

D. of Pride 861

Chapter 861- Attack on the Dungeon

"The second trial is also the final trial that will prove his worth to you. At that time, you will be able to find out why I wasn't worried about him first hand".

What did he mean by that? Vesgard couldn't help but frown; nevertheless, he was far too shocked to pay much attention to the latter half of his sentence.

For the demon to be able to clear the trial that was set by Aldebaran to be impossible, the impact these words had. If it was someone else, he wouldn't have believed it. However, it was his old friend. They wouldn't lie to him just to paint the demon they favour in a good picture.

"Are you telling me that..."

"Yeah, Gil-garna and the others, they have overestimated themselves this time. They will lose big time".

Vesgard gulped his non-existent saliva. He who was also one of the seven kings and knew how powerful Gil-Garna and the others were found it implausible for them to lose.

No matter how he thought about it, all possibilities and factors favour the latter. Yet Aldebaran was saying that they would lose. It was not just any random being that spoke that, but the strongest being in the forest had personally stated that.

"Haha, what makes someone special isn't their speciality but the person themselves make their speciality special" While leaving those words with the wind, Aldebaran turned around to leave.

"Ah, that's right, before I leave I wanted to ask you for a favour" His footsteps halted as he turned around to face Vesgard.

"What is it?"

The smiling face of his disappeared, replaced by a solemn expression that one hardly saw in him.

"Can you keep an eye on Gufardus? His movements have been far too sneaky these past few years and he has been stirring trouble across the Ghastly Winding forest. There are certain guests that I have to go see off as such, I will be busy for a while and cannot keep track of him. If there is anyone among the seven kings that I trust and can monitor Gufardus without them realising then it's you"

Gufardus?!! Vessgard made a slightly surprised face; nevertheless, he still nodded his head. Out of all the Seven Kings, Gufardus was the most mysterious. His movements and skill aside, even his origin was a mystery.

At least all the other seven kings had a past or a race they belonged to when they came to the Ghastly Winding Forest. However, Gufardus was a chimaera with unknown origins and past.

There was nothing known about him. The guy was a complete mystery.

Aldebaran did not stay any longer, once he saw Vessgard nodding, the tree that he manifested in quickly returned to normal.

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Two days passed by and on the morning of the second day, just like Gil-Garna had promised, he had begun his attack on the dungeon.

A grand and impressive line up made up of three clans, stood before a tall peak that jutted forth like a pillar connecting the sky and earth. Everywhere below the peak where one could lay their eyes, was a sea of bobbing heads.

Black Ogres, Terraquake Rhinos and Snakemen populated the area. Decked out in war gears, they looked ready for battle.

On top of the peak, stood three figures, their imposing presence made it clear that they were a cut above all the rest of the figures here and stood in a realm that made all the ones below them, look at them with eyes filled with reverence.

Needless to say, the three figures who could release such a powerful aura capable enough to cower the rest, were the three leaders of their clans, the three seven kings.

A few steps behind each of them stood a couple of figures all of whom possessed impressive auras on their own and were far more powerful and fiercesome than the rest. They were the direct subordinates of the seven kings.

Out of them all, Gil-Garna possessed the most people behind him. Three indigo horns, which included Gish-Bagh, Gish-Bor and another indigo horn stood beside him. In contrast, Yverza the Ivory Terraquake Rhino only had two people behind him.

As for Shasurna, there was only one snakeman who was on the level of an indigo horn behind him.

Even if Gil-Garna and Yverza both lost a strong subordinate in the harpies territory, the fact that the former still possessed so many powerful subordinates meant that the power of his forces had long since surpassed the power of the other king clans.

'That damn Gil-garna... he had hidden his strength quite well' Shasurna narrowed his eyes, feeling a little inferior. If not for the attack on the dungeon, he wouldn't have known Gil-garna's forces were this powerful.

The seven kings were able to maintain this delicate balance and keep each other in check precisely because all of them were equal in strength and attacking one another would only end up harming themselves rather than bring any benefit.

It was for this reason that the Seven Kings rarely attacked each other and even if they did, it was as a form of caution or small disputes. Naturally, seeing the powerful force behind Gil-Garna, a sense of wariness crept into Shasurna's heart.

"The shortcut is still open. Since that is the case, let's utilise this chance to send our forces in. However, before we do that, isn't it appropriate that we choose a supreme chief for this attack".

In their terms, a supreme chief was someone who ruled above even the chiefs of the respective clan leaders. As of yet, there was no single being in this forest who was powerful or worthy enough to be called that.

Aldebaran could have probably become the supreme chief of the seven kings; however, he chose not to and stayed as a neutral guardian of the forest than anything else.

For Gil-garna to suddenly raise this topic, it was not like Yverza and Shasurna didn't understand his intention. That aside, what he said wasn't wrong. Now that they were about to attack the dungeon, it was only natural that they chose a leader which everyone followed.

Although there was no need to be worried, the place they were going to attack was still a dungeon, a special dimensional realm that only a demon noble could create. It was bound to be sprawling with dangers and traps.

Instead of having too many leaders that would delay their response time and cause needless casualties, having one leader whom everyone followed during the attack would raise their chances further and allow them to react in time.

"Since I was the one to suggest this alliance, I recommend myself for this position. What do you all think?" Just as they expected, Gil-Garna had his eyes on the position of the supreme chief.

"Fine with me"...

"What?" Shasurna was surprised to see Yverza agreeing with the demands so nonchalantly. This was the matter of deciding the supreme chief how could one adopt such a nonchalant attitude attitude like the Ivory Terraquake Rhino.

The leader of the snakemen was inwardly frustrated.

"What about you Emerald Viperlord?" Gil-garna turned toward him. Having no choice, Shasurna could only unwillingly nod his head too.

"This is just for the attack alright? Once we are done with the subjugation of the dungeon, we shall return to our normal relationship" Shasurna commented.

"That is to be expected" Gil-garna readily accepted an unknown smile on his face.

"Another thing even if you become the supreme chief during the time, you cannot interfere with the chain of commands between me and my clan more than needed"

It was only after he saw Gil-Garna agreeing with all of his conditions that Shasurna gave his consent too. The next second the two respective seven kings then addressed their clan and informed them about the news.

With that, the supreme chief although only for the attack on the dungeon, finally emerged among the seven kings.

"Everyone, let's begin the attack. Today we shall subjugate the dungeon and show the demon who are the masters of this place"

Gil-Garna roared. His baleful aura affected all the clans causing their blood to boil in excitement too. They orderly marched and started entering the dungeon through the shortcut.

"Yverza you will be leading our frontlines. Given the Terraquake Rhinos endogenous armour, there cannot be any perfect wall to negate the damage. Any trap or attack the demon has prepared for us, would be useless once they meet the denseness of your clan" The Ivory Terraquake rhino nodded.

"Shasurna, you and your clan will be guarding our backs. I'm sure the structure of the dungeon would be extremely complex and labyrinthine. If the demon isn't an idiot, he would use the opportunity and attack from our backs. With the snakemen's agile bodies and special skills you will easily be able to detect the enemy's movement and respond in time" Gil-Garna handed out orders.

"What about you and your clan, the Black Ogres?"

Shasurna asked. He had no qualms about taking on the backline, as that would be more beneficial for them.

Gil-Garna gave a smile, his ruffled crimson hair dancing with the wind "We shall be the spear that attacks the demon's forces"...

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Main Floor, inside one of the halls of the White Palace. Simon was seated on his couch looking at the many window screen that popped up in front of him.

"So they are finally here huh? It's just as well, I don't have much time in regard to the promise I made with Aldebaran, I need to hurry up" A wicked smile could be seen creeping on his face.

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"If everything goes as per the plan, I should be able to subdue three more seven kings"

Simon muttered to himself. His eyes scanned the window screen which depicted a black swarm invading his dungeon through the Phased Floor which he created on the harpies territory.

"Master, all preparations are completed, they will regret attacking the dungeon"

Bea spoke from the side. She poured him a nice tea as she intermittently glanced at the window screen. Of course, as an administrator, she has the privilege to open her own window screen to spy on the invaders.

Nonetheless, she did not do so and instead chose to observe from her master's window.

About her antics, Simon couldn't be bothered and allowed her to simply do as she wanted. Other than her, there was also Irene, Cecilia, Coleus, Jarred, Maya, Prime and basically all the people who he trusted and had played an important role in the dungeon management, were in the room observing the intruders.

"Given what a single black ogre and the forces he led previously was able to do to the 80th floor, it wouldn't be wrong to say that it won't take them much time to find the entrance to the next floor. This time they also brought numbers, I will say the 80th floor would only be able to stall the intruders for half an hour" Irene spoke, her voice calm and relaxed.

It was not only her, each and everyone present in the room, had an unwinded expression as they looked at the invaders on the 80th without a trace of any anxiety. This wasn't the first time, the dungeon was facing an external enemy who was trying to capture their dungeon.

In fact, ever since the dungeon emerged and they took habitat in this place, the dungeon was in constant danger of getting destroyed and surrounded by enemies. One good example would be the adventurers of the tower town.

However, despite all that, despite being always on the receiving side and being besieged, the dungeon stood strong and repelled all enemies and dangers.

