

DEMONIC 581

Chapter 581 581. Natural paradise

The day of the meeting neared quickly.

Noah began to fly on his own along the western coast a few weeks before the set date.

He was directed toward the land after the mountains filled by snake-type magical beasts, which basically was on the other half of the coast.

The rules of the exchange meeting allowed the presence of escorts as long as they stopped in the territories before the set location.

However, the domain of the Hive was already relatively close to that area, and the heroic cultivators from the Coral archipelago were too busy with their matters.

Elder Julia simply couldn't provide him with an escort.

However, she still gave Noah a few protective items that would keep him alive until one of the rank 5 existences came in his help.

Of course, no one believed that something would happen in the meeting, not even Noah.

Yet, it was a habit of his to be always prepared for everything.

Also, he had begun to feel a strange sensation in the past weeks, he felt as if a storm was about to crash on the piece of Immortal Lands.

'My dragon's instincts cause this feeling, but it doesn't seem to originate from the areas ahead. It is as if a natural disaster is going to storm the new continent.'

Noah thought when he left the domain of the Hive and entered the territories of the Papral nation.

He could somewhat understand that the feeling didn't originate from cultivators, but a natural disaster seemed equally unlikely.

'The only beings able to affect the environment on such a large scale should live at the center of the new continent, but there are the rank 6 existences there...'

Noah couldn't shake off that feeling from his mind.

Also, he had noticed how even the magical beasts and plants under him seemed to share his sensations.

The yellowish moss under him seemed denser toward the coast and scarcer in the areas more inland.

Even the lake inhabited by the octopus-type magical beasts that he had previously passed was completely dark, meaning that the magical beasts living there had activated their defensive measures.

'Well, there isn't much that I can do against something so powerful, I can only leave it to the rank 6 existences.'

In the end, Noah decided to suppress that feeling.

There was no point in worrying about something that he couldn't control and that he wasn't sure would happen, it was better to focus on the impending mission.

The absence of an escort didn't bother Noah.

He was going to meet the talents of the other big countries, which meant that he would most likely be the strongest among them.

He had left behind him the status of a newly advanced heroic cultivator some time ago, his dantian was now deep inside the gaseous stage of the heroic ranks.

Almost four years had gone by since he passed the Heaven Tribulation, but he felt as if he was still at some distance from the peak of the stage.

However, he wasn't too worried about that.

The heroic ranks were too different from the human's, he couldn't expect to experience breakthroughs every three or four years.

Yet, he was confident that he was growing quite fast.

His individuality continued to solidify, and he was using a cultivation technique that he had personally created!

Theoretically speaking, he wouldn't even need to explore his individuality to improve since his cultivation technique already expressed part of himself.

That was one of the advantages of creating techniques and methods, it was assured that Noah's journey toward the fifth rank would almost be without hindrances.

Of course, Noah didn't want to rely only on his technique and desired to improve as fast as he could, which is why he focused so much on his individuality in the last period.

Noah eventually crossed the area with the yellowish moss and entered the land inhabited by snakes.

The mountains in that place showed signs of battles, Noah could imagine that they had been thoroughly explored after his clash with Elder Cheryl.

The magical beasts in that area behaved in the same way as those previously seen by Noah.

The rank 4 snakes seemed unwilling to remain close to the central territories of the continent and amassed themselves along the coastline.

That amassment obviously generated battles between the many packs, but Noah wasn't interested in that event and simply continued to fly toward the next territory.

A few days had to pass before a huge waterfall appeared in his eyes.

The waterfall was incredibly tall, it originated from one of the highest mountain peaks at the end of the area and poured in the rocky environment below.

The water of the waterfall was shining, it illuminated the land on the other side of the mountain peak and created a small river that filled that area with life.

The water seemed to have peculiar capabilities, it released a scent able to relax even Noah's mind.

Also, trees with a thick crown grew from the rocky terrain and gave to the environment many shades of green.

'I bet that many would treat this place as a natural paradise.'

Noah couldn't help but have those thoughts when the entirety of that new territory appeared in his view.

Yet, he was soon forced to divert his gaze from it since he sensed a faint presence approaching him from a distance.

"The Demon Prince of the Hive is indeed amazing, even my Master struggles to notice me since I've entered the heroic ranks."

A female voice resounded in the area, and Noah turned to take a look at the woman that had come to receive him.

Brown hair, shining green eyes, slim eyebrows, a small nose, and a radiant smile appeared in Noah's vision.

The woman had a slender waist, a quite ample bosom, and wore a luxurious white robe that enhanced the entirety of her harmonious body.

The sense of purity exuded by her robe and smile created a deep contrast with the sensuality of her figure.

Noah was sure that he had never seen a woman more beautiful than her.

"This place is amazing, isn't it? The waterfall brings life to the hard rocks that make the terrain and peace to the magical beasts that inhabit it, my nation is doing its best not to taint the environment."

The woman continued to speak, but Noah didn't move his gaze from her.

He wasn't mesmerized by her beauty.

Instead, he was interested in the aura that she radiated.

The woman was surrounded by a sort of peaceful membrane that managed to stop his mental waves completely.

It wasn't a matter of power, her mind was clearly weaker than Noah's.

Yet, her mental waves seemed to have exceptional defensive capabilities, which made Noah unable to analyze her strength thoroughly.

'She is weaker than me, I'm sure of that. Yet, I feel that she would be quite troublesome to face.'

Noah thought before the woman performed a slight bow and decided to reveal her identity.

"I'm Faith Vigny of the Quiet Lake sect and the envoy sent by the Council."

Chapter 582 582. Ready

Noah nodded at Faith before lowering his gaze toward the natural paradise.

He was quite interested in the water poured by the waterfall, it didn't happen often to find something that could appease the innate aggression of the magical beasts.

Faith had spoken the truth, the insect-type magical beasts that filled the environment seemed to peacefully cohabitate, which was something that Noah had never seen in his life.

'This can be a training area with equal value to the lava lake even if it lacks traces left by divine beings. I believe it might force any cultivator in a meditative state in a matter of hours!'

Noah thought while he analyzed that territory, but he was soon forced to stop since Faith continued to stare him with growing intensity.

"What is it?"

Noah asked.

Faith wasn't trying to probe his centers of power, so he couldn't understand the reasons behind her action.

"My apologies, you are the first man that can divert his gaze from me so soon. I was just surprised, I guess that the Demon Prince is amazing even in fields outside of cultivation."

Noah shot a confused expression toward Faith before shaking his head.

He could imagine the torments that such a beautiful woman had to endure through her cultivation journey, the world wasn't exactly a good place after all.

'Her beauty might have been the very reason why she focused on cultivating.'

Noah was aware that Faith was a rare talent, her youthful appearance was the proof that she had met few hindrances on her path toward the heroic ranks.

