

DEMONIC 1621

Chapter 1621 - 1621. Enemy

Noah's request didn't only apply to him. Actually, he didn't need Great Builder's items. He would even avoid getting resources if the expert could tell him more about Heaven and Earth's domain.

He had requested everything out of habit, but the pyramid had already given his army a massive amount of wealth. Noah wasn't even sure whether Great Builder had anything left after fighting Radiant Eyes.

The leaders made a list with their requests, and Great Builder only glanced at them before accepting everything. The expert didn't mind them at all. After all, he owed the group his very life.

Great Builder turned out to be completely broke after the battle. The bricks of the pyramid had suffered too much damage, and he had even consumed most of his valuable resources.

Still, the expert was an existence in the ninth rank capable of wonders. Great Builder could give the hybrids something that they had always lacked. He could create a proper stronghold that would seal their ownership over the regions in the Outer Lands.

That suggestion came from Alexander. The expert didn't want anything for himself, so he requested a structure worthy of his organization.

King Elbas, Luke's team, and the experts from the Balrow family joined Noah in his request for knowledge. Wilfred and the other hybrids accepted the new home as their reward, while Divine Demon asked for a conversation with Great Builder.

The magical beasts didn't ask anything, but the leader of the Foolery decided to join Divine Demon and hold a private conversation with Great Builder. No one knew the topics about that interaction, but the duo wore satisfied expressions after the chat ended.

Great Builder took Radiant Eyes corpse but left everything else to his saviors. The battlefield contained countless corpses and broken puppets that the experts could use for multiple projects.

The group then left the area and flew across the human domain to return to the Outer Lands. Great Builder could create a teleport, but the experts preferred to study how the environment had changed during Radiant Eyes' rule.

Destruction spread everywhere. Radiant Eyes had chased the white cultivator across the entire human domain, and she had never spared the few forces that she met.

The human domain was a desolate land now, and only a few packs of magical beasts occupied its surface and underground world. Those areas would soon attract new creatures, but the process might take centuries.

Great Builder continued his description about Heaven and Earth's domain during the travel. Most of his ideas came from vague clues found during his long life, but they sounded pretty accurate when they reached the experts' ears.

The Immortal Lands stood at the center of the domain. The white sky surrounded the higher plane and worked as a filter for the many resources captured during the constant expansion.

Heaven and Earth's aura covered the sky and kept the various lower planes inside a separate space. Their influence also spread in the immense void and searched for new worlds to absorb.

The constant absorption led to a steady expansion. The sky stretched, and the Immortal Lands grew day by day. Heaven and Earth never stopped, but their real motives were unclear.

Reaching the tenth rank was the obvious explanation, but Great Builder believed that there was something else. Such powerful existences couldn't be mere beings that cared only about energy. There had to be more to that immense structure.

Noah felt very interested in the Cities inside the sky. He believed that they contained clues about Heaven and Earth's true nature, but Great Builder often reminded him not to search for them at his current level.

The expert knew a lot about Heaven and Earth's power, but Noah had to admit that the Tribulations had never managed to pose a decent threat to him lately. He didn't want to underestimate those mighty rulers, but his experience forced him to think otherwise.

"Tell me how you died," Noah eventually asked.

Noah couldn't let himself underestimate Heaven and Earth, so he needed an accurate description of their might. Hearing about Great Builder's death could be the key to solve that issue.

"The air became an unbearable poison," Great Builder explained. "I solved that, but I had to face the anger of the ground afterward. Imagine the terrain shattering whenever you try to step on the surface of this world."

"That's not enough to kill you," Noah replied.

"This is what you are experiencing," Great Builder sighed. "The next step will feature constant lightning bolts falling on yourself. Then, you will have the "Breath" of the world against you. I bet you can sense how the whole plane is trying to get rid of your existence."

"You have yet to explain how you died," Noah reminded the expert.

"I'm getting there," Great Builder snorted. "I still remember my death. I was at this level when Heaven and Earth managed to put an end to my life. My law is too strong to die, but I had to lose to acknowledge the might of my opponents."

Noah didn't complain. The expert wanted to take his time to describe that story. It was clear that those memories still hurt his pride.

"I was in the middle of the stormy regions," Great Builder continued. "Heaven and Earth couldn't reach me there, but that didn't apply to their followers. I have seen armies appearing around me. I tried my best, but the world began to suppress my existence, and those troops eventually overwhelmed me."

Noah arched his eyebrows. Great Builder was too strong to die due to a few armies. He was a rank 9 cultivator by that time, so most existences in the world had to lower their head in front of him.

"The armies weren't a problem," Great Builder added. "Imagine having to face three rank 9 cultivators empowered by Heaven and Earth while the whole world tries to suppress you. Those beings went beyond Heaven and Earth's limits. It's hard to put their power into words."

"Limits?" Noah asked.

"Heaven and Earth can make their followers ignore their fairness." Great Builder continued. "They can wield energy that goes beyond the "Breath". Even their laws feel strange."

Great Builder took a few breaks during the travel to stabilize his cultivation level. He had just come back to life. He required those moments to harmonize his existence and make sure that Heaven and Earth didn't keep track of him.

"This is a safe period, but problems will eventually arrive," Great Builder explained. "Heaven and Earth will learn how to exploit your innate flaws after each Tribulation. Your superior body won't help you anymore at some point. Your existence will become your very limit."

"Is that how you died?" Noah eventually asked.

"Yes," Great Builder sighed. "I had so many projects at hand, but the world wasn't ready for that. I didn't think Heaven and Earth would bother to create a punishment that targeted my very existence. I wasn't even arrogant. I didn't think they could do it due to their fairness."

"I guess I'll also face the same Tribulation," Noah continued to ask.

"Undoubtedly," Great Builder explained. "Your existence will become your worse enemy. Broader laws have a better chance to survive, but you shouldn't take that for granted. There is only suffering from now on."

"So be it," Noah sighed.

"This is the path toward the peak," Great Builder explained. "I've seen your centers of power and studied your existence. I can already imagine Heaven and Earth tricking you with a fake understanding of the superior ranks. Beware of what you feel. Don't trust yourself during a Tribulation."

Chapter 1622 - 1622. Study

The conversation left Noah partially unsatisfied. He had understood that Heaven and Earth would modify their punishments according to his existence, but the most threatening Tribulations seemed to feature rank 9 experts.

Noah would have to face those existences only when his battle prowess reached the ninth rank. That was part of Heaven and Earth's fairness. The followers could ignore those limits, but the rulers had to abide by them.

Normal cultivation levels didn't apply to Noah. He only had a middle tier body, but he could already fight upper tier magical beasts.

Having to face rank 9 existences once his battle prowess reached that level didn't sound too scary. Great Builder's story didn't manage to instill fear inside him, and Noah couldn't help but feel disappointed about it.

'I guess it's up to Heaven and Earth,' Noah thought as the travel reached its last phase.

The human domain didn't feature anything interesting since Radiant Eyes had seized every valuable resource. The travel had only confirmed that the Legion wouldn't have enemies in a while. After all, the various organizations had to reclaim the lost lands first.

The Legion and Noah didn't have any interest in taking those regions. The Outer Lands were better in terms of sheer energy, so they wouldn't care about those damaged areas.

The blue regions eventually appeared in Noah's vision. A series of packs had taken control of those lands due to the nourishing properties of the blue bushes, but Great Builder's presence made them run away before they could sense the other auras in his group.

"This is not bad at all," Great Builder commented at the sight of the blue lands, and the leader of the Foolery couldn't help but raise its head to express its pride.

