

D. of Pride 581

Chapter 581 581- Mk9 (3)

Perhaps with the [Blood Frenzy] skill activated, his actual strength was even greater.

The blood red aura covering Marcus, undulated like lightning and vaguely formed the halo of an enormous Blood Saint Tiger. The power of a true inheritor of the [Beast Inheritance] was displayed in front of everyone.

Seeing Marcus lead the charge and pounce on one Andromeda after another, the rest of the geniuses of the other guilds also got a moral boost. They faced the andromedas unafraid and let loose their powers.

Various kinds of skills, techniques and magic were thrown around, each of which was quietly being analysed by the Andromedas.

[Initialisation completed... Data collection- sufficient. Modifying mk9 to the optimum state for battle].

A weird robotic voice came from all of the andromedas as their structures started altering a little. Their bulky frames started becoming sleeker, their weapons became smaller and multifaceted along with their colour which now had more of a golden touch along with the crimson.

[Modification completed. Combat Mode Ready. Starting Battle].

"I don't know what these golems are mumbling, but we don't have time to dilly dally. We need to go and assist the seniors of our guilds" Marcus yelled, he pounced towards the air and using the powerful physical strength of his state, he tried to slice two andromedas with his mythrill sword.

However, one of the andromedas dodged the attack by firing the jet boosters in its back, legs and arms in a short burst. While the other Andromeda brought out the [Argo Sword] and clashed against the mythrill sword of Marcus.

CLANG... BANG...

"What?" Marcus was shocked, although he did manage to overpower the Andromeda and make it crash onto the ground, he was surprised that his attack was stopped by that andromeda.

Even though he did not use any skill, the sword in his hand was no ordinary sword, but a sword made of mythril. If it was ranked, it would easily be [A] tier. So how in the world did the sword that was casually released by the golem, be able to clash against his sword and not break apart?

The other shocking part was the speed of the golems, they were now much faster than before, in fact, one of the golems that he targeted even dodged his attack.

"Dammit" Marcus wasn't given any time to think as the Andromeda that dodged his attack, started firing the ballistic gun which activated much more quickly now.

When he looked around his surroundings he was surprised to find out that all of his friends and comrades were also facing a similar problem. The golems were starting to pressure them instead.

What was going on, when did the golems become so powerful?

ZING... the Andromeda that got crushed into the ground, picked itself up and discarded the parts that got damaged. It then locked its unemotional eyes which were actually two lights, on him.

Seeing this scene, Marcus narrowed his eyes. He might have faced these andromedas back inside the mysterious ruins on the 34th floor. However, the ones he was facing this time, were different.

The andromedas were no doubt the mk9 version but the ones he faced back then were the unfinished version that was manufactured in a hurry. That version had many problems with its frames and most of its functions were not up to par.

The Mk9 they were facing right now was the completed war machine with all of its original weapons. That is to say, each of these andromedas were equivalent to a level 400 adventurer. What's more, the andromedas have been observing them for a while, and the data gathered by the various unfinished mk9 was uploaded to these finished ones making them even stronger.

The feeling of uneasiness that Marcus and the others were feeling, was precisely the emotions the players felt when they played the game [Rise of the Demolishers] the Andromedas were from.

These cold unfeeling war machines, came at you unceasingly. It didn't matter even if you destroyed them, they were just remotely controlled machines to begin with. It would just tire you out to no end if you fought them.

However, the true fear of facing these machines didn't lie in their numbers, but in their information gathering ability. It was so unfair that it was downright broken.

Think about it, in the game as the storyline progresses, each Andromedas that the players faced was equipped with the information that the other versions they had faced previously had gathered on them.

They knew all about your skills and abilities making it harder for you to destroy them. While you on the other hand would have to fight at a disadvantage not knowing what kind of new weapons and upgraded variations they had installed.

This became worse the further in the storyline you are and the more advanced versions of the andromedas you faced. It was so preposterous to the point of being nightmarish for the players.

That is why, the game [Rise of the demolishers] was declared as a team game, since no player was able to reach the end of the game solo. If you want to clear it, your only chance was to tackle it with a team.

And now that these war machines have been replicated in this world, it was time for these adventurers to experience its nightmare.

The mk9 had all the information it needed on these adventurers of the tertiary team and hence the balance had tipped towards the side of the andromedas.

"This can't go on for long, Marcus we need a plan" Tiana who had been supporting the team with her light magic, commented.

One could see that even the Lantz and the Rees brother from the crimson demolition guild were being pressured. If this goes on like this, they themselves would be in danger, forget about being able to assist the veterans.

"Look out" at some unknown point when Tiana had become absentminded in between her talks with Marcus, an Andromeda came attaching her with its [Argo Sword]. However, two daggers that came in the nick of the time, deflected the attack back.

Gallio materialised behind Tiana and cautioned.

"Gallio!!" Marcus and Tiana were surprised to see Gallio appear. The person seemed to have been in a state of utter despair a couple of minutes ago. What changed him?

"Gather everyone, I have a plan" Gallio looked directly into their eyes and stated.

Marcus and Tiana nodded their heads, the former signalled everyone to gather while the latter erected a shield made of light magic that covered everyone inside like a dome. Seeing that the golems were unable to break in, Gallio explained his plans to the gathered members.

"It's like this, we have fallen into their trap, and the situation is the same as the mysterious ruins. I have been trying for a while to send a sound transmission back to my guild; however, it is interrupted every time. I believe someone on this floor is interfering with the spatial laws".

"What?" Marcus and the others exclaimed in surprise when they heard that.

"It is possible, if someone from the opponent has set up a spatial formation on this floor or can use the space magic, interfering with the sound transmissions shouldn't be a problem" Hallie who was a little knowledgeable about space magic added in confirmation.

"Huh?! If we can't contact anyone then doesn't it mean that nobody will come to rescue us" some of the geniuses of the twenty guilds spoke in a trembling voices. The gravity of the situation finally dawned on them and the nightmare of the 34th floor once again played in front of their eyes.

"Calm down, didn't I tell you that I have a plan" Gallio spoke before everyone started panicking.

"As Hallie had mentioned, the opponent must be using some kind of spatial interference. However, I can assure you that it is not the former since the transmission conch was working just fine an hour ago. This means that it has to be the doing of our opponent".

Seeing Gallio analyse the situation so calmly many of them had trouble thinking he was the same man who had a face of despair just until a moment ago.

"The golems don't look like they have that kind of ability, it also seems unlikely that it is the doing of the demonic war horses attacking the backlines. Which means that it has to be one of the two maids".

"What are you implying, didn't you hear the seniors? The maids are too powerful of an opponent for us" Tiana rebuked shaking her head.

"You are misunderstanding me, I'm not saying that we go after the maids ourselves. But as Marcus had said, we can't just sit around and do nothing. We need to find some way to distract the user of the space magic so we can send a sound transmission back. The primary team needs to know these strong maids that are guarding this dungeon".

Everybody nodded their heads, in the worst case scenario they need to at least warn the primary unit that had gone down about these powerful maids.

"If we are able to execute my plan perfectly then we can turn this whole situation around" Gallio started explaining his plans.

After falling in despair, he had been thinking about what Marcus had said to him back then. The maids were unreasonably powerful to the point that even the seniors from their guild were unable to move or do anything.

Existence like them shouldn't be in a low class dungeon like this, it went beyond all reasoning.

Just when he was about to lose his hope and give up he saw something with his eyes, or to be more precise, with those [Mystic Eyes] of his. There was a single light of gold in this place full of red.

Chapter 582 582- The Talentless Genius

'Hehe, guild master Cassius... if you saw me like this, you would definitely be disappointed right? No, you would definitely beat me up. Everybody is fighting for a way out, yet I'm giving up already.'

'No wonder she has only been looking at Marcus from the beginning. Did she too think that I was pathetic too? Ahh, I'm hopeless, I messed up again.'

Gallio thought internally as his eyes stole a peek at the girl who was shining in gold in his vision. Looking at her, he realised that there is no point in giving up. He choose to fight along with them and maybe then he thought she would spare him a glance too.

Thus, the tertiary team rose in defiance to their fate, with Gallio and the plan that he came up with in the heart of all of it.

"Marcus"...

"Leave it to me" Marcus who was called out, ran out of the barrier. He transformed back into his partial beast state and started running wild.