As such, the scene playing right now has become nothing but a common occurrence in the dungeon. There was no reason for them to be especially worried. The reason why they were all gathered here was because they wanted to see the result of their efforts that they had put in restructuring and reshaping the elements of the dungeon floors.

"The monsters on the 80th floor are just blaze hounds with only a few pack leaders. The real show would start once they start descending"

The one to speak was Fey. As one of the [Helpers] who was assigned to the dungeon management role, she was responsible for managing the floors of the dungeon and making sure they were properly functioning. In that area, she even led her own team.

"Hehe, I can't wait to see my precious mutated monsters to show what they are capable of"

Coleus added. The aura he was starting to give off was starting to resemble more and more of that of a mad researcher who was delving into taboo subjects.

"Hmph, my traps and new areas are sufficient to handle the likes of them. your new monsters won't even get the time to show their powers" Maya chuckled backing Fey up.

"Hey, hey, don't forget how all of this was made possible only due to my inventions. Haha, the one who has the biggest contribution in all of this was me" Prime joined their bickering in an uncharacteristic way.

Well, given how much he loved his invention and his recent success, there was no harm in self boasting.

"If you say it like that, then lord Simon is the biggest contributor out of all. Creating so many floors, handing out Dungeon Points so we can modify it, listening to all our reports, recorrecting our

mistakes, allocating resources, shifting floors, looking after his subordinates, going through all their demands and hundreds of other tasks..."

Simon's ears twitched when he heard Maya suddenly start praising and revering him. His expression which had been composed up until now, couldn't help but turn a little unnatural at this point.

It was true that he had been quite busy thanks to all the effort he had to put in due to the Seven Kings attacking his dungeon. With his daily training and work as the dungeon master, he hardly got any free time.

However, there was nothing about it he could do. It was his task, destiny that couldn't be avoided now that he was a dungeon master.

No, he would be lying if he said he liked working his ass off day in and day night. If not for the fact that Irene, shouldered more than 80% per cent of his task leaving some breathing room for him, he would have long hit the floor.

In fact, most of the tasks, that Maya mentioned were being overseen by Irene, all he had to do was just give his stamp of approval and she would manage the rest.

Although it was shameful of him to admit it, he had to say that she was better than him when it came to paperwork. He was getting better but he was nowhere near her level when it came to efficiency and effectiveness.

Simon looked around and his gaze coincidentally met Irene who smiled at him with her eyes. For some reason, he couldn't help but get reminded of Emilia. The gentle and warm senior of his who used to always help him out and shoulder his mistakes.

Simon hurriedly shook his head, clearing his thoughts. He was no longer in his previous world and this was not his previous life. What's gone was gone, he has to cherish what he did have.

This woman in front of him, instead of gaining recognition for her work she had instead dumped all of the contribution on him. Sighing in his heart and swearing to himself that he would treat her even better, he gathered the attention of his subordinates.

"Alright now, everyone focus. While you were bickering, the invaders have found the 81st floor. Things should start getting interesting from this point on. Carefully observe each of these floors and notice if there are any loopholes that we have missed, areas that the adventurers can take advantage of".

Simon clapped, causing everyone to snap out of their daze. It was just as he said, while they were talking about the contributions, the invaders had already stepped into the 81st floor.

Much like the many other floors of the dungeon, the 81st floor till the 84th floor was a vast wildland filled with all kinds of floras and faunas. The ceiling was high, dense amount of mystical energy pervaded the land and the place was surrounded by a dark dreary aura.

However, unlike the other floors of the dungeon, the 81st to the 84th floors were lower floors. As such, to stand up to the standards of the lower floors, the difficulty of the areas, trickiness of the traps, dangers, monsters, rewards and risk everything was dozens of times greater than what was on the upper floors.

The monsters here, even the weakest were all above level 350 not to mention the pack leaders, deserters, or the lone hunters, and adding in their high numbers.

Starting from the lower floors, the dungeon sheds all concept of specified floors and becomes diversified. That is to say, starting from the lower floors, you can expect to meet any or all kinds of monsters that usually do not even inhabit that floor unlike the upper floors.

The possibility of abnormality drastically increases where it wouldn't be strange to happen anything.

All of this and there is the possibility of encountering high ranking magical traps with unique effects. Not to mention all of the floors were afflicted with [Affluences].

Now that dungeon Laplace has become [B] ranking dungeon, the total number of floors that can be afflicted with [Affluence] has increased along with another feature that recently opened up.

Given that the lower floors were completely restructured for the seven kings' attack and future adventurers, it has become more dangerous than ever before. As could be seen from the scene depicted on the window screen in front of him.

As soon as the invaders entered the 81st floor, they got instantly embroiled in a fierce battle with the monsters on that floor. Given the monster's level, the many abilities, traps and mechanisms that got activated along with the affliction that was imposed on them, the invaders were having quite some trouble.

That said, these invaders were not just any invaders but some of the powerful clans of the Ghastly Winding Forest, led by the Seven Kings themselves. They possessed many talented and high level warriors and besides, their number was just too vast and could easily outnumber the monsters themselves.

Although it took longer than what it took to clear the 80th floor— a little more than two hours, it was nonetheless an absolute victory for the invaders.

The subsequent floors, Floor 82nd took three hours to clear and 83rd and 84th floors took even more.

It needs to be mentioned that floor 84th being one of the checkpoint floors, took longer than any other floors— taking the invaders more than eight hours to clear.

It was due to the many abnormalities that were placed on the floors such as the floor design which was meant to disarray the invaders, hidden arrays that disoriented one skills and magic, mutated monsters that defied the logic, traps that separated everyone and all such things.

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Clearing all of these itself took a lot of time and just like that, before the invaders knew it, they had spent a whole day inside the dungeon.

Currently inside the 84th floor, on top of a large mountain that had been cleaved horizontally to open up a large open ground, a base had been set up. From this base, one could observe a large area of the 84th floor.

Inside one of the large crudely built place, the three seven kings could be seen standing around a huge chopped tree trunk. The tree trunk was flat and wide enough to be used as a table.

At this moment, some drawings could be seen carved on its surface. If one looked carefully, one would be able to notice that the drawings on the tree trunk were not just any drawing but a crudely drawn map of the floor.

"This is nonsense. I didn't expect the floors of this dungeon to be this winding. Is the demon planning to cage us in his floors?"

The most short tempered out of the three and brawns for brains, Yverza was unable to handle so much information and cried out in frustration. It had been a whole day since they started their attack yet after reaching this floor it was as if they had been stuck into a mire, unable to get out or find a way.

"Patience Yverza, no matter how tricky the floor is, tricks are at the end tricks. Once we find out the reason behind it and disable it, it would be easy getting out of the floor"

Gil-Garna muttered his eyes continued to scan the makeshift map they created on the tree trunk.

"ShaShaSha... He is right Ivory Terraquake Rhino. As the leader of the king clans, it would be unbecoming of us if we were to panic" Shasurna added, his long tongue slithered.

TAK... TAK... at this moment, Gil-garna placed his finger on the tree trunk and tapped on it.

"As I thought so, every time that we try to go to the centre of the floor, we are diverted. All the other areas have been searched thoroughly, this is the only area that is still left. The entrance to the next floor has to be here".

Yverza and Shasurna looked at the place where his sharp nails were pointing at and saw a big undrawn area at the centre of the trunk. The other areas of the trunk was filled because they had already searched the other areas of this floor, it was only this part that was giving them trouble.

And if they wanted to proceed, they must find out the mystery behind the place.

"Respected Seven Kings, it is Gish-Bagh. I request an audience"

While they were looking at the trunk, an aura drew near and announced their presence.

"Come in"...

At those words, the makeshift tent made of tree leaves and branches, was pushed aside and the figure of Gish-Bagh entered in. He hurriedly got on his knees and bowed towards the seven kings.

"Disperse with the etiquette, quickly tell us your findings" Gil-garna waved his hand impatiently.

"Yes, on your orders, Grom of the Geofist, Surtana the Venomclaw and I, Gish-Bagh entered the mist in the central area. Although we are always diverted to someplace else on this floor, this time we piled up numbers against it"

"One of the members from the Snakemen clan was able to accidentally reach an uncharted area and find a complex runic system quietly rotating in that place. We believe that the abnormality in the entire floor is related to that formation".

"Hoh!!" Hearing his words, the fed up eyes of the Ivory Terraquake Rhino started shining brightly "So you guys have found the reason behind the floor's uniqueness huh. Good... good... we can finally start advancing now".

"About that, there is a slight problem" An expression of aggravation surfaced on Gish-Bagh's face at this moment.

"What do you mean?" the seven kings arched their brows, their jovial attitude dampened down.

"The thing is, the subordinate who found the formation was too weak and couldn't destroy the formation. I sent many powerful members inside the mist after hearing about the news. However, they have yet to encounter the formation as of yet".

The atmosphere in the tent became stifling for a second before it was broken by a sigh from Gil-Garna.

"You did great reporting it to us. Pass my words to all the clans, they are to stop their exploration on the other areas of the floors and divert all their efforts to the central area. As long as one powerful member gets through that area, they should be able to break the formation".

