DEMONIC 751

Chapter 751 751. Surrender

The arrival of the Flawed humans put the forces of Noah's world in a complicated situation.

It wasn't a matter of sheer power. Noah's side counted four rank 5 cultivators and a hybrid with a rank 5 sea of consciousness. Instead, the Elite human's team had only three rank 5 cultivators.

There was a significant difference in the number of assets in the fourth rank. Still, that didn't matter too much when there were beings on a higher level involved.

Yet, that difference in the number of assets was what was preventing the leaders from unleashing their full might.

Power couldn't be the answer in their situation. An offensive fueled by the whole might of their cultivation level would inevitably result in countless casualties, especially in that closed area.

It would be different if the portal could already withstand existences in the sixth rank, but, unfortunately for them, it was hard to improve such a miraculous inscribed item.

It soon became clear that the assets from Noah's world had only two options in front of them: Fight and endanger their relationship with the natives or surrender and rely on the wits of the six bloodlines.

Noah observed the changes in his leaders' aura as his cold, reptilian eyes swept the corridor to analyze the situation. He saw how the cultivators meant to guide the weaker assets began to retract their consciousness and disperse their focus.

Helplessness started to mount inside him, but that feeling soon vanished when he sensed that the representatives of the bloodlines shot another series of glances in his direction.

His hybrid status was the most appealing resource in the Elite human's eyes. He knew that the negotiations for his eventual release would succeed only when the bloodlines had obtained everything they wanted from his body.

"We wish for peaceful cooperation." Cecil was the first to give voice to that apparent trend.

The leaders were taking a step back, and Noah began to muster his focus as one of his biggest fears took form.

"We will seize the rank 4 cultivators for the moment," Florent said. "We will treat them fairly as we set the foundation for a new deal."

Hesitation and struggle appeared on the leaders' expressions, but they kept their gazes fixed on the Elite humans even when their underlings shot questioning gazes at them.

A tinge of shame appeared inside the rank 5 cultivators when they silently accepted that they couldn't preserve peace without momentarily giving up their pride. They were sacrificing their envoys to make up for their weakness.

In their minds, allowing the bloodlines to keep some of their rank 4 cultivators for a few months was a reasonable price to pay to avoid a war. After all, they would be forced to join mating sessions in the worst-case scenario, which wasn't even close to being a form of torture.

Also, the situation would change once the portal became able to endure the might of rank 6 beings.

The table would turn once again at that point, and they would force the Elite humans to see them as their equals, or even more. Yet, such plans didn't always work in the way they wanted, especially when they were unaware of certain secret transactions.

Noah didn't care about cooperating with that world.

He was interested in many of its features, but he wasn't willing to put his existence at risk because of his greed. He had already obtained the key to command the primary energy without the need for laws, so he considered his mission completed.

His priority now was to avoid ending in the bloodlines' grasp, and he didn't mind jeopardizing the peaceful intentions of his leaders to reach that result.

"I can't end up in chains," Noah said to Elder Austin through his consciousness.

The leader of his faction was initially confused by his sudden mental message, but the situation was impossible to stop now.

Cecil nodded, and Danielle gestured to the Flawed humans to step forward and seize the envoys in the fourth rank.

Noah's companions could only sigh and let those foreign forces surround them and lead them toward deeper parts of the castle. They didn't even resist since their leaders had willingly accepted that outcome.

However, when five rank 4 Flawed humans were about to reach for Noah, a tremor spread in the entirety of the castle, and the sound of falling boulders filled the corridor.

Everything had happened so quickly that even the rank 5 cultivators on the scene felt surprised to see that a large and dark body had appeared in the area.

Its form was unclear, but it was so huge that the walls of the corridor had crumbled during its sudden appearance. Also, the surprise of the cultivators on both sides could only increase when they understood that the shape belonged to a massive magical beast.

Their surprise then became disbelief when they recognized that it was a creature in the fifth rank!

The cultivators of both worlds immediately attacked the beast, and the castle couldn't help but crumble under the shockwaves released by the rank 5 cultivators.

Of course, the weaker assets had retreated as soon as they noticed the power of the creature. They were still forced to focus on their seas of consciousness to endure the battle on the higher ranks, but the fight didn't endanger their lives.

Yet, the beast disappeared before all the attacks managed to land on its body, and revealed another astonishing detail: Its sudden appearance didn't kill any of the Flawed humans nearby!

The creature had simply pushed them back in a way that could even be described as gentle. Also, they had strong bodies, so they only suffered some minor injuries.

Nevertheless, the disappearance of the massive creature revealed something that everyone on the scene had been to busy to notice: Noah had disappeared, and there was no trace of him anywhere.

The Elite humans began to panic and shouted orders to their underlings. Still, Elder Austin arrived in front of them and deployed his consciousness, suppressing all the Flawed humans floating in the crumbled corridor.

"What is the meaning of your actions?" Danielle asked as her eyes darted between the many cracks in the walls next to them.

She was searching for Noah with both her sight and mental energy, but Elder Austin was obstructing her.

"The Prince didn't want to be in chains." Elder Austin answered, and the Elite humans couldn't believe that he was risking their cooperation for that simple reason.

Noah was a prodigy, but he was only a rank 4 cultivator. The representatives of the bloodlines couldn't understand why Elder Austin was willing to go so far just to prevent his arrest.

Nevertheless, Florent shouted something that forced Elder Austin to contain a laugh. "The two women have disappeared too!"

Chapter 752 752. Wilderness

By the time the cultivators realized what had happened during the appearance of the massive beast, Noah had already exited the dome.

Escaping the castle had been incredibly easy. Most of the forces in the heroic ranks had gathered in the corridor, and the materials that made its walls blocked the mental energy.

Also, the corrosive smoke of his partial Demonic Form had allowed him to create a path through the walls and the dome with a few simple slashes.

The weakness of that society was that it built everything to fend off magical beasts, but the offensive of a cultivator could pierce its defensive measures quite easily. Noah was even a peculiar being that could rely on all his centers of power to express his might.

Of course, the awful smell that targeted the magical beasts still annoyed him, but he could destroy it quickly with his individuality.

His feelings fueled his destruction, and the continuous exposure to the bloodlines' scents had made him exceptionally mindful of their power. Yet, his survival instinct when it came to those smells had also improved in those months.

He could now sense their arrival before they could even get near his body.

Noah flew high in the sky as he exited the dome and activated the Dark Cover spell as he sped in the direction of the defensive walls of the region.

He had no intention of returning to the volcano, not for the time being, at least.

