

## Earths GMagus 1041

### Chapter 1041 Result

The Artisan exam was not an easy one at all. Devising an original recipe and creating said recipe from a selected environment was not something that could simply be done within a day, let alone mere 12 hours.

However, that was exactly what the exam was all about.

Currently, a hundred Rank 4 Apprentice Apothecary, most of whom had decades of experience under their belts, were all still unable to create a final product worthy of meeting the standard of the exam.

There was only an hour and a half of time left, and most of the examinees had similar expressions on their faces. Some even seem to have given up completely, eyes dazedly staring at their workstations. However, there were also others just like Emery, who had made either a Tier 4 product with level 1 originality or Tier 3 with level 2 originality – merely one step away from succeeding the exam.

In truth, if Emery had been able to harvest and use Tier 5 ingredients, he would have already passed this Artisan exam an hour ago. Unfortunately, this was the situation he had gotten himself in, so Emery had to just give his all and make the best out of it.

At this point, Emery only needed to improve his product to another level and he could finally pass the exam.

After racking his brains, he thought of a possible solution. Perhaps, it was time for him to turn to external help. He turned his gaze to a certain corner of the exam venue, where some equipment could be seen.

Even so, Emery needed to carefully consider how he would approach this before taking action.

"Alright, let's see what kind of treatment would be best for the two of you." He said while looking at the two finished products on his workstation.

In order to know the most optimal choice, the answer lay within the product.

Emery went back and scrutinized the characteristics of the two products. The pill and the potion, and saw if he could alter any of them to further increase their potency. If he could improve them past their limits and reach 130%, he was confident that he would reach another level of originality in the final product.

[Spirit Pool Potion]

Thanks to the ingredients used to make them, the Spirit Pool Potion contained powerful energy that would help replenish the depleted Spirit Pool. However, for the same reason, the inherent nature of the potion itself was a bit too volatile.

Therefore, if Emery could somehow adjust and make the potion more stable, its potency and effectiveness would increase even more, which would then increase its grade.

[Health Regeneration Pill]

As for the Health Regeneration Pill, Emery realized that the pill was a bit too moist compared to its counterparts. He quickly checked what was wrong, and found that the humidity was a minor side effect that was caused by the ingredients.

One of the ways Emery considered to resolve the unexpected humidity was to use a bacteria that could dry up the pill from the inside. That way, he didn't need to reduce the amount of ingredients used, and the pill wouldn't have to lose its potency. He decided to choose one type available, per the manual that Karin had shown him before.

Not wanting to waste any more time, Emery decided to work on both products at the same time. He quickly went to that corner of the exam venue, and walked towards where the appropriate equipment was located.

Physics equipment for his Spirit Pool Potion, while Biology sampling for his Health Regeneration Pill.

Putting the potion in the equipment, Emery went on and fiddled with the complicated equipment, trying to remember and follow what he had practiced with Cedric and Karin. Moments later, he watched as the percentage shown on the equipment, which signified the potion's potency, gradually rose.

100%... 110%... 120%...

The process went smoothly with no hiccups until it reached 120%. However, before it could reach the 130% potency Emery was aiming for, the potion suddenly burst and its content turned into steam.

He looked in bewilderment at the empty vial inside the equipment, his brain still processing what had just happened. It was only moments later that he realized his hours of hard work had disappeared just like that.

Emery heaved a sigh of disappointment. Even though he didn't expect to succeed on the first try, seeing his hard work lost like that still disheartened him. Smacking both cheeks, he turned his attention to his other product. This was also exactly why he created two products.

Unfortunately, Emery was forced to watch as the pill he made destroyed in front of his eyes. The bacteria infused into the pill absorbed the excess moisture and went further, turning the pill so dry that it immediately crumbled to dust the instant he tried to pick it up from the equipment.

Emery stared into the empty space in a daze. Both of his products failed their improvements, and were destroyed without leaving a trace.

[58 minutes]

There was less than an hour, and Emery had returned and stood behind his workstation without any product ready. He let out a deep sigh as he thought he had finally failed the exam now.

From these disastrous failures, it was clear that he couldn't play around with the two advanced studies, especially when he just learnt the basics overnight.

At this moment, Emery felt such a loss of hope. In reality, the two products he had made were great. But they were simply not good enough for the Artisan exam.

No one ever wanted to fail, but it was not a life and death matter. He should properly practice the craft for the Rank 4 exam next month, and the Artisan exam the month after. He would try to attain the title just before he graduated and returned home.

Nothing to be downcast about.

Thus, at this moment, Emery eliminated the thought of the exam from his mind completely.

His thoughts then turned his attention to the next urgent matter, thinking of another way to help Master Dulin with. The grandmaster must be able to pull some string to find a way to get an Artisan to do the harvesting, while he himself would be the escort guarding.

On the same note, the idea of bringing the little girl Karin to help him came to his mind, and he was seriously contemplating it.

[50 minutes]

Emery still had 50 minutes before the exam finally concluded. Facing a workstation full of materials and with the pressure to pass the exam lifted off his shoulders, he suddenly had the thought of using the last 50 minutes to concoct a simple healing pill instead.

The reason for this was that he was suddenly reminded of two recent events that left an indelible mark on him.

The death of the servant girl Gennette at the Ouroboros prison, and the old man that he couldn't save in the midtest village.

In either case, it wasn't that the spell wasn't strong enough to heal their wounds. On the other hand, his healing spell was too powerful for them – a mortal and a lower realm individual.

An idea suddenly came to his mind, to create a pill that would solve such a problem. A powerful reviving pill for such individuals.

Feeling pumped, Emery quickly went into action.

Chapter 1042 New Pill

Emery has decided to use the time he has to create a pill that is strong enough to revive a person with the lowest lifesign but can be used by a mortal.

For the creation of this pill, instead of choosing Tier 4 or Tier 3 ingredients, Emery chose the lowest quality of ingredients – Tier 1. Plants that were considered Tier 1 had almost zero value in the Magus Universe, which meant that if he succeeded in this endeavor, he could make the pill very affordable.

He casually chose two Tier 1 plants, and also two Tier 2 plants he used before, and started by casting [Photosynthesis] on them. This time, thanks to the practice he had previously and lower difficulty, the improvement process was completed quickly.

[Vervain Tier 2 - mutated]

[Dittany Tier 2 - mutated]

[Fluxweed - Tier 1 - mutated]

[Daisy - Tier 1 - mutated]

At this moment, Emery was no longer concerned about time. He focused his entire mind to devise the best combination. A pill that would be strong enough to restore one's vitality, yet weak enough not to destroy its body.

The cauldron began to heat up, as Emery prepared some combinations he thought might work. When the cauldron was ready to accept ingredients, he quickly went to work, throwing the ingredients he had prepared and processed them.

Several trials were carried out and mistakes certainly occurred, but in the end, Emery ended up with a blue pill with a healthy green tint on it. He quickly appraised the pill with the system.

[Reviving Pill - Tier 2 originality level 3]

However, Emery was not satisfied with his result. He needed it to be a Tier 1 pill. Hence he set aside the pill he had just finished and proceeded to attempt another one.

Grabbing another batch of ingredients, he casted [Photosynthesis] on each of them, this time wishing the mutation to focus on the life energy within the plants. While he was engrossed by his experiment, Emery could subconsciously feel his Light Pillar reacting to the spell.

To his surprise, as the spirit energy entered, he perceived a golden glow within the plant.

The plant evolves further to something unknown.

Emery swiftly threw them into the cauldron. As he processed them, he realized that the golden glow he perceived was still there, mixing with other ingredients.