"Tyler, Park, Levin..."

"Yeah"...

Gallio called out the name of all the warriors as they gathered in one spot.

"Kenan, Jason, Connor"...

"[Wall of Flames]" he called out the name of mages with expertise in the fire.

A wall of flame as high as twenty meters, rose up in the air all around them, barring vision for those other than allies.

"Marin, Franco..." Assassins, warriors, mages... one by one, Gallio called out all the names of the geniuses who used their skills and magic in turn.

"Hm? What are those guys doing? Don't they know that anything that they do at this point is meaningless?" Bea wondered aloud.

"Ahhhh!!" Alvin next to her struggled, his eyes glowed with a resolute light.

"I won't let you go after them" he roared defiantly.

"What are you getting so riled up about, all of you will die eventually. Anyways, I do not have the slightest intention of going after them. Master has set the Adnromedas as their opponent, he wants to see how well the Admormedas can fare against the adventurers with the amount of information it has currently".

"With sir Wisp controlling them, I hardly think I need to take any action. Anyways, you should be more concerned about yourself. The reason why I haven't killed you is because you still have a big part to play in the upcoming events".

Bea toyed around with the assassin, stabbing him with her dagger from time to time as she enjoyed his screams.

Inside the wall of fire, the Andromedas that were surrounded by fire all around, were barred of their vision of the targets. They who had no information about any such skills were unable to promptly respond to what came next.

"Hurry, I don't think that I can take them any longer" Marcus roared, no matter how strong he was in his partial beast transformation state he was nevertheless, unable to go against so many Andromedas.

To attract all their attention he had to use his full strength and reveal all of his skills and superimpose them on top of each other. Once the duration of those many augmenting skills ended, he would be vulnerable to enemy attacks.

Be that may, his greatest concern was these golems ability to take new information into account. For some reason, he felt like these golems were growing stronger and smarter after every new skill and technique that he displayed.

The skill that worked before didn't work against them the second time. They either dodged or could see it coming. Marcus wanted to deny this possibility; however, the more he fought against them the more certain he became.

These golems were learning, adapting themselves and changing their attack patterns to the best possible way to defeat him.

[Activating... Electrocutation Net]... Marcus heard the golem behind the one he was facing currently, mutter something in its robotic voice. The arm of that golem started transforming and to his surprise, it shot out something that looked like a fishing net.

His instinct flaring alarms, Marcus tried to dodge it; however, the Andromedas were far smarter than he giving them credit for. The golem he was facing grabbed onto him at that instant and stopped him from moving away. Thus capturing him inside the net.

If it was just any simple net, Marcus would have broken free immediately. However, the net was made of the same material as their equipment and frames and was extremely sturdy.

Iridium was a metal that was only a little weaker than Mythril, one of the toughest metals known to the people of this world. Given this fact, it was no wonder that Marcus was surprised that he couldn't get out of the net.

Though the real surprise was about to come next. The net that the Andromedas had thrown, didn't just restrain him, but also electrocuted him.

ZAPP...

"Aaaarghhh" Marcus screamed as he felt a high voltage of electricity curse through his body from the net. The electrical energy was so high that even his partial beast transformation was unable to handle it for long, he started to revert back to his original human form.

Marcus was twitching and squirming paralysed inside the net, on the other hand, the andromeda that was captured alongside him was perfectly fine. It showed no signs of being affected at all.

[Capture successful... retrieving target] the Andromedas proceeded to apprehend Marcus who couldn't move when the wall of flames started flickering. Skills and magic passed through the wall and bombarded the Andromedas pushing them back and destroying a few.

[Error... unable to detect the target] the Andromedas due to being encircled inside the wall of fire and unable to see where the attacks are coming from, were unable to respond quickly.

After that first batch of attacks, more and more attacks started coming from all sides of the wall. Huge rocks and debris fell down from the sky, making the andromedas unable to maintain their flight.

One by one they had to land on the ground which further opened them to the attacks of the warriors that came attacking them using their skills and disappeared inside the wall soon after.

[Drill Bash], [Strong Blow], [Bull's Charge], [Wide Slash], [Mountain Cut] all kinds of skills were used.

In some other case, the andromedas would easily be able to avoid the attacks or create defensive measures to render that skill useless. However, due to them being unable to lock in their targets and see where the attacks are coming from, the andromedas even with their information sharing ability were unable to respond.

They tried to react by charging out of the wall only to be pushed back inside.

Light magic mastery- [Barricade of Light] was cast around the wall of fire. The magic made things from outside pass through it but stopped anything from coming outside.

That is to say, the Andromedas were completely blocked off from the outside and could only move around within the wall of fire. The reason why they couldn't perceive the magic coming at them from different directions was because of the—Earth magic mastery- Geo Manipulation.

The mages proficient in Earth Magic Mastery, ferried the others around the wall of fire using which they continuously cast their magic and skills while sitting on top of rocks.

The assassins using the ample cover of rocks and fire displayed their skills to support the warriors and combinedly, they tackled the andromedas.

"Are you alright?" Gallio asked Marcus who looked quite worse for the wear. They had somehow managed to rescue Marcus from that electrified net before the [Barricade of Light] was cast or else just like the Andromedas, he too would have been stuck inside.

"Yeah" Marcus nodded his head, still feeling numb all over his body.

"I must say, your plan was quite good. When did you manage to gain information about all of our skills and magic? And how did you know a way to counter the golems?" Marcus asked looking at the Andromedas getting destroyed inside the wall of fire.

To pull something like that, one needed extensive knowledge about each of the skills and magic they all possessed, awareness about their surroundings, craftiness, versatility and not to mention the genius to put all of these together into a plan.

"Haha, it's just some information I have collected by observing all of you. I'm an assassin after all, a part of my job is intelligence gathering. I have been keeping an eye on all the geniuses of the top and the big guilds since a long time ago. I know all your quirks, the skills you have and your capability. As for the Golems, did you forget these special eyes of mine?"

Gallio pointed at his eyes. A special mutated physique that only a handful people in this world possess.

"Mystic Eyes... huh. That's quite something. However, even with the aid of that special physique, to pull something like that one needed to be a genius" Marcus praised, he downed a couple of potions to heal his injuries.

"Hearing that from a guy who took the third spot, doesn't make me happy at all. Anyways, it's not over yet, don't let your guard down. The main part of our plan has only just begun" Gallio reminded.

"Haha... yeah".

The wall of fire stayed up for quite a while, blocking the vision from the outside completely. Nobody could tell what was going on inside it. The veteran adventurers who were struggling to free themselves from the strings, could only pray in their hearts that those young geniuses from their guilds were fine.

The distant galloping sounds, the screams of despair and the noise of bones being crushed resounded from the backlines. The adventurers grit their teeth and endured, they wanted to help but were unable to free themselves from these goddamn strings.

The more they struggled to get out of these strings, the more constricted it got.

Chapter 583- The Talentless Genius (2)

The situation didn't look bright for the tertiary team, every second dozens of people were getting killed in the backlines. Crushed underneath the hooves of the stampeding warhorses. It felt like

everything had spiralled out of their hand when the [Wall of Fire] encapsulating the Andromedas and the geniuses of the twenty guilds, came down.

"What?!"...

The moment the wall of fire was released, everybody had a surprised look on their face. Of course, the destroyed Andromedas in the centre played a large part in it. However, the real shock came from that ridiculous fluctuation of mana that flooded out right after the wall came down and almost covered half of the floor.

The amount of mana was so immense that it caused the mystical energy around the entire floor to become turbulent.

Following this turbulence, a voice that seemed like it was singing, penetrated through every space of this floor and reached the ears of every living being present. Inadvertently, they all stopped doing whatever they were occupied with and turned their attention towards the source of this song.

"What? That!! Not good, that girl... she is capable of casting Mutation Magic" Bea who was similarly attracted by that song, immediately realised what it was as her eyes focused on the girl, the caster of this magic.

Seeing that the verses were taking shape and the magic was about to be completed, Bea tried to intervene. But the persistent assassin who was hanging by the thread of his life, found some strength all of sudden and grabbed onto her legs stopping her from teleporting away.

"Your... opponent is meee!!!" Alvin who was lacerating severely from the rupture that was dealt to his body, smiled in a last death struggle.

