DEMONIC 641

Chapter 641 641. Castles

Noah felt some pressure being applied to his mental sphere as the formation led him inside the separate dimension.

A long time had passed since a similar pressure was able to affect his mind, but he could easily endure it.

That pressure vanished at some point, and Noah directly cast the Dark cover spell before even opening his eyes.

He was almost sure that the separate dimension wasn't too dangerous for him, but he didn't mind being careful.

A dark layer covered his figure as he flew higher in the sky to take a better look at the environment with his real eyes.

Vast prairies spread for kilometers in all directions, and small hills appeared from time to time on the horizon.

The two red moons stood up in the sky, they seemed about to overlap in a matter of hours.

No star could be seen in the sky, and its dark-blue color radiated a soft light that filled the entirety of the separate dimension with an eerie and obscure feeling.

The "Breath" was as scarce just as Havok had sensed, Noah guessed that cultivators wouldn't be even able to reach the second rank in that environment.

Yet, his dantian wasn't affected by that issue.

Heroic cultivators absorbed the "Breath" inside the matter, the energy that carried a trace of the laws of their element.

They would be able to train their dantians as long as there was matter.

Only his body seemed to complain about that density since it still absorbed the "Breath" in the air.

However, Noah's stash of corpses of rank 4 magical beasts was so large that it would take decades to deplete it.

There wasn't any living being in the area, the only form of life seemed to be the dark-green grass that grew from the terrain.

'Is it even a lifeform?'

Noah questioned himself about the grass as he flew toward the ground.

His doubt turned out to be on point.

The grass turned into "Breath" of various elements when Noah took a handful of it from the ground and squeezed it in his palm.

That was the last confirmation that he needed for what concerned the nature of that environment, he was now entirely sure that he was inside a separate dimension.

That discovery further increased his amazement.

The sky and ground were incredibly lifelike, it was as if someone had directly moved a real environment in that realm.

That method had been used in the Royal Inheritance and was already spectacular in many ways.

Yet, that dimension perfectly recreated a real world without even showing the slight ripple on its fabric.

'Same school as Eccentric Thunder, but far better executed.'

Noah concluded in his mind before returning in the air to analyze his surroundings.

His gaze swept the areas far in the distance and stopped when he saw the shapes of the roofs that he had noticed through Havok's eyes.

He began to fly toward that sign of human life without dispersing his hiding spell.

He wasn't sure that he would find cultivators, and he couldn't be certain that they would be friendly.

So, he kept the Dark cover spell active in case he needed to perform a surprise attack.

Noah flew for an entire day through that motionless scenery.

The wind didn't blow in the separated dimension, and the only event that could make anyone keep track of the time was the movement of the moons.

Noah didn't find problems regarding that feature, his mind couldn't be affected so easily.

Two massive castles appeared in his view at some point.

They were tall buildings that didn't reflect the modern architecture found in the structures of the Utra nation and Coral archipelago, and both of them exuded an ancient aura.

It soon became apparent that those castles belonged to a different era.

Their aura didn't surprise Noah, that feature was in line with the age of the formation after all.

Yet, he couldn't help but stop his advance when he noticed that other small habitations surrounded by large yards covered the prairie around the castles.

The habitations were nothing more than one-story houses, but what surprised Noah was that he could sense traces of life coming from inside them!

Noah wanted to investigate further, but one of the castles suddenly radiated a wave of subtle energy that reached for him.

'Have I been discovered?'

Noah was amazed when he saw those mental waves coming for him, but he quickly flew higher in the air to dodge them.

The mental waves didn't react to his movement, they simply continued to move forward and dispersed in the air at a few hundred meters from his position.

'They don't seem to be controlled by a heroic cultivator. Maybe it's some kind of automatic feature of the castles.'

Noah's interest toward those buildings rose at that point, but the same could be said for his awareness.

There were traces of life and inscribed items in a separate dimension that had remained hidden inside the mystical fog for more than a thousand years.

There couldn't be anything simple behind them.

Noah slowly neared the houses again and used his mental energy to analyze their insides.

Humans slept inside them, and Noah guessed that he had arrived during what they considered night time.

However, he was soon able to notice that something was off.

'There isn't any lifeform around here. How can they even survive?'

The grass was made of "Breath", and those humans were mostly commoners, only a few of them were cultivators in the first rank.

Yet, humans couldn't survive without nourishments even when they reached the heroic ranks, so Noah couldn't understand how could those rank 1 cultivators be alive in such a barren land.

"You out there, stop hiding. I'm too old to play hide and seek."

Those words suddenly resounded from the same castle that had sent the mental waves.

The words weren't spoken by a voice but conveyed through the consciousness of the being inside the structure.

The only existence in the area who had a consciousness strong enough to hear them was Noah, so it was clear that they were directed to him.

'He doesn't know my precise position, but he is aware that someone has entered the range of the castles. He should be in the fifth rank.'

Noah evaluated in his mind.

A male voice carried those mental words, and the cultivator behind them had managed to notice something even when Noah was using the Dark cover spell fueled by the energy inside his Liquid dantian.

The cultivator in the castle could only be an existence in the fifth rank to notice someone hidden behind a spell with the power of a rank 4 cultivator in the solid stage.

"Who are you?"

Noah used his consciousness to ask that question.

His mental waves carried his words as they reached for the castles.

A long moment of silence followed his question, and Noah calmly waited in the air while keeping the energy inside his Liquid dantian ready to fuel the Shadow sprint martial art.

Then, an answer came.

"I am Flying Demon."

Chapter 642 642. Needles

The words conveyed through the consciousness of the existence inside the castle carried intense tinges of pride.

However, Noah had survived in his long journeys as a lone cultivator because he didn't leave anything to chance.

He was only able to make out the power of the entity inside the castle, but he didn't know anything about his real intentions or situation.

To put it simply, he didn't trust him.

The consciousnesses of the two heroic cultivators didn't send other messages.

Noah remained silent as he observed the reactions of the man inside the castle, and the latter waited for some sort of answer that never arrived.

In the end, the rank 5 cultivator put an end to that silence.

"Who are you, silent one?"

"The Demon Prince of the Chasing demon sect."

"Huh!?"

Flying Demon couldn't help but gave a real voice to his surprise when he heard Noah's answer.

His gasp resounded in the area and startled the commoners and rank 1 cultivators living around the castle.

Those men and women came out of their habitations wearing confused expressions.

However, they soon kowtowed toward the castles and began to chant what seemed to be a prayer.

"Praised be the ancient one, for his blood is prosperity."

"Praised be the ancient one, for his blood is hope."

"Praised be the ancient one, for his blood is life."

The kowtowed men and women repeated those lines in unison.

Noah didn't let any detail of that scene escape his eyes and ears.