Yet, there was a limit to how much Noah cared about her situation, he was simply analyzing her to understand her individuality better after all.

He remembered Jason's words, he knew that the cultivators on that meeting would probably become someone important in the future, which was why he was using that chance to learn about them.

Noah didn't know if they would become his enemies in the future, but it didn't hurt to be prepared for that eventuality.

"Faith, don't mind the eunuch, any man that can't appreciate your beauty shouldn't be worthy of your thoughts."

A manly voice resounded in the area.

Noah turned to look at the huge figure that had appeared in the distance.

The man that had spoken was extremely burly and was more than two meters tall.

He wore a sleeveless red robe that revealed the thick black hair on his arms.

Long and unruly black hair fluttered in the wind as he neared Faith, and traces of a growing beard filled his chin.

'Did he just shave to impress Faith?'

Noah couldn't help but think that when he saw the burly man kissing Faith's hand as a form of greeting.

"Did he bother you in any way? You know the voices about him, he isn't called Demon only due to his title."

The man asked Faith while wearing a concerned expression, he seemed really worried about her well-being.

"Andrew, you can drop with your act. I've already said that I won't accept a man that can only think about war."

Faith retracted her hand, and a bit of coldness began to fill her figure.

Noah stared at the event with interest, it seemed as if Faith's peaceful aura had instantly solidified into something sturdy.

"I also think a lot about you!"

Andrew complained, but Faith simply heaved a sigh and distanced herself from him.

"I apologize for his rude words. He is Andrew, also called Eager Titan, and he is the envoy from the Shandal Empire."

Faith revealed the man's identity to Noah, but the latter simply nodded and continued to analyze the environment under him.

Andrew seemed far weaker than Faith.

Noah felt that he could completely overwhelm him if a battle were to happen.

Andrew, though, didn't like Faith's kindness toward Noah and began to radiate a dense battle intent as he stared him.

'No one should ever challenge a dragon unless it is confident in defeating it.'

Noah thought as he turned his head to reply to Andrew's stare.

The envoy from the Empire was clearly challenging him, and he wasn't even slightly inclined to ignore him.

Not only was that meeting a matter of glory and pride, but Noah couldn't let anyone challenge him so bluntly and just ignore it.

Andrew was a bit surprised to see the same person who was ignoring Faith's beauty was immediately reacting to his challenge.

However, he was the Eager Titan of the Empire, he couldn't just show any weakness against the representative of such a small nation.

The two of them kept on staring at each other, and the atmosphere between them became tense.

Then, Noah broke the silence with a few words.

"I'm ready when you are."

Both Andrew and Faith could see the pure confidence radiated by Noah's figure when he spoke.

Noah was basically asking Andrew to attack first, and he did so without the slight trace of worry.

Andrew felt as if he was just an ant in Noah's eyes.

"You think that, just because you have defeated your worthless uncle, you know the power of melee specialists?"

Andrew's aura surged as he gave voice to those words.

His muscles bulged, and his hair fluttered as mental energy and "Breath" were exuded from his body.

"Faith, do you have anything against this battle?"

Andrew asked without moving his gaze away from Noah.

Faith sighed before answering.

"Do what you want, but I'll kill both of you if you ruin the harmony of this place."

Faith didn't exude any battle intent, but her words carried a chilling pressure, it was clear that the territory was more important than her guests in her mind.

Then, right when Andrew was about to charge Noah, a fourth figure appeared in the area.

Noah and Faith turned toward the new presence, and Andrew dispersed his aura when he noticed the action of the two of them.

A young-looking woman with wild silver hair appeared in their view.

A golden spear filled with orange inscriptions was in her hands, and her eyes radiated a bright orange glow.

'The color of her eyes has changed.'

Noah couldn't help but notice that difference, and June had similar thoughts about his pupils.

June had completely ignored the other two envoys when she realized that Noah was there, and Noah found it difficult to divert his gaze too.

More than twenty years had passed since their last talk, but their aspect had barely changed.

However, they could both notice the few and small differences that had appeared in those decades.

Chapter 583 583. Scen

'The scars on her arms have disappeared, and she seems less wild than before. Her hair is still the same though.'

'He is a bit taller, and his features aren't as soft as before. Even his aura is different, but his gaze still radiates the same coldness. What's with his hair though? Did he always like it long?'

Noah and June had those thoughts while they stared at each other.

Twenty years had passed, but they could still see the wild girl and the aloof boy behind their powerful status.

June tried her best to keep an expressionless face, but Noah noticed the slight tremor of her eyelids.

Also, he sensed that their prolonged exchange of stares was attracting the attention of the other two cultivators in the area.

'She might be an enemy now. I don't know how the Elbas family has treated her due to her relationship with me, so I should just avoid revealing anything. I guess I would like to catch up.'

Noah diverted his gaze and turned when he thought that.

His last words to June had been a threat, and she had been under the rule of the Royals for twenty years.

He didn't know how she felt about him or what the Royals and her family had done to her in those years.

He didn't even know how she had described their relationship to the Elbas family, the Royals might even believe that he was her worst enemy.

'Friendship and love are complex matters. Instead, fighting and killing are quite straightforward.'

Noah thought when his gaze went back on Andrew.

He felt somewhat irritated to see his actions being restricted once again by the politics of the forces behind the envoys.

He couldn't have an honest chat with an old friend since he didn't know what restrictions had been placed on her.

He couldn't even ask if she still considered him a friend since he would risk breaking her pretense inside the Utra nation.

That irritation was something that Noah was becoming familiar with, the reminder that he couldn't ignore rules that he didn't care about annoyed him to no end.

Luckily for him, he had already found someone that could help him venting that feeling.

Andrew could clearly understand that Noah wanted to return to the previous situation, and he didn't hesitate to unleash his aura again.

'He is protecting me.'

June thought when she saw Noah turning without saying a word.

She could somewhat understand what Noah was thinking at that moment.

'He doesn't know if he can trust me, but he still chose the approach that won't cause me any problem.'

That realization annoyed her too, but part of her felt glad that Noah hadn't changed into someone that she couldn't recognize.

'It's up to me then.'

June thought before flying toward Noah.

She didn't even mind Andrew, she knew that Noah wouldn't face him if he weren't confident of winning.

Yet, there was something that she had to tell him, and she had to make sure that the other two cultivators wouldn't understand the meaning behind her action.

The battle was interrupted once again by June since she quickly arrived next to Noah.

Noah showed a curious expression when he turned, but June's words made his eyebrows arc in surprise.

"Demon Prince, I'm ashamed that a fellow student of the academy has betrayed my nation and committed uncountable crimes. Yet, I must admit that your achievements deserve my respect."

Then, June stretched her right arm toward him.