He had made sure that his Blood Companion didn't kill anyone, but he didn't know how the situation was evolving inside the castle. Nevertheless, it was better to ask for forgiveness in a safe place rather than being innocent but in chains.

If he returned to the volcano, there was a chance that the leaders would force him to become a prisoner to make up for his sudden escape. However, he could altogether avoid any form of punishment if he just waited for his world to deploy more assets in those Mortal Lands.

Meanwhile, he could just train in the wilderness outside the defensive walls, which he was sure wouldn't have any trace of the six bloodlines.

'They can handle their political matters,' Noah thought as he flew undisturbed in the sky, 'I'll just focus on learning their training method and gathering powerful magical beasts.'

It wasn't his first time alone, and he probably was the only existence in both worlds that could feel confident in surviving in wilderness ruled by Elite beasts.

Most of the powerful assets of that world were either inside the castle or in the other regions, so he was reasonably sure that no one would be able to follow him. Yet, he felt incredibly surprised when he sensed that two presences had appeared behind him and were catching up with his position.

Noah's first instinct was to escape. Those existences were faster than him, which meant that their cultivation level had to be higher than his.

However, his endurance was terrific, and he had countless methods that could help him reaching the lands outside of the human domain before they managed to catch him.

His eyes widened though when he saw the figures that were reaching him.

It wasn't hard to recognize them. They belonged to two women that he knew far too well.

One of them was his lover, while the other was the most beautiful woman that he had ever seen.

June and Faith stopped right before him and continued to fly in a straight line while following his trajectory.

Noah noticed how both of them held a cracked crystal in their grasp. Those were the rank 5 talismans that the leaders had given them before their mission, and their broken state explained how they had managed to catch up with Noah.

Of course, Noah didn't stop to chat in that situation, but his flying speed was higher than his followers. He was leaving them behind, which created an issue that he couldn't ignore: They were leaving a trail that led straight to him!

Also, they weren't using any cloaking spell or device, which was telling every existence in the heroic ranks where he was.

Then, June was right behind him, and he didn't even want to think about what she would experience if she were captured after her escape.

'To think that Faith might work as an alibi.' Noah thought before slowing down to let the two women catch up.

Both of them opened their mouths to speak. They probably wanted to explain their action or give him some ideas on how to handle the situation. However, Noah had already decided, and he didn't need to hear anything until he reached a safe place.

Noah grabbed both women from their robes and covered them with his consciousness before kicking the air under his feet. He couldn't hide June and Faith's presence, but he could fly so fast that no one would be able to catch up with them due to his advantage.

Shockwaves spread in the sky as the Shadow Sprint martial art pushed the three of them at a speed that shouldn't be achievable by rank 4 cultivators.

Faith and June couldn't even muster the strength to complain under the pressure generated by Noah's speed, and only his mental energy was preventing their bodies from being injured.

Noah pierced the clouds as he flew in a straight line toward the defensive walls.

The journey would typically take one month if he used his average speed, but he managed to exit the human domain in only two weeks thanks to the continuous activation of his martial art.

Of course, he had to alternate between his dantian and Liquid Dantian to travel for so long without exhausting himself, and he even had to stop using the martial art from time to time. Yet, he managed to halve the time required to exit that region with that method.

As for the two women that he carried along with him, he barely noticed their weight.

Noah didn't stop after he crossed the defensive walls and continued to use that method to travel deep into the beasts' territory, trying to avoid any powerful creature that he sensed along the way.

Faith began to struggle when she saw that Noah wasn't going back to the volcano, but she quickly quieted down when she sensed the aura protecting her suddenly turning hostile.

Then, after they flew in that way for another month, Noah decided that they had put enough distance with the bloodlines and landed in a forest filled by peculiar trees with large, blue leaves.

Noah threw both women on the ground and wielded his sabers without hesitation. He had already considered the possibility of killing Faith along the way, but he felt forced to suppress that thought because June was with her too.

Faith could act as a witness and report the fact that there wasn't any secret relationship going on. After all, she had already defended Noah once. Nevertheless, he still had a façade to maintain, even if he was glad that June hadn't remained in the Elite human's grasp.

Chapter 753 753. Experience

June wore a cold expression when Noah neared her and Faith while wielding his sabers. She had to act as if she was anxious about the impending danger.

However, Faith simply smiled before surprising both Noah and June with her words. "You are together, right?"

Silence fell in the area at her words.

Noah had already planned what he had to ask and how to handle their life in the wilderness. Still, all of that vanished at her question. Instead, he reacted by showing an even colder aura that enveloped her and threatened to shatter her mental sphere.

Faith expected that kind of reaction and continued to smile while revealing a crystal and a notebook held tightly in her grasp.

Both Noah and June recognized those items. The crystal was one of the rank 5 talismans given to their group before the mission in the castle, and the other was the object that listed the discoveries made by their factions.

Her simple gesture hid the threat to reveal what she had just said to almost all the cultivators in the new world.

Noah stopped his tracks when he understood her intentions. His mind worked at full speed to see if there was a way out of that situation, but he couldn't find anything even when he activated the Divine Deduction technique.

The talisman would defend her against his first attack, and the notebook was unique too. It was impossible to stop the information from reaching the other items of the same kind at his current level.

"What exactly are you trying to achieve?" Noah asked without withdrawing his aura.

He could understand that Faith had picked up some clues about his relationship with June, but her actions didn't make any sense. There wasn't much that she could obtain, even if he was to admit the truth.

A stern expression replaced Faith's smile, but she didn't move her gaze away from Noah as she explained, "My peace is worthless without experience."

"Just go and gather experience then," Noah replied, "Don't threaten others over hunches."

Noah didn't reveal anything even in that situation, but he had to admit that Faith had cornered him. No matter what he said, she had the upper hand.

"My doubts first appeared in the new continent, when I discovered that June wasn't exactly a docile woman." Faith began to explain.

"The reports about her character didn't match her actions when you took her hostage," Faith said, "And the same applies to the recent escape."

"She understands the difference in our power," Noah replied, "I can't say the same for you."

Faith's smile reappeared when she heard that threat, but it seemed that she had more to say on the matter.

"I thought that she was like me at the beginning." She said, "Continuously bothered by men that didn't even try to understand her. I thought that she just wanted to cultivate in peace, but I've noticed something strange since we reached the castle."

Noah's expression didn't reveal anything during her speech. Her words didn't even create the slightest tremor in his aura.

"She seemed happier." Faith concluded.

Silence fell once again in the area as the stalemate continued.

"So?" Noah said at some point.

He had to admit that Faith's clues were on point, but he still didn't understand what her goal was.

