

DEMONIC 671

[Chapter 671 671. Limi](#)

The scroll in Noah's hands described how Ravaging Demon had obtained his title due to that spell.

The spell had to be used together with other abilities.

It was fueled by the destruction that the user had previously unleashed on the environment around him.

'This is similar to my individuality but also quite different.'

Noah thought as he browsed through the contents of the scroll.

The spell used the destruction previously accumulated to launch a potent attack.

However, Noah destroyed to obtain the primary energy to create.

One created an endless offensive while the other was a perpetual cycle.

Also, Noah had yet to decide what he would create.

His idea was to forge his darkness, but only countless tests could reveal if that idea were doable.

There were a couple of issues with Ravaging Demon's spell too.

First of all, the diagram wasn't complete.

The expert hired by Chasing Demon had only been able to copy part of it, and those lines couldn't even work in that form.

Then, there was a problem with its element.

Ravaging Demon had a fire aptitude, and the lines of that spell would produce the intended effects only when "Breath" of the fire element was used to fuel them.

Generally speaking, cultivators could use the abilities of different elements, but their effects would be far weaker.

Sometimes they wouldn't even work due to the contrast between the lines and the different elements.

Their diagrams couldn't even be copied or translated for a different element since they were created for a specific aptitude.

That left Noah empty-handed for the moment.

However, the helplessness about his situation didn't appear in his expression.

Instead, the Demons could see that he was itching to test all the ideas that he had in his mind.

"Your mission is completed, and your new quarters have already been built. Just go, we'll keep you updated on the matters concerning the outside world."

Chasing Demon said with a smile, and Noah didn't hesitate to stand up.

He didn't hunt for almost five years, and he had only accumulated knowledge and inspirations since his return from the separate dimension.

He couldn't wait anymore.

He wanted to start paving his road toward the higher ranks!

All his abilities had been improved, and his individuality had even influenced his "Breath".

Now, it was time to resume the advance that had been momentarily stopped by that series of social events.

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The period of peace on the new continent continued, and no significant battles happened in the old landmass either.

The four forces of the Mortal Lands had too much to do, and a lot of time, they could only benefit from the absence of external threats and wars, especially after the crisis of the winged beasts.

The four nations further expanded their domains on the piece of Immortal Lands, and they reached the point where only the central areas were still untouched.

The battle between the existences at the peak of the heroic ranks had thoroughly modified those lands.

The environment was still stabilizing.

The terrain had absorbed the toxic water and stopped shaking, but forms of life had yet to appear.

The four forces were mainly ignoring those zones since they were useless in that stage.

Magical beasts would migrate there at some point, and some lifeforms would naturally appear due to all the energy contained in those lands.

Many experts even hoped for mutations and similar consequences to happen.

The piece of Immortal Lands was full of "Breath" and rank 6 existences had unleashed attacks fueled by their individualities in their battle.

Mutations were to be expected, and there could even be an entirely new species of magical plants and beasts in a few centuries!

That period of peace even benefitted the cultivation world in its entirety.

Many commoners would obtain the chance to start cultivating since all the forces suffered from a lack of manpower.

The areas habitable by human cultivators enlarged to make room for those new arrivals, and that increase in the population helped in keeping the density of "Breath" in check.

The new continent was in the Mortal Lands after all, and it was bound to reach the usual energy standards of a lower plane slowly.

That wouldn't happen even in centuries, but the constant absorption of the "Breath" in the air would ultimately turn the piece of Immortal Lands in a simple landmass.

Of course, the four nations didn't care about that event, nor did they try to behave in a controlled manner.

Obtaining as many benefits as possible in the shortest amount of time was always the best approach if the consequences of that act would only hit them thousands of years in the future.

Organizations in the Mortal Lands remained in power only for a few millennia on average, why would they care about the issues that the future rulers would face?

Even the mighty Shandal Empire fell and rose every once in a while, and the same happened to the forces of the other two nations.

For example, King Elbas could ruin his centers of power as he pursued his individuality or simply manage to reach the divine ranks.

That would leave the Elbas family without its powerhouse, which would inevitably start its decline.

Noah knew that too well, especially after he had browsed through part of the knowledge of the Mortal Palace.

He had immediately reached for his new quarters after the Demons had given him what was left of the demon sects.

His new habitation had turned out to be an underground area built under the new invisible dome created in the territory between the snowy mountain and the lava lake.

Chasing Demon had directly left that land and all the human cultivators living inside the dome under his control.

Of course, Noah didn't use his time to manage the city inside his dome but left everything to Elder Jason, who had volunteered to join him in that area.

The same went for Bruce and his lover Sarah who had moved to the new continent when Noah was still inside the separate dimension.

The forces of the Hive were slowly dividing themselves between the four domes, but many expected a fifth one to appear in the desert in the following years.

Meanwhile, Noah had simply secluded himself in his underground quarters.

His activities covered his usual training and some meditation about his individuality.

Yet, he spent most of his time experimenting with the primary energy that his "Breath" created when it destroyed the matter around it.

He intended to use that energy as his core material for any sort of forging.

After all, magical beasts did the same with their bodies, so Noah knew that it was possible to create something with that energy.

However, he still failed in reaching any form of success even when one year had passed since his first attempt.

Doubts began to mount in the solitude of his quarters as failures piled up on each other, and a question couldn't help but appear in his mind at some point.

'Is this a limit of my inscription method?'

[Chapter 672 672. Laws](#)

Noah began to question himself about the potential of the Elemental forging method during his seclusion.

His assumption was a bit hurried since he had only spent one year on his experiments after all.

Yet, those doubts couldn't help but appear when he saw that he didn't make any progress in his project.

He knew that creating a personal version of the darkness element was an ambitious plan, which was probably above what his expertise and power could handle.

However, making no progress at all opened the possibility that he was using the wrong approach on the matter.

Noah silently stared at the primary energy generated whenever he released part of his liquid "Breath".

Wills and thick mental waves came out of his sea of consciousness and tried to change the nature of that energy.

Nevertheless, that primary energy was too slim and couldn't carry meanings.

Noah's efforts just pushed it farther away until it dispersed in the environment.

Then, Noah released some of his Liquid "Breath" again, and his half-transparent figure neared the walls of his mental sphere to absorb the primary energy created in the process.

Noah almost didn't feel any pressure when that energy entered his mind, but he was used to that feature by then.

The energy entered the sea, but nothing had changed in its structure when it resurfaced.

'One year has passed, but I can't even take the first step. Meanings aren't enough. I need laws.'

Noah thought as he dispersed that energy back in the environment.

He had repeated those processes for one year, but he still failed in imbuing his will inside that material.

He had tried everything, from creating a solution of Liquid "Breath" and primary energy, to fuse the new material with various items directly.