"Yes, supreme chief" Gish-Bagh hurriedly nodded and left to execute his orders.

Once he left, Yverza clicked his tongue "We are stuck on this floor for who knows how long again, all because of that weak snakeman"...

"Hmph, at least my clansman was able to find the formation not like yours who couldn't even do that" Shasurna retorted.

"What did you say?"

The two glared at each other, their auras palpable enough to materialise itself.

"Both of you stop" Just when it looked like the two of them would start fighting any moment, Gil-Garna from the side intervened, dowsing the fire.

"This is not the time to fight among ourselves. This is just the start of our attack on the dungeon. If we fall apart this fast, there is no way we can conquer this dungeon. Besides, I have a feeling that this dungeon has more floors like this".

Hearing his words, Yverza and Shasurna both clicked their tongues and dropped their silly quarrel. Although the both of them did not see eye to eye, the attack on the dungeon took priority over anything.

After Gish-Bagh relayed Gil-Garna's orders, the three clans put all of their manpower and resources into exploring the central area. With all the three clans working together, it was only a matter of time before the formation was found again.

This time, the member who found it, was powerful enough to destroy the formation. Thus causing the mist that disarrayed one's senses to dissipate.

Once the mist cleared up, the entrance to the next floor also revealed itself. It was located right underneath a huge hollow tree where the rotating formation was found.

"So it was because of this huh? Talk about using annoying methods" Yverza spat looking at the destroyed remains of the construct that held the formation.

"This is no ordinary formation" Gil-garna muttered as he bent down to pick up some of the stones where the runes of the formation were carved.

"What do you mean?"...

"These runes in this formation are so ancient that even I can't understand any of them. However, I have seen such ancient runes many times back inside the ancient temple where I reside. Of course, the runes here are not as ancient as the ones on the temple; however, it must be quite high ranking for it to be able to trap all of us"...

"We already know that, what are you trying to get at?" Shasurna frowned.

Just looking at the outer construct of the formation, it was clear that it was quite complex and high ranking one. They were no scholars and their memories of the world were incomplete as such, deciphering them was impossible. It was unlike Gil-garna to state the obvious.

"What I am trying to say is installing such a high ranking formation is usually quite costly and something you mostly see in only high ranking dungeons. No matter how unusual this dungeon is, it is still a newly emerged one. The fact that a high ranking formation was installed here, could only mean that this floor was important and he wanted to buy time by trapping us here"

While not complete, the seven kings possessed the memories of the world from the ancient beast inheritance they received as such, they knew a little bit about the dungeon and how it works. Which is why, they knew what Gil-garna said was right.

If a high ranking formation was set up here, it had to be because the demon planned to cage them in. Either he was panicking or...

"We are close to the dungeon core" Yverza stated, a ferocious grin appeared on his face. "What are we waiting for let's keep pressing forward. The more faster we move, the sooner we will be able to reach the core".

Once they got to the dungeon core, subjugating the demon would be all too easy.

"Yeah, but don't forget to exercise caution. There is still the queen of the harpies we need to be careful of" Gil-garna added.

With his command, the three clans started moving again. The staircase leading to the next floor was wide and easily allowed large rows of figures to pass through at once. Even the mini truck size terraquake rhinos were able to pass through side by side easily.

Once the three clans finished descending the stairs, what appeared before them was a brand new scenery far different from the wildlands they had become accustomed to seeing for the past few floors.

What lay before them was not a land sprawling with trees and grass but a desert filled with sand as far as the eye could see. Plants native to the place could be seen, but they were far too sparse to be noticeable at all.

A prickling heat that stung one's skin pervaded the place and every step here caused one's foot to sink deep into the sand making the entire place too difficult to tread.

Chapter 864- 85th Floor

That was not all, as soon as they arrived on this floor, the three clans as well as Gil-Garna and the others received a notification that appeared before them.

[Afflictions are in effect on this floor. You are afflicted by Prickly Heat, You are afflicted with Smouldering Heat]

[Prickly Heat— Damage caused by Magic and Skills that are of fire attribute are increased by 150 %. Damages caused by all other attributes are suppressed by 20%]. [Smouldering Heat— Every invader of this floor will periodically take flame damage. Can be negated through superior tier skill Flame Resistance].

Two Afflictions at once, the floor imposed two afflictions both of the fire attribute that made it quite hard on the ones clearing the floor.

"This is impossible"

Gil-Garna and the other two seven kings muttered in disbelief. Two Afflictions, given that the previous floors only imposed one Affliction on its invaders, it was only natural for the seven kings to be shocked.

However, the reason why they were looking with wide eyes was not due to the Affliction Stacking but due to the uniqueness of this floor. Their eyes which had been staring like an owl at the ceiling; no, more accurately at the sky, contained pure disbelief.

Why would it not? After all, this floor unlike the previous floors which had a high ceiling illuminated by numerous phosphorescence crystals, had a wide open sky with its own sun and clouds.

"False environment... but how could that be?"

Yverza couldn't help but mutter out loud. It was not like he had never seen a clear sky with the sun blazing over his head before. Even if many areas of the western region of the Ghastly Winding Forest was covered with its own unique environment, there were still places where one could see a clear sky.

However, this and that was different. One needed to know that they were inside the dungeon right now. A place inside a special dimension, there shouldn't be any concept of sky here.

It might not have been as shocking had they witnessed another rocky ceiling covered with phosphorescence crystals for illumination. However, a clear blue sky was still a little; no, completely baffling.

"What is going on? How can this dungeon have a false environment?"

Shasurna questioned. As confused as they were, they were still aware of some things about the dungeon such as the False Environment.

False Environment is a feature like no other, it is one of the things that makes the dungeon so mysterious and special. A phenomenon with the ability to temper with the laws of the world.

There are many records of dungeons suddenly shedding their darkness, giving way to a soft ethereal glow that bathes the floor in a gentle light. The rocky ceiling of the dungeon melts away, revealing a vast expanse of clear blue sky, dotted with fluffy white clouds that drift lazily on an unseen breeze.

The effect is breathtaking, almost surreal—a perfect illusion of the world above, brought to life in the depths of the dungeon. There are all kinds of false environments recorded to be inside the dungeon.

However, one thing common among all of them was that the feature was exclusive to high ranking and legendary dungeons.. ie.. [A] and [S] tier dungeon. Dungeons whose depths have never been plumbed by mortal hands and still remain a mystery to this day.

Having the memories of the world from the ancient beasts, Gil-Garna and the others understood this point very well.

Existing for hundreds of years and even millenniums, these hallowed paces contained unimaginable treasures, and are guarded by creatures of unimaginable strength and cunning—the mighty Demon Dukes and Archdukes whose every move affected the world on a large scale.

It is only natural for such a dungeon which has countless years of accumulation to be able to create a phenomenon such as the False Environment. However, the dungeon they were in right now was no high ranking or legendary one.

Forge about existing for hundreds of years, it was a newly emerged dungeon not even a decade year old. It was unprecedented for a newly emerged dungeon to be able to create these kinds of phenomena inside its floors.

"This should be some kind of trick, right? I mean it's just not possible for a newly emerged dungeon to be able to have a false environment"

Yverza rubbed his eyes. However, no matter how he tried to pass it off as a trick or didn't believe it, the proof lay right in front of him.

"It doesn't matter if it is a trick or not, our objective still remains the same. Rather we should be happy that the dungeon surpassed all our expectations. Truthfully, ever since I witnessed the worldly phenomenon brought forth by the dungeon, I haven't dared to underestimate it. However, even after all that preparation, it appears that I have still been looking down on it"

Gil-Garna spoke calming the situation down. Although he looked calm on the surface inwardly he was anything but that. The dungeon has given him far too many surprises for him to be able to calm down.

The high ranking formation was one thing but now even this!! A sense of foreboding couldn't help but well up in his heart. Perhaps the dungeon might surpass his... just as those thoughts appeared in his mind, he quickly discarded them.

No matter what kind of tricks or unusualness the dungeon displayed, what really mattered in the end was strength and he had undoubted belief in his strength. There was no way with all the preparedness that he was still going to lose.

"Yeah, you are right, it does not matter what kind of tricks the demon is trying to use against us. Once we conquer it, it will mean nothing" Yverza nodded agreeing with him.

"Is it really just that?" Though Shasurna was a little sceptical, he still nonetheless acquiesced.

"What are you all staring at? Spread out and start clearing the dungeon. You are to report to your seniors once you find any abnormality or the entrance to the next floor"

He hurriedly gave out orders and just like with the previous floors, the three clans fanned out to clear the floor.

Given their large numbers, they formed numerous teams, each team comprising of members from all the three clans, making it quite a formidable and balanced group. Every team had a leader who reported to their commander who in return reported to the direct subordinates of the seven kings.

As for the Seven Kings themselves, they couldn't be bothered to fight such enemies and only observed the whole thing from the sky, occasionally giving out orders every now and then.

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Hours passed by, and in the blink of an eye before anyone knew it more than twelve hours had passed yet the combined alliance of the three clans were yet to even explore half of the floors.

"It looks like the many teams that went south also encountered that monster. Dammit, how could such a monster appear in a dungeon like this? I have never even heard of their existence before"

Yverza clicked his tongue as he read the report sent by one of the subordinates.