"I had initially thought that she was just happy to speak with me, but everything became obvious when I saw you two in the corridor," Faith's smile became wider before her final question, "Why did you use a spell to come out of your room?"

It was evident that she had made her mind about a matter that she had started to doubt since the crisis with the Winged beasts.

Yet, Noah didn't care about her hypotheses. He was only interested in what she was hoping to gain by revealing all of that.

Noah dispersed his aura and stored his sabers at that point. Continuing to threaten her would just confirm her ideas.

"Do what you want," Noah said, "Gossips can't hurt my reputation, and the Royals already hate me."

"Ok then." Faith said as she began to insert her mental energy in the inscribed notebook.

Of course, Noah couldn't just let her spread that information.

He shot directly toward Faith with the fingers of his left hand arched to form something similar to a claw. Yet, he had to stop his tracks again when he saw that she had lifted the defensive talisman right in the trajectory of his attack.

The oath that prevented internal battles had vanished since the mission inside the castle was over, but she had long since predicted his attack.

"Understand this," Noah began to speak with a voice that resembled a growl, "It doesn't matter what you hope to gain from this situation or how you plan to handle the consequences to your actions. It won't end well for you."

That was a pure and honest threat, and Noah didn't mind exposing the truth with that gesture since Faith wasn't giving him any other choice. In the worst case, he would just kill her and live in the wilderness with June until his power reached a satisfying level.

However, Faith managed to surprise him once again with her words, "I just want to learn your story. In my mind, I still owe you since the events with the Winged beasts."

Her aura conveyed her honesty, and Noah couldn't help but retract his hand while taking a few steps back when he heard that.

Faith had literally threatened the strongest cultivator of her generation to deepen her individuality, and she had done that without showing the slightest trace of fear.

She was still far away from the determination showed by Noah and June through their lives, but both of them started to feel some respect for a cultivator willing to go so far to improve.

Then, Noah felt June standing up and reaching for him.

Her left hand went for his long hair, and she used the right one to move his head in the trajectory of her lips.

The two of them exchanged a long kiss right in front of Faith, and the latter couldn't help but reveal an excited smile at that sight.

"She is quite nice, "June murmured when their lips separated, "And we can always kill her if she betrays us."

Noah could only give up at that point, "Ok, but you'll tell the story."

June sat next to Faith and started to tell her how their relationship had begun. She even took a few jugs of wine from her space-ring to make that situation more enjoyable.

Noah saw how June seemed happy to share an essential part of her life with Faith. Removing the secrecy from her relationship made her feel good. It was as if it had just become more real.

Meanwhile, Noah limited himself to inspect the area. Those blue leaves were quite strange and seemed to have some kind of tranquilizing effect when he neared them.

By the time June had finished her story, the three of them had received a message from the leaders of their factions.

Chapter 754 754. Friend

The trio was surprised to discover that the leaders didn't condemn their escape. Actually, they even praised the three of them for their bold move.

The rank 5 cultivators weren't happy to submit to a power that they considered inferior. So, seeing that three rank 4 cultivators had successfully defied the orders of the six bloodlines created a sense of satisfaction inside them.

Of course, they had to wait for the situation inside the castle to stabilize before contacting the trio. The Elite humans were particularly mad, and the leaders had to deal with those angry cultivators for two entire weeks before concluding the negotiations.

It wasn't that they couldn't contact Noah and the others before. They simply didn't want to do that to protect the trio.

June had been in the target of the Royals for decades, and Faith was commonly known as one of the most beautiful women of their world other than a talent. Their factions didn't want to leave their safety in the hands of the Elite humans.

They weren't too worried about the mating sessions. They had learnt by then that the six bloodlines were mainly interested in the alien men since their women had a higher chance of passing down their improved features.

Yet, the risk still existed, especially since both women didn't lack beauty.

Also, the leaders knew that something had gone wrong with Lix, and they would rather not see their cultivators being controlled through foreign drugs or similar.

The rank 5 cultivators from Noah's world managed to appease the anger of the Elite humans by offering other rank 4 cultivators for their mating sessions.

With six bloodlines involved, the number of assets deployed in the new world would increase drastically. Still, the forces on the other side of the portal had already begun to take precautions against the foreign drugs.

Also, the bloodlines felt forced to continue trading resources for those assets since they were now competing against each other to obtain the highest number of humans.

Nevertheless, even that newfound agreement didn't set free the rank 4 cultivators imprisoned after Lix's action. It would take the arrival of a more potent asset to force the Elite human's hands in that matter.

Only Noah and June could understand how angry the bloodlines really were. Losing their hope to recreate their worshiped ancestor was a significant blow on their pride, and they weren't hesitating to vent that feeling on their factions.

In the end, they agreed to remain in the wilderness for now. In that way, the bloodlines wouldn't have any leverage over them, and the leaders could keep some of their pride.

"I never thought that the bane of the Elbas family could be so sweet with his lover." Faith said when they finished their conversation with the leaders.

She was giggling, and her cheeks were slightly red. It was evident that she liked what June had told her.

On the other hand, June simply shrugged her shoulders. She didn't reveal too much, and she didn't even describe their most intimate moments.

Yet, she had told Faith some of the anecdotes that made her laugh too when she compared the cold youth that she had met in the academy to how Noah was in their own time.

'I guess she has a friend now,' Noah thought as he heaved a helpless sigh, 'She can be considered normal at least.'

Noah compared Faith to the people that he viewed as friends. The cold expressions of Flying Demon and Dreaming Demon appeared in his mind, but he quickly suppressed those images when he tried to match them to Faith's happy face.

They simply belonged to two different worlds.

"Let me be clear," Noah said while crouching in front of Faith, "I still think that it would be safer to kill you."

Faith stopped giggling and replied, "Even if that meant removing the only friend that can keep your lover company while you are gone?"

June stabbed her spear on the trunk behind Faith and spoke, "Do you think that I won't be able to endure it?"

Faith didn't expect June's sudden reaction, but a tinge of anger appeared in her expression before she gave voice to her feelings, "I'm saying that you shouldn't!"

Faith's words left both Noah and June speechless.

The two of them had lived among people that wanted to exploit them or had hidden intentions for so long that they failed to recognize when someone had good intentions.

Of course, Faith had something to gain from too. She had always lacked normal relationships, and she needed them to build a stable foundation for her individuality.

She needed to experience life outside the protection of the Council to understand if her path toward her peace and calmness was right.

Yet, the same applied to June, even if her situation was worse than Faith.