He saw how those humans appeared used to that procedure, they had an innate synergy that couldn't be achieved in a matter of months.

The prayer though didn't have any hidden effects, it was a simple ritual that those people were used to perform.

Of course, Noah didn't ignore the meaning behind the words of the prayer.

'Blood of the ancient one... Is he feeding them with his blood to make them survive in this wasteland?'

Noah instantly linked the two clues in his mind.

Heroic cultivators were existences far above those in the human ranks, an incredible amount of power filled their entire beings.

'It should be possible, at least theoretically. The blood of a rank 5 cultivator would need to go through many processes and purifications to provide the nourishments that humans need to survive, but it should be possible.'

Noah had even activated the Divine deduction technique to analyze every aspect of that situation in the shortest period.

After all, there was a rank 5 cultivator in front of him.

Nothing had to be left to chance when against such a powerful existence.

The prayer lasted for a few hours, but, when those men and women saw no reactions from the castle, they returned to their habitations to rest.

Noah had remained silent for the whole time, he didn't mind waiting to learn more about that situation.

Yet, he decided to ask a few questions with his consciousness when the crowd under him dispersed.

"Did you keep these people alive with your blood?"

He wasn't worried that his consciousness would be tracked if he kept on releasing mental waves.

The Dark cover spell hid the entirety of his presence, and Flying Demon hadn't been able to pinpoint his location.

That shouldn't happen against someone in the fifth rank, but Noah guessed that there had to be some restrictions on that powerful existence.

Otherwise, why would he just talk instead of coming out to face him?

"Yes."

"Why? It would be a miracle if one of them reached the second rank."

Noah questioned Flying Demon again as soon as the latter answered.

"Because they are the future of the Flying demon sect and Dreaming demon sect. Tell me, how is Rufus? He was only at the peak of the fourth rank back then, but he as an heir now."

Flying Demon's words surprised Noah.

He had heard Chasing Demon's real name only when he listened to Divine Demon's message.

Those words made him start to believe the entity inside the castle, but he still didn't move when he answered.

"Chasing Demon has reached the sixth rank and has tasked me to gather the remains of the demon sects. Our organization is called Hive and would be more than willing to offer protection and support to beings of your caliber."

Flying Demon consciousness flickered when Noah's words reached him, and he went silent for a while before resuming to talk.

"Did he avenge Charming Demon?"

"No, not yet."

"What about the other demon sects?"

"Only ghosts and human cultivators remain, you are the first heroic cultivator that I found during my task."

Flying Demon hesitated a bit before replying to that statement.

"I am a ghost too, Demon Prince of the Chasing demon sect. Come inside, let's talk face to face."

Noah heard that offer but didn't move.

He would never go inside the lair of a rank 5 cultivator that he didn't trust, that act went against all his survival instincts.

Flying Demon didn't take much to understand Noah's personality, he had been one of the leaders of the unorthodox organizations of the Papral nation after all.

"You don't trust me, do you?"

"No."

Noah answered the cultivator's question without showing any hesitation.

He knew fear, he had experienced the feeling of being powerless against an entity far more potent than him.

That was why he couldn't take the first step toward Flying Demon, he would never risk putting himself in one of those helpless situations.

"My Master would like you."

Flying Demon said, and an earthquake filled the area when that phrase ended.

The humans came out of their habitation again to pray, but Noah's attention was on the castle.

The large rocks that made the castle began to float and separate from the main structure, creating a large opening on the surface of the building.

Then, a large wooden throne came out from that opening and flew in the sky above those structures.

Noah saw a skeletal man with disheveled white hair and a long white beard sitting on the floating throne.

Countless needles were stabbed on his half-naked, pale body, which seemed not to have even a trace of muscle tissue left.

Inscriptions covered the surface of those needles, and small drops of blood accumulated on their tips.

Noah couldn't help but think that such a mighty cultivator was nothing more than a half-dead man.

"Don't look down on me. My body is drained, and my dantian is a mess, but I can still do wonders with my sea of consciousness. Follow me now, junior, you have to pay your greetings to Dreaming Demon."

Flying Demon used his rough voice to say those words, and Noah was somewhat able to understand how weakened that rank 5 cultivator was.

His cultivation level wasn't low, Noah guessed that he was on par with Elder Julia, who seemed to be the strongest among the elders.

Yet, he was so weakened that a simple attack could make his body crumble.

Noah decided to follow him at that point.

Chapter 643 643. Darkness

Noah decided to follow Flying Demon when he understood how weakened he was.

He didn't have the confidence in beating him with his power, but he still had items that could protect him and Chasing Demon's talisman.

Flying Demon couldn't kill him in one attack even if he wanted to, his body alone would be enough to prevent that outcome.

The duo flew toward the other castle where the same event from before happened.

The large rocks that made the surface of that structure began to float and opened a passage to the insides of that inscribed habitation.

Flying Demon directly flew through that passage, but Noah inspected that area for a bit before deciding to follow him inside.

A large hall illuminated by the soft light radiated by a few candles could be seen on the other side of the opening, and a few inscriptions covered the floor of that area.

Noah couldn't sense any threat coming from those inscriptions since they were mostly meant to protect something placed at the center of the hall.

His instincts didn't sense any threat, so he decided to follow the elder seated on the wooden throne.

The hall didn't have anything peculiar except for a large bed placed in its center and surrounded by defensive inscriptions.

A woman was sleeping on the bed, and Noah was surprised to realize that she was another rank 5 cultivator.

"I must warn you."

Flying Demon stopped his tracks and began to speak when Noah laid his eyes on the woman.

"Try anything funny, and I will use all my remaining power to destroy every trace of your existence."

Killing intent accompanied Flying Demon's words, and Noah felt the fear that it generated inside him.

Noah could sense that the ruined elder still had enough power to launch one last full-powered attack and that he was more than willing to use it to protect the sleeping woman.

"Is she Dreaming Demon?"

Noah asked without showing any reaction to that loud threat.

"Yes, and she is the only reason why our sects have survived during the exile."

Flying Demon answered before continuing to float toward the bed.

The defensive inscriptions around Dreaming Demon stopped shining when he flew over them, and Noah understood that the elder was opening a path for him.

Noah silently followed him at that point, and Dreaming Demon's features became more evident when he reached a spot right above her.

She was a beautiful middle-aged woman with extraordinarily long and straight black hair.

A pure skin, her small nose, and a pair of slim eyebrows gave her face a harmonious appearance, but it was evident that her sleep wasn't natural.

She would breathe only every few minutes, and a minimal amount of "Breath" and mental energy dispersed in the air every time that happened.

'She is constantly weakening in this state. I'm surprised that she is still in the fifth rank.'

Noah thought when he analyzed her cultivation level.

Dreaming Demon seemed a bit stronger than Elder Julia even after who knows how many years in that state.