"It's not only the teams who went south who encountered these monsters, the others did too. It is weird if you ask me, such monsters even if their level aren't a threat to the combined power of our clans, their constitution and skills are too strange to just discard them as no threat. What's more, only members who are at the late stages of level 400 can handle them" Shasurna added reading another report.

"There is no need to fret, we expected the dungeon to resist. Casualties are bound to occur when trying to achieve something grand. You two don't have to worry, I have already informed Gish-Bagh, he will lead the other level 600 members of your clans to provide support wherever it is needed"

Gil-Garna spoke. His mannerism told others that he was a heartless and cold leader who would not bat an eye even at the deaths of his subordinates.

But that was to be expected, no matter how human like he looked, he was an ogre at the end. A warring race with a callous nature, death was just second nature for them.

The other two didn't have any problems with that attitude of his, in fact far from it, they seemed to be perfectly fine with it. They were after beasts who had gone through their fair share of bloodshed and had reached the stage they were because they had committed uncountable atrocities.

If it was for their goal, it didn't matter even if it cost them their clansmen's lives.

After saying what he needed to say, Gil-Garna turned his eyes back up. His hands reached out and touched something solid, even though there was an empty sky right in front of him.

"As I thought so, it really resembles False Environment. We are still inside the dungeon, as a proof you can feel the ceiling right above us".

After he mentioned that, the other two also extended their hand above where it was stopped by something solid that felt like a wall. He was right, there was a ceiling right above them.

"Truly impressive, I don't know what kind of illusion or trick the demon used but he perfectly managed to recreate the phenomenon that one can only find on the lower floors of some high ranking and legendary dungeons"

Gil-Garna muttered as he waved his hand, a fireball flew off and crashed into the sky.

Chapter 865- 85th Floor (2)

Even though he was creating so much disturbance, the sky remained calm and serene. Other than a few debris falling off, there didn't seem to be anything off with the sky.

Looking at it, no one would say that there was a ceiling above. Yverza and Shasurna nodded their heads, feeling the same thing as him.

Just as they were marvelling at the absurdity, their sharp senses as the seven kings, picked up a disturbance. Sounds of screaming, growling of monsters and earth rumbling could be heard coming off from the distance.

"Looks like they have encountered some problem. Although I doubt, with Gish-Bagh and the others there won't be able to solve the issue, but just in case let's go there and check it out"

On Gil-Garna's words, the three of them flapped their mana wings and zipped through the air and headed for the direction where they heard the screams coming from.

Given the vastness of the floor which spanned for dozens of miles and was by far the biggest floor they have encountered, it took them some time even with their speed. Nevertheless, they were able to arrive at the scene before long.

"What is going on here?"

Gil-Garna spoke, a dark expression on his face. He spoke the words the other two also wanted to ask.

Right after arriving at the scene, all they could see was destruction and death. Quicksands devouring the bodies of the three clans, sands running red with blood and the chaotic scene of everyone fleeing.

The sight of the members of the three king clans fleeing miserably, how could it not enrage Gil-Garna and the others? The former quickly caught a black ogre with a crimson horn and questioned them.

"What is going on? Explain the situation."...

"T-That... my lord..." the crimson horn stuttered. The dark gloomy aura that a seven king released, was not something an ordinary ogre could take. The latter's face quickly became pale and he was unable to speak for a long while.

Seeing this, Gil-Garna composed himself and restrained his aura. It was only after that did the crimson horn was finally able to speak.

"Reporting to the supreme chief. We found a ruin here; however, when we tried to enter in, we were besieged by thousands of monsters. They came out of nowhere and quickly overwhelmed us. Their attacks too came out of nowhere and we are unable to find their location"...

"What kind of monsters were they?"

The ogre king arched his brows. To be able to overwhelm numerous teams which had a few crimson horns, ogres who were above level 500, the monsters couldn't be ordinary.

"About that... " the crimson horn bowed his head in shame "We haven't seen their appearances"

"What?! If you haven't seen them, then how come were you all defeated?"

The one to speak was Yverza. His impatient voice contained traces of frustration. Just like how there were crimson horns overseeing the numerous teams here, there were also quite a few level 500 Terraquake Rhinos and Snakemen.

For them to be defeated such miserably and without even seeing the appearances of their enemy, how could he not be disappointed?

"That... the attacks flew from extremely far away and the place was completely dark for us to see anything"...

"That doesn't sound right. We snakemen inherently possess the dark vision skill. So if it's darkness it cannot impede our vision".

The report of the subordinate did not match up.

"About that, the snake tribes in our teams were also unsure about that. Despite all of the hurdles, we tried to push through. However, the enemy attacks seemed to be never ending and extremely powerful"

"Seeing that we were taking too many losses, together with our senior leaders we decided to back away and rethink our strategy. At that moment, the enemy's traps activated teleporting us randomly around the ancient ruins. The few that you see outside were barely able to make out alive only for them to succumb to the quicksands outside" The crimson horn iterated the entire event.

The more Gil-Garna and the others heard the events that transpired from the former, the more uglier their expression became. It seemed that this band of teams had accidentally entered a trap and had suffered severe losses.

"Tch, useless" Gil-Garna threw the ogre and looked at the entrance of the ancient ruins whose only a small part was visible. The rest was submerged inside the sand.

"Anyone could see that the place is a trap, why would you enter it, much less force your way in?".

No matter how he saw the ruins, it was clear that it would be filled with traps and dangers. He couldn't understand the reasoning behind this band of teams trying to force their way in.

"It was because... we were lured by the mountain of treasure that we saw inside" The crimson horn's face flushed red with shame and his voice became low at the end.

"Tsk, useless fool" the ogre king clicked his tongue and removed his gaze away from the subordinate as if he was some kind of eyesore.

"What are we going to do Gil-Garna?" Yverza questioned.

The former was just about to speak when he saw Shasurna making an unusual face.

"What's wrong?"...

"I just received a message from my subordinate. It looks like quite a few teams in the north also encountered the same problem and suffered severe injuries. From their reports, it seems like some of them also found ancient ruins like these and forests and lakes in the middle of the desert. They all testified that they saw treasures and tried to press in only to meet enemies they couldn't see and were attacking them from an extremely far distance"

The Emerald Viperlord stated. His words caused the other two to frown. They did not doubt his words since they knew that snakemen possessed a special ability that allowed them to communicate with each other from long distances without the need for external means like transmission conch.

Of course, this ability had its own limitations; nevertheless, it allowed the snakemen to relay their thought to each other. For someone to contact him directly, it had to be his right hand man.

That said, more than the snakemen's ability what was more concerning was the report that was conveyed.

For other teams in the north to also encounter the same problem as the one here. One had to wonder if the teams that went delving inside the ancient ruins and whatever forest or lake they saw had switched their brains off before proceeding forward.

"It looks like the blame cannot be put solely on the teams. From the testimonies of all those who survived, one thing was clear and that was that they had all seen treasures and were blinded by its greed to commit something as foolish as forcing their way in"

"My race of Snakemen aren't foolish enough to not see through deceptions, that is to say, there had to be real treasures for them to go blind like that. I can say that it's the same for your tribe right, Gil-Garna" Shasurna looked at the king of the ogres.

Just as he said, the black ogre tribe also possessed the ability to discern a treasure just with a glance. They would never mistake a fake article for a genuine one. As such, the treasures the teams saw had to be real and not only that, it had to possess some incredible value for it to compel them to dive inside these places knowing that they were obvious traps.

Gil-garna looked at the despondent black ogres in the surrounding before nodding his head.

"You are right? These people might not be the very best of the best, but they still possess enough intelligence to know when to retreat and advance. Since they didn't do so, it must mean that have a good reason for it"

"What do you two say? The ruins are right in front of us, it would be a waste if we simply turned around from here. How about we go inside and see what's in there? A treasure that could blind these people has to possess some worth even to us. What do you think?" the king of the ogres suddenly proposed.

"Hehe, you took the words out of my mouth. I have been itching for a fight for a while"

The Ivory Terraquake Rhino bumped his two fists. The friction from such a powerful weapon that was his own body, was mighty enough to cause sparks to erupt just from an action as simple as bumping his hands.

"Very well, let us head in to see what dangers are inside there. In any case, there is no reason for me to say no to a treasure hunt" Shasurna was of the same mind too.

The three kings grinned, excitement could be seen in all of their eyes. The next second, they turned their bodies and headed inside the ruins in a suave manner.

As for the reports about the teams suffering casualties, they weren't too concerned. In any case, they had enough numbers to pit against these floors again and again without worrying about anything.

And besides, the teams that lost their members, weren't the best fighters of their clans anyway. Right now, their focus was on the ruins, more precisely on the treasure that managed to blind their subordinates.

Dangers? What of it?

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BANG... an attack hit Yvverza before bouncing off his armour unable to even cause a scratch on it.

"Hmm? These attacks are not bad. No wonder they were able to defeat all those subordinates of ours. However, to me, they only itch. That is all there is to it"

Chapter 866- 85th Floor (3)

The Ivory Terraquake Rhino spoke patting his armour. Beside him, the Black Ogre King and the Emerald Viperlord used their own abilities to resist the incoming firing.