She was different from Noah, who had managed to find an organization where he could be himself. She still lived among the nobles and the Royals, where she had to pretend every day to be someone else.

The years spent in solitude that she could escape only when Noah managed to find a path toward her weighed on her mind.

That didn't mean that June's determination was fading or that she was about to give up on the offers of the Elbas family. Still, it was a situation that was far from ideal.

Noah understood how Faith could reach her out in the open due to their favorable position. They might be able to set up meetings and sparring sessions where June wouldn't have to pretend.

He did not doubt that June would be able to endure on her own. However, just as Faith said, that didn't mean that she should do it.

Leaving Faith alive increased the risk of exposing his relationship with June slightly, but he was willing to take it if it benefitted his lover.

Noah felt like heaving another tired sigh, but he suppressed it to ask a question. "So, did you gain something from our story?"

"Your love is quite poetic," Faith said, "You both know that your journey won't allow you to stay together until you reach the peak. Yet, you are unwilling to let go of your feelings, and you snatch these few periods together just to find small moments of peace."

June's story didn't involve their individualities nor their vows, but Faith could understand how the political situation in the other world would force their relationship to evolve.

"You have my complete support!" Faith exclaimed as she took both Noah's and June's hands in her grasp, "Just, be sure to give me some nice detail from time to time."

Faith winked toward June when she said that, and Noah could just pretend not to see that gesture.

Once they made their situation clear, the three of them began to explore the forest with Noah relying on his enhanced awareness to look for any danger.

Nevertheless, it seemed that the calming properties of the leaves scared away many powerful magical beasts, which made the area quite safe and perfect to resume their training.

Chapter 755 755. Discoveries

Noah, June, and Faith resumed their training in the method acquired from the Duron Bloodline.

Faith improved faster than the couple since her existence didn't commit any major crime against Heaven and Earth. However, even she met some issues along the way.

She had overcome the three Tribulations, which was already an act of defiance even if they were rules of the world.

She was on the path to becoming an entity outside of the Heaven and Earth's domain, just like every heroic cultivator. So, the will absorbed with the training method self-destructed in her mental sphere too. It only lasted longer in that foreign environment.

Yet, the three of them weren't in a hurry, and they didn't want to risk an injury because of their eagerness to wield that new power.

The two worlds were momentarily at peace, and the trio was outside of the bloodlines' domain. There wasn't anything left to do other than wait for more troops to cross the portal.

Deploying more troops though was a complicated matter, and the capacity of the portal wasn't the only problem in that topic.

King Elbas was doing his best to improve the passage as fast as he could, but there were political situations in the other world that the four forces couldn't just ignore.

Sending more cultivators in the new Mortal Lands would leave their borders undefended. That slowed down the creation of agreements concerning the number of assets to deploy.

After all, the Hive had almost reached its limit after it sent more rank 4 assets in the mating sessions. Its forces consisted only of about seventy rank 4 cultivators and seven entities in the fifth rank.

The width of its territory was almost half that of the three big nations, but those factions had far more available troops even with larger domains.

The Hive was surely growing at an unbelievable speed. Still, it would take time to make it reach a point where it could feel confident in sending more heroic assets through the portal.

The other nations didn't want to see their defenses becoming weaker either, which ended up slowing down the arrivals of new troops further.

Of course, Noah didn't care about the political matters between the four factions, and June seemed to feel the same way.

They were finally together in a place where they could train and love each other in the open. An unknown world was in front of them too, and they could explore it without restrictions.

To put it simply, they weren't so eager to go back to their factions.

Faith seemed to share that feeling since she adapted to the new environment rather quickly. She would spend a large part of her time training, but she would ask June for a spar from time to time.

Noah would watch their battles from time to time, but he found himself quite busy in that period. He often explored the areas around the forest to find powerful magical beasts to hunt, and he consumed a lot of time absorbing Heaven and Earth's will since it kept on self-destructing when it entered his mind.

The Divine Deduction technique helped him gathering information, but his improvements were still slow since he never managed to contain the will for long periods.

He often spent intimate moments with June too. The two of them would just leave for deeper parts of the forest at random moments, and Faith would giggle every time she saw that happening.

All in all, Noah and June had never experienced a happier period in their lives.

The list containing the discoveries made by the assets on the volcano enlarged as the researches continued and the bloodlines provided more reports. Noah even added a few lines in that list as he kept on hunting and exploring.

His discoveries were obviously linked to the fauna and layout of that world, and Noah didn't feel like keeping them for himself since the mutagen inside the Elite beasts had already been found.

It was better to give as many accurate reports as he could before the experts of the other factions reached the same conclusions. That would improve his value as an expert and allow the Hive to obtain discounts on eventual drugs and items that made use of his discoveries.

His efforts helped in enlarging the map of the new world and in classifying the mutated species there.

His experiments with the mutagen allowed him to find a peculiar radiation in the behavior of the primary energy that carried it. His continuous interaction with the random laws contained inside Heaven and Earth's will had made him quite sensitive to their presence.

That discovery allowed the experts in the volcano to replicate that radiation and create items able to detect Elite beasts. The cultivators wouldn't have to test the strength of the creatures anymore to understand if they had a fake dantian.

Also, Noah noticed an intense aggression in how the mutagen targeted his dantian and forced the growth of a similar organ in the ordinary beasts.

Everything seemed to point toward the conclusion that the mutagen could solve the inborn issue of the Flawed humans. Still, the experiments of the ancestors had failed according to the records obtained from the Duron Bloodline.

The experts from Noah's world knew that, but they were far more advanced when it came to most aspects of the cultivation world.

The natives were aware of the properties of many materials in their world, and they had spent centuries learning how to make them express their full potential. Yet, Noah's world had various inscription methods that could be applied even in fields like alchemy, which didn't strictly require them.

The experts took note of the mutagen's aggression too, but that behavior came from the laws inside it. There was a need for heroic cultivators on a far higher level to study it.

Months passed like that, with the three of them contributing to the development of their world while still focusing on their power.

The new mating sessions eventually gave birth to more children. No Elite humans appeared at that time, but there weren't even Flawed humans in the more than forty newborns.

The numbers though didn't dishearten the bloodlines since they knew how small the chances actually were to produce humans like them.

Nevertheless, it was now clear that they could completely overcome the biggest weakness of their society. They just needed time for the new generations to replace all the Flawed humans, which would eventually disappear as that trend continued.

Even years passed eventually, and the trio began to venture deeper into the beasts' territory since it was still dangerous to return to the volcano.

Their goal was to find the remains of the past civilizations when the ancestors were still ruling those Mortal Lands. They hoped to gain more from the dead since the living didn't want to disclose their secrets.

