

## DEMONIC 561

### Chapter 561 - 561. Lines

The Warp spell was one of the three diagrams in Noah's possession that he could use for the entirety of his cultivation journey.

Yet, Noah found it hard to use it efficiently as his power grew.

The issue wasn't with the power of the spell, but with its effects.

The smoke of the Demonic form became more threatening each time he memorized a Kesier rune, and the Body-inscription spell's power was linked to the magical beasts turned into Blood companions.

Those spells were clearly battle oriented, and Noah could always put them to good use in any of his fights.

However, the Warp spell had effects not strictly related to combat.

The spell was useful to travel long distances and to make lose track of any pursuer, but it had unfavorable conditions to its activation that made it quite predictable in battle.

The teleportation required time and the cultivators on Noah's level were able to react to that sudden tremor in the air, he couldn't use it to take his enemies by surprise anymore.

Yet, the Warp spell didn't have limits, Noah could use it through the entirety of his journey, so he decided to use the Divine deduction technique on its diagram first.

He had other ideas on how to create, modify, or even fuse spells, he could clearly imagine the Black hole spell and the Dark blast spell being combined into one, for example.

However, now that he had time, he wanted to focus on creating something that would last, and that wouldn't have to be discarded due to his growth.

The lines of the extremely complex diagram formed over the sea inside his mind before being redirected in the inscriptions over its walls.

Noah experienced part of the feelings of the creator of the diagram, as well as the deep meanings that those lines contained.

'These lines... Their power is linked to the mental waves of a sea of consciousness, they are meant to teleport a cultivator till the limits of its consciousness. The diagram is a teleportation matrix without set destination nor origin, a perfect machine that can bring anywhere as long as enough energy is poured inside it.'

Noah began to understand the meaning behind those lines.

The Divine deduction technique allowed him to analyze diagrams at high speed, that feature was one of its main abilities after all.

Noah intended to completely understand the diagram so that he could reproduce and modify it through his wills, turning it into his personal spell, which effects could be altered according to his needs.

'The black flames aren't a portal, they act as a container for my body, which gets expelled once they reappear in their destination. Since the body is contained inside the flames, the teleportation won't deplete as much energy as it should. Amazing, the creator of the Warp spell has found a way to reduce the interference with the space to make the consumption of mental energy and "Breath" somewhat affordable.'

Learning more about the mighty entity behind that diagram made Noah marvel.

'Yet, the entirety of the body and the teleportation seem fixed effects.'

Noah stopped using the Divine deduction technique as he thought that.

More than half of his mental energy had been depleted to understand those few things, and he didn't even know how much time had passed in the outside.

It couldn't be helped, he was trying to understand a spell that had no limits to its power, he couldn't expect to learn everything about it with only one round of the Divine deduction technique.

Noah needed time to thoroughly understand the lines of the diagram, time to learn how and why they were connected in that shape, and time to reproduce them in the form of wills.

Only after all those processes were completed, he could start to modify it according to his needs.

Of course, what he needed was to turn that movement-oriented spell into something that he could rely on in battle and hopefully increase his battle prowess.

'I might obtain black flames able to teleport only my attacks if I can remove those two fixed effects. At that point, I would be able to synchronize three spells and a martial art, creating an offensive that isn't affected by distances.'

The attacks in Noah's mind were the Warp spell, the Demonic form spell, the Body-inscription spell, and his Dragon's claw.

'It wouldn't even stop there. Theoretically speaking, even my other spells could be directly teleported next to my enemies, and I might add a form to my martial art... All of this can only happen if I manage to modify this masterpiece though.'

Noah knew that there was no point in dreaming when he had yet to take the first step toward his goal.

However, he had all the time that he wanted now.

The Hive was still trying to create items able to lower the density of "Breath" in the territories of the new continent, and he knew that hunting magical beasts before that was pointless.

Other creatures would simply migrate to take the place of the killed ones, he and Elder Hope had already seen that happen after all.

Also, he was the Demon Prince, and he had just claimed a territory containing traces left by divine beings under the Hive's banner.

His achievements were impossible to evaluate, and not even a rank 5 cultivator could dictate his next actions so casually.

To put it simply, he didn't really need to help his companions with the colonization of the southwestern coast.

'I've done more than enough for the Coral archipelago, I need to focus on my power now. The other elders can handle the pointless clearing of these areas, I'll just remain here to train.'

There was something that Noah was sure of.

The new continent came from the Immortal Lands, which meant that rank 4 cultivators could only affect it so much.

He didn't know how the Utra nation had built those obelisks, but he was sure that the work of many rank 5 cultivators was behind it, meaning that the elders on his level wouldn't be able to modify the environment in the plain and the area after the lava lake.

'I'll just wait to be contacted by the higher-ups. Until then, there is only me.'

Chapter 562 - 562. Help

The situation in the old continent evolved precisely as the elders had predicted.

The images of the one versus one battles had been registered and copied in crystals so that anyone with enough Credits could purchase them, it was needless to say that many wealthy forces soon acquired them.

It didn't happen that often to be able to witness a battle between heroic cultivators, especially between those in the fifth rank, the value of those images was extremely high for cultivators able to gain some inspiration from them.

Also, they could be useful data of the heroic assets of the enemy forces, especially for those of the Hive.

The Coral archipelago had to use its heroic cultivators in the fights.

In contrast, the Council and the Elbas family had sent cultivators belonging to the sects and the noble families in the battles.

Of course, that didn't apply to the rank 5 cultivators who had faced Elder Julia and Elder Austin, they were representatives of the Council and the Elbas family, they had to show their power after all.

June obviously purchased them and gave a lot of importance to the battle between Noah and Adrian, but many other forces in the Utra continent paid special attention to Noah's battle prowess too.

The Udye family, the Balvan family, and other noble families whose heirs had met Noah in their life were interested in seeing the growth of the criminal that had managed to escape the grasp of the Royal family.

Those noble families had even prevented the soldiers under them from watching his battle, but that restriction only increased Noah's fame among the ranks of the exploited and suppressed cultivators.

After all, all the citizens of the settlements in the new continent and those in the bigger cities of the old one had watched the fights unfolding during the event, tales of the fiendish figure destroying the defenses of the black giant filled the rumors among those that lacked a noble bloodline.