"I respect you. Take my hand if you feel the same about my achievements."

Noah felt that the corners of his mouth were curving into a smile when he heard those words.

However, he suppressed that instinctive gesture and focused on June's eyes.

He could see her determination reflected by the orange halo in her irises, but he also noticed a trace of fear.

'She has actually used my words from twenty years ago...'

Noah thought while he maintained an expressionless face.

He had already decided to take her hand, but he still waited to do it.

June had gone to such lengths to express her feelings, he couldn't ruin her effort because he was eager to do the same.

Noah noticed how the fear radiated by her eyes became stronger, but he continued to wait.

Yet, when he saw the first trace of sorrow appearing on her gaze, he raised his arm to grasp her hand.

The sorrow and fear that had accumulated inside June in those instants were dispersed as soon as she felt Noah's warm hand touching her palm.

What only appeared as a normal handshake to Andrew and Faith hid deep meanings that only Noah and June could understand.

Noah felt glad too that his relationship with June hadn't changed through the years, but he soon sensed something strange.

June's body emanated a strange scent that gave birth to a wave of primordial anger inside his body, it was as if he instinctively hated that aroma.

June let go of Noah's hand and neared the other two envoys to greet them.

Noah noticed the relief and happiness hidden behind her expression, but he was too focused on that scent to appreciate her emotions.

'This smells like a Heaven Tribulation! Don't tell me... That Eccentric Thunder was really a madman.'

Noah thought when he recognized her scent.

He could easily make a connection inside his mind between June's centers of power and the Heaven Tribulation.

After all, he had given her the inheritance, and the Heaven Tribulation consisted of lightning bolts, it wasn't hard to link the two to the aroma so hated by his instincts.

'Now, I want to ask her more about the technique, method, or whatever she used to obtain such an interesting feature. It might be beneficial to my individuality!'

Noah's gaze unconsciously went on June's back as he tried to understand which of her centers of power carried Heaven's scent.

June was simply greetings the envoys when he sensed the reptilian pupils trying to analyze her.

Noah's mind was stronger than her, she had basically just become a rank 4 mage after all.

There wasn't much that she could hide to his probing, and she didn't really mind that Noah was staring at her.

Yet, Noah's mental waves carried his interest, which June could clearly feel when they landed on her body.

Of course, she felt a bit uncomfortable.

Noah was so interested in her technique that he didn't take into consideration the misunderstandings that his gaze could create.

At that point, June turned and moved to the side to symbolize that the exchange meeting could begin.

Noah saw June shooting an admonishing glance toward him, but he also noticed that her cheeks had reddened since their handshake.

Noah's eyes widened when he understood that she was blushing, and he quickly retracted his mental waves.

'I'll explain this when we find a moment to talk.'

Noah thought as he turned and imitated June's actions, moving to the side to show that he was ready to negotiate.

Chapter 584 584. Fear

The image of June's blush appeared in Noah's mind and caused a feeling that he had yet to experience since he became a magical beast.

'Am I aroused?'

Noah couldn't help but think that when he sensed what that feeling caused inside his body.

Of course, feeling something and letting it affect his body were two very different things.

Cultivators had incredible control of their bodies, especially those in the heroic ranks.

Noah easily prevented any effect of that sensation from appearing on his body, but that event still made his mind wander a bit.

'So much for a species of magical beasts with limited fertility! Damned Cursed dragons, how can your arousal be almost as intense as your hunger?'

Noah cursed in his mind while he kept on suppressing that feeling.

He wasn't surprised about his sexual interest in June, he had always known that he liked her character and that she was quite beautiful.

Yet, he didn't expect that the sexual drive of a magical beast could match its hunger!

'She even smells like a Heaven Tribulation, she should be the last person able to give birth to these sensations... I guess a beast it's still a beast in the end, no matter how powerful it is.'

Noah gave up on trying to suppress that feeling when he thought that and simply limited himself to control the reactions of his body.

His sexual drive was just like his hunger, something deeply rooted in instincts that were now part of him.

His hunger couldn't be suppressed, so the same had to be true for the former.

Andrew and Faith took their place too, and the four envoys became the corners of an imaginary square that floated in the air.

Andrew still stared at Noah with an intense battle intent, but Noah's mind was too messy for him to care about him.

'I hope this drive will go away at some point or I will need to take care of it once I return on the southwestern coast.'

Noah thought while shining lines appeared under the feet of the envoys and traced a shining square in the air.

The instructions for that exchange meetings were quite clear, none of the envoys was surprised to see those lines appearing seemingly out of nowhere.

The Papral nation had prepared the area beforehand and created an environment where the envoys could trust each other's words.

Taking a position to form a square would activate an area where the cultivators inside it couldn't lie nor taint the truth.

Of course, the trigger for that technique was Faith, but the same restrictions would bound her after the square was completed.

The three big nations didn't trust each other, especially when it came to the most important resource of that period.

The same obviously went for the Hive.

There was the need for an even ground where cheats and tricks were impossible to actuate, which was something that the Papral nation found quite easy to create.

After all, oaths and devices with similar purposes were something that every nation had.

The cultivation world was cruel, and trust was rarely found among forces with a different origin, it wasn't surprising that the oaths' field was so advanced in each country.

The shining lines under the envoys' feet spread, creating a luminous platform that radiated a peculiar yellowish light.

Noah felt his mind being affected by that light, but he didn't mind it too much.

The fact that the cultivators inside the square couldn't lie didn't mean that they were required to answer every question.

Remaining silent was an option, so there was no risk of exposing valuable information to the enemies.

The exchange meeting begun immediately after the square was completed.

Faith suggested simple rules which everyone accepted without complaining.

To put it simply, the value of a diagram had to be decided according to three factors: Its effect, its element, and its limit.

The last two factors were easy to evaluate.

The rarity of an element set the base value of a diagram, and the limits to its power defined by how much its importance had to be raised.

For example, a spell of the thunder element up to the fourth rank would be worth less than a diagram of the fire element that could be used till the sixth rank.

The first factor was harder to define by precise boundaries and had to be discussed for each specific case.

For example, diagrams like the Warp spell would be less valuable since their effects were hard to apply in battle.

Of course, some spells weren't battle-related but were still extremely valuable.

Noah saw a spell of the water element that was potentially able to entirely reconstruct a body as long as the sea of consciousness and dantian of the cultivator were intact.

Its cost in terms of "Breath" and mental energy was obviously huge, and only rank 6 mages could safely use it.

Yet, it was still a fantastic spell obtained by Faith at the price of five diagrams of the earth element with limits to the fifth rank.

Noah focused on obtaining the diagrams of the elements that Elder Julia had requested.

The Hive's main interests were the spells of the fire element, followed by water and wind.