"I don't know how much you can do right now," Alexander probed. "I wish you could create something that covers both cities, at least. We can handle the rest."

"Nonsense," Great Builder snorted, and his consciousness spread through the regions.

His law flowed inside his mental waves and forced the lands to morph. Magical plants grew out of the ground and created a series of tall domes that covered the entire area occupied by the Legion and Noah's group.

The magical plants soon died, but they left behind their thick structure and the domes. Their materials seemed able to fend off every aura that reached their surface. They resembled impenetrable walls, even if they had many holes inside them.

Great Builder continued his creations inside those structures. He rearranged the matter in the ground to give birth to tall open buildings that could contain cultivators, magical beasts, and hybrids.

Those structures had all the best features of the inscribed habitations. They enhanced the absorption of energy and granted a higher recovery rate. Some of them also had features that quickened the thinking speed.

King Elbas couldn't help but take notes whenever Great Builder waved his hands. Everything he did inspired the cultivator and gave him new ideas.

The new home of the Legion quickly took form. Its final shape saw entire regions covered in magical plants that hid tall structures capable of benefitting every creature in the world.

Noah felt the need to seclude himself in front of such structures, but he suppressed that feeling. Great Builder had yet to complete one task before departing toward the stormy regions. He had to wake up a powerful friend.

The leaders left most of their underlings inside those new habitations before leading Great Builder deeper into the Outer Lands. An immense mountain soon appeared in their vision, and a large palace couldn't escape their inspection.

"I wonder where he stole that," Great Builder commented at the sight of the palace. "Supreme Thief has never learnt how to build something so big. I bet he took various mansions and merged them into this shape."

Noah and the others ignored that comment and waited for the expert to work his magic. Great Builder soon neared the palace and made his consciousness converge among the towers. He didn't care about the various separate dimensions hidden inside those structures. He only wanted to find his old friend.

An azure aura soon seeped out of the palace, and Great Builder didn't hesitate to focus on it. A curse soon escaped his mouth, and his figure began to fade right in the middle of Noah's group.

"I'll be back soon," Great Builder said before his figure completely disappeared.

Noah and the others waited for entire days in front of the palace before deciding to dig training areas around the azure mountain. They didn't know when Great Builder would come back, but they had a lot of experience to absorb after the events with Radiant Eyes.

Witnessing the battle between two rank 9 existences gave them a general idea of how that power level worked. They had seen how the world reacted to those presences. The fight wasn't something that they could study in a few training sessions.

Noah didn't hesitate to rely on the Demonic Deduction technique after memorizing those scenes. He recalled the battle, but his focus had always been on the various abilities used during the face-off.

Great Builder had won the battle, but Radiant Eyes had also shown how the innate advantages of the hybrids weren't enough in a fight at that level.

It was hard to justify Radiant Eyes' defeat. Noah could only blame her lack of viable techniques. Her toxic influence was only a passive power that couldn't match her physical prowess.

Great Builder had also been useless when Noah gathered information about the battle. He had studied Radiant Eyes' law, but his understanding was purely theoretical. He had only learnt about certain features before creating suitable countermeasures.

Noah was on his own during his seclusion. He mainly focused on cultivating and stabilizing his centers of power, and he rarely lingered on new projects.

His idea of exploiting the parasite to create an attack similar to Radiant Eye's influence was only a vague project that would require years to set off.

The main problem with that ability was its application in a real battle. Noah already had powerful spells and techniques that could inflict damage over time, but they didn't suit his battle style.

The corrosive aura was the same. Noah had to work hard only to make that power useful. That attack didn't match his singularities or movement techniques, but he felt confident enough to create something valuable.

Great Builder returned as his idea began to form. The expert brought the entire corpse of a rank 9 magical beast and began to dissect its body right in front of the palace.

Noah quickly flew out of the cave to inspect the scene. Great Builder created nine weaker versions of the rank 9 fake cores and placed them on each tower.

An ethereal figure appeared at the center of the palace when the halo dimmed. Azure light surrounded his body, and his long black hair fluttered in the wind. A dark eyepatch covered his left eye, and a confused expression filled his face.

"You have come back to life," Great Builder said. "I must admit. Surpassing your defenses has been quite easy."

Supreme Thief didn't reply. His body slowly regained a physical form. Waves of threatening azure light flew through the world and converged in his position, giving him the various pieces of aura that he had spread through the plane during his life.

Chapter 1623 - 1623. Departure

"My defenses?" Supreme Thief asked while continuing to inspect his surroundings. "I stole them too. Why would I bother to build something when I can take them from better inscription masters?"

"Death didn't change you," Great Builder commented.

"Death changes nothing," Supreme Thief replied. "We are worlds inside Heaven and Earth. We can only expand."

Supreme Thief inspected his body. He raised his hand and checked that everything was in place. Azure light still converged toward his figure, but his existence was almost ready to live again.

Heaven and Earth didn't like that process. They marked Supreme Thief's existence, and they quickly reacted when the pieces of his world converged toward his figure.

A series of sparks accumulated in the sky, but Supreme Thief instinctively performed a pulling motion and tore them away from the whiteness.

Huge sparks and lightning bolts froze mid-air and flew toward Supreme Thief. Those attacks didn't dare to move in his presence. They could be nutrients, but the expert only put them into the palace under him for the time being.

"We are back to life!" Supreme Thief eventually commented. "I bet the great masters won't like it. How strong are you right now?"

"I've mostly recovered," Great Builder replied. "I need a few more years to refill my inventory and gain access to my whole battle prowess."

"That's not bad," Supreme Thief replied. "I should be a bit better than that. We can't let those annoying existences take over us again. We must be one step ahead of them from now on."

Noah and the others began to inspect their surroundings. They were ready for the appearance of another rank 9 cultivator, but Heaven and Earth didn't send anyone.

Heaven and Earth had spread their punishment on the entire group after the events with Radiant Eyes. Almost all the members of the army were now suffering from that annoying curse.

"Nothing?" Supreme Thief asked in a surprised tone while inspecting his surroundings. "That's strange. I thought Heaven and Earth hated us."

"Give it time," Great Builder. "They have just lost one of their powerful followers. I think they don't want to waste assets on us right now."

"Boring," Supreme Thief sighed. "I wanted to steal something. Heaven and Earth's followers are easy targets."

Noah and the others remained in silence during that interaction. They didn't know how to join the conversation, and part of them didn't want to attract the experts' attention.

Still, Supreme Thief turned toward Noah's group before they could say anything. A faint smile appeared on the expert's face, but he remained in his position since his body had yet to solidify completely.

"You should be grateful to them," Great Builder said before Supreme Thief could do anything. "Don't steal anything. You are alive because of their efforts."

"I was only looking," Supreme Thief replied in an annoyed tone. "I already know a few of them, especially that guy with the strange energy."

"I've also noticed it," Great Builder exclaimed. "I wish I could have more time to study it."

Noah felt the need to take a few steps back after those remarks, but he could sense that the experts didn't have any ill intentions.

Supreme Thief waited until his body solidified before entering the palace. He took a few items and returned to the outside world to join his companion.

The two experts talked while their auras suppressed their words. Noah and the others couldn't understand what they were saying, and they didn't try to inspect their conversation out of respect for those powerful existences.

The Legion had gone from being one of the weaker organizations in the Immortal Lands to having two rank 9 cultivators conversing nearby. The scene was quite surreal, especially when considering the past of that force.

"I guess it's time to go," Great Builder eventually said, and the weaker experts around him managed to hear his words.