"You... let go of me" Bea tried to free herself; however, her opponent refused to budge and stuck to her like a maggot no matter how severely he got hurt in the process.

'Gallio, this must be your doing right? I don't know what kind of possibility you have seen, but at the very least allow me to aid you in your efforts'.

Alvin's mind wandered and he remembered a conversation he had with his guild master, Cassius Grey when he decided to take Gallio as his student and successor.

"But Sir Cassius, that boy's potential isn't very high. He lacks talent, his aptitude is lower than most of his peers and most of all, he lacks the drive to become the strongest. If not for his special physique, he would be average. Guild master, please reconsider. That boy will never be able to compete with the monstrous talents of the other top guilds".

At that time, Alvin believed that Gallio had no potential, he assumed that it was a bad judgement on his guild leader's part to declare such a boy as his successor.

"Alvin, you might be right about the boy lacking the talent and all, but you are mistaken about certain things. That boy by no means is lacking in the drive to become stronger. In fact, I have seen him work harder than even some of the senior members of our guild".

"It is not that he is not trying, it's just that he is fully aware that he is not a genius and cannot compare to them on even grounds. That is why, he is diverting his efforts to other places to make up for it".

"You have asked me once where I found that boy right? Let me tell you that boy's origin. Gallio had lost his parents and his family in a bandit attack while travelling across the northern outlaw forest. Can you imagine a boy who was only eight or nine years old around that time making it out alive all alone?"

"He was almost killed by the bandits, became the food of monsters or was sold as a slave after getting tricked by a slave trader in the black town. Nevertheless, he survived all that and managed to come out of that forest while keeping his sanity intact".

"I ask you Alvin, would you be able to do the same at his age? Don't give me the crap that he has [Mystic Eyes] and all. A skill is a skill, after all, even they have their limits. It is his wits, his ability to absorb all information around him and spun it into a plan is what makes him special. In my eyes, he is a genius. A genius who is always looking ahead, hungry for knowledge and power. The assassin class is a dangerous one, you need to have the right knowledge and mindset to go on any quest or expedition. A dangerous place is where his ability will shine the brightest".

At that time, the reply that Alvin got from Cassius, forced him to have a renewed look at the boy. Though he still had his doubts, the successive events later proved that his guild master was right.

With his dim eyes, Alvin saw a huge magic circle form above their enemies and laughed. It formed on top of the demonic warhorses in the backlines and on top of the maids. Soon after, a wide beam of light poured out of that, drowning any and every sound.

The entire floor trembled, the might of the magic was powerful enough to even give goosebumps to all the onlooking veteran adventurers.

The geniuses of the twenty guilds rejoiced at the perfect execution of the plan but their joy was cut short with a yell.

"Now!!" Gallio bellowed, he rushed faster than anyone towards the veteran adventurers who were restrained by the strings. The other followed behind him and started freeing the seniors from their guilds.

Thanks to that magic earlier targeting all their enemies, the strings have started becoming loose and visible that anyone could cut them now.

"Haa... Haa... " Hallie huffed, her expression quickly turning pale white as she poured all of her mana into her magic. Her body shuddered and she was just about to fall down when Tiana from the side supported her.

"Are you alright? The magic puts too much strain on you after all" She asked in concern.

"Un... big sister I'm alright. I'm just a little tired" Hallie answered with a small smile.

Tiana caressed the adorable face of her little sister and nodded "You have done your part, leave everything to us now and rest"...

"Un... but that guy... what was his name?"...

"Hm? You mean Gallio Stallard? He is the future successor of the Assassin Guild. That guy is quite something, even I'm amazed that he could come up with such a plan" Tiana commented.

Hallie's magic was something that was kept a secret from all the other guilds. She had only mentioned it once to Gallio when they were against the odds facing the unending monster horde inside the mysterious ruins.

She had revealed that it was a powerful magic that Hallie could only use once a day and had a long casting drawback. She never imagined that Gallio would even incorporate that information and come up with such a plan on the spot.

The wall of fire and the constant casting of magic of other mages around her provided a perfect cover for her to cast her powerful magic without worrying about being interrupted. Perhaps If it was someone else in his place, it would have been impossible for them to devise such a plan on the spot.

With the veteran adventurers free from their restraining, they now stood a chance. The tertiary team had turned the tables around.

"Everybody... the transmission conch should be working now, please send a transmission to your guild explaining our situation" Gallio instructed. He looked at the transmission conch in his hand that had turned back to the colour of gold in his eyes once again.

This meant that his plan had worked. Gallio released a deep breath of relief, when formulating the plan, he was not entirely sure that it would work. Although his eyes showed him a possibility, it was not omnipotent after all.

The [Mystic eyes] of his had shown Hallie in the colour of gold. Although it took him a second or two, but he finally understood what it was trying to hint at. Scrounging all of the information he had collected over the years on these geniuses, Gallio had come up with that makeshift plan.

'I wonder if I was able to stay in her sight for a few seconds' Gallio wondered.

Everybody was congratulating Marcus, the Lantz brothers, Tiana, Hallie and the others. They had all, performed extremely well and were able to provide the veterans with the chance to be freed once again. If not for them performing to their very best, none of this would have gone as he had planned. On the contrary, all he did was come up with the plan.

'As I thought so, I can't compare with monstrous geniuses like Marcus, the third prince or you. But I at least wanted you to see me in a different light, I wanted to stay in your sight even for a second'.

'From the start of the exploration, you have always been looking at Marcus. But that cannot be helped, my presence is that low after all, I'm an assassin that cannot shine in the light. Ah how envious, if only I had talent like them' Gallio smiled at his inner soliloquy.

His eyes inadvertently turned to look at the girl who was being supported by her senior sister. Although it was embarrassing for him to admit, she had always shined a bright gold in his eyes. Yeah, he had feelings for her but his circumstances always made him suppress that feeling deep in his heart .

Chapter 585 585- Black Widow Spider

"Yeah, you don't have to blame yourself. Gallio must have his reason to do something like that, that boy must have seen something in you" Alvin who was being supported by an adventurer muttered.

That magic earlier from the girl only targeted the enemy. In a way, it could be said that it was because of her that he and Kain were saved. Alvin could see why Gallio would prioritise her life above his but it didn't make sense to him. Perhaps there was something else between them?

"Don't worry everyone, I have just received word from the secondary team, they are headed here right now" Kain tried to relax the heavy mood by giving some optimistic news.

"Great, then all we need to do is delay her. When the secondary team arrives here, at that time we can defeat her easily" the veterans rejoiced.

"Don't get so cocky just because you managed to send a sound transmission. It doesn't matter if there are hundreds or thousands of you. Now that you have angered my little sister, the outcome will be all the same".

Their joy didn't last long as a cold voice filled with sadism, snapped them back to reality. At some unknown point in time, the maid had escaped their encirclement and appeared behind the adventurer who uttered those words.

Her dagger slightly traced his back before she disappeared once again. This was a clear message from her, if she wanted to she could have easily killed them. The only reason she was not doing so was because she had something else in mind.

KRRRRRIIEEKKK... at this moment, a disturbing shriek carrying an immense pressure, came from one part of the floor. At the crater where the maid who controlled the string got hit by Hallie's magic, was a huge ball of yarn.

That ball of yarn moved and something disturbing and frightening came out of it.

It had eight dark black eyes, stood ten meters in size and had eight powerful legs. It had an hourglass like shape on the underside of the spherical abdomen and had numerous tiny needle like hair covering all its body.

Also, there was a crimson coloured deadly pattern imprinted on its back. Some kind of liquid that even melted the ground, continuously dropped from its body.

"A... S-Spider Monster?" There was no other way to describe it, the adventurers who saw it, immediately started trembling in fear. Some even instinctively took a step back.

Just a look at her was enough to evoke the primal fear in them. This was the true form of Emma, the Black Widow Spider. She was designed by Simon in a way that would even scare the living shit out of the most stoic of men.

Coupled with the fact that she can produce thousands of different lethal poisons and that human males were her most favourite food, anybody would try to steer clear of her.

According to the setting, Emma had very less control of herself in this state and hated reverting to it. But it was nevertheless, her strongest form.

"What kind of monster is that?" the adventurer had no information about such a monster and could only look in despair as she approached them at a speed that was nerve wracking.

KRRRIIEEKKK... the adventurers tried to attack her from the distance with magic and skills; however, just her scream alone was powerful enough to sweep those attacks away before they could approach her body.