"I see now, indeed in an atmosphere like this, there is no way of knowing where the attack is coming from or where the attacker is"

Everywhere they looked, darkness covered their eyes making it impossible to see anything past a few feet away from them.

"Shasurna, you possess the best dark vision among your clan. can't you see through the darkness?" Gil-garna questioned.

Shasurna's face at this moment was a sight to be seen. Fluctuating between green, red and pale, his expression said it all. It appeared that even this mighty Emerald Viperlord and one of the Seven Kings was unable to see through the darkness pervading the ruins.

"There is something wrong with the darkness here or else with my rare superior tier Scotopic Vision, I should have been able to see through everything clearly" Shasurna defended himself.

"Right, if even your skills aren't working, then it must be some kind of trick at play here" Gil-Garna added giving his fellow seven kings some face.

"Besides, it isn't just the darkness, these attacks..."

BANG... he hurriedly crushed an attack targeting his head before continuing "They are quite unusual as well. I have never seen these kinds of attacks. They do not conform to any magic, skills

or techniques that I have seen. Yet from the look and feel they appear like highly condensed arrows of light".

These arrows of light were extremely fast and the only visible source of light in this darkness. Power wise, they packed a lot of energy and could easily kill a being on the level 300 or below. No wonder, it was able to wreak havoc on their alliance.

"Well, whatever they are, they aren't a threat to us. Let's proceed forward and see where the enemies are. This time I clearly felt the direction of the attack".

With those words, the seven kings started moving. They were constantly besieged by the heavy firing of these light arrows; however, other than slowing them down a little, it managed nothing else.

"Careful there, there is some kind of mechanism hidden there. I can feel mana pulsating from over there, it must be a magical trap" Gil-Garna casually cautioned.

There was no sense of any real danger that could be sensed from his words since they all knew that even if they activated or fell into the trap, it would do nothing to them. As such, they went forward with a sense of invincibility.

At first, when they entered the dungeon all that greeted them was darkness with arrows of light barraging them from unknown directions. However, as they continued forward, the darkness swiftly receded and they could finally see some light in this tunnel of darkness.

"Hoh!! Does that mean that we have cleared the first part of these ruins?"

What appeared before them after the darkness was a vast huge illuminated by numerous torches that hung on the wall. Tall columns supported the ceiling of this place and the walls here were marked by carvings and glyphs that looked quite ancient.

"What do we have here?"

Shasurna walked ahead and looked at the walls which were lined with rows of murals and tapestries each depicting scenes of epic battles, rituals, and legendary heroes. These drawings were carved in an intricate and grand manner giving those who looked at them, a sense of awe and reverence.

"I have to say, the demon did really create something impressive. Look at these murals on the walls, they looked quite ancient with the weight of history imbued into them"...

"You are right, I have seen these kinds of murals back in the ruins that I occupy. These words and symbols hold a special meaning and usually signify a place of great significance or importance. A site that had been hidden by the world or lost in history" Gil-Garna stood by the Emerald Viperlord and also inspected the murals on the wall.

"Hey, enough of looking at the drawings. I don't know what joy you find in looking at them. However, shouldn't we focus on clearing these ruins rather than reading what's on those walls? I have yet to see even the shadow of a treasure here. This trip is turning out to be quite boring"

Yverza complained, unlike the other two, he had no interest in the carving and drawings on the wall. What he wanted was treasure and excitement, none of which was present here.

"Don't say that, do you see any exit here? Since there is none, it must mean that we have to find it or activate some kind of mechanism. The murals here could be the key to where the treasures are" Gil-Garna mentioned, rationally assessing the situation.

"Anyways, come look at this. You will also find it interesting"...

"No thanks, I would rather sleep than use my head. Wake me up once you find anything" Yverza did not wait for a reply and immediately sat cross legged and fell asleep. His posture even while asleep was as tall and impressive as a mountain.

"This guy... " Gil-garna couldn't help but shake his head.

"Leave him be. Rather, you were in the midst of telling something, I would like it if you continued"..

"As I was saying, I have seen these kinds of drawings back in my territory and they usually signify a place of great significance. But of course, this ruin was something that was created by that demon, there is no way these drawings and the ones on my temple are of the same significance. Still, if we look at them we might be able to find the clues or the piece that would get us to the next part of this ruin"

As Gil-Garna and Shasurna stared at the murals, they were able to find that each one of these drawings told a story— a tale of triumph and tragedy, of heroes and villains locked in eternal struggle.

Some depicted scenes of glorious victory, with armies clashing beneath stormy skies and mighty warriors standing tall against the tide of darkness. Others showed scenes of grand sceneries, of mountains and skies, of mystical energies and life. There was a grandeur and splendour to it that one couldn't just explain in words.

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As Gil-Garna and Shasurna closely studied the drawings, they suddenly noticed a pattern.

"This..." A recurring drawing that appeared on every wall and mural. What's more, it also hinted at something, a purpose behind the construction of this hall.

Images of coffins and crypts, their stone lids carved with symbols of death and decay. It was as if the hall itself was a vast tomb, a final resting place for those who had come before.

Just as the two of them were starting to piece all of these together, it was then the hall showed its true face. a low, deep rumbling like the growl of a feral monster emanating from the darkness above.

THUD... with a noise, something fell down from the darkness above.

"About time, I was just getting bored out of my mind"

At the same time, the sleeping Ivory Terraquake Rhino opened one of his eyes and grinned. The next instant, his figure moved at the speed of a bullet and rammed into the thing that fell down.

BANG... a few columns near the area shook and dust fell down. After a while, the appearance of the thing that fell down, finally came into the vision of everyone.

"What is this thing?"

Holding the thing with one hand, Yverza questioned. The being that fell from the darkness above was wrapped in tattered bandages, its form obscured by layers of dusty cloth. At first glance, it looked like a mummy; however, there was an unmistakable aura of malevolence emanating from it, like a sinister force trapped within its ancient wrappings.

"Scavenger Mummies?!!" Shasurna muttered. He seemed to have some knowledge about this kind of monster which was unique to the great sphinx desert that bordered the Ghastly Winding Forest.

"No, they aren't just your normal Scavenger Mummies" Gil-garna shook his head "They are far more powerful and menacing looking than the scavenger mummies".

The scavenger mummies were low level monsters the likes of which even their subordinates could easily defeat. In the food chain, they belonged at the lowest level along with direwolves and such.

However, from the appearance of the being in front of them, one could see that the creature although resembled some similarity to the Scavenger mummies, was far different. Its bandages were stained with dark, rust-colored stains, as if they had been soaked in blood.

Its hands were tipped with long, sharp claws, and its eyes glowed with an eerie green light that seemed to be capable of piercing through one's soul like twin beacons of malice.

That said, its blood coloured bandages nor its eyes was the most disturbing part about the creature but rather its stomach which stood out starkly. Unlike the rest of its body, the area around its abdomen was devoid of any wrappings, exposing raw, leathery skin that wiggled sickeningly.

What's more, these leathery flesh were latching onto Yverza's arm like tendril of squid that contained numerous gaping maws lined with rows of razor-sharp teeth. The creature was far different from the monster they knew as scavenger mummies.

"This.. are you suggesting that it is the evolved race of Scavenger mummies? But how could that be? I have never heard of the scavenger mummies being able to evolve?" Shasurna was astonished.

Chapter 867- The Growing Dungeon

"Well, who gives a damn what race they are? Haven't we already encountered more unusual creatures we have no knowledge of like that Ape which was not only able to wield a sword and a shield, but also conjure flame magic?"

Unexpectedly, the one to provide them with a reasonable answer was the one who lacked the most brains and was a cluster of all brawns, the Ivory Terraquake Rhino.

The creature tried to struggle under his death like grip, using its tendrils like fleshy stomach to bite his hand. However, under that pure destructive weapon that was his endogenous armour, even the razor sharp teeth of the creature broke.

"Hmph" Yverza gave a snort, applying pressure on his outstretched hand and quickly crushing the enemy.

Gil-Garna and Shasurna looked at the corpse of the creature before shifting their gaze towards the darkness above. It was just as Yverza said, it didn't matter what the being was, a evolved race of scavenger mummies or maybe something else.

The dungeon has shown them far too many irregularities for them to question such things at this point. They could only attribute the appearance of these creatures as one of the dungeon's quirkiness.

"To think that, I would get to hear a rational answer from you of all people" the king of the black ogres smirked "But we can't be complacent yet, the battle isn't over. There is more of where they came from".

THUD... THUD... THUD... Just as his words sounded out, numerous sounds of something dropping from the ceiling sounded out before a creature that looked similar to the one Yverza had had just destroyed, showed its appearance.

This time, they even brought numbers.

"Haha, interesting" Ivory Terraquake Rhino laughed. He stomped his foot and charged again destroying numerous enemies just like that. He was like an unstoppable train, anything or anyone trying to stop him would face a force like that of a battering ram and flung high up.

All attacks were useless against his armour and bounced off against it.

"His armour really makes one jealous. It is like the best weapon that one could be born with"

Shasurna observed Yverza going on a wild rampage in the distance. The next moment, he licked his weapon a harpoon that appeared in his hand out of nowhere and charged at the enemy too.