It was an essence that was full of life.

Unfortunately, it was too strong, causing the second objective Emery wanted to achieve – could be safely consumed by mortals – nearly impossible. Frustrated, Emery slammed his palms against the workbench.

"Darn!..how, think.. Emery think!"

Emery racked his brains, remembering everything about the apothecary that was inside; all the limited experience he had in the apothecary. Then suddenly, a stunned look appeared on his face. He recalled one particular recipe that he had been making so many times.

As if the locked door was unlocked, Emery's rigid thoughts were liberated. Much to others' confusion, he suddenly created a Spatial Gate into the forest once again, to grab a particular ingredient to finalize this peculiar pill of his.

A poison... the strongest Tier 1 poison in the forest.

While others were going around picking up ingredients with restorative properties to try for a last-minute attempt, Emery found himself a simple poisonous fungi that met his needs. Returning to his workstation, he quickly worked on the fungi, starting with [Fragmentation] and then [Photosynthesis].

[Deadlius - Tier 1 Mutated]

Now Emery has come to what was perhaps the most difficult part of his endeavor, to somehow find a way to combine the highly restorative mixture and the toxic ingredient in his hands seamlessly.

Two things containing completely opposite attributes were about to be mixed together; both could easily turn into nothing, but if done properly it could definitely turn into something extraordinary.

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From a distance, the trio of grandmasters seemed completely unable to stop watching what the amusing young man was doing.

Just a moment ago, they had laughed at the sheer stupidity the young man showed when he decided to use the advanced Artisan equipment.

At that moment, the three of them all thought the young man would give up the exam with both of his products destroyed. But now, the young man used the last hour he had to create an entirely new product.

"Tier 1...?! That young apprentice is crazy.. Is he just messing around with the exam!?"

However as soon as they saw the young man able to push the low-tier plants into another level, once again their minds were baffled.

"Seriously, what skill did that young man use?!"

While Hypatia and Anmir wracked their brains to recognize the origin of the spell Emery used, Hazard on the other hand started to tremble as if he recognized the skill but was just unable to put a word on it.

The last straw broke when Emery left for the forest and returned with a poison. Simultaneously, the three were completely lost for words.

"Using poison.. I see what he was trying to do.. But it's not possible.. Without specific equipment—" Before the man finished talking however, he saw something that his eyes couldn't believe. His figure disappeared as he jumped closer to the workstation.

"This is... He is using his spirit energy to refine it!"

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Emery was currently putting his entire concentration on the concoction process of the two opposite ingredients, using his spells [Photosynthesis]. The start was slow since this was the first time he used it on a mixture, instead of a living plant.

The spell allowed him to harness his spirit energy to refine the volatile mixture. Joining the fray next were his dark core and nature core, both of whom heavily involved in the process to ensure the mixture progressed. As for maintaining the fragile balance that the previous two factors had managed to establish, Emery's Dao which was the epitome of equilibrium came into picture.

Slowly but surely, the amount of mixture in the cauldron was reduced. Before long, it hardened and coagulated into a round pill with dark greenish color.

It was a success.

Emery smiled as his eyes fell on the pill. Even though the whole process looked complicated, making this pill actually only took a little time and a little bit of energy on his part. Without even testing the pill, he knew he was satisfied with it.

Unaware of whether the exam was over or not, Emery was just about to check the remaining time when the loud sound of a gong resounded through the air. Following right after was the loud shout of the staff present at the exam venue.

"Time is up!"

Chapter 1043 Originality

"Time is up! All the examinees put your final product on your workstation!" said one of the staff who wore an Artisan uniform loudly, helping the grandmasters to conclude the exam on their behalf.

After that, the staff waited for the grandmaster's signal, but a few seconds passed and still nothing was heard from the venerable individuals. Turning their heads, they saw the attention of the three grandmasters fixed somewhere.

It seemed they were too focused on watching one particular workstation that they didn't hear the staff's words just now. Seeing such a sight, the staff nearby quickly coughed and opened his mouth.

"Grandmaster"

Startled, the grandmasters came out of their reverie. As the official examiner of the exam, Grandmaster Hazard quickly stood up from his seat and opened his mouth. "Bring all those who pass the exam requirements!"

Amongst the hundred and one examinees present in the exam venue, only one person walked to the front in confident swagger after the grandmaster spoke. That figure was someone Emery knew, Sabil.

The young man even dared to take the time to pass through Emery's workstation. Seeing the potion that was on the workbench, he looked at Emery with a haughty manner and a condescending smirk on his face.

"I win," He said curtly, before turning around and walking away. He brought the potion he had made forward. Receiving it, the Artisan staff put the potion into a piece of equipment. After a while, the results came out and the man reported to the grandmaster.

"The result that came out was Tier 4, with a potency of 105%. Classified as Tier 4 with level 2 originality."

A wide smile spread across Sabil's face when he heard the staff's words. He was so excited that he turned his body, watching all the jealousy and acknowledgement of the other 99 examinees at the venue.

However, once the potion landed on Grandmaster Hazard's hand, the man only took two seconds before opening the potion cap and pouring the liquid inside onto the floor. The grandmaster's sudden action shocked all the examinees, especially Sabil who turned around when he saw that everyone's attention was not on him anymore.

"Fail!!" Hazard loudly announced, before throwing the empty vial away.

Sabil's eyes widened. Shock and confusion filled his entire being, before eventually indignation took over. Receiving what he considered to be unfair treatment, he couldn't help but complain, demanding answers for such treatment.

Thanks to his unbecoming conduct, annoyance was evident on Grandmaster Hazard's face as he explained his decision.

"Even though the equipment rules your potion as original, you only made slight alterations from an existing potion. What's worse, 90% of the ingredients and methods are still the same." Hazard raised his voice as he stared at Sabil. "You dare to bring this kind of trash in front of me?! Fail! Get lost!"

After the farce was over and Sabil dejectedly returned to his workstation under the scornful gazes of all the examinees, the Artisan staff shouted for other examinees who had made a successful product. However, no one stepped forward.

Apparently, restorative products were really not an easy subject to pass, especially in the Artisan exam. As the Artisan staff's gaze swept over the venue, all one hundred examinees had an embarrassed expression on their faces, especially Sabil.

Seeing that no one stepped forward to present their product, the Artisan staff then about to end the exam when Grandmaster Hazard stopped him.

Turning his gaze towards a certain workstation, the grandmaster opened his mouth. "You, privileged acolyte! Why don't you come forward and present your product?"

All eyes turned and everyone saw the one pointed out by Grandmaster Hazard was none other than Emery. Various types of expressions appeared on the faces of all the examinees.

On the other hand, Emery was taken aback by the grandmaster's words. His product was made of low-tier ingredients, hence he had no plan to present what he had made since it wouldn't pass the exam requirements.

However, it seemed that the grandmaster thought otherwise.

"Hurry up and show me what you've made!" Grandmaster Hazard said a little forcefully. "You weren't planning on making all of us wait for you, were you?!"

In the face of such intense tenacity that the other party displayed, Emery could only sigh inwardly and relented. Taking the pill he had made, he swiftly walked through the rows of workstations and handed it over to the waiting Artisan staff.

As soon as the green pill landed in the staff's hands, the three grandmasters glanced at it curiously. The next moment, the pill was placed in the equipment for analysis. It didn't take long for a string of words to appear on the equipment.

[Tier 1....]

When the results of the tier classification came out, faint sounds of laughter and chuckle rang out from the examinees. On the other hand, the three grandmasters showed no reaction seeing such a result.

They still had the pensive expressions that had been on their faces ever since. In this situation, only Emery was seen smiling.