Even if any attack did manage to land on her, it either did no damage or was offset by the shiny armour like hairs on her body.

"Attack... attack... keep on attacking her!!!!" this was the first time even the veteran adventurers who had years of experience fighting monsters and diving inside the dungeon to feel that threatened.

The kind of bloodlust that they were feeling from the Black Widow Spider was so palpable that even their breathing became distorted.

In their fear of the incomprehensible, they could only use all of their power to attack it in hopes that something would work. Hundreds of attacks targeted Emma but before any of them could land on her she mysteriously disappeared from the sight of the adventurers.

"Invisibility?"...

"No, look above. She jumped"... the adventurers who were freaking out from her sudden disappearance suddenly pointed up and all the eyes shifted above only to see a giant spider standing upside down in the sky.

"T-The monster is flying?"...

When the adventurers looked carefully, they realised that the spider was not actually flying upside down, but using the strings to run in the air.

At some unknown point in time, the entire ceiling of the 21st floor was covered by a gigantic spider web which the monster used to rush towards them. They tried to fire magic in the sky but the spider was much too agile when running on the spider web then on the ground.

All the attacks missed their marks.

PSSHHH... Emma opened her mouth and sprayed out droplets of greenish liquid from above. These greenish liquid when it fell on some adventurers, immediately corroded their armour and seeped inside their body through their skin.

Like a virus, it immediately seized control of their system and caused multiple bodily failures before ultimately claiming their life.

"It's poison!! Mages create magic shield".

The mage class was capable of creating magic shield with their mana, it was one of the must have skill for any mage. It not only allowed them protection from certain kinds of attacks it was also kind of like their last line of defence.

The mages hurriedly raised the magic shield to protect all the adventurers from the poison that was falling from the sky. The poison from Emma was even able to corrode through the sturdy armours of these adventurers, so what could a measly magic shield made out of mana could do?

The magic shield was corroded by the poison; nevertheless, it stopped the poison long enough for the adventurers underneath it to avoid it.

They just evaded one danger when they were threatened with another. Strands of threads more than an inch wide, penetrated through the magic shields before wrapping against the mages and pulling them up.

One by one, the adventurers that were caught, were restrained inside a cocoon where they would slowly die of asphyxiation or were devoured alive by Emma who was now directly above the group of adventurers and looking down at them.

Those eight pitch black eyes reflected the terror stricken faces of the adventurers. There were no emotions in those eyes, only pure insatiable hunger as if they were nothing but food for her. It was a sight straight out of nightmare, but this nightmare was yet to end.

When the Black Widow Spider uses a prey to create a cocoon around them, it's only for one reason and that is to spawn underlings.

The warm bodies of the adventurers provide the ideal nurseries for her offspring. The Black Widow Spider injects her eggs into the immobile and dying foes and after some time, these small critters break out of that body to serve their mother.

Everybody could see the cocoons wiggling fiercely; however, nobody knew what kind of atrociousness was going on inside until the moment these cocoon burst apart with thousands and thousands of tiny spiderlings spawning out of them.

KIELLEIEHKKKK... these critters made a cacophony of unpleasant noise as they followed the command of their mother and dropped down on the adventurers.

Imagine thousands of tiny spiders dropping down from the sky, at that moment even the light coming from the enormous luminescence crystals was covered. It was like a black carpet covering the sky.

Tap... Tap.. Tap... Tap... Taptaptaptaptaptaptap... the spiders dropped down on the ground like rain. They crawled and scuttled towards the adventurers who were trembling and cowering where they stood.

"AHHHHH... help me... help...pwease...hab ..bwee" the spider lings skittered across the bpdy of the adventurers, creeping their clothes, armour, mouth and biting them from within.

Unlike the Emma herself, these spider lings were just ordinary spiders; however, each of them have a deadly bite and are a carrier of her poison. So even if you just happen to touch them, you would be poisoned and ultimately die.

The adventurers retaliated but the numbers of the spiders was just too mind bogging not to mention more and more hatched from those cocoon in the ceiling.

In the face of this pure avatar of brutality, the mental fortitude of the adventurers collapsed, their formation was swept away, leaving behind only chaos and despair in truest sense.

"I don't want to die... I don't want to die. I am going to become the next guild leader of the Phantom Light guild, I cannot die here" Levin Field, the genius of the Phantom Light Guild broke down and ran away.

But how could it be so easy to run away from Emma? He was soon ensnared by the invisible strings, wrapped around like a cocoon and pulled up.

The other geniuses of the tertiary team also didn't fare any better. Marcus who struggled fiercely was brought down by the spider lings, the Lantz and the Rees brother from the crimson demolition guild were eaten alive.

All of the geniuses met with various twisting fates. They might be called geniuses or whatnot, but at the end they were still too young and inexperienced to face the true terrors of the dungeon.

"Ugh... Master Karina... Elder Sister Tiana, Anna... Gallio..." Hallie mumbled looking at the ceiling before slowly getting spun in a web and turned into a cocoon.

Chapter 586 586- The Latest Invention

On their eleventh day of exploring the dungeon Laplace, the tertiary team comprising of the younger members and newbie adventurers of the top twenty guilds of the kingdom was completely defeated.

"Sigh... what is this girl doing?"

Looking at the one sided massacre of her little sister, Bea commented. She sighed as her body reverted back to her normal form.

"Ah, my hair is all messy, I have to tie them again. This is all the fault of these adventurers, it makes me want to not intervene and let them die like this. But master's orders are absolute, I can't let Emma do as she wants".

Bea tidied her hair first before teleporting on top of Emma. She blew air into her fist before smacking some sense at the huge spider head of her little sister.

KIEEKKK... Emma must have felt that as she twisted her body and cover her head with her spider legs.

"Wake up you numbskull. What are you trying to do by killing all of them? Have you already forgotten the orders of our master?".

Bea questioned in an exasperated voice. This little sister of hers, went out of control every time she reverted to her true form. Thus it needed some physical education like this to wake her up.

"KIEE... IM SORRY"...

Finally, when she heard Bea mention master, some reasoning returned back to her.

"COME BACK MY CHILDREN"

Her voice in the spider form was jarring and rough. The spiderlings spawned from her eggs using mana, obeyed her command and stopped attacking the adventurers.

"Ability Conferment- Supreme Thread Reeling, Marionette Master... [Absolute Manipulation]"

The tens of thousands of spider lings turned into invisible strings that stitched inside the bodies of the adventurers, robbing them of all freedom.

Finishing taking control of all the adventurers here, Emma returned back to her maid form.

"Hee~... I-I'm sorry" her attitude too returned back to the same nervous type.

NEIGHHH... the sound of the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse neighing in the distance also came at this moment indicating that the matters over there was settled too.

The Bloodthorn demonic warhorse was tasked with the newbie and injured adventurers in the backlines. It was an utter stomp in its case with none being able to handle its [Stampede] skill. Everybody was squashed underneath those six fiery hooves of his.

FLAP... flapping sounds of the wings were heard and the silhouette of the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse could be seen flying over from a distance.

"Oh!! It looks like Miss Bea and Miss Emma are also done here" the warhorse commented.

"Yep, you bet we did" Bea flashed a smug grin. "But I'm amazed I thought that you would take some damage from that last attack. Even Emma had to resort to using her strings for defence".

The Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse was silent for a while before answering "I don't understand that myself too. I should have taken immense damage from that magic... but something at that moment felt wrong. It felt like something within me beckoned to me and all pain and damage disappeared at that instant".

Bea made a face as if saying what is he talking about but she didn't pursue it and changed the subject.

"Alright, our mission is about fifty per cent completed, now we just have to wait for the other group to arrive. At that time, it will be your turn".

"I know, I will accomplish what my lord has tasked me to do at any cost" The Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse spoke in a serious determined voice.

"Haha, it's good that you are all motivated for it but shouldn't you relax a little? Your face looks too serious" Bea joked patting the warhorse.

"This is my normal expression. Hm? What are you doing?" the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse turned its head around and asked the girl who was trying to climb on its back.

"I just felt like riding on top of your back" Bea replied nonchalantly...

"Get off!!" the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse bellowed.

"Ehh? Why so? Didn't I ride on you back when we went to the orc's territory?"...