"Hehe, the sight of these many enemies, it really makes one's blood boil. Well, then let me stretch my body too" The last of the three, Gil-Garna joined in the fight too.

And just like that, three of the seven kings banded together to exterminate a swarm of unusual creatures. There was no flashy magic or skill being used only pure destructive power and attacks.

However, these seemingly basic attacks were enough to completely overwhelm their enemies.

For a time, the place echoed with the dying growls of these mummy type monsters. Before long, the entire hall was filled with a mountain of corpses of these creatures.

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Atop three of the tallest corpse mountains, three figures could be seen standing flamboyantly. Even though a scene of carnage lay around them hinting at an incredible battle, not a single wound; no, forget about a wound, not a single scratch could be seen on them.

Who could these figures whose might was enough to breeze through these hurdles be other than the seven kings of the forest?

"Based on the strength they displayed, I would say they are around the upper level of 300. However, the skills they possess are quite high tier making them more of an annoying opponent than they appear to be" The Ivory Terraquake Rhino stated his opinion.

"Your assessment is right, they are called the Crypt Scarabs and are around level 380 to 400. However, given that they possess quite a few unusual and high tier skills they might be more troublesome of an opponent than some 400 beings. No wonder so many of our teams were completely decimated facing them"

Gil-Garna spoke using [Appraisal] on the enemy. It was not like the others didn't have the skill, it's just that given the position they stood at, which was at the pinnacle in this forest, there was hardly anything they had to use [Appraisal] on.

As such, not using appraisal became a sort of second nature to them and a form of egotism.

"Heh, so that's what they are huh" Shasurna nodded.

Race- Crypt Scarabs

Level- 389

Skills- [Poison Immunity], [Dark Magic Resistance], [Super Enhanced Strength], [Super Enhanced Endurance], [Super Enhanced Magic], [Bandage Bind], [Scarab Swarm], [Tomb Tendrils], [Mummy's Wrath], [Corrosive Bandage], [Curse of Frailty], [Decay Aura], [Body Slam], [Suffocate], [Sharp Teeth]... He picked a corpse of the crypt scarab and tilted his head "Although their skills are quite unusual, it doesn't seem like they were the enemies who were attacking us earlier"

The attacks that rained on them when they were surrounded by darkness had more properties of a light attribute as opposed to these mummies who used attacks like bandages and tendrils to warp their prey.

"You are right, it just means that there are more enemies like these Crypt Scarabs hidden in this ruin"..

"Hehe, no matter what enemies there are, I will crush them with my fist"

Yverza bumped his fists. It appeared that fighting this many enemies was not enough for him as he still looked like he was raring to go again.

"That said, Gil-Garna why is the exit not appearing? Haven't we defeated all the enemies here?"...

"Not all, this place is a tomb. From what I understood from the murals, this hall is the place where they honoured their king by burying his coffin here. Unless we destroy that coffin and whatever is in it, we won't be able to leave this place"

The ogre king shook his head and looked up. There in the darkness, he could see a pair of eyes glaring at them.

DING... at the same moment, a notification appeared in front of the three seven kings.

[The king of the scarabs, Crypt Wight is staring at you. He holds an enormous grudge over you all for desecrating his place and killing all of his followers. The Crypt Wight's [Curse of Frailty] spread across the hall, under the effect of the curse, your bones and joints will weaken, causing your agility to drop. Defeat the Crypt Wight to get the key to his treasure room].

The seven kings read the message and wore various kinds of expression. Although they had some knowledge about the dungeon and how it actually functioned, that was just from the memories of the world they inherited when trying to integrate with the inheritance of the ancient beast.

They had never attacked nor entered a dungeon before today. As such, this was the first time, they received a notification like this. Well, not the first time since they had also received a similar notification when entering the dungeon.

CLANG... sparks generated as Yverza bumped his fists "Interesting, so it is basically saying that we need to defeat this whatever Crypt Wight to get his treasures right? Finally, we get to see the treasure we came here for".

The other two kings also nodded their heads. No trace of worry or anxiety from facing an unknown enemy could be seen on their faces.

ROOAARR... at this moment, a deep rumbling roar came from the darkness in the ceiling above and a dark energy that carried a unique effect with it, hit the three of them.

Creak-Creak... Gil-garna and the others, felt their bones creaking and joints paining, making them feel like they had suddenly aged by a lot. Not only that, under the effect of the dark energy, they could also feel their agility dropping sharply.

"So this is the [Curse of the Frailty] huh? Such an unusual skill. However, there is too much of a power gap between us. There is no way it can affect us"

The three kings smiled undauntingly and used the mana inside them to push back the invading energy until they completely removed the effect of the [curse of the frailty] from them.

No matter how powerful or unusual a skill was, if there was a huge gulf in strength between the caster and the target, the chances of the skill failing or the target negating the effect was extremely high.

Just like what happened right now.

ROARR... enraged by the fact that the opponent easily negated his powers, the Crypt Wight hidden in the darkness gave another roar. The next second, its two eyes shone bright and it dropped down on the ground.

"Finally willing to show itself huh? Good, I haven't had enough. This would be a good warm up before I fight against the demon and the queen of the harpies"

Yverza spoke. He then turned around to face his fellow seven kings "It would be too boring if all three of us fight that guy. How about we decide it with a simple game?"

The Terraquake Rhinos, Balck ogres and Snakemen were all warring races and took excitement in battle. When there is a fight, there is no way they would back out. However, there was just one enemy and three of them. As such, Yverza proposed an idea.

"What do you suggest?" asked Shasurna.

"We will let that wight thing decide who will fight him. The first person he attacks, will be the one to fight him. What do you say?"

Shasurna and Gil-Garna took a moment to contemplate before nodding their heads. His suggestion sounded fair and everybody had an equal chance of being selected.

Chapter 868- The Growing Dungeon (2)

While they were deciding how they were going to fight the Crypt wight, the being himself stepped forward and his form appeared before everyone. Towering over the other monsters, the crypt Wight was a dark giant more than five meters tall.

Its form was shrouded in tattered robes that billowed without the presence of any wind and concealed its true shape from everyone. Underneath the cloak, its withered frame gleamed with an eerie light and ominous powers that coursed through its veins.

Its head, adorned with an ancient crown was encrusted with jewels, that bore the visage of a long-deceased king. Long, bony fingers extended from its hands, each tipped with razor-sharp claws that seemed capable of even rending boulders as easily as flesh.

As it looked at the three kings with its empty eye sockets two greenish fire appeared inside them. Immediately, Gil-Garna and the others felt a little uncomfortable.

"It's using some kind of skill"...

"Who cares, it's not like it's gonna effect us anyways"...

"Hmm, so who is it going attack first? I can't wait to pierce it with my harpoon"...

The three of them laughed completely negating the effects of the Crypt Wight's [Corrosive Gaze].

The latter did not stop after it used its corrosive gaze, it activated a few more skills and a black coffin appeared in front of it. Next, it wrapped the bandages around it and carried the coffin with one hand like a huge heavy sword.

BANG... the coffin was swung down and three black sword lights cut through the air and targeted each of the seven kings.

"Hehe, it looks like it has chosen me as its opponent" Yverza grinned crushing the sword light with just a swing of his arm.

Although the Crpyt Wight swung at all three of them, the first one to be targeted by him was undoubtedly Yverza. The latter moved and dropped down from the mountain of corpses he created.

As for Gil-Garna and Shasurna, they sat down cross legged and observed the confrontation.

BOOM... a powerful shockwave spread and the Crypt Wight was sent flying back to the opposite end of the hall. In just the first move, the Ivory Terraquake Rhino had already established its dominance.

"C'mon, I know that you are far more powerful than this. Show me your most powerful attack" beckoning his finger, he taunted.

The fire within the eyes of the Crypt wight burned brightly seemingly enraged. It then in front of the incredulous and confused eyes of the three begins present, opened the lid of the coffin and slid inside.

"What?!!"

Seeing this, Yverza couldn't help but open his mouth wide in shock. Did the monster really just run away from him and hide in the coffin like a turtle?

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Main Floor, Simon observed the scene with an amused brow. His posture was languid as he supported his head with one of his hands on the armrest.

"So it felt the danger from its opponent and is going to use that ability huh. It is quite intuitive for a monster that is".

He turned towards Bea and asked in bemusement "You have fought with it previously and have personally witnessed that skill of its right? I am not hoping for it to beat one of the Seven Kings. However, do you think there is a chance it can injure one with that skill?"

The Valkyrie who was asked the question shook her head decisively without even needing to think for even a second.

"As master said, I have personally tested the strength of that thing that was created by Sir Coleus myself. It was quite a surprise, seeing it slip inside the coffin, even I thought it was running away. That said, as unusual as that skill is, the power it bestowed is nothing to scoff at"

"That drastic power up would even be able to severely injure those brats under Sir Mars' command. However, against a Seven King... it might have been one thing if it was the other two. There might have been a slight possibility of them getting injured a little if they underestimated it. But against an opponent like that Rhino King, its like the worst matchup. Breaching through that armour would need some grit even for me".

That was the true assessment from Bea.

"You heard her Coleus, it looks like one of your masterpieces is going to be dismantled here".