Then, to everyone's surprise, several minutes had passed but the equipment still hadn't shown the pill's level of originality. Everyone quickly turned their attention to the potency percentage meter, which was still steadily increasing.

130%...

150%...

170%...

The venue fell into silence as everyone was astonished to see the number shown on the equipment. Such potency percentage figures were by no means a joke, even for a Tier 1 product.

However, the numbers still didn't seem to want to stop.

180%...

190%...

It still continued, breaking past the 200% figure, until eventually stopped at 210%. In that instant, the pill appraisal results finally appeared on the equipment. Many gasps of shock rang out in the air.

[Reviving Pill - Tier 1, originality level 5]

"Five!!"

The examinees who were all Rank 4 Apprentice Apothecary, staff who were Artisan rank, and three grandmasters who were above all of them; Everyone in the venue was shocked at the pill's level of originality.

However, one person in particular reacted in a rather exaggerated manner. At this moment, Sabil's face had turned pale with a hint of blue as he couldn't believe what he was seeing.

On the other hand, Emery was a little surprised, not realizing the significance of what he had done. Sure, he knew that the pill's level of originality was special. But in his eyes, it was still a mere Tier 1 pill. There was nothing to be surprised about.

What he didn't realize was that there was actually a huge difference between level 4 and level 5 originality. Level five originality was known to be the limit of what machine capable of appraising. It was a level of originality that was on the brink of unknown territory.

It was a standard that was only achievable by the masters of apothecary, and for it to be attained by one so young made those who were aware of its importance shook their heads speechlessly.

Grandmaster Hazard walked down from the podium and took out the pill from the appraising equipment. Holding it carefully in his hands, he scrutinized the pill for half a minute before finally opening his mouth.



"This pill has exceeded the requirements to pass the exam." He paused for a moment before continuing, "I, Hazard, as examiner of this year's Apothecary Institute Artisan Exam, announce that examinee Emery Ambrose have successfully passed the exam."

Staring at Emery who was dumbfounded by the declaration, the grandmaster said, "Congratulations. You are now officially an Artisan of the Apothecary Institute."

At first, Emery stared at the grandmaster in bewilderment as his brain was still trying to process what had just happened. A feeling of confusion then arose, before it finally struck him. At that moment, happiness exploded within him.

Actually, it wasn't that Tier 1 or Tier 2 weren't part of the requirements to pass the Artisan exam. It was just that in the hundreds of years of Apothecary Institute's history, no one was daring enough to use such low-tier ingredients to pass the exam. Increasing originality, after all, is more difficult than the tier.

With that said, Grandmaster Hazard has personally taken action and given Emery a new emblem to affix to his uniform. When he turned around, Emery could clearly feel the envious gazes from the examinees when they saw the symbol in his hand.

"Privileged class uniform with Artisan badge.." This certainly brought envy and recognition to the highest standard.

Now that Emery's evaluation was complete and none of the other examinees wanted their products assessed, Grandmaster Hazard announced the end of the Artisan exam. All the apprentices were herded out, most of them looking gloomy, dejected because they didn't pass the exam.

Emery was about to leave with the crowd when he was suddenly stopped by not one, but the three grandmasters present at the exam venue.

Even though he was a little nervous because of the three bigshots in front of him, Emery was still able to speak calmly.

"Is there anything I can help you with, grandmaster?"

#### Chapter 1044 Passion

While the crowd of examinees left the exam venue in an overall gloomy atmosphere, the three grandmasters present stopped a certain person from doing the same.

"Young Artisan, congratulations on your advancement. I am Hypotia," said the white-haired middle-aged woman amongst the three with a smile on her face, to which Emery replied with a polite thank you.

The other man besides Grandmaster Hazard, whom Emery recognized, Grandmaster Anmir stopped his female colleague and said, "You don't need to act like that, Hypotia. The young man already has a master he acknowledged."

The woman appeared interested by the notion and proceeded to prod her colleague deeper. After knowing that it was her other colleague – Grandmaster Grom, she squinted her eyes before speaking in a rather aggressive tone.

"Huh! That perverted dwarf?!" Turning to Emery once again, she continued, "You deserve better than that old coot. You should come to my Hypotia Apothecary instead. I can make you a prominent figure within our circle in just five years."

Hearing Hypotia saying such words, Grandmaster Anmir barged into the conversation again. "Actually young man, You should put your focus on a certain master who can help you improve your skill. For example, a researcher like me can certainly help a bright talent like you into a master in ten years."

A smirk crept to Hypotia's face hearing Anmir's words, before she opened her mouth. "Don't listen to this hypocrite..."

Seeing that the situation was on the verge of going out of control, Grandmaster Hazard stepped in and interrupted his two colleagues' blatant attempt of poaching. "If you two like to chat, you can do it later."

He then proceeded to ignore his colleagues, looked at Emery and said in an earnest tone, "Artisan, if you don't mind, would you be willing to show me how you make the pill again?"

Upon hearing Hazard's words, the two grandmasters who were about to bicker turned their attention to Emery simultaneously. They seemed to be interested in the matter as well. Seeing the expectant gazes of the three grandmasters, Emery politely agreed to the request.

He walked back to the workstation he had previously used, this time with the three grandmasters tailing right behind. The grandmasters paid close attention as he gathered the required plants and then began to take the first step of concocting the pill.

[Photosynthesis]

An apparent look of interest and intrigue appeared on the three grandmasters' faces when they saw Emery cast the spell. Unaware of the three grandmasters' reactions, Emery continued to focus on mutating the plants.

After all the plants had mutated, he proceeded to light the cauldron fire while also preparing the plants to the desired state for the concoction. Once the cauldron was ready, he quickly poured the ingredients in and started concocting.

The most difficult part of the concoction was when Emery processed the poisonous fungi. The entire process, from mutating the fungi to extracting the toxin to finally mixing it together with the restorative mixture, Emery had to be careful. Especially towards the end where he needed to control the delicate balance between the two with the use of his Dao Divine Technique.

Thankfully, in the end he still managed to concoct the pill.

This time, Emery managed to make a batch of the small green pills with a golden tint. After clearing his workstation, he then gave one pill each to the three grandmasters who watched the concocting process from the start.

Without further ado, the three accepted the pill and analyzed it carefully. Grandmaster Hypotia even brought out her unusually long tongue and swallowed the small pill in her hands. There was a slight silence before the female grandmaster opened her mouth, an impressed look on her face.

"This pill is very effective for Rank 7 to Rank 1 acolytes. It could stop bleeding, grant high vigor that can boost their life sign, and even give their cells a meager positive reconstruction. Impressive indeed.." A slight sigh of pity escaped from her mouth. "Unfortunately, this product won't make a fortune."

The female grandmaster explained the cruel reality, where in most places in the Magus Universe, low-ranking individuals were considered insignificant and worth nothing. Therefore, even if the pills were cheaper, it would still not be a profitable venture.

Grandmaster Anmir, however, clearly had a different opinion to his female colleague's opinion. Beaming an encouraging smile at Emery, he said, "You don't need to mind Hypotia's words too much, young Artisan. We can't really put a price on someone's life, so I think your pill is a miraculous creation."

Emery was happy with the opinion of the two grandmasters because neither of them were wrong. After all, he had indeed not thought about making money out of the pill. He was just glad that the pill could help those he was aiming for.

Hypotia suddenly added, "It's a shame that you can't sell the recipe to the institute as well."

Facing Emery's confusion, the female grandmaster explained with a matter-of-fact tone, that even if someone knew the recipe and the steps needed to make it, they wouldn't be able to do so. After all, Emery had used many skills in the concocting process that perhaps only he himself knew.