"No point remaining in these barren lands," Supreme Thief sighed. "We need the storms to advance. I hope Heaven and Earth can send an expert or two in the meantime."

"Heaven and Earth already know what we can do," Great Builder complained. "We need to improve quickly, or they will overwhelm us again. I don't think my existence can survive another death."

"I don't think we'll have the chance to come back to life again!" Supreme Thief laughed before turning toward Noah's group. "I'll leave the palace here. It still has many resources, so it works as an inheritance. You can sacrifice it if the Tribulations become too harsh to handle."

Noah felt curious about their worries. He wanted to see the duo fight Heaven and Earth. Still, he respected their fears. The rulers of the world had to have something powerful in store since Supreme Thief and Great Builder felt in a hurry to advance.

"I must leave," Great Builder announced while nearing Noah's group. "We should be even now. We will meet again if you manage to survive through the next millennia."

"Don't forget your greed," Supreme Thief said while winking at Noah.

Great Builder quickly neared Supreme Thief, and the duo disappeared from their position. The innate heavy aura radiated by their figure also vanished, which confirmed that the two experts had left.

Noah and the others inspected that spot for a while before glancing toward the palace. Some of them decided to enter the inheritance in silence, and none of them dared to stop those experts.

The rest of the group remained outside. A long training session was waiting for them back into their domain, but they didn't want to start it right away.

They wanted to watch more battles that featured experts at the peak of the cultivation journey. They desired to stir chaos among the remaining human organizations. They wanted more from the Immortal Lands, but their current level had already given them everything they could seize.

The group returned inside the blue regions now protected by magical plants and various structures. The experts could inspect the many training areas and special environments created by Great Builder, and that sight left them completely satisfied.

Noah solidified his breakthrough inside those training areas. His body had shown signs of improvements only after he devoured many corpses stored inside his separate space. The upper tier seemed an immensity away, but Noah believed that he could do something to quicken his growth.

The battle against the bees had shown him that he could hunt creatures in the upper tier. Magical beasts at that level could give him far more nutrients and significantly improve the pace of his growth.

Noah also focused on his dantian since it was the only center of power that had fallen behind. Improving it required a lot of time, but Noah already had clear ideas about his path. He only had to invest time and effort, and his breakthrough would arrive.

As for his mind, Noah had already booked a series of appointments with Alexander. He wouldn't let his portable training area run away, especially in a period so heavily focused on centers of power.

A long period went by as the experts rested and improved inside the blue lands. A series of breakthroughs happened, and most experts grew.

The Legion and Noah's team were waiting for the human forces to reclaim their domain, but they didn't expect a series of them to appear at the edges of the defensive magical plants.

Noah and a few experts decided to investigate the matter, and their eyes widened at that sight. Most of the leaders among the human forces had reached the blue domain even if they had yet to reclaim their old lands.

Chapter 1624 - 1624. Call

The group from the human domain didn't feature many experts. That team only had one envoy for each organization, with a few exceptions.

Noah recognized many emblems when he reached the enemy group. The Monneay family, the Sailbird family, the Rotway family, and other forces had sent their envoys in the Outer Lands, but they didn't seem to have ill intentions.

The group lacked experts from the Crystal City, but Noah expected much. Their hatred toward Noah ran too deep even to consider the option of having a normal conversation with the Legion.

"I can't understand if you are reckless or desperate," Noah commented after inspecting the group.

A tinge of shame appeared on the experts' faces, but they managed to maintain stern expressions. They didn't want to lose their cool in those regions.

"We are grateful," Gloria Sailbird replied. "Your organization has taken care of a threat that had brought the human domain to its knees. We are here to express our desire to put an end to our past enmities."

"What if I didn't share that desire?" Noah asked while wearing a cold smile. "You have opposed my organization and me for millennia. Forgiving you doesn't sound proper."

"We don't have a home," Gloria explained. "The recent catastrophe had shown us who can stand at the peak of the Immortal Lands. Our organizations have failed, and your force has won."

Noah wanted to give voice to sharp words again, but he suppressed that desire. He couldn't find a reason to continue with his stubbornness. His old enemies didn't have much to lose anymore.

"Just tell me what you want," Noah sighed. "I believe you didn't come all this way only to thank me."

"You are correct," Gloria replied. "We have an offer, but we don't know whether you'll even consider it."

Noah turned toward Alexander and the others who had come with him to meet the envoys. They were also unclear about the nature of that offer, especially after Great Builder had described the entire layout of Heaven and Earth's domain.

The higher plane didn't have much to offer anymore. Noah had long since guessed that his focus had to be on the stormy regions from now on. His only issue was the lack of exciting adventures.

The windy regions were still too dangerous for Noah. He guessed that the liquid stage would allow him to endure that harsh environment, but that power level wouldn't give him the chance to experience those lands properly.

Noah had met a rank 9 creature during his short journey through the windy regions. The liquid stage wouldn't make him feel safe there. It was only the bare minimum requirement to survive the chaotic laws.

Alexander shrugged his shoulders, and King Elbas limited himself to nod. It didn't hurt to listen to those envoys. They didn't have the power to damage the Legion anyway.

Noah let the envoys inside the domes. He didn't show them the core buildings under those structures, but he still led them into one of the various training areas.

"Speak," Noah said after he sat on the ground and took a jug of wine.

Divine Demon and the other experts quickly handed him the cups, but Noah didn't offer anything to the envoys. Those members of the human organizations weren't worthy of his respect.

"I'd like to begin our offer with a description of the Immortal Lands," Gloria explained, ignoring the fact that Noah didn't offer her wine.

The expert began to describe matters that Noah and the others had recently learnt from Great Builder. She drew a simple map that described Heaven and Earth's domain in the air without giving many details about the lands on the other side of the sky.

Noah and the others pretended to feel some interest in those drawings and remained silent as Gloria reached the main topic of the meeting. Her fingers pointed at the central landmass that represented the higher plane before she began to explain the nature of that offer.

"The Immortal Lands isn't a planet," Gloria explained. "They are nothing more than a landmass with intense storms at its edges. Our domains occupy only one side of this structure, but there is another side right under it."

"I hope you aren't suggesting to reach the other side," Noah snorted.

"We indeed are," Gloria continued. "Imagine having access to a second higher plane that isn't ready for our arrival. We can suppress and raid entire organizations before returning here."

"How would you even reach the other side?" King Elbas asked. "The storms surround the plane, which leaves us with no path."

"We are planning to dig the ground until we reach the other side," Gloria revealed, but her words only managed to make Noah and the others explode into a laugh.

"For how long do you even plan to do it?" Noah laughed. "You don't even know how thick the higher plane is. You might have to spend entire millennia digging only to find a surface invaded by magical beasts."

The envoys' expression changed after that remark. They weren't angry. Instead, they appeared hesitant. It seemed that they wanted to say something, but they suppressed their words.

"We are done," Noah sighed at that sight. "You can leave. I don't have time to waste in political games."

The expert from the Rotway family immediately stood up and pretended to leave, but the other envoys convinced her to stay. The meeting was far from over. They only had to give the last news before deciding.

"Digging is the wrong word," Gloria continued. "Truth be told, we already have a viable route. Heaven and Earth have opened it for us after the events with Radiant Eyes."

Noah couldn't help but wear a stern expression once the topic shifted to Heaven and Earth. He wanted to know more about that tunnel now, but only to understand the intentions of those rulers.

"I know that some of you can contact Heaven and Earth," Noah announced. "How much did they tell you about this tunnel? Did they force you to come here?"