It was needless to say that Noah had informed Elder Julia about his intention of obtaining as many diagrams of the darkness element that he could.

Elder Julia didn't oppose him, but Noah soon discovered that he was bound to be disappointed since no diagrams of the darkness element were mentioned during the meeting.

'This is too coincidental, and some of them are trading spells of the light element... They did this on purpose.'

Noah immediately suspected that, but there wasn't much that he could do.

The only method that the other nations had to slow down his improvements was to keep the resources that could help him for themselves, Noah couldn't force those countries to sell them after all.

The lack of spells of the darkness element though didn't bother him too much.

He was approaching the next step in his cultivation journey, he knew that he would create his own diagrams given enough time.

What bothered him was the constant need to suppress his arousal.

Noah tried not to look at June during the meeting, but their eyes were bound to meet when they traded.

Every time that happened, Noah had to enforce his control on his body again.

That was quite easy for Noah, but it was also a constant reminder of that feeling.

However, at some point, that drive suddenly disappeared.

A subtle tremor ran through the terrain below them, and the magical beasts inhabiting that area stopped moving.

The envoys didn't sense that tremor, but Noah felt the same sensations of the magical beasts below.

He instinctively turned to look toward the center of the new continent, but he could only see the beginning of the mountain chain in the distance.

Yet, another sensation took the place of his arousal, something that even surpassed his hunger.

He felt fear.

Chapter 585 585. Cry

The world slowed down in Noah's eyes.

The living beings in the area seemed to be holding their breath, and that behavior wasn't limited to the magical beasts.

Even the magical plants there stopped absorbing nutrients, and the air seemed to freeze as if waiting for the catastrophe to unfold.

Of course, the world appeared utterly normal to the other envoys.

Only Noah could feel those sensations since they originated from the instincts inherited by the Cursed dragon species.

His strange behavior was quickly noticed by the other three heroic cultivators who began to stare in the same direction.

However, they could only see the beginning of the mountain chain that stretched toward the center of the continent.

They couldn't sense anything out of the ordinary even with their rank 4 seas of consciousness.

Yet, June was able to recognize Noah's expression.

She had seen him doing something similar when they were exploring the seventh layer of the Royal Inheritance, just before the rank 4 Cloud eagle's attack from the sky.

Her survival instincts kicked in, and her awareness reached its peak, but she still couldn't sense anything from that direction.

As time passed and nothing happened, she began to think that she had misinterpreted Noah's gesture.

"What are you staring at, Prince?"

Andrew asked while adding a mocking tone when he said the word "Prince".

He found it funny that the "demon" who had escaped from the Utra nation would just become distracted during such an important meeting.

On the other hand, Noah barely noticed that the Eager Titan had spoken to him.

Fear spread through his body, he felt that the sensation that had accompanied him in the last weeks was becoming more intense with each passing second.

Then, when the intensity of that sensation reached its peak, he understood what was about to happen.

"Close your ears and retract your consciousnesses!"

Noah shouted before gathering all his mental energy inside his mental sphere and blocking his ears with his hands.

The instincts of a magical beast, coupled with the heroic mind of an expert in the beasts' field, made Noah able to predict the imminent catastrophe.

Of course, he didn't care enough about Faith and Andrew to help them, he would actually prefer for them to die since they belonged to enemy organizations.

Yet, June was among them, and he didn't want her to be unprepared.

A mental message sent by his consciousness would have reached her sooner without revealing its contents to the other two envoys, but Faith and Andrew would have noticed his action.

Noah couldn't evaluate the power behind the imminent catastrophe, but the two envoys would suspect that June was on his side if they survived after seeing him personally warning her.

Warning everyone would avoid creating any suspect while still alerting her, which was the best outcome that Noah could hope for in that sudden situation.

June didn't hesitate and followed his orders, she simply trusted him too much to do otherwise.

Noah's words confused Faith, but the solemnity radiated by his expression made her take his warning seriously.

After all, Noah's achievements were well known by anyone in a position of power.

Faith knew that the Demon Prince of the Hive had managed to escape from organizations ruled by heroic cultivators, had traveled for half of the old continent, and helped in the war for the independence of the Coral archipelago.

She didn't trust him, but she trusted his survival instincts.

Faith closed her ears and retracted most of her consciousness inside her mind.

However, she left part of her mental energy around her figure in case Noah's act was part of a trap.

It was needless to say that Andrew didn't follow any of Noah's orders.

"What are you even saying!? Faith, why are you listening to him? This Prince is surely planning something. I think it's time to cont-"

Andrew began to speak, but he couldn't continue the rest of his phrase since a deafening cry resounded from the center of the continent.

The piece of Immortal Lands shook when the soundwaves spread through the entirety of its surface.

The ground split, mountains fell apart, and cracks appeared in the sky as soon as the cry crossed those areas.

It wasn't a matter of shockwaves or just an attack that used the sound to inflict damage, the cry was simply so loud that even the environment of the new continent could only crumble in front of it.

The cry affected even the sea around the continent.

Giant shards of ice separated themselves from the land under the azure continent, even the spell that had stopped the fall of those territories from the sky suffered some damage in that situation.

Noah couldn't move nor inspect his surroundings.

The air around him seemed stiff, it was as if it had become solid under the pressure that accompanied the cry.

His mental sphere trembled to no end, but the entirety of his consciousness was working to keep it intact.

His internal organs couldn't oppose those vibrations, he felt blood reaching for his mouth from inside his body.

Yet, he didn't dare to spit it.

He was sealing all his orifices in the best way he could, he even shut his eyes to protect them.

However, injuries were inevitable in that situation.

He felt a warm liquid spreading on his palms, which made him understand that his eardrums had collapsed under those vibrations.

He felt tears running down his eyes, only to realize immediately after that those tears were instead lines of blood.

Blood kept on accumulating on his mouth as his internal organs kept on being torn, and he felt the foothold created with his "Breath" shattering every time he lost his focus.

In the end, the sound dispersed, and the tremors stopped.

Noah tried to open his eyes, but his vision was foggy, it seemed that they had been damaged while he endured that attack.

He couldn't hear anything too, even his sense of touch felt off when he waved his arms.

Of course, Noah wasn't in the dark.

His consciousness left his mental sphere as soon as its walls stabilized and analyzed the situation around him.

The other envoys seemed to be still struggling with the after-effects of the piercing cry, and Noah could see that they were far worse off compared to him.

Two pills appeared in his hands, and he quickly put them inside his mouth.

A warm sensation filled his body, and a massive amount of nutrients began to focus the injuries on his internal organs with their healing capabilities.

Noah didn't hesitate to gulp one of the rank 4 healing pills from Divine Demon's inheritance, and one of the compressed rank 4 magical beasts in the upper tier that the Udye family had sent in the last period.