The outcome was always the same: He couldn't control that energy, he could only absorb it.

That had never happened to him during his past forgings.

There would be different outcomes of slight signs of progress with his past creations, even when he created his cultivation technique.

He would progressively find flaws and fix them until the final product became somewhat stable.

That wasn't happening with the primary energy.

Noah felt as if he was hitting a wall every time he attempted to bend that material to his will.

He felt as if he was using usual blacksmithing tools to modify atoms!

That outcome led him to evaluate two hypotheses.

The first one saw his mental sphere unable to use wills that could affect the primary energy.

Simple wills and meanings could change the structure of the "Breath", but it seemed that only laws could give a shape to that primordial power.

That led him to accept that his sea of consciousness was still too weak.

However, he didn't give up on using that energy so connected with his individuality, which made him work on his second hypothesis.

'The Elemental forging method has limits like every inscription method. It might not be suitable for this practice, or it might just be imperfect at its core. I need to talk with the automaton.'

Noah concluded in his mind and immediately left his underground quarters while sending a series of mental messages.

The elders quickly set a meeting with Thirty-seven, who had been extremely busy in the last year.

The Hive had used the automaton to review their formations and improve them thoroughly.

Thirty-seven did a fantastic job in that task, and the Hive invested a lot of resources to apply all the enhancements proposed by him.

Also, the Hive had even purchased many studies in the inscriptions' fields to improve the knowledge of the automation.

After all, Thirty-seven had stopped learning six thousand years ago, and the cultivation world had advanced in that period.

The Hive couldn't allow him to remain in that state since the future of its inscription masters depended on him.

So, Thirty-seven obtained many tomes and scrolls and instantly became one of the most knowledgeable existence about inscriptions in the entirety of the Mortal Lands.

Some elders even believed that there wasn't a single being in possession of so much information, but that only organizations could match his knowledge!

Noah reached for the desert after the lava lake and landed on the ground when he saw the ethereal man.

The automaton held a tome open in his right hand and drew with a long, black stick on the yellow sand of the desert.

He seemed focused on some kind of project, but he didn't fail to notice Noah's arrival.

"Make it quick. Your Patriarch has promised me a lost script of the Lesser demon sect if I manage to help you!"

Thirty-seven said when Noah landed next to him.

'Lesser demon sect? Is Chasing Demon scamming him now?'

Noah suppressed that thought as he took a pile of books from his space-ring.

The books were old and still carried traces of Ivor's awful smell, but the automaton didn't care about it and quickly browsed through their contents.

Those old pages contained all the studies of the Elemental forging method that Noah still carried with him since Ivor passed down his teachings.

However, it had been a long time since Noah used them as a reference.

No other cultivator that he knew of had reached his cultivation level while using that inscription method, so Noah couldn't find anything helpful anymore in that knowledge.

Thirty-seven read the more than twenty books in less than a minute, and took about forty seconds to sort out the information contained inside them,

He was a rank 6 automaton programmed for inscriptions.

His learning capabilities would scare even rank 6 cultivators when it came to his field of expertise.

"So, what do you want?"

Thirty-seven asked as he handed back Ivor's books.

"Do you think that it's flawed?"

Noah asked while storing back everything in his space-ring.

The automaton snorted at his question, but his answer left Noah quite surprised.

"Of course! This method is vague in so many aspects, but I think it's some kind of requirement in this case. The inscriptions would be extremely personal after all. You can't have a set discipline for that."

Noah attentively listened to his words.

He was expecting the automaton to list an endless number of flaws and possible improvements, but what happened was precisely the opposite.

'The Elemental forging method must remain flawed, or it wouldn't be suitable for the various meanings of the cultivators. It makes sense, but it doesn't solve my issue.'

Noah wielded his saber as he thought that and released part of his "Breath" to create the primary energy that he had tried to modify in the last year.

"I want to use this energy, but my wills don't affect it in the slightest."

The automation understood what Noah wanted after those words, but his intentions made him laugh.

Noah didn't mind that reaction since he knew that his project was ambitious, even if his mind was reaching the upper stages of the fourth rank.

Yet, Thirty-seven confirmed his hypothesis with his next words.

"That's the realm of the gods. You need laws."

[Chapter 673 673. Will-consuming runes](#)

Noah already knew that, but learning that the issue wasn't with his inscription method only led him to ask another question.

"Isn't there some way to modify this energy?"

Noah was already making use of it through his Liquid dantian, and his body naturally absorbed it.

There had to be ways that didn't only treat it as a source of power, a way to use it as the material to build something outside of Heaven and Earth's domain.

However, Thirty-seven didn't give Noah any hope.

"No. You would have to reconstruct the matter and force it to work in a certain pattern. Only laws can set those rules, and that's not something that you can do with your current level."

Noah fell silent when he heard those words.

He wasn't so delusional to believe that he could prove the automaton wrong.

The latter was pure knowledge, and he could only accept his opinion.

Nevertheless, Noah wasn't ready to give up yet.

'Creation has many forms. I'll simply take another path until I'm able to forge my darkness.'

Noah thought as Ravaging Demon's spell appeared in his mind.

That ability was too in line with his individuality to neglect it due to the differences in the element.

Noah could already spread destruction and release energy with it, and he only needed a method to turn that power in an attack.

The Elemental forging method had already proven itself unsuitable in that aspect, and his wills couldn't cover a vast area.

He needed something else, and the automaton was the only one who could give him a broad explanation of his possibilities.

"Let's say that I would like to use this energy before it disperses in the environment. What are my options?"

Noah asked, and Thirty-seven closed his eyes for a second before reopening them and giving an answer.

"There are more than eleven thousand approaches that cover inscriptions, runes, and formations. Do you want to hear more about them?"

Noah immediately shook his head and decided to be more specific with his next question.

"I need something that allows me to use it during a battle, without long casting periods. Also, it would be ideal if it was similar to my current inscription method."

Thirty-seven took a bit more to answer at that time, but it didn't fail to provide some options.

"I know two inscription methods and a school of runes that might please you. Would you like to hear more about them?"

Noah nodded, and the automaton began his explanation, describing in great detail the features of the three schools.

The two inscription methods didn't interest Noah that much.

The first one used small formations fueled with strong wills that could be quickly deployed if a cultivator had previously prepared them.

Yet, Noah knew the difficulty of becoming a formation master thanks to June, and the thought of spending decades in expanding his knowledge of the needed materials didn't interest him.

Also, he would need to prepare the formations before every battle, expending a large number of precious materials every time.

That didn't suit his combat style at all since Noah mainly pursued sheer power that had no limitations.

The second method applied the theories behind the Attunement method, which forced part of the world around him to affect the energy inside a set area.