Noah couldn't shake the feeling that the tunnel was a trap. It didn't specifically target him, but it attracted his interest.

"We tried to ask," Gloria revealed. "Our main guess was that Heaven and Earth were giving us a way out of Radiant Eyes' threat, but that hypothesis shattered after you took care of her. Our new idea is a bit scarier, and that's the exact reason why we are here."

"Do you want a meat shield?" Noah asked.

"We need powerful warriors," Gloria continued. "Our second guess sees Heaven and Earth in need of help. There might be a threat on the other side that their Tribulation can't handle."

"Why would I bother to come then?" Noah asked. "I like seeing Heaven and Earth struggling. I have no reason to help them."

"We decided to contact you due to your power," Gloria explained. "Your affiliation doesn't matter. We only want more lands to conquer."

"You can go," Noah replied. "I'm not interested."

"Do you prefer to spend your journey till you are strong enough for the windy regions?" Gloria asked. "Welcome to the top. Try not to get bored. I will wait for your call."

Chapter 1625 - 1625. Offer

The envoys left, and one of the experts in Noah's team escorted them outside of the domes. Instead, Noah and the others remained inside the training area and held a meeting to discuss that matter.

The experts had different opinions about that offer. Most of them agreed that the tunnel was a trap set by Heaven and Earth to take care of those who fought their system. However, the group couldn't find common ground during the discussion.

Gloria had spoken the truth. The Immortal Lands didn't offer much in their current state. The rank 8 experts in the gaseous stage could still find something interesting in those areas, but those approaching the liquid stage had already set their eyes on the windy regions.

The magical beasts' domain and the various inheritances could keep them busy for a while, but they weren't the best training methods for experts at that level. Noah and the others needed adventures to improve their existence. Their current options could only give them techniques and materials.

"Do we really care if it's a trap or not?" King Elbas shouted. "I almost wish it was a plan set by Heaven and Earth. Overcoming that hindrance would make us stronger."

"You aren't thinking about the Legion," Jordan complained. "We would lose a lot of power if many experts were to leave for this mission. The other organizations might use that chance to take everything we have obtained during the last years."

"It's pointless to linger on these topics," Noah eventually said to put an end to that conversation. "We have organizations, but we are also existences who strive to reach the higher ranks. We need these adventures to grow and improve our power."

"Don't tell me that you want to go there," Jordan asked.

"I'm considering it," Noah explained. "Gloria is right. I have nothing to do until my battle prowess reaches the ninth rank. Long periods in seclusion would only hurt my centers of power."

"It's still better than jumping into an obvious trap!" Jordan shouted.

"I'm with you, my heir," Divine Demon exclaimed. "This peaceful life doesn't suit me anyway."

"They only want to affect our power!" Jordan continued to complain. "We have finally become one of the strongest organizations in the Immortal Lands. Why would you throw this status away?"

"Boredom," Divine Demon replied.

"Curiosity," King Elbas added.

"Need for struggles," Noah continued.

"They aren't completely wrong," Alexander sighed. "This peaceful lifestyle would affect our power anyway. We might as well invest it into this quest."

"Do you also support this?" Jordan asked while turning toward Alexander.

"Adventures are the main source of growth in the cultivation journey," Alexander explained. "You can't ask experts to remain inside a cave forever. Everyone would reach the ninth rank otherwise."

"We have awakened a rank 9 existence to obtain this peace," Jordan sighed and began to massage her temples.

"Jordan has a point," Noah eventually said. "We shouldn't send too many experts into the mission. Only the strongest among us should go."

"How do you plan to find that out?" King Elbas asked.

"Let's hold a tournament among those who want to go into the tunnel.," Noah explained. "The winners will get the chance to join Gloria and her group for the mission."

Noah's solution met a few complaints, but the other experts couldn't have much to say on the matter. None of them had the power to force other existences to remain in the Outer Lands. Those missions were necessary for the cultivation journey in the end.

The various rank 8 experts soon spread the news about the imminent tournament, and the rest of the Legion prepared a suitable battlefield.

King Elbas created a few sensors and placed them into regions outside of the blue lands. The battles wouldn't happen inside the domes, so the experts could go all-out without worrying about the consequences of their actions.

Noah soon created a series of rules. He wanted to keep everything simple, but he also desired to leave the weaker experts outside the mission.

Those who managed to win at least one battle would gain the chance to join the mission. The fights also had to happen among experts with similar battle prowess to set an even ground where everyone had a chance to defeat their opponents.

The rules even put limits on those who could join the event. Sending rank 7 experts into the mission was mere suicide, so Noah restricted the tournament to existences in the eighth rank.

Crowds of hybrids, cultivators, and magical beasts gathered under the domes and at the battlefield's borders to inspect the imminent fights. Their leaders were about to have friendly challenges, so the underlings didn't dare to miss them.

Only those interested in joining the mission gathered on the battlefield. Noah, Divine Demon, King Elbas, Luke's team, and the others from the Balrow family left the domes to search for contestants, but Noah stepped forward before any of them could say anything.

"I want to join the exploration," Noah announced to the small group in those lands. "I'll be the first to fight."

Silence spread through the group, but an expert quickly stepped forward. King Elbas wore an arrogant smile, and battle intent leaked out of his figure. He seemed almost unable to contain his desire to fight Noah.

"I'm not surprised about this," Noah laughed while the other experts left the area to gather at the edges of the battlefield.

"We have to settle this score," King Elbas replied. "We have to understand who is stronger."

"My body is in the middle tier," Noah added. "I have the upper hand here."

"That's what makes it so interesting," King Elbas announced. "I want to see how far my power stretches."

The tournament didn't feature any signal that marked the beginning of the fights. They were all friends there. They could find a way to keep things fair.

"You can deploy your puppets," Noah said while wearing a mocking smile.

"You can try to jump toward me as fast as you can," King Elbas replied. "I want to see what you can do in the middle tier."

Noah didn't let King Elbas' words affect his tactic, but he still shot forward. His figure transformed into a black blade that reached his opponent in an instant.

King Elbas limited himself to smile, and his expression didn't change even when Noah punched his shoulder. Pure golden flames spread through the environment as his body part exploded.

"You shouldn't underestimate me so much," King Elbas said as a tinge of arrogance flowed inside his words. "Try launching deadly attacks. We both know that I'm hard to kill."

"I'd rather avoid it," Noah explained while the golden flames flew into the distance. "I don't want to kill you by mistake."

"You should try to survive first," King Elbas laughed as an army of fiery puppets filled the battlefield.

King Elbas' figure reappeared behind the army of gaseous stage puppets, but Noah shot through them. Those creatures couldn't even begin to stop him.

Noah reached King Elbas' new position and threw another punch, but the expert transformed before he could experience his first. His flames flew toward the distance again and allowed his puppets to surround him.

Chapter 1626 - 1626. Holding back

Waves of golden flames crashed on Noah, but they didn't manage to pierce his skin. They didn't even burn him. Attacks at that level couldn't hurt his middle tier body.

Noah's consciousness expanded to find King Elbas. The expert was behind his army of fiery puppets, and his hands moved non-stop to create shining inscriptions.

'I can't give him time to create formations,' Noah thought before shooting through the flames again.

The puppets shattered whenever Noah crossed them. They couldn't do anything against his physical might. He could fly through the golden flames and reach King Elbas again, but the expert repeated his evasive maneuver.

"Do you want to fight me in a battle of resilience?" Noah shouted before chasing after King Elbas.