Chapter 756 756. Drawing

The bloodlines had never disclosed the actual timeline of their society. They limited themselves to reveal the existence of the ancestors and that they had been forced to retreat when the Heaven Tribulation killed them.

Noah and the others knew that those events had probably happened millennia in the past, but the structures of the natives were amazing in fending off magical beasts.

There was a chance that they hid secrets that the Elite cultivators didn't want to reveal and that they didn't bother to retrieve during their escape.

Of course, the trio didn't have high hopes for that mission, but they felt like exploring the world after spending almost three years in the area with the blue forest. There wasn't much left to discover and catalog in that territory, so they decided that it was time to move.

Each of them had their reasons to explore too.

Noah wanted to find more rank 5 magical beasts to hunt since his breakthrough to the middle tier was drawing near, and Faith wanted to experience the life of a lone cultivator without the protection of the Council.

As for June, her centers of power were improving at high speed since she began to live in the wilderness.

She could spend all the time that she wanted with her lover, and spar with Faith to fuel her battle intent. Also, she could reveal her real character in her daily life, which was something that she had never been able to do inside her family and with the Royals around her.

Faith had benefitted from that environment too. Having a friend that she could treat as her equal made her experience feelings that she didn't think existed.

Even Noah's presence had contributed to her improvements since he was the only man that didn't seem affected by her beauty. He had eyes only for June, and his aura changed too when he was with her.

The sharp coldness that usually surrounded him became a violent gale that didn't radiate any dangerous sensation. Instead, it expressed a perpetual mutation.

The truth behind Noah's aura was linked to his individuality, but he didn't completely understand the changes happening inside him either.

He knew that he was happy. His family was dead, he was improving steadily, and he could spend his daily life with the woman that he loved.

Yet, his current happiness was different from that felt whenever he had a breakthrough or managed to improve his power drastically.

'Destruction and creation, coldness and warmth,' Noah thought as he walked in front of the two women in his group, 'My feelings take different shapes according to which part of my individuality fuels them.'

There was a duality inside him that his recent period spent with June had helped in enhancing. The quiet and peaceful happiness that he felt in those years was different from the avid and violent one felt when he was a lone cultivator.

'I'm a complex existence due to my hybrid status and my transmigration,' Noah's mind continued to wander, 'But I'm still one. These parts of me shouldn't be separated so clearly.'

He was different from other heroic cultivators since he could study his individuality retroactively. However, that made him advance so quickly that he had disregarded the natural harmony that his existence should have.

That was a common issue when it came to Noah, but it was a problem that he was slowly fixing as his understanding improved.

"We should manage to snatch more years since our factions find an agreement only every six months," June said as she wrapped her arm around Noah's waist and laid her head over his shoulder.

"To think that we would have to thank the same political issues that keep us separated," Noah said as he embraced her too.

Faith had become used to those scenes by then, but she giggled anyway when she saw the couple walking embraced in those unknown territories.

"Unluckily, we have a third wheel," June said when she heard Faith's laugh.

"You have yet to pierce this third wheel's defenses." Faith replied.

"Hmph," June snorted, "We never go all out, and you barely attack. I wonder who would really win in that scenario."

Her aura started to radiate battle intent as her mind imagined a deadly battle against her friend, but Faith quickly reached for her and pulled the sleeve of her free arm.

"You are doing it again!" Faith exclaimed, "Are you sure that you want to spend your life with this maniac?"

Her question was for Noah, who caressed June hair before answering in a dull tone. "She has stabbed my shoulder in one of our first meetings. Her nature has never been a secret to me or anyone."

"I can't imagine you being on her same level," Faith said as curiosity rose inside her.

"I wasn't," June said, "He was simply holding back to hide his spells."

The memories of their battle in the air-ship made Noah and June feel warm when they saw how their relationship had evolved through the years. Yet, Noah suddenly noticed something and felt forced to escape June's embrace to investigate the areas in front of them.

Noah flew in the air and followed the dangerous sensation that his body had noticed. His consciousness expanded and focused in the territory ahead, where he discovered that a pack of White lions had created their lair next to a series of debris.

Noah didn't need any item to understand that the lions were Elite beasts, and he couldn't help but smile when he sensed that their leader had a power in the lower tier of the fifth rank.

Also, the debris hinted to something built by humans, even if there wasn't much left in that area. The smell that fended off magical beasts had mostly vanished too, which was why the White lions could live so close to them.

Noah warned Faith and June before launching himself against the rank 5 beast.

The White lions weren't weak. Their mane had abilities similar to Noah's lungs since it absorbed the sunlight and used it to fuel powerful white beams.

However, even those Elite beasts of the light element couldn't do anything against Noah's prowess, especially since his body had begun to near the limits of the lower tier.

Noah stored everything in his space-ring when the battle was over, and he even gathered the debris to give them to the Hive when he returned to the volcano.

As he expected, he didn't find anything valuable among those old remains. Still, when the area was clear, he noticed a series of lines on the terrain that radiated a feeling that didn't match the environment.

Noah soon understood that the lines were, in fact, a drawing, and he shot in the sky to obtain a complete view.

The images were a bit confused since a lot of lines had disappeared due to the passage of time. Nevertheless, he recognized a Flying snake with a human face among them.

Chapter 757 757. Change

The drawing wasn't exactly precise, but Noah couldn't be mistaken about what he was seeing.

The vegetation that had grown there through the years and the influence of the magical beasts had modified that environment, altering the original shape of those lines. Yet, some of them had survived the passage of time and the natural influences, leaving a few distinct images that anyone could see.

Noah wasn't satisfied with just that drawing. He dived back on the ground and began to uproot any plant in the area that featured those basic inscriptions.

More lines appeared as he scanned the terrain. They carried a faint sense of durability, which had mostly faded since the ancestors had probably inscribed them a while back.

Noah could see how they appeared to be part of a large drawing meant to remain hidden under the structure that had occupied that territory.

'Pieces of history covered by the natives with their buildings.' Noah thought as the entirety of that ruined drawing unfolded in his vision.

Of course, that was purely hypothetical. Noah couldn't be sure about the origin of those lines, nor why the ruins of what appeared to be a castle covered them. Yet, they depicted mysterious images that had to mean something when coupled with the strangeness of that world.

Noah managed to find more almost complete figures when he uncovered the entirety of the remaining lines. He found more drawings depicting strange hybrids that had physical features belonging to both the human and that beasts' world.

He saw a human shape with a fish's head, a strange octopus that had arms instead of tentacles, and a creepy wolf that had three human skulls.

