

D. of Pride 591

Chapter 591 591- The Last Stand (3)

He was no longer alone nor was he as weak as before. The fact that he could stare right in the eyes of these guild masters without feeling that powerful pressure like before, proved this point.

As he gazed at the numerous guild leaders, memories from that time involuntarily surged within his mind. At that time, in a different setting, they all watched him getting forced to grovel on the ground, accused of something he haven't even committed.

They all looked at him with those cold eyes of theirs as if he was some kind of heinous criminal. Even now, he could see the contempt and hatred flashing inside those eyes.

He could see it, but so what? He who had now accepted his truth was no longer bothered by these things. He had long crushed any naïve hopes remaining within his heart and embraced his current self.

With all those things gone, there was only one remaining feeling left, the feeling of enmity. Just like how they saw him as their enemy, he too gazed at them as if they were his mortal enemies that need to be crushed at any cost.

"So the master of the dungeon finally comes out huh, he looks quite different than before" Brutus Sarge commented as he cautioned his guild to remain alert.

The other guild leaders too rallied their guilds and ordered them to stay in formation. Looking at the number of enemies which was in the tens of thousands, a big battle was inevitable.

"Well it's a good thing that he came out by himself, it saves us the trouble"...

"True, but it sure is an impressive lineup. Who would have guessed that a [D] rank dungeon would have these many high difficulty monsters?"...

"Be careful of the demon and the beings around him, I can't use [Analysis] on them"...

The guild leaders exchanged various talks when from the corner of their eyes they saw the demon raise his hand and point it towards them.

Immediately afterwards, the tension on the 48th floor reached a boiling point as all the monsters started attacking. The former overlords issued powerful roars that swept over the place increasing the spirits of the monsters while intimidating the opponents.

"Various guild leaders, can I ask your guilds to take care of the demon and his monsters, while I prepare the Floor Buster?" the grey haired man asked.

Experiencing the danger of this dungeon first hand, nobody here rejected his words. The best way to defeat the opponent is by destroying the dungeon core. Now that the demon had shown himself here, his dungeon core was bound to be unguarded. All they need to do was stall him here while somebody went down and achieved the objective for them.

All the guild masters immediately nodded their heads. Although they were a little apprehensive of each other, this was not the time for fighting amongst each other. The enemy was powerful enough to even threaten them.

On the commands of the guild leaders, the two thousand plus strong primary unit raised their weapons and clashed against the onrushing hordes of monsters. While the guild leaders themselves rushed past the army of monsters and went straight for the master of this place.

ROARRR...

But before they could reach the demon, the three enormous beasts who were each more than twenty meters big, stood in their way.

"Puny humans you dare intrude on the abode of our master?" the Lightning Draconic Serpent roared as it swept its gigantic tail towards the incoming adventurers.

"Leave these beats to us" a couple of figures appeared in front of the group of guild leaders and stopped the tail. These figures were none other than the vice guild masters of the various guilds.

They not only stopped the Lightning Draconic Serpent but also the other two overlords. The guild leaders left it to their second in command and continued to proceed towards the demon. That was when—

"Soul Catchers... proceed, kill those adventurers" Simon casually extended his hand and pointed it at the incoming group.

GRWOAAHH... that was when an agonising, wailing noise came from the three Ogoraths behind him as they rode forward on their wretched looking antlers.

These antlers had the ability to walk in the air, so even if the adventurer tried to dodge them by flying away from their path, it was no use. The Ogoraths quickly caught up to them and swung those ominous looking weapons of theirs.

CLANG... the few of the guild leaders who clashed against them head on, felt the full brunt of the attack and were blown back surprising the others around them.

"Be careful, these creatures are not ordinary" still reeling in pain those guild leaders cautioned.

The Ogoraths stood in between the guild leaders and the demon so if they wanted to go for the latter they first have to take care of the former.

"Guess we have no choice, the few of us will stay behind and stop these monsters so make sure you all take care of the demon" Six out of the eighteen leaders decided to stay behind and keep the Ogoraths busy while the remaining continued their flight towards the demon.

"Hehe, as if it will be that easy. Let me try this new [A] tier bow Star Shooter that master has prepared for me" Alice laughed as she notched her bow and shot a couple of mana arrows that flew towards the onrushing guild leaders.

"Hmph, cheap tricks. You think these feeble will even be able to touch us?" Arven Lantz, the guild leader of the crimson demolition guild snorted.

He stretched his hand forward and the core stone embedded in his ring flashed with a brilliant light. Infernal flames materialised in the shape of a huge palm and clenched towards the arrows.

"Ability Conferment- [Permeate]"...

The smirk on his face just formed when it faded as he saw the arrows easily pass through his magic and rush toward him.

"Not good... Magic Shield" Arven hurriedly raised his magic shield to protect himself. Although he managed to come out unscratched he was nonetheless pushed back by the power of the mana arrows.

It was not only him, the few other guild masters targeted by arrows also had the same reaction.

"Master, leave those three to me, I'll make sure to open hundreds of new holes in them," Alice said delightfully as she hopped towards her target.

"This girl..." Annette sighed; this little sister of hers was too hyperactive and fun seeking to the point where she had already forgotten their plan.

"It's alright... that's just how I programmed her" Simon replied.

He could understand some of her thought process, for Alice it was her chance to show her worth to her master. The last time she didn't get any chance to step up which is why, she wanted to make use of this opportunity.

While they were having such talks, the remaining nine leaders finally approached them. They stood tens of meters away from Simon's group and glared at them.

Now that they were face to face, one could easily see each other's facial expressions and what the other party was thinking. The group of guild leaders all wore an expression of animosity as they glared at Simon while he on the other hand simply glanced at them with an expression of indifference.

"You will pay for your crimes demons. You killed thousands of our members, you are an evil being who has committed numerous atrocities. A threat like you cannot be allowed to grow any further. Today we shall..."

"Spare me from this self-righteous nonsense. Are you only here to chit chat or are you going to fight?" Simon interrupted the man uttering some no sense bullshit.

It sickened him to his very core to see guys like them claim their actions as righteous while declaring others as evil.

Sure he killed thousands of their members but they have also killed numerous monsters on his side. They are the ones who have intruded on his dungeon and are trying to kill him and take his possessions in their greed.

If Simon was evil then so are they.

What a joke, they just wanted some reason for their action. Compared to them, he who was doing everything in his power just to survive in this world, felt like a saint.

"Come" Simon beckoned with his hand. Absolute contempt and disdain for his enemies, the demon's voice was filled with condescension.

These guild leaders never imagined that they would be disregarded like that so blatantly. They who have climbed to the top of the kingdom and were looked up to by hundreds of thousands of people never thought that would be disrespected like that in front of so many people.

"You!!" the guild leader who had spoken those words had a face flushed red with fury.

"There is no point in talking to him, we need to defeat him fast and save our tertiary team" the other guild leaders were furious too; however, they had much more patience and composure than the other guy.

"Let's attack him together" Brutus took the initiative to charge forward.

[Beast Transformation- Claws]... his hands transformed into two ferocious looking claws as they inched closer towards the throat of the demon intending to sever his neck.

However, before he could get closer, a maid holding a huge shield in one hand and a broadsword in the other, stepped in between and easily received his attack.

His claws that could easily cut through any equipment made out of Whitesilver, was stopped by that shield on the maid. Before the shock could register to him, he felt an overpowering strength push his claws back and slam into him knocking him a few distances away.

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Bianca after slamming Brutus with her shield, swept her broadsword towards the side and deflected the tip of the spear that was aimed at her heart.

CLANG... the two weapons clashed, Dalton felt a shocking force spreading from the tip of his spear to his hand and hurriedly retreated back.

Just like Brutus, he too had a shocked expression written all over his face. As warriors who had breached level 600 and touched heights unimaginable to ordinary people, they hardly met any people in the kingdom that could overpower them in a frontal clash.

Yet the feeling they had when they clashed against with that maid who looked so delicate and looked mismatched holding those equipments, told them that what they felt earlier was not false.

"I will get her attention on me, during that time you guys take care of the demon and that other maid"

Roberson Rangel, the guild leader of the Ten Mountain's valley spoke. He was a level 620 [Mountain Gladiator] with most of his stats and skill specialised in defence. Also, he was one of the top tier tanks of this kingdom.

Roberson opened his mouth and was about to use his taunt skill called the [Savage Roar] to attract Bianca's attention to him when suddenly he felt the mana circulating within his body become unsettled and wild leaving him unable to use any skill.

[Essence Mana Disruption]... Annette pointed her staff at the tank and stopped him from casting any skill. She then turned around and parried a dagger from a person that materialised behind her like a ghost.

"Oh?! So you can dodge that huh" Cassius muttered after his failed attempt to kill Annette.

"Everyone get away.... we are about to let lose a big one" Elrod Dome shouted as he finished conjuring his powerful magic.

"[Tectonic Magic Mastery- Violent Epicentre]... [Tempest Magic Mastery- Tempest Lock" He and Florence targeted their enemies with their most powerful advanced magic.

The land and wind raged while the guild leaders fell back. The ground underneath Simon and the others were torn asunder and powerful quakes generated all around dealing massive damage to everything and anything around them.

To stop them from evading the attack, Florence had also used her mastery in Tempest magic to lock them inside a small prison of razor sharp wind.