If even Bea said that she would have to put her strength into it to breach that armour of the Rhino King, then the creature in the crypt had no chance at all.

Coleus had a grim look as he nodded his head "It appears that opponent on the likes of the seven kings of the forest is still too much for the mutated monsters as of yet".

Just like he said, the monster that one of the seven kings was facing was no ordinary monster that was spawned using the [Spawn] function of the dungeon but rather a unique monster that was created through the mutation crystals.

And he was not just talking about the Crypt Wight, even the normal Crypt Scarabs inside that ruin were also mutated monsters created through this process. Though for them, the crystal's effect had to be diluted to one tenth through the process of dilution.

The same went for the other monsters the three clans encountered periodically on the other floors. It was no wonder that the seven kings were unable to recognise them. it was because other than in this dungeon, there was no known record of such monsters appearing in anywhere else in the world.

These monsters were something unique to the Dungeon Laplace.

"If I recall correctly, this creature was the strongest Crypt Wight among its peers right?" Simon suddenly asked a strange question.

"That's right my lord, this creature who was once a crypt wight, emerged as the victor from the pit. Not only that, it had even defeated a Crypt Wight that was tens of levels higher than him"

"Due to its uniqueness, it was able to assimilate with one medium grade mutation crystal and one low grade, becoming one of the handful few monsters who managed to assimilate with two mutation crystals".

Simon nodded his head. Although he had delegated all the work related to mutating, rearing and breeding monsters for the dungeon to Coleus, he still keeps track of his discovery through the report the former sent.

As such, he knew some of the processes and recent successes the other party achieved. The former crypt wight in question was special even among its race from the fact that it managed to emerge victorious from a pit that was full of spawned crypt wight.

This process was something he liked to call the Selection of the Best. Instead of using mutation crystals on each and every one of them which would result in extreme wastage of resources, effort and time if end up failing, he concentrated all of that effort and resources into a single being that managed to appear from the Selection of the best.

The greatest thing about this process was that the being that emerges from this, has the greatest survival possibility and affinity with the mutation crystals.

The process resembled an ancient method from his previous life and was something he had casually mentioned to Coleus. Who knew the other party would really adopt such a technique?

Anyways, the creature in the ruin was one of the few beings who survived all these processes.

Coleus looked at the window depicting the scenes in the ruins and mentioned "Since it cannot even injure its opponent, it cannot be called one of my greatest masterpieces. It getting dismantled by its opponent is only the natural outcome, it would just mean that I still have a lot more progress to make".

He wasn't bothered by the failure of his, but instead was learning from all the mistakes his creations made so that he could improve even further. This attitude of his, Simon liked it very much.

Continuous improvement without fearing failure, he hoped that others could also adopt this attitude. In that regard, Fey and Maya came at the top of his head.

It was the former who came up with the idea of installing a special area on the 86th floor. She was the one who created the numerous ruins, mirages and all that and came up with the request to apply the newest feature of the dungeon, [The Story] in all of it.

As one could see from the numerous windows depicting the scenes of various places and special areas of the floor, installing [The story] was too DP consuming and the returns weren't well worth the expenditure.

Of course, these things had to be fine tuned and he brought the invaders on these floors precisely to find out what other areas the floors were lacking in and what adjustments needed to be made.

It was just that Fey who came up with all these ideas was unable to accept the fact that she took a loss when the enemies didn't fall for her traps and deftly avoided them.

"Failure and success come hand in hand. It is only natural to make mistakes; however, what mattered was what one learned from it. Look at Coleus, he is not bothered by the fact that one of his greatest creation is being toyed with like that. Far from it, he is already calculating and making plans for his next creation. You should learn from him"

Chapter 869- The Mirage

"But lord Simon, I wasted so much of your Dungeon Points and so many traps are just being wasted. You must be disappointed in me even though you made me the head of the Dungeon Management Department"

The Forest Spring Spirit hung her head down. It seemed like she was concerned about him being disappointed in her.

"I am not disappointed in you, in fact, I believe I made the right choice. Who else other than you could come up with so many great ideas for the floors? True, you made some mistakes, but who among us doesn't? What important is that you learn from these mistakes and show me that you can do better the next time"...

"As for you Maya, you are in too hurry to achieve success. Wanting to bring results, you put the lives of your clansmen and yourself in danger. You need to contemplate about that part. True that you have an absolute advantage in spying on others inside the dungeon. However, there is no guarantee that you won't be spotted by some enemy who possesses high tier skills or techniques we have no knowledge of"

"Getting too close could lead to your downfall, the gifts that you received from the dungeon aren't unparalleled, you need to keep that in mind. If you the leader of our reckon division show such haste and carelessness, it would affect your whole team and could lead to something disastrous. Keep in mind that you are responsible for the lives of your fellow clansmen"

This little girl who was a few years older than Cecilia, became the youngest team leader of the dungeon's reckon team thanks to her talent and gifts that she received from the dungeon.

However, it might have got into her head as she tried to involve herself and her teams in an even more dangerous mission like the one today. When Simon read her proposal, he immediately shot her down. Today he summoned her here precisely to show her some of her mistakes.

"Lord Simon, I'm sorry please don't be angry"

That said, she was still a young girl who was still learning the ways of the world. Perhaps he was too harsh on her, he could see her figure trembling and teardrops accumulating in the corner of her eyes.

Sighing to himself, he still steeled his heart. The other party needed to hear this.

"Silly girl, I might be angry but it is because I don't want to see anything untoward happen to you or anyone from the Forest Spring Spirit Clan. The moment you all became my subordinate, your life and death belongs to me. I won't forgive any one of you dying on me".

For a moment, the mood in the hall became a little downtrodden and emotional at the same time with everyone reflecting on their mistakes.

"Sigh... you have good subordinates with you"

Seeing this, Prime couldn't help but comment. If one didn't care for their subordinates, they wouldn't have been harsh on them or accepted their mistakes or still allowed them to keep their position.

Likewise, if the others weren't fully dedicated to him, they wouldn't have put in all of their efforts or felt so devastated by their failures. The feelings here were mutual, a bond not just anyone could build.

Simon simply smiled and clapped to disperse this dreary atmosphere.

"Cheer up everyone, it not like it's the end of the dungeon. There are still many floors we need to observe and make note of. The enemies might be strong; however, we are prepared to receive them" Saying that, he turned towards Prime and commented—

"Your invention came at just the right time. I need to thank you for it"...

Prime shone with a blue light, seemingly feeling shy.

"Well, the Resonancer was something that I have been working on for a long time. If I couldn't even deliver what I said, I wouldn't be calling myself a great inventor. By the way, the ones I gave you are still the demo version and are very fragile. If the enemies get to their location they can easily destroy it"...

"Don't worry about it, I have hidden in places no one would even think about even searching".

Just as the seven kings hypothesised, the False environment on the 85th floor was a trick that he used. Well more than a trick, it was a machine invented by Prime which created that kind of effect.

Of course, it was no mere illusion or deception. The machine named Resonancer perfectly replicated one of the features of the dungeon which only unlocks when the dungeon reaches the status of [A] tier high ranking dungeon.

Thus allowing dungeon Laplace to be able to create a feature like the False Environment even without needing to rise to the status if [A] ranking dungeon.

The sky on the 85th floor was a perfect example of that. Not only did it look like the sky outside, with its own day and night circle, sun-moon, it had all the features that a false environment had.

For example, the heat from the sun during the day was prickling enough to hurt one's skin and cause the entire atmosphere on the floor to be like a gigantic oven. In the night, it got freakishly cold, mimicking a real desert. Not only that, the effect also spreads through the environment inducing change in the native flora and fauna.

As could be seen from the scene on the 85th floor, the place was vastly different than all the other desert floors of the dungeon which are only just called desert in name.

"Well, it's good that you were able to put it to use so soon. Now I can know what other tweaking it would need. Besides, I also plan on working with Coleus here. Some of his plans intrigued me"...

Simon arched his brows in surprise "Do you mean, you want to create more of those... ?".

Before he could complete his sentence, his eyes were drawn towards one of the windows hovering in front of him. An incredible scene had occurred while they were all distracted.

This scene that Simon and the others had their eyes on, did not depict the Seven Kings but rather a different place.

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85th floor, inside the ruins, an eerie stillness pervaded the place. Whether it be Gil-Garna, Yverza or Shasurna, they all looked in front of them with surprise evident in their eyes.

At this moment, the entire hall was in chaos with dust and debris covering the place. Pillars crumbled, walls broken and numerous large depressions formed on the ground.

At the centre of the large depression was Yverza who was quietly holding one off his arms without speaking or moving from his place.

"Who would have thought that the Tomb Tyrant would have such a powerful skill hidden" Gil-Garna commented from the distance looking at the scene.

Shasurna from the side nodded his head, his face containing an equal amount of surprise. A few minutes earlier... as they saw, the crypt wight hide into his coffin, they were all surprised for a second before erupting out in a loud burst of laughter.

"Haha, Yverza it looks like you have tormented the poor fellow too much for it to go into hiding in its shell. You won't get a fight from it like that. What are you going to do?" Gil-Garna questioned in a spiteful manner, taking joy in the other party's distress.