'This doesn't make any sense.' Noah exclaimed in his mind as he kept on floating above the drawing.

He knew that the ancestors were hybrid-like beings, but those images hinted to something completely different.

'Such lifeforms can't appear naturally,' Noah thought, 'Or can they?'

Noah didn't know what to believe anymore.

The new Mortal Lands opened him to the possibilities that there were other types of humans and beasts and that species that resembled hybrids had appeared naturally. So, he didn't have the confidence in assuming that such imperfect creatures couldn't appear on their own.

June and Faith arrived after they understood that something was wrong, and they felt his same amazement when they saw the drawings.

"What do you think?" June asked as she turned to look at Noah.

She could immediately find a connection between those images and Noah's peculiar body since she knew about its features. Also, she had seen how the bloodlines desired him.

There had to be a connection between their past, the hybrids, and Noah's body-nourishing method. Still, her knowledge in the matter was too limited to make suppositions. Only Noah could know more about it since he was an expert in the magical beasts' field, other than a peculiar existence similar to the ancestors.

However, Noah could only shake his head at that question.

He didn't know what to think, but he knew that he had to discover more about the topic and that his efforts alone wouldn't be enough to obtain answers quickly.

Noah picked his special notebook and began to add his discoveries to the list. He even conveyed the entirety of the drawings on the ground.

The cultivators of his world already knew about the ancestors' features. He wasn't risking anything by revealing that. Instead, informing the other experts might help him find answers.

After all, that wasn't a small matter. It was the proof that the six bloodlines were holding back part of their history.

It was needless to say that Noah, June, and Faith received countless mental messages in the following minutes. The leaders and the various experts wanted to know everything about that discovery to better work with it.

Noah gave a detailed explanation, and he even conveyed some of his considerations.

He believed that those creatures were the result of the experiments with the mutagen carried by the Elite beasts. Yet, tests on Flawed humans wouldn't become drawings hidden under large structures.

The natives worshipped the ancestors and the Elite humans, which meant that every piece of art had to feature them. It was highly improbable that they would depict failed experiments through their inscriptions.

'Unless they aren't failures.' Noah thought as he stored his notebook.

He had done everything in his power to inform the other assets of his world. Now, it would be up to them to discover something more.

"What now?" Faith asked when even she finished reporting the situation to the higher-ups of her faction.

June finished her report too and turned toward her lover to see what he would choose.

Noah felt his curiosity reaching his limits as he faced the two women. "Let's look for more ruins."

Meanwhile, the truth uncovered by Noah had massive repercussions on the relationship between the two worlds.

The four forces from Noah's world had been honest, but the bloodlines had lied about their past. That made the four factions rethink whether to trust the resources that reached them.

Also, Noah's discovery made them agree that it was time to show their hand.

Four rank 5 cultivators crossed the portal and arrived in the new world in the following months.

They weren't existences in the gaseous stage. They were either in the liquid or solid stage in the fifth rank!

The four factions felt challenged when they discovered that the Elite humans had lied to them and decided to put aside their divergences to focus on showing their power.

The arrival of those new assets forced the bloodlines to release the cultivators that they had held captive in that period, but some of them were still in the middle of the mating sessions.

Nevertheless, the forces from Noah's world felt that the Elite humans had broken their agreements, so they decided to show how serious they were.

About three years after the arrival of the rank 5 reinforcements, the fissure under the volcano enlarged and destroyed part of the items that hid its presence.

The ground shook, and the magma boiled during that event, but the cultivators guarding the passage didn't act to stop those tremors. Instead, they wore stern expressions as they waited for the arrival of one of the most potent assets that their world had to offer.

A woman with brown hair, shining green eyes, and a youthful appearance crossed the fissure and took a deep breath when she reached the other world.

She spread her consciousness to analyze the area, and a series of scared cries resounded in the nearby territories as the beasts living there felt the immense danger carried by those mental waves.

The cultivators waiting for her arrival bowed and shouted greetings toward the rank 6 existence that had joined their quest. "We welcome God's Left Hand to the new world!"

Chapter 758 758. Whole

The arrival of a rank 6 existence in the new world turned the negotiations in favor of the four factions.

The six bloodlines couldn't ignore the other world at that point. There were eight rank 5 cultivators and an entity in the sixth rank right next to their borders now. That power couldn't defeat the entirety of the natives, but it could inflict heavy losses that they weren't willing to suffer.

God's Left Hand forced the Elite humans to disband the mating sessions and return the assets that had remained in the castle during those years.

Those rank 4 cultivators in the gaseous stage appeared extremely confused when they returned to the castle, and all of them seemed to have lost weight.

The forces from Noah's world didn't ask for compensation since the bloodlines had continued to stick to the previous agreements and send resources when the mating sessions were still in place. Yet, they increased the price in terms of resources and knowledge when the negotiations resumed.

Also, they made it clear that other lies would just force them to become hostile.

The Elite humans could only agree to the new terms, but they took any research and piece of history away from their deals. They openly stated that they wouldn't reveal anything about their past and their discoveries.

They would rather give away more resources than stop lying.

It was needless to say that the four factions didn't like their answer. Still, the value of those materials and techniques was high, so they didn't create problems for the behavior of the natives.

After all, they were bound to reach even better conclusions by researching through their methods. Also, Noah's group was taking care of the part concerning the history of the world.

Noah, June, and Faith had continued exploring in those years, and they had looked for more structures that hid drawings. They had ventured deeper into the beasts' territory, and they had even received the approval of their leaders since their mission was crucial in uncovering the essential secrets.

Of course, their advance was quite slow since Noah didn't want to neglect his training. Yet, they still managed to find other drawings even if they didn't move as fast as the leaders wanted.

There seemed to be the same kind of inscribed lines under every remain of a building in the wilderness. Another peculiar detail was that powerful creatures always occupied those areas.

Noah's group had to decide to avoid certain ruins because there were too many rank 5 beasts living in those areas. There were times where all they could do was flying above those destroyed structures and launch spells until the ground was empty enough to reveal the drawings.

That approach though wasn't always feasible since that world didn't lack flying magical beasts. Nevertheless, they still managed to find many remains and drawings, and all of them depicted those half-human half-beast creatures.

It was evident that those images were an important part of the natives' past, but both Noah and the forces on the volcano couldn't link them to the current status of the Elite humans.

There was too much that they didn't know, but they were doing their best to make up for that temporary ignorance.

Almost seven years had passed since the four factions stepped on the new world, and their understanding and knowledge had already improved far beyond what they imagined.