"That was with my lord, this is different. I am the personal steed of my lord, I don't allow anyone else other than him to ride on my back. So get off..."...

"Ehhh"...

Around an hour ago, the 45th floor.

The chaos that engulfed this floor, calmed down a little after claiming the lives of several adventurers. However, this calm didn't last for long before the battle broke loose once again.

On one corner of the floor, two guilds, the Sea god's trident guild and the Lightning storm guild were locked in an intense fight when...

"Will you stop this lunacy already, you imbeciles" a voice tore the space of this floor and rang in the heads of all the adventurers.

Following this voice, an enormous magic circle formed in the sky above. Numerous light pillars fell from the magic circle and interrupted their fight. A figure materialised in between the two guilds and clicked his tongue.

The figure covering his face with a mask, was none other than the grey haired man.

"This Sir... please do not stop us, we must make the [Lightning Storm] guild pay for what they did to our guild" Dalton Lance who was leading the Sea god's trident guild, spoke in hatred as he glared at the adventurers at the other end of the light pillars.

"Dalton just because your guild is stronger than us, you think you can simply attack and suppress us? Don't you think that your actions are too much, attacking our members out of nowhere? Do you think that my lightning storm guild is some pushover that you just shove around as you wish? So what if you are from the top five guilds, our lightning storm guild doesn't fear anyone" the guild leader of the lightning Strom guild barked back.

"Cut the crap... Do you think that I don't know what the members of your guild did? You stole the rewards from our guild not only that, but you also killed Hicks and the others".

"Hicks body was marked with a tracker, so when he dies I can immediately track him. I found several traces and clues in the cave that he was killed, which led me to your guild. You guys are the ones who started a fight with us first".

Dalton and the members of the Sea god's trident were extremely angry. Not only were they robbed of an extremely precious treasure, even a high ranking member of their guild was killed.

The Sea God's trident was naturally very angry, they employed all the resources in their possession to trace it back to the culprit who was behind all of this and found the Lightning Strom in the midst of all this.

It was the first time after becoming the head of the top five guilds, that the Sea God's trident was so blatantly disrespected. They won't be able to calm down unless they washed this shame away by punishing the culprit for this transgression. Or else, the image of their guild would be tarnished and the Sea god's trident would become a laughingstock in the eyes of the other guilds.

The guild master to the Lightning Storm guild narrowed his eyes when he heard that and glanced at his vice guild leader, Norman Gale who sneakily shook his head.

"What nonsense, this is a scheme to frame us. What reason does our guild have to even start a fight with your guild? Dalton just because some members of your guild died, you shouldn't throw that anger of yours at others" Norman threw the accusation back at the other party.

"You!! Is that so? Then let me prove it. Show us the content of your space rings. Everything will come to light if we fight that item that you stole from us in your space rings" Dalton lance demanded.

Norman and the guild leader of the lightning storm guild furrowed their brows. If they revealed the contents of their space rings then everything they had done to other guilds, would come to light and they would become a public enemy. Therefore, they couldn't do that no matter what.

"Huh? Why should we do that? Dalton, have you gone mad? The space rings are the property of that individual and are personal. Why should we do something so detrimental like that? In fact, I can ask you the same why don't you show us your space rings instead?"...

"I see, if you won't show us your space rings, then it means that you accept that you are guilty. My guild will show you no mercy" Dalton roared.

"Bring it on then... if you think that we are afraid of you guys then you are wrong". The two guilds were ready to fight once again when.

"ENOUGH!!!" the grey haired man thundered. He turned towards Dalton and the Sea god's trident guild and told them to back down.

Faced with the fury of the man that even made them cower a little, Dalton could only shut his mouth.

Seeing that this mysterious person from the mainland was siding with them, the guild leader of the lightning storm guild sighed in relief. However, he wasn't relieved for long as he saw those eyes peeking behind from that mask, turn towards them next.

"Dalton is right, if you want to prove your innocence you should show them your space rings. Don't worry, not everyone from your guild needs to reveal the contents of their space ring, only you and your vice guild leader will suffice" the grey haired man requested.

Chapter 587 587- The Latest Invention (2)

Precious treasures like the spirit orbs wouldn't be left behind in the custody of the ordinary members of the guild. The guild leader and the vice guild leader are most probable to have it with them.

"T-This..." the mouth of the guild leader of the lightning storm guild, twitched. He wanted to outright dismiss that request but given that the requestor was that grey haired man, he hesitated.

"This Sir... the space rings are a very personal thing. It not only contains all our possessions, but also things that are a guild secret" he tried to reason but the grey haired man simply snorted in derision.

"You think that those guild secrets of yours have any meaning to me? Let me guess, guild leader of the Lightning Storm guild. The real reason why you aren't willing to show us the contents of your space ring is because you are afraid that all the misdoings of your guild would come to light along with that item you have stored inside isn't it".

"I don't understand..." the latter tried to feign ignorance.

"Sigh, I see how the demon had played with all of you. You all don't even realise that you have fallen into the trap that the master of this dungeon has laid for all of you".

"You don't need to show us the contents of your ring, just check if you still have that item or not" the grey haired man pointed out.

The guild leader hesitated for a while before gesturing something with his chin. His vice guild leader, Norman nodded his head and checked the spatial pocket of his space ring. The instant that he did, a gobsmacked look plastered on his face.

"What? This... how can this be?".

"What's wrong?" the former asked in doubt.

Norman looked at his guild leader and replied in a stupid manner "It's gone..."...

"What is?"...

"The spirit orbs are gone. It's not there" Norman explained in a panic. He took out all the contents of his space ring and ended up doing exactly like the other party wanted him to; nevertheless, the thing he was searching for, the spirit wasn't among his possessions.

"As I thought so" the grey haired man muttered as he dismissed the light pillars.

"What is going on?" Dalton asked, he was confused as to why the other guild was acting all panicked and disarrayed like that.

The grey haired did not explain and instead took out his transmission conch as he communicated with the parties on the other end of the communication.

"I see... good then, I'm also done over here. Yes, bring all of them to the meeting place" With that said, the grey haired man ended the communication and turned to face the Lightning storm guild.

"Wha-What is going on? How can the spirit orbs just disappear?" the members were utterly confused. "I remember clearly that I kept it in my space ring. There is no way they can just disappear" Norman frantically searched his things hoping that they might be inside or under something.

"The spirit orbs did not disappear, it's still there. Look, those two shiny stones" the grey haired man pointed at the two shiny stones sitting messily amongst the many other things.

"Stop your fighting and come with me, we have an emergency. I'll explain things to you all after everybody has gathered".

Throwing those words behind him, the grey haired man flew away. The two guilds compliantly followed behind, not daring to start another fight on his watch.

In the middle of the valley of the 45th floor, multiple guilds carrying their own crests, could be seen assembling. They each maintained a distance from the other, their eyes flaming with hatred and resentment.

The mood around the surrounding was heavy to the point that one could even smell the gunpowder in the air. The only reason why these guilds haven't started killing each other already is because of a single man that was currently standing at the forefront of all the guilds.

Behind him was some kind of huge cylindrical, mechanical apparatus.

The grey haired man stepped forward, his eyes assessing the remaining number of adventurers that have gathered as he clenched his hands. Out of the four thousand strong primary unit of the expedition force, only a little more than two thousand adventurers survived and gathered here at this place.

This meant that around half of the adventurers died just to reach this point. What's more, the adventurers themselves were to be blamed for their losses. Most of the casualties that the primary unit suffered, were because of the adventurers fighting amongst themselves.

Only a few casualties were incurred due to the monsters.

With them still having a couple more floors to go to reach the floor where the dungeon core was, the present situation where each guild was filled with hatred and murderous intent for another was the worst condition they could be in.

SIGH... feeling the extreme animosity in the air, the grey haired man gave a deep sigh. Although it couldn't be seen because of his mask, but he was at this moment truly and utterly surprised.

His surprise stemmed from the fact that the master of the dungeon who he had dismissed as just a mere demon viscount, would turn out to be such a cunning and scheming fellow.

'I guess all demons are like that in a way or are you trying to prove that you are different? I must say, even I didn't expect you to be able to play these adventurers like a fiddle. Truly, it feels like I have been slapped in the face for the second time by you'.

'I admit that I didn't see this development coming but if you believe that you have won already, then you are severely mistaken' the grey haired man thought internally, his eyes seemed to be reminiscing something.