When this topic was brought up, Grandmaster Hazard who had been silent since the completion of the concoction finally opened his mouth and asked what was growing in his mind. Hearing that, the two grandmasters also focused their attention.

It was apparent that the old man and his two colleagues were curious about his skills, and thinking there would be no harm, Emery told them the name.

"It's called Photosynthesis—" Before he could explain further however, he was interrupted by a loud exclamation.

"The Arbor master! I should have known... it's him," said Grandmaster Hazard abruptly. Hearing the name, the other two grandmasters also showed a surprised look on their faces before turning to Emery.

Apparently, the Arbor master was a legendary figure who was both famous for his extraordinary skills and infamous as he didn't want to associate himself with the matters of the Magus Universe.

"You are very fortunate to be able to learn his divine skill," said Grandmaster Hazard, with a rather complex expression on his face. The old man's face then suddenly turned serious as he continued to speak, and this time he said Emery's name.

"Emery Ambrose, I think you should really consider my two colleagues' offer. With that skill and your talent, you are not appropriate to be a figure for the frontline.." Seeing the look on Emery's face, the grandmaster said, "What I'm trying to say is that you should focus your attention on improving your apothecary rather than your battle skill."

He then explained that Grandmaster Hypotia was considered the best in the Biology department of Apothecary Institute, while Grandmaster Anmir was her counterpart in the Physics department. Either

way, the two people were able to provide something that Emery very lacking of, and something he definitely needed if he wanted to improve to the master level.

"If you are conflicted, don't worry about your master Grom. I will definitely talk to him about this matter." Serious look on his face, the grandmaster affirmed once more. "As long as you are committed to improving your craft, I can help make this arrangement, you having multiple masters to work."

The grandmaster then briefly explained that the only thing he needed to do afterwards was to choose not to return home after his graduation from the Magus Academy on the basis of further study in the Apothecary Institute.

Emery should have been elated, ecstatic even, hearing such words. However, the young man who was the focus of the three grandmasters was silent. After a while, he finally opened his mouth and spoke in an apologetic manner.

"I am very grateful for the generous offer, grandmasters. But unfortunately, I currently cannot commit myself to the apothecary."

The reason as to why Emery refused such an offer was none other than his home world and the duel that would have to take place in the next 20 years. Emery didn't need to explain, but the grandmasters could clearly see how troubled his mind was and realized that what stopped him was very important to him.

However, even though they could somehow understand his decision, all three were still disappointed. With a serious look, Grandmaster Hazard spoke words that struck deep into his mind.

"Emery Ambrose, apothecary is not just about your skill or talent." He glanced at the small green pill in his hand before continuing, "You can't make such creation.. without passion. Through this small pill, I can tell how much you belong and are passionate about the apothecary. Therefore, think about it carefully."

He then added that the offer still stood and gave Emery time for him to consider his decision.

Once again expressing his gratitude to the three grandmasters, Emery left the exam venue with a new badge on his uniform and another baggage in mind.

Chapter 1045 shop

"Congratulations, Brother Emery!" said the young girl who was waiting outside the entrance of the exam venue cheerfully. Standing beside her was a young man wearing the same badge as her, who breathed a sigh of relief at the sight of him.

Facing such a warm welcome, a smile involuntarily crept onto Emery's face.

Both Cedric and Karin had been waiting anxiously since they realized Emery didn't have the appropriate skills for the exam. Therefore, when they heard of the unexpected results from the other examinees, they couldn't help but be surprised and excited.

"To hear you could pass the exam without even using Tier 5 plants and making a Tier 1 pill, dammit. Who are you really?" said Cedric in a slightly sour tone, both irritated and happy for him.

He and Karin were evidently really interested to hear the details from the person himself. Hence Emery spent some time narrating what had transpired just now. Afterwards, he went to the second floor of the Apothecary Institute to get the skills he needed to pay the debt he owed.

Arriving at the second floor, a female staff member who had been stationed there immediately greeted him with a smile.

"Welcome and congratulations on your advancement, Artisan."

Thanks to the existence of his newly-acquired Artisan rank, not only could Emery finally get the skills he needed, he also got them completely free without forking a single spirit stone or contribution point.

[Universal Flora Knowledge – Rank 3]

[Analyze Flora – Rank 3]

After he obtained what he was aiming for to take the exam, Emery also received another surprise that he didn't expect.

"Now that you have become an Artisan, you may set up your own shop."

"My own shop?" Emery subconsciously asked again as he couldn't believe what he had just heard.

Cedric and Karin, who accompanied him, were all smiling before explaining one of the main benefits of being an Artisan.

Artisan was considered as an official apothecary already, just not on a master level. Hence the Apothecary Institute guaranteed such individuals were capable to sell their own product to the public or lending their service to other parties, like being a harvester.

In the past, as an Apprentice, the institution would buy any item, ingredient, or finished products. But as an Artisan, one could sell their own into the public market under their own name.

"Eventually, when the products they make become popular, the Artisans who have their names will become famous too."

Emery never thought or cared about his name becoming famous. He also never worried about whether to sell to the market directly or through the institute. However, Cedric's next sentence completely changed his mind.

"The institute buys from you at a third of the market price, while selling directly under your own name, the institute only takes thirty percent of the price you sell. Do you get what I am trying to convey here, Emery?"

Emery nodded his head quickly. He had experienced firsthand the stark difference between selling and buying something in the Apothecary Institute, and now he finally understood the reason why.

He was also told that later when he reached Rank 7, a Master level, the institute would only take ten percent, and zero percent if he managed to reach Rank 9 – the Grandmaster level.

"So Artisan, will you set up your shop right now?" asked the female staff member again

"Alright I will."

Receiving affirmation, the staff quickly got his data and proceeded with the procedure. The process only took a few minutes and he received a notification from the symbol on his palm.

[Congratulations, you have just set up your own Apothecary shop]

[You may choose the name of your shop]

"What is this now?" Emery asked

Apparently, not all apothecaries like to be bothered directly in person, especially when they are famous. Hence they preferred to have their identity remain anonymous to outsiders and only known by the Apothecary Institute. To facilitate these people, the institute allowed one to have an alias as a brand name.

"You can always put your own name or fill that in later, Artisan." replied the staff with a polite smile.

Emery, however, already had a name in mind. It was an alias he once used in the past. Not long after, information came into his mind, confirming the registration of his shop.

[Merlin Apothecary]

[Rank 5 - Artisan]

[Rating - E]

[Items on sell - 0]

When established, every shop started with an E rating. If the shop – in this case, Emery – managed to sell enough products or perform enough apothecary services, the rating would increase and he would receive some benefits from the institute, such as rare ingredients, advanced manuals or even special access to the magus alliance.

Everything that was presented before Emery's eyes appeared very interesting. They only made him want to stay longer in the Apothecary Institute, exploring this potentially rabbit hole. Unfortunately, Emery couldn't afford to do so since he had many other things to do.

Before he left however, Karin tried to convince Emery to put some items in the shop to at least check if his item would be picked up at a high price. Since there was nothing harmful about the idea, he didn't refuse.

"You can come back here anytime just to collect the money," Karin said with a small smile.

Cedric, however, said, "Actually, since you're a privileged class acolyte, you don't have to do so, Emery. You can use the delivery service through your privilege bracelet for all these things, so you don't need to come back and forth from Hyperion to here."

Just as Cedric finished speaking, he suddenly let out a scream. Karin had 'accidentally' stepped on his feet.