BOOOMM... the magic connected and a powerful blast loud enough to drown every sound on the 48th floor erupted from the point of contact.

Elrod and the others looked at the location which was covered by a thick layer of dust. Although they knew a single attack magic wasn't enough to take down their enemies, they hoped the magic was able to deal some damage.

However, when the dust was swept away, they were shocked to see their enemies come out unscathed from that magic.

A bronze coloured barrier surrounded the pair of maids, shielding them from any attack. [Impenetrable Tectonic Wall]... the class specific skill of Bianca's Imperial Aegis Knight. The skill blocks all kinds of physical and magical damage based on the user's defence stats.

"[Infernal magic Mastery- Infernal Blast array]... [Thunder Magic Mastery- Teravolt Strike]" right after the barrier came down, the temperature around the surrounding was raised to a frightening high degree as flames and thunder wreaked havoc.

Thanks to the skill [Chant Annulment] and [Chant Connection], Annette was able to cast two advanced tier magic swiftly and without any delay.

Flame clouds loomed over the heads of the adventurers before dropping on them in a column of fire. That was not all, thousands of tiny red sparks floated around the adventurers like snowflakes. These tiny sparks contained a massive voltage of lightning and scorched anyone that came in contact with it from within.

Perfect attack and defence, there was not the slightest gap in Annette's and Bianca's teamwork that the adventurers could take advantage of. Worse, each of these maids was so powerful that several of the guild leaders had to work together just to face one.

Shock was apparent in their eyes with which they observed the maids. They were somehow able to survive through that magic that came out of nowhere thanks to Roberson, Elrod and a few other guild leaders who had defensive skills in their arsenal. Without it, they would have suffered massive damage.

"These maids... they are not normal. We need to work together to defeat them"...

"I agree... there is also that demo—wait where did that demon go?".

It was only now that the group of guild leaders realised that the master of the dungeon, the demon who should have been with the maids, was nowhere to be seen.

Near the centre of the 48th floor, the land covered area, a large apparatus made a continuous humming noise as the core stone on top of it glowed with every pulse.

The grey haired man who was operating it, suddenly turned his head and fired off a holy magic deflecting the infernal spear that was targeting the machine.

"So you came for me huh? Why am I not surprised demon?" the grey haired man spoke as he turned his attention towards the demon flying in the sky.

"Do we know each other?" Simon couldn't help but ask after hearing the other man's overly familiar manner of speaking.

"Ah, I guess now that it has come to this, there is no point in hiding my identity" the grey haired man muttered as he took off his mask.

Immediately, his presence and the colour of his hair changed. The aura that was being suppressed by the mask up until now, was released along with a familiar face that came to light at this moment.

"Do you remember me now demon? I used the same tactic you used back then" the man whose grey hair turned black, spoke with a smile.

How could Simon not recognise that face, that person who had revealed his identity in front of thousands of people and humiliated him by making him kowtow on the ground with his aura?

There was no way Simon would forget the face of the special officer that came from the headquarters of the adventurers association to watch the tournament in the capital. Davis Hall, a powerful foe and one of the humans he hated the most.

If not for Adalinda helping him out at the end, he would have been captured and his fate would have been far worse than miserable.

To think that one of his most hated enemies would come to his dungeon all the way from the Mainland... Simon felt a burst of emotions surging inside him.

There was anger, hatred, frustration, resentment and also excitement... basically, all kinds of negative emotions threatened to overwhelm him at this moment. He did not suppress these emotions, and let them run rampant.

He embraced all his desires and allowed them to engulf him, for that is what a demon noble was, the incarnation of desires. And so...

[Ding... the Fragment of pride has been activated] the fragment that was part of him, beckoned to him.

Simon took a deep breath, his crimson eyes along with the complex markings on his body started glowing.

[Ancestral Symbol Ignition], [Body Enhancement], [Ultra Enhanced Strength], [Ultra Enhanced Endurance], [Ultra Enhanced Agility], [Ultra Enhanced Magic], [Ultra Enhanced Defence], [Pain Resistance]... every augmenting skills in his arsenal, was activated at this moment.

That was not all, he also summoned forth his [A] tier Crimson Blazing Flame Blade and drastically increased his overall stats.

Without wasting a second, Simon sent forth a series of attacks towards Davis Hall.

"I expected you to react more violently but anyways... have you forgotten how weak and powerless you were when we fought the last time? Did you really think these attacks would have any effect on me"

Davis remarked as he conjured a barrier of holy magic around him that blocked all the incoming attacks.

"Let me refresh your memories... [Multi Cast] [Shadow Chant] [Astral Prison] [Holy Magic Mastery- Light Strike Pillar]".

A magic circle appeared above Simon's head and a beam of light more than five meters in diameter dropped down on him.

Hmph... Davis smirked seeing the demon get caught in his magic. Holy magic was the bane of all beings with an affinity to darkness, it was what you can call a super effective. Getting hit by it, the demon of his rank would die in an instant or at the very least receive massive damage.

Davis had purposefully regulated his power, he did not want to kill the demon so soon. He wanted to toy, crush the willpower of this demon and return back all humiliation that he suffered on that day before slowly taking his time to kill him.

"Huh?" the smirk on his face didn't stick for long when he saw the demon walk out perfectly fine after taking that magic head on.

For a second there, Davis felt like he saw some kind of golden barrier surrounding the demon which disappeared before he could see it clearly.

"What was that?" he asked the demon. An attack of this calibre was enough to bring the demon down to his knees before in the capital. However, now it did not even faze him.

"It looks like you got a little stronger since the last time we met but if you think that gives you the qualification to stand in front me, then you are wrong" Davis mocked.

Simon did not reply, after using the Golden Guardian Stone to protect himself from the magic, he weirdly came to halt. He looked at Davis for a second before throwing his sword towards the magic circle that was still rotating above his head.

The sword easily penetrated through the magic circle and reached the second magic circle that was hiding behind the first.

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Yes, it was not just one magic that was cast, but instead two. The second magic that was simultaneously cast was hiding behind the first magic circle, cleverly used by his opponent to deceive.

But the sword that he threw, shattered both of the magic circles destroying whatever plan his enemy had in mind.

There was no way, Simon was going to fall for the same trick again. He remembered how he had slammed into an invisible wall when trying to escape the capital when his identity was revealed by that magic.

That barrier magic that covered one fifth of the entire capital should have taken a long time to cast. Even if his opponent had the [Chant Shortening], [Revocation] or [Annulment] there should be at least some indication or the turbulence of mana in the surroundings.

However, Simon had felt no such thing at that time, it was as if the barrier had appeared out of nowhere.

He remembered Davis telling him while he was struggling to break the barrier that it wasn't only one magic that he had cast at that time. This led him to the possibility that his opponent might be in possession of some skills that allowed them to conceal the magic out of sight somehow.

Simon wasn't sure how the opponent did it but by throwing his sword earlier towards the magic circle, he understood the concept of how it was achieved.

"What?!"...

Using this chance when his enemy was stunned, Simon conjured a golden flaming spear in the shape of a snake and hurled it towards the Auger machine with all of his strength.

Ever since seeing that machine, Simon's first priority was to destroy it. It was something that broke the order and was the greatest threat to them currently. Not knowing what it was capable of, Simon couldn't take the risk of allowing his opponent to use it again.

Floors important to the development of the dungeon were underneath a few more floors, which is why he needed to stop them here. The infernal spear he hurled earlier was with the intention to destroy the machine.

However, when the magic was just about to hit the machine, it was deflected by someone whose presence even Simon had failed to notice up until now.

A figure covered entirely in a black robe, appeared in front of the machine guarding it against any further attacks.

What was surprising about this person was that even though he was right in front of Simon, the latter could not perceive him at all. It was like he was there and at the same time not there.

"Ranker Edgar, this is not the time for you to step in. He is my opponent; you focus on your task"

Davis stated snapping back from his momentary stun. He didn't expect the demon to see through his [Shadow Chant] and [Multi Cast] skill, hence he was a little shocked and a momentary lapse formed in his guard.

"I intervened because you were unable to keep the demon in check. I have no further obligation to do so anymore so be careful the next time" After saying that, the black robed person melded with the environment and disappeared into thin air.

This time, it was Simon's turn to get stunned, no matter how he tried to track the person using [Sense Presence], [Detect] or even resorting to using the [Dungeon] option of the menu, he couldn't spot the person at all.

What was going on? It was understandable that his opponent was able to deceive his skills since they were just Normal Superior tier skills. However, how is it that they are even able to escape from the detection of the dungeon itself?

Simon suddenly had a bad premonition, he had been monitoring the actions of the adventurers using the [Dungeon] option from the start, nevertheless, he had never seen that black robed person appear even once.

This goes to say that, the black robed person was able to avoid their detection up until now completely.

"What's the matter demon? Are you perhaps surprised to see someone sneaking inside without getting caught in the radars of your dungeon?" Davis laughed, seeing the demon look all baffled.

"What did you do?" Simon asked. He had witnessed others (Adalinda) intruding his dungeon and go completely unnoticed before; however, beings like her are complete irregularity and cannot be judged with common sense.

Simon did not feel the same when looking at the black robed person which meant that there was something the black robed man had done to avoid the detection of his dungeon.