However, Noah couldn't understand Heaven and Earth's words even if he wanted to, so he quickly discarded that option too.

Instead, the school of runes was quite interesting.

The cultivator would have to create runes with a specific form and a set meaning, which could be fueled with "Breath" to unleash their effects.

The issue with that school was that its runes were far bigger than those used in the current era.

"Back then, inscriptions were something that only exceptional cultivators could learn. There were plenty of methods that made use of their powerful wills, which created elites among them. Yet, that approach

has been abandoned in the last millennia. Anyone with some Credits can receive a decent education now."

Thirty-seven complained as he began to write on a large and blank tome the teachings of the school of runes that Noah had chosen.

Noah eagerly waited for the automaton to finish and left as soon as he handed the tome.

Learning a new inscription method would take years, but Noah wasn't in a hurry, and he already had an exceptional foundation when it came to wills.

Also, he had the Divine deduction technique, which would further shorten the time required to learn that old method.

Noah's schedule changed when he returned to his underground quarters.

The training of his centers of power continued as usual, but he replaced his experiments with the study of the new inscription method.

The method was called "Will-consuming runes", and, as its name suggested, required the consumption of small parts of a cultivator's will to function.

Of course, Noah couldn't directly approach that step.

He had to learn the basics first.

The automaton had been exemplary in his transcription.

He had divided the teachings between the various steps that a student had to master before reaching the level of an expert.

Noah had first to learn to create simple runes that executed basic tasks like slightly raising the temperature in a small area, or gathering cold air.

Then, he had to create runes that could reinforce small objects or increase some of their other properties.

The difficulty of the tasks steadily increased, and Noah could only approach the next step when he could succeed in the previous one while respecting its minimum standards.

Giving a set form to his mental energy and imbuing it with meanings was easy for Noah, but the Will-consuming runes were strict in their requirements.

Noah had to strive for purity rather than intensity when it came to his meanings and then sever them from his mind to mold them in the form of runes.

That act wasn't painful, but Noah felt emptied every time he proceeded to sever those parts from his mind.

He felt as if he was forever losing part of him, which was a sensation that weighed on his determination to improve.

That made him understand why cultivators had eventually opted for more general inscription methods.

The void that he felt every time he created a rune could be enough to destroy the ambition of ordinary cultivators.

'No wonder there were elites in the past. Only elites could persevere in these paths.'

Noah thought as his ambition filled his entire being and dispersed the void that had spread inside him after the creation of his last rune.

Almost three years had passed since his meeting with Thirty-seven, and Noah had spent that time to master the basics of the Will-consuming runes.

That inscription method turned out to be far harder than the Elemental forging method, but Noah managed to reach that level of expertise far quickly nonetheless.

Wills were something that he had trained for years, and that method only required a different application and a lot of practice.

'Now, I can create my runes and set the foundation for my first spell!'

[Chapter 674 674. Runes](#)

Noah did everything for a reason, and that reason was his power most of the time.

Learning a new inscription method had required a lot of time and effort, but Noah didn't mind it as long as it brought improvements to his battle prowess.

Also, he didn't neglect his training in those years.

His dantian kept on improving as usual, and his body slowly advanced deeper in the lower tier of the fifth rank.

He limited himself to hunt the peak rank 4 magical beasts nearby in that period since his whole focus was devoted to learning the Will-consuming runes.

After all, he had always focused on the quickest path to power.

The only issue was that even the quickest path would take him years in the heroic ranks.

As for his mind, it was slowly approaching the last stages of the fourth rank.

The last steps of that center of power would be the longest since it was reaching a completely different level, but Noah believed that the breakthrough would arrive in a matter of years.

The amount of stress that his mental sphere endured every day was incredible, just the continuous usage of the Divine deduction technique was enough to make him improve faster than his peers.

Then, there was his training with his new inscription method and the Blood companions, as well as his past modifications to his spells.

All of that, coupled with the fifth Kesier rune, gave to his sphere an incredible enlarging speed that couldn't be matched even by the best geniuses of the cultivation world.

Also, Noah felt that his mind had begun to enlarge faster after the breakthrough to the liquid stage.

'My centers of power improve faster as my existence reaches a newfound harmony. There is a subtle connection between mind, dantian, and body that intensifies as my entity strives for an individuality. A law can only be complete if all its components are divine.'

Noah thought as his usual session of meditation ended.

He would often spend some time pondering about himself and on what he was going to become.

There was something that most cultivators couldn't do at his level: Studying the individuality retroactively!

Heroic cultivators had to gain a lot of insights before their individuality began to influence their centers of power.

Still, Noah could already see those features due to his cultivation technique.

So, it became part of his schedule meditating while analyzing his liquid "Breath".

His focus went on Thirty-seven's tome when a considerable part of his mental energy filled his sphere again.

He had mastered the basics of the Will-consuming runes, and now it was time to make his debut as an inscription master in that field.

'The first step as a master is to create a personal rune. The shape and purity of your meaning will determine its power.'

Noah read through the instructions in the book again.

He had already studied the entirety of the tome many times, but he still chose to follow the various steps cautiously.

Performing inscriptions wasn't a safe procedure, Noah knew that far too well.

The Elemental forging method was hazardous even among the dangerous methods, but that didn't mean that the other schools were safe.

For example, the Will-consuming runes took away part of his will to work.

Noah had to wait for his ambition to refill those missing parts after every training session to avoid complications.

Yet, his rune had to carry his ambition.

It would be pointless to create something that didn't make use of his most powerful drive.

'The book advises to use something general for my first rune, but I know exactly what I want. I'm not a naïve disciple, I've never been one.'

Determination surged inside Noah as he moved his focus on his half-transparent figure.

His vast, brown sea of mental energy appeared in his view, and Noah decisively stabbed his hands inside his ethereal shape.

'The first one is greed to absorb every form of energy.'

Noah thought as he forcefully pulled with his left arm.

What appeared to be a stomach came out of his ethereal figure, and Noah suddenly felt his hunger vanish at that moment.

He had severed the innate hunger of the magical beasts, and that will didn't exist inside him anymore.

Then, he pulled with his right arm, and part of his heart came out of his figure.

Part of his ambition vanished at that point, but Noah quickly squeezed both ethereal organs and turned them into a cloud of shining brown dust.

The dust slowly took the shape of a saber, and even its color started to darken as Noah's meanings affected its structure.

However, Noah threw it away from his mental sphere when he saw that it didn't turn pitch black.

'It needs to be purer.'

Noah thought as he opened his real eyes.

His complexion had slightly paled, but even that dangerous practice wasn't enough to affect him that much.

The creation of the first personal rune was meant for newly advanced heroic cultivators after all, that level of difficulty wasn't enough to threaten him.

Yet, he still felt devoid of any will after the process.