"How?"

Noah asked that simple question, but Flying Demon understood that he wanted a complete explanation of the situation.

"Our sects have been chased out of the Papral nation during Ravaging Demon's betrayal, but I guess you are already aware of that."

Noah didn't answer and let Flying Demon explain.

After all, he was already a rank 5 cultivator during the exile, his story would be far more detailed compared to the other sources that Noah had questioned.

"Master and Divine Elder Tabitha left their inheritances in the Mortal Lands when they ascended. Master was a demon to his very core, and he wanted the cultivators of demon sects to find and prove themselves worthy of his heritage. Yet, the orthodox sects' focus is on their organizations as a whole rather than on the personal power of their members."

Noah agreed with those words.

Orthodox organizations generally had weaker human assets due to the kind of nurturing that they provided to their members.

However, they made up for that weakness with the higher number of cultivators under their domain.

Also, that nurturing didn't prevent the appearance of exceptional individuals.

Orthodox organizations could give birth to powerful heroic assets since cultivators could obtain a strong individuality even in a peaceful environment, it was simply rarer.

"The Ravaging demon sect secretly joined the Council and obtained part of Divine Elder Tabitha's inheritance in exchange for information about the demon sects and their leaders. Ravaging Demon reached the fifth rank in that period, and the Council prepared specific countermeasures for each of us. Our defeat was unavoidable."

Noah didn't show any reaction, but he could somewhat understand Ravaging Demon.

He had found an opportunity to reach the fifth rank and sacrificed all his allies to claim it.

That act required a lot of determination and planning, especially with the threat of a divine being in the Immortal Lands.

The truth was that Noah had already considered exploiting the weakened state of those two rank 5 elders to obtain their dantians, but the task didn't seem feasible.

Also, a large part of him thought that it wasn't worth it.

Adding two rank 5 elders to the ranks of the Hive would directly improve his situation, and he didn't necessarily need those nourishments.

Noah didn't believe that to be the best approach, even if those two dantians were to push his body in the middle tier.

After all, he could obtain the same results while hunting magical beasts, but nothing could compare to increasing the number of rank 5 heroic assets of the Hive.

"Dreaming Demon is a genius and a pioneer in her field. Her techniques allow her to interfere with the Heaven and Earth's will in the world and divine specific aspects or even future events. She managed to divine this separate dimension with her abilities, but the effort has forced her in this state."

Noah couldn't help but think about Ruth when he heard those words.

Yet, he knew that Dreaming Demons' feats were far more amazing since she was forcing Heaven and Earth to reveal something.

"She said that every other path would lead to our destruction, but there was hope for our survival inside this dimension. I still remember her words from a thousand years ago."

A warm smile formed on Flying Demon's skeletal face at that point, and Noah's eyes widened when his words resounded inside the hall.

"I can see the Council crushing us and the Shandal Empire enslaving us at the end of each of those roads. Yet, it seems that even Heaven and Earth can't predict what would happen if we enter the formation. There is only darkness on the other side, and darkness is our only hope."

Chapter 644 644. Exit

Dreaming Demon had been able to foresee the destruction of the two demon sects, but she couldn't see what would have happened if they entered the separate dimension.

"So, you trusted her words and stayed in this dimension for a thousand years. Why didn't you just leave? Why did you even consume your body to feed those weaklings?"

Noah asked.

He couldn't understand why such a mighty existence would force himself to remain in that place over a divination.

"You learn to trust your lover with your life after you spend decades with her."

Flying Demon's answer was short, but it explained the reason behind his complete trust in her predictions.

"Why the feeding then? And why didn't you just leave with her after so many centuries?"

Noah continued to ask questions, that situation simply didn't make sense in his mind.

Flying Demon released a weak sigh and flew away from the hall to return in the outside world when he heard Noah's words.

Noah followed him and was confused when he saw the elder stopping in the air above the castles and staring at the two moons in the sky.

"Invading Heaven and Earth's will has a cost, even for rank 5 existences. Dreaming Demon can use her power to pay it, but she can't recover with her own energies. It's as if the world curses her when she performs her divinations."

Flying Demon then slowly lifted a finger, and strange energy began to gather in the air above the houses where the commoners and rank 1 cultivators lived.

"Her energy can only be replenished by cultivators that train in her same methods. I spent these years passing down her techniques to the same humans that I kept alive."

The energy condensed and flew toward the castle where Dreaming Demon was sleeping.

Noah followed it with his gaze and activated the Divine deduction technique to analyze it.

The energy seemed some sort of mental energy, only far thinner.

Yet, it was clear that it came from the minds of the sleeping rank 1 cultivators inside the houses.

"Her energy has been replenished during all those years, but she still won't wake up. I think her consciousness has atrophied after sleeping for so many centuries."

Flying Demon appeared on the verge of falling apart when he said those words, the condition of his lover hurt him deeply.

However, Noah still had some doubts.

"Why didn't you just take her outside?"

Noah asked.

He could guess that most of the resources of the demon sects had been lost during the escape, and they didn't have pills or potions that could improve their situation.

Yet, there was a whole world outside of that dimension that had them!

"Exiting this separate dimension is not easy. This place is as large as the continent. It would be hard to find the exit."

"You had one thousand years to explore it."

Noah commented on Flying Demon's excuse.

His answer didn't make sense, he was a rank 5 cultivator after all!

It would take him less than a decade to explore the entirety of the dimension and find the teleportation matrix that linked that place to the outside world.

Also, since the scenery there was always the same, it would take even less to find the exit.

"Demon Prince of the Chasing Demon sect, my words alone can't explain the dangers of this place. Wait two days, and you will have your answers."

Flying Demon returned inside his castle at that point, leaving a confused Noah in the air.

Yet, two days were nothing for a heroic cultivator, and Noah simply spent them letting his mind ponder about the situation and his individuality.

He had already decided that he would simply leave those two elders to their fate and hand the matter to the Hive once he resurfaced.

Exploring a separate dimension as large as the old continent was quite appealing, and Noah wouldn't waste that chance to be in the company of two ruined cultivators.

However, when two days passed, something strange happened inside the dimension.

The moons suddenly stopped their motion, and "Breath" began to come out from their surface.

The moons were just a creation of the dimension, but Noah recognized the "Breath" that came out from the moon closest to his position since it was identical to that found inside the mystical fog!

The "Breath" though didn't reach the terrain but accumulated in the sky where it condensed into black clouds.

Orange sparks filled the surface of the clouds that covered the entirety of the central area of the dimension.

The memories of the Cursed dragons appeared inside Noah's mind at that sight.

The scene was remarkably similar to what he had seen in his dreams.

However, the might of that Heaven Tribulation didn't match that in his dreams.

The black clouds began to release lightning bolts that crashed on the ground and destroyed large chunks of the endless prairie.