The number of cultivators rebelling or simply abandoning their countries to join the Hive increased, the islands of the Coral archipelago saw their population rise sharply in the months after the battles.

It took a bit more than three months for Adrian to return to the Balvan mansion.

When he reached the main hall to report to his father, he found Thomas attentively watching the images of his battle radiated by a crystal.

"You lost an ear."

Thomas commented as soon as he sensed Adrian's arrival.

Adrian lowered his head but didn't answer.

Noah had won fairly, the proof to that was right in front of his eyes, there was nothing to add to his father's comment.

"Do you want something to fix it?"

Thomas asked after a long moment of silence.

"It's just an ear, it's not worth wasting a precious potion for it."

Adrian plainly refused Thomas' offer.

He had a rank 4 body, meaning that only potions in the fourth rank could affect it.

"Good. Scars are important to a warrior, they remind him of his mistakes. Tell me, why did you lose?"

Adrian listened to those words and raised his head to watch his battle from a different perspective.

He saw his giant fists piercing the armor of smoke and landing on Noah's body, but he also saw that they had almost no effect.

"I honestly don't know. The bast-, Noah seems to be training in a peculiar body-nourishing method that gives him a strength and a resistance far superior to my Black body transformation. Still, I couldn't understand if there were spells involved."

Thomas nodded when he heard those words and used his mental energy to make the crystal display the images that pictured Noah when he dispersed the Demonic form.

"Everything under Heaven and Earth follows their balance, fairness is enforced on every living being, and the same applies to techniques and spells. Noah's physical prowess must come with a cost, his body seemed extremely frail when the battle ended, meaning that endurance might be his weakness."

Adrian neared his father after he heard those words.

He had noticed something similar as he pondered about the battle on his way back to the mansion.

Yet, when he was there, even Noah's skinny figure seemed to contain an immense strength.

Little did they know that they were completely off track.

Noah's body was something that even Heaven had tried to destroy, the only physical drawback was his endless hunger.

"He manages to hide secrets even with the eyes of the three big nations on him... I must say that we never had a chance to contain him, not after he saw his mother being abused for so many years."

Adrian heaved a helpless sigh before speaking those words.

He had accepted Noah's strength and had recognized him as an exceptional existence in his mind, he was just trying to console his father by giving voice to his thoughts.

"I know, no one could have predicted his talent nor that he would be so biased against us due to his mother. The youngest heroic cultivator in history had to be the son of a commoner, what luck."

Thomas shook his head after he replied to Adrian, he felt really helpless about that matter.

Lily was just a commoner, she would have never received a good treatment even if Noah's talent was accepted sooner.

After all, how could anyone hinder the action of a noble just because a human cultivator seemed promising?

The road to the heroic ranks was harsh, and only a small percentage of the human cultivators could obtain all the resources and experiences needed to survive the Tribulations.

Also, they even had to destroy the black clouds during the Heaven Tribulation, or their future progress would be affected since their dantians would lack vital nourishments.

"Did you consider that matter?"

Adrian asked with a serious gaze as he turned toward his father.

"What? Are you speaking about me approaching the fifth rank? I don't know if I can survive the breakthrough due to my old age, but I might be able to reach it with the help of the Elbas family..."

Chapter 563 - 563. Training grounds

The rank 5 cultivators of the Hive spent the months after the one versus one battles trying to find a way to fix the issue about the density of the "Breath" in the new continent.

They knew the method used by the Utra nation, but they were unaware of the specifics of the obelisks, they could only learn their most apparent features when they explored the eastern coast.

The Papral nation would never reveal its methods to an enemy force, and the Shandal Empire had been silent since the two big countries attacked its territories, the Hive was on its own on that matter.

Also, the Coral archipelago lacked experts in many sectors, only a few inscription masters specialized in formations could be found on its islands.

It soon became clear to those rank 5 existences that they could only use formations to solve the issue.

Yet, deciding on a method was different from finding a solution, the elders still had to find something that could absorb or drain enough "Breath" from the environment to make the lands of the new continent habitable by human cultivators.

The only formation in their possession that could drain so much energy was, of course, the copying technique.

It didn't take much for the elders to understand that the copying technique had to be used to solve that issue, the only problem was that Chasing Demon was away at that moment and he couldn't lay the technique on the new continent.

Some months and many tests had to pass before they could create the blueprint for something that seemed viable.

The other rank 4 elders received a mental message that explained the plan of the higher-ups at that point, even Noah had to admit that their move was quite smart despite the Hive lacking the assets of the other big nations.

To put it simply, the elders wanted to set up formations able to send "Breath" to the copying technique in the Coral archipelago.

Of course, since the Hive didn't have a method to accumulate that energy endlessly, the copying formation had to be continuously put to use to deplete it.

Yet, the Hive couldn't summon the copies of rank 5 beings just to deplete that energy, it would simply be a waste.

So, the elders decided to create training grounds for the human cultivators in the archipelago and make them face many copies of rank 4 creatures.

The population in the islands had sharply increased in the last years, and that growth didn't seem to slow down.

That led to a situation where the Hive was filled by many human cultivators or even commoners who lacked proper training or battle experience.

Those cultivators could just be used as cannon fodder in their current state, but they could become valuable resources once gained enough experience, some of them might even aim for the heroic ranks one day.

The Hive had a population with a high percentage of cultivators, similar to that of the Shandal Empire, meaning that it could copy the big nation in the methods that it used to sort it.

The Empire used its endless expansion campaign to train, sort, and promote soldiers, creating a ranking system where anyone could become the leader of a small legion made by simple soldiers.

The Hive wanted to imitate that system, but it lacked the power to engage in so many wars.

So, it decided to use the copying technique as the method to train, sort, and evaluate its cultivators.

The mental message didn't just convey that information, it also requested the help of the rank 4 cultivators.

'I should go, this is quite important. I've even completely understood the diagram of the Warp spell, I've reached the limit of what can be achieved in seclusion.'

Noah thought as he stood up and exited the cave that he had created in the azure plain.

He didn't know how many months had passed, but he had finally analyzed all the lines of the Warp spell and understood how they interacted between themselves, it was time to bring the process to the next phase.

'I need to reproduce the diagram using my wills as the language. Succeeding in this procedure will allow me to modify it and will also give me experience in the creation of spells. I don't know how much it will take though.'

Noah sighed as he flew toward the forest of White woods.