Little by little, his vision and hearing came back, which made Noah able to analyze the devastation that the cry had brought to the piece of Immortal Lands.

[Chapter 586 586. Crisis](#)

Noah analyzed his surroundings while he waited for his body to return to a decent state.

'June seems fine, Eccentric Thunder's technique and methods must be amazing. Her centers of power are working together to disperse the remaining tremors that are still affecting her, she shouldn't have suffered any lasting injury.'

A glance to June was enough to make him understand her state.

She was utterly defenseless now, her mental waves were all inside her mind, there was nothing that could stop Noah's probing at that moment.

'Faith's mental sphere is still trembling, but she appears quite calm. I wonder what kind of individuality does she have to have such firmness.'

Noah saw how Faith was using her focus to stabilize her mind without revealing any struggle in her expression, it seemed that her mental waves had some peculiar capabilities.

'The idiot, instead, is lucky to have a sea of consciousness still.'

Noah thought when he turned toward Andrew.

The latter's mental sphere had endured the entirety of the cry without defenses on its insides, and the mental energy that was around him had dispersed when the tremors arrived.

Noah could see that cracks had appeared on the walls of Andrew's sphere, his mind was able to remain in one piece only thanks to the protective membrane that had enveloped him when the attack reached him.

Of course, Noah didn't even need to analyze their bodies to understand their state.

Noah was a hybrid, but he had suffered a lot of injuries when the tremors swept him anyway.

The envoys though were only humans, many of their bones had cracked, and some of their internal organs had completely stopped functioning.

Blood came out from every part of their skin, their robes had been thoroughly drenched in those few seconds.

'I could easily kill the two of them now. However, this crisis has just begun.'

Noah's mind was working at full speed while he analyzed the situation.

He picked up clues from everything that he could see or sense and quickly compared them with his vast knowledge of the magical beasts' field.

He had been able to predict the arrival of the deafening cry mostly due to his instincts, but he couldn't know what would follow that event without understanding the situation first.

The natural paradise under him had mostly fallen apart.

The small lakes had disappeared since deep gorges had appeared after the earthquake, and the magical beasts that had survived had left in a hurry toward the areas over the sea.

The waterfall was still standing, but the mountain behind it had seen many boulders falling from its surface.

'A cry able to reach the western coast and possibly the entirety of the new continent; a power that can affect this sturdy terrain at such distance; the rank 6 existences exploring the central areas; a piece of the Immortal Lands falling into the Mortal ones...'

The data inside Noah's mind seemed to point toward a simple deduction: rank 7 magical beast!

'No, I would be dead in that case.'

Noah quickly discarded that hypothesis.

He had seen the power of a god, the ruler of the Shandal Empire had been able to stop a meteorite that would have probably killed most of the lifeforms on the Mortal Lands.

Rank 7 magical beasts would obviously be less potent than cultivators on the same rank, but that didn't mean that they were weak!

Andrew had managed to keep his life without preparing any defense beforehand, which meant that heroic cultivators could protect themselves against that power.

'Also, the Immortal Lands should have gods continuously absorbing their "Breath", it's unlikely that a single being can cause its fall. Well, I hope it, at least.'

Noah thought while he stared at the hordes of magical beasts migrating toward the coastlines.

Roars and cries resounded everywhere in the continent, the magical beasts in every territory didn't hesitate to run away from the central areas as soon as the tremors stopped.

Those creatures abandoned their packs to distance themselves from the origin of the deafening cry, they didn't even fight when they crossed each other's paths.

The entire fauna of the central territories was migrating toward the coasts and unleashed chaos along its path.

Noah remained in the air, and his gaze went toward the beginning of the mountain chain after he understood what was happening around him.

However, the cause behind that event was still unclear, he didn't have the confidence of evaluating events that were so far away from his rank.

"W-what happened?"

Faith's voice resounded in the area.

She had finally managed to stabilize her condition, and she directly asked that question after gulping a few pills.

June opened her eyes a few seconds later and did the same, their complexion seemed to improve slightly after the drugs had taken their effect.

Of course, their bodies were far from fine, they could only see and hear thanks to their consciousness.

Noah didn't answer, he was as clueless as them in that situation, he was just waiting to see what other events would follow that cry.

There was no point in escaping, the tremors would reach him even if he flew over the sea.

Also, he now knew the entity of the attack, he could just deploy one of the most suitable defensive measures that Elder Julia had given him before the meeting.

Andrew was still doing his best to control the damages on his centers of power, but Noah didn't care about him.

He had chosen not to kill him simply because he didn't know what to expect from now on, there was a chance that he could use Andrew's life to his advantage.

Noah wasn't wrong to expect some consequences, but what followed made the fear that had dispersed after the cry reappear.

Thousands of figures rose at high speed in the air, carrying clouds of dust and terrain in their trail.

They had a pair of large feathered wings attached on their backs and a skeletal humanoid body.

A pair of curved horns grew from their temples, and long claws spread from what could be considered their arms.

However, what made Noah really scared was that those creatures could fly!

The new continent was relatively safe due to the absence of flying magical beasts, but the appearance of those humanoid beasts completely changed the situation.

What was worse was that many of them were in the fifth rank, with a handful of them in the sixth rank, and the rest in the fourth.

The winged beasts released cries that echoed the loud one that had previously filled the continent.

The creatures under him stopped roaring when they heard those cries, it seemed that they feared the new presences that had filled the sky over the piece of Immortal Lands.

It was at that point that Noah understood the meaning of their roars and repeated them in human words inside his mind.

'Gather food.'

[Chapter 587 587. Wai](#)

'Black feathered wings, gray skeletal bodies, and curved horns... I don't recognize them.'

Noah tried to link the identity of those creatures to the bestiary inside his mind, but he couldn't find any match.

The fauna and flora of the Immortal Lands were radically different from those of the Mortal ones, it wasn't surprising that Noah couldn't recognize those magical beasts.

'They must have been dormant deep underground. Earth element? I can't be sure. Yet, it's certain that they are the pack of the being that has released the cry from before.'

Noah's mind worked at full speed to find ways out of that situation.

Understand the threat, study the environment, and choose the safest path, Noah was going through those processes in a matter of instants.

He had even activated the Divine deduction technique to improve his thinking speed, he wasn't holding anything back in front of such a threat.

'The leader of the pack should be at the peak of the sixth rank or even be half-step inside the divine ranks. A handful of rank 6 creatures as captains, a hundred of rank 5 beasts as soldiers, and thousands of rank 4 pawns, we might be forced to abandon this place.'

The width and power of the pack of winged beasts could match any of the three big nations, it could even be considered superior.

Only the Shandal Empire with its god could overpower such a force since it appeared that the pack lacked a divine being.

'I can't affect this situation, I can only try to survive until I reach Elder Julia and Elder Austin.'

