos simply had to choose how far he was willing to go to win.

Those seconds of hesitation further sealed the outcome of the match.

In the silence of the rocky wasteland, a phrase resounded in the air.

"I surrender."

Chapter 553 - 553. Changed

The human cultivators watching from the cities on the new continent couldn't hear the conversation between Noah and Amos.

They only saw them slowly diving toward the lava lake, exchanging words for many minutes, and ultimately clashing.

They clearly saw Noah being overwhelmed by Amos' attack, but they also saw both of them halting the battle after the first clash.

The crowds held their breath when they realized that both heroic cultivators were leaving the sky over the rocky wasteland, those human cultivators were unable to understand the outcome of the battle from those few exchanges.

Yet, an aged voice soon resounded in the cities, carrying a message that made those cultivators explode in loud shouts.

"The Hive has claimed the territory containing the lava lake!"

The masses soon understood the meaning behind that message: Noah Balvan had won against a rank 4 cultivator in the solid stage!

Of course, those cultivators weren't stupid, they had watched the battle after all.

They saw that Noah couldn't even hurt Amos, it was impossible for someone in the gaseous stage to hurt him.

It was clear that the Demon Prince of the Hive had outsmarted his opponent.

However, that was an incredible achievement already!

Noah had triumphed in a hopeless battle!

No one cared that Amos was stronger, what mattered was the loss of a territory containing traces left by divine beings!

"Miss, I don't know how you did that, but I'm a man of my word. Your wins are here."

An old man handed a space-ring to a young-looking girl that was quietly staring at the images radiated by the crystals.

June took the ring and continued to stare at the now empty lava lake, countless thoughts and emotions filled her while she reviewed the match in her mind.

"Miss, tomorrow's battle will see two rank 5 cultivators. I was wondering if you wanted to place another bet."

The old man asked, but June shook her head before adding a few words.

"I'll pass, I was only confident in this one."

Then, she turned to leave, she wanted to return to her habitation to calm herself down.

She didn't lie to the man, she was sure that Noah would have won.

Her confidence came from what she had understood about Noah in their short cohabitation.

She knew that Noah did everything for a reason, he was the most focused and driven man that she had ever met in her life.

The sole fact that he had joined the battle meant that he was confident of winning, the Noah she knew would never waste time in a hopeless fight, he would rather train than lose precious hours.

'He has changed.'

June couldn't help but have that thought.

She couldn't see that aloof attitude anymore when she watched his battle, she only saw a man brimming with cold confidence, an entity able to make a plan to beat someone far stronger than him.

'I guess you have finally obtained the power to reveal yourself.'

Her mind reviewed her life inside Noah's habitation in the academy.

She saw a young man continually avoiding the crowds even when he had the power to lead them, she saw a man hiding so much that even his breath had become part of his lies.

Then, she compared those images to the man reflected in the crystals.

'At least, your core is still the same, your ambition didn't change. You have just stopped hiding.'

Traces of a smile appeared on her face when she thought that, she felt somewhat glad to have learnt more about him.

June had only been able to see his true face when he threatened her after she received Eccentric Thunder's inheritance, and she felt happy to learn more about his real character.

'I expected you to reach for the sky before all of us, but that happened too soon... I spent a lot of time solidifying the position of my family inside the Utra nation and studying Master's formations, but now I'm ready, I can aim for the peak of the third rank and prepare for the Tribulations.'

Those thoughts filled June's mind while she made her way through the crowd, she felt finally ready to approach the last step of the human ranks.

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Meanwhile, Noah had quickly returned to the desert inhabited by sandworms.

His skin had almost completely healed since he didn't hesitate to eat pieces of magical beasts during his flight, and his clash with Amos didn't injure him gravely, he would be fine in a matter of hours.

The atmosphere in the group of the Hive was completely different from before, Noah saw broad smiles shooting in his direction as soon as he neared his companions, he could sense how happy the other elders were about the outcome of his battle.

"How did you even pull that off!"

Elder Jason shouted as he neared him with the other rank 4 cultivators.



He held another luxurious robe in his hands that he quickly handed to Noah, the latter had just changed into one of his old ones during his flight.

"Elder Austin had already given up on the lava lake! You must know that the Hive only has a cultivator in the liquid stage with a fire aptitude, all the others are either in the gaseous stage or have a rank 5 body! Luckily for us, the Demon Prince has taken care of it!"

Elder Jason couldn't contain his excitement, and the other fire cultivators were in a similar state.

Noah had saved the best training area available for the elders with a fire aptitude, their gratitude was somewhat expected.

'That's why he didn't contact me when he discovered that my opponent would have been in the solid stage, there was simply no point in replacing me.'

Noah thought when he heard Elder Jason's words.

Rank 4 cultivators in the solid stage would need a rank 5 body to contain all that power, Amos was an exception that the Utra nation had managed to find in its numerous assets.

The Hive though had around fifty heroic cultivators, and none of them could match Amos' power and also respect the terms of the pact.

"I've already notified Austin about your victory, he said that he will go all out to claim the azure plain since you are so attached to it."

Elder Julia spoke after appearing above Noah, a proud smile was on her usually stern face.

"When is he fighting?"

Noah asked Elder Julia, he didn't want to miss the chance to witness a battle between two rank 5 cultivators, which was one of the reasons why he hurried on his way back.

"In a few hours. We have prepared suitable stages to watch it, Elder Jason will escort you there when you want. Anyway, I wanted to say that the Hive won't forget your service."