"Haha, you shouldn't be that surprised demon. Us human race has been diving inside the dungeons for thousands of years. Naturally, we have amassed some knowledge over the years and passed it down from generation to generation. To counter the dangers of the dungeon, we have created many skills and artefacts. The mask, that I used, the machine behind me and the skills Edgar used are just some of them".

Davis explained probably because he felt like he had everything in control, he did not try to cover any information.

Simon fell silent, if he thought about it carefully, the history of this world dated back tens of thousands of years. At that time, dungeons still existed and humans dived inside those dungeons.

Given this fact, it wouldn't be unusual for the current generations of humans to have a lot of knowledge about the dungeon. Being a former human himself he knew how adaptive and innovative they could be.

So even if the development of Althaea deviated from his previous world due to the existence of mana, skill and many other things, technologies like auger machines and such didn't seem farfetched.

As Davis had mentioned, the black robed person must also be using some kind of artefact or skills specifically developed to counter some abilities of the dungeon.

Although Simon did not know it, this was also one of the reasons why newly emerged dungeons that are not properly hidden are conquered so easily.

The humans have gained that much of an edge over the years whereas the [Dungeon Creation], the inherent skill that all demon nobles possess when born, remained the same as always.

Unless, you have a strong patron or are allied to a high ranking demon noble, most of the newly emerged dungeons if not well hidden, are doomed to be conquered and destroyed. This was also why the high ranking demon nobles look on with amusement at the low ranking demons creating their own dungeons.

Normally, a dungeon requires dozens of years, if not hundreds to evolve and increase its rank. On that note, the dungeon Laplace could be considered an exception because of certain factors and elements aligning together.

"I see"

Simon accepted the realisation and focused his attention on the task at hand. He raised his guard and spread his senses around him in caution. Now that he was fighting two people whose levels were far higher than his, this made things a little complicated.

Davis saw the demon going defensive and couldn't help but comment with a frown.

"Don't kid yourself demon, I don't need the help of another ranker to deal with the likes of you".

As soon as his words fell, Davis appeared behind Simon, a white lance was in his hands which he used to stab the latter.

Simon hurriedly turned around and parried the attacks with his sword.

CLANG... CLANG... CLANG... the white lance looked like it was made of magic yet every time it clashed with his sword, a metallic sound rang out.

"Not bad, let's see how long you can keep that up" Davis commented with a smile, his attacks started becoming more fierce and contained more foints than before. It was obvious to anyone that when it came to battle experience, he had his fair share with the way he was able to put the demon in the backfoot in just a few confrontations.

Simon tried to parry the attacks as much as he could but for some reason, he felt like his opponent was able to read through his attacks and was leading him in making mistakes. Even after he had activated all of his augmenting skills there still seemed to be a vast difference between them.

In just a couple of seconds, he was forced to take numerous steps back with none of his attacks being able to hit their mark.

WHOOSH... With a whistling sound, the lance came lunging towards his shoulders.

Simon hurriedly parried the attack or so he thought, but it turned out to be faint. The lunge was stopped mid-motion and hurriedly retracted back and transitioned into a passing strike that was aimed at his heart.

CLANG...

"Oh?" Davis arched his brows when he saw a faint bluish armour form around the body of the demon.

"Mana Armour? No, the aura around your body is definitely that of a demon viscount, so you should be unable to use [Mana Armour]. Is it perhaps a quasi Mana Armour".

Davis deliberated while continuing to press on with his attacks. Little by little he started exerting more of his power and shut down all the attacks of the demon.

"Hmph, I can see through all of your attacks. An overhead swing that is faint and transitioned into a horizontal slash"...

Davis commented easily dodging Simon's attacks. He then used this opportunity to knock the sword out of the hands of his opponent and thrust his lance towards the demon.

"An [A] tier weapon is really great but it also leaves a great opening".

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The lance pierced through the mana armour and dug into the shoulders of the demon who was able to avoid his vitals being targeted in the nick of time.

"Where is the opening?"

Simon who was silent up until now finally spoke up. He extended his hands and grabbed the white spear.

παῖδα-ñovê|·cóm CHII... Immediately, his skin started burning and black smoke emitted from his hands. Nevertheless, he did not let go and tightly clenched onto the lance.

"A foolish move, the lance is made of Holy Magic, it is the bane of all the denizens of darkness. If you keep on grabbing onto the lance you feel unimaginable pain and slowly get weakened by its effect".

Davis laughed, but his chortle was cut short when he saw the sword he had deflected earlier come targeting his blind spot.

"Infernal Blade" as if that coarse voice was the incantation, the blade lit up with brilliant golden flames that covered the entire sword and brought about an infernal amount of heat with it.

It was true that a high tier weapon leaves a great opening. When knocked out of the hands of the user, they lose the buff provided by that weapon. However, to tackle that, Simon had learned the [Mana Flow] and the [Dominator's control] technique.

As long as he used those skills even if the sword was knocked out of his hand, he could easily recall it back.

Simon hadn't forgotten the events in the past, how his sword was knocked away by Davis in the coliseum when he tried to surmount any resistance. He was crushed until he was completely powerless.

It was precisely because he remembers that he doesn't want to repeat the events from the past.

The sword that was knocked away, came targeting Davis when he was least expecting it. Davis clicked his tongue seeing that he was unable to pull the lance back, he hurriedly pulled back and dodged the sword.

"As I thought, just using my current powers isn't enough to defeat an opponent like you. I guess I have no choice but to use that power to even stand a chance"

Simon smiled, he clenched hard on the lance that was lodged onto his shoulders and shattered it into many tiny light particles.

"What are you talking about? Do you really think you stand a chance against me? Don't make me laugh, there is nothing you can do at this point that can cover the huge gap in our levels"

Davis spat grumblingly, he was a little peeved that he had to pull back from an opponent who was not even level 500 yet. His Irritation turned into contempt when he heard the words of the demon but he soon regained his composure when he saw the core stone on the Floor Buster stop blinking.

"I don't know what nonsense you are talking about, but it all ends here. Let me show you true despair as I capture all those precious forest spring spirits that you have been hiding inside your dungeon" Davis stated with a victorious grin.

Soon after, the machine started trembling and sending shockwaves through the ground indicating that it was all charged.

Seeing this, Simon attacked the machine with his Infernal magic but unlike the last time, Davis was fully prepared for something like this and created a barrier around the machine that easily stopped his attacks.

"Use it" Davis spoke keeping his eyes on the demon.

The black robed person named Edgar materialised beside the FloorBuster and operated it. A beam of light was blasted forth from the machine and bore through the floor.

BOOOOMMM...

There was a deafening sound followed by enormous shockwaves that shook the whole dungeon, coming from the centre of the floor. All eyes that were present on the 48th floor turned towards the direction where the sound came from.

The primary unit locked in a fierce battle with the monsters, was surprised for a second before quickly realising the source of the sound. They all wore a smile on their faces as a renewed light of conviction flashed in their eyes.

"This... it must be that invention from the adventurer's association being used again" the vice guild leaders who were fighting the former three overlords, spoke looking at the huge cloud of dust appearing in the middle of the floor.

"That person must have used it to dive deeper. As long as he can get to the floor where the dungeon core is, everything will be over"...

"That means we just need to hold on for as long as we can"...

Even if most of the vice guild leaders of the top twenty teams were joining hands currently to fight against these enormous monsters, they were still being pushed into a disadvantage.

Each of these beasts were decked out in a sturdy layer of scales and features that made most of their attacks ineffective against them. Not only that, these beasts had their own powerful weapons and unique attack patterns.

For example, the long and slithery one, which was covered in a layer of dark purple scales, could control the weather. It had brought over thunder clouds covering the entire ceiling of the floor and used them to attack and defend.

The Sky was the territory of the Lightning Draconic Serpent.

While the other one with gigantic crystals on its back, controlled the land. Its powers were so absurd that it was nigh impossible to fight it on the ground. The earth Shattering lower dragon used its Seismic Magic Mastery to manipulate massive boulders that could easily crush dozens of adventurers at once.

And the last of the trio, was the master of the sea. It controlled the water body which covered 50% of the territory of this floor and attacked by drowning its foe or ripping them apart with its intimidating razor sharp teeth and claw.

The Deep Sea Alligator King was a menace through and through.

The sky, the land or the water, these vice guild leaders couldn't find any ground in this battle. To make matter worse, even their guilds were unable to contend against the monsters.

Led by the orc with the appearance of a shaman, the primary team was suffering massive losses at his coordinated attacks and powerful magic. The might of the Diluvian High Orcs led by Berigard himself, was in full display in front of the thousands of adventurers.

"What is going on, where are these vibrations coming from?"

21st floor, waiting not far away from the entrance of the next floor, Bea commented feeling the tremors of the dungeon.

These sudden tremors came from time to time making her wonder what was going on on the lower floors.

"Hmm... I'm a little worried, Emma let's finish our task here fast and return back to our master's side" since she wasn't there when the floor buster was revealed she was unaware of the origins of these tremors and could hope to return back as soon as possible.

"Oh! They came sooner than I expected"

Bea turned her eyes towards the entrance and there she saw a woman wearing a pointy hat and carrying a staff, fly out.

Karina Lowell, a name that perhaps everybody, from old to even kids in the kingdom knew about. The name carried prestige, might and authority that everybody dreamt for.