Nevertheless, the dimension depleted the "Breath" inside its fabric to quickly reform that terrain.

A cycle of destruction and reconstruction followed the arrival of the black clouds, and Noah analyzed everything with the utmost attention.

The barrage of lightning was as large as the area of influence of the empire, it occupied one-third of the dimension, separating it into two safe zones and a dangerous one.

The Tribulation lasted until all the "Breath" inside the clouds was depleted and dispersed immediately after.

Noah noticed how the "Breath" in the air had slightly diminished after that process.

It was evident that the separate dimension had used its reserves of energy to fix the damages caused by the lightning bolts.

"What have you discovered in these years?"

Noah asked without moving his gaze from the horizon, but Flying Demon knew that the question was directed to him.

He flew outside of his castle again at that point and reached Noah, who was standing in the air above it.

"There is a similar Tribulation every week, and the power of the lightning bolts in the central areas reaches the sixth rank. This side of the dimension doesn't have the exit, and I've only managed to explore less than half of the central area before being injured by the Tribulation. We are trapped."

Flying Demon's words entered Noah's mind, but he wasn't affected by the helplessness that they carried.

The Tribulation was scary, but there were ways to escape from that situation.

'I can create an exit through sheer power, but I think that Flying Demon has already tried it. Wait for the "Breath" inside the dimension to be depleted? That would take too much time. Yet, I might be able to cross it with the help of the two elders.'

Noah began to analyze his possibilities, but Flying Demon interrupted his thoughts with a few words.

"Darkness is our only hope... Demon Prince, your element is darkness, right?"

Chapter 645 645. Hope

It wasn't hard to understand the aptitude of heroic cultivators.

Their figures naturally exuded an aura in line with their element, and a short inspection was enough to understand the aptitude of those powerful entities.

Noah had a dark halo continually surrounding him, and Flying Demon could immediately guess his element due to that feature.

"The future is a mystery filled with uncertainties. I don't want the weight of your hope."

Noah replied to Flying Demon.

Even Heaven and Earth had failed to predict his future, there was no chance that a rank 5 cultivator could succeed where they had failed.

Instead, her divination proved something else.

'She hadn't been able to predict the events inside this separate dimension, but she could see the destruction of the two demon sects on the other paths. This place should have something similar to my innate mistake. It is a world that doesn't belong to Heaven and Earth.'

Noah began to formulate hypotheses, but he soon turned toward Flying Demon.

The broken rank 5 cultivator had remained in that place for a thousand years, his understanding of the dimension had to be profound.

"Tell me everything you've discovered over the years. I can't carry your hope, but I might be able to grant it."

Noah said, and Flying Demon took a long look at the young-looking cultivator next to him.

Intense green eyes could be seen under his half-closed eyelids, there was life hidden under that skeletal body.

His body was on the verge of falling apart, and his dantian had been injured when he explored the central areas of the dimension, but his sea of consciousness was fine.

There wasn't much that could be hidden from a rank 5 mage, especially since Noah's mind was still in the fourth rank.

However, Flying Demon felt that he couldn't grasp the entirety of Noah's being, it was as if he had a violent form of protection that naturally covered his figure.

The rank 5 elder didn't know if he could trust Noah and couldn't understand it from his inspection.

Yet, he could realize in an instant that the Demon Prince of the Chasing demon sect was amazing.

That realization made him begin to speak.

The separate dimension cut off any form of communication with the outside world.

That was a feature often seen in similar places, but the presence of the Heaven Tribulation showed that there was some connection with the landmass above.

"In my long years spent here, I've concluded that the creator of this dimension wanted to replicate the Mortal Lands. I don't know the reasons behind that gesture nor what the creator wanted to obtain with it. Still, I know that Heaven and Earth didn't like it."

Flying Demon explained the conclusions that he had reached in the past centuries, and Noah attentively listened to him.

"This dimension is as large as the continent, but it wasn't created in only one process. Its borders aren't stable nor fixed, which I believe isn't random. The creator has probably slowly enlarged it through the years and aimed to cover the entirety of the Mortal Lands with it."

Noah could only nod at those words.

He didn't know much about separate dimensions, so he could only trust the words of the elders.

Of course, the idea that someone had attempted to replicate the Mortal Lands surpassed any definition of defiance.

After all, that was a feat worthy of a god!

"This is only my supposition. Still, I think that the mountain chain on the south and the mystical fog in the north have been placed by Heaven and Earth to seep their "Breath" and cause the Tribulations. The energy passes through the moons every week and only when they are precisely under those danger zones. The moons might be Heaven and Earth's creations too."

'It would make sense. Heaven and Earth have tried to stop my fusion, and the same would apply to this place.'

Noah thought when he heard those words.

He felt that there was something more about that dimension, but Flying Demon's explanation seemed to cover most of its nature.

"I've tried to create an exit, but all my efforts only pushed the limits of the dimension backward, stretching it in the process. I've tried to contact the outside world by flying toward the moons during the gathering of "Breath", but nothing manages to reach the other side. Yet, this dimension has almost reached its limits, it would only take a few more centuries before Heaven and Earth manage to destroy it."

Noah shot a cold gaze toward Flying Demon at that point.

He wasn't willing to wait centuries in that wasteland, the stillness of that world would hinder his progress.

'Chasing Demon has surpassed Flying Demon because he was outside, gathering experiences. I can't remain here. Also, waiting for Heaven and Earth to save me is something that I refuse to do with every fiber of my being.'

Those thoughts rose inside Noah's mind and awakened his anger toward those mighty entities.

'Heaven and Earth have punished me for not following their script and have cursed my species, how could I even wait for their help?'

The Divine deduction technique activated, and Noah quickly evaluated all his possibilities.

He didn't care that there was a safe way out, he wanted to cross the hindrance created by Heaven and Earth!

After all, that drive was part of his individuality, submitting to their help would just break his ambition.

"Bring me back in front of Dreaming Demon."

Noah said while suppressing a growl.

His words carried a weight that Flying Demon didn't fail to notice.

They were orders.

The elder was a bit hesitant, but he agreed to his request when he saw the sheer resolution radiated by the Demon Prince.

The violent halo seemed to have stabilized a bit, it was as if it had found a specific focus.

The duo returned inside the castle where Dreaming Demon slept, and Noah poured "Breath" inside his space-ring to materialize the spirit automaton in the outside world.

"What are you trying to do?"

Flying Demon exclaimed when he saw that Noah wanted to do something to his sleeping lover, but Noah's answer gave birth to an unstoppable wave of hope inside him.

"Let me be clear, whatever happens from now on, you owe me."

Flying Demon couldn't understand how a rank 4 cultivator in the gaseous stage could generate so much pressure, but he nodded nonetheless.