Elder Julia answered before disappearing again in the air, she had to prepare for her battle too.

Chapter 554 - 554. Battles

Elder Austin's battle against Elder Doyle of the Papral nation for the ownership of the azure plain began a few hours after Noah returned to the desert.

Both rank 5 cultivators didn't hesitate to launch attacks as soon as they entered the battlefield.

Elder Austin shot toward his enemy with flames surrounding his figures, his opponent used a similar tactic and covered his body with an armor made of water before pouncing the incoming elder.

The result of that clash was an explosion that dispersed the clouds in the sky above them.

Both cultivators were flung away in the distance after the impact only to resume their offensive with long-range attacks.

Elder Austin created tens of flaming snakes that flew toward the contender while Elder Doyle summoned hundreds of blue carps which shot water bullets.

The fire snakes' bodies were pierced by the bullets and exploded before they could reach the barrage of carps, the blast destroyed part of Elder Doyle's spell, but many carps managed to remain intact and pressed on with their offensive.

Elder Austin cast more flames that fused with those still lingering in the air to form a massive burning figure, a nine-headed hydra appeared in front of the elder from the Coral archipelago and blocked the incoming bullets.

The reptilian heads then spread their mouths and aimed for Elder Doyle's figure hidden behind the barrage of carps, they launched nine flaming pillars that pierced his spell and crashed on the seemingly defenseless elder.

At that point, a blinding light dispersed the smoke created by the pillars of flames only to reveal a blue sphere that surrounded an unharmed Elder Doyle.

Then, the elder from the Papral nation flew toward the remaining carps and absorbed the water that made them in his defensive sphere.

The sphere began to grow as more carps were absorbed, and its shape also morphed until it became a colossal dragon whose size matched the flaming hydra.

The two creatures began to fight, they released shockwaves that made the azure ground under them tremble after every clash.

The spells were equally matched, they continued to fight until they depleted all the energies that fueled them without managing to win over their opponent.

As the spell dispersed, Elder Austin and Elder Doyle resumed their offensive through other methods.

Spears, columns, arrows, bullets, and magical beasts of both elements appeared and clashed between each other, the elders seemed equally matched both in raw power and in the proficiency in their spells.

Yet, the battle couldn't continue endlessly.

Elder Doyle decided to use one of his strongest spells when he felt that the time was right.

A massive whirlpool appeared in front of him and began to rotate, pulling everything toward its center.

The spell affected even the environment of the plain, magical beasts and plants rose in the air unable to counter the suction force of the massive blue whirlpool.

Even Elder Austin felt himself being pulled by the spell, the flames that made his attacks and those around him escaped his control and reached for the center of the whirlpool as he tried to retreat.

However, nothing seemed able to escape such suction force.

Elder Austin felt forced to use the same attack that had defeated Lady Edna to destroy the enemy's spell, and he raised his hands to the sky to cast his trump card.

The sky turned red after his mental energy and "Breath" fused with it, and red clouds gathered under Elder Austin command.

Then, flames began to rain down from the clouds.

Countless drops made of flames fell on the battlefield, the whirlpool was initially able to absorb them, but its surface started to shatter after a while.

Also, Elder Austin controlled those flaming drops and turned them into some of his attacks.

The whirlpool was soon assaulted by a series of flaming snakes and fire spears, and it ultimately broke under Elder Austin's endless offensive.

Elder Doyle showed a surprised expression as he raised his gaze to the sky.

The red clouds were still releasing flames that fueled his opponent's attacks, it was as if Elder Austin had created an unending source of fire for his spells.

"I surrender."

Only Elder Austin heard those words, but everyone spectating the battle understood the outcome of the fight when the red clouds vanished, and the sky returned to its natural color.

Elder Austin had dispersed his spell, meaning that he had no reason to keep it active anymore!

The Hive had claimed another territory!

Noah had watched the entirety of the battle from a crystal that the Hive had bought explicitly in the old continent.

The other elders were there too, their amazement could be clearly understood by their expressions.

Noah felt astonished too, the battle between those two rank 5 cultivators was simply on another level, rank 4 cultivators could die if even one of those shockwaves hit them after all!

'They didn't use martial arts, it seems that cultivators tend to abandon attacks that rely on their bodies as they grow.'

That was Noah's first thoughts when the fight ended.

Martial arts relied on body and dantian to activate their effects, and the body of a human simply couldn't express that much power.

The main role of the body as a center of power was to contain the dantian and the sea of consciousness, that was true for cultivators at least.

Spells would have a far superior effect since they relied on the dantian and the mental sphere, their power would just leave martial arts far behind as a cultivator grew stronger.

'I guess I will be an exception in this aspect, my martial art can match spells when I use the secret art, my body can match my other centers of power when I push it to its limits.'

Noah thought as he reviewed the rest of the battle in his mind.

Cheers resounded in the sky over the desert inhabited by sandworms, the elders of the Hive felt as if they had won already.

After all, the richest areas had already fallen in their hands, the rest of the territories of the southwestern coast required a lot of work and resources to be fully explored and turned in sources of income.

A day passed by, and another battle followed.

The Utra nation fought for the area with the snowy mountain right after the plain filled with Primordial ice.

The Hive sent Elder Mona in battle, she was one of the elders that had reached the new continent after the pact was sealed, and she was a rank 4 cultivator in the liquid stage with a water aptitude.

