

Earths GMagus 1071

Chapter 1071 Formation

At the moment, formation in Emery's mind was simply about having to rotate the duty between defense and offense. Alternating between the two with the right timing – when to attack and when to defend.

Such a straightforward formation would work well when fighting against a similar number of opponents or even higher like his experience during the battle of Camelot and Andora.

However, when fighting a smaller number of opponents, ones that were stronger individually, such a formation would lose its effectiveness.

The 'gaps' that appeared during the transition between attacking and defending would be taken advantage of by the other side, which possessed more mobility thanks to their fewer numbers.

The battle against the lizard – 400 against 18, and Jai Strider's metallic humanoids – 300 against 15 – clearly showed the flaws of this crude formation. Both times, the other side forced Emery's summons to fight in turns, nullifying the number advantage and lowering their fighting power significantly.

Therefore, Emery needed a more advanced formation to make use of his army of summons against such battles.

Seeing the cheeky smile on Klea's face, Emery let the girl explain to him the ideas she had cooked.

"Emery, I can see that your jade soldiers are able to perform a sword skill similar to yours... the Dao sword. So I think you can also teach them the Hexagram technique and use its essence for the foundation for their formations. This is the best idea ever!"

Unbeknownst to her, the brilliant yet incredulous idea actually gave Emery a headache. Even now, he still found it difficult to comprehend the essence of the Hexagram technique with its 384 variations; what Klea told him to do was exactly to transcend what he was still trying to do – to control all his 100 summons to the same thing.

It was an inconceivable thought for him.

Emery heaved a sigh as a response and said, "No, Klea. I don't think I can do that.."

The girl stood point-blank to him, both her arms placed on her waist, saying, "No! Of course you can! You don't need to teach all the variations, silly!"

The Eastern Sage's Hexagram technique was created based on the path of 8 Elements.

It consisted of 6 stages, each with 64 unique variations, making a total of 384 variations in its entirety.

The one Emery and Klea currently trying to master was a slightly modified Hexagram technique, which divided the technique into two halves. That way, each of them only needed to comprehend half the complexity – each half of the 162 variations. It was a dual Hexagram formation.

Klea quickly explained her thoughts in detail, how he could possibly consolidate such a complex technique to the summons.

"If you have 64 people, you only need them to cover 6 variations each! Actually, even if they only do 3 variations, or even just one, you can already have an army that employs the variations of the Hexagram technique in your hand!"

As if a bolt of lightning had struck his body, the idea sent chills down Emery's spine. His mind couldn't help but immediately think of the endless possibility, the strength his army of summons would have if this idea came to fruition.

"Klea, you are a genius!" Emery kissed and hugged the girl tightly. After that, he immediately tried to carry out the idea, choosing 64 of the 100 Jade Warriors he summoned.

Under his command, the 64 Jade Warriors quickly separated themselves into three layers.

The first layer consisted of two major formations; the Sky Array and the Mountain Array respectively, each consisting of 32 Jade Warriors.

The second layer was the branches of the two formations of the first layer. The Sky Array was divided into four minor formations: Ice, Lightning, Wind, and Fire; while the Mountain Array was also the same way, separated into Metal, Earth, Water, and Plant.

The last and third layer encompassed the cardinal and ordinal directions, where each element would consist of eight Jade Warriors that would cover the eight principal winds: North, Northeast, East, Southeast, South, Southwest, West, and Northwest.

With this arrangement, each and every Jade Warriors had their own unique position within the formation, with their own function which ultimately formed the 64 variations of the Hexagram technique.

The way it worked was Emery just needed to send one command to the 64 summons, each to cover their respective positions and fight according to defensive or offensive tactics.

Just like that, Emery was motivated. He immediately gathered his focus and trained his summons in the Hexagram technique formation, which would elevate their strength to another level altogether.

Emery quickly tried to fight the first Lizard pack with this concept and the result was unsatisfactory.

The formation was far from being a functional one. Fortunately the genius Klea was with him and with enough practice, he would eventually be able to do it.

He decided that before he could 'teach' the Hexagram technique to his army of summons, he would only fight small packs of Lizard creatures and completely avoid the big groups and the Naga.

"6 lizards coming from the right! 4 from the left!"

"We will go on the offensive! Klea, you lead the Sky Array to the left while I lead the Mountain Array!"

After relaying his command to half of his summons to follow Klea, Emery was left with the remaining 32 Jade Warriors to deal with the six approaching Lizard creatures. Immediately after, he commanded the Mountain Formation to charge.

16 Jade Warriors, which were part of the Earth and Metal Formation, swiftly clashed with the six Lizards, working together to hold them in place. In the next second, the 8 Jade Warriors of the Water Formation who dashed past the two formations launched a pincer attack from behind, while the Plant Formation quickly covered the gaps that appeared.

The 6 lower-level legendary creatures were held down with just 32 Jade Warriors – something unthinkable for the Mineralized Warrior. This made Emery's life easier as he was able to casually finish off each Lizard creature one by one, eventually all being devoured under his claws.

Along with the summons' formation drill, both Emery and Klea also put themselves into the formation in order to further refine their Hexagram technique through live battles. Slowly but surely, their fighting power increased.

It took a whole week before Emery finally managed to finish collecting all 300 Tier 5 Crystal Flower and some for himself to keep. At the same time, he had also trained enough with his army of summons to have the confidence to give the Naga another shot.