Ignoring the look Cedric threw at her, the girl turned to Emery and beamed a bright smile while saying, "You really should come by here more often, brother Emery."

The thought of adding his own items to his own shop really intrigued Emery. If the shop could really bring him more spirit stones, then it could certainly speed up his advancement and provide his friends with better artifacts, spells and such for their upcoming struggle.

Hence, much to Karin's delight, Emery decided to spend one more day at the Apothecary Institute, making more items to put in his shop.

[Spirit Pool Potion - Tier 3 originality level 2] x 30

[Health Regeneration Pill - Tier 4 originality level 1] x 30

[Reviving Pill - Tier 1 originality 5] x 100

The ingredients needed for the first two items cost around 500 spirit stones each, while the reviving pill only cost him 10 spirit stones each. It took all the spirit stones he got from hunting with Magus Heorgar to purchase them all.

[Merlin Apothecary]

[Items on sell - 100]

Emery kept ten of each item with him and put the rest he had made in his Merlin Apothecary shop. After that, he visited his two Artisan friends, expressed his gratitude for their help, and left the Golden City to return to Hyperion.

Chapter 1046 Together

Emery ended up spending three days in the Golden City before he returned to the privileged planet Hyperion. Dutiful as always, Magus Shena was still following close behind him through the Hyperion planet and went on her ways as soon as Emery reached his spirit cave.

When he stepped inside the cave, Emery was actually a little nervous. As he made his way through the cave corridor, he was hoping the girl wouldn't be mad at him for leaving her alone for days without sending words.

To his surprise, he found Klea still diligently training even after he peered into the room where she was. A sigh of relief escaped from his mouth before a proud smile made its way overseeing how hardworking the girl was.

Not wanting to disturb her concentration, Emery quietly withdrew from the room and went into the herb garden. He wanted to check how his 6 little creatures were doing.

The moment he arrived at the herb garden, he was immediately welcomed by the sight of six small figures rushing over.

"Ku... Ku...Kuang Kuang.. ku.. ku"

In an instant, Emery was bombarded by words and gestures of complaints from Twik and the Chizpur brothers. It was clear that these little ones were not very happy with the fact that they were left out, and demanded to be brought along next time.

After appeasing the little creatures with pats and caresses and letting them play amongst themselves, Emery standing in his spirit cave cast his gaze around the place for a while before falling into contemplation.

Between Master Dulin's monthly task, the top 10 ranking duels, the practice against the combat puppets, and his own training, Emery would definitely spend the next 4 months in Hyperion and this cave until graduation.

Glancing at the figure of the girl in the dark cave sitting on the stone slab focused on training, he decided to make this place more comfortable to live in.

Using the [Undertake] spell, Emery started to mold his spirit cave into its new appearance.

With the herb garden and spirit pond located at the very back of the spirit cave as benchmark, he decided the new layout and locations of the caves and started using the spell to create constructs made of stone.

Emery first formed the rugged floor of the cave into a flat foundation before turning his attention to the walls, molding the irregular shapes into a level one. When he was done, the inside of the cave was symmetrical on both sides, forming a rectangular shape.

Now that the outline was finished, he started on the details – the rooms.

The first room Emery woke up in was the one dedicated to the apothecary, which he built next to the garden with easy access to the latter. After that, he built a living room for leisure and two bedrooms. The place Klea was currently using would become the training room, after she finished her cultivation.

Then, Emery spent some time using the [Jade Root] spell to make some furniture; chairs, beds, and other appliances such as plates or cups. To his surprise, manipulating green roots into furniture was quite a fun and stress-relieving activity.

When the construction was finally completed, Emery went to the apothecary room and concocted a certain mixture. He smeared it on the ceiling of the cave, causing a faint light to begin to illuminate the interior.

Emery stared at the remodeled cave in front of him with a proud expression on his face. It wasn't anything stylish or eye-catching. In fact, the place was still quite plain, but in his eyes it had become many times cozier.

He then decided to cook some herbal soup. Something warm, tasty, and most importantly good for health. It was meant for whenever the girl decided to take a break from her training, but apparently the smell woke the girl up.

While in the midst of the cooking, Emery felt something hanging on his back. A familiar voice sounded next to his ear.

"Aaa, you are cooking?! Thank you!"



Turning his head to the right, Emery was greeted by Klea's beautiful face and smiled.

"Did it bother you? Sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt your training. "

Immediately, Emery felt a poke on his cheek followed by a playful voice.

"You bother me? That's not possible," said the beautiful raven girl with a wide smile.

The two of them sat down on the new furniture Emery had made and proceeded to have the meal together.

Klea told Emery about how she already mastered the stage 5 Dao Divine Technique and made her way to stage 6. Apparently, she was so immersed in it that she didn't even realize that three days had passed.

Emery could only smile wryly seeing how nonchalant the girl talked about advancing the stages.

"It was all thanks to your spirit foundation pills, Emery. Thank you." She ended her words with a bright smile.

It seemed that the girl did improve tremendously in the past three days. Recalling the struggles he had in the past, Emery couldn't help but sigh at his own inadequacy. Perhaps, this was what a true genius really was like.

Klea finished her herbal soup, devouring until there wasn't a drop left. A smile on her face, she turned to Emery and said, "Your cooking has definitely improved, Emery. But let me do the cooking next time."

They were both reminded of their time together at King Fjolrin's place when Klea fell sick. The two of them looked at each other and gave a faint smile at each other. Klea was the one who broke eye contact as she shifted her gaze to her new looking surroundings.

"I see you've made some changes, Emery. It looks much more comfortable." Returning to her lover, she said, "Do you intend to stay here for a long time?"

In response, Emery nodded and told her about his plan to stay for the next four months. The girl listened to his explanation in silence, before her expression changed when she heard what he said in a sincere tone.

"I thought to make the place a bit decent for you, hoping that you could be more comfortable."

Klea stared at Emery in silence for a few seconds before opening her mouth. "Is it because I'm from royalty?"

Emery had no excuse to refute her words, but neither did he have to explicitly state them. So he maintained his silence, and the girl stood up from her seat. When he thought she would be mad, Klea instead walked around him and hugged him from behind, her head dangling on his shoulder as she whispered.

"I don't care where or how I live... as long as I can stay with you."

Emery turned his head and looked deeply into her starry black eyes. Likewise she looked into the green eyes of the man she loved, gradually finding herself dissolved in them.

Their lips soon connected to each other in warmth. Before long, they found themselves in the newly-built bedroom and their bodies united in fiery passion.

That night, they spent it together in each other's embrace.

The next morning, Emery prepared for his plans for the day. He decided to go to the place that Master Dulin had pointed out. When he told Klea about his plan, as expected, the girl refused to be left out.

Facing her determination, Emery eventually relented. The 6 plant creatures – Twik and the Chizpur brothers – also joined the trip. As for Magus Shena, she explicitly stated that even though she would join as well, she would not be assisting him in the task. She would be at a distance and only present to ensure his safety.

Turning his head to the group, Emery nodded. "Alright, let's go."

Chapter 1047 Restricted Area

Emery, Klea, and Magus Shena; the three dashed toward one of the floating islands that flew on top of the gas giant of Planet Hyperion.

This time, they were heading toward one of the eight restricted savage islands, a few of the places where extremely ferocious creatures and monsters resided.

As the three got closer to the island on top of the orbiter, Emery could already start to sense the energy markings of the beasts on the island.

When Emery noticed that the markings were not few, he couldn't help but worry a little. After all, Hyperion was a special planet.

An A-class level 5 savage planet, one of the highest levels of danger a planet could be classified as.