After a second or two, he snapped back from his thoughts and addressed the crowd.

"Everyone, you must be very confused and angry at what happened with you all on this floor, and you have every right to be. But before you start fighting and throwing accusations at each other let me tell you the truth. You all have been lured into a trap that the master of this dungeon deliberately set up to sow discord within you".

"Just like the time on the 40th floor, he wants you all to fight amongst each other to reduce your strength. I'm sure that some of the perceptive ones have already realised this, but the spirit orbs that you found inside those treasure chest was just a fake. It was a bait that was prepared to blind you and make you commit all kinds of misdeeds".

The crowd that was burning in anger felt like they were doused with a bucket of cold water when they heard those words. Their fury subsided, replaced by the emotions of shock, doubt and suspicions.

The grey haired already knew that they would react like that, hence he addressed the guild leaders next.

"All the guild leaders, can you take out the spirit orbs that you guys collected from those treasure chests".

The seven or so guilds that have gotten their hands on the item, took out the spirit orbs from their ring and presented them in front of the crowd. All the adventurers bobbed their heads and focused their eyes on the items that was in the hands of all the guild leaders.

Surprisingly, all of them were holding a shiny stone. Some had one while others had two; nevertheless, the point was that each of the guild leaders were holding the same item. A

t the same moment, a question arrived inside the heads of all the adventurers.

'Is that the spirit orb?' Although none of them have seen such a precious treasure in their life before, they at least knew that a treasure of that calibre ought to have a unique presence and aura of it.

However, the shiny stones in the hands of all the guild leaders although they looked pretty and all, they had no other uniqueness to them.

pàndá-ñovêi.cóM What shocked them to the core, was when they used their [Analysis] on it and found that it was really just a shiny looking stone.

Seeing that the crowd was being swayed in the direction that he wanted to, the grey haired man hammered with the question while the iron was still hot.

"Guild leaders can you tell everyone why and where you got the same shiny looking stones from?".

"It was found inside my space ring in place of the spirit orb. The spirit orb that we collected from the treasure chest had disappeared, and this shiny looking stone appeared inside my space ring out of nowhere".

The testimonies of the guild leaders differed a little from each other but the matter of the fact was still that the shiny looking stone appeared in their space in the place where the spirit orb should be.

There was no possibility of it being a lie because all the evidence was basically right in front of their eyes. They really had been duped, all those killing and struggle was for what? The items that they were fighting for, weren't even real in the first place.

As soon as that realisation struck them, the crowd was shaken to their very core, they suddenly felt empty, a hollow feeling engulfed them and they felt like an idiot for falling for the trap. At the same time, a feeling of frustration, irritation, bitterness all those negative feelings emerged within their heart that they did not know what to do with.

The grey haired man observed all of these changes with his eyes that were narrowed in delight. Now that he had influenced the mind of the adventurers, it was time for him to make his final move.

Chapter 588 588- The Latest Invention (3)

With the excess negative feelings dwelling within the hearts of these adventurers that they did not know what to do with, he just had to divert it towards his goal.

The grey haired man called out to all the adventurers and asked them to take out their transmission conch whereafter they soon found multiple missed transmissions sent by the tertiary team.

All those messages were indistinct and vague but one could at least make some general sense from it. Request for help, the tertiary team sent the signal for backup. They must be facing an obstacle that they couldn't overcome with their power and hence were asking for assistance.

The guilds were so focused on their personal battle that the sound transmission had completely gone unnoticed by them.

Soon after the message from the transmission conch came to light, the guilds started panicking. The tertiary team was an important part of their guilds, its where the geniuses, the future pillars of their

guilds were. Losing them would be tantamount to crippling the top twenty guilds. It would take them dozens of years to recover from a loss of this magnitude.

"This is bad, we must go back and help our tertiary team. Listen to my command Absolute Sea guild, we will ascend the floors and go assist our members" Layton Sea, the guild leader of the Absolute Sea Guild commanded.

"The Lightning Strom guild will ascend up"...

"The Typhoon Thunder shall do the same"...

They had forgotten or set aside the enmity they had with the other guilds at this moment, as their sole focus was on assisting the tertiary team.

One by one, the guilds started voicing their intention to ascend the floors and go backup their tertiary teams when the grey haired man spoke again.

"What good will that bring? The transmission was sent more than two hours ago. Even if you start ascending the floors now, it would take you hours at the earliest that is if you just sent a small elite unit. Otherwise, it would take you days just to reach them."

"Not to mention once you ascend back up, the monsters on the lowers floors would be spawned once again. Do you all want to tackle the floors from the starting once again?".

The guilds that were all set to ascend the floors had their winds knocked out of their sails at those facts thrown at their face. They all had a look asking what they should do then.

"You guys do not have to worry. Fortunately, some of the guild leaders were sane enough not to fall for the trap of the spirit orbs and were able to make a sound decision. An Elite unit comprising of the senior members of your guilds and led by Miss Karina and some vice guild leaders are headed over there as we speak right now. So you do not have to fret over the safety of your younger members for the time being".

The grey haired man explained; however, he could see that some of the guilds were still a little uncertain about not backing their tertiary team up. Hence he proposed the plan that he was waiting for all along.

When the various guilds heard his plan, their first reaction was to question whether he had gone insane. Even the guild leaders were all flabbergasted now knowing what to say.

"Is something like that even possible?"...

The guild leaders couldn't be blamed for asking such a question, the plan was so preposterous and out of the norm of anything they had ever heard, that it was difficult for them to believe even when it came from the grey haired man.

The plan he proposed was to clear the dungeon before anything could happen to the tertiary team. Destroy the dungeon before it could destroy them. It was something that they all understood.

Nevertheless, the plan was far too farfetched given that they knew they still had a couple more floors to go. Who knew what kind of other devious traps and monsters were waiting for them?

As they descended deeper, the bigger the floor became and it became more difficult to find the entrance to the next floor. If they followed the trend, wouldn't it take quite a while for them to clear the dungeon? Would the tertiary team be able to hold on for so long?

The plan might have sounded farfetched but not impossible, it was all good up till here. But when the grey haired man explained the next part of his plan, they all couldn't help but flash a look of disbelief. The plan was preposterous and unbelievable to say no less.

"Of course, it is possible, in fact some of the guild leaders are already helping me with it"

The grey haired man pointed at the huge mechanical apparatus standing behind him while thinking internally.

You might be quite a schemer, demon. But you have made one huge mistake. You have underestimated us humans too much. Did you know demon, we humans have a unique phenomenon called the Common Enemy Effect where we tend to cooperate with other groups regardless of our differences and biasness when confronting a common enemy?

By attacking the tertiary team of the expedition force, you have made all the guilds band together against you. The discord you have sown among the guild has been set aside at this moment and the bond holding the expedition force is now stronger than ever.

"Allow me to present the new invention from the headquarters of the Adventurer's Association... the Floor Buster".

At the same time, inside the main hall of the White Palace. Simon who was watching the Wisp control the Andromedas, was surprised at their effectiveness. Even when the world was different, with the Null Elemental acting as the core, the andromedas displayed the very same fearsomeness and power they had in the game.

The current model that was fighting the tertiary team was the completed model with all their weapons and upgrades installed. The Mk9s were far more intelligent than the other models that came before it and were a true force to reckon with.

If not because the [workshop] took hours of time just to manufacture a single Mk9, Simon wouldn't have only sent fifty of them after the tertiary team.

"I wonder how far the Mk9 can corner the level 400+ adventurers who are said to be the genius of their guilds" Simon muttered as he saw the geniuses suddenly change their tactics.

As someone who had worked on the game [Rise of the Demolishers], he knew all about the Andromedas and the weaknesses of the each model. However, even he didn't see the next development coming.

Somebody from the geniuses, was able to accurately spot the weakness of the Mk9 and take leverage of that prospect to come up with a plan that even he found was praiseworthy.

"That assassin... why do I not have any recollection of him?" During his time in the capital, Simon made sure to observe all the finalists that were battling in the tournament at that time. So how come this person had slipped his mind?

What Simon didn't know was that the assassin named Gallio Stallard, had a very miniscule presence. When standing near the brightest participants, there was no way he could ever stand out. Forget about being a finalist, he wasn't even able to reach the top 30 rankings.