Yet, Elder Mona lost, the Utra nation had decided to deploy Amos Lochster once again, who overwhelmed her and secured the territory.

Chapter 555 - 555. Emblem

One versus one battles continued to happen in the following days.

The remaining territories on the southwestern coast didn't appeal the two big nations that much, so they simply sent heroic cultivators that wanted to make a name for themselves.

Elder Laurel fought for the forest of White woods against an elder of the Papral nation.

She exchanged many rounds of offense and defense against her enemy, proving herself weaker after every clash.

Yet, just when her energies were about to deplete, the White woods under the battlefield suddenly released toxic substances in the air, which filled the area where the two elders were fighting.

Of course, that phenomenon had been triggered by Elder Laurel, she had spent months attuning the defensive measures around the teleportation matrix with the forest after all, she could easily control them in the air.

Her opponent wasn't prepared for that event and was forced to surrender since Elder Laurel seemed unaffected by those toxic gasses.

The contender couldn't possibly know that the elder from the Coral archipelago had specially requested for a spell that she knew would have blocked the toxins of the White woods.

The Hive could breathe a sigh of relief after the forest was secured, all the proofs of its unofficial invasion were under the white crowns of those magical plants, and they would be forever hidden now that the archipelago owned the territory.

The Hive then lost the battles for the mountains inhabited by snake-type magical beasts and for the grassland filled by the yellow moss.

Those territories were situated next to the domain of the Papral nation, the Council didn't want to see its borders being affected too much by the pact, so they used their best contenders in those battles.

On the other hand, the Hive didn't really want those territories.

Its assets were far less numerous compared to those of the big nations, obtaining more lands that it could defend would end up being a disadvantage in the long run.

Elder Jason performed exceptionally well in the battle for the lake inhabited by octopus-type magical beasts, his flames seemed fueled by some sort of indomitable will as they crashed on his opponent, ultimately forcing the latter to surrender.

The Papral nation then sent a newly advanced heroic cultivator for the territory with the poisonous rivers.

That land was too far away from its domains, it wasn't worth owning it due to geographical reasons, it was better to use it as a training ground for a new heroic asset.

The fights for the territories on the western coast ended like that, the Hive would control everything from the desert to the lake inhabited by the octopus-type magical beasts and leave the remaining coastline to the Papral nation.

Only two territories had yet to be claimed on the southwestern coast: the area inhabited by ape-type magical beasts after the lava lake and the beginning of the mountain chain after the azure plain.

Those two areas were virtually worthless, the mountain chain was inhabited by beings so strong that only Chasing Demon or other rank 6 existences could face, and the other only had some valueless magical plants.

The aftereffects of the pact sealed by the rank 6 existences of the four nations seemed about to end, Noah was already planning his next move when something unexpected happened.

Elder Hope went to fight for the territory after the lava lake, she knew that her opponent would either be Amos Lochster or a heroic cultivator that the Royals wanted to train.

Yet, what appeared in front of her was a man wearing an emblem that she recognized.

Elder Hope had rarely left the Coral archipelago in her life, and she had never studied the many noble families that filled the Utra nation.

She was able to recognize that emblem because it usually appeared in the reports concerning the Demon Prince of the Hive that came from the Utra nation!

"Lord Balvan, I presume."

Elder Hope spoke when Adrian Balvan neared the borders of the lava lake to talk to her.

"I'm flattered, I would have never thought that the Hive would be aware of my family's emblem."

Adrian performed a bow as he spoke those words, he didn't seem intentioned to fight her at all.

"The Hive would obviously gather information concerning the possible enemies of its Demon Prince, your family is almost on top of the list."

Elder Hope replied coldly, her stern gaze inspected the burly heroic cultivator in the gaseous stage that had neared her so boldly.

Noah had gained the respect of the elders of the Hive after winning the lava lake, Elder Hope's behavior was simply a reflection of that.

"I've asked for a special permission to the Elbas family to fight for this land, the Royals are aware that this territory is useless, but they would have still sent Lord Lochster only to take it from you. My actions have given you hope to conquer it, but I will only fight against my nephew, Lord Lochster will take my place if someone else appears."

Adrian explained the situation to Elder Hope, who maintained a cold gaze.

The Hive could obtain that territory only if Noah were to fight, Amos would claim it under the Utra nation's banner otherwise.

Elder Hope remained silent, she didn't answer him, and she remained on the edges of the area above the rocky wasteland as she continued to stare at Adrian.

"Your answer? Will you contact him?"

Adrian became impatient as time passed and couldn't help but speak those words.

He had traveled a long way and asked for a favor to the Elbas family only to have that chance to fight Noah, he didn't want to think that all of that was for nothing.

"I won't contact him."

Elder Hope ultimately answered.

Adrian showed a surprised expression, but the elder's next words relieved him a bit.

"The Prince is already on his way."

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In the sky over the desert, just before Adrian Balvan neared Elder Hope.

The elders of the Hive were watching the incoming battle through a crystal.

Noah was there too, his mind wandered from time to time as he analyzed the fights of his companions, his eagerness to resume his training was almost uncontainable after all the inspirations obtained in the last days.

Yet, when Adrian became visible in the crystal and the emblem was reflected in those images, he instinctively kicked the air under his feet to shot in the direction of Elder Hope's battle.

The elders around him were surprised by that sudden action, Noah had abruptly used a martial art after all.