The island in front of him was one that the habitat left to exist by the alliance for some unknown reason.

When the three were finally close to the island, Emery suddenly sensed a powerful magus figure approaching them.

"Emery Ambrose, an artisan of the Apothecary Institute... Yes, your information checks out." A magus who seemed to be an entrance guard briefly scanned Emery from head to toe and nodded.

After confirming Emery's identity, the guard turned to look at Klea and Magus Shena. When he also confirmed the two's identities, especially Magus Shena being a full-moon magus, he finally deemed Emery's little group eligible to enter.

But that wasn't all. Before they were allowed to pass, the guard magus sent Emery's bracelets a little add-on. Aside from being a small source of necessary information, it also contained various other things, like a map of the island, precaution signals, and even a feature to document everything they did on the restricted floating island.

"Wow, this is a pretty tight security," Klea said in amusement.

However, not only did she not look worried after knowing how tight the security here was, but she even had a look full of anticipation on her face.

"This should be fun though, I can't wait!"

The guard magus only glanced at Klea without commenting on her remark.

"You all clear to enter island, Be careful" He simply allowed them to pass now that their identities were confirmed.

With the guard's approval, the three continued to dash toward the floating green island. According to the data provided, it was about 2,000 miles in size.

The floating island looked sprisngly unique. The bottom of the island thrust deep into the gas, and apart from the forest, they could see a swirling pathway which went deep inside the island. From the map its shown there are five of them all acorss the island.

A few miles away from the floating island, Emery stopped in the air to check the data he previously received from the guard magus.

"Okay. The island has four levels; the outer part, the inner part, the deep, and the core. Half a dozen different beasts reside in the area."

[Outer - Magical beasts]

[Inner - High-level magical beasts]

[Deep - Low to mid-level legendary beasts]

[Core - Restricted access]

After briefly checking the four levels of the island area, Emery took out the harvesting list from Master Duli.

[Knotgrass - Tier 3 x 3000]

[Borage Mushroom - Tier 4 x 200]

[Nux Myristica - Tier 5 x 50]

"All right, we should start by harvesting the tier 3 plants first."

It was only after Magus Shena saw Emery put the harvesting list back in that she began to speak.

"It looks like you already know what to do. I won't be right behind you, but I'll be around. Use the communication stone if any of you are in danger and need help."

Before leaving, she added

"Contact me if you're going to enter the deep level. As for the core, don't get near it no matter what. That area is considered extremely dangerous, even for a magus."

After the dragon bloodline magus magus left, Emery and Klea flew down into the forest.

Not even half a minute after entering, they were quickly greeted by a group of several savage beasts, monkey-type beasts with yellow fur.

[Gelada]

[Magical Beast - Level 30]

[Battle Power - 110]

The moment the group of creatures noticed the two trespassers' arrival, they immediately lunged forward to attack. However, even with their number, Emery's [Jade Roots] entangled them all together with ease.

Looking at them struggling yet unable to break free, Emery wished he could just use [Spirit Devour] on them. Unfortunately, not only were they wind-based creatures, but they were also too weak for him.

Kyaaakkk!! Kayak!!

The yellow-furred monkeys roared and struggled even more to escape the Jade Roots, only for the roots to tighten up and crush the monkey beasts to death.

"Errr, that's nasty," Klea shortly commented with a disgusted expression. However, the unpleasant look on her face didn't stay for long.

In front of her, Emery swiftly used [Nature Sense] to find the first plant on the list.

"So what kind of plant we are looking for, let me help"

"It's actually a normal-looking green plant," Emery described.

Klea's brows unconsciously furrowed a little.

"Emery... all the plants here are green."

"Yes... Well, no need to worry about it, Klea," Emery said with a reassuring smile before walking toward one of the plants on the ground and easily picking it.

The first plant on the list [Knotgrass] was ordinary looking green grass with a slight lime tint. After analyzing its characteristics and confirming that there were indeed no special requirements to fulfill in order to harvest it, Emery brought out Twik and the five Chizpur brothers.

"Kuang... ku... ku..."

The six plant creatures quickly became excited finding out that they were now at a new place,

With his [All Mind], Emery clearly communicated with them about his intention.

"I need you guys to locate this type of plant, but remember that this place is very dangerous. Stay safe, and only pick this type of plant."

Knowing the creature are not stronger than the 5 brothers, Emery taught the plant creatures how they should go about picking the plants.

He thought that it would be good to get some extra for himself, so he asked the plant creatures to get 4,000 pieces in total.

"Work hard, guys!" Emery encouraged.

Seeing Emery's interaction with the plant creatures, an idea suddenly crossed Klea's mind.

"If they will harvest for you... then I will be your bodyguard!" the girl said with excitement.

"Sure you will." Emery smiled and nodded.

Afterward, the two headed toward the center of the island and walked the path to the inner area.

"All right, this one should be more of a challenge."

Chapter 1048 Inner Layer

Emery and Klea followed the spiraling path, made their way down below, and found themselves arriving at the second layer of the forest.

As soon as they arrived, both of them felt a sensation as if dozens of eyes were waiting for them from beyond the dark treelines within the unknown shadows. It felt uncanny.

Due to the eerie atmosphere, the two of them subconsciously drew closer to each other.

"What are we facing this time?" Klea asked Emery to check the data given by the magus guard they met earlier.

Doing as asked, Emery scanned the data before saying, "It should be a Marrow Gnawer."

Klea's eyebrows rose slightly at the name. "What kind of creature is that?"

Before Emery could explain, one of the creatures they were talking about appeared among the trees. It was a hunchback figure with dirty gray fur and spikes at the back of its body. The sight of its gruesome face would certainly make goosebumps for those who see it.

Klea caught sight of it, and instantly a deafening sound resounded in the area.

"IT'S A RAT!!!"

[Marrow Gnawer]

[Magical Beast - level 70]

[Battle Power - 190]

Shrreeikkkk—

Emery had fought hundreds of high-level magical beasts before in the past, but this time these creatures came in quite a number given their strength.

"10...15... 18 of them surrounding us," Emery said calmly, his eyes swept across every hunchback figure seen in the area.

On the other hand, Klea seemed to be losing her confidence. "Why does it have to be a rat?! I hate rats!!!"

"Stay close to me then," Emery said calmly as he activated [Immortal Gate]. His body also gradually turned furry as his [Fey Transformation] took effect.

As if offended by his words, Klea said, "Huh? No, I can take care of them myself!"

She swiftly started chanting a string of words to cast the powerful ice element spell [Ice Shard - Tier 5].

A moment later, a huge shard of ice materialized and shot forward at breakneck speed, blasting all the trees in front of them. It impaled the creature that had just shown itself and turned it into a block of ice.

At the same time, she also aimed the same spell at the area around the two of them, creating an icy field of bone-chilling spikes as an obstruction.

With sharp ice spikes surrounding her in all directions, Klea felt much safer. Knowing that she was well protected, for the time being, she began to let loose and unleash destruction, hurling several blasts of ice shards at the disgusting creatures.

"Good spell, Klea!"

Klea's sudden rampage of ice spells was enough to startle the creatures and freeze a few ones. However, it didn't manage to kill any. Instead, it made them gather into one group and charge towards the two of them, their deafening screams shaking the air while their fangs and claws brandished ready to strike their prey.

Fortunately, Emery was ready to welcome their arrival.

[Jade Root]

The icy field around them suddenly glowed in green, and in the next moment numerous green roots the size of an adult's arm rose from the ground, blocking the horde's ferocious charge.

While the horde of Marrow Gnawers tried to extricate from the roots and ice shards, Emery channeled the spirit energy within his cores and cast the new spell he comprehended.