He wasn't hungry, and he didn't want to cultivate, he just wanted to lie down and sleep.

The drawback of severing part of himself was evident.

Nevertheless, his hunger soon returned, and the fire of his ambition began to fill his body once again.

Those feelings couldn't just vanish.

His species would always be hungry, and his ambition was limitless, they only needed some time to stabilize after the procedure.

It had to be said that Noah was trying to create something suitable for his level since he had no use for anything weaker than his current assets.

Noah spent three days to recover before trying to create the rune again.

The result still didn't satisfy him, so he simply discarded the rune and waited to recover for three more days.

Noah repeated that process a few times until he obtained the level of power that he desired.

'This will be my first spell.'

Noah thought as he focused on the black rune inside his sea of consciousness.

The rune had the shape of a saber that floated above the Kesier runes.

Then, the saber came out of his mental sphere and ran through his skin to appear on his left palm.

Noah poured some of his "Breath" inside the rune, and a series of small, saber-shaped runes came out of it.

The small sabers didn't have much power, and they were only able to spread some of the destructive force radiated by Noah's "Breath".

Yet, they absorbed the energy around them, as well as the primordial one created by Noah's individuality.

To be precise, it seemed that they preferred that primary energy rather than the "Breath" in the environment.

Noah smiled at that sight, and a line of thought couldn't help but appear in his mind.

'The world becomes my blade.'

[Chapter 675 675. Training dummy](#)

Noah had been finally able to create his first spell after so many years spent in the fourth rank!

He had pondered about that matter since he created his first version of the Shadow sprint martial art when he was a human cultivator.

Still, now he had a spell that was only his, and that acted entirely in line with his individuality.

'It has taken me years of specialization in wills, countless experiences with the Elemental forging method, inspiration from Ravaging Demon's attack, and another inscription method. Yet, I have a second asset in my arsenal that reflects my existence now.'

Noah thought as he stored the rune back inside his mental sphere.

The Dragon's claw martial art and his new spell were pure creations that didn't copy any diagram or existing technique.

They were attacks that expressed Noah's individuality and, as such, would produce stronger effects compared to his other abilities.

Of course, that still depended on their potential, but that was a general rule in the cultivation world.

Also, Noah's new spell didn't have the same limitations of his martial art.

Noah needed to use the energy inside his Liquid dantian to have a battle prowess that matched rank 4 cultivators in the solid stage, but his spell didn't require it!

He could just use his liquid "Breath" to lay the runes in the environment and let them absorb the primary energy released after a battle.

'It might be a little tricky to use its full power at my current level, but I can see it becoming my most potent attack when the harmony between my centers of power is restored.'

Noah could already see the flaws in his new ability.

Only his liquid "Breath" carried the destructive properties of his individuality.

Instead, the energy contained in his Liquid dantian was just a canalization of the nourishments released by his body during the activation of his secret art.

One radiated his individuality, while the other was his most potent fuel at the moment.

Noah flew away from his underground quarters while his mind was deep in thought.

'Only the rank 5 elders of the Hive know that my battle prowess reaches the solid stage, and I bet that they aren't even sure about it. I can use my cultivation level as an advantage and rely on the "Breath" that carries my individuality in my next battles. There is no point in revealing my real power so soon.'

Plans and schemes piled up in his mind as he looked for a worthy opponent in the lands nearby.

He didn't have a real battle since the events in the separate dimension.

There were too many improvements that had to be done, and the four nations were even at peace.

Yet, Noah had improved all his techniques and even created new ones in those nine years.

His species wasn't suitable for long periods of meditation, especially when his battle prowess had improved so much.

He needed to fight to know where he stood, and he needed to prove his power to the world at times.

His hunger and ambition were slowly filling his body again, and his mental energy nourished the saber-shaped rune inside his sea of consciousness as his search continued.

The expansion of the human forces drove many packs of beasts away, but the snowy mountain was a rank 6 danger zone.

There were bound to be magical beasts in the fifth rank near it, and Noah was looking for something stronger than a newly advanced creature.

However, he still had to venture through the central areas of the piece of Immortal Lands to find a suitable adversary.

Noah stopped flying when he noticed a rank 5 Brawny ape at the peak of the lower tier, followed by a series of rank 4 specimens.

The pack was exploring the central areas since many years had passed after the battle of the rank 6 existences.

The innate survival instincts of those beasts told them that those territories had become stable enough to allow their survival.

Nevertheless, their leader roared when it sensed a powerful presence staring at it from the sky.

Noah didn't try to hide as he approached the pack.

He wanted to test his abilities and not just feed himself.

He wasn't there as a hunter but as a challenger!

The rank 5 ape roared again, and the weaker specimens around it retreated when they sensed that a battle was about to unfold.

Noah had a clear advantage since he could fly, but something at the peak of the lower tier was the perfect training dummy.

'I wonder if I can hurt it with my liquid "Breath".'

Noah revealed an excited smile as he thought that.

His Demonic swords appeared in his hands, and a destructive force began to spread from their sharp edges as "Breath" entered in their form.

Their shapes began to exude a black smoke that further enhanced the destruction around them, and the Brawny ape fell silent at that sight.

Noah released a destabilizing aura that spread in the air around his figure, and the beast could immediately sense how dangerous it was.

However, it wouldn't reject a challenge by a weaker being.

The ape released a roar and stomped the ground with its four limbs to perform a long jump.

Noah saw a nine meters large boulder coming at him at high speed and quickly dodged while slashing with his sabers.

The pressure generated by the jumping ape was enough to push Noah backward when it passed next to him, but he managed to hit the beast during his evasive maneuver.

The ape landed on the terrain at a few hundreds of meters in the distance, and whiffs of black smoke lingered on its fur.

Nevertheless, the smoke only managed to destroy part of its hair, and Noah's attack had just left white marks on its burly chest.

'As expected, it's not enough. Let's try with the second form then.'

Noah thought as he poured a substantial amount of liquid "Breath" in his next slash.

His saber seemed to vibrate as they shattered the air in their trajectory to release two black lines that shot toward the ape.

The beast crossed its arms to defend against the incoming attack, and only white marks appeared on its skin when the two slashes landed on it.

The creature lowered its arms and was about to perform another long jump when it sensed that something was off.

Its attention went on the white marks on its arms, and an angry expression appeared on its face when it saw that cracks appeared on the skin around them.

It couldn't understand what was happening, but it knew that the cause behind that damage was the small figure in the sky.

Noah simply smiled at that sight.

The cuts on the ape's arm weren't deep, but he had still managed to hurt a rank 5 beast with an ability fueled by liquid "Breath".

'The power of the individuality.'

Noah thought as he slashed again, there was still a lot to test against that creature.