However, when they saw Adrian's emblem too, they picked their inscribed notebooks to inform Elder Hope about the Prince's gesture.

Chapter 556 - 556. Ear

Noah didn't recognize Adrian, he had barely interacted with the higher-ups of his family after all.

Yet, he was sure that the cultivator who was facing Elder Hope carried the Balvan bloodline.

He knew far too well how the noble families handled their cultivation resources, a medium-size noble family would have never given the means to reach the heroic ranks to someone without blood ties.

Noah flew at high speed toward the area inhabited by ape-type magical beasts, he was sure that Adrian had appeared on the new continent for a reason which most likely concerned him.

The Elbas family would never give the privilege to fight for the territories to a medium-size noble family, there were no benefits in promoting such small powers.

Also, he knew that the elders in the desert would inform Elder Hope about his departure, he wasn't worried at all that Adrian would leave before he arrived there.

Three days had to pass before Noah was able to see the two figures waiting for him in the air and an hour for him to reach Elder Hope.

"Hello, nephew. We have never met, I'm Adrian Balvan."

Adrian introduced himself as soon as Noah arrived, but the latter simply inspected him with his cold reptilian eyes.

Adrian did the same, but he couldn't sense anything particular from Noah's aura, it was as if he contained all his emotions.

"We can give up on this territory, the Hive has already obtained enough on the western coast. Just a word from you and I will-"

Elder Hope began to speak, but Noah placed a hand over her shoulder and interrupted her phrase.

Noah wasn't applying any strength, but Elder Hope still felt as if a mountain was threatening to crush her shoulder, she couldn't help but wonder how a cultivator in the gaseous stage could give her those sensations.

"I'll handle this, don't worry."

Noah calmly spoke before retracting his hand and crossing the border of the battlefield.

Adrian showed a satisfied expression when he saw his gesture and retreated to give space to Noah.

Elder Hope stood still, she didn't return to the desert, she remained over the rocky wasteland with her eyes fixed on Adrian.

She didn't know if Adrian's presence there was some sort of trap of the Elbas family, so she chose to remain to watch the battle and to intervene in case Noah was about to lose his life.

Of course, that action would make the Hive lose the match, but she couldn't care less about that territory, she only wanted to do everything in her power to preserve the life of the most promising heroic asset of the Coral archipelago.

"You resemble her, it seems like yesterday that Rhys brought a commoner back to the mansion. Father was so mad at him, but he had always spoiled Rhys, my little brother has never understood that his actions could have consequences. Well, he learnt that after Fabian's death."

A slight smile appeared on Adrian's face as he spoke those words.

Noah couldn't understand what his uncle's intentions were, but he didn't care about them, he limited himself to listen to him only to see if he could gather more information about his family.

"I'm different though. Father has raised me to become the next patriarch of the Balvan family, I won't mourn the deaths of a few heirs that couldn't even overcome a bastard who has trained without any support. Yet, I must thank you. Your betrayal forced the Royals to compensate the family, our foundation has never been so stable, I believe we will have a third heroic cultivator in the next sixty or so years."

Adrian continued to speak, but he soon lost interest in interacting with Noah since the latter didn't show any reaction.

Not even the slightest trace of emotion appeared in Noah's aura, he resembled almost devoid of them as he continued to stare Adrian.

"My presence today is just a whim of mine, I wanted to see with my eyes if your betrayal was a fortunate event or if the family has lost as much as the reports say."

Adrian retreated even more after he gave voice to those words, his robe was torn apart as his muscles bulged, and his skin turned yellow.

Also, a seemingly metallic defensive layer appeared over his figure.

In a few seconds, Adrian had transformed from a burly middle-aged man into a four meters tall giant with silver skin.

Noah watched the transformation in silence, he had no intention of stopping him.

Yet, when he saw that Adrian seemed to wait for him, he decided to speak.

"Are you done?"

Adrian listened to the emotionless tone of his nephew and laughed, but a wild aura soon swept him and forced him to focus on his opponent.

Noah's mental energy began to release cold and wild mental waves, Adrian felt as if thousands of incorporeal blades were crashing on his giant body.

Also, he felt the deep hatred contained in them.

Noah had always held his hatred back.



It didn't matter how much he improved, he couldn't just barge in the Utra nation and go after his family, he knew that he didn't have the power to defeat Thomas Balvan.

He wanted to avenge his mother but he couldn't throw away his life to attempt in his revenge, there was no point in killing Rhys if he had to die afterward.

That forced him to contain the hatred for his family as he continued to grow stronger, he knew that one day he would face them again, but he had to pursue the power that he wanted first.

However, now that Adrian had willingly appeared in front of him, those feelings exploded.

Adrian felt as if he was facing a wild magical beast, he had never seen a cultivator radiating such a savage aura.

Black smoke came out of Noah's body as he took a step toward his uncle, he immediately activated the complete Demonic form as he slowly neared his opponent.

A fuming sphere appeared next to him, Noah's centers of power fueled the Dark blast spells as he wielded his sabers.

Adrian couldn't see it due to the armor of smoke, but Noah's skin was caving in, he had activated the secret art before sprinting toward his enemy.

Noah reappeared in front of Adrian in an instant, his Demonic swords were already tracing two vertical lines as they descended toward the giant figure.

Adrian's skin released a humming sound that slowed Noah's offensive.

Two black lines crashed on him, but only a few cracks appeared on his body, his defensive spell had managed to stop his nephew's martial art!