King Elbas never stopped deploying fiery puppets. Armored humanoid creatures and magical beasts of various sizes filled the battlefield and threw their flames toward Noah, but their attacks didn't do anything. They didn't even manage to slow him down.

Noah punched and sprinted without ever taking a break to inspect his situation. Giving time to King Elbas was a fatal mistake that he couldn't commit.

'Fine then,' Noah thought once he grew bored of those relentless exchanges.

Noah waited until King Elbas materialized in a new position before activating the unstable substance. Raw power flowed inside his black vessels and gave him the chance to reach his opponent in an instant.

King Elbas didn't expect that sudden burst of power, but he was ready for that event. His figure exploded into a wave of raging flames when Noah was about to reach him. That fiery attack managed to slow him down and make him fail his offensive, and the puppets didn't hesitate to launch another wave of fire that engulfed his body.

Noah spat his flames. His black fire burnt the golden one that filled the sky. It also expanded until it covered the entire battlefield, and all the puppets eventually vanished under his powerful innate ability.

King Elbas soon became visible. He was in a spot far away, and his hands continued to leave inscriptions on the sky. He also snapped his fingers at some point, and the lingering black flames vanished as his influence spread.

Noah arrived on top of King Elbas in an instant, but a golden radiance blinded him before he could reach his opponent. A series of snake-like items also entangled themselves around his arms and tried to restrain his movements.

Noah tore those restraints apart and used his consciousness to keep track of King Elbas' position. The expert was still under him, but his figure started to vanish when he sensed those mental waves.

The Demonic Sword quickly came out of his separate space and landed in his hand. Noah waved the blade and launched a massive curved singularity toward the expert.

"I was waiting for that!" King Elbas shouted, and a series of inscriptions lit up on his robe.

The singularity tried to fall on King Elbas, but its structure grew unstable before it could reach him. Energy began to leak out of the attack until it exploded into a dense wave of power.

That violent energy engulfed Noah and flung him away. His consciousness also lost track of King Elbas' position during those short seconds, and more flames landed on his figure.

'This is getting annoying,' Noah cursed in his mind before summoning Duanlong, Snore, and Night.

The dragon took care of absorbing the flames in the environment. Night fused with the world and preceded Noah whenever he charged toward his opponent. Snore struggled to keep up with the pace of the battle, but it launched feathers whenever King Elbas tried to activate his evasive maneuver.

King Elbas slowly lost his confidence against that relentless offensive. He didn't want to use too many inscribed items, but the situation had become too dangerous after Noah revealed his puppets.

A series of inscriptions suddenly became visible on the battlefield. Noah felt that those lines lacked part of their structure, but he never lingered too much on them since he had to keep pressuring King Elbas.

The inscriptions gave birth to a series of trails of golden light that converged toward Noah and surrounded his whole figure. They didn't initially manage to do anything, but they soon started to slow down his movements.

"I've spent years with you," King Elbas announced from the back of the battlefield. "I have memorized your battle style, and I have already invented many countermeasures."

The golden light hovering above his skin triggered something peculiar. The flames that had tried to pierce his skin since the beginning reappeared and began to detonate.

Countless explosions happened on Noah's skin. His consciousness couldn't expand with so much destruction happening around him.

More flames flew toward Noah, but he didn't remain in the same spot. He shot upward and let his abrupt acceleration take care of the light that surrounded his body.

The golden light tried to resist that pressure, but black roots soon came out of his palm and covered his figure. A layer of dark matter also appeared above his skin to protect him from the corrosive aura.

King Elbas' ability couldn't survive against the parasite. Noah soon found himself able to scan the environment again, and he quickly discovered his opponent in a spot covered with inscriptions.

Noah shot forward and waved his blade multiple times. A rain of singularities fell toward King Elbas, but he snapped his fingers and made those attacks explode.

Noah was waiting for that. He transformed into a black blade that pierced the violent energy and made him reach King Elbas in an instant.

The expert didn't expect Noah to be so reckless. His skin had become quite fragile after the golden light and multiple detonations. Crossing the violent energy had opened many cuts.

The inscriptions lit up before Noah could crash on King Elbas. They summoned a series of middle tier golems that radiated the same aura as before. Flames tried to reappear on his skin, but the Demonic Form took care of that influence.

The golems slammed on Noah and tried to restrain his movements, but the parasite made them basically useless. Pure golden flames and inscriptions made their bodies, but the corrosive aura destroyed them in no time.

Noah could finally continue his assault on King Elbas after the golem vanished. His blade descended again, but he deployed the dark world before the singularities came out of his weapon.

King Elbas had to endure the pressure generated by the dark world and the incoming singularities. He used most of his power to activate a gem that made him teleport outside the technique, but he found Noah waiting for him there.

Noah didn't hesitate to slash with his sword. King Elbas partially transformed into a wave of golden flames, but blood spilled in the area and burnt when it touched the fire.

King Elbas tried to leave again, but Noah followed his consciousness and enveloped him inside the dark world. His sword was ready to launch another storm of singularities, but he held it back in that situation.

"I can almost match you without using the best inscribed items in my space-ring," King Elbas laughed while inspecting the Demonic Sword.

The outcome of the battle didn't resemble a loss. King Elbas had almost forced Noah to go all-out, even if he were overall weaker than him. The expert also had many trump cards in his space ring that he decided not to use.

Chapter 1627 - 1627. Surprise

Noah and King Elbas had held their trump cards back. Their battle was only a friendly contest meant to establish how strong they had become.

Those who had seen Noah and King Elbas' battles knew that they didn't show even a quarter of their true power. Still, the fight had been a spectacle capable of inspiring many weaker troops.

That was the hidden meaning behind the tournament. The mission on the other side of the plane would probably last for entire millennia, and the Legion would lack a core part of its power during that period.

The underlings had to improve to ensure the stability of their organization, and inspiring them was the best way to quicken that process.

"Who do you think will win if we were to fight seriously?" Noah whispered while both experts inspected their injuries.

"I must admit that we both are resourceful existences," King Elbas sighed as his eyes fell on Divine Demon. "I'm still the same cultivator that you have fought in the Mortal Lands, but I'm also completely different. Deciding a winner between us would require a death, and that's something I don't want to see."

"Did the great King Elbas turn soft?" Noah tried to mock him, but King Elbas mostly ignored that remark.

"Soft is necessary, especially for a maker," King Elbas explained. "The matter is not the limit. There are realms beyond the mere logic, and I stumbled on them thanks to you."

"I don't have control over that part of my law," Noah said as his tone turned serious.

"And yet it's still part of you," King Elbas replied. "It's funny how things evolve. I have turned into the lone eccentric, while you have become the overbearing leader. The cultivation journey can hide surprises even after millennia."

"We have yet to approach the final stage," Noah added.

"Do you want it to end?" King Elbas asked.

"I would rather create new ranks than stopping," Noah laughed. "We are maniacs. Staying still doesn't suit us."

King Elbas chuckled before wearing his stern expression again. His challenging gaze went on Luke. He was ready to fight again and join the mission officially.

Noah flew toward the sidelines with a heavy mind. Various memories ran through his vision, and a smile eventually appeared on his face. His life had been incredible, but he wanted more. Those adventures never managed to appease his endless d.e.s.i.r.e.

'To think that I might end up helping Heaven and Earth,' Noah laughed internally. 'I can't wait to start this mission.'

King Elbas stepped into the battlefield again, but Luke didn't accept his silent challenge. Instead, one of the experts from the Balrow family decided to face him.