Noah realized that almost immediately, the pack of winged beasts was simply too numerous and powerful, he could only escape.

His gaze went on the other envoys, and some coldness filled his reptilian pupils while his mind made plans about them.

'Andrew can't run away on its own, he can be a good bait. These are the territories of the Papral nation, so Faith should know escape routes toward safe areas. June can use her status to find protection under the Council, but my situation is a bit different.'

Noah cursed inside his mind when he understood his options.

He would just follow Faith toward one of the safe areas of the Papral nation if he was a normal envoy and leave to the force behind him to reward the Council.

However, he was the Demon Prince of the Hive, the most promising new talent of the Mortal Lands.

His value would be incredible in the eyes of any force, especially since he belonged to the weakest country among the important ones.

Also, he was Divine Demon's heir, and the Papral nation was the home of the Ravaging Demon, the traitor of the twelve demon sects.

Noah didn't know how much Ravaging Demon knew about him, but he couldn't take any change against a being that was at least in the fifth rank.

Calm filled his mind when he understood that he couldn't seek political asylum inside the territories of the Papral nation.

Hundreds of thoughts had surged inside of Noah's mental sphere since its walls had stopped trembling, but only a few instants had passed in the outside world.

Dust and debris were still falling from the winged beasts' bodies, it was as if the Divine deduction technique was hastening the passage of time inside Noah's mind.

'It would take me less than a week to return to the forest of White woods if I use the secret technique, the Shadow sprint, and the Warp spell. I must go now!'

Noah thought and turned toward the south to prepare himself for the fastest escape that he was capable of.

He didn't care about Faith at all, and June was far safer than him in that situation since she could rely on the Council and on the escorts that had accompanied her through the travel.

However, he was alone, he could only rely on himself for his survival.

Yet, a sudden sense of danger filled his mind.

Noah felt helpless when he saw that winged beasts rose in the sky from the territories along the western coast, it seemed that they took a bit more to awaken due to the distance from the rest of the pack.

Only a few instants had passed from when the deafening cry filled the new continent, but that time was enough to fill the sky above its territory with winged figures!

Noah saw how hundreds of rank 4 magical beasts appeared in the escape route that he had just set, and they were even accompanied by a multitude of beings in the third rank of the same species!

'This land was the damned hunting area of these beasts!'

Noah quickly understood the situation and realized that he couldn't fly back to the territories of the Hive.

He could cross the sea of rank 4 magical beasts, but they would inevitably slow down his journey and gain enough time for the rank 5 beings in the distance.

The safest path had suddenly become the most dangerous.

'By foot then!'

Noah directly switched approach and dived toward the ground.

Faith and June were still recovering, but their consciousnesses made them able to see their surroundings.

They could see that Noah was charging toward the ground, and they instinctively decided to follow him.

After all, it was thanks to him that their centers of power were still intact.

Of course, Andrew was completely unaware of the events that were sweeping the new continent and remained in the air.

The pack of winged beasts began to move after they were done echoing the orders of the leader, and each specimen shot toward the first lifeform in its line of sight.

Every magical beast or plant that couldn't fly had instantly become a prey.

The tide of migrating magical beasts appeared in Noah's eyes, but he didn't fear them.

They were too scared, their only focus was to escape that situation.

Such an innate fear had been able to suppress their aggression, which made the ground the safest place where to hide for the moment.

Noah didn't slow down his descent and crashed on the ground, creating a large hole in the terrain that flung away the weaker beasts that were escaping on that spot.

Noah punched the terrain as he kept on diving underground, he was basically creating a large cave where he could reorganize.

The sky was the territory of the winged beasts now, and the surface was their hunting area, only the underground could provide him with some safety.

Noah punched and kicked, shattering any sturdy rock that appeared as he dug deeper.

He stopped only when he saw that the sunlight couldn't reach his position anymore.

"Now what?"

Faith's voice resounded in the underground area, and Noah turned to stare at the two women that had followed him underground.

The azure light radiated from the terrain illuminated their bloodied figures, it was clear that their bodies had yet to reach a stable state.

"Now, we wait."

Noah said as he crossed June and Faith to destroy the entrance to the underground area.

[Chapter 588 588. Stuck](#)

"Wait? How can we just remain here during this crisis!? My people are probably dying out there! I can't let these beasts take over the territories of my nation!"

Faith loudly complained, but a wave of coldness immediately surrounded her figure.

She felt Noah's reptilian eyes fixing on her and exuding a chilling killing intent.

Then, soft words that resembled a growl resounded in the underground area.

"An army of powerful magical beasts has suddenly appeared on the continent, and you thought that it would be wise to raise your voice against the man that saved you. I will personally bring you back to the surface if you keep on threatening to reveal my position."

Noah warned Faith as he tried to suppress his killing intent.

Attempting to kill her now would just reveal his position, and he needed her contacts on the surface to keep track of the advance of the pack.

Faith shut her mouth at that point.

Noah was right, she wouldn't be there if it weren't for his warning.

Also, losing her calm was out of her character.

"Sorry, I guess I don't have much experience in these kinds of crises."

Faith apologized using a soft voice before sitting on the ground to calm herself down.

She was a rare talent in the Papral nation, but no one could compare to Noah when it came to survival, especially when it was about magical beasts.

"Andrew?"

Faith asked while picking her inscribed notebook from her space-ring.

"Dead or worse."

Noah gave a plain answer before sitting on the ground too.

His body was stable, but there were many injuries on his internal organs that had to be taken care of, he guessed that he would need a week to return to his peak.

"Worse?"

Faith asked, but Noah didn't answer.

He didn't have certainties, there were only hypotheses inside his mind.

"What are those things? How could our forces miss something like that?"

June questioned Noah when she sat too.

She knew that he was an expert in the magical beasts' field, he was the only one among them that could reveal something useful.

"I don't really know, there is no record of those creatures even in the archives of the academy. They probably are a species exclusive to the Immortal Lands, or some sort of mutation that has happened due to the high density of "Breath" up there."

Noah revealed his thoughts when June asked for them.

"I'm still unclear about many aspects of this situation, but it seems that the entire pack had gone dormant before or during the fall of this continent, only to awaken when the leader released its cry."

Noah explained the things that he was certain of.

Magical beasts could go dormant in certain situations.

For example, they would hibernate during their breakthroughs to a higher rank or when the environment lacked the necessary nourishments.

Of course, that action wasn't completely safe, there was the risk that a dormant creature wouldn't wake up anymore since the nutrients inside its body were consumed during its sleep.

Only a rare species like the Undead chameleon could use that ability at will and without risks.

However, that was their only way to survive at times.

"What's the plan?"

June asked without even bothering to hide her trust toward Noah.

Faith noticed that interaction, it seemed that they were almost used to working together.