Just the training method for the mental spheres was worth the trip, but the cultivators from Noah's world had obtained far more than that.

They obtained countless spells created with different kinds of diagrams that suited the inscription method of that world. They amassed a huge pile of precious materials that they could redirect to all the cultivation fields. They learnt a more straightforward way to create cultivation techniques, even if the final product would ultimately be weaker if they used the methods of the Elite humans.

Their somewhat peaceful relationship with the natives had made them obtain all of that in only seven years and without losing anything. The four forces just had to send their weakest troops in the heroic ranks in the mating sessions.

Still, they had yet to discover a lot, especially for what concerned the bloodlines and the mutagen inside the Elite beasts.

"I need to go in seclusion," Noah said as he turned toward June, "I don't know how long it will take."

The three of them were in a swamp filled with an intense aroma that seemed to increase the natural aggression of the magical beasts.

They had found other ruins just a few days before, but that territory turned out to be a rank 5 danger zone that featured more than three creatures in the fifth rank. The group had to avoid that area since the beasts living there could fly, and there wasn't a safe way to explore it without enraging those creatures.

That led them to the swamp that they were currently exploring to look for other remains of the past civilizations.

"Why is that?" June asked, but she couldn't hide the tinge of happiness that she felt.

Cultivators would usually seclude themselves when they were nearing a breakthrough, and seeing her lover becoming stronger made her feel relieved. Also, her battle intent fed on the strength of her rivals. Noah's growth would incite her centers of power to improve faster.

"It's my body," Noah said, and June held back her curiosity at those words.

She understood that he couldn't reveal too many details about his body. The risk was too high, especially now that the four factions were trying to find the connection between the drawings and the power held by the Elite humans.

Noah had never stopped hunting and nourishing his body during the exploration, and he had even reached the peak of the lower tier a while ago. Yet, he needed to fill his center of power with enough energy to trigger the breakthrough, and that had happened right in that swamp.

"We should find a safer area though." Faith said, and both her companions nodded at her idea.

The swamp wasn't ideal, especially for Noah since he was affected by the scent in the air.

Noah quickly led the group to a plain that only had rank 4 magical beasts on its surface. Then, he dug a cave in the terrain and secluded himself after exchanging a quick kiss with June.

There was no chrysalis at that time. Noah simply abandoned himself at the drowsiness that had filled him since his body became ready to take a step forward.

Strange images appeared in his mind as he slept. He saw some of the memories of the Cursed dragon species again, but there was something else mixed with them.

He saw humans filling vials with their blood while a series of other humans kneeled in front of them. He saw half-human half-beast creatures roaring and screaming as chain prevented it from attacking the cheering crowd around them.

In the end, right before waking up, he heard an aged voice murmuring something. "Perfection is unknown to humans. Only beasts can be whole."

Chapter 759 759. Warning

Noah woke up, invaded by hunger so intense that he could barely think straight. However, the memories from his dreams still filled his mind and created amazement.

'I've missed something!' He exclaimed in his mind as he took a bunch of Daniel's pills and random magical beasts' body parts and quickly stuffed them in his mouth.

To his surprise though, those nutrients only appeased him for a few instants before his hunger filled him again.

Noah roared in anger as he started to unload his stash of magical beasts' corpses and devour them as they piled on the ground of his cave.

There wasn't any corpse in the fifth rank in his space-ring since he had used all of them to reach the middle tier. Yet, that large amount of nutrients in the fourth rank ultimately managed to satisfy him. His hunger was still there, but he could bear it in that intensity.

'There is something hidden in the mutagen!' Noah thought as he activated the Divine Deduction technique to review everything that he had learnt since he came to that world.

The images that he had seen in his dream didn't come from the Cursed dragon species, nor a Bloodline Inheritance. Those were actual human memories!

Yet, he hadn't eaten a human's dantian in a while, and he didn't even rely on the properties of his mental energy after he became a rank 5 mage. The only meal that didn't belong to his usual regimen was the Elite beasts.

Nevertheless, those were magical beasts. It didn't make any sense for them to carry human memories unless they weren't just beasts.

'How much did they hide? Where do their lies stop?' Noah cursed as he asked those questions in his mind.

Why were there human memories hidden inside the mutagen carried by the Elite beasts? Were they once humans? Were they descendants of humans transformed into beasts? Or did they just eat someone that had seen those scenes?

'Did the Elite beasts even appear naturally?' Noah thought as he began to suppress those doubts.

He wasn't even sure if the Elite humans had the answers to his questions. Most of their history might have been lost during their retreat.

'We can only advance further and explore more ruins.' Noah concluded, but he realized that there was another issue connected to his discovery.

He didn't have a way to justify what he had found. He couldn't assure the assets back on the volcano of the validity of his dreams without exposing his hybrid status.

They would never believe him unless he revealed the features of his body-nourishing method, which was something that he obviously wouldn't do. However, he had to give them some hints at least.

Having other experts researching the Elite beasts while he explored the world would improve their chances to discover something, and Noah didn't want to remain in the dark.

"There might be something wrong with the Elite beasts, like some kind of toxin," Noah said through his special notebook, "This feature might be hidden in the laws that rule it."

That message was all that Noah was willing to reveal. It wasn't much, but he believed that creating doubts would force the experts to investigate the matter thoroughly, especially since he was quite respected in that field.

Noah suddenly sensed a presence reaching for his cave, and he couldn't help but smile when he recognized it.

"You are awake!" June exclaimed as she broke the entrance and flew straight in his embrace.

Noah felt his arousal filling him as soon as she reached him, but he suppressed that feeling when he saw that she had improved and her body had even reached the fifth rank.

The memories during his breakthrough were so shocking that he didn't have the time to check his centers of power before June arrived.

The first thing he felt when he focused on his body was an immense quantity of raw power. He had reached the middle tier, which made that center of power far more potent than his spells. The physical strength hidden behind his almost impenetrable skin was so incredible that Noah feared that he could hurt June if he weren't careful.

His mind and dantian had improved too during his sleep, and he could guess by their enlargement of those centers of power that he had spent less than two years asleep.

'Harmony seems impossible for me.' Noah sighed as he thought that.

His body was advancing in the fifth rank when his dantian was still in the solid stage of the fourth rank!

That difference in power though wasn't really his fault. His mind and body were simply off the charts when it came to growing speed. His dantian grew at an incredible pace too, but it couldn't compare to the other centers of power.

One of them had a head start, while the other could rely on the superior prowess of the cultivators to obtain nutrients that would be impossible to get otherwise. Instead, his dantian only surpassed the realm of the geniuses, but it didn't enter in the otherworldly one where his body and mind were when it came to growing speed.