The elders had decided that the border between the two lands would be the area where the formations had to be placed.

That position wasn't casual, the formations needed to be near the teleportation matrix so that the latter could be used to set the destination of the absorbed "Breath".

Noah's mind wandered as he fueled the Divine deduction technique with his mental energy.

He knew far too well that he could approach the translation of the diagram only in one way: Through countless tests!

Yet, he had Divine Demon's legacy, and translating was easier than creating from nothing, he was confident that he would succeed, it was only a matter of time.

When he reached the border, he found that many of the elders on his level were already there and floated silently around Elder Austin and Elder Julia.

Noah reached the group and waited for everyone to arrive, it didn't take much before all the heroic cultivators that the Hive had deployed on the new continent gathered there.

"This will be the area where we will build the devices, you must fend off any magical beast or plant that tries to near this part of the plain until the constructions and its defenses are completed."

Elder Julia ordered and began to assign specific spots to each elder, and she even requested for Elder Morgan, Elder Laurel, and Elder Duke's help.

Linking the devices meant to absorb the "Breath" in the area to the teleportation matrix wasn't an easy task, especially when the White woods could just increase the toxicity of the forest when they felt threatened.

Even those rank 5 cultivators needed the help of experts in specific fields, and those three elders suited their needs.

Then, she just dismissed everyone else, and Noah could begin to fly toward his assigned area.

Chapter 564 - 564. Time

Noah didn't mind the new assignment.

He was used to training while he fought magical beasts, defending an area didn't hinder the translation of the diagram at all.

'Thoughts for lines, wills for diagrams. Imitate the meaning of each line and link them to form a will that respects the effects of the spell. It's just a matter of testing.'

Noah's mind was focused entirely on the Warp spell while he casually slashed toward a rank 4 Saber-toothed tiger, his attack severed the creature in two even if he wasn't using the secret art.

Weeks had passed already since Elder Julia gave her orders, but the constructions of the devices seemed still in progress.

However, Noah didn't expect anything different.

He knew that the devices had to be extraordinarily complex, and linking them to the teleportation matrix in the forest would take even more time, they couldn't be ready so soon.

'I'm losing track of time more often... I guess my concept of time is gradually adapting to the higher form of life that I've reached.'

Noah thought as he neared the maimed corpse of the tiger and calmly ripped off one of its legs before storing the rest in his space-ring.

His hunger continued to increase as his body grew inside the upper tier of the fourth rank, and he felt that his mindset was constantly distancing itself from the notions that he used to have when he was only a human cultivator.

He couldn't help but notice that he was becoming indifferent to the passage of time, months could go by while he analyzed diagrams or created techniques, but he would barely notice them.

'Heroic cultivators are higher existences, but this doesn't only concern the power that they hold, it also involves their mentality.'

Noah suddenly felt so distant from the feeling that he used to have when he was younger.

He remembered the anxiety, the optimization of his training schedules, his constant efforts in trying so much to reach the next breakthrough.

Now, instead, he felt calm.

His eagerness and efforts were still there, but they had evolved into more mature feelings, into something fit for the higher entity that he had become.

'Maybe I feel in this way only because I know that I'm doing everything I can to improve already.'

That conclusion made sense in his mind.

His body was improving at high speed, his dantian never stopped enlarging, and his mind could only benefit from the constant usage of the Divine deduction spell.

The growth of all his centers of power wasn't hindered in the slightest, and that made Noah feel delighted.

Training his body and dantian almost took him no effort due to his cultivation technique and hybrid status, and he could just stare at the fifth Kesier rune whenever he ended one of his activities.

'I wonder how many years will it take for the next breakthrough. Five? Ten? Twenty?'

Noah didn't know what the average time needed for the breakthroughs in the heroic ranks was, they mostly depended on the cultivator after all.

Also, the pieces of information about other heroic cultivators were rare, especially when they involved their age.

Cultivators would simply stop aging as long as their rank increased, Noah still appeared as a twenty years old man due to his fast growth, for example.

'These periods don't feel that long though. I'm still eager to reach the next rank or stage, but I feel as if five years could pass in an instant if I just close my eyes.'

Noah's mind wandered as he finished eating the limb of the tiger, only a few patches of blood remained on the corners of his mouth after the meal.

'Maybe I should just compress the corpses of some magical beasts in the upper tier in the form of small pills. Some of its nourishments would be lost in the process, but it would be far more comfortable to eat in battle. I need to find an alchemist.'

Noah thought when he inspected the huge pile of magical beasts' corpses inside his space-ring.

He preferred to eat them in the normal way since he had inherited the dragon's tastes, but the amount of nourishment that he could obtain while he was fighting was limited.

Yet, if he compressed an entire corpse into a small form, he could avoid munching pieces of magical beasts in battle and simply eat one of those pills when he was reaching his limits.

Noah immediately contacted Elder Austin and expressed his needs, but he didn't hope to receive an answer anytime soon, the elders in the fifth rank were quite busy after all.

'Oh, it's done,'

Noah exclaimed in his mind when he sensed that a will rose from the sea inside his mental sphere.

The inscriptions on the walls of his mind stopped shining, signaling that Noah had deactivated the Divine deduction technique, and the will slowly flew outside of the sea of consciousness only to appear in the outside world.

'This is the eighth already, I should have fixed all the issues concerning the harmonization of the meanings inside it.'

Noah evaluated in his mind before pouring "Breath" inside his half-transparent figure that floated right in front of his face.

The will shone with a dark light as soon as the "Breath" fueled the meanings that it contained, and black flames began to appear over its surface.

Noah intensely stared at the changes in the will, he saw how the flames quickly absorbed its ethereal figure before disappearing together with the dark light.

Black flames reappeared at a few meters of distance, but nothing came out of it even after they dispersed in the air.

Noah heaved a helpless sigh when he saw that, he knew that he had failed in the translation of the diagram once again.

'I really can't seem to get this teleportation right. Well, I'm gaining experience in creating spells through wills at least.'

Noah thought before sitting on the ground and taking out the fifth Kesier rune from his space-ring.

His consciousness didn't sense any creature in the area that he was defending, and a lot of his mental energy had been expended to create that will, it was better to use the remaining one to improve his sea of consciousness.

Once his mental energy was almost depleted, he simply waited for it to reform before activating the Divine deduction technique to analyze his mistakes.