Yet, she also knew that they had been students of the academy during the same period.

She had never studied the specific behind their relationship, but she could easily guess that they weren't simple classmates.

"Wait, for now. The appearance of the pack would modify the food chain, and I can predict its behavior only when the fauna reaches some kind of stability. In the meantime, we must rely on your escort and on Faith's forces to obtain reports about the situation on the surface."

Noah sighed when he finished explaining.

There was a limit to how much he could do even with his instincts and with the Divine deduction technique.

The fauna on the surface was chaotic now, it was impossible to predict it.

Yet, he was sure that the strongest beasts would take care of the central areas once the situation stabilized, meaning that only rank 4 beasts would patrol the coastlines.

"I agree to help both of you, but you must stop hiding things. What did you mean by worse?"

Faith asked while waving her inscribed notebook.

Coldness appeared once again in Noah's eyes, but he forced himself to suppress that feeling.

'I need the eyes of the Papral nation on the surface.'

That thought made him sigh internally, but revealing his hypothesis wasn't really a bother.

"A magical beast that has just come out from the state of dormant would require a large amount of food to restore its body, and cultivators are more nourishing when they are alive. I believe you can understand where this is going."

Faith's eyebrows arched when she heard Noah's answer.

That gesture caused her pain since her eyes were still recovering, but that realization made her completely ignore that sensation.

There was a high chance that Andrew had been captured and brought at the center of the continent alive!

After all, cultivators kept most of their "Breath" inside their dantians, their bodies were almost worthless for the magical beasts.

'It's just a matter of how smart these beasts are and what abilities do they possess.'

Noah kept that thought for him.

He knew that the leader of the pack was relatively smart, forcing rank 6 creatures to gather food that they couldn't eat wasn't a small matter.

Faith remained silent for a while, but she soon decided to maintain her side of the deal.

She sent mental messages to the force behind her, and even June did the same.

Instead, Noah simply waited for the Hive to send a report.

There were around twenty heroic cultivators from the Coral archipelago in the new continent, and they were probably all busy handling the crisis.

He was sure that they would notify him once they managed to retreat to a safe position.

Faith and June didn't have much luck, none of their messages were answered, which left them entirely in the dark about the situation on the surface.

However, there wasn't much that they could do, they could only wait for their answers before deciding on their next move.

Hours passed in the silence of the underground area, with occasional cries resounding from the terrain above them.

Noah saw how June's body was slowly recovering, she seemed almost able to open her eyes after that break.

Faith couldn't help but continue picking some clues about their relationship.

She didn't know if it was the way Noah answered June or just the way she looked at him, but she didn't seem to treat him as a criminal of her nation.

In the end, Faith decided to break the silence and directly ask since she realized that they would probably be stuck in that area for a while.

"Say, did you have feelings for him before Noah turned out to be a criminal?"

Faith's soft words ran through the underground area.

June kept an expressionless face while Noah simply ignored the question.

He knew that it was easy to mask expressions and hints during a formal meeting.

Still, anything could reveal the truth behind his relationship with June in that relatively safe situation.

He knew that because he had spent most of his life hiding and pretending.

"Vance was the strongest student in the academy, and I was only his sparring partner. Noah Balvan, instead, is a traitor and a criminal, I have nothing but battle intent for him."

June answered without putting any emotion in her words.

She wasn't exactly lying.

Her relationship with Noah had begun to evolve through their cohabitation, but he left before it could solidify into something more than friendship.

Noah had given her a future and good memories that had accompanied her through the years, but they had never even labeled themselves as friends.

"He is an amazing rival that I will surpass one day."

June said, and the honesty behind her words could be clearly felt by the other two envoys next to her.

Faith stretched her legs and laid her back on the azure terrain when she heard that answer.

Her mind seemed to wander for a moment, it was as if she was choosing her next question.

"You know, I've spent my whole life surrounded by old cultivators that focused only on my centers of power and men that could only see my beauty. One side claimed that feelings were a hindrance on my cultivation journey, while the other said that their lives were worthless without my love. I guess I'm fairly interested in the topic, but maybe I've asked the wrong person."

Faith summarized her life while turning her face toward Noah.

The meaning behind her words was clear, she thought that it was Noah the one with feelings for June.

"You do realize that you two are alive simply because you can provide me with intel useful to my escape? The continent is in complete chaos, no one would blame me for your deaths."

Noah gave a cold answer while continuing to focus on his body.

"Yes, but you can't continue to punch through the ground until the path above is clear, and you can't fight me for the same reason. Also, June's envoys might be already dead, you need the Council to return to the Hive."

Faith answered while waving her inscribed notebook.

A sly smile was on her face, she knew that she was the most valuable person among the three.

"Beauty is useless if you don't have power, why would I care about a pretty face?"

Noah sighed before giving voice to those words.

He was being honest, beauty has never clouded his judgment nor affected his behavior.

Even his arousal from before hadn't been triggered when he saw Faith, it was as if that instinct was linked to the emotions contained in his mind.

"So, you do find June pretty, but you've barely laid your eyes on me. There must be something deeper then."

Faith continued to speak while keeping her sly smile on her face.

"Why are you doing this? A powerful pack of magical beasts has just invaded the continent, but you seem more interested in annoying us."

June gave voice to those words, she was clearly irritated by that situation.

She had barely been able to express his position to Noah just to be stuck with a woman that kept on asking about their relationship.

'Maybe, what annoys me the most is that I don't even know how to describe it.'

June thought when silence fell in the underground area.

Both she and Noah were around forty years old, but they had known each other for less than three years and cohabitated for even less.

She had spent those twenty years fighting and training, surrounded by people that she didn't trust and that she didn't care about.

Instead, Noah had traveled far and wide and claimed a position of power that he would have avoided back then.

'Maybe, the fact that he has stopped hiding isn't the only thing that has changed about him.'

June couldn't help but reach that point in her thoughts.

"I need to know if it's worth experiencing feelings, I can't express peace and calm if I'm clueless about that matter. I need it for my individuality."

Faith explained the reason behind her interest, and silence fell once again inside that underground room.

The individuality of each cultivator was vital for cultivating through the heroic ranks, and it wasn't just a matter of learning the depths of their personality.

A cultivator's individuality would eventually become a personal law in the divine ranks, meaning that everyone needed to express it other than understanding it.

A partial understanding would obviously lead to a partial expression, Faith had simply recognized that her mindset lacked something and was working to fill those gaps.

The old cultivators that trained her couldn't help in those matters, and her followers were mostly interested in her aspect.

However, June and Noah came from different nations, they didn't have any obligation toward her.

Also, they seemed to share something more profound than simple rivalry, which led her to use that chance to learn more about a world that she couldn't explore under the watchful eye of the Council.