She was a person that was heralded as the greatest magician that the kingdom of Ellesmere has ever seen. At the age of 22, she broke through the barrier of level 400 and then went on to become the fastest person in the kingdom to reach level 500, breaking all records.

At the age of 40, she established her own guild and stood toe to toe with many powerful guild leaders of the world. However, she did not stop there, for she was an idealistic person. She gathered every talented girl in the kingdom with aptitude for magic and took them under her wing.

From there, the stellar rise of the mage guild, with Karina at the helm started. As her valour and fame spread, the mage guild started becoming more influential and soon it became one of the top five guilds.

She was a woman that stood at the pinnacle of all the mages in the kingdom and right now, she was so shaken by the scenery that lay in front of her that her mind had completely gone blank and she could no longer think straight.

"This..." a dozen of other figures also rushed out after her and landed beside. Their shock was no less than hers as they saw the aftermath of what was left behind after the tertiary team was defeated.

The floor was a complete mess, blood and gore could be seen littering the floor, painting the ground red. Numerous potholes and craters dotted the ground with corpses of adventurers that were yet to be absorbed lying on the ground.

There was an enormous spider web on the ceiling and hundreds of cocoons wrapped to it. The entire floor bore the signs of a terrible battle.

"What is going on, where are the tertiary teams?"

a veteran adventurer of one of the twenty guilds, muttered in confusion. However, no one answered him since they all wanted to know the same answer.

Where was the tertiary team?

"Hey... look, there are silhouettes of two persons over there" Someone pointed out.

Immediately, all eyes turned towards that direction only to see two women donning maid clothes, walk over.

"Welcome, we were waiting for you" the maid with peach coloured hair, commented giving them a warm welcoming smile. While the other maid simply kept her head down and acted all nervous and jittery.

The adventurers immediately unsheathed their weapons and got into formation, the moment they noticed the maids.

"Who are you guys and where are the tertiary teams?" they asked.

Chapter 595 595- Bea Vs Karina (2)

Bea smiled at their inquiry and said with a proud look on her face "We are the Valkyries that directly serve Master Simon. You guys might know him as the master of this dungeon. As for the tertiary teams... Emma, tell them to come out".

"Hiie~ A-Alright elder sister" Emma extended her long thin finger and made a grasping motion. Immediately, there was some movement in the forest and dozens of figures could be seen walking out of it.

"They are... the members of the primary teams that were left behind with the tertiary teams to guard them. Why were they hiding in the forest?"...

"Hey you all, what happened to the others and why are you guys all silent like that?"...

One of the adventurers tried to approach them; however, he was stopped by the person beside him.

"Don't, they are acting weird. Their movements doesn't look normal".

The adventurers realised that the other party wasn't acting normally and became even more alert. They could tell that something very wrong had gone on this floor, but their mind wasn't ready to accept that possibility yet.

"Where are my disciples and the other geniuses of our guilds?"

At this moment, when all of these veterans were silent, Karina walked towards the maids and asked. She had a solemn aura and an invisible pressure slowly surging around her.

"Hmm? You mean those brats that acted all high and mighty inside the dungeon?" Bea acted as if she didn't see the anger of the other party and asked.

"You know exactly who I am talking about" Karina spoke in fury. She had the vital imprint of her disciple Hallie with her so she can tell that she was still alive.

Her eyes which were fixedly glaring at the maid, noticed the latter's pupil turn towards the ceiling for a fraction of a second and that was enough for her to realise something. The cocoons that were hanging in the gigantic spider web in the ceiling.

"I see" Karina closed her eyes, took a deep breath and pointed her staff towards Bea all of a sudden.

"You can all now die... Frost Magic Mastery- [Frost Nova]"

Whoosh... the moment she finished reciting the name of her spell, a bone chilling cold erupted out of her staff and immediately covered hundreds of meters of area in front of her. There was no delay in her casting, nor was there any indication. Everything in the surrounding remained the same before the magic took shape.

"Everyone, the geniuses of our guilds are inside those cocoons. Quickly destroy the spider web and release them out of it" Karina ordered.

CLACK... CLACK... she stepped on the ice covered floor and faced the two maids who were now two ice statues.

"Seismic Magic Mastery- [Tectonic Burial]" Karina did not stop, after casting [Frost Nova] she swiftly cast another magic using [Concurrent] and [Multi Cast] skills.

She knew that only her frost magic was unlikely to defeat opponents of such calibre hence she followed up by creating an enormous mountain in the shape of a tombstone and slammed it towards them.

FLAP... Beautiful mana wings unfurled behind her as Karina opened a distance from them.

BANG... the tombstone crashed onto the ground shaking the floor and raising a storm of dust.

Seconds passed by, Karina was looking at the tombstone from the air intently when suddenly the entire construct shook and a red blade of light that came from its base, cleanly bisected it in half.

That was not all, after cutting the tombstone in half, the red blade of light flew towards Karina who hurriedly dodged the attack perceiving the danger in time.

The tombstone which was cut in two halves, fell sideways and two figures walked out of the dust completely unscathed.

"That one is a little trickier to deal with, so I'll be handling her. Emma, you focus on the rest. I don't know how they found out the thing about the cocoon, but don't let these guys free them" Bea immediately moved right after telling her sister what to do.

She created her own mana wings, took to the skies and stood in front of Karina.

The latter narrowed her eyes when she saw her magic failed to do any significant damage making her realise that the foe she was facing right now wasn't any ordinary opponent but a powerful adversary that even she needed to be careful of.

"Why do you stand in our way?" Karina asked. Although she couldn't tell the level of her opponent because of something blocking the [Analysis], her years of experience was telling her the maid was no less powerful than her.

"Why do I stand in front of you? That's a silly question to ask wouldn't you say? You guys are here seeking to conquer the dungeon that my master created. As his loyal servant and his creation, it is our duty as Valkyries to clean off all filth that is trying to dirty this sacred abode of his". please visit

Karina was a little surprised by Bea's answer but more than that she was surprised by that smile of hers. The gentle expression that the maid had, was no longer there on her anymore, instead, it was replaced by a lewd sadistic expression.

'She said that she was a servant of the master of this dungeon, but how is that possible? Isn't the master of the dungeon only a Demon viscount? How is it possible for him to subordinate such a powerful being?' Karina thought internally.

She shifted her eyes to look at how everyone was doing only to get another shock. The adventurers that were left behind by the primary unit to protect the tertiary team, were at this moment fighting the adventurers from her side.

What was going on? What exactly did these maids do here?

"If you are not initiating then I shall attack first" Karina had no time to think as the maid she was facing came attacking her with a speed that even she had difficulty perceiving.

"Dammit.." Seeing that she was unable to divert her attention to cast her magic even for a second, Karina tried to open a distance from her opponent but how could Bea allow a mage to do that?

She was relentless and even swifter with her attacks than before and slowly chipped away at the magic shield of her opponent. She gave no opportunity to her opponent to cast her magic.

"You leave me no choice but to use these then" Karina took out something from her space ring.

It was a skill crystal and quite a high grade at that. When she inserted her mana into it, a crimson hue emitted out of it and thunderclouds immediately formed in the ceiling.

A skill crystal is able to store skills or magic and since she was unable to cast magic because of the relentless attack from her opponent she used the skill crystal instead to cast magic. One did not need to chant or use an incantation, just insert some mana into the skill crystal and the magic or skill stored, would automatically cast itself.

RUMBLE... the dark clouds in the ceiling churned and three huge lightning bolts that looked like enormous dragons, peeked their heads out of the cloud.

"Thunder Magic Mastery- Thunder Dragon Descent".

Following Karina's commands, the three thunder dragons churning in the cloud opened their mouth and fell down on the maid like a flash of light.

"Twelve Strides- First Stride, Second Stride, Third Stride" Just before the three thunder dragons were upon her, Bea activated her inherent skills and swiftly dodged the attacks. She created multiple after images behind and quickly relocated amongst them.

BANG... BANG... BANG...

The three thunder dragons narrowly missed their mark as Bea managed to avoid the attack. Each of these lightning bolts was more than three meters wide and ten feet long. It would have dealt significant damage even to Bea had she not dodged in time.

The enemy had avoided the attack, but that was alright, since it pushed the maid away. With the leeway and space available to her, Karina started casting her magic.

The space around the 21st floor trembled, the mana started raging and gathering towards her. Immediately, she converted kilometres of area on one side of her into arctic hell while the other side had numerous fissures and earthquakes forming.

Amalgamation Magic of two high tier elements and one that was cast by the number one mage of the kingdom, its power and destructiveness was on another level.

"Based on just her achievement and understanding of magic, she might not be too far behind elder sister Annette. However, she still has a lot to learn".

Bea muttered under her breath, pointed her dagger towards the mage and activated [Essence Mana Disruption].

The phenomenon that was about to create a unique three meter ice white golem, immediately came to stop. The Amalgamation magic- [Ice Avenger] that Karina was about to conjure, ended abruptly and the golem disappeared into tiny mana particles.

Puff...

Karina spat out a mouthful of blood and looked towards Bea in shock.

"Mana Disruption? But that cannot be, I have taken all the measures against it. My staff should have been able to resist the skill. If it's not that, then could it be [Essence Mana Disruption]?"

[Mana Disruption] as the name suggests, disrupts the mana around the surrounding making it impossible for mages to cast magic. It is a powerful and rare class skill and is a counter to most of the mages.