Also, it had only been a bit more than ten years since he reached the solid stage. Having a personal cultivation technique made him surpass any genius, but it couldn't create miracles.

Noah and June caught up, and she updated him on the situation in the human domain.

No major event had happened while he was asleep, but it seemed that there was tension building up between the Elite humans and the cultivators of the four forces.

The bloodlines had become more demanding in the last period, but God's Left Hand always refused to negotiate again. She couldn't care less if the Elite humans didn't have enough assets in their mating sessions since her experts were already doing an excellent job.

She didn't need to send more troops in the clutches of those mysterious natives.

"You do realize that I could hear your moans while I was fighting?" Faith said as she appeared in the cave too and joined their conversation.

She had improved too, but she didn't experience any breakthrough since she had advanced during their exploration already. Instead, she seemed to have achieved some success with the training method obtained in that world since her mental waves were somewhat strange.

"What is the reason behind your message?" Faith asked at some point.

"Call it a hunch," Noah said. "I feel that the mutagen inside the Elite beasts and the drawings under the ruins are connected."

Faith accepted his explanation and didn't mind that he was keeping something for himself. She couldn't possibly know that the phrase that Noah had heard before waking up made him worry.

His instincts had begun to convey a sort of bad feeling once Noah stabilized his new state, and he couldn't pinpoint the actual origin of that sensation.

'What did they mean with perfection?' Noah questioned himself once again when their discussion ended, and they resumed their training. 'If only beasts can be whole, where does that put me?'

Chapter 760 760. Ruins

Noah, June, and Faith resumed their exploration of the beasts' territory after he woke up. Yet, the group took even longer breaks in that period to focus on other things.

Some cultivators didn't take Noah's warning seriously, but most of them believed in his capabilities when it came to the magical beasts' field.

Most of the insights on the properties of the mutagen had come from him, and he had even been the first to discover the drawings of the half-human half-beast creatures.

When the assets ignored his cold behavior and his inclination to create chaos, they were left with a particularly fantastic expert and an even more incredible cultivator.

Of course, the members of the three enemy factions could see him in that positive light only because there was a natural truce among their forces in that world.

Those cultivators who trusted Noah's judgment began to look for the hidden properties of the mutagen actively. Still, it was evident to all of them that such capabilities were carried by the laws that ruled it.

The laws were a topic that most heroic cultivators failed even to see until they reached the peak of the last stages of the heroic ranks. They first had to understand their individuality, then learn to express it, and, in the end, link it to laws that they could wield.

Even experts in the fifth rank could barely begin to see the tools of the gods, and there were only eight of them in the new world. Also, the magical beasts and the primary energy that they carried wasn't the field of expertise of most of them.

Yet, the new world had given them something that could tune them with something linked to the laws.

The natives' training method for the mental sphere allowed the thoughts of the cultivators to copy Heaven and Earth's will, making them more in line with the laws contained in the environment. That could enable them to understand laws slightly or feel what they were trying to express, at least.

It was a stretch, but all the heroic assets felt that it was the only way to discover something that it would be impossible to learn at their level otherwise.

A large part of the cultivators on the volcano began to focus on the training method wholeheartedly, and Noah's group wasn't an exception.

Noah's supposition and the possible connection with the bloodlines' past made them shift their focus on something that they had decided to take it slowly for the time being.

As for Noah, he had to face another problem together with his training.

His body was now in the middle tier, which meant that it required a higher number of powerful nutrients to improve and appease his hunger. His hunts became more frequent, and he even began to refill his stash of corpses that he had almost emptied after his awakening.

The training with the method proceeded slowly, but the first signs of success started to appear after so many years spent trying to reproduce Heaven and Earth's will.

The Divine Deduction technique partially allowed him to make up for the self-destructions of the wills, and he managed to memorize the aura radiated by those messy laws a few years after the breakthrough.

It must be said that Faith had been faster than him in that field, but there wasn't much that he could do about it. She was weaker than him, and her existence hadn't openly clashed with Heaven and Earth yet. So, she had more time to understand the kind of aura that she had to copy.

After that, they would have to create a copy of the will and then use it to modify the walls of their minds following the natives' inscription method.

June needed a few more years to memorize the aura of the will, but even she joined her companions in the following steps of the training method after that.

In that period of training and hunting, the group kept on discovering more traces of the old reign of the Elite cultivators.

Noah's new state allowed them to explore areas that weren't accessible before due to the power of beasts habiting them. They found more drawings and even more hints as they ventured deeper into the wilderness.

Cleared images began to appear. They depicted scenes similar to what Noah had seen in his dreams, and they even added some details.

Noah and the others saw humans handing vials to kneeled humans, and the hybrid-like creatures following those drawings. There were even some images that depicted humans and beasts holding their hands in a friendly manner!

It was only when they were about to reach the farther regions from the human domain though that they started to see shocking things.

The ruins became more and more frequent as they reached for the other side of the continent. It was as if entire cities had fallen there. However, there were always the drawings that Noah's group had become familiar to see at the center of those ruins.

It wasn't hard to guess that the habitations of the previous rulers stood there back then. Yet, Noah and the others would have never expected for some of them not to be destroyed entirely.

"This is the most intact one that we found." Faith said as she gazed toward a castle in the distance that had mostly fallen apart.

Even if they were quite far away, they could sense part of the aura contained in the materials that made that structure.

"Yes. It must have been the home for some powerful entity." June said.

"Indeed," Noah added. "The materials are just on another level. They even manage to keep the magical beasts away after so many years. I guess that the Heaven Tribulation really happened then."

The group advanced toward the broken castle after that quick exchange of lines.

Noah was obviously in the lead, and he was even the only one that could sense the awful scent that the materials of the structure still radiated. Nevertheless, he had become so used to smell it by then that he didn't even he sitate to enter the castle when he reached it.

The entirety of the structure had black cracks on its outside that spread even on its insides.

"There definitely was a Heaven Tribulation here," June said when she inspected those cracks.

Noah instincts didn't react to them, but June could be sure of that with just a few looks. She had used the Tribulation as part of her cultivation method, while Noah was merely sensitive to its energy. It wasn't strange that she was the only one able to notice it.

When the group reached the dungeon of the castle though, the cracks became far less appealing.

A series of cells appeared in their view, and all of them had strange bones inside them. There were traces of dried blood even, but Noah's eyes had already widened when he saw the shape of those skeletons.

He could see that each cell used to contain beings that had both humans and beasts' features.	