Yet, just as Adrian was about to counterattack, Noah's head shot toward his face.

Adrian felt a stabbing pain coming from the left side of his face, and he hurriedly decided to retreat.

His skin rereleased a humming sound, slowing Noah's chase and giving him time to understand what had happened.

When he raised his gaze again to stare at the fiendish figure, he saw that its fuming maws were slowly consuming a silver ear.

Chapter 557 - 557. Brawl

Adrian had used the ability of his body-nourishing method to empower his muscles and skin, and had activated a defensive spell that had transformed him into a silver giant.

Also, his new form allowed him to release that humming sound, which was another defensive spell.

It wasn't surprising that he had been able to block Noah's martial art with all those defensive methods.

Yet, right when he was about to counterattack, Noah had surprised him, biting off his left ear with a quick movement.

Adrian couldn't use the humming sound in time, and the ears of a human were one of its most frail parts, his silver skin couldn't oppose the power behind Noah's maws.

Adrian couldn't understand how his Silver body spell had been pierced so quickly, he could only blame Noah's Demonic form for that.

He couldn't possibly imagine that Noah's physical strength was enough for that feat after all.

However, the Silver body spell wasn't his limit.

Adrian focused and his muscles bulged even more, his size increased, and his skin darkened while he transformed once again.

The silver giant became black as he reached a height of six meters, it seemed that Adrian specialized in spells that applied defensive and offensive measures on his body.

Nevertheless, Noah didn't feel any fear when he watched the transformation.

Why would he hesitate when his opponent wanted to have a melee battle?

Noah roared as he kicked the air under his feet to activate the Shadow sprint martial art.

His pride as a hybrid screamed inside him, a human dared to challenge him in a battle of bodies, he felt as if he had been offended by that gesture.

Adrian saw the fiendish figure suddenly appearing in front of him and crossed his arms to protect his chest, two black lines crashed on his skin but were only able to create small cracks.

Adrian's new transformation made him able to withstand Noah's martial art without using the humming sound!

The humming sound resounded once again, and Noah felt his movements hindered by dense vibrations that spread rhythmically in the air.

Adrian used his spell to create an opening in Noah's defense and followed it by quickly punching with his crossed arms, Noah saw two massive fists reaching for his face as he tried to oppose the restrictions around him.

Since he couldn't break the slowing spell and defend against the fists at the same time, he decided to attack.

Adrian only saw a blinding pale-gray light engulfing his figure before he felt his arms hitting something that resembled a mountain.

Noah had used his flames to weaken his uncle's attack and summoned Zac to endure the remaining power behind the fists.

Zac's defensive layers and shell were pierced, but the fists only had so much remaining power when they hit Noah's chest, the latter could easily withstand them without moving by an inch.

Flames and a corrosive black smoke lingered on Adrian's body, but they were only able to scratch the surface of his skin, his defensive methods were exceptional.

Yet, while he was still trying to understand how much damage did Noah suffer, he felt something similar to a hammer crashing on his stomach.

Noah had delivered a powerful kick after he blocked his uncle's attack, but he didn't manage to inflict much damage, Adrian's defenses were able to block his martial art after all.

It became clear to both of them that their fight would be a battle of endurance.

Noah and Adrian continued to exchange attacks between each other, almost completely ignoring the damages that reached their bodies.

Shockwaves spread after every clash, the battle between those two heroic cultivators seemed to have turned into a clash between magical beasts!

The human cultivators that watched the fight couldn't help but realize how scary the heroic ranks could be.

They viewed heroic cultivators as haughty and distant figures, forever detached from the mortal world.

Yet, right in front of their eyes, those entities had turned into monstrous figures that fought using teeth and fists!

Noah relentlessly attacked, he slashed, kicked, and bit whenever he could, leaving the defense to his Blood companion.

Also, a black trail often came out of his fiendish form and quickly dove toward Adrian, only to disappear inside the black smoke immediately after.

Adrian, on the other hand, boldly punched Noah as the humming sound often resounded in the air.

As time passed, white marks and cracks covered the entirety of his dark skin, and he knew that his Black body transformation spell wouldn't be able to sustain his nephew's relentless offensive much longer.

However, he didn't understand Noah's state since the black smoke covered his features.

He knew that he had landed many blows on his body, but he didn't know if Noah was injured.

He could only continue to punch madly, he was using two spells to empower his body, the effects of his body-nourishing method, and the humming sound, he didn't believe that he would lose that battle.

Another wave of white flames engulfed his figure, and a corrosive black smoke followed them, further worsening the state of his skin.

When his vision regained the focus on his opponent though, he saw that a massive, uneven sphere had appeared between him and Noah.

Noah had activated the Dark blast spell at the beginning of the battle and had continued to fuel it throughout its duration, the amount of mental energy and "Breath" contained in that fuming sphere made Adrian shiver.

Adrian was about to activate the slowing spell once again, but the sphere suddenly exploded, engulfing both him and Noah in its blast.

Before Adrian was forced to close his eyes to endure the might of the blast, he saw that the fiendish figure right in front of him wear a vicious smile.

The blast destroyed Adrian's black skin and torn his muscles, he felt the walls of his sea of consciousness tremble when his defensive spell was forcibly broken.

His Silver body spell though was still active and managed to endure the remaining power behind the blast.

Adrian was about to open his eyes when he felt hundreds of ethereal hands tearing his insides and two long wounds appearing on his torso.