Naturally, he went unnoticed by Simon.

[BEEP-BOOP-BOOP]... the Wisp made some sad sonar noises now that the Andromedas were defeated.

"It's alright, that was not your fault. The adventurers were just better. If anything, it can be said that even after the Mk9 were defeated, we were able to gather some valuable information that can strengthen the andromedas" Simon consoled.

"That's right, Wisp is awesome. You are not only able to create these golems but you can also control them... Hehe," Cecilia added. She extended her hand to pat the Null Elemental but just like always, it evaded her approach and hid behind Simon.

This time, it was Cecilia's turn to become dejected. Simon smiled at this childish display and fixed his attention back on the window showing the 21st floor.

After the defeat of the Andromedas, it was just one surprise after another. The magic that girl cast in particular was so powerful that even Simon felt a threat to his life while watching that.

His subordinates too had different reactions, some were in awe, some concerned, and some made amused faces. Simon was concerned too; however, he wasn't overly worried because he knew the strength of the Valkyries very well.

Even though they still didn't have their Heirloom with them, the might of the Valkyries even without that could easily far outmatch the adventurers. As if to prove him right, Bea emerged unscathed from it.

Her appearance had changed shocking some of his subordinates; nevertheless, she easily overpowered the adventurers. After her, Emma and the Bloothron Demonic Warhorse appeared unscathed from that magic one after the other and took care of the adventurers.

Though at some point Simon got worried when he saw Emma reverting back to her original form and going berserk. In the end, however, the situation was salvaged and the plan was still fine.

"It looks like Bea and the others have successfully completed their first objective. I guess you were worried for nothing huh?" Simon smiled looking at Annette who looked the most concerned out of all his subordinates.

With the absence of Mercedes, she was currently the eldest sister of the Valkyries. Naturally, she would be worried about her little sister.

"Thank you master for believing in us. We will not make the mistake from the past again" Though it looked like Annette was more concerned about not making a mistake than about her sisters.

Simon could only nod his head at their dedication and shift his eyes onto the other windows.

"It looks like the adventurers on the 45th floor are up to something" Irene who has been keeping an eye on the primary unit of the expedition force, commented.

Chapter 589 589- The Last Stand

Her words pulled everyone's attention back to that window.

Simon observed the grey haired man who was covering his face with a mask. For some reason, he felt uneasy and restless whenever he looked at him.

"They have realised that the spirit orbs were fakes" it was something that was bound to come to light sooner or later. But the fact that the guilds who were up until a moment thirsty to draw each other's blood, to suddenly stop fighting each other was what fazed Simon.

According to the plan he had drawn up in his head, they shouldn't be able to stop their fight so soon much less gather around together like this.

What was going on? What did the grey haired man do? Since the window didn't transmit any sound, there was no way of telling what he told each of these guilds.

The adventurers started behaving in a way that Simon was unable to comprehend. He felt like the gears he had been controlling for a while now, suddenly shift out of place at this moment. Something was very wrong and he didn't like where it was going.

"Big brother... what is that?"

Cecilia pointed at a huge weird mechanical apparatus that was displayed in the window. It was something that was taken out by that grey haired man and was more than ten meters in size.

It had six wide legs attached to the ground, an upside down spiralled shaped body and numerous gauges. Apart from that, its top end had an enormous core stone the size of a football embedded in its body.

From what Simon could understand by looking at its structure, the core stone seemed to be acting like a battery while the six legs were there to hold its entire body in place.

Then what was that spiralled upside down frame for? It didn't look like a cannon or else it wouldn't be pointed at the ground or could there be a different purpose for it to be pointed at the ground?

Simon carefully observed the apparatus, its shape was almost like an inverted cone, a ten meter huge cone. The core stone was currently charging energy which meant that something was about to come out of it.

Could it be... an auger machine?

The moment he came to that realisation, he suddenly stood up. Everybody was surprised by his action but he had no mood to pay attention to that right now. He studied the machine more clearly and finally came to an understanding.

It really was what he thought it was.

"What's wrong?"...

"Big brother?"...

"Master?"...

Irene, Cecilia and his subordinates asked in concern.

"It looks like there is a need for change in plans. I haven't counted that possibility, I have made an error".

Hearing Simon mutter to himself, Irene couldn't help but ask "What do you mean?".

Simon explained what he believed the machine was and hastily ordered all of his subordinates to get ready.

"It looks like we cannot sit still anymore. Gather everyone, the time for the final battle has come".

If the machine worked the way it was designed for, then Simon was unable to predict what kind of development it would lead to. That is why he needed to make his move before whatever that grey haired man was planning.

Nevertheless, it looked like he had realised that a step too late as the core stone in that machine started shining brighter and brighter and after a while, a brilliant ray of light spinning in a corkscrew manner was fired by that machine which dug into the ground.

Since they were watching that through the window of the [Menu] they were unable to hear any sound but by the large vibration that could be felt even on the main floor, they could tell that the sound was earth shaking.

That ray of light fired off by that machine created an enormous hole in the ground and disappeared underneath.

Cracks and fissures started appearing on the floor for a few dozen meters and before anyone knew it, the ground that the adventurers were standing on, collapsed.

Yes, the ground of the 45th floor crumbled apart and a hole spanning for dozens of meters connecting to the floor below was created. However, that was not the end, the beam of light after breaking the floor of the 45th floor dug straight into the ground of the 46th floor and created another similar hole.

The vibration that could be felt on the main floor, came after repeated intervals. That is to say, the beam of light didn't just stop after breaching the 46th floor and kept on digging deeper.

The 47th floor, the 48th floor... finally after reaching the ground of the 48th floor and breaching through a few layers of its crust, the beam came to a stop and dissipated.

Simon watched with a stunned expression as he saw adventurers falling from the huge hole in the ceiling and landing on the ground of the 48th floor.

He was gobsmacked, why would he not? That auger machine, that beam packed so much power that it was able to destroy three layers of floors of his dungeon. It was not just one or two, but three.

If the beam was anymore stronger, perhaps even the 48th floor would have crumbled.

It was not just any ground or layer that could be found on the surface that beam of light drilled through, but a floor of his dungeon. It needs to be mentioned that they are many times denser and sturdier than the deepest layer of bedrock.

Breaching something like that, not to mention multiple layers of floors at that... anybody would be surprised after seeing that.

Although Simon knew that breaching the floor was possible after seeing Alice almost destroy through the ceiling of one of the floors when fighting the Aberrant, he believed that it would be a long time before a person capable of doing that would show up.

At that time, his dungeon would have become stronger and increased in rank. However, who knew that there was this kind of machine capable of breaching through multiple floors of a dungeon like that in this world?

This was a completely new realisation for Simon, something that stunned him to no extent. After his shock resided he was relieved that this possibility was shown to him earlier than possible.

The reason for that was simple, imagine if this machine had shown its appearance on the 50th or the 52nd floor while he was still thinking everything was going according to the plan. With the power this machine packed, wouldn't they be able to breach through the boss floors and reach the [Workshop]?

The [Workshop] was one of the key floors of the dungeon Laplace, any damage dealt to it would be like breaking the limbs of the dungeon. Worse, what if they reach the forest spring village that was directly underneath the workshop?

Simon couldn't let this happen.

"Annette... gather everyone, it's time to clear the intruders" He had sucked as much benefit as he could from the expedition force already and besides now that he was shown what the auger machine was capable of, there was no way he could sit still and allow them to use that once again.

"Irene protect the core and the dungeon, others will come with me to intercept them" On Simon's orders everybody started moving.

"Big brother... I-I want to come with you all too" Cecilia asked while clasping her hands in nervousness.

"No, you will go back to the forest spirit village with Coleus" Simon did not allow Cecilia to tag along, it was far too risky for a non-combatant to show their face on the battlefield.

The intruders this time were far more powerful and trickier to deal with than any other adventurers that have dived inside his dungeon before. So much so that even Simon cannot guarantee his own safety, so it would be utterly foolish to bring Cecilia who cannot fight with him.

Besides a part of him didn't want his little sister to get hurt so even if he have to be a little crueller and strict with her, he wasn't going to bend to her wishes.

"B-But even little Wisp is helping big brother, I want to be helpful to you too" Cecilia mumbled while drooping her head down dejectedly.

Seeing her like that, Simon bent down, matched his eye level with hers and spoke.