[Primal Flora]

In a matter of seconds, a dozen flesh-eating flowers emerged from the green roots that stopped the horde of gruesome creatures. Before the latter could notice their existence, the flowers moved in a flash and gobbled the nearby creature. At the same time, the roots also took action and ensnared those who were not caught.

As the plants he created wreaked havoc amidst the Marrow Gnawers, Emery released Twik that had been attached to his arm from the start, telling him to stay behind and protect Klea. Meanwhile, he prepared himself for his second purpose of coming here.

He cast [Slipstream] to boost his speed and then brought out his [Blade Claw]. After that—

Howwllll!!!

Emery's eyes quickly swept around him, and as soon as he found his first target he shot out with incredible speed, directly thrusting his sword into one of the creatures. Crimson liquid splattered all over as a set of three holes appeared on the Marrow Gnawer's chest.

Spalllltt!!!

[Spirit Devour]

Spirit energy started to flow from the creature towards his body, and a wide smile bloomed on Emery's face when he confirmed that the energy devoured from these creatures was indeed the darkness element – the best kind to repair his Devour Pillar.

Unfortunately, to completely devour the Marrow Gnawer whose body was pierced by his claws, Emery needed at least several seconds of time, making him a vulnerable target for its other kin who immediately turned their attention to him when they heard its miserable shriek.

Seeing the five gruesome creatures rushing towards him, he clicked his tongue.

"I'll be back for you later!" Emery said before his figure suddenly disappeared from the sight of Marrow Gnawer who pounced on him and appeared behind it. A glint appeared and blood splattered into the air.

SpIIIaatt!!!

Realizing that he couldn't just devour them one by one like he usually did, Emery quickly came up with another strategy.

SpIIaattt!!!!

The forest soil was dyed red as Emery cut off the legs of the creature with his claws, and he then jumped to the next Marrow Gnawer... then to the next one and the one after. Without exception, they were all liberated from their legs.

In just five minutes, all high-level magic creatures either had their limbs cut off or their legs were broken. All of them had fallen to the ground, squirming while shrieking in pain. After confirming that every Marrow Gnawer had been taken down, Emery quickly made his next move.

He started a round back to them, stabbing their bodies and devouring their spirit with [Spirit Devour]. One by one, the creature's body lost its strength and turned into a decrepit mummified state.

Klea, who was still standing in the middle of the ice and plant field with Twik, only watched as Emery devoured the creatures with such ease.

When he finally finished, the girl narrowed her eyes and said, "You don't really need me, aren't you?"

In response, Emery chuckled. "No, of course, I do.. Aren't you my bodyguard? I will need you to protect me now." He said with a smile.

After saying such words, Emery sat on the ground and assumed the lotus position. He just devoured 18 high-level magical beasts in one go, and as a result, it created a massive mist around his spiritual core.

It took Emery roughly fifteen minutes to finish using [Spirit Absorption] to neutralize all of them. The moment the mist disappeared, a series of notifications bombarded his mind, telling him that his spirit force had increased. This of course made Emery happy.

When he was finally done, Emery didn't forget to collect the four yellow spirit stones dropped from the creatures before turning to Klea, smiling while saying, "Let's go find those plants."

## Chapter 1049 Deep Layer

Emery didn't expect that he would be spending hours in the inner part of the island.

Finding the Tier 4 [Borage Mushroom] was nearly an impossible task if it wasn't for his [Nature Sense] ability. In addition, in order to fully retain its properties, the mushroom needed to be harvested in a rather peculiar method that required the presence of a certain amount of heat during harvesting.

This left Emery helpless since he had no affinity in the fire element. Fortunately, the Egyptian girl who accompanied him was able to help. Despite not having an affinity for the fire element either, Klea was still able to make small sparks with her lightning element and somehow got things to work.

"Now I am not just your bodyguard! You need me more than you thought, Emery." The girl said with a cheeky smile on her face.

It was certainly much more exciting and comfortable to have someone accompanying him on his journey, especially if that someone was a person who was dear to him. Hence Emery responded to her words with an affectionate smile.

Still, Emery needed 200 of these mushrooms and that number was not really an easy task to accomplish with the rat-like beasts hot on their tail. They kept coming at Emery and Klea in groups, as if there were an infinite number of them.

When the two of them finally couldn't take it anymore, Klea ended up summoning her thunderbird for both of them to escape.

However, a different type of creature quickly swooped in to attack. It was as if they had been waiting for that exact moment.

[Ephruim]

[Magical Beast - level 85]

[Battle Power - 195]

These flying creatures who possessed bat-like bodies and snake-like heads had been hanging on the ceilings, and when they noticed something was flying into the air, they quickly descended and attacked that said object.

Facing the barrage of these bloodthirsty creatures, the thunderbird only managed to last 10 minutes before Klea was forced to descend and dispel it. The two of them ended up in the thick of the forest, taking a moment of respite from their incessant battle.

The numerous assaults by high-level creatures finally wore out the two and forced them into hiding. At this moment, seeing the grim situation, Emery decided to give his newly-concocted potion a try. He gave one to Klea before taking another and downing it till the last drop.

[Spirit Pool Potion]



After resting for 30 minutes to relieve their mental fatigue, the two rose from their hiding spot and once again went into hunt for more plants. At the same time, Emery also killed more beasts in order to be devoured.

Much to his delight, the potion was able to increase the regeneration rate of Klea's spirit pool greatly, about 20% faster in an hour. Meanwhile, Emery who possessed a much bigger spirit pool only received a 5% increase. Truly a stark difference.

Still, even though it was not a big increase, any amount of advantage was very much welcomed.

It took Emery roughly 48 hours before he could finally gather 250 of those troublesome Borage Mushrooms. And just like before, he separated and pocketed fifty of the best quality for himself.

As for the results of his devouring, he had managed to kill an equal number of creatures and as a result, managed to regain 6 points for his spirit power, leaving him with only half the endeavor remaining.

[Spirit force 1526 (1532)]

Now that they were done here, it was time for the two of them to go another level below and finish collecting the Tier 5 ingredients.

In order to be safe, Emery didn't forget to use the communication stone and message the female Dragon bloodline magus of his intention.

"I understand. Be careful," replied the female magus. She didn't say anything else, hence Emery went ahead and headed toward the next level.

Just like at the surface of the floating island, there was another spiraling path that went deeper into the ground. When Emery stepped inside and made his way through, what he found were caves filled with black moss that illuminated the dark.

"We need to be extra careful now. Any legendary creature is not to be underestimated." Emery said to Klea without turning his head around.

If devouring and getting more energy to fix his broken pillar was the main objective Emery was after, he would honestly rather grind on the second level, especially with Klea following him. After all, although the place was by no means safe, the danger level was still manageable.

The place they were about to enter, however, was something that made even Emery nervous.

Legendary-level beasts were no simple matter. The Beholder which he struggled to defeat in the past was only categorized as a middle-level one, hence they might find similar or even stronger creatures in this place.

As if that wasn't bad enough, as stated in the data they received, the third level would interfere with any kind of Spirit Reading, which meant that Emery wouldn't be able to use his [Nature Sense] to find what he was looking for as easily. He also couldn't use [Spatial Gate] to escape if he ran into danger, since the skill needed an anchor to be activated.

Again, Emery said to Klea. "Let's put safety first. Sneak in and sneak out as quietly and quickly as we can."

After saying those words, Emery cast his darkness spell [Dark Void] while Klea used her water spell [Reflection]. Two layers of different attributes swiftly enveloped their figures, as both cautiously made their way through the dark, dimly-lit place.