Noah let the spirit automaton scan Dreaming Demon's condition at that point and listened to its analysis inside his mind.

"You'd better pay me back."

Noah said with a sigh as he took out something from his space-ring.

A simple-looking transparent bottle that seemed to have nothing in its insides appeared in his grasp.

However, the aura of a rank 5 drug spread in the hall as soon as it appeared in the open.

Chapter 646 646. Decisions

Divine Demon's inheritance had given Noah a large stash of potions and pills that targeted the three centers of power.

However, Divine Demon had kept everything in the sixth rank and above with him when he ascended, leaving only the resources up to the fifth rank in his inheritance.

Yet, the resources in the heroic ranks were limited, Noah only had a few pills and potions in the fourth rank.

As for those in the fifth rank, he only had three of them, one for each center of power.

Noah treasured them, they could act as lifesavers in situations that would inevitably lead to his death.

Nevertheless, he had decided to take one of them out in the separate dimension hidden under the mystical fog.

Noah didn't accept to remain trapped for centuries in that poor environment, but he didn't delude himself into thinking that he could survive the Tribulations by himself.

He needed the help of the two rank 5 existences that had once been the leaders of the unorthodox sects of the Papral nation.

His space-ring was a rank 6 inscribed item, and its spirit automaton could evaluate a countless number of resources, as well as how effective they could be in certain situations.

Noah had summoned it to analyze Dreaming Demon's condition, and its diagnosis dictated that only a rank 5 medicine that targeted the sea of consciousness could fix her issue.

'This could save my life one day, but I would be forced to stay in this place for centuries if I don't use it. It's just a matter of staying true to my individuality. Resources are just a tool on the path toward power.'

Noah suppressed the remaining traces of hesitation inside him and opened the bottle while turning it upside down.

The bottle seemed empty, but both Noah and Flying Demon could sense that a warm and invisible substance fell on Dreaming Demon and enveloped her sea of consciousness.

Flying Demon gasped at that sight but forced himself to remain silent.

It was as if he was worried that the slight sound might affect the process.

On the other side, Noah completely focused.

Awakening Dreaming Demon was a risk, he didn't know her personality nor her actual power.

He didn't even know if her abilities worked in that place!

However, the separate dimension was too large, and searching for the exit through the barrage of lightning wasn't possible.

He needed her skills to discover the location of the exit.

Dreaming Demon's eyelids twitched as the invisible substance healed her anthropized mental sphere, and a soft moan resounded in the hall.

Flying Demon's tired eyes had widened when he heard her voice again after such a long time, and his whole body trembled when he saw his lover opening her eyes.

Tears fell from his eyes and cracked the skin under them as they traced wet lines across his face.

His body was so weak that even pure tears of joy wounded it, but he didn't seem to care.

His gaze was fixed on the woman that was slowly straightening herself and analyzing her surroundings with a confused gaze.

Dreaming Demon's eyes first noticed Noah staring at her with a cold gaze, but they then landed on the skeletal elder seated on the floating throne.

Her confusion seemed to increase when she saw Flying Demon, but she didn't move her gaze from him.

Clarity slowly returned to her expression, but it was soon replaced by sorrow.

"Arthur, what have you done?"

Dreaming Demon spoke, and her broken voice anticipated the arrival of her tears.

Yet, Flying Demon's mouth formed an ugly smile as he gave an honest answer.

"Everything I needed to do to keep you alive."

The sides of Flying Demon's mouth cracked when he smiled, his body wasn't even able to endure such a natural expression of happiness.

Dreaming Demon stretched her hand toward her lover, but she quickly retracted it.

She was too worried that her simple touch would be enough to make Flying Demon's body crumble.

The duo stared at each other in silence, and their expressions radiated countless emotions.

Noah closed his eyes for a moment when he saw the scene of their reunion, and two pills had appeared in his hands when he reopened them.

"Heal, catch up, make up for the time lost. We'll face the Tribulations when you are ready."

The two pills were rank 4 drugs that targeted the body and dantian, and Noah threw them on the large bed as he said those words.

Then, he flew away from the castle and left the two lovers alone.

He had given the two rank 5 elders everything they needed to recover, but he couldn't do anything about their individuality.

Dreaming Demon had only slept for that period, but Flying Demon had sacrificed his body for a thousand years.

That process was bound to leave lasting cracks in his personality, and it would be up to him to face and solve them.

'They'll heal faster in each other's arms. I can't do anything else for them. Also, I need to focus on myself.'

Noah thought as he flew toward a random area in the prairie at some distance from the castles and landed on its fake terrain.

Giving orders to rank 5 existences, using his stash of potions to heal them, and his resolution to face the Tribulations instead of waiting weren't only decisions taken due to that situation.

They were expressions of his individuality and his growth as a cultivator.

He would have never given up on such precious drugs when he was only a lone cultivator, and he would have never chosen to take the dangerous path when a safe one was available.

Those decisions showed what he was slowly becoming as he explored his depths, and as he absorbed the laws of the darkness element.

His bloodline gave him the pride of a leader, which allowed him to see benefits that empowering his organization could bring.

His unwillingness to be suppressed and his anger toward Heaven and Earth led him to challenge the Tribulations, even if his power didn't seem able to defeat them.

Those decisions ultimately affected his mindset that reflected its insights on his dantian.

Noah had instinctively flown in that empty area since his body had noticed the changes inside his dantian before his mind could.

Gaseous "Breath" kept on accumulating inside his dantian, and a large amount of the laws that the darkness element carried began to fuse with its walls.

Noah felt the absorption speed of his cultivation technique increase before stopping all of a sudden.

The muscles on his low waist churned and squeezed his dantian, which began to contract.

The gaseous "Breath" inside his center of power condensed and started to transform.

Little by little, the black shining cloud inside Noah's dantian became a slim black drop that radiated a sharp pressure.

Chapter 647 647. Spreading sharpness

Rank 4 dantian in the liquid stage!

Noah had finally reached the next stage after almost ten years of continuous cultivation!

'The time required for each breakthrough can only increase as my rank rises. I can only accept the fact that I'm moving forward as fast as I can.'

Noah thought as he analyzed the drop of liquid "Breath" inside his dantian.

His center of power had condensed the "Breath" on its own.

The pressure generated by the muscles in his low waist had been enough to imitate the effects of a reagent.

Noah's mental energy had changed, so it was understandable that his dantian had gone through some modifications too.

The sturdiness of its walls was just one of its new features, and the lack of hindrances during a breakthrough seemed to be another one of them.

However, Noah was too interested in the nature of his new "Breath" to ponder about those features.

The black drop inside his center of power shone with a constant dark light, but its shape and the aura that it radiated made it appear different from the usual "Breath".

The drop was slim and sharp, and it could be easily mistaken for a metal shard if it wasn't for its liquid features.