After he found some mistakes, he still relied on the Divine deduction technique to find solutions.

In the end, he began the creation of another will without ever deactivating Divine Demon's technique.

Noah had specifically chosen that order in his experiments so that his mind would always be slightly better when he approached the creation of the following will.

Of course, during all those procedures, he would still pay attention to his area and kill the magical beasts that tried to enter it, he couldn't let anything affect the work of the elders on the border behind him.

Chapter 565 - 565. Basins

Weeks continued to pass in which Noah became faster in solving the mistakes that kept on appearing in his wills.

Countless experiments and constant analysis were bound to give results, Noah found himself completing the creation of each will in a matter of days during the last period.

After all, he was just translating a diagram in his personal language, he wasn't creating something from nothing.

At some point though, he received another mental message from Elder Julia, who pressed him to return to the border between the forest and the azure plain.

Noah didn't hesitate and flew toward the forest of White woods as soon as the message ended.

On his way back, he noticed that even the other rank 4 cultivators in the plain had been summoned, Noah saw a small group of powerful entities forming around him as he returned to the appointed location.

The Hive had deployed less than twenty heroic cultivators on the piece of Immortal Lands, that number didn't seem high, but it represented almost half of the entirety of the heroic assets of the archipelago.

The elders that had joined the group on the new continent were either on the gaseous or liquid stage, the most powerful ones in the fourth rank were still in the archipelago to monitor the situation.

Large basins became visible when the group reached the border of the plain.

The basins were hundreds of meters large and less than a hundred meters deep, and Noah couldn't help but sense a certain familiarity when he saw the terrain that made the surface of the vast holes.

Then, the answer to that sensation came from the memories that he had inherited from the Excavating worm.

'This is the same terrain of the Bare Dungeon! It will transform into Obsidian Credits if enough "Breath" is poured inside it!'

Noah thought when he reviewed the images of the Bloodline inheritance.

"You are all here, good, we can start then."

Elder Julia appeared over the basins as her words resounded in the air, Elder Austin and the three experts in formations and magical plants were behind her and remained silent as she kept on speaking.

"There are ten basins along this border, and they are all linked to the teleportation matrix inside the forest. Formations also cover their surface, and we have already deployed many defenses in the surrounding area. These devices and the defenses will become self-sufficient once enough "Breath" is gathered inside them, but we expect that magical beasts will try to storm this area once they sense the activation."

The elders released amazed gasps when they heard her words and shot gazes to the basins that covered the border.

The meaning behind Elder Julia's explanation was clear, they needed to defend the devices until their activation was completed.

"Choose a basin and defend it, Elder Austin will intervene if the number of magical beasts is too high or if something in the fifth rank appears. Go, and remember that the Hive might go bankrupt if you fail."

The elders showed stern expressions when they heard the last phase and immediately picked a basin to defend, Noah took the central one and found Elder Jason standing proudly next to him.

No more words were spoken, silence reigned over the area as everyone focused on defending against the incoming tide of creatures.

Elder Julia nodded when she saw the resolve pictured on the elders' faces and landed on the spot before the basins to pour "Breath" in what seemed one of the cores of the formation.

Lines lit up under her and spread in the area, it didn't take much before their brilliance covered all the basins.

Lines also spread toward the forest, a sort of humming sound resounded from the white crowns of the magical plants as the formation under them activated.

Noah was the first one to sense that something was changing in the air around him.

His mind was susceptible to the variations in the "Breath", he was a hybrid after all, that feature was part of his instincts.

He sensed that the "Breath" around him was moving toward the basins as if attracted by the terrain that made their surface, its density in the air immediately decreased as the process continued.

The terrain in the basins began to shine along with the lines of the formations around them, crystals began to appear at their bases as the "Breath" gathered there.

'I think I understand now.'

Noah thought when he stared at the shining holes.

'The formations enhance the innate absorbing capabilities of that terrain, forcing it to accumulate enough "Breath" to transform into Obsidian Credits. Yet, I believe that this is just part of the mechanism.'

Noah continued to stare at the basins with interest.

His inscription method was somewhat limited compared to the formations field, he wouldn't give up on the chance to observe how it worked.

The surface of the basins soon completely transformed into Obsidian Credits, but the absorption of "Breath" didn't stop.

Shining drops began to appear over the crystals, they accumulated at high speed and soon became shining water that kept on filling those vast holes.

The basins transformed into shining lakes right under Noah's amazed gaze.

At that point, he understood the reason why Elder Julia was so concerned about the magical beasts' attack.

His hunger seemed to explode when he stared at that shimmering water, he felt the urge to dive in it and claim that area as his.

Then, roars reached his ears.

Noah turned only to see that smoke filled the horizon, and he instinctively wielded his sabers when he understood the cause behind that event.

Heavy footsteps soon resounded in the area, the ground trembled as if unable to endure the charge of so many magical beasts.

'More than a hundred of them, all in the fourth rank.'

Noah's eyes sharpened when he evaluated the power behind the incoming tide, and he didn't hesitate to cast the Dark blast spell to begin the accumulation of energies as soon as possible.

His companions imitated his actions, they also prepared their attacks and defenses when they realized the event that they had set off.

After all, they were less than twenty, and that was only the first tide formed by the magical beasts closest to their position, there were bound to be more of them as the "Breath" kept on gathering behind them.

Yet, two huge fiery snakes flew over the elders' heads and crashed on the incoming tide, unleashing deadly flames that burned to death most of those beasts.

The rank 4 cultivators raised their heads to the sky only to see that Elder Austin was floating in the air above them and that a rare seriousness could be seen in his expression.

"The first one is free, you can handle the next."

Chapter 566 - 566. Dome

The elders shot grateful gazes toward Elder Austin, but Noah and a few others could understand the reason behind his action.

Rank 4 magical beasts weren't threatening for those lofty entities, the problem was their sheer number.

Dealing with more than a hundred magical beasts at the same time with ten basins to defend and less than twenty rank 4 cultivators was quite problematic.

Noah knew that those creatures would recklessly pounce the lakes made of "Breath", he was tempted to do the same after all.

The amount of "Breath" contained in all the basins could be compared to that inside the bodies of many rank 5 creatures.

The most appealing part though was that so much energy was harmless!

Anyone with enough power could just reach out and drink the shining water accumulated on the formations, the only threat in the area was the cultivators defending it.