However, the skill is not all powerful and has many shortcomings like the one Karina prepared.

One can avoid having their mana disrupted by using artefacts and items enchanted with [Anti-disruption] or moving away from the area of effect of the skill.

Chapter 596 596- The Massacred Secondary Unit

The skill [mana disruption] could only cover so much range and based on the user, the range could become even smaller. If you can just get out of its range, you can easily avoid the skill.

On other hand, if the mage who is being targeted with [Mana Disruption] skill is too powerful and has achieved a profound understanding of the mystical energy, they would easily be able to shake off the effect of the skill.

Whereas, the [Essence Mana Disruption] was a Rare skill of legendary tier that not just disrupts the mana, but interferes with the very mystical particles that make up the mana itself. It is a skill much more powerful and annoying to avoid than the former.

Bea looked at Karina after activating that skill of hers and was inwardly shocked a little. For a mage it was a taboo for their magic to be disrupted midway since doing so would not only disperse their magic but they themselves would receive a fierce backlash tantamount to suffering a severe blow.

Any ordinary mage would get knocked unconscious if not severely injured and unable to battle after that. However, the mage in front of her other than coughing blood that one time, seemed to be doing fine and in perfect control of the mana inside her already.

This goes to show the level of the guild leader of one of the top five guilds and the greatest mage of the kingdom, Karina Lowell a level 660 [Mystic Witch] has reached.

"[Essence Mana Disruption] huh, no wonder the [Anti-Disruption] enchanted on my staff was unable to stop it. But how many times can you use it I wonder" Karina took out a couple of skill crystals from her space ring and inserted an enormous amount of mana inside them.

The skill crystals then started floating and under her [Mana Flow] control spread around her surrounding.

"Now then which one will you stop?" on top of using skill crystals, Karina herself started casting. An excellent decision since the skill [Essence Mana Disruption] only has a short range, Bea would only be able to stop one magic at a time.

That is to say, the skill crystals that are being controlled remotely and from a distance, provided a good distraction.

"Sigh... Alright, then I'll become a little more serious too" Bea sighed and activated her augmenting skill.

[Herculean Agility], [Ultra Enhanced Strength], [Five Senses Ultra Enhancement], [Ultra Body Enhancement]...

Immediately, the entire aura around her changed and she appeared just like the valiant warrior her moniker suggested.

Karina hurriedly raised her guard feeling the changes occurring in her opponent and started casting. The fate of the members of her mage guild, her disciple whose life was hanging by a thread and the entire expedition force was on the line, no matter what she cannot lose.

With determination flashing in her eyes, Karina cast multiple magic at once and went all out.

Half an hour later, Emma who had finished taking care of all the veteran adventurers brought along by Karina, looked at the sky where a powerful clash, was occurring.

The entire ceiling of the 21st floor was covered in chaotic layers of magic, with fire, lightning, wind, ice... all kinds of elements going berserk. The power packed behind each of these magic was extremely destructive and has even started interfering with the very laws of the dungeon itself.

The space had tiny fissures forming, the land was wrecked, and the ceiling was blasted into smithereens. It was like all kinds of natural disasters were occurring all at the same time, the dungeon tried to recover but new damages formed even before the previous one could close.

From this, one could tell the level of fight that was going on up there.

"Haa... Haa... How is it possible? Beings like you shouldn't be here..." Karina said with much difficulty as a dagger punctured a hole through her chest.

"Hmph, consider yourself unlucky for trying to go against master. In any case, you should be proud, you managed to land a scratch on me. Perhaps if there were a couple more people on your level I would have been hard pressed for a victory" Bea muttered pulling her dagger back.

"Haha..." Completely defeated, Karina gave a hollow laugh, her eyes became moist and two teardrops trickled down her face.

As her life slowly seeped away from her, many memories surfaced in her mind. One had to wonder what a woman of her calibre, a well known mage and a respected guild master was thinking during her last moments.

Bea looked at the silent body of her opponent before turning around and walking towards her waiting sister.

"Hee~ E-Elder Sister c-can I eat their bodies?" Emma asked nervously. Her race predated on fresh corpses hence it was irresistible for her when these many fresh bodies were lying in front of her.

Bea who knew her sister well, thought for a second before nodding her head. Since she had worked so hard, this much of a treat was fine. please visit

"You can eat a few. Ah, but leave that woman's body alone".

Emma nodded her head. Was this Bea's way of showing respect to her opponent or just simple whim? There was no way of telling.

"Now then, I wonder how the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse was doing" Bea muttered under her breath.

30th floor, the territory of the Chimaera Bears. The secondary unit comprising of the secondary teams of all the top twenty guilds, was stationed here.

They were the backup unit that contained the most number of adventurers, and their main job was to assist the primary unit. Well, all these were just nice words to cover the fact that they were in the secondary unit because they couldn't make it to their respective primary teams.

Strength wise, they were weaker than the adventurers on the primary team but their numbers were in the highest. Out of the thirty thousand strong expedition force, the primary unit comprised of only 13 per cent of the total numbers, while 25 per cent were in the tertiary team and the remaining were in the secondary unit.

That is to say, around 62 per cent of the total number of adventurers were in the secondary unit. That being said, not all of them could fight, many of the adventurers had other side professions such as Craft Smiths, Foragers, Dismantler, Alchemist, Porters and such.

When diving inside a dungeon, especially one that is an intermediate tier or above, it is a common knowledge that the exploration might take up weeks of time or even a month inside. That is why, guilds often bring a group of weapon smiths, alchemists and people with such professions with them so that they do not have to surface every time their weapons needed repairing or they ran out of potions and elixirs.

The same could be said for the Foragers and Dismantlers who handled harvesting plants, herbs and dismembering monsters for the primary teams.

A dungeon, especially those that are intermediate and high tiers are a place filled with mystical energy so it was bound to have all kinds of precious herbs and items grow inside it.

It would be too much of a waste if the guild simply walk past them, that is why, it was necessary to also have people with knowledge about such things.

Essentially, the secondary unit was a group of all such people and right now, they were faced with the biggest peril since the start of the dungeon exploration.

The floor that just until a few hours ago, was filled with dense mystical energy was now engulfed by a dark ominous aura.

Adventurers were fighting against one another, beast horde swarming them and to make matters even worse, the guild leaders of the Phantom Light guild and the Baskerville guild who were placed under a prison by the grey haired man broke out of their restraints and started murdering everyone.

The scene on the 30th floor was a complete chaos with adventurers running everywhere trying to save their own lives. And all of this started with just a simple activation of a skill, [Demonic Purge].

A Rare Ancient skill possessed by the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse who was silently watching the massacre being unfold with its six nightmarish eyes.

The skill was the evolved tier of the [Demonic Grasp] skill that it had previously. It impacted the minds of the adventurers, breaking their mental fortitude and stimulating all their negative emotions.

Everybody has some kind of negative emotion suppressed deep within their heart. This skill resurfaced those emotions, corrupting the target and making them go insane.

That being said, the annihilation of the secondary unit wouldn't have gone so well if not because of the two guild leaders. With Karina and most of the veterans gone, there was no one left to keep them in check.

The Bloodthorn Demonic warhorse's mission was to use its mental encroachment skill on the guild leaders who were already overwhelmed by the negative emotions and make them slaughter the secondary unit.

This was also the reason why Simon had stopped his subordinates from doing anything when the primary unit apprehended the guild leaders and transferred them to the secondary unit. Because he knew he could take advantage of their negative emotions later on down the line that he did not do anything.

"To think that everything would go the way he predicted, my lord indeed does everything thoroughly" The Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse commented proudly.

With no one to stop the two guild leaders, the casualties the secondary unit incurred started skyrocketing and with time, more and more adventurers started falling prey to the mind encroachment skill.

And after a while, there was no one left alive on the 30th floor.

Chapter 597 597- Ogoraths

The two guild leaders Donte Goodman and Manuel Baskerville who did most of the work, were killed by the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse at the end thus closing the chapter on the secondary team.

With that more than ninety per cent of the adventurers that dived inside the dungeon, were wiped out.

48th floor...

"What is this, what the hell are these creatures?" the six guild leaders who were facing the Ogoraths, suddenly found themselves back into a corner and overwhelmed.

Initially, they thought that if they grouped together they would be able to quickly defeat these monsters and join up with the others. However, after a while of battle, they started realising that it was impossible for them to win against these creatures with their current numbers.

When their limbs or any parts of their body were severed, they mysteriously attached it back, when attacked with magic they took next to no damage. Sword or magic, nothing had any effect on these creatures.

It was like these creatures crawled out of the depths of hell, and did not know the meaning of pain. It was despairing just to deal any damage to them; however, the true despair wasn't their uncanny regenerative abilities but the aura and the weapons they carried.

Every time they got attacked by those eerie weapons of theirs, they felt a weird chill down their spine, their soul shuddered, crying to them to avoid the attack no matter the cost.

Not to mention the antlers they were riding on, were eyeing them as if they were food from the beginning making the atmosphere even more ominous.

These creatures had a powerful offence and defence, how in the world are they supposed to fight them?

It was just as the guild leaders deducted, the Ogoraths were tireless soldiers that did not know the meaning of exhaustion. They were soulless, hence they felt no pain. Their greatest abilities were their undying body that kept on regenerating infinitely and their weapons had the ability to harvest souls.