Noah calmly waited for his cultivation technique to absorb more "Breath" so that he could inspect its nature better.

His dantian didn't try to stabilize, it directly began to enlarge after the breakthrough.

Noah didn't stop that process since his organ didn't show any signs of instability, he was actually interested in seeing if there even were limits to how much stress it could endure.

"Breath" accumulated inside his center of power, but it didn't follow the usual behavior that the energy on that stage should have.

Generally speaking, the liquid "Breath" would form some sort of lake that filled the entirety of the dantian and pushed its walls to expand.

Yet, Noah could only see how the drop didn't take a spherical form and only grew in size.

'A metal shard is slowly turning into a saber.'

That conclusion didn't surprise him.

Noah had wielded sabers since the early stages of the childhood of his second life.

Also, he didn't abandon the martial arts due to a series of events, leading him to be one of the few heroic cultivators that still fought while wielding weapons.

After all, heroic cultivators would need inscribed weapons able to endure their might if they wanted to use martial arts that matched their level.

Rank 4 inscribed weapons could still be found quite easily if those existences had good backing, but those in the fifth rank were on a completely different level.

It took a rank 5 cultivator to handle rank 5 materials, and there weren't many beings on that level and with the required skill that would create weapons for others.

Only the Utra nation was somewhat advanced in that field due to its consistent investments in the inscriptions' fields, but even that big nation would have to face the expenses of such precious materials.

However, Noah's inscription method was peculiar, and his core material was his body.

The losses linked to a failure in the creation of an inscribed weapon would be more limited compared to those of other inscription masters.

Noah had wielded sabers for most of his life even if he added his previous life to the sum, and it wasn't a surprise that his individuality would take a similar form.

'I wonder what other effects does it have.'

Noah thought as he controlled his liquid "Breath" move at the center of his palm.

The sharp drop appeared on his open hand and began to radiate its innate aura when it came in contact with the outside world.

Violent and slim waves spread from the floating drop and affected the fabric of the separate dimension.

Noah saw how the air around the drop began to destabilize under that aura.

The destabilization continued until the air fell apart and turned into primary energy similar to that in his Liquid dantian.

Noah continued to watch that process and activated the Divine deduction technique to analyze the details that his normal awareness might miss.

'The separate dimension is made of "Breath", and the destruction of its structure would obviously release that energy. However, the aura radiated by the drop acts as the absorption process of my body, it directly turns everything in its most basic form.'

The analysis led Noah to that conclusion.

His liquid "Breath" had taken the shape of a saber and radiated a spreading sharpness.

Still, it seemed that the violence of the magical beasts had affected the natural behavior that a blade was supposed to have.

Noah inhaled and forcefully absorbed the primary energy created by the drop.

Most of that energy seeped in his body and fused with it, but some of it even entered the dark whirlpool in his dantian.

The energy didn't increase its size though, it fused with its walls and disappeared without leaving any trace.

It was at that point that understanding dawned upon Noah.

'I'm a sword that cuts through the world of Heaven and Earth. My very existence radiates their flaws, which I naturally spread as I keep on living. Also, what I affect can become mine if I want!'

The breakthrough to the liquid stage gave Noah a clear view of his existence.

'My first meaning in the Elemental forging method was a sword, that is my shape. A sword that destroys to obtain the basic energy to create, and that, one day, would be strong enough to exude its own basic energy.'

Noah stood up at that point.

He felt as if his mind had just been able to fuse the two worlds that his hybrid status represented.

'A sword for the humans and voracity for the magical beasts. Together, they make a weapon that innately destabilizes the world to open a path for creations outside of Heaven and Earth's grasp.'

Noah looked at his right arm, but he quickly suppressed the idea of forging a rank 5 Demonic sword.

His breakthrough gave him a more abundant energy pool, but it didn't raise his battle prowess since the latter originated from his Liquid dantian.

Yet, it showed him where all his accumulated experiences had led him, the form that he had taken after all his adventures.

There was a newfound clarity in his mind, and Noah enjoyed it for a few instants before deciding to begin his preparations.

The Tribulation at the center of the separate dimension was extremely dangerous, and he would have to face many of them before reaching the opposite area.

Noah had initially planned to focus on his offensive spells since his body provided an exceptional form of defense already.

Still, the situation required him to further improve in that aspect.

So, he decided to begin the modifications to the Black hole spell's translated diagram.

Chapter 648 648. Visitor

The effects radiated by his liquid "Breath" would spread to his techniques and spells when Noah used it as its fuel.

He noticed that when he began to test the modifications that he made on the will representing the diagram of the Black hole spell.

The dark sphere would autonomously absorb part of the "Breath" in the air around it since the sharpness radiated by its form destroyed it.

Of course, those effects were still barely noticeable.

Noah's individuality had just begun to affect his centers of power, that was only his second step toward the higher levels of the heroic ranks.

However, it was enough to set a direction.

The effects of his liquid "Breath" weren't carried by the energy stored inside his Liquid dantian, but Noah could guess how they would become a core aspect of his battle prowess in the future.

Tuning his abilities to his individuality was necessary if he wanted to wield the full power that his entity was able to express.

Yet, that was something that could only happen when his dantian reached the solid stage and matched the energy stored inside the Liquid dantian.

Noah spent weeks alone in that empty spot of the separate dimension to test the modifications on the Black hole spell.

He intended to fuse its diagram with that of the Dark blast spell to create an attack that could use the energy absorbed while defending to fuel a powerful offensive.

He was even trying to add a lasting effect to that attack to suit the dangerous situation that he chose to face better.

Flying through a barrage of powerful lightning bolts would surely exhaust his reserves of energy.

Still, that issue could be somewhat mitigated if he managed to use the power of the Tribulation to his advantage.

Nevertheless, the diagram of the Black hole spell could express a power up to the fifth rank.

Modifying and perfecting it wasn't something that could be done in a matter of weeks.

The two rank 5 elders didn't show themselves in that period, but Noah wasn't worried that they wouldn't agree to his decision.

He had seen how fond Flying Demon was of Dreaming Demon, and Noah had managed to give her back to him.

Dreaming Demon seemed to share the same deep feeling, so Noah was sure that they would feel compelled to follow his lead.

They were rank 5 cultivators, their individuality was formed, and they couldn't just forsake it.

Their feelings were real, so they had to follow them, or the foundation on which their power was built would shake.

A few more weeks had to pass before Noah had a visitor.

Dreaming Demon left the castle and flew toward the young-looking heroic cultivator that was creating dark spheres in the air around him.

There was some respect in her expression when she reached for Noah, and also evident traces of gratitude.

"Demon Prince of the Chasing demon sect, words can't express how grateful Flying Demon and I are for your help."

Dreaming Demon said as she performed a deep bow when she landed behind Noah.