Noah didn't know the specifics behind the formations, but Elder Julia seemed quite serious when she explained the plan, so he could guess that they had to prevent anything from interfering with the basins.

'The situation must be quite delicate for Elder Austin to intervene, it seems that not even a magical beast must be allowed to pass.'

Noah thought while he focused on the horizon.

He felt hungry beyond any limit, but his mind didn't falter and remained focused on the task.

Other packs of magical beasts appeared in the distance, they completely disregarded the charred corpses of the creatures of the first tide and charged at high speed toward the shining lakes.

Yet, there were only fifty or so creatures at that time, with only a handful of them in the upper tier.

They were mostly Saber-toothed tigers, but even a few ape-type magical beasts could be seen among those packs.

The elders didn't wait to see if Elder Austin would intervene again, those of them having long-range attacks at their disposal began their offensive.

Bullets, spears, and slashes of various elements crashed on the sparse group of beasts, killing almost all of them in the impact.

However, a few of them managed to survive and continued their reckless charge, even those that had only been injured struggled to keep advancing.

Noah slashed without hesitation when those creatures entered in his range, and his companions did the same, the beasts were soon defeated, and no problems occurred.

More magical beasts appeared on the horizon, all the creatures on the plain and those that inhabited the lands nearby felt instinctively attracted by the basins and migrated as soon as they sensed them.

Yet, now that the closest creatures to the border had died, only sparse packs and solitary powerful beasts neared the elders in the air.

Noah and the others unleashed another wave of attacks and vanquished those creatures, but more beasts appeared once again in the distance.

Hours passed with the rank 4 cultivators of the Hive continuously dealing with the seemingly endless magical beasts that tried to reach for the shining lakes behind them.

Even the creatures that inhabited the nearby territories made their way through the plain and pounced the elders.

Noah saw the Poisonous frogs that inhabited the area with the toxic rivers, the Giant sandworms from the desert, and even the octopuses living in the lake next to the forest of White woods.

Nothing seemed able to stop the hunger of those creatures, but the elders didn't falter and continued to launch attacks to fend off the beasts.

Eventually, an entire day passed, but magical beasts kept on coming.

Noah stared at the lakes behind him while he launched a few slashes toward a rank 4 Giant sandworm.

The lines of the formations kept on spreading on the terrain under him, the shining lakes fueled them and redirected the "Breath" toward the defenses previously deployed by Elder Julia and the others.

'This should be almost over.'

Noah thought when he saw that the lines of the formation were surpassing their position and encircling an area that spread in front of him, he knew that the process was almost over.

Then, a sandstorm filled the sky in the south.

Noah felt a huge threat coming from that direction and knew that the only being that could cause it was the rank 5 sandworm that ruled over the desert.

The massive figure of the rank 5 Giant sandworm appeared in the distance, it resembled a tall mountain that crawled toward the azure plain and destroyed everything in its path.

Elder Austin shot toward it without speaking any word, he knew that it was up to him to handle the situation.

A fiery hydra appeared in the air and clashed toward the beast, shockwaves spread through the plain and cracked the ground around the battle between the two massive figures.

Elder Austin showed his perfect control over the spell as he kept the Giant sandworm away from the area filled by the formations.

Pillars of flames and screeches filled the battlefield in the southern side of the plain, Noah did his best to keep part of his focus on the two rank 5 beings, but most of it was still on the creatures that kept on charging toward the shining lakes.

Even the appearance of a rank 5 magical beasts didn't stop their charge, their hunger had completely taken over their minds.

Yet, at some point, a change finally happened in the formations.

A thick shining line appeared on the terrain in front of the elders and separated the forest and the area with the basins from the rest of the azure plain.

The line encircled an area a few thousand kilometers wide before projecting its light in the air, an ethereal wall formed and covered part of the sky, creating something similar to an invisible dome.

The dome covered the shining lakes and part of the forest of White woods in its range, and the group from the Hive could immediately notice its effects.

The magical beasts still lingering near the blockade stopped their charge and showed confused expressions when they looked toward the forest, it was as if they had lost their target.

Even the rank 5 sandworm stopped attacking, Elder Austin patiently waited for its reaction before making his next move.

Then, the Giant sandworm suddenly left and returned to the desert, and the magical beasts near the dome began to fight each other for the corpses lingering in the area.

It took Elder Julia's voice to awaken the elders from their amazement.

"Clean this mess and recover the corpses, the formation and its defenses are finally complete. Now, the Hive can colonize the piece of Immortal Lands."

Chapter 567 567. Growth

The dome created by the formations didn't just have the ability to hide the shining lakes.

Elder Julia took her time to explain the features of the formations after the battlefield was cleaned, and the corpses of the magical beasts were stored.

The basins were an extremely efficient device that became self-sufficient once they were activated entirely.

The formations activated the innate capabilities of the terrain that made the surface of the basins and initiated the accumulation of "Breath", which was then stored in the form of shining water.

Yet, the accumulation didn't stop when the basins were full.

Elder Julia and the other experts had made many tests and calculations to find a balance between the expenditure of "Breath" and its accumulation so that the basins could function continuously without incurring in an overflow.

Even the copying technique though wouldn't be enough to deplete that considerable amount of "Breath" and bring balance to the device, not by copying rank 4 magical beasts at least.

The Hive couldn't possibly copy rank 5 magical beasts just to expend energy, it would be a complete waste.

So, the elders decided to link other formations with different purposes to the basins.

Those formations would gather their power to create the ethereal dome that covered the shimmering lakes, and that delimited an area habitable by human cultivators.

The dome could stop the senses of the magical beasts and plants and even the consciousnesses of weaker cultivators, but it also featured many defensive mechanisms.

According to Elder Julia's estimation, the dome would be able to defend against the attacks of rank 5 cultivators and even send part of their power back, it was basically a sturdy shield.

Of course, the cultivators of the Hive could easily cross the shield, but rank 5 elders could take control of it in dangerous situations and prevent access to anyone.

'This is indeed fit for human cultivators. I guess this area will become crowded quite soon.'

Noah thought when he analyzed the density of "Breath" inside the dome.

He could clearly sense that the area would be perfect for cultivators in the third rank, the only issue was the lack of buildings where to live.

'Well, I would have trained here anyway back then, I still do.'