The two experts decided to avoid the pointless exchange of attacks since King Elbas' battle prowess was on the winning side. The duo showcased some of their best inscribed items and declared the best inscription master as the winner.

King Elbas won by a large margin, and the expert from the Balrow family requested a private conversation after the battle. The other members of that faction also joined that event since they saw in King Elbas an inscription master that could lead them toward new heights.

Jordan and Ian decided to ignore the mission. They didn't want to cooperate with the forces of the human domain, especially during such a crucial period for the Legion.

Theodora and Alexander had a similar mindset, but for different reasons. Theodora loathed battles, while Alexander was the living deterrent of the Legion. His decision to remain in the Outer Lands would ensure peace.

Other experts in the gaseous stage decided to fight. Luke, Pearl, and other cultivators wanted to join that mysterious exploration, but Noah felt forced to change the rules because of them.

Noah had initially stated that one victory was enough to join the mission, but he had to meet specific standards. Most of those cultivators would be useless with Gloria Sailbird and similar cultivators around them.

Noah wouldn't deny that chance to gaseous stage experts, but he couldn't bring everyone either. Having a liquid stage battle prowess became the minimum requirement to join the mission.

Only Luke and another cultivator met those requirements. Noah was even surprised with the latter's battle prowess. He couldn't help but smile when he saw that Fergie could now unleash spells capable of touching the liquid stage.

A massive raging sun floated at some distance from the ground and sent destructive flares in every direction. Fergie sat on top of the fiery sphere while wearing a proud smile. His eyes found a similar smirk on Noah's face when he looked at him.

His opponent was one of the cultivators in Luke's team. The expert had his back on the ground and was staring at the massive ball of fire with wide eyes.

Fear and disbelief filled his expression. The cultivator couldn't understand how a simple gaseous stage expert could generate so much power without losing control of his technique.

"I have gone through desperation, death, rebirth, and anger," Fergie said without moving his eyes from Noah. "You granted me peace, so I had to put these emotions somewhere."

Fergie straightened his position and leapt to land in front of Noah. The expert wanted to kneel, but he respected his leader too much to ignore his rules.

"My anger becomes fire," Fergie explained. "My greed makes me d.e.s.i.r.e to consume the entire world. My ambition gives me control over these violent feelings and transforms them into a fiery star."

Fergie performed a bow before continuing. "This power belongs to me, but it is for you to use. I know that I don't quite fit in this mission, but I wish to accompany you anyway. Let me come."

Noah didn't expect Fergie to be so polite, especially after everything they had been through. However, it seemed that the mission really interested him. Also, Noah could guess that he had something to prove to the human organizations.

"Things usually get messy in these missions," Noah said while wearing a cold smirk. "You can even be certain of that since I'll be there."

"That's exactly what I want," Fergie replied.

"It's set then," Noah concluded. "We only have to wait for the others in the liquid stage before being ready to leave."

Both Noah and Fergie turned toward the battlefield. Two experts had stepped forward as soon as the raging sun vanished. Pure battle intent flowed out of Divine Demon and Wilfred as the duo decided to fight.

"Why do they even fight?" Fergie wondered. "They are already in the liquid stage, and their battle prowess is even quite amazing. There is no need to join this test."

"Let them be," Noah said while patting Fergie's shoulder. "Maniacs must behave like maniacs. I bet those two want to understand who has a better foundation."

"Do you think they will be able to stop themselves once the battle becomes too serious?" Fergie asked.

"Not at all," Noah laughed. "Actually, start warning everyone. We will definitely need to intervene."

A chill ran down Fergie's spine. He had seen Wilfred and Divine Demon fight on multiple occasions, and the scene had always been quite spectacular. Still, he didn't dare to imagine what would happen now that the two of them were opponents.

Chapter 1628 - 1628. Challenges

"You know me," Divine Demon announced while waving his hand. "Give me a topic, and I'll surpass you. I guess you will choose physical strength."

"No challenges," Wilfred snorted. "I know how your law works, but I want to see what form it takes when you don't have to surpass anyone."

"I think I don't remember my true form," Divine Demon laughed while spreading his arms. "I take what I need from the world to seize victories. My existence lives through challenges. I might be nothing more than an empty body without them."

"Let's find out!" Wilfred shouted before throwing a punch.

A shockwave spread from the spot where his fist hit the air, and a series of deep noises resounded through the sky. The world quickly began to send energy toward Divine Demon, but a hole appeared in the azure array that had appeared in front of him.

The attack ran through that raw energy and flew past Divine Demon's shoulder. The sheer power carried by the punch managed to destroy a large chunk of his skin, but his limb remained intact, even if badly damaged.

"You want a battle of ranged attacks then!" Divine Demon shouted, and the azure energy began to transform as his battle intent intensified.

"No, you are better than me at that," Wilfred contradicted Divine Demon before he could use his dangerous law.

The azure energy suddenly lost its power. Wilfred had declared his inferiority before Divine Demon could make anything out of that silent challenge. His law didn't create anything special, and the world felt unable to understand what the expert needed.

Wilfred punched the air again, and another hole appeared among the azure mass of energy. Divine Demon saw one of his legs exploding and falling toward the ground, but he ignored the event completely.

"Resilience it is!" Divine Demon shouted, and a tremor swept the azure "Breath", giving it a new purpose.

"You are better than me there too," Wilfred replied, and the azure energy lost its purpose again.

Wilfred waved his hand, and a current slammed on the array of azure "Breath" to disperse it. The remaining power contained in that gesture hit on Divine Demon and flung him away.

"I can still fight without challenges!" Divine Demon shouted, and azure energy began to gather around his figure.

The "Breath" flowed inside his injuries and restored part of the missing chunks of skin. The energy even recreated an ethereal version of his leg to stop the bleeding.

Currents began to flow around Divine Demon and created an array that resembled a technique. However, Noah and many others could see that the expert was forcing the "Breath" to take that shape. He wasn't giving it any special purpose.

'The small victories are making him stronger,' Noah thought while inspecting the battle, 'But he can't put that new power into his abilities. Is this Divine Demon's great weakness?'

Divine Demon gained power by overcoming challenges. His growth would match the harshness of the trials and the restrictions that he forced on himself.

Yet, the lack of challenges led to a mass of power that had no purpose. Divine Demon had enough "Breath" to defend himself and launch counterattacks, but he wasn't using it at all.

Divine Demon behaved like a mindless brute, but he wasn't stupid. He knew his flaws better than anyone else, and his personality had developed around that.

He had a sharp tongue capable of tricky words. Divine Demon could always manage to lead his opponents into challenges, but Wilfred was going out of his way to avoid that. The hybrid didn't even want to win. He was only curious about Divine Demon's power.

On the other hand, Divine Demon was struggling to show his real power. His opponent was accepting losses on purpose, so he consistently failed to give a proper nature to his energy.

The world wanted to help Divine Demon, but it didn't know how. The cultivator couldn't use its power to create techniques without choosing a specific field.

"Come on!" Wilfred shouted while unleashing a flurry of punches in the air. "I have spent entire years clearing the pyramid with you. I acknowledge your power, but I don't want to see it in the shape of another challenge. Show me the real you!"

The attacks pierced those currents and landed on his body. Wilfred had held himself back, but his punches still managed to leave deep holes in his c.h.e.s.t.

Truth be told, Divine Demon could express average liquid stage battle prowess even without challenges. However, Wilfred was a hybrid who had improved his fighting style after seizing rewards from the pyramid.

Wilfred's physical strength was also far above normal hybrids. He could surpass average liquid stage cultivators even when he held back. Divine Demon didn't have a chance against him without his challenges.