[Chapter 676 676. Liform](#)

A peculiar event happened in the central areas of the piece of Immortal Lands, while Noah was busy testing himself.

The ground there had been destroyed to its core after the battle of between the rank 6 existences.

Still, it had also absorbed many substances that carried an incredible amount of energy.

There were the various attacks of the cultivators, the pieces of the inscribed horns created by the Royals, and even some remains of the winged beasts.

The terrain of the Immortal Lands hid spectacular properties that couldn't be found in the Mortal Lands, and one of them was its resilience.

The energy coming from various sources had deeply modified the fabric of those areas, and the "Breath" contained inside it accelerated the birth of life forms.

Many experts of the four forces were keeping track of the central lands of the new continent through various methods, and they could only be amazed at the sight of a purple stem quickly growing there.

They didn't expect something to be born so soon, but they could only be excited to learn that their calculations were wrong.

The stem appeared fragile, but it still rose toward the sky until it reached a height of a meter.

Leaves began to grow from the sides of its stem, and a black flower bloomed in a matter of second.

The methods of the experts couldn't send that much information back to their observation points, but they could still register the power that the new liform released when it bloomed.

To the surprise of the experts, the flower was a rank 5 liform since its birth.

Chaos spread in the quarters of those experts at that point, who immediately notified their organizations and prepared themselves to fly toward the central areas to seize the flower.

However, they saw how the flower withered a few instants after it released its aura.

The rank 5 magical plant became dust that dispersed in the wind in a matter of seconds, and the excitement of the experts could only vanish at that sight.

Yet, it was soon rekindled since another purple stem pierced the rocky ground and began to grow in a nearby spot.

The experts quickly requested for specific inscribed items at that point.

They needed something that could stop the withering process before moving toward the central areas.

Nevertheless, the second flower bloomed and died in the time in which the organizations provided their experts with the requested items.

Those cultivators didn't hesitate anymore.

They directly flew out of their observation points to reach for the zone that was giving birth to that new lifeform.

There was one force though that didn't react as soon as the other three nations.

The Hive had been too busy absorbing the gains retrieved in the separate dimension that it didn't leave many available experts on their observation points.

To be precise, there was only Elder Laurel there.

Her quarters contained crystals that transmitted the images of the central lands, but she was able to notice that fantastic event only during the withering of the second flower.

She immediately sent a series of mental messages at that sight, but the Hive was already late compared to the other organizations.

So, Elder Julia spread the news as soon as Elder Laurel informed her, and every heroic cultivator in the Hive received the order to inspect that event.

Of course, she didn't need to mention that they had to seize the flowers if they had the chance.

Meanwhile, Noah was still fighting against the Brawny ape.

The corrosive smoke released by his abilities had wholly consumed the beast's fur, and the second form of his martial art had filled its skin with bloody cracks.

However, the ape didn't suffer any grave injury even when he resorted to his spells.

'My normal abilities can't hurt a rank 5 beast when I fuel them with liquid "Breath". Only those that carry my individuality can somewhat cross the limits of the stage.'

Noah judged as he let his cultivation technique refill his dantian.

He was taking it slow, giving himself time to make an in-depth evaluation of his battle prowess when he didn't use the Liquid dantian.

After all, that magical beast couldn't fly and had no ranged attacks, it couldn't be a threat if he remained in the sky.

It turned out that only the second form of his martial art was able to injure the creature, and that even his modified spells couldn't pierce its thick skin.

'I might be able to face a newly advanced creature, but I can't hurt something at the peak of the lower tier. Well, that was to be expected. It's time to end this.'

Noah lifted his left index while he still wielded his weapon and pointed at the ape on the ground.

Countless saber-shaped runes came out of his finger and spread in the destroyed environment around the ape.

Noah's previous attacks had created a high concentration of primary energy since they were fueled by his liquid "Breath".

That energy filled the battlefield, and the greed contained in his runes absorbed it in a matter of instants.

The runes also absorbed the "Breath" in the air, but they seemed to prefer the primary energy.

They had been created through the hunger of the magical beasts, so it was only reasonable for them to prefer that nourishment.

The saber-shaped runes began to radiate a threatening sharpness as the power contained inside them increased.

The rank 5 Brawny ape stared at those small, black dots around it in disdain, but its expression changed as their power kept on increasing.

The runes could only match the weak spell of a liquid stage cultivator when they spread in the environment, but they soon reached the peak of the stage as primary energy entered in their form.

Then, their power continued to grow even when they reached a level that matched solid stage cultivators!

The primary energy in the environment was depleted when the saber-shaped runes began to radiate an aura that only peak rank 4 cultivators could have.

The ape roared and swung its arms on the black dots around it, but Noah quickly controlled them to turn toward the beast.

Controlling so many runes weighed on his mind, but he forced them to launch a relentless assault on the creature nonetheless.

The sea of saber-shaped runes threw itself toward the raging ape and pierced its skin effortlessly.

The attacks of the runes even gave birth to more basic energy that they didn't fail to absorb.

That ensured that they wouldn't expend their power in just one assault and that Noah could use them until he had enough mental energy.

The ape could only cry in pain as every spot of its body was pierced from side to side.

Noah's eyes shone when he saw the might of his spell, but a buzzing sound suddenly resounded inside his mental sphere.

Elder Julia's voice echoed in his mind, and Noah decided to deliver the final blow to the beast when he heard the contents of her message.

[Chapter 677 677. Stalemate](#)

"A new lifeform has appeared in the central territories of the continent. All the heroic assets must make it their priority!"

Elder Julia's order kept on echoing inside Noah's sphere as he controlled the tide of saber-shaped runes to pierce the vital organs of the Brawny ape.

It was needless to say that the news surprised him too.

Noah was an expert in the magical beasts' field, but he didn't know much about magical plants.

However, he knew that it would typically take decades, if not more, before a terrain swept by such a calamity could give birth to lifeforms again.

Of course, he immediately linked that unusual event to the spectacular properties of the terrain coming from a higher plane.

'We still know so little. Dammit!'

Noah cursed in his mind as he shot toward the corpse of the ape.

His last spell had consumed a lot of his mental energy, and his dantian didn't have much "Breath" left.

However, his Liquid dantian was still full, which meant that his real battle prowess hadn't been affected.

'Don't tell me that they plan to start a war over a flower.'

Worry mounted inside Noah as he stored the corpse of the ape after tearing a few pieces of it.

He could benefit from battles due to his hybrid status, but the Hive wasn't ready to face the three big nations.

'I can only fly there and hope that the situation wouldn't reach a critical point.'

Noah shot toward the central areas when he thought that and without forgetting to activate the Dark cover spell.

There were bound to be cultivators from the other nations directed toward his same destination, so he would use all his methods to prepare for unexpected situations.