Noah smiled internally when he saw the vast azure plain and turned his gaze toward the shining lakes in the distance.

He could still feel his hunger screaming to reach them and drink their water, but Elder Julia had emphasized many times that the basins didn't have to be affected in the slightest.

Apparently, even the tiniest change in the balance between the absorbed and depleted "Breath" could cause a chain reaction that would make the formations around them fall apart.

Noah could only give up on the shining water after he understood that aspect of the devices, and he turned to leave in the direction of the lava lake.

He couldn't concentrate with the hunger assailing his mind, and he needed to focus on completing the translation of the diagram of the Warp spell, he desperately wanted to improve his battle prowess after all.

His task in the azure plain was over, and Elder Julia didn't mention him when she assigned other missions, meaning that he could focus on himself for now.

It was evident in his mind that the Hive had just begun its exponential growth since it had finally covered all the areas where it was lacking.

Human cultivators kept on migrating toward the archipelago, filling the Hive with manpower and promising soldiers.

Many training areas had also been created in the archipelago thanks to the shining lakes, the Hive was now forced to create copies of rank 4 magical beasts to balance the absorption of "Breath" and could train all those inexperienced assets that reached its shores.

The Hive had also taken control over the southwestern coast of the piece of Immortal Lands, gaining lands that heroic cultivators could use to train and meditate.

Some of those lands would eventually become sources of income, the elders mentioned by Elder Julia were tasked to analyze and write down the growth of Azure Credits so that she could decide the quantity to reap.

The cultivators with a fire aptitude had even gained a land containing traces left by divine beings, it wouldn't be surprising if many experts with that element were to appear in the next years.

In the end, with the ethereal dome, the Hive had obtained an area habitable by human cultivators.

Not only the colonization could finally start due to that achievement, but the issue of the overcrowded islands would be solved once cities were built in that safe area.

Noah could imagine that the scenery inside the dome would drastically change in the next months, but he didn't really care, he was too distant from the matters that concerned human cultivators now.

That was why he decided to simply go away and leave those matters to Elder Julia, there was too much to do about his personal power.

Noah flew toward the lava lake, but he didn't stop there, his destination was the area inhabited by ape-type magical beasts after the rocky wasteland.

He knew that the next target of the Hive would be that land, it couldn't be satisfied with just a few thousand kilometers of habitable terrain.

So, he thought that he could begin to lower the population of magical beasts while he trained, he needed to feed his body after all.

'The next step of the Hive will be the colonization of this area. Yet, it's pointless to create other basins now since a balance has already been reached. We must wait for Chasing Demon to return so that he can lay the copying technique on the new continent and on the territory in our possession in the area of influence of the Empire. Only then the Hive will be able to create more training areas and more basins.'

Noah summarized in his mind while he landed among the sparse vegetation of that area.

The inscriptions on the walls of his sea of consciousness activated and consumed mental energy to assemble meanings in an intricate layout, he had resumed the translation of the diagram of the Warp spell without hesitation.

Chapter 568 568. Group

Noah didn't choose that location just because it would be the Hive's next target.

The lava lake was nearby, he could just go there whenever he felt like meditating.

He didn't have a fire aptitude, but the lake contained traces left by divine beings, they could still help him gain some insights.

Noah didn't know how much time passed after he went into the new territory.

Weeks would pass without him even noticing, it was as if his mind couldn't perceive them in the same way as before.

Only the translation of the diagram of the Warp spell occupied his thoughts, his battles against the ape-type magical beasts were something that he did by instinct.

The fauna in that land though was different from that of the azure plain.

Part of the mountain chain that stretched toward the center of the new continent and the snowy mountain were quite close, which meant that strong creatures could randomly appear in that seemingly safe territory.

That would force an ordinary cultivator to be constantly wary of its surroundings, but Noah was different, he could just rely on his instincts to understand the safety of the area around him.

The translation went well most of the time, but there always seemed to be something that stopped his wills from working.

Even when he felt that the translation was completed, the spell didn't work as intended, it was clear that something was missing.

His wills would produce the black flames and begin the teleportation, but they always came out damaged and broken.

'It's as if the world itself doesn't want it to work.'

Noah thought when another of his wills failed to execute the teleportation.

He could see how the "Breath" in the air resisted the effects of his wills and affected the teleportation, he couldn't help but feel that Heaven and Earth didn't want him to succeed.

'This should have some similarities to when I created hybrids, which means that I have to force the effects that I want on the world.'

Noah realized that when he pondered over the matter.

Heaven had been against the birth of a hybrid, so it could also be against spells that had a foreign origin.

'I see, it has always been impossible to translate the language of Heaven and Earth completely. I've always needed to modify it to make it work in a world that doesn't follow my laws.'

The problem was simple: The diagram of the Warp spell used the laws of Heaven and Earth to work, but Noah was a being wholly separated from them.

His creations would obviously face some sort of resistance when they tried to apply their effects on the world of Heaven and Earth, there was a reason why Noah couldn't understand their language after all.

'That's why it took me so much to create a cultivation technique, I was able to forge the Black hole technique only when I imbued it with my hunger. The same goes for my sabers and my body, I could forge them only when I've managed to imbue a strong will in them.'

The situation became clearer inside Noah's mind.

Why was it so hard to create personal techniques, methods, and spells?

Why wasn't every cultivator creating its own path?

Noah had always believed that it was just a matter of complexity, his achievements could be linked to the Divine deduction technique or his initial advantage with the sea of consciousness after all.

Yet, that last realization led him to believe that there was a deeper issue to the matter.

'To create something able to show its effects on the world, a cultivator must have a will able to force its way through the "Breath" under Heaven and Earth's domain. So, I need to modify my wills before they can work outside my mind.'

As soon as he found the cause of his problem, he began to work on a solution.

Noah continued to spend his time testing wills and fighting the magical beasts in the area after the rocky wasteland.

He would also occasionally meditate near the lava lake, he didn't stop exploring the depths of his individuality because he was busy with another matter.

He would always find Elder Austin next to the lake, and even the other elders with a fire aptitude could be often seen near the area.

The faces of his companions were quite relaxed, the Hive was at peace after all, and was experiencing a period of stable and unhindered growth.

Their job now was to raise their power and become even more valuable assets, any other expansion project had to wait for Chasing Demon's return.