"This is getting boring," Wilfred eventually sighed.

"I challenge myself to defeat you in ten blows!" Divine Demon shouted when he saw his opponent turning to leave.

The azure energy began to flow into his body and improving his physical strength, but Wilfred suddenly turned and said words that made the audience fall silent.

"I challenge you to win without challenging anyone," Wilfred said, and the azure energy lost its power again.

Wilfred's challenge bypassed Divine Demon's self-imposed limits. The latter had finally obtained what he wanted. Yet, he didn't know what to do in front of that issue.

"Challenge without challenges," Divine Demon mumbled as he brought his hand on his chin.

It was clear that Wilfred had taken him by surprise. Divine Demon appeared completely confused. He didn't even pay attention to the battle anymore.

"Do you think he will recover before the mission?" Wilfred asked while turning toward Noah.

Noah ignored the expert. His eyes remained on Divine Demon. His instincts had begun to sense something, but he was still unable to translate them into proper feelings.

'He must have faced similar situations in the past,' Noah thought. 'I guess we are about to discover how he overcame them.'

"Winning challenges to improve," Divine Demon continued to mumble. "Improving is important. Victories lead to the higher ranks, and the higher ranks are everything."

The battlefield was silent, so everyone could hear his confused words. Even the underlings watching the battle from inside the domes could understand what Divine Demon said due to King Elbas' sensors.

"Victories without challenges," Divine Demon continued. "Definition of victory, defeating opponents, winning without challenges is a challenge!"

The world released a humming noise, and Noah's eyes widened when he heard the laws screaming in pain. He had already witnessed a similar reaction. The matter did the same whenever he used Shandal's ability.

'Is he about to use the laws of the world?' Noah wondered, but the surprises weren't over.

The matter shattered and transformed into the usual azure energy generated by Divine Demon's law. However, the world wasn't giving that power willingly. Divine Demon's aura was ripping it away from the sky and forcing it to become part of his existence.

"I need victories," Divine Demon whispered. "Victories will bring challenges, and challenges will bring power."

The azure energy gathered around Divine Demon, but it didn't have its usual orderly shape. It was an unstable array of power that took different forms under the influence of his aura.

Noah had seen Divine Demon fight many times, so he could recognize some of the shapes taken by the azure energy. That "Breath" transformed into many techniques that the expert had used in the past. Some spots even became white and marked the arrival of the higher energy.

"Give me victories!" Divine Demon shouted, and the energy around him shot forward.

Wilfred could immediately understand that he had to go all-out. Divine Demon wasn't even trying to hold back.

Chapter 1629 - 1629. Out of control

"Victories!" Divine Demon shouted while raging waves of azure "Breath" shot forward.

Larger chunks of the world shattered and gave their energy to the currents. Those attacks enlarged and transformed, becoming different techniques that Divine Demon had used in the past.

Some of the currents became beams of higher energy that accelerated and surpassed the other techniques. Other waves of power transformed into weapons and shining lights.

Part of that energy even entered Divine Demon's body. It healed his injuries and enhanced his physical strength. His muscles bulged, and his size increased by a whole meter. His nails stretched and turned into tiny knives, and his canines grew until they peeked out of his mouth.

Wilfred's veins bulged. He gathered his physical strength, and the space in front of him bent.

Booming noises filled the sky as Divine Demon's techniques clashed with an invisible force. Multiple holes appeared on the array of azure and white energy. It was as if countless punches had slammed on the attacks and had stopped their charge.

Divine Demon shot forward and dived inside his azure energy. That power flowed inside his body and enhanced his morphed features. His fangs and nails grew, and his muscles also bulged until they inflated beyond human levels.

The azure energy began to rotate and transform into a whirlpool that stretched forward. Wilfred could see a monstrous figure at the center of those raging waters. Divine Demon wanted to have a physical contest!

"I don't know what happened to you," Wilfred sighed while bending his knees and crouching on the air, "But there aren't many creatures in the Immortal Lands that could face me at this distance."

Divine Demon appeared unable to hear those words. He continued to shoot forward, and the azure energy never stopped following him.

Wilfred leapt forward right before Divine Demon could stretch his claws toward him. The two experts clashed mid-air, and the power generated by the impact made the azure energy shoot in every direction.

Noah and the few experts in the duo's range had to deploy evasive maneuvers to dodge the threatening azure energy. That power still carried Divine Demon's aura even after the impact.

'Incredible,' Noah thought when he turned to look at the battle.

Wilfred had managed to stop Divine Demon's charge, but he found himself unable to push the cultivator back. Divine Demon was holding his ground, and his claws had also stabbed the hybrid's shoulders.

Divine Demon opened his mouth and bit on Wilfred's shoulder. His teeth managed to pierce that tough skin and rip away a large chunk of his flesh.

The azure energy that had shot in the distance flew back. Divine Demon's aura forced the world to provide more power that fused with his techniques and began to assault Wilfred.

Beams of higher energy, dense currents, flashes of azure light, and weapons of various sizes landed on Wilfred's body and riddled it with injuries. The hybrid spat blood, but he didn't move. He continued to keep Divine Demon's waist in his arms.

Wilfred's embrace tightened. His attack threatened to make Divine Demon's insides explode, but azure energy would constantly flow inside his body and reinforce his organs.

Meanwhile, Divine Demon continued to scratch, bite, and use his azure energy to attack his opponent. Wilfred's body soon became a mess of torn flesh and blood. Noah almost couldn't believe that such a strong hybrid had suffered so many injuries in such a short time.

Noah glanced at King Elbas, and the expert nodded. A series of inscribed items began to surround the cultivator, and a dark matter started to fill the battlefield.

It was clear that Divine Demon wasn't in control of his actions. Something had happened when Wilfred had pushed the limits of his law. That battle wasn't about the mission on the other side of the Immortal Lands anymore.

Wilfred was holding part of his power back since Divine Demon was an ally and a friend, but the situation would eventually force him to use lethal force.

Noah couldn't allow that. They had to stop Divine Demon before he killed someone or forced his allies to put an end to his life.

King Elbas shot higher in the sky while his hands moved at an unbelievable speed. Golden lines appeared in the air wherever his fingers passed, and a large formation slowly took form.

The various inscribed items deployed previously moved to the edges of the battlefield and acted as cores for the formation. The golden lines fused with their structure and drained their power to expand faster.

The unstable substance flowed inside Noah's black vessels as he shot toward Divine Demon. Snore, Duanlong, and Night flew out of his figure and dispersed in the sky as the dark world spread through the entire battlefield.

Divine Demon noticed those new threats, but everything suddenly stopped moving. His body didn't even answer his commands anymore. Something powerful was restraining him, but he couldn't understand the source of that technique.

Noah arrived on him in an instant. His hand closed on Divine Demon's throat, and Snore entangled its body on his figure. The two then dragged the expert higher on the sky and made him touch the golden lines.

Shandal's ability ran out at that point, and Divine Demon turned his attention on Noah. The cultivator waved his claws toward him, and his azure energy also flew upward to join the fight. Yet, Duanlong and Wilfred interfered.

Duanlong used its innate ability to absorb a large part of that power, but it couldn't affect the higher energy. Even the azure flashes were too fast for its suction force.

Wilfred took care of the attacks that escaped Duanlong's ability. His injuries didn't slow him down in the slightest. His punches flashed, and the attacks exploded before they could reach Noah.

Trails of energy still tried to converge toward Divine Demon, but massive fissures opened on those currents before they could obtain any purpose. Night was managing the parts of the battlefield that the others couldn't reach.