It was no wonder the adventurers' soul shuddered every time those weapons were swung towards them.

The Ogoraths also known as the Soul Catcher, were summoned by Simon using the [????????] option. Before the expedition force invaded his dungeon, he used the three emblems produced by his dungeon to summon them from that mysterious abyss on his menu.

The Ogoraths were [B] ranked and just like most of the beings inside his dungeon, they were a creature that didn't belong to this world.

According to Irene, they are undead summoned from the nether realm and feed on souls. It did not matter how much you damaged or attacked them, they were just a lump of mass shaped in the form of snakes.

Yes, hiding inside those black hoods, was no humanoid figure, instead, it was thousands of tiny snakes clustering together. That is why, even if their limbs are severed, they simply attach back together.

The most ideal way to defeat an Ogorath would be by using [Astral Prison] of the holy magic element or by destroying them entirely by a super powerful magic or skill that even their powerful regeneration cannot keep up with.

Those are the only known ways of defeating an Ogorath. However, it was the first time, the creatures were showing their appearance in his dungeon, there is no way the adventurers would already have information about them.

And even if they did, it was an entirely different thing if they could accomplish it; after all, if they had any super powerful magic, they would have already used it instead of dilly-dallying like that.

Perhaps, Davis Hall would have been able to do something about the Ogoraths; however, he was busy dealing with the master of the dungeon and had no idea of what was going on with the other guild leaders.

As time passed, these six guild leaders fell more and more into a disadvantage, and the feeling of despair became stronger by the moment. Until finally one of the guild leaders couldn't help but mutter out loud .

"There is no way we can defeat them".

The others around him made ugly faces as they too came to a similar realisation.

"What are the vice guild leaders doing? Why aren't they here to support us already".

Little did these adventurers know that just like them, the group of vice guild leaders were also having a tough time dealing with the Boss monsters of this dungeon. In fact, if they looked all around the floor, they would notice, none of the adventurers or guilds was having a favourable time.

The battle was completely lopsided towards one side.

The only reason why these people hadn't lost their hope yet, was because they knew that as long as they can delay the fight, the grey haired man would capture the dungeon core for them.

BANG... BANG... BANG... on another corner of the floor, a great fight had broken out. Powerful shockwaves bringing along death and destruction spread from the centre of the fight and swept kilometres of land.

From the distance, one could see the space around the area where the fight was occurring, was fractured. The mystical energy there was agitated and deafening noises continuously echoed out.

From how the sky was covered with the elemental colours, one could tell that the fight over there was very intense and had reached a level that not just anyone can interfere.

The participants of this battle were none other than the nine guild leaders who were fighting the two Valkyries.

After a furious clash, that pushed all the people back, the guild leaders hurriedly caught their breath as they looked at the maids with grave eyes.

Realising that the women in front of them were no ordinary maids, the guild leaders have been going all out in their fight. Although they have never worked together with each other before, their years of experience working as adventurers allowed them to cover that gap and coordinate perfectly.

Yet even then, they were unable to gain even an edge against the maids. What's more, there were nine of them and only two of the enemy but they were still at a standstill.

Nine of the top twenty guild leaders of the kingdom who could all be considered a powerhouse in the outside world, were unable to fight two maids. Although it frustrated them to no extent, they had to admit that the opponents were more powerful than them.

"Dammit, these maids... how in the world are they so powerful. The situation doesn't look good on our guilds side" Chalice, the guild leader of the lightning storm commented.

"If only some people weren't blinded by the treasure and killing members of our guilds, we wouldn't have been in this situation would we?"

Dalton from the side remarked sarcastically. His words weren't just targeting Chalice but all those guild leaders who had multiple shiny stones in their possession.

"You!!" being slapped in the face in front of so many people, Chalice and those guild leaders immediately became furious. However, before they could start, Brutus stepped in between and reminded them of their current predicament.

"It's as guild leader Brutus has said, none of us are powerful enough to take on the maids. If we fight among ourselves now, we would only be making matter worse. So how about you guys stop criticizing us and think about how to stop the maids for the time being"

The one to open his mouth was Layton Sea from the Absolute Sea guild. Being one of the offenders himself, he had the nerve to even preach to them now.

While Dalton and the others disliked him, the situation they were in didn't allow them any leeway to fight among themselves.

"Are you guys done making your plans? If so then let us recommence our fight"

Annette stated brandishing her staff. Even after fighting nine enemies with just two of them, there was not even a single dirt or scratch on her clothes. Her calm, collected eyes gathered information all around her and slowly pushed her enemies into a corner.

Bianca in front of her, just like always stood there without talking just like a doll. However, with how her eyes were blazing and shining one could tell that she was absolutely excited.

Just like her class [Imperial Aegis Knight] suggested, she stood in front of Annette like an impenetrable fortress stopping all attacks the guild leaders threw towards them.

"Wait a moment" just as Annette was about to commence her attacks, one of the opponents suddenly called for a time out.

Layton Sea smiled seeing that the maid had stopped her attack and continued his words.

"Must we really fight each other, is there no other way? I admit that you guys are strong; however, you cannot defeat the nine of us. It's just a waste of time for us to oppose each other at this moment".

"You have seen what that machine can do right? It is something that was brought over by the Adventurer's Association. Soon, the dungeon would be conquered by that person and the master you are serving won't be able to do anything".

"Staying on his side would only be disadvantageous to you. How about you guys change sides, I promise that we will leave you alone once the dungeon is conquered. Our target is only the demon... how about it?" Layton proposed.

The other eight guild leaders didn't speak a word, they knew what Layton was scheming. Although they look down upon it, it was also true that they had no other choice but to use this kind of tactic at this point.

If the enemy changed sides, they would be able to avoid many casualties. And the thing about leaving them alone, that was also plausible as long as they promised not to harm humans and leave the Ghastly Winding Forest.

Chapter 598 598- The Angered Valkyries

All nine of the leaders waited patiently with bated breath for the maids reply.

"Are you implying that we betray our master?" Annette asked, her always calm and composed aura had at this moment become bone chilling cold.

Bianca had an even more drastic change, her emotionless face that never showed any reaction was at this moment glaring at adventurers with absolute anger and hate.

The guild leaders thought that they could shake the allegiance the maids have towards the master of this dungeon. However, what they didn't know was that the maids weren't just faithful and loyal to Simon but absolutely devoted.

For them, Simon was far more than their master and akin to their god who had created them. Forget about being able to shake that faith, even if they were captured and forced to betray Simon, they would rather commit suicide than do such a thing.

That was the level of devotion the Valkyries had towards the master of this dungeon. And so, the adventurers not only looked down upon them, but with those words they even questioned their faith and devotion.

This was tantamount to slighting Simon, their master.

"UNFORGIVABLE" ...

No matter how clueless these adventurers were, even insolence had its limits. Their crimes were unpardonable and worthy of death.

"Wha-what is going on?" As the guild leaders looked on, the maid on the backline suddenly shouted and then a brilliant light emerged out of her and shrouded her within.

What walked out of that light after a few seconds, was a woman of ethereal beauty. She had white fiery hair that was actually on fire, had an otherworldly luminescent body filled with feminine curves and mystifying marking that was very much like constellations on a night sky.

Her eyes were radiating with the light of the stars and multiple orbs of light surrounded her. This was Annette's true form, the race Superior Spirit.

It is said that a superior Spirit has extremely high spirituality and almost never manifest themselves in front of mortal life unless summoned. They are born when tens of thousands of high tier spirits reach their end or merge together.

Much was unknown about Superior Spirits in the world of Althaea as only a small number of people have ever been able to come in contact with them. Nevertheless, if you asked any of them what did they know about Superior Spirits, all of them would answer the same thing, Spirit Magic.

The Spirit magic was the domain of the spirits and deviated from the standard form of Mystical Energy of this world. All spirits are innately able to use spirit magic but even amongst the spirits, Annette was a special case.

Summoned and created by Simon, she is not only a spiritual life form, but also has a physical body and can interact with the material world without needing to manifest herself.

Because manifesting her spiritual body needed her to discard her physical body temporarily, she avoided such occasions whenever possible since she loved the body Simon created for her. Yet on occasions when her ire grows and her fury reaches a point, the full measure of Annette's spiritual power and her spirit magic threatens to unleash its wrath.

"Life Siphon"

Annette extended her hand towards the guild leaders and muttered. Immediately, the multiple balls of light around her turned into spirit threads that attached themselves to the enemy creating a link between her and them.

The life Siphon is a spirit link that allows her to continuously drain all her enemies life thus damaging them from within. And since the spirit link had no physical form, it cannot be broken.

"W-What is this I can't sever them"

The guild leaders whined. Some of them tried to back away thinking that distancing themselves would break the link; however, no matter how far they went, the life siphon still connected them to Annette.

The guild leaders frowned, they could feel their life being drained along with their powers away from them. If they didn't do anything, soon all that would be left would be their skeleton.

Coming to the same decision, all the guild leaders decided to attack. Now that they were linked with the life siphon their only option to survive this was to attack the caster. However, how could a superior spirit like Annette leave herself unguarded?

She had many measures prepared; nonetheless, she did not need to use any of them because Bianca, stood in front of her.

Unlike the former, nothing much changed about Bianca other than the fact that she was absolutely furious.