At this moment, the two of them were feeling relieved in the fact that they weren't the ones who were fighting with the crypt wight or else given its shameful behaviour of hiding, they would be shamed too.

After all, for warring races like them a battle was a sacred thing and tarnishing its glory was tantamount to shaming themselves. As such, whenever they initiated a battle, they never retreated until one of them remained.

For the Ivory Terraqyake Rhino's opponent to suddenly go into hiding like that, it brought shame on itself and on him.

"You Bastard!!"

Naturally, Yverza would be enraged. He had initiated this battle on his own accord thinking that he would be able to enjoy himself before the final fight with the queen of the harpies and the demon.

Never would he have known that his opponent would show such a disrespectful behaviour and bring dishonour to him.

BANG... He stomped his foot and charged in rage. However, just as he took a few steps, he noticed that the coffin inside which his opponent was, started acting strangely. A vast amount of bluish black smoke realised out of the tiny openings of its lid and spread through the entire hall in the blink of an eye.

The light dimmed and the torches in the walls waned as if being snuffed by an unknown entity. Seeing this change, Yverza furrowed his brows. For some reason, he felt like his opponent didn't just hide away from him but instead was preparing for something.

What it was, he did not know, but looking at the bluish black smoke coming off from the coffin, he knew that something was up. Something that would give him more excitement than what he bargained for.

It could be said that it was a hunch of a warrior who has fought numerous battles so far.

"Interesting, so you were not just running away huh? Bring it on, I will take on everything" Yverza gave an excited grin.

As if responding to his wishes, a deep guttural roar came from inside the coffin. The next second, the bluish black smoke emanating from the coffin became stronger.

Chapter 870- The Mirage (2)

The smoke that contained traces of cold energy, was chilling enough to send shivers down the spine of anyone below level 500. The atmosphere in the hall dropped sharply and faint traces of ice began accumulating at the edges of the wall.

While all this happened, Yverza quietly stood in his place without showing any signs of moving. In fact, it looked like he was waiting for his enemy to complete their preparation.

The effects of the smoke became apparent after a while as it enveloped the nearby corpses of the Crypt Scarabs. Initially motionless and lifeless after being defeated by the seven kings, the bodies began to twitch and convulse as if being reanimated by some unseen force.

Limbs disjointed and severed appendages wriggled as if being remote controlled. One could imagine thousands of corpses plopping around, the sight was both grotesque and strangely mesmerizing.

The disjointed hands and legs, torn corpses, beings who were already killed by them moving again was not a sight that one could see every day.

The seven kings standing upon the mountain of corpses, were stunned by the sight. Right underneath them, the once inert husks of the scarabs began to stir with a newfound vitality once again.

"Move!!"

Gil-Garna and Shasurna quickly moved away from the mountain of corpses. The next second, as if guided by the bluish black smoke, the dismembered parts of the scarabs started to converge towards the coffin in a synchronised and purposeful movement.

Like a colony of ants entering its nest, the scarabs and their parts were being drawn inexorably towards a central focal point that was the coffin, their twisted forms melding together in an ominous and enigmatic way.

ROAAARRR...

And then, with a deafening roar that reverberated throughout the hall, the being who had hidden within the coffin made its presence known once again.

Towering over Yverza and almost reaching the ceiling itself, what emerged was a giant mass of bodies. Composed of countless scarab carcasses fused together, the being looked both grotesque and intimidating.

In the dim light of hall, its surface glimmered with bluish black light like living veins pulsing and squirming. As the colossal creature lumbered forward there was an undeniable sense of power and menace emanating from it.

"Interesting, this is how it should be. Come, let me see how strong you have become"

In the face of the giant mass of bodies, Yverza looked just like an ant. Something that could be squashed with just a stomp of a foot.

However, this ant was no ordinary figure but one of the seven kings of the forest. When he saw, the giant lifting its foot to squash him down. He gave a fierce grin and threw a punch.

BANG... air was immediately blasted apart as the two attacks connected causing everything in the immediate area to be blown away.

Yverza could feel the weight pressing down on its body, although the giant looked clumsy and slow, it nevertheless had the power of thousands of crypt scarabs combined into one. Its strength couldn't be underestimated.

That being said... What of it? He was not among the ones to back away from the challenge. In fact, since entering this dungeon, he had been itching for a good fight.

"Finally some worthwhile opponent has appeared" With an excited grin, he readied his weapon which was his own body and braced for a fight.

The giant on the other hand gazed at him almost with a human like intelligence. A bluish black light flashed in its eyes, it was unknown what it was thinking. Nevertheless, what it did, remained the same.

After it saw that it couldn't stomp this ant which was not even the size of its pinky toe, it stretched its hand back and threw a punch with all of its might.

Matching his aggression, the Ivroy Terraquake Rhino also threw a punch. Two fists, one the size of a big boulder and the other an adult human's head collided. Just based on the size, it was clear which one would get smashed the next second.

However, contrary to expectation, it was this tiny fist that actually pushed that boulder like fist and even caused the giant to take a step back.

"Good, again. Let's go again".

After the first initial clash, both parties had an understanding of each other's strengths. The time for feeling each other was over.

Yverza gave a hearty laugh, his muscles covered by his endogenous armour bulged and an aura of unmatched destruction released out of his body.

On the other hand, the giant mass of bodies also accumulated all of its strength. Doves of bluish Black energy released from the coffin and entered the giant. The air crackled with an aura of dark energy, and a raw undisguised power coursed through the creature's veins.

Looking at the creature one could clearly say that it was no ordinary monster but a force of nature, a manifestation of numerous deadly monsters.

BOOM... there was a silence for a second before it was broken by the two. The clash of steel against scarab flesh echoed through the hall continuously.

BOOM... BOOOM... BOOOM... An epic battle between the mass giant and the Ivory Terraquake Rhino began.

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In the heart of the ruins on the 85th floor, amidst the swirling mists of death and destruction, two warriors clashed in a contest of wills. Devastation spread everywhere and anywhere they went.

Walls ran with cracks, pillars crumbled and the ground was marked with huge pockmarks. One could imagine how powerful their clash was from just the remnant shockwave that spread through the surroundings like a ripple from their every clash.

Even just being exposed to a bit of this shockwave would make anyone lower than level 500 puke out blood and faint right away.

Observing their battle from a distance, Shasurna couldn't help but click his tongue in jealousy.

"Look at him enjoying. Dammit, if I knew the Crypt Wight had this kind of skill I would have attacked it myself first".

Just like his fellow seven kings, he too was itching for a fight. Sadly, they had already decided on the order of things and he couldn't intervene now even if he wanted to.

Still... "As amazing as the battle was, it seems like that is the full strength of the Crpyt Wight. If so, it wouldn't be long before the victor is decided. What do you think".

Beside him, Gil-Garna narrowed his eyes. He did not comment and continued to observe the battle with his keen eyes. Despite knowing that there was no way Yverza would be defeated, he noticed something amiss in their battle.

The energy that fuelled the giant's movements seemed to pulse and surge unpredictably, like a volatile storm gathering within its massive form. That energy that should have been expended over time as it battled Yverza was still getting stronger as time passed.

It was as if the giant was charging energy for one final...

Just as those thoughts arrived in his mind, Gil-Garna understood what the giant was trying to do. Immediately, he tried to caution the Ivory Terraquake Rhino. However, he was a step too late.

The colossal corpse giant, fueled by the unstable energies surging within it, suddenly sprouted a couple more arms.

Given that it never had a form to begin with and only a mass of distorted bodies, it shouldn't be surprising that it could change shapes. Yet the simple minded Yverza was caught off guard by the sudden mutation of its enemy.

The giant's multiple arms swung forth in an erratic and destructive manner and the rhino king braced himself for the onslaught absolutely confident in his endogenous armor. However, to his surprise, the attack didn't come and instead, he saw his enemy suddenly grab hold of him.

This came as a surprise and Yverza was unable to dodge it. Plus, given the strength of the mass giant, which was practically comprised of thousands of crypt scarabs and now that it had even sprouted multiple arms, it was difficult for even one such as him to get out of his hold.

All he could do was watch as the giant brought him near his mouth.

Was it trying to eat him? This was the first thought that came to his mind. However, given that the monster was just piles of body, it did not have a stomach. There is no way it could eat him.

That said, he did not have to wait long to know the answer. In front of him, the giant's form began to distort and convulse, the bluish black energy inside it expanding with a threatening intensity and causing the giant to look fat almost comically.

"Yverza be careful, this thing is no Crypt Wight. This creature, it is trying to self destruct and take you along with it"

At the same time, Gil-Garna cautioned. However, there was nothing to be done. The energy within the giant had swirled out of control and reached its peak.

The giant's bloated body ran with numerous cracks, one could even observe the energy expanding in a rampant manner through it. And then with a flash of light, the creature unleashed its ultimate skill: a self-destruct ability that unleashed all the energy within the bodies of the thousands of crypt scarabs into a one single final attack.

A skill of epic proportions. Sensing a faint trace of danger, both Gil-Garna and Shasurna backed away, using their own skills to defend themselves. As for Yverza, he was caught up in giant's grip and couldn't avoid the attack.