She didn't straighten her posture even after a few minutes had passed, and she seemed willing to maintain her bow until he said otherwise.

On the other hand, Noah didn't give much importance to those formalities.

The feelings conveyed through her words were enough for him, what mattered next was her skill.

"It's Hive now, the Chasing demon sect doesn't exist anymore. The sect has fused with the other underground organizations of the Coral archipelago after claiming its independence and became the fourth force in the Mortal Lands."

Noah said as he turned and gestured to the elder to abandon that polite bow.

"Chasing Demon, the Patriarch, ordered me to look for the remains of the demon sects, which ultimately led me here. The power of the Hive would increase by a lot if you elders were to join it."

Noah briefly explained while hinting that he wanted to recruit the two Demons.

Adding two rank 5 cultivators to the Hive would make its power skyrocket, especially if those two entities were the Demons that had once ruled half of the Papral nation.

Generally speaking, their potential was similar to Chasing Demon's, they could very well strive for the sixth rank if they managed to recover from their injuries.

"No need to worry. Chasing Demon is a friend, and we own our lives to the Hive. I've already discussed the matter with Flying Demon. We'll follow you through the lightning storm and pay you back if we survive."

Noah nodded when he heard Dreaming Demon's words, that was precisely what he wanted to hear.

"Flying Demon said that you divined this place with your abilities. I need you to discover the location of the exit, and I need you to be as precise as possible. Can you do it?"

Dreaming Demon closed her eyes after Noah's question and spread her consciousness on the area around her.

Her mental waves stretched far beyond the capabilities of Noah's mind, the power of a rank 5 mage was on a completely different level.

Her mental waves though seemed different from the normal ones.

They were thin and almost imperceptible, they gently seeped into the structure of the separate dimension and disappeared inside its matter.

Even Dreaming Demon's consciousness became thinner during the process, Noah couldn't help but think that her mind was leaving her body.

Then, she suddenly retracted all her mental waves inside her sea of consciousness and reopened her eyes.

Her gaze slowly regained some focus, but some drowsiness could be seen in her expression when she returned completely conscious.

"This dimension is frail. I can easily investigate it."

Dreaming Demon said when she analyzed the information carried by the retracted mental waves, but she felt the need to explain further when she saw that Noah's expression remained stern.

"I can fuse my consciousness with the world around me for a brief period. Heaven and Earth are nighomniscient, I can see through their eyes when I fuse with the outside world and take glances at the future. However, this dimension is outside of their domain. I can only look into it when I'm inside it."

Her explanation was quite detailed, and Noah had to suppress his amazement when he heard it.

Dreaming Demon didn't have the ability to divine future events, that feature was a consequence of the fusion of her consciousness with Heaven and Earth!

'No wonder she kept on sleeping even after one thousand years, I can't imagine the kind of drawbacks that such an ability has.'

Noah thought as he gave voice to another question.

"Did you find the exit?"

Dreaming Demon shook her head while giving a simple answer.

"My mental sphere has yet to recover completely. I will only risk falling asleep again if I investigate further. I need some time, and Flying Demon needs it too."

"There is no hurry, and time is all we have right now. Focus on returning to your peak. We can prepare later."

Noah said after her reply, and she performed a bow before leaving to return to the castles.

Chapter 649 649. Recovery

The injuries of the two rank 5 cultivators were severe.

They couldn't heal in a matter of weeks.

Dreaming Demon had been asleep for a thousand years, and her sea of consciousness had become extremely fragile in that period.

Noah's rank 5 potion had been able to awaken her and restore some of her abilities, but she still needed some time.

On the other hand, Flying Demon's situation was far worse.

He had used his body to feed the commoners and rank 1 cultivators to accumulate the energy needed for Dreaming Demon's awakening, reaching a point where even his tears could break his skin.

Also, his dantian had been wounded during his exploration of the central areas of the dimension.

Most of the assets of the demon sects had been lost during the exile, and he didn't have drugs that could solve his injury.

He would have been healed by now if he had just rested, but he needed to keep on weakening his body for Dreaming Demon's sake.

That constant weakening had stopped the natural healing of his dantian and further worsened his situation.

That would have ultimately led to his death, but Flying Demon didn't care about it as long as he managed to keep his lover alive.

The rank 4 pills that Noah had given him weren't enough to fix his center of power, but they would be enough to make the healing process start again.

Noah learnt about the details concerning their state since Dreaming Demon kept on visiting him every few weeks.

She seemed set on keeping him updated about their conditions, and Noah took those chances to inform her about the events that had happened while their sects were trapped inside the separate dimension.

Dreaming Demon did the same and shared specific details about the exile from the Papral nation that only someone who had seen it with its own eyes could know.

It turned out that the twelve demon sects were quite close before the exile and shared most of their discoveries.

That behavior was to be expected since their leaders were all disciples of Divine Demon, which was also why Ravaging Demon's betrayal managed to produce such a drastic outcome.

Yet, that was the reason why Flying Demon knew the techniques of the Bleeding demon sect and could turn his body into nourishment for the commoners and rank 1 cultivators.

The technique to gather the special energy to make Dreaming Demon's recover was included in that too.

Their conversations even uncovered the reasons why Noah owned such powerful drugs.

"So, Master's inheritance is what ultimately led to the independence of the Coral archipelago. No wonder Chasing Demon gave you the title of Demon Prince when you were only a human cultivator. He was the most respectful of us toward Master."

Dreaming Demon commented when Noah told her about the events under the Great Whirlpool.

Of course, Noah kept the matter concerning the Divine deduction technique a secret, not even June knew about it.

It couldn't be helped, the presence of a divine technique in the Mortal Lands was something that could turn the entire world against him.

Noah believed that even his incredible body-nourishing technique wouldn't cause the same chaos as the inscriptions on the walls of his mental sphere.

After all, the creations and modifications of his techniques, methods, and spells went smoothly because of the Divine deduction technique!

No other cultivator could match his number of successes in such a short time and with his same cultivation level.

One technique made him able to develop his current battle prowess, every heroic cultivator in the world would kill to obtain it.

Then, during his fourth month inside the separate dimension, Noah saw that Dreaming Demon had come to visit him with her lover.

Noah had become used to the sight of the Tribulations by then, and he had seen how they happened exactly every week just as Flying Demon had explained.

However, he was still surprised when he saw how the drugs and the period of rest had benefitted the rank 5 elder.

Flying Demon was standing on his own feet as he walked on the prairie.

Dreaming Demon was next to him, ready to help if a complication or a sudden worsening of his condition was to happen.

Flying Demon's body still appeared skinny and fragile, but a rosy color had begun to fill his pale skin.

A few strands of muscles had grown back, and he had cut his long beard.

His long hair showed some tinge of blackness, and he managed to keep his eyelids open without looking drowsy.