Bianca's race was Elite Homunculus, that is to say, this is what her true form looks like. Unlike her sisters, she did not have any racial form that empowered her strength even further. But her race did provide her with something that no other race had.

When creating Bianca, Simon had chosen her race to be Elder Homunculus after much deliberation. The reason for that was the skill [Mimic].

It was the race specific skill of the Elite Homunculus that allowed them to mimic any race that they want.

That is to say, even though Bianca did not have any original racial form, she could transformed into any race of her choice. For eg- if she wanted to become a Superior Spirit like Annette, Black Widow Spider like Emma or any other race, with the help of [Mimic] she can temporarily change her race.

Of course, the skill might sound all powerful but it had its own shortcomings.

The skill [Mimic] allowed Bianca to transform into any race, although it was true, there are certain conditions before she can transform into that race.

First, she needs to have seen that race with her own eyes before, secondly been in contact them and thirdly consumed a drop of their blood. If all those conditions are met, Bianca could transform into that race.

Also, another shortcoming of the skill [Mimic] is that in any given time, she cannot mimic more than one race. Other than that there are other shortcomings like racial limits.

[Mimic] might allow Bianca to transform into any race, but she cannot display more than 50% of their abilities. Of course there are also certain races that are even beyond the abilities of the [Mimic] to impersonate.

That being said, [Mimic] was a powerful ability that had a vast range of use and versatility. Coupled with Bianca's powerful class, it would further bolster her strength.

The concept behind Bianca was to create an impenetrable tank that was at times versatile and adaptable to any kinds of situation.

Simon could have set her race to any species with a powerful defence thus making her an absolute tank. However, he chose Elder Homunculus because he believed that the role of the tank wasn't just limited to taking hits.

The Valkyries were a set, with the exception of the first sister, the rest of them were created in a way so that they complement each other and work in a well-balanced and make an unassailable combo.

Each of the Valkyries have their own assigned role in this set and so did Bianca. Her job was to stop any and all kinds of attacks and enemies getting past her.

Because of this requirement, she needed to be very versatile and what better race for that than the Elder Homunculus with the [Mimic] skill?

She stood tall confronting the enemies and in front of their shocked eyes, started transforming.

The race that she chose to transform into was the strongest one that was currently in her arsenal and one which she had a lot of respect for.

Bianca transformed into the World Forging Titan, mimicking the race of the eldest of the Valkyrie sisters, Mercedes.

"Admantium Form" with those words, her body started getting covered in a layer of mineral.

Starting from her hands and legs, even the equipments on her body was enclosed in that layer. In a couple of seconds, she grew more than three meters tall and radiated of a strong impenetrable aura.

Although, her entire body was covered in dark violet rocks, she still retained her sleek body and feminine humanoid form.

Her hair transformed into a flowing plasma and she had circuit like stripes all over her body. At the centre of her chest, resembling a core, was a white orb pulsing with energy.

This was one of the forms of the World Forging Titans, the Admantium form that boasts one of the greatest defence of all races.

BANG... BANG... BANG... the attacks that the guild leaders threw at her with all their strength, simply bounced off her without managing to do anything.

Forget about damaging her, in this form Bianca was so sturdy that even putting a scratching on her was an impossible task for these adventurers.

"W-What?!" it was no wonder the guild leaders were shocked, even the advanced magic and ability conferred attacks of theirs had no effect.

"Ignore the one in front and attack the maid behind her. We must break this link first" Brutus roared charging towards Annette.

The rest of the guild leaders each initiated their own attacks but none of them even managed to reach even a couple of meters near her. They all slammed into a faint violet coloured translucent wall.

"A barrier? When did it...?"

All eyes involuntarily turned towards Bianca who was slowly walking towards them.

That barrier earlier was her doing. Attacking the mage and leaving the tank for the last, it was a common tactic abused in this world.

During the many training sessions the Valkyries had undergone in the past few months, Simon had many a times cautioned them about such tactics. Those battle simulations and training came to their use at this moment.

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Hence all the Valkyries were very much aware of what the opponents would try in such situations. Even before the adventurers moved, Bianca had already activated her skill [Barrier] to stop them from reaching her sister.

[Barrier] was a skill that created a big translucent sphere around her that stopped all kinds of attacks based on her defence stats. Now that her stats were further bolstered because of transforming into the Adamantium form of the World Forging Titan, the barrier was even stronger than before.

Unable to attack or retreat, the guild leaders were completely shut down. They finally realised the true power gap between them and the Valkyries. They were simply toying with them up until now, but now they were completely serious.

With their back faced against the wall, the guild leaders were shown what true despair was.

"Unforgivable... unforgivable... unforgivable"

Bianca continuously muttered those words like a broken tape recorder as she slowly inched closer to the adventurers. The reason why she had transformed into the World Forging titan wasn't because she was keen on playing defence.

It was because she was extremely furious and wanted to punish the insolence of these adventurers to dare slight their master, their pillar of devotion. The Adamantium Form did not just give her powerful defence it also gave her ridiculous strength.

CLANG... CRACK... a simple slash from her broad sword which was now also covered in a layer of adamantium was enough to break the [A] tier weapons of these guild leaders.

Moreover, her attacks now were so heavy that it was like a mountain was slamming into them. Whoever that her sword attacked was blown back like a ball, their [Mana armours] broken and looking extremely miserable.

This was the start of the fall of the guilds that were renowned across the entire kingdom.

While all of this was happening, near the centre of the floor, two people were locked in an intense fight. Not far away from them, was a huge breach in the ground that connected with the floors below.

This was the doing of the floor buster that was used once again.

"Hahaha... did you see that? This is the power of my Adventurer's Association. Everything is over now, Ranker Edgar had already dived below. There is no way you can stop your dungeon core from getting conquered now" Davis laughed wildly.

He looked at the demon with belittling eyes and asked "Tell me demon, how does it feel to have your hopes getting crushed right in front of you? Tell me how does it feel to know that everything that you worked for is going to disappear?"

"To know that everything that you have will be mine.. Do you feel despair? Are you having regrets? Tell me demon". Davis was very much enjoying himself at the predicament of the demon.

"Are you done? If so then let us resume our fight"...

"Huh?" However, when he saw the demon act calm even after all that, he was at a loss for a second.

"Perhaps you still do not understand the situation. You are done for, demon. Ranker Edgar is someone who is as strong as me, now that you have brought all your force over here, your dungeon is as good as conquered. Nobody can save you this time"

Davis was clearly referring to the time when Simon was saved by Adalinda. If not for her, he wouldn't have suffered such a crushing defeat in front of thousands of people. This incident had become a blotch in his heart, a shadow that he couldn't come out of.

No matter how he tried, he couldn't forget this incident which became the greatest shame in his otherwise spotless career. He was burning for revenge. But after experiencing the power of that little girl first hand, he knew that he wouldn't be able to do anything to her.

Though the same couldn't be said for the demon who destroyed his life. Ever since then, he was investigating everything about the demon noble that intruded on the Kingdom of Ellesmere and soon found out where his dungeon was located.

At the same time, he also got a piece of information saying that the mysterious backer of the demon was no longer with him. He started planning his revenge, he used the people of the kingdom as pawns to bring his dungeon down.

As a special measure, he had even invited a Tyrant rank Ranker for this mission. It was a complete full proof plan without any flaws... so why is that demon still acted so indifferent?

Looking at the agitated face of Davis, Simon finally smiled.

"I see, that black robed person was your trump card. The reason why he never revealed his presence even when the expedition force was about to fall many times during the exploration was because you wanted to keep his existence a secret from me".

" You wanted to pull my attention and lure all my forces towards the expedition force while that person sneaked deeper inside the dungeon amidst the chaos".

Seeing the change in expression of Davis, Simon knew that he was spot on.

"So what if you managed to realise my plan? Is there anything you can still do? You cannot even defeat me... hahaha"

Davis laughed maniacally. He still believed that everything was in his control.

"It doesn't matter to me how many people you send below, there is no way they would ever be able to get closer to my dungeon core. You asked me if there was still something that I can do? The answer is yes, I am still yet to play my trump card"

Simon replied throwing a cold bucket of water on Davis's parade.

"As for your second question, whether I can beat you or not, the answer is yes".

Right after saying that, Simon pulled all of his aura back. The mana he was channelling outside, was also retracted back at this moment, dispelling all the infernal spears he had created.

"What are you doing?"

Seeing the demon stop his attacks, and do something unusual, Davis couldn't help but ask in confusion. Though he believed that there is no way that anything the demon could do at this point would change the outcome, he still nevertheless, raised his guard. He didn't become an officer of the Adventurer's association without any ability.

'Hmph, a mere demon viscount claims that he can defeat me? Let me see what abilities you still have left then..'

Davis thought internally, his eyes that were fixed on the demon suddenly noticed the latter take out something. It was a huge greyish pillar with multiple runes and patterns inscribed on it.

Hm? For a second there, Davis thought that the pillar looked like a gigantic finger but he quickly ruled it out. The huge greyish pillar suspended itself beside the demon who started making multiple complex hand signs.

"What is he doing?..."

Before he could realise what the demon was up to, a powerful aura that even made him sense danger erupted out of the greyish pillar.

Even from this distance, he could feel that powerful negative miasma slowly seep out of that pillar and cover it in a purple black aura. What was going on? he could feel his body shuddering just by getting exposed to this energy, his hands were actually shaking!!