Noah found it hard to contact Elder Austin and Elder Julia in that period.

Not only was his mind mostly occupied by thoughts about the Warp spell, but even those elders were busy with their matters.

Elder Austin seemed glued to the lava lake and didn't interact with anyone.

At the same time, Elder Julia managed the habitable area in the azure plain and oversaw the construction of the city there.

Also, she added layers of defenses around the dome and made sure that the shining lakes worked as intended.

Human cultivators from the Coral archipelago had even begun to migrate to the new continent to make room for the other human assets reaching for the islands.

Of course, only rank 3 cultivators with an excellent battle prowess would be allowed to travel to the new continent, the Hive used the relocation as a form of reward.

All those events occurred without problems, every nation was focusing on itself since the pact between the rank 6 beings enforced peace.

Yet, something was bound to happen as the Hive grew stronger.

It happened on a seemingly random day, Noah was casually eating the arm of an ape-type magical beast while he laid on the branch of a tree when he sensed a few strong presences coming from the snowy mountain.

He first thought that they were magical beasts attempting to invade that territory, but he soon found out that those presences were, in fact, cultivators.

Noah flew in the air to understand the identity of those invaders, but a surprised expression appeared on his face when he saw that there were even human cultivators in that group.

There was some sort of barrier that surrounded the group and allowed those human cultivators to breathe.

Noah's gaze went to the head of the group to try to understand its origin.

He saw a slender young-looking man with short silver hair in the lead, followed by a tall, middle-aged man that resembled him and by a cultivator that had its face hidden.

Human cultivators followed behind the three of them, they weren't really walking but merely being transported inside the barrier.

Then, Noah was surprised once again when he saw the emblem embroidered on the robes of those cultivators, he could clearly recognize the symbol of the Udye family when he saw it.

Chapter 569 569. Meeting

Noah recognized the young-looking man and the emblem embroidered on the group's robes.

'Daniel Udye.'

That name appeared in his mind as he kept on watching the group from above.

'This isn't an invasion, it's an envoy.'

Noah picked his inscribed notebook when he realized that and sent a simple mental message to the two rank 5 elders in charge of those territories.

"We have guests."

There was no reason to say anything else because he would greet them himself.

Noah began his descent toward the group, but he stopped midway when he remembered that he had lived like a beast for the last period.

'This is an official meeting, I should at least try to appear presentable.'

Noah threw away the torn robe that he was wearing as he thought that and used his mental waves to clean his body.

The thick mental waves of a rank 4 mage were able to affect the material world, all the dirt that had accumulated on Noah in the last period was removed from him.

'I'm not exactly clean, but I won't resemble a magical beast, at least.'

Noah sighed as he took a clean robe from his space-ring and quickly wore it, he really wasn't prepared for that event.

Then, he continued his descent.

The group suddenly stopped moving, and the human cultivators in it shot confused gazes to the three figures in their lead before a dark shape entered their field of view.

'Three heroic cultivators, well, almost three.'

Noah thought when he reached the group.

'The middle-aged man should be Daniel's father, and he is in the solid stage of the fourth rank. The woman with her face covered is in the liquid stage, but she doesn't seem part of the family. Daniel is in the gaseous stage of the fourth rank, but...'

Noah had stopped in the air right above the group to analyze its power, his gaze moved between the three figures in the heroic ranks and lingered for some moments on Daniel.

'He isn't a rank 4 mage yet, he isn't a complete heroic cultivator.'

Noah didn't know how he felt when he understood Daniel's level.

He clearly remembered that his power matched Daniel's back in the Bare Dungeon, but many things had changed in those years.

Daniel, instead, felt an overwhelming sense of defeat.

He was older than Noah and had the full support of one of the strongest large-size noble families.

Yet, his achievements paled in front of the young-looking cultivator floating above his head.

"This territory belongs to the Hive, you have trespassed our borders. Do you mind explaining the purpose of your journey?"

In the end, Noah gave voice to those words.

He didn't care much about the past, he had simply used Daniel and his connection to the Cause to escape the Utra nation back then.

Yet, the two of them had never been in any form of friendly relationship.

Noah only needed him to gain time for his escape, and Daniel's purposes were linked to the Cause, he needed a cultivator with a darkness aptitude to raise his status inside his family.

"Greetings, Demon Prince, I am Ian Udye, I believe that you and my son Daniel know each other. We have traveled a long distance for the chance to be received by the higher-ups of the Hive. Would you mind showing us the way?"

Ian spoke polite words, but Noah's gaze didn't falter, he continued to radiate a cold pressure as he stared at the group.

"Yes, I do mind. Purpose of your journey?"

Noah repeated his question.

He knew the power behind his status far too well.

The force in front of him belonged to a large-size noble family, and it couldn't compare to the power of the entirety of the Hive.

He could act as overbearing as he wanted, and he felt that approach to be the best one.

That was a delicate period for the Hive, troubles had to be avoided at all costs to ensure its growth.

Daniel opened his mouth and was about to speak, but the woman next to him placed a hand over his shoulder to stop him.

She was Octavia, Daniel's personal guard, and she couldn't let him do something so stupid like being impolite to one of the most important figures of an enemy force.

On the other hand, Ian kept his calm and continued to speak politely to Noah.

"We only want to have a friendly meeting. The four nations have sealed a pact, but most of the smaller powers have been ignored in that agreement. We believe that both the Udye family and the Hive can benefit from cooperation."

Noah remained expressionless, but he knew that Ian had made a good point.

The Utra nation was considered the most advanced country when it came to inscribed items and other fields of the cultivation area.

Its political system and the academy allowed the birth of many experts every year, and innovative devices were produced along with them.

The air-ships were just one of the most striking creations, but the Elbas family didn't limit itself to the promotion of inscribed items.

Alchemy, formations, runes, inscriptions, diagrams, forms, the Utra nation was advanced in all those fields!

"It's ok, Prince, they have contacted us beforehand."

A voice resounded behind Noah, and he was suddenly able to sense that Elder Julia had appeared behind him while he was thinking.

"I guess you can handle them, Elder Julia."

Noah nodded at her after he spoke those words and was about to return to the ground below when he felt her hand over his shoulder.

Then, he felt a mental message reaching his consciousness.

"I need you to lead them to the azure plain and show the actual strength of the Hive. We need to make them understand how powerful we are to obtain a better deal."