He was clearly recovering at a fast pace.

"I must say, you hide wonders in that space-ring. Master's drugs are one thing, but the magical beasts' corpses... How many of them do you even have? Do they all come from that new continent?"

Flying Demon asked with a smile on his face.

Noah had provided some of the corpses inside his space-ring to feed the elders and replace the source of blood for the commoners.

The fact that Flying Demon had managed to survive without eating anything for one thousand years didn't mean that he didn't need to do it.

He had simply pushed himself over his limits for his lover, which was probably the reason why he had managed to remain sane despite the helpless situation.

"Yes, you will see it once we come out of this place. The Hive has moved its headquarters there since the old continent doesn't have room for a fourth force. How much until you both return to your peak?"

Noah said when the two elders arrived behind him.

He had been lost in his training and tests during those months, and he used his stash of rank 4 magical beasts to appease his hunger.

The few months spent in that way had passed in less than an instant in his mind.

He barely noticed them.

Yet, he still wanted to have a clear idea about that situation.

Waiting even a few years wasn't an issue, but a clear schedule might make him decide to focus on certain spells rather than on others.

Also, the nature of his "Breath" had given him ideas for a second form of his Dragon's claw martial art.

So, he wanted to understand how much it would take to begin the crossing.

"Dreaming Demon is almost back to her peak. She just needs to gather the energy from the sleeping commoners and cultivators for a few more weeks. I might need a few years though."

Flying Demon answered, and Noah simply nodded at the duo.

The elder had just confirmed his suspects, and Noah didn't hesitate to decide that he would improve all his skills in that period.

Chapter 650 650. Plan

Waiting for both elders to return to their peak took some years, and Noah didn't mind it.

He had just reached the liquid stage, and there wouldn't be other breakthroughs anytime soon.

That left him with a lot of free time to dedicate to his abilities.

Noah had many spells in his possession, but only a few of them were suitable to be modified.

The diagram of the Demonic form spread on the Kesier runes that floated over the sea inside his mind, and Noah didn't even try to translate it.

That spell was connected with the Kesier runes, which brought the level of difficulty of the diagram on a higher level and a different inscription field.

Noah didn't know much about runes and formations, his expertise only covered the wills.

The body-inscription spell had the same issue.

It used many teachings belonging to the formations' field to work, which he couldn't modify.

On the other hand, the Ethereal form spell was simply incompatible with his new body.

The amount of energy that it would require to turn his body ethereal would surpass what he was able to provide even if he modified the spell.

That high cost in terms of energies made the diagram unworthy of being translated, its effects didn't match its requirements.

As for the Death area spell, Noah just gave up on it.

That ability didn't suit his fighting style, and its effects were only average, there was no point in wasting time over something that he wouldn't use.

However, he modified the rest of his spells during those years and even added a second form to his Dragon's claw martial art.

He was ready to face the Tribulations after four years spent in the separate dimension.

He was set on starting the crossing as soon as the elders finished their preparations.

Flying Demon had recovered in those years.

His hair had wholly returned to their original black color as his body kept on improving.

His dantian had healed too in that period.

The elder had reached the state in which he was before the exile of the demon sects.

Dreaming Demon was even better off.

Her sea of consciousness had returned to her peak, and her cultivation level had improved as she waited for her lover to recover.

She had even used her ability to discover the location of the exit, which turned out to be right under the mountain chain that divided the areas of influence of the Empire and the Utra nation.

Flying Demon's deductions seemed to be on point.

It was probable that the mountain chain and the mystical fog had been created by Heaven and Earth to invade the separate dimension with their will.

As for the commoners and the rank 1 cultivators, Dreaming Demon decided to kill them after the energy expended for her last divination had been replenished.

The elders and Noah were set on crossing an area that saw Tribulations happening every week.

The power of the barrage of lightning next to their area resembled that of a rank 4 Heaven Tribulation.

Still, its might reached the sixth rank in the central zones.

Those humans couldn't survive the crossing, and the three heroic cultivators didn't have methods to carry them alongside their journey.

Also, they would starve to death without Flying Demon performing the techniques of the Bleeding demon sect on his body or the magical beasts' corpses.

Leaving them there without any form of food would just lead to ugly situations, so Dreaming Demon decided to kill them as soon as they had fulfilled their role.

The only issue at that point was that the elders didn't leave the castles for months after they had completely recovered.

Noah didn't mind it at the beginning, but the environment of the separate dimension could only offer a constant stillness that couldn't benefit his individuality in any way.

He had often pondered about the destructive nature of the Tribulations since his liquid "Breath" radiated similar effects.

Still, even that majestic sight became annoying to look at after so many years.

Noah wanted to leave, he wanted to travel and immerse himself in some wild environment.

Also, he wanted to forge.

His individuality spread destruction and left behind basic energy similar to that accumulated inside his Liquid dantian.

Noah wanted to make use of that energy to implement a form of creation in his individuality, something that could eventually bring him to forge his own darkness element.

That project was ambitious and was probably impossible to complete at his current level.

However, Noah believed that to be his path, and there could only be benefits in starting to tread it as soon as possible.

Yet, the sound of soft moans reached his ears when he decided to fly to the castles to see what the elders were up to.

'I guess they couldn't catch up properly when they were still injured. Well, I can't blame them after I did the same with June.'

Noah sighed when he thought that, and returned to his spot in the prairie.

He could just fight his boredom by increasing the amount of time spent pondering about his individuality and training, he would have done the same in the outside world after all.

The elders decided to come out of the castles after a few months, and both of them wore stern expressions as they reached for Noah.

"We have stored the castles and sorted everything. We are ready."

Noah nodded we he heard Flying Demon's words and ignored the traces of satisfaction hidden behind their expressions as he explained his plan.

The Tribulations happened every week, and they had to cross an area as vast as the area of influence of the Empire.

The elders were rank 5 cultivators, and Noah could rely on the Shadow sprint martial art to somewhat match their speed, which meant that they could reach the other side in less than two months.

Less than two months meant six or seven Tribulations, depending on how fast they actually were.

The lightning bolts in the fourth rank didn't scare the group, and those in the fifth rank could be endured with their power and Noah's stash of protective items.

However, the Tribulations that reached the power of the sixth rank had to be avoided if they wanted to survive.

"It's clear that we have to face some Tribulations, but we can choose which one we have to endure."

Noah began to explain, and the elders added their opinions to the plan.

The final strategy saw the group facing two rank 4 Tribulations and four rank 5 Tribulations to reach the other side where the exit was.

The journey wouldn't be easy, but it was better than facing the lightning bolts with the power of the sixth rank.

When everything was set, the three of them flew toward the borders of the safe area and waited for the next Tribulation to arrive.

Their sprint would begin as soon as the weekly barrage of lightning bolts ended.