Snore bit on Divine Demon's upper body and endured the damage created by his claws. His hands could rip its flesh apart, but the Blood Companion was too big and resilient to care.

King Elbas completed his formation and pointed his hands toward Divine Demon. The inscribed items began to fly in a circle around the expert, and the golden lines attached to their structure quickly enveloped him in a shining cocoon.

The golden lines didn't touch Noah at all. They were ethereal shapes that took a physical form only when they landed on Divine Demon's body. Even Snore appeared immune to their power.

Divine Demon struggled to no end, but he couldn't do much without his azure energy. The cocoon closed on his figure and sealed him in a golden prison.

"Did you unlock some hidden potential?!" King Elbas shouted from high in the sky.

"He is probably unaware of this technique," Noah sighed while turning to help with the azure energy that still tried to converge on Divine Demon's position. "It seems that he can call upon everything generated through his law."

"He did beat Elbas in a contest of inscriptions some time ago," Wilfred commented, and the trio quickly turned toward the cocoon.

A small azure dot had appeared on those golden lines. That spot enlarged and covered half of the cocoon in no time. Cracks even opened in those tainted areas.

Chapter 1630 - 1630. Fast

"Elbas, it's time to surpass Divine Demon!" Noah shouted while using the workshop to create multiple rank 8 creatures that reinforced the cocoon.

"I have never been inferior!" King Elbas snorted, but his hands began to move at an unbelievable speed to create more inscriptions.

"What should I do?" Wilfred asked while nearing Noah.

The hybrid didn't know much about inscriptions. His power didn't even allow him to restrain his opponents. Wilfred was only a slightly sophisticated brute who carried a lot of energy.

"Keep his energy away from his body," Noah ordered. "We can't let Divine Demon give it a purpose. His body is too troublesome already."

Wilfred shot downward, and Noah's companions followed him. They would help the hybrid containing the world's energy while Noah and King Elbas took care of restraining Divine Demon.

"Don't hold back," Noah said while the Demonic Sword and the black roots appeared in his hands.

Dark matter flowed out of his figure and gave birth to a draconic armor. The sword-shaped roots and the Demonic Sword multiplied as the six-armed dragon took form.

Noah didn't dare to underestimate Divine Demon. The expert was in the liquid stage, and his law was extremely troublesome. He couldn't let him have a chance to gain the upper hand.

The cracks on the cocoon spread as its structure turned azure. The golden color vanished as the restraints broke and revealed Divine Demon's shining figure.

"Victories!" Divine Demon shouted, but Noah charged ahead before his opponent could do anything with his energy.

A singularity shot out of his weapons and crashed on Divine Demon. The attack dug through his flesh, but it didn't manage to pierce the mass of energy that had reinforced his muscles.

Noah didn't hold back, but Divine Demon had easily stopped his attack. The expert didn't even try to stop the slash, but the power amassed inside his body was enough to block Noah's energy.

"You'd better wake up," Noah whispered while reaching Divine Demon. "I don't want to kill you for real."

"Victories!" Divine Demon shouted while ignoring Noah's words.

The cultivator's hands shot to cut Noah's body, but the latter let them slam on his draconic figure. The knife-shaped nails pierced his draconic armor, but they only managed to leave white marks when they slammed on his skin.

"You can be stronger than this," Noah sighed before throwing a punch.

Roots covered his arm, so his fist destroyed a consistent chunk of Divine Demon's face when it hit him. The cultivator didn't even react to that damage. He continued to smile and reveal his hideous grin to his friends.

Divine Demon retracted his arms before thrusting them forward. Noah saw those sharp claws reaching for his abdomen, so he cracked his leg on the expert's stomach.

A shockwave spread through the sky. Divine Demon shot backward, and a deep hole appeared on his c.h.e.s.t. Noah's attack had been effective, but the cultivator didn't seem affected by the attack.

'He's not as fast as me,' Noah concluded in his mind after the exchange.

Divine Demon's physical prowess was incredible, but he lacked proper techniques. Even his law couldn't imitate the struggles faced by the hybrids when they created their martial arts.

Noah chased after Divine Demon. His sword slashed the air multiple times, and a storm of singularities shot out of his figure.

The attacks tried to converge on Divine Demon, but a tremor swept the area and forced them to detonate. The cultivator only had to endure the shockwaves released after the explosions, so his body remained almost untouched.

Divine Demon raised his claws and pointed them toward Noah. A massive amount of energy tried to converge toward his fingers, but Wilfred and the companions managed to stop it before it could reach his body.

Divine Demon still tried to launch a ranged attack, but Noah appeared in front of him before he could give a new purpose to his energy. The cultivator immediately deployed his evasive maneuver, but Noah released a flurry of punches before his opponent could disappear.

The attack resembled Wilfred's technique, but it lacked his theory. Noah had done nothing more than unleashing a series of punches toward his friends, and the expert suffered a lot during the exchange.

Noah was only a gaseous stage cultivator, but his body was already in the middle tier. The techniques that relied on his physical prowess could overcome any expert at the same level.

'I can suppress him as long as I'm faster!' Noah shouted inside his mind, but Divine Demon seemed able to understand that point.

Divine Demon's nails and canines retracted until they regained a human shape. Then, the expert tried to punch at Noah, but the latter dodged the attack with a simple movement of his head.

The shockwaves released during the attack made Noah feel dizzy due to the sheer power carried by the attack. Yet, Noah didn't stop his assault and continued to unleash his physical might on his opponent.

Noah punched Divine Demon's waist, c.h.e.s.t, and legs until he saw blood flowing out of those spots. Noah stopped whenever he saw the injuries growing too deep, but Divine Demon made him continue his assault.

Divine Demon slowly transformed into a zombie-like creature who did nothing more than replaying his previous techniques. Those abilities also carried his battle experience, so they could easily adapt to Noah's fighting style.

"Nuisance!" Divine Demon snorted as he joined his clawed hands above his c.h.e.s.t.

"I'm just me," Noah whispered, and his figure disappeared.

Noah used his movement techniques whenever he saw an attack that he couldn't dodge. After all, Divine Demon wasn't weak. His offensive was quite threatening, even for his incredible body.

Divine Demon never managed to touch Noah. He was too fast, and his offensive always managed to disrupt the cultivator's attacks. There was a limit to how much Divine Demon could do in that situation, and Noah made sure to restrain those powers.

Noah and King Elbas weren't the only ones who decided to help to suppress Divine Demon. Luke and Fergie soon joined the battle and tried to support the group with their power.

"Continue!" Noah shouted, and King Elbas worked even faster than before.

Meanwhile, Luke and Fergie unleashed their best techniques to force Divine Demon to waste power. The massive sun and the captivating wind affected his figure and made his body lose energy.

"Make him waste as much power as possible!" Noah continued to shout. "It doesn't matter how you do it. I want to see him in a human shape by the end of the next exchange!"

Luke and Fergie continued their assault, and Noah didn't fall behind on that field. Slashes, punches, kicks, and bites shot forward and suppressed Divine Demon whenever he tried to launch an attack.

King Elbas eventually finished improving his formation. New golden lines fell on the expert's figure and covered his body before enveloping him in a cocoon again.

The technique didn't stop there. It expanded until it covered the nearby area with a golden radiance that blocked the influence of the experts stuck inside it.

The azure energy that Wilfred and Noah's companions were fighting stopped converging toward Divine Demon. The world couldn't hear his call anymore. It could finally return to its usual endeavors.