Elder Julia continued to send mental messages with the specifics about the new species of magical plant as well as its position.

The black flowers kept on growing and withering at specific intervals, and Elder Laurel had already seen seven of them dying through her crystal by the time everyone was warned.

Also, it seemed that every new specimen was more potent than the previous one!

"The flowers are reaching the peak of the lower tier. Elder Laurel suggests that the structure of their species is still stabilizing."

Elder Julia passed down information whenever Elder Laurel discovered something new.

Noah limited himself to fly at full speed toward the appointed spot while keeping a low altitude.

The elder had warned all the heroic assets that the Hive had been late in notifying them, so Noah knew that he wouldn't be the first to arrive.

He was closer than the other elders because he had ventured through the central areas to hunt, but that couldn't give him an advantage over the enemy forces.

After all, he knew that Elder Austin was already flying toward the location of the flowers too!

The matter had already escalated to a point where rank 5 cultivators had been deployed, so Noah had no confidence in arriving before anyone else.

A tense air filled the sky above the central territories, and Noah could feel that stiffness increasing as days passed, and he neared his destination.

Also, his body soon became able to sense the energy released by the blooming of the black flowers once he neared them.

Yet, he could feel that there were other presences too.

'Four rank 5 cultivators in front of me and another one behind.'

Noah thought as he stopped his flight to wait for the incoming elder.

Elder Austin managed to sense Noah's faint presence when he flew above him, and he lowered his altitude to join him.

Both Noah and the elder wore their robes in an untidy manner, a sign that they had both hurried when Elder Julia informed them.

However, the elder couldn't help but sigh in relief when he saw that Noah's clothes were intact, at least.

"Let's go. This matter is troublesome."

Elder Austin said before adding something at the sight of Noah's questioning gaze.

"The flowers are growing in our territories. Well, in what is supposed to be our domain."

Noah's eyes widened at that point, but he didn't stop following the elder.

The central areas hadn't been divided in the one versus one battle because the deal saw the powerhouses exploring them before everything else.

However, the winged beasts' crisis happened, and the division of those territories was neglected since the battle had made them useless.

Yet, that issue had become a priority now that a powerful lifeform had started to grow on its own.

Elder Austin and Noah quickly flew until they saw a series of figures hovering in the air and staring at the ground under them.

Noah recognized some of the figures.

He saw Thaddeus Elbas floating behind Lady Edna and another rank 5 cultivator wearing the golden robes of the Royal family.

He saw Elder Doyle, the rank 5 cultivator from the Council that Elder Austin had defeated in the battle for the azure plain.

Then, he saw a rank 5 slender man wearing robes with the emblem of the Empire.

The cultivators on the scene limited themselves to glance at the new arrivals before focusing back on the terrain.

Another purple stem was growing from the cracked ground, and the heroic cultivators showed expectant gazes as they waited to see the level of power that the species had reached.

The black flower bloomed in a few seconds and released an aura that matched the middle tier of the fifth rank.

The magical plant had crossed the boundaries of the lower tier!

However, even that new level of power didn't seem stable enough for the specimen, which withered in a few instants.

Lady Edna's finger instinctively trembled at that sight, but the gazes of the cultivators around her didn't fail to notice that slight movement and focused on her.

Lady Edna saw three heroic cultivators, and Noah patiently waiting to see if she was going to act.

Of course, she didn't move and simply waited for the flower to wither.

The first one to act would receive the focus of the other three nations, that was the natural consequence of that stalemate.

Yet, a sudden battle would just create another wave of chaos in that area, which would most likely disrupt the fragile equilibrium reached by that terrain.

A modification in that equilibrium could stop the growth of those flowers, which was the outcome that everyone was trying to avoid.

So, their focus went on Elder Austin when it became clear that Lady Edna wasn't going to act.

Elder Austin understood the meaning behind their stares, and he backed his voice with his pride as he announced something.

"This land can only be assigned to the Hive, you all know that. Nevertheless, the Patriarch is benevolent and is willing to share this resource for the right compensation."

[Chapter 678 678. Ac](#)

"These territories don't belong to anyone. You can't put a price over something that you don't own."

"I'd rather fight you again than pay for resources that have yet to have an owner."

Lady Edna and Elder Doyle immediately complained, but they didn't dare to unleash their aura.

Instead, the slender cultivator from the Empire and the rank 5 cultivator in front of Thaddeus didn't speak.

Lady Edna and Elder Doyle had both been defeated by Elder Austin in the past, so their reactions were somewhat understandable.

However, the other two rank 5 existences didn't have any emotion affecting their judgment and could evaluate the situation clearly.

The priority of the four forces was to obtain the new lifeform, and all of them knew that the Hive was the only nation that could have some claims there.

It was merely a geographical matter.

The Hive was closer, so it would have obtained that land if the nations had divided the continent according to the current domain.

Yet, there was a chance to exploit the lack of set borders, and the three big nations couldn't just miss it.

'We can't obtain the flower, but we can make something out of it due to the proximity to our domain. We can just set a training area nearby and indirectly disrupt the equilibrium of this spot. We can safely affect this land even if we don't control it.'

Noah couldn't help but approve Elder Austin's actions when he summarized the situation in his mind.

The Hive could just build something near there and influence that terrain while remaining inside its domain.

That would be entirely in its rights, and the other nations couldn't even contest it since the central territories didn't have an owner.

'We are far away, but a couple of rank 5 elders could do the trick if they put some effort. This is a lucky event that we can't exploit in its fullest due to our weakness.'

Some annoyance appeared inside Noah when he thought that, but he quickly suppressed it.

The matter would be easily solved if the Empire was in the Hive's place, and even the Royals or the Council would find some excuses to keep that terrain.

However, the Hive was weak and could be bullied if the three big nations were set on working together.

Another flower bloomed and withered during the long silence that had dawned on the group.

More heroic cultivators from each faction could be seen arriving in the distance.

It was clear that the sky was about to become crowded.

Nevertheless, no one answered to Elder Austin's offer.

'They want to see the stable specimen before deciding how far they are willing to go.'

Noah quickly understood what was in the minds of the other entities and shot a glance toward the elder next to him.

The duo from the Hive exchanged a few mental messages before agreeing on their next move.

"Well, no one seems to like these flowers."

Noah exclaimed at some point, and Elder Austin didn't fail to follow his act.

"Indeed! Hear my words of wisdom, Prince. These plants are definitely a threat! I mean, black flowers? They surely are something bad."

Noah repeatedly nodded at his words as he wielded one of his sabers and prepared himself to slash toward the ground.

Panic appeared on the faces of the heroic cultivators, except for the Empire's envoy, who kept his calm.

"Wait! You have no right to affect the flora!"

"The Council agrees with the Elbas family. This is a clear threat!"