Chapter 558 - 558. Threat

Noah knew that the Dark blast spell wouldn't do enough damage if Adrian managed to use the humming sound again, so he had to make it detonate when his uncle wasn't ready.

The only way to do so though was to make it explode right after a clash, meaning that he wouldn't be able to escape its area of effect.

However, why would he care about his own attack when he didn't fear the spells of solid stage cultivators?

Noah had hidden the enlarging sphere behind his figure during the battle, waiting for it to become threatening enough.

Then, when almost half of the "Breath" in his dantian and of the mental energy inside his mind was poured inside the spell, he decided to make it detonate.

Zac enveloped his figure as his body became ethereal, Noah couldn't use the Black hole spell to absorb his own energies, but those defensive methods were more than enough to block the blast.

As soon as the explosion ended, Noah returned material and shot toward his uncle while launching hundreds of ethereal claws and slashing with his sabers.

Adrian had returned to his silver form and couldn't fully block Noah's attacks without using the humming sound, the ethereal claws damaged his internal organs, and two long wounds appeared on his chest.

For the first time since the beginning of the battle, Adrian feared for his life.

Noah's power didn't make sense in his mind.

Adrian knew that empowering his body with two spells, using the ability of his body-nourishing method, and further defending it with another spell placed his power almost at the peak of the gaseous stage.

Every cultivator specialized in a field, and his was close combat, there were very few humans on his same level that could break his defenses before he managed to catch them.

Yet, Noah's body seemed as powerful as his, even stronger actually, but without using any strengthening spell.

Only his Demonic form spell seemed to affect his body, but that alone couldn't match all Adrian's methods.

That led to a situation where Noah could use all his spells and martial arts to attack Adrian while still matching his physical strength, it was evident that he had an advantage against him.

Truth to be told, Adrian wasn't weak, his defenses and resistance were something that very few cultivators on his level could destroy.

Yet, against someone able to press him with an endless offensive and a variety of attacks, he could only passively defend until all his spells were broken.

And that was precisely what had happened.

Adrian stared at the fiendish figure reaching for him, he knew that he wouldn't be able to stop his nephew even with his humming sound in that form.

He only had one way to keep his life.

"I surrender."

Elder Hope heaved a sigh of relief when she heard the words spoken by Adrian, that vicious battle had finally ended, and the Hive had managed to claim another territory.

Yet, she was surprised to see that Noah didn't stop his charge.

Noah arrived right in front of Adrian and stored one of his sabers to stretch his fuming hand and grab his uncle's throat.

Adrian felt an immense strength preventing him from breathing, he could only stare at icy-blue eyes hidden behind the armor of smoke while Noah choked him.

He saw the deep hatred radiated by them and understood that Noah wouldn't think twice to trade the territory under him for his life.

Noah continued to tighten his grasp, and the black smoke around him kept on consuming Adrian's silver skin, the latter knew that only death waited for him at that point.

However, a golden light shone next to them, and three figures appeared immediately after.

Noah heard a familiar voice speaking a few words directed at him right after he sensed the three cultivators.

"Stop, Noah Balvan, this act doesn't respect the pact sealed by the rulers of our nations!"

Noah didn't need to turn to understand the identity of the man behind that voice.

"Thaddeus Elbas, do you think rules can bind me?"

A deep voice came out of the fiendish figure, Noah answered Thaddeus without releasing his grasp from his uncle's throat.

Another figure appeared near Noah, Elder Hope had immediately entered the battlefield when she saw that three heroic cultivators had teleported next to him.

Thaddeus revealed an ugly expression when he heard those words, but he managed to remain calm as he threatened the entirety of the Hive.

"If the Hive doesn't respect the pact, the Royal family won't respect it either. Take his life, and you will obtain a war."

Elder Hope's expression became cold when she heard Thaddeus' threat, and she turned her gaze toward Noah.

She couldn't really stop him, Adrian's throat was already in his hands, Noah could just crush it before anyone could intervene.

Everything was up to him.

Noah closed his eyes for an instant, but countless thoughts surged in his mind in that brief moment.

He knew that he wouldn't obtain another chance to kill Adrian anytime soon, he had been able to reach for him only because his uncle wanted to fight after all.

Yet, killing him would provoke a war against the Utra nation, something that the Hive couldn't endure.

The territories just claimed would become battlefields, and he knew that the Hive would lose.

Losing those territories would force the Hive back in its previous situation, with promising heroic assets but without the adequate resources to nurture them.

Without powerful heroic cultivators, the Hive wouldn't be able to expand its influence on the old continent and would be forever contained by the three big nations.

If the Hive weren't influential, Noah's position as Demon Prince would be affected, and he wouldn't be able to obtain resources for his cultivation.

Without resources, his path toward the higher ranks would be hindered.

'When will I be able to snap his neck without fearing the consequences of my action?'

Noah sighed internally as he thought that.

Then, he released his grasp and dispersed his armor of smoke, revealing his skinny figure out in the open.

Adrian coughed for a while as he retreated, he had come too close to death at that time, he didn't want to remain on the new continent any further.

"The Royal family can't tolerate such actions, we ask the Hive for compensations!"

Thaddeus continued to speak when he saw that Adrian was safe.

The meaning behind his words was clear, he wanted to extort something from the Hive.

Yet, Noah's answer forced the royal to drop that act.

"The pact wasn't broken, you can complain about my behavior to Chasing Demon when he returns. In the meantime, go away from my land."