'The best talent of the Papral nation lacks experiences in normal human interactions. Well, I can't say that I'm different. I guess we are still growing, we have just begun our journey through the heroic ranks after all.'

Noah thought when he heard her explanation.

The envoys were all in the gaseous stage of the fourth rank.

They could be labeled as the best talents of their nations, but they also were cultivators who had just begun to explore their individualities.

Their path wasn't set since they had just taken a few steps on it, not even Noah could claim to know where his enlightenment would lead him.

"The Royal academy is a place filled with nobles and every sort of talent, but I guess you already knew that."

June broke the silence and claimed Faith's attention.

"I knew that I would have had to make up for the lack of resources with my hard work when I enrolled. So, I kept on fighting and training. It was at that point that I met him."

June didn't turn toward Noah, but it was clear that she was talking about him.

"This guy rarely spoke, and you would always find him in some corner, focusing on his centers of power. His focus on his cultivation could only be labeled as addiction."

Memories of his life inside the academy appeared in Noah's mind as June kept on speaking.

'You know, I really admired him. He was the best of the best without anyone's support, his power came only from himself. It was clear that he hid something, but I didn't care back then, I just wanted to be like him."

An honest smile appeared on June's face when she reached that point in her story.

[Chapter 590 590. Hostage](#)

"Yet, he left, and the truth behind his identity was spread through the old continent. The person that I admired so much turned out to be a criminal who only cared about power and was ready to forsake everything else."

June's smile disappeared when she spoke those words.

Noah didn't reveal any expression and June lowered her head in the silence that followed, only Faith continued to move her gaze between the two of them.

June seemed to have revealed her true feelings, but the end of her speech was somewhat hurried.

However, there was a limit to how many clues Faith could pick up.

June's words were close to the truth after all, her lies were hidden under the feelings that she had really felt.

"Is she speaking the truth? Are you nothing but an addict ready to sacrifice anything just to improve?"

Faith asked when she realized that June wasn't going to speak anymore.

The temperature inside the underground area seemed to drop when Noah opened his mouth to speak.

"Yes. I devour what I need and destroy what opposes me. Everything I do is for my benefit."

Noah's answer made Faith's expression become cold.

"I have to say, I expected more from the famous Demon Prince."

Faith shook her head after she spoke those words.

It was clear that she couldn't learn anything else from them, especially after Noah claimed to be precisely as the reports said.

Noah didn't mind her comment, he was that type of person after all.

He knew that he was slowly accepting other things inside his mind, but that process was still ongoing.

The way he saw it, caring about something was pointless if he didn't have the power to hold it.

No one spoke after that last exchange of words, the three envoys simply focused on their centers of powers.

Little by little, June and Faith managed to open their eyes, but bloody veins still lingered on those organs.

The deafening cry had hurt them deeply, even Noah's internal organs needed some time to recover.

Minutes became hours, and hours eventually became days.

The three cultivators hidden underground focused on their recovery and rarely spoke, only Faith broke the silence from time to time to question June about random matters.

"What kind of family do you have?"

"Will you have children in the future?"

"What do you think about the Elbas family?"

"What do you think about my nation?"

"Will you get married at some point?"

"Is orange your favorite color?"

Those questions came out of Faith's mouth from time to time, she seemed interested in learning more about June.

June gave short answers without ever revealing too much about herself.

Her mind was too messy to care about bonding with the envoy of an enemy nation.

The sound of battles resounded continuously above them, but she could only think about the man that was stuck with him.

She had finally met Noah after twenty years of work under the Elbas family only to be forced to keep some distance from him.

Noah had similar thoughts about her, but they weren't his main concern.

His instincts screamed to no end due to the battlefield above him, and they had yet to receive any news from the four forces on the new continent.

'Maybe, the sudden appearance of the pack has temporally disabled the communications between the inscribed notebooks.'

Noah couldn't help but reach that conclusion.

A sudden increase in the "Breath" radiated on the surface could affect the mental messages sent by those inscribed items.

After all, he had seen Elder Julia blocking one mental message, it was probable that those winged beasts could do something similar since there were rank 6 existences among them.

However, on their sixth day spent hiding, a loud explosion resounded right above them.

The ceiling of the underground room began to fall as an earthquake shook its foundation.

Cavities began to appear on the ceiling, and the sunlight illuminated the area.

Noah wielded his sabers, and the other two envoys did the same, they were ready to fight for their lives.

Yet, human figures became visible as the cavities enlarged to form a large fissure that connected the underground area to the surface.

"Elder Clara!"

Faith exclaimed when she recognized one of the figures on the surface and shot in the air to meet the elder.

Noah's eyes sharpened when he saw the golden colors of the Elbas family on the robes of some of those figures, he immediately realized that the group wasn't formed only by the forces of the Papral nation.

June shot a worried gaze toward Noah before flying to greet the forces of the Royals.

Noah didn't move, he analyzed the situation above him and waited to see the behavior that those heroic cultivators had toward him.

'They are injured and covered in blood, it seems that they have fought a lot to reach this position.'

Noah thought when his gaze swept the figures.

"Where is the Eager Titan? What happened?"

A loud voice soon resounded among the group on the surface.

Three heroic cultivators dressing robes with the emblem of the Shandal Empire anxiously swept the underground area before focusing on Noah.

"What have you done to him, demon? We know that his space-ring is still in the area!"

The three cultivators immediately blamed Noah for Andrew's disappearance.

'This group must be formed by the escorts of the envoys. This is bad, I had planned to use their intel and escape before meeting them, but now...'

Hundreds of thoughts rose inside Noah's mind as he tried to find a way out of that situation.

"Wait, he has sav-"

"Silence, Lady Vigny, this is a matter between the Empire and the Demon Prince."

Faith tried to explain the situation, but one of the cultivators belonging from the Ultra nation interrupted her phrase.

It was clear that the forces of the Elbas family wanted to use that chance to take Noah with him, they were even willing to let the Empire take him in custody.

'I can't let them take me to their territories, I don't know what they will do to me or what price the Hive will have to pay for my release. Well, Chasing Demon will find a way to justify my actions.'

Noah thought while his arm shot in front of him.

Black flames appeared in front of him, and his arm directly pieced them.

Yet, nothing came out from the other side of the flames.

The cultivators above him were surprised, but they were all in the fourth rank, they weren't fast enough to stop Noah's actions.

Black flames appeared behind June, and Noah's hand came out of them to grab the collar of her robe.

Then, Noah directly pulled and threw the powerless June toward him.

June suddenly felt her waist being held by a firm but careful arm, and a cold sensation spread from her throat when a black saber neared it.

In less than an instant, Noah had thrown her inside his arms and trapped her.

Then, she heard his cold voice.

"Take one step forward, and she dies."