Noah stopped the descent of his weapon and heaved a helpless sigh at Lady Edna and Elder Doyle's words.

"Elder, they are right. I guess we can only return and watch the Patriarch's demonstration for the time being. We should be close enough to see how this situation unfolds too."

Elder Austin showed a broad smile when Noah spoke and warmly patted his shoulder as he turned to leave.

Noah followed him and ignored the angry gazes that Thaddeus was shooting at him.

It was at that point that the rank 5 cultivator of the Empire spoke.

"Elders, are you really set on destroy this marvelous discovery?"

The duo from the Hive turned at his words, and Elder Austin gave him a serious answer.

"The Hive doesn't need it, but it won't simply ignore this matter. We are demons, and we'd rather destroy it than gaining nothing from something that should belong to us."

Noah's expression became cold when Elder Austin signaled the end of the act with his answer.

The core of the matter was to set an agreement before the lifeform found a balance.

Otherwise, the three forces would get an idea of its actual value.

Instead, forcing their hands now would give birth to an auction and prevent everyone from doing something reckless.

Noah replied to Thaddeus' stare with one of his own at that point.

The latter was a rank 4 cultivator in the solid stage, but Noah clearly remembered him being at the peak of the liquid stage when he interrupted his battle.

'He isn't a useless noble then.'

Noah thought as he moved his gaze toward the rank 5 cultivator in front of him.

That Royal was moving his gaze between Noah and Elder Austin, but Noah could sense that he suppressed some emotions whenever it went on him.

Noah's mind played the images of the battle near Vondhur when a heroic cultivator descended from the sky to stop him from seizing the resources contained in Samuel's ring.

Noah's mental energy wasn't able to sense him back then, but he knew from their conversation that he was Thaddeus' father!

Cecil was only a rank 4 cultivator when Noah escaped from the Utra nation, but he had managed to reach the fifth rank in those years.

Of course, he was weaker than Lady Edna, but that feat already spoke for his talent.

Lady Edna, Elder Doyle, and the man from the Empire began to send a few mental messages back to their organizations after a few seconds of silence.

Meanwhile, the figures in the distance reached their respective groups.

They were mostly rank 4 cultivators, and Noah could even recognize Faith among the group from the Papral nation.

She was still in the gaseous stage, but her cultivation had improved since she was nearing the peak of that stage.

Faith shot a curious glance at Noah when she noticed him, but she quickly suppressed her eagerness to talk with him.

The situation was too troublesome to question Noah about how his relationship with June had evolved in the months spent underground.

Then, the man from the Empire gave voice to a question directed toward Elder Austin.

"What is the Hive proposing?"

The elder had already decided how to handle the situation and didn't hesitate to announce it.

"Auction with three contenders."

[Chapter 679 679. Auction](#)

The Empire quickly agreed to the Hive's proposal, and the other two nations felt forced to join the auction at that point.

There was nothing that they could do once two of the four forces had found an agreement, they could just go along with their decision.

That wasn't the worst outcome in their mind.

Bullying the Hive was just an act to eliminate one contender, but they couldn't do anything if it decided to destroy that magical plant.

Contending that resource between themselves wasn't ideal either, but it was better than losing it because they pushed the matter too far.

Elder Austin had to settle a few details through his inscribed notebook, but the other elders of the Hive quickly came up with a few guidelines.

Black flowers kept on blooming and withering as the sky above that spot became crowded.

Most heroic cultivators were curious about the new magical plant, but some of them were even interested in the outcome of the auction.

Every victory was a show of power when the nations at the peak of the Mortal Lands were involved.

Even the simple act of grouping up for such an event could be linked to the same reasons.

Those forces were simply showing the might of their heroic assets and how quickly they could gather a large number of them.

The group from the Hive paled in comparison to the other three since only seven rank 4 cultivators arrived in the area.

Instead, the other three groups could already count more than twenty rank 4 cultivators each and that without considering the existences in the fifth rank that had reinforced the envoys.

However, that sight didn't discourage Elder Austin nor Noah.

They had always known that the Hive was weaker, which was the precise reason why they weren't attempting to keep the magical plants for themselves.

Then, Elder Justin's arrival and words eased the tension that was accumulating on their side.

"It took us a while to tune the oath since Thirty-seven kept on complaining."

Noah rolled his eyes when the automaton was mentioned, but Elder Austin directly took his arrival to announce the beginning of the auction.

"The Hive is willing to accept payments of any kind. It would be up to Elder Justin to decide which of you has the lead. Of course, we will provide the rank 5 oath needed to collaborate."

Elder Justin stepped forward and revealed a white tablet filled with inscriptions to the other groups.

Anyone could read the requirements and terms of the oath since they only had to use their mental energy to inspect it.

Generally speaking, every major organization had to have similar inscribed items in-store, or they wouldn't be able to collaborate with other forces.

Yet, creating something that could subjugate rank 6 entities wasn't easy.

Only the power of the god of the Empire could ensure that those powerhouses wouldn't be able to break the oath on their own.

The Hive though didn't have such backing, and it could only limit itself to use Chasing Demon as a warranty over rank 5 cultivators.

Nevertheless, an oath on that level was more than enough for that situation since rank 6 existences weren't involved and didn't have any intention to do so.

The rank 5 cultivators stepped forward almost immediately when they read that the winner of the auction would obtain the monopoly over the magical plant.

'Ruthless.'

Noah commented in his mind when he read the contents of the oath.

The Hive was ready to lose any claim over that resource forever, only to force the three enemy faction to fight over them!

"I, Sharp Trunk, swear."

"I, Elder Doyle, swear."

"I, Lady Edna, swear."

"I, Elder Justin, swear."

The four rank 5 existences from the four nations swore as they touched the white tablet, and their names appeared on its surface after that.

The pact was sealed, the Hive had already ensured its safety at that point.

Yet, Elder Justin suddenly set a starting price.

"I'd say bids can start from one million Credits."

No one was surprised by that number.

After all, the deal saw a monopoly over a rank 5 resource.

The price quickly rose though, and it took only a few exchanges to make it reach fifty million Credits.

"The Elbas family is leading."

Elder Justin announced after Lady Edna's offer.

The Royals were used to invest a lot in unknown materials and similar, and they would never let go of a species born after the battle of rank 6 existences.

A short moment of silence followed that offer, but the auction was quickly rekindled when a flower at the peak of the middle tier grew right under them.

"Fifty million Credits and three spells up to the fifth rank. The Empire will include one of the darkness element."

Sharp Trunk said, and the offers of the other envoys began to include additional resources too.

Elder Doyle began to add techniques and spells too, but Lady Edna started to use the studies of the academy as a currency.

Elder Justin shot a helpless glance toward Noah before announcing once again that the Elbas family was in the lead.