'Was he afraid? No there is no way he would be scared of a mere Demon viscount. Which meant that this feeling was coming from the pillar entirely.

To be able to make him raise his guards, that pillar like thing, wasn't ordinary.

Simon flashed a wicked smile seeing the attitude of the opponent make a complete 180° change the moment he revealed the Ozymandias' finger. This was his final trump card and the only thing that stood any chance against Davis in this confrontation.

He released the full output of the finger and using the [Dominator's Control] technique, willed it towards his opponent. A vast pressure powerful enough to engulf half of this floor, descended from the finger and locked onto Davis whose face looked like he was having the shock of his life.

Never in his wildest dream did he imagine a mere demon viscount possessing such a powerful weapon. He did not know what that pillar was but trusting his senses he used his entire strength against it.

He created multiple layers of magic shields powerful enough to even resist an advanced spell right before the finger of Ozymandias came slamming.

BOOOM... there was a dull deafening noise as if thousands of megatons of bombs going off followed by fissures forming in the space and on land showcasing how devastating the power behind the finger was.

The finger of Ozymandias was extremely fast, the curse energy surrounding the finger, was even capable of tearing through space. Before Davis even got the chance to dodge, it was already upon him.

The clash numbed his arms and threw the mana inside his body into a state of haywire. Multiple of his barrier collapsed and he was pushed dozens of meters back until he slammed into the ground.

"Aaaarghh!!"

The officer of the Adventurer's association didn't stay put on the ground for long, before angrily flying out. His pristine white clothes that immaculately didn't even have a trace of dust since the beginning of the fight, was at this moment spoiled by the dirt of the floor.

"You bastard..." Davis angrily cursed, his face was flushed red with fury. He had just flown out of the dust when the finger slammed into him again, sending him back to the hole he crept out from.

"Since you like drilling floors so much, how about I drill you into it" Simon stated.

BANG... BANG... BANG...

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The finger repeatedly slammed into his opponent as if trying to drill him to the ground. Simon's attacks were continuous and vicious, he spared no efforts to humiliate his opponent.

BANG... BANG... BANG...

"Enough!!!"

Davis cried out loud, a powerful holy magic knocked the finger back. A few seconds later, a white ray of light flew out from that hole and stood in the sky. When the ray of light disappeared, the figure of Davis came into view.

He didn't look as mighty and powerful as before, his robes were dirty and his aura unstable. The smug and condescending look on his face was no longer there, replaced by an ugly face that was masked with anger.

Although very slightly, his body was also releasing a faint purple black miasma.

"So you withstood that huh"

Clap... Clap... Clap... Simon clapped before recalling the finger back towards him.

"As expected from an officer of the Adventurer's Association. Even though you are a mage, your body is much more resilient than even a warrior above level 600".

Puff... the demon's praise that sounded like a mockery to him, caused Davis to throw a mouthful of blood. When was the last time anybody dared to talk to him like that? He who was an authoritative figure of the adventurer's association not to mention a powerful ranker that garnered the praise and envy of countless people was looked down upon?

He who was a level 719 [Arcane BattlePriest] was being mocked by a demon of a viscount rank no less?

"You fucking demon... I'll kill you"

This fact completely triggered Davis and he erupted forth with all of his power. Controlling his strength? Toying with his enemy? These things no longer mattered, all he wanted to do now was to crush this demon in front of him for daring to look down on him.

BANG... the power released by an angry Ranker could be imagined. Just his aura alone was like a tidal wave in a high tide sweeping through everything and anything around its path. It was vast and enormous.

Davis did not waste any time, right after releasing his full force, he started casting magic without any stopgaps.

[Multi Chant], [Shadow Skill], [Ability Conferment], [Chant Revocation], even the multi-layered magic circle that covered the skies of the capital of Ellesmere, also showed its face on the 48th floor of the dungeon Laplace.

RUMBLE...

The space around the entire floor was distorted, and the mana was sent into a frenzy. The commotion was so big that it ended up attracting the attention of everyone present.

The level of battle occurring at the centre of the floor, was beyond their capabilities and they could only gaze around it from a distance and hope in their hearts that their side was the one winning.

"Marvel at my powers as you turn into dust demon!! [Multi Magic] [Ability Conferment- Anti-Dispel]... [Holy Magic Mastery- Hand of Divine]".

Even when his blood vessel popped and blood flowed out from his nose, Davis did not stop casting his magic. The multi layered magic circle in the ceiling started rotating and an enormous hand made entirely of light, manifested.

That was not all, to prevent the demon from dispelling his magic, he had also conferred the magic with [Anti-Dispel] and was further empowered by the multi-layered technique of his. Forget about a demon viscount, even a demon duke would find it troublesome to take on such an attack.

If the earlier magic was to toy with the demon this magic was conjured with the intention to annihilate him until not even his ashes remained behind.

Davis was truly and utterly angered, he watched on with glee as the magic locked onto the demon and descend down on him as if to squash a fly.

BOOOOMMM... the magic connected, flattening kilometres of land and sending shockwaves through the ground.

Seeing that the demon was buried underneath, a small smile appeared on Davis' lips. He tried to pull the hand or the magic [Prayer of the Divine] back and repeat the same action the demon did to him, when suddenly he realised he was unable to pull the hand.

Something was preventing him from retracting his magic back.

"What is going on?" the smile on his face disappeared as soon as it appeared. He looked carefully at the ground where the enormous hand made of light made contact with the floor. To his shock, he realised there was a small gap in between.

Standing in that gap, holding that enormous hand of light back, was a greying humanoid figure with no facial expressions. Complex runes that glowed intermittently marked its body. This greyish piece of flesh in the shape of a humanoid was none other than the finger of Ozymandias.

As Simon's mastery of the technique increased, he was able to tap more into the powers of the finger and learned more of its secret. Before he could only use the finger crudely by slamming it onto his enemies; however, now he can shapeshift it and use it much more refinedly.

Using his increased mastery in the [Domiantor's Control] technique, Simon transformed the finger into a state that was best suited for battle and in the form he had first found the finger in.

That monster that he faced at the end of the 4th trial, was so powerful had it not been for the quest items, he would have been killed immediately. If he could utilise the finger like that, even if his enemy was above level 700, he could win this.

Simon made many complex signs and immediately, the curse energy inside the finger of Ozymandias was stirred as if alive. It seeped out of its body and latched onto the hand of light and in front of the gobsmacked face of Davis, started corroding it.

The curse energy was a totally different system of energy that hardly any people in this world knew about. It spreads like an infection the more you come into contact with it and has a powerful corrosive power.

Given this fact, very few people in this world would be able to react appropriately against it. However, Davis was not among them.

The curse energy slowly started spreading though the enormous hand, eroding and changing its colour. In the span of a minute, the hand that was made of pure white light was tainted with a blackish purple colour slowly disintegrating into nothing.

"This is bad"

Davis hurriedly tried to recall the magic back but it was already too late, the peculiar miasma covering the hand, had already cut their connection. Even when using the multi layered magic circle to buff the [Prayer of the Divine] with more magic power, had no effect.

"GUGH..." Finally, when the magic was fully disintegrated, Davis suffered a fierce backlash and he spew out a mouthful of blood. His body shuddered, and he was forced to land on the ground no longer being able to maintain flight.

"W-What the hell is that thing?"

Davis cried out loud amidst his shock and disbelief as he looked at the demon, no more precisely a grey humanoid figure in front of him. No matter how much he tried to make sense of what happened earlier, he couldn't grasp a single thing.

It was like everything that had happened, was beyond his comprehension. No, saying that it was beyond his comprehension would be wrong since did he understand that his magic was destroyed by that greyish humanoid thing.

However, he was unwilling to accept it. A magic of holy attribute that was said to be the bane of all demons, was destroyed just like that? Not to mention the one to destroy it this time was not that absurdly powerful little girl but the demon he looked down upon.

Davis felt like all that happened was a lie but the reality told him otherwise. Vaguely, he was starting to feel a sense of foreboding that he had never felt until now. What's more, this feeling kept getting stronger the more time passed.

"What's wrong, are not going to attack anymore?"...

51st floor, after passing through the desert without alerting the Desert Mammoths, the black robed man named Edgar came to as stop in front of the entrance to the 52nd floor.

"To think that there are still a couple more floors to go, truly appearances can be often misleading. Who would have thought a low ranking demon noble would be able to grow his dungeon to such an extent" he muttered to himself.

The Floor Buster was able to breach two layers of floors, that is the 48th and the 49th. From there, all he had to do was jump down and make his way over here, yet even after reaching the 51st floor, he was yet to get to the last floor.

Edgar's task was to shatter the dungeon core and although he had never seen one before in his life, he had read about them from the ancient records and documents.

According to those texts, if he is near one, he would immediately be alerted by the phenomenon of the mystical energy that it generates. And most importantly, the dungeon core was always located on the last floor of the dungeon and cannot be shifted around.

Hence all he needed to do was reach the last floor and search for it there.

Thinking such, Edgar stepped forward. However, just as he took the first step towards the stairs, his senses gave him a strong warning and he quickly jumped back.

A fraction of a second later, a bone chilling cold that froze even the mana itself, came from the depths of the stairs and froze the area that he was in.