"We are looking for golden moss. The list says fifty portions of 10 grams, so a total of 500 grams."

Without the aid of his spirit sense, Emery had to rely on [Universal Flora Knowledge - Level 3] to understand the characteristics of the plant and calculate where it might grow. It was an arduous task, to say the least.

Before long, after scouring through the bleak place, Emery finally found the golden moss. However, there wasn't even enough for one portion. Disappointment was not enough to express what he was currently feeling.

"Damn, this is harder than I thought."

After a few miles of exploring through the palace, the two of them finally spotted the first habitat of this level. A terrifying mid-level legendary beast in the form of a 10-meter-tall tree golem.

[Treent]

[Legendary Beast - level 60]

[Battle Power - 300]

Seeing such stats, Emery turns a little anxious.

"Twik, protect her."

Immediately after, Emery used his trump card the [Twilight Form]. The idea was only to test the other party's power and leave immediately. However, it effectively and instantly changed when his eyes caught the peculiar sight of the creature.

Some part of the creature's body was covered with golden moss. The exact kind he was looking for.

With a wry smile, Emery readied his fighting stance as he muttered under his breath.

"I guess we have to defeat this giant after all."

Chapter 1050 Plant Giant

[Ice Shard]

Numerous ice shards swiftly flew through the air towards the 10 meter tall tree golem. Successive loud noises resounded through the air as the creature was fiercely bombarded and covered in icy mist.

The spell managed to freeze the creature's large trunk-like feet and slowed its speed to a crawl. Taking advantage of the opportunity, Emery bursted into the air and fired the [Dark Matter] spell he had prepared at it.

BAAAAMMMM!!!

With a powerful explosion that caused dust to rise everywhere, a large part of its head disappeared turning to ashes. As if it were a doll that had its strings cut off, its massive body collapsed to the ground with a thud.

"Good job, Klea!" Emery complimented her assistance with a smile.

The girl, however, looked a little annoyed as she flashed a sour smile at him.

Both Emery and Klea had been fighting this legendary beast for fifteen minutes now, and the source and reason for the Egyptian Queen's irritation was none other than her performance, or rather her offensive spells. Lightning, wind, ice, water; neither of them were able to damage the legendary creature.

Hence in this fight, she was forced to once again play the supporting role

"Watch out! It's not over yet!" Emery said as he watched the body of the fallen creature slowly get back up, its head gradually returning to its original shape. He was surprised by the fact that it could still use its powerful regeneration ability despite not having its head anymore.

This time, as soon as it stood up, the two large wooden golem's hands sank deep into the ground. The next instant, roots similar to Emery's [Primal Flora] spell came out from the ground. The difference was instead of Emery's measly dozen, the number the creature summoned was in the hundreds.

Hundreds of spear-like spiky roots shot out, attacking Emery and Klea from all sides. Seeing such a lethal attack, the two quickly used their respective defensive spells to block.

[Jade Wall]

[Ice Prison]

Walls of jade and ice rose from the ground, stopping the deadly roots from reaching them.

Even so, the situation still turned into a close-range fight as another wave of roots rushed over, forcing Klea to take out her sword which Emery quickly followed. Twik, who had stayed close to the girl, managed to stop half of the attacks that had slipped past the wall and aimed at her.

Seeing Klea and Twik able to protect themselves, Emery's figure shot forward at high speed as he forced his way and drew closer to the legendary creature. In response to his advance, hundreds of roots shot toward him like a dense swarm of bees.

Emery however has prepared one attack, His sword has channeled powerful dark energy that he swiftly unleashed.

[Shadow Edge]

The air seemed to ripple violently as that dark energy wave cruised forward through the air, destroying all the roots that stood in its path. With nothing threatening his life, Emery cast a [Blink] and appeared on the creature's wide shoulder.

Raising the sword in his hand high into the air, a layer of brilliant light enveloped the entire blade. As soon as his feet landed on the creature, Emery immediately swung the weapon downwards, unleashing his new sword skill [Omega Strike] at the creature.

BAAAAAMMMMM!!!

A massive sword strike descended upon the creature's shoulder, breaking the arm and instantly causing half of the hundreds of roots attacking them to come to a halt.

The creature screamed in anger as well as in pain, commanding all the other roots to attack. Unfortunately its roots didn't manage to touch Emery as he kept teleporting all over the place, while also carving many wounds on its body. He continued to strike until he suddenly found a glowing green light with a certain shape moving within it.

The data showed that the legendary creature has a clear weakness, namely a certain worm that lives in its body. In fact, the creature was basically done if the worm was taken care of. The problem was the fact that the worm merely 10 centimeter long and its place of hiding was different with each individual Treent,

"I found you!" Emery shouted excitedly, as a pair of three claws sprouted on his knuckle and pierced the glowing green light.

SPLAT!

[Spirit Devour]

Being a legendary-level creature, the Treent naturally possessed a tremendous amount of spirit energy. When he confirmed it to be a plant element spirit energy, Emery suddenly felt the urge within him scream aloud. It wanted to devour it all.

He didn't even care when the roots the creature summoned began to entangle and pierce his body.

Emery continued to stand still, his claws still deep within the creature's body, letting his [Jade Skin] and [Undecaying Body] do their jobs while continuing to devour the creature.

Seeing this, Klea quickly ran over and cut off any roots that were entangling her lover's body, before proceeding to protect Emery with her spells. A thick wall of ice was erected around the three of them while another wave of elemental rampage swept over, stopping the roots from helping its summoner.

Finally, about a minute later, the legendary creature stopped its struggle. The deadly spiky roots that were constantly hitting the wall Klea had erected limply fell to the ground.

Apparently, Emery's devouring skill was able to stop the creature's monstrous ability to regenerate itself. One minute later, he had finally completely devoured the creature's energy leaving its body into an empty husk.

Emery was gasping for air when he was done with his deed. Even so, he ignored his short breaths and quickly sat in the lotus position, using [Spirit Absorption] to digest the gains he had obtained.

It took him fifteen minutes to completely absorb all the spirit mist outside the core, and when finished he received two spirit power increases.

"Two points from just one creature!?! That's a lot of energy!" Shouts of joy echoed within his mind.

When Emery opened his eyes, a smile adorned his face, he was surprised to find Klea looking angry. Both her hands on her seductive waist, she glared at him saying, "You are too reckless Emery! We should have discussed a better strategy before dealing with it! "

Emery didn't dare to argue back since he knew the reason she was like this was because she was worried about him. Therefore he just nodded, agreeing as Klea reprimanded him. Only after Klea looked satisfied did Emery finally harvest the golden moss on the Treent's dead body.

He successfully obtained a total of 30 grams, an amount worth three portions of the golden moss from the legendary creature. Seeing such a bountiful harvest, Emery was pumped and went to find more of them.

The two of them fought a few more of the legendary creatures that day, this time with better coordination and easier time since their opponent's attack pattern was largely similar.

When Emery caught sight of the glowing light of the worm, both Klea and Twik would immediately take action, the former cast a protection spell while the latter transformed into a shield, to lower the risk of him being hurt.

The battles also allowed two of them to have the opportunity to practice swordsmanship together, improving the coordination between their [Hexagram Technique] which greatly increased their defensive capability.

At the end of the day, they managed to kill 8 more Treent, and Emery received a total of 10 spirit force from devouring them.

[Spirit force 1532 (1540)]

At this point, they had decided to take a break and return to the first level. Emery, however, felt that finally, his broken [undefined] pillar started to form. A certain glint flashed across his eyes.

"I just need a few more."