Thaddeus saw the pair of reptilian eyes fixing on him when those words resounded in the area, he felt as if Noah would just charge at him if he insisted on that matter.

In the end, he simply left, followed by the two elders that had teleported with him and with a wounded Adrian.

Chapter 559 - 559. Images

"You made the right decision, Prince. Vengeance can be attained at any point, but there are only so many chances to increase your power. The Hive now has a stable foothold on the new continent, and its power will increase sharply. I'm sure you will lead our armies against your family one day."

Elder Hope said as she and Noah flew back to the forest of White woods.

She was trying to console him, but there was truth in her words.

Noah was the Demon Prince of the Hive, his status wasn't devoid of authority, he would be able to lead an attack against his family given the right circumstances.

On the other hand, Noah was aware that he had acted for his best interest, but his mood was still sour.

Coming so close to a form of revenge only to be stopped by the politics between two nations, that event was a harsh blow to a man that believed that power could overwhelm everything.

"I guess I'm still too weak."

Elder Hope could only hear a murmur since Noah had spoken too softly.

"Prince?"

She asked when she saw that Noah's gaze seemed to wander on the horizon.

"I believed destruction had to come before creation, but how could I destroy if I don't create a power that allows me to do that? Everything is a cycle, nothing ever stays still. The origin of everything should be Heaven and Earth, but can they be its end too?"

Noah gave voice to his thoughts under Elder Hope's confused gaze.

She could only understand part of the meaning behind his words, but she felt the helplessness carried by his tone.

Her eyes went on the horizon too, she let Noah's emotion invade her before she managed to answer.

"Heaven and Earth are the world itself. Cultivators claim to defy them, but they improve through their energy. We might think that we are ascending into the sky as our rank rises, but we are only exchanging one cycle for another."

Elder Hope spoke with his same helpless tone.

Questions about Heaven and Earth, about the meaning behind the cultivation journey, and the true essence of the "Breath" had lingered on the cultivators' minds since the first human learned to absorb "Breath" in its dantian.

Elder Hope was a heroic cultivator that had reached the liquid stage through her understanding of the laws of the wind element, her thoughts had reached a similar topic many times while she tried to gain insights.

"What about gods? What's the point of becoming a law outside of Heaven and Earth's grasp if you are just entering one of their cycles?"

Noah asked, but his question wasn't directed to the elder next to him, he seemed to be asking that to himself.

"That I don't know, Prince. I'm walking the cultivation road just like you are, and the answers that we find will obviously be different. After all, every heroic cultivator is pursuing its individuality, there can't be a universal answer nor a general path."

Elder Hope showed her wisdom through her words, it became clear to Noah that she had earned the level of her dantian.

"Paths and roads built on a world that belongs to something else. Heaven and Earth can keep it..."

Noah spoke but continued the rest of the phrase only inside his mind.

'I want the stars.'

Both of them spent the rest of the flight back to the forest in silence, they let their minds wander as they flew through the land that had fallen from the sky.

When they landed on the terrain under the white crowns, they discovered that the area around the teleportation matrix had become far more crowded in those few days.

Elder Julia had fought for the beginning of the mountain chain after the azure plain while Noah was flying to fight Adrian.

Their return sealed the end of the one versus one battles, which meant that the Hive could finally start to use the entirety of its assets to colonize the new continent.

"The hot-head is back."

Elder Julia commented when she saw Noah, but Elder Austin's loud laugh interrupted her from speaking further.

"Come on, Julia, everything turned out for the best in the end. Also, the Prince is not even forty, he still needs to vent from time to time!"

Elder Austin couldn't stop smiling while he said those words, he was simply too happy that Noah had won the lava lake to mind that he had almost caused a war against the Utra nation.

"Hmph, he is the Demon Prince, he can't show any weakness! And what is your problem with your clothes? How can you be the emblem of the Hive if you end up n.a.k.e.d after every battle?"



Elder Julia complained and pointed at Noah's torn robe.

Adrian had managed to land many attacks on his body during the fight, and the armor of smoke was pierced many times, meaning that the robe under it had to endure those fists.

Of course, simple clothes would just shatter under the attacks of a heroic cultivator.

Noah was once again almost n.a.k.e.d, his upper clothes were completely gone, and only tatters covered the rest of his body.

What had once been a luxurious robe had turned in nothing more than a few rags.

Noah could only shrug his shoulders at her words.

Clothes had always hindered his combat style due to his Blood companions which were one of the reasons why he had never purchased an inscribed robe and relied on his body-inscription spell to defend himself.

Also, now that his combat style had acquired features belonging to a magical beast, his clothes ended up suffering even more.

"I'll pay more attention from now on."

Noah gave voice to those words since Elder Julia didn't seem to want to let go of that matter.

Elder Austin continued to smile at her side, he seemed really amused by Julia's reprimand, or maybe he was just too happy to care about it.

In the end, Elder Julia heaved a helpless sigh and gestured to Elder Jason to bring Noah new clothes before pointing at a table that had been placed next to the formation.

"The Hive is now officially in possess of eight territories in the new continent, but it has only so many heroic assets. With the Patriarch gone, it's up to us to make these lands habitable by human cultivators. Also, many elders have to remain in the Coral archipelago and the conquered nation in the area of influence of the Empire. I believe you all understand what this implies."

The elders gathered around the table, which had a map of the southwestern coast laid on its surface.