Elder Julia's words resounded in his mind, but Noah promptly complained through another mental message directed to her consciousness.

"Can't Jason do it? I'm in the middle of something, and I'm not exactly polite with nobles."

However, his words did not affect Elder Julia, who quickly sealed the matter with her next phrase.

"You are the pride of the Hive, you are the only one who can show how capable we are. Also, weren't you looking for an alchemist? The best ones are in the Utra nation and Papral nation, but I don't think that the latter would contact us for the time being. We must settle for a noble family!"

Noah could only sigh when he heard those words and watched Elder Julia disappearing right in front of his eyes.

Ian and Octavia could clearly understand that Elder Julia was a cultivator in the fifth rank, and they were stupefied when they saw Noah calmly conversing with her through his mind.

They quickly realized that Noah's position was even higher than they expected.

Yet, Noah was quite annoyed by that matter and ignored the gazes on him as he gave voice to a few words.

"Let's go, we will take the long route."

Chapter 570 570. Banque

Noah led the group from the Udye family across the southwestern coast.

Ian had to lift the barrier around them high in the sky when he flew over the lava lake, the heat in the area would just seep through it and kill all the human cultivators in an instant.

Elder Austin interrupted his cultivation when he saw Noah and rose in the sky to speak a few words to him.

Apparently, he was the one who had the idea of using a noble family to obtain the advanced devices of the Utra nation.

The sects of the Papral nation couldn't seal a pact with the Hive, its patriarch was the leader of one of the eleven unorthodox sects that had been exiled in the past after all.

The Council and the Elbas family were too busy with their territories in the new continent to care about a small force like the Hive, so only the noble families were left as an option.

The best choice among them was obviously the Udye family.

Not only was it one of the most potent large-size noble families, but it also was one of the reasons behind the Cause.

The Elbas family would neglect noble families that sided with the Cause and give part of the resources obtained in the new continent only to the loyal ones.

That led to a situation where the families siding with the Cause were forced to look for external help so that their power wouldn't stagnate.

'They could have just told me. Well, the Udye family is perfect, and it's already here, I might as well end this matter as fast as I can and continue to create wills.'

Noah sighed inside his mind as he thought that.

He had never liked being interrupted when he was in the middle of his training, but his position brought duties along with benefits.

He was quite annoyed, and that feeling was further fueled by Daniel's gaze, which was fixed on his back.

Noah flew without turning his back, he didn't care if Ian was forced to move the barrier to avoid the heatwaves, he couldn't be bothered to adapt to his problems.

They soon reached the desert, and Noah purposely flew over the area where the rank 5 sandworm rested.

Some of the human cultivators inside the barrier directly fainted when they heard the creature's screech, but they were too high in the sky, the sandworm wasn't able to reach them.

Noah led the group over the land filled by poisonous rivers only to reach for the forest of White woods where he turned toward the east.

The ethereal dome was hidden entirely even to his eyes, Noah could only see the vast azure plain stretching as soon as the forest ended.

It was at that point that Elder Julia appeared again and waved her hand to perform a spell.

Winds blew over the surface of the barrier that covered the group from the Udye family, and a thick layer of compressed air soon surrounded it.

The layer blocked the vision of the cultivators inside it and was also able to contain the consciousnesses of the two rank 4 mages in the group.

Elder Julia then waved her hand again, and the oval layer descended toward the plain before disappearing when it crossed an invisible barrier.

Noah understood that they had entered inside the area habitable by human cultivators, but his mind was on something that didn't concern the meeting.

"Can I return to my training now?"

Noah asked Elder Julia, but the latter simply shook her head before speaking a few words.

"No, the Hive needs you at the meeting, you represent the new generations after all! Remember to change yourself before the banquet."

'Banquet?'

Noah was surprised by the turn of events and was about to ask more about that matter, but Elder Julia just vanished once again.

He could only heave a loud sigh before diving toward the ground.

His vision changed when he crossed the barrier of the invisible dome.

Tall buildings appeared in his view, a small city had been built in that area in those months.

Also, he could see small groups of rank 3 cultivators walking through the street, he couldn't help but realize how the human assets of the Hive had grown in the past years.

Noah looked in the distance, toward the area with the shining lakes, but he was only able to see that a tall defensive wall had been erected in front of them.

'A lot has changed while I trained, the life of the mortals seems so fast.'

He thought when he saw how his old home had been transformed into something entirely different.

It didn't take much for him to find where he was supposed to go, he only needed to follow the presences of the heroic cultivators under the dome.

Noah landed on top of a large building that stood at the center of the city and found Elder Duke waiting for him.

Elder Duke notified him that a bath and new robes had been prepared on the floors below, so Noah didn't find any reason to waste time.

The way he saw it, the sooner the banquet began, the sooner it would end.

Not even an hour later, he found himself in a large hall that featured many long tables.

Delicacies and fine wines filled the surface of the tables, and both human and heroic cultivators were seated next to them.

Of course, the order of the seats followed the rank of the cultivators.

Elder Julia, Noah, and Elder Duke sat on one side and faced Ian, Octavia, and Daniel.

In contrast, the other human cultivators sat at some distance from that group of powerful entities.

Noah ate in silence and enjoyed the excellent wine that was served on the table, but Daniel kept his eyes on him for the whole time.

Meanwhile, Elder Duke entertained the guests with a long speech about the features of the piece of Immortal Lands, he seemed the appointed mediator for that meeting.

The banquet ended after a few hours in which Noah never stopped eating and drinking.

The Hive was serving cooked magical beasts' meat after all, he preferred it raw, but he wouldn't waste such a nourishing meal just for his tastes.

Then, the human cultivators left the room, and large sofas and praying mats replaced the tables.

Even the remaining food was taken away with a gesture of Elder Julia's hand, and only the wine remained between them.

"You are free to begin with your requests, did you find something interesting in our territories?"

Elder Duke spoke as he turned toward Ian.

Elder Julia was a rank 5 cultivator, she was there only as a show of power, and Noah simply didn't care, he only wanted to finish the translation of the Warp spell.

"There is something that I wanted to ask before proceeding with the meeting."

Daniel spoke, surprising Elder Duke who thought that it would have been Ian the one to lead their side of the conversation.

"Noah Balvan, did you kill Phoebe and Manuel back in the Bare Dungeon?"