What the Hive needed the most at the moment were the recent discoveries of the inscriptions' fields, and the three envoys didn't miss that detail.

Elder Justin had chosen inscription methods over techniques and spells, so they had to push their bids on that aspect.

Even Elder Austin took a glance at Noah, but the latter simply shook his head.

He knew how useful Thirty-seven was, and it was pointless to compare the value of a single heroic cultivator to the future of the Hive as a whole.

He was the youngest heroic cultivator in history and probably that with the highest potential, but he still couldn't match the possibility of having experts in various inscriptions' fields.

Also, he had seen the power that the abilities that carried his individuality were capable of unleashing.

Creating was better than obtaining something already existing, especially in his case.

He would rather gain inspiration from a wide variety of techniques than beg the Hive to prioritize him.

That approach was more in line with his individuality, and it would allow him to improve in both his inscription methods.

It might even lead him to fuse them one day!

Sacrificing the future of the Hive for something that he didn't strictly need wasn't worth it.

The three envoys began to add inscription methods to their offers, but the Elbas family always managed to keep the lead even if most of the methods mentioned weren't up to date.

The flower withered during those offers, and Elder Justin was about to end the auction when another purple stem grew and gave birth to a black flower in the upper tier.

Elder Austin could only smile when he saw that the three nations gave voice to another series of offers.

The bids had already reached a point where the Hive could ignore the loss of a rank 5 material.

[Chapter 680 680. Preparations](#)

The cycle of bids and silence continued for a while.

The bids resumed every time a new flower bloomed and released a higher power than before.

That magical plant seemed incredibly frail, but there was an innate resilience in its species since stems kept on growing even after so many flowers had withered.

Its struggles to find a stable form that could live for more than a few seconds were commendable, and they even inspired some of the weaker cultivators on the scene that were still discovering their individuality.

However, that sight began to trouble the elders of the Hive that had understood the entirety of the situation.

'Will it ever stop increasing its power? Can it make it to the sixth rank?'

Noah thought as he stared at the flowers blooming and withering periodically.

The continuous bidding could only benefit the Hive, but it would be a problem if the magical plant failed to find a balance right in the middle of the auction and stopped growing.

Elder Justin had to declare a winner before that to benefit from the situation.

As for the possibility of the magical plant reaching the sixth rank, the Hive couldn't really prepare a plan for that.

That event would involve the rank 6 powerhouses, which would render the pact useless since it was limited to rank 5 existences.

The fact that the flowers had already a power in the upper tier of the fifth rank was a clear sign to Elder Justin that pushed him to accelerate the end of the auction.

"Ten more rounds, and I'll decide a winner."

Elder Justin announced, and the three envoys didn't fail to understand the meaning behind his words.

However, they had already foreseen that outcome and accepted the risks when they signed the pact.

There was the monopoly over a rank 5 resource at stake, and risking something was the least that those nations could do.

The bidding rounds continued until the tenth, where the cultivators of the three big nations stopped making offers on their own.

The number of Credits had reached one hundred million, and both the Papral nation and the Empire had added techniques and spells to their bids.

The Obsidian Credits had lost a lot of value since the fall of the piece of Immortal Lands, so the three envoys had long stopped using them to try to win the auction.

Instead, they had begun to use inscription methods as a currency since the Hive was clearly interested in them.

Yet, they couldn't match the bids of the Elbas family, which kept on adding inscription methods every time the other nations increased their offers.

So, they could only use techniques and spells to make up for them.

Elder Justin exchanged a few mental messages with the elders back in the headquarters and quickly chose a winner after hearing their opinion.

"The Elbas family wins!"

The elder's announcement didn't surprise the cultivators on the scene, but there wasn't much that they could do.

No organization in the Mortal Lands could match the accumulation of inscription methods of the Elbas family, and the latter didn't even have to bid their most recent discoveries!

Nevertheless, they still had to bid methods that had been used in the last centuries, which made them second only to the new teachings created in the academy.

That was more than enough to bring Thirty-seven up to date, especially since most of those methods couldn't be purchased with Credits.

Lady Edna happily neared Elder Justin, who laid the white tablet in front of her.

The Elbas family didn't lose much in the trade.

Giving away so many Credits wasn't a problem for a big nation, and the inscription methods were copies other than old schools in the eyes of the Royals.

The way Lady Edna saw it, they weren't giving up on anything to gain the monopoly over the black flowers.

Elder Justin and Lady Edna discussed for a bit to settle the details behind the transport of the resources, but the white tablet had already given a few guidelines.

The Royals would have a month to send the promised goods, and they couldn't taint the methods with false information.

Any breach in the pact would ruin one of Lady Edna's centers of power other than make the Elbas family untrustworthy.

Of course, the Elbas family intended to respect the pact even if the flowers didn't stabilize since they had a face to keep.

The matter was settled, but none of the heroic cultivators on the scene left the area.

Everyone wanted to see what level of power the flowers would reach and if the Royals had made the right choice in investing that considerable sum.

Flowers had kept on blooming and withering for the whole duration of the auction.

There didn't seem to be a limit to the power of that species even though the terrain gave birth to only one specimen each time.

Cecil, Thaddeus, and the other cultivators of the Utra nation didn't limit themselves to watch the bloom and withering of flowers after they won the auction.

That material was rightfully theirs now, so they could interact with it as they wanted.

Cecil neared the ground while covering his figure with a peculiar cape that stopped the natural leaking of his aura.

Then, he took a transparent and rectangular box filled with inscriptions from his space-ring.

Thaddeus and a few rank 4 cultivators flew behind him while deploying the same inscribed items.

A purple stem came out of the ground a few seconds after they finished their preparations, and Cecil's tried his best to hold back his mental waves from affecting its growth.

The stem rose in the air and gave birth to the usual black flower in the upper tier of the fifth rank.

That specimen began to wither too, but Cecil quickly plucked it and stored the plant inside the transparent box.

Cecil sealed the box by moving his finger on one of the shining lines on its surface, and the withering process stopped when the item separated the flower from the outside world.

The cultivators behind him did the same as they used the inscribed items to gather the dusty remains of the plant that were dispersing in the air.

Their actions were smooth and precise, and the other groups could see the amount of experience that the Elbas family had in handling unknown materials.

Cecil and the others stored their boxes and took more of them from their space-ring.

Their preparation was exceptional, especially since they had gathered all those items before the death of the third specimen!

The cultivators from the Elbas family continued to pick the flowers as soon as they began to wither, and the power of the magical plant soon reached the peak of the fifth rank.

Expectation mounted inside all the cultivators on the scene when the peak rank 5 flower died, and another purple stem quickly grew from that same spot.

A few words couldn't describe the emotions that they felt when they sensed the flower radiating an aura in the sixth rank.