Yet, when Noah tried to near it, he was stopped by Elder Austin, who handed him a crystal before adding a few words.

"This contains the images of Elder Julia's battle, put them to good use."

Chapter 560 - 560. Harmony

Elder Julia explained her plan on how to handle the newly obtained territories.

The Hive could only send around twenty rank 4 cultivators in the new continent but, for what concerned those in the fifth rank, Elder Austin and Elder Julia had to be enough.

The Hive only had a handful of rank 5 cultivators, and having two of them in the piece of Immortal Lands was already its limit.

One elder at that level was needed to control the copying technique, and another one had to defend the conquered nation in the area of influence of the Empire.

The remaining one had to remain in the Coral archipelago too, in case something happened to the elder managing the copying formation.

Dividing its power between those three areas wasn't something that the Hive would do during normal circumstances.

Still, the pact sealed by the rulers of the four nations gave it some insurance, it would be up to Chasing Demon to decide how to handle the situation once he returned.

The main focus of Elder Julia's explanation was to create areas inhabitable by human cultivators.

Hordes of rebels, criminals, or simply suppressed soldiers were migrating to the Coral archipelago, and the elders expected that number to increase after the recent events.

The one versus one battles had proven that the Hive was strong, but it was extremely lacking in assets.

Yet, to those human cultivators, a nation that was rising to power was better than a place where they couldn't grow.

However, the islands of the archipelago could contain only so many people, and the Hive needed to establish stable sources of income if it wanted to nourish them.

The solution to both issues could be found in the new continent.

The piece of Immortal Lands was almost as vast as the old continent, and each one of its lands could be used as the perfect training ground for rank 3 cultivators.

The problems started there though.

Territories so vast would have countless magical beasts, and the concentration of "Breath" in the air there was so high that human cultivators risked suffocating due to its pressure.

Cities in the old continent needed a large amount of "Breath" blessings to increase the density of "Breath" artificially, and to create appropriate training areas.

Instead, those in the new continent needed to decrease the density, or human cultivators wouldn't be able to inhabit them.

Yet, clearing some areas from the magical beasts would only increase the density of "Breath" since there would be fewer living beings absorbing it.

The Hive had to clear one area while building something that absorbed the "Breath" in the air at the same time!

That project required a lot of manpower and an item similar to the obelisks used by the Utra nation, which the Hive currently didn't have.

"The other higher-ups and I will work on creating a copy of the obelisks, you all focus on lowering the population of magical beasts in the azure plain and the land after the lava lake."

Those were Elder Julia's last words before she dismissed the group.

The territories that she had mentioned were the easiest to colonize, all the others had environmental conditions that would require a lot of effort to modify, it wasn't worth focusing them right now.

As for the rocky wasteland with the lava lake, the elders couldn't do much about it.

The heat there scared away any lifeform, only heroic cultivators could stay there for short periods and even at some distance.

Also, affecting the environment might cause unwanted effects that they couldn't control, there were traces left by divine beings there after all.

Noah didn't linger in the forest and immediately set off for the azure plain, his body was fine, he could begin to work immediately.

Of course, he would first watch Elder Julia's battle and deeply analyze all the fights that had happened in the last days.

Noah dug a cave in the azure terrain as soon as he reached the plain and began to review the battles right after he watched the images contained in the crystal that Elder Austin had given him.

His battle prowess satisfied him, he knew that he was doing the best he could with the spells and techniques in his possession.

Yet, it was clear that something was missing, something that he had begun to notice since a long time ago.

'My attacks lack synergy.'

That thought hit Noah's mind after he analyzed his power.

Many cultivators, especially on his level, were able to use spells to fuel other spells or to gather the remains of their attacks to create new ones.

Noah knew that he couldn't hope to obtain such a harmonious set of attacks in a short period, those heroic cultivators had had decades to search for the spells that they needed the most and for those that could be matched with the diagrams already in their possession.

Noah, instead, wasn't even forty and had simply used anything that he obtained to fight, he had never specifically searched for scrolls or similar.

There was another important detail in that issue: His element!

Scrolls containing spells and techniques of the darkness element were extremely rare, even Divine Demon's inheritance only had two of them up to the fifth rank.

Also, their effects covered many fields.

They could go from mental attacks to a corrosive smoke, from a defensive orb that could absorb energies to a spell that could directly turn his body ethereal.

The only two spells that Noah had been able to harmonize were the Demonic form and the Body-inscription spell, but the other heroic cultivators could synchronize almost all of their attacks!

Even Adrian could fuse three spells to become a massive giant that slowed his opponents.

'I've been able to match these entities thanks to my body and the secret art, but I can't only rely on it. My enemies will soon understand that I'm lethal in close combat if they haven't done it already.'

Many human and heroic cultivators had watched Noah's battles, he was sure that his enemies would analyze his power just like he was doing.

After all, he wasn't a criminal in the human ranks anymore, he was the Demon Prince of the Hive, the three big nations would be stupid not to create a profile that evaluated his abilities.

'Also, if I'm able to harmonize my spells, I would obtain a perfect offensive, matching both those that focus on long-range attacks and those that prefer close combat. I guess it's time to test the limits of the Divine deduction technique.'

As soon as he thought that, Noah reached for a scroll inside his space-ring and unfolded it on the ground in front of him.

Mental energy was redirected to the inscriptions on the walls of his mental sphere as his eyes stared at the diagram of the Warp spell.