"Cecilia... why do you feel like you are not helping me? Is it because others can fight while you can't? Let me tell you something, you are one of the most helpful people in this dungeon who is helping me take care of it".

"Your existence both as my little sister and the Guardian of the dungeon is something that no one can replace. I cannot even begin counting how much of a help you are to me already Cecilia. Everybody has something they can do and can't, you cannot just measure your worth based on things that you can't".

"Look at this dungeon Cecilia, if there is anyone who has changed it, it is you. The dungeon, I need you... so please continue to help me in the way you have been doing up until now. What do you say, Cecilia? "

Simon consoled patting her head.

Finally, Cecilia propped her head up and nodded at his words "Un... Leave it to me big brother, I'll make this dungeon the very best. But before you go, can you promise me something? Please promise me that you will win and return back safe and sound"...

[[[["Please... brother... come back to your senses. You cannot let her death devastate you"]]]]...

[[[["Brother you must not falter... what happened to her was not your fault?"]]]]...

For a second there, Cecilia's image overlapped with two other people in his vision.

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The first image was from his time on earth, his sister talking to him. While the second image was of an adult Cecilia he had seen in one of his peculiar dreams.

What was going on? Why would these two distant and completely unrelated memories suddenly surface in his mind at this moment?

"Big Brother?" Cecilia's call woke him when he was about to drift away in his thoughts.

Simon looked at her and smilingly replied "Yeah, I promise".

Sometimes even a promise that was made casually, can become the binding force for someone to escape the grasp of death or return back when they are on the verge of losing sight of themselves.

At that time, Simon had no way of knowing what the future entailed and how the vow he made with her would end up playing a significant role.

48th floor, near the centre...

The primary unit of the expedition force could be seen landing on the ground, dusting their clothes and surveying their surroundings. Each of them had a stunned expression on their face, they couldn't believe that they had just dropped down from three floors above and it only just took them a minute or so.

When they looked up, they could still see the upper floors from the wide hole in the ceiling that was slowly closing up.

"Is everybody alright?" The various guild leaders asked the members of their guilds.

That fall earlier was from quite a great height, if not because they were able to use [Mana wings] that would have been very dangerous. Nevertheless, the falling debris was still a real threat.

"I can't believe we covered so many floors just like that. Isn't the new invention of the adventurer's association a little too good?" Dalton Lance remarked.

What would have otherwise taken them days to explore, took them only a minute or two to reach. If this wasn't absurd then what was?

With this new invention wouldn't they be able to explore the dungeons in the future much faster now?

It was not only him, the other guild leaders were also thinking along the same line. This new invention called the Floor Buster, would be the pioneer of the new dungeon exploring era. The eyes with which these people were looking at the grey haired man, had a newfound respect and admiration for the organisation he came from.

"Do not misunderstand, this new invention is still in its developmental stage and it requires an astronomical amount of resources to build one. So is to say, the adventurer's association is in no position to mass produce and sell it to other guilds".

The grey haired man could easily guess what these people were thinking but he had no choice but to break this beautiful misconception of theirs.

'Now then what should we do? I didn't expect the Floor Buster to only be able to pierce through three floors of this dungeon. I guess this goes to show how closer this dungeon is to becoming a [C] rank' the grey haired man wondered.

He didn't know how close to the dungeon core they were, but given the density of mana here he guessed that they were pretty close.

"I guess I have no choice but to use it again" The grey haired man took out the apparatus from his space ring and set it on the floor once again. With the remaining energy the core stone had in it, it should be possible to breach through at least two floors if not one.

The members of the primary unit on orders of the grey haired man, started preparing for the fall once again when suddenly the monsters of the 48th floor started running wild.

The 48th floor was the territory of the elder lizardmen hence half of the floor was covered in water while the rest was land.

SPLASH... SPLASH... sounds of displacement of water continuously came from the distance along with the bellowing roars of the monsters. Reptilian humanoids that were much bigger than your average lizardmen came leaping out of the water and landed on the ground.

More and more came out of the water and before long there were thousands of monsters carrying pikes and other weapons made out of bones. These monsters didn't waste any time and directly charged towards the adventurers.

Of course, since this was a lower floor and one that was closer to the dungeon core, the monsters weren't weak. Not only that, they were quite intelligent and attacked in groups.

The Elder Lizardmen were a colonial race and are known as the children of the sea. They are Savage, cold blooded and very intelligent. Although extremely diluted, it is also rumoured that they have the bloodline of the sea dragon running within them.

It was fierce a clash but in the end, the Elder lizardmen were still not a match for the primary unit. Though that may be the case, they still fulfilled the task of delaying the intruders.

"Hm?" at that moment, everyone felt it.

As these adventurers were the elite of the elite the kingdom has to offer, they could tell the unnatural pressure engulfing the entire floor. Soon after the elder lizardmen were defeated, multiple spatial gates big and small, opened up all around the floor.

They were numerous and out from that spatial gates came all kinds of monsters. Orcs, High Orcs, Elder Lizardmen, Golems, Fire Demon Apes, Pterodactyls...

It was not just normal monsters but mutated monsters such as Killer Fire Bees, Diluvain High Orcs and other such species that came out of the gates too.

Their numbers were unbelievable and they kept on pouring out from the gates like an endless swarm. However, these monsters only came from the small gates, so what were the big ones for?

BAM... BAM...

With every step from them, the land for dozens of meters trembled. The beings that came out of those big gates were enormous monstrosities with powerful auras, intimidating features and worthy of the term boss monsters.

The former three overlords of the northern region of the Ghastly winding forest, showed their appearance at this moment.

The instant they appeared, the atmosphere around the entire floor changed as all the eyes quickly focused on them.

"Those are... Disaster class monsters!!" It was not known who but somebody amongst the expedition force exclaimed out loud.

"Wasn't there supposed to be only one disaster class monster in this dungeon? How come there are so many?"...

"The warhorse is not among them. Including him does that mean that there are four disaster class monsters here?"...

Four disaster class monsters, although for the primary team made up of a combined coalition of twenty top guilds, it was by no means a threat. But the same couldn't be said if they were to tackle this dungeon individually.

A disaster class beast poses a huge threat even for big guilds like them, not to mention there were four of them in this dungeon currently.

It was only now that some of the guild leaders were starting to realise how truly dangerous this dungeon was. It had completely hidden its fangs from the world above. If not because they allied together with other guilds and decided to tackle this dungeon, even they would be unaware of this great threat looming so close to their kingdom.

Compared to what they were seeing now and what was recorded in that transmission crystal, it was a day and night of difference. Had they gone diving inside this dungeon trusting the transmission crystal, they would have suffered a complete wipeout.

"Everyone... prepare for battle. The time has come, the master of the dungeon is finally making his move" the grey haired man spoke.

It was not only the three disaster class beasts, more and more monsters were pouring out of those gates. Their numbers were absolutely mind boggling.

It was clear to him, the time for the decisive battle has come.

'So you couldn't wait huh? I guess that's understandable since you don't know the potential of the Floor Buster. It would be foolish to wait for the intruders to bust through any more floors, after all, you don't want anyone reaching the floor where your dungeon core and the forest spring spirits are'.

The grey haired man watched as the master of the dungeon and the demon that he hated so much, walk out of the spatial gate along with what looked like maids by his side.

Behind him, riding on three wretched looking antlers, were beings donning long black hoods and carrying weapons like scythes and axe.

"A-Aren't those Diluvain High Orcs?"...

"They don't look ordinary, their levels are also far higher than the others. They should be on the level of generals"... The adventurers discussed.

Simon, Wisp, the Valkyries, Ogoraths, the overlords, Berigard, his two commanders... the entire lineup and the full force of the dungeon Laplace had been gathered on the 48th floor for the first time in a while.

"My Lord..." every monster, whether sentient or insentient, bowed their heads towards the master of the dungeon as he slowly stepped out of the gate.

Simon acknowledged everyone with his gaze before shifting his attention towards the group of guild leaders eyeing him from the distance. There was no need for any words among them, nor did Simon waste his time trying to talk with these adventurers, everything was conveyed to him by their hostile gazes.

This was not his first meeting with them, but those eyes with which they were looking at him and their current standings were vastly different than before. Right now, he was standing in front of them as the master of the dungeon and not some stray demon who had infiltrated their kingdom.