"It's payback time!"

Chapter 1072 Payback

Accompanied by Klea, Emery had spent 10 days in total on this island and he had finally gathered all the ingredients he needed, meaning he was free to return to his spirit cave any time he wanted.

However, he wouldn't do that without doing one more thing, his one last goal on this island.

Only when he finally defeated the legendary creature would Emery finally leave.

He had been keeping track of the Naga to avoid it for a few days now, so he knew exactly where the creature was currently at. Now that he was ready to finally tackle this towering challenge, Emery made their way toward the legendary creature.

Before long, Emery together with Klea, Twik, and 64 Jade Warriors in the Hexagram technique formation stood tall in front of a certain cave entrance. The next second, Klea opened her mouth and shouted with all her might into the mouth of the cave.

"HEY! Ugly slimy creature! We are here!"

The group didn't have to wait for long, as an ear-piercing screeching sound came out from the cave sweeping over them.

Kreeeeekkkk!!

The first that rushed out of the cave were the 12 Lizard beasts, dashing toward Emery's group with bloodthirsty frenzy. Right behind them, from within the darkness of the cave, a towering silhouette could be seen.

The 5-meter giant Naga made its appearance from behind the pack of Lizard beasts, as if it was the king.

"There you are," said Emery calmly. "Sorry to keep you waiting. I am finally ready to take you down now."

Immediately after, the 64 Jade Warriors standing in front of Emery split into two groups and went in two different directions. Turned out that the Naga understood what the latter was trying to do as it commanded its 12 Lizards and sent them in two directions as well, while slowly slithering over to the center where Emery was, glaring at the puny human.

"Are you sure you don't need my help?" Klea asked with a concerned look, to which Emery nodded in response, before leaving and giving Emery and the Naga space for their upcoming fight.

Knowing very well that his Jade Warriors – which were vastly stronger than Mineralized Warrior – would be able to hold the 12 Lizards even without the help of Klea, Emery could be at ease and focus his entire mind on the Naga.

"Night Transformation!"

This time, roughly knowing what the other side was capable of, Emery came prepared for a brawl with the legendary creature. In a matter of seconds, dark fur appeared on various parts of his body, turning his appearance to that of a huge wolf. A pair of three razor-sharp blades shot out from his dark-furred arms, gleaming menacingly under the light.

Swissshhh

Two figures of different stature shot at each other with incredible speed, and the intense clash that ensued left neither of them unscathed.

Emery could actually do this the smart way, but there was a particular urge within wanting him to directly unleash hell on the legendary monster. Therefore, he threw all inhibitions and continued to throw attacks upon the Naga, which the latter retaliated with the same intensity.

Numerous holes appeared on the ground while dirt and dust flew about as the two of them continued hitting and smashing each other. Intense killing intent could be felt in their figures.

The wolf's crimson blood and the Naga's white blood contrasted each other greatly on the ground. However, despite the staggering amount of blood originating from the two, both looked as if nothing had happened because the wounds had been healed by their monstrous regeneration ability.

Even though [Spirit Devour] possessed lesser effect on the Naga, Emery still used it as each cut he managed to make would still devour the creature's energy bit by bit. That way, before long, it would be defeated.

Krieeekkkk!!

After 20 minutes of non-stop fighting, it seemed that the Naga had finally reached its limit as it gasped in pain.

The current situation completely tipped its favor against the legendary creature; this time, it was the Naga who realized its pack of Lizards were losing ground against the army of Jade Warriors, each dying within minutes.

Realizing that its defeat would be a matter of time if nothing was done, the Naga used a skill that came with an ear-piercing high-pitched screech that shook the trees in the surrounding area. In an instant, Emery knew what it was trying to do.

"You are calling for help, aren't you?!"

Emery immediately used his Spirit Reading, and with that, he could sense some disturbance in the distance. Several more Lizard beasts that were in the immediate vicinity of the Naga's cave had come out of their habitats and rushed towards their location.

There were ten... twenty Lizard beasts.

Although this approaching group of adversaries could be a good challenge to test and see the true abilities of his Jade Warriors, Emery also couldn't help but worry about Klea having to face them.

Fortunately, the girl seemed to understand as she decided to summon her Thunderbird and took to the air, providing support to the fight on the ground from the air.

Knowing that the number on his side would not add up with the enemies, Emery broke away from the Naga and put his hand on the ground, creating 20 green wolves – Type 2 Jade Warrior – from the ground.

The command he gave to them was to split the Lizard reinforcements in two, giving more space and time to his 64 Jade Warriors to defeat their opponents.

Afterward, once again Emery turned his attention to the Naga saying, "You just give me more reason to finish you faster. Be prepared!"

The battle unfolding within the Misty Mountains was a ferocious one. More and more Lizard beasts came out of the surrounding caves with each passing minute, attacking Emery's Jade Warriors upon the Naga's order.

He had been forced to pause his aggression on the legendary creature time and time again due to the need to replace the fallen Jade Warriors. Even so, throughout the entire two hours of the fight, Emery's side was always on the winning side, until the Naga finally decided to retreat into its cave.

Unfortunately, the legendary beast didn't have space magic like Emery.

Emery stopped him from going back to its cave, and in the end, fell under Emery's claws with its essence devoured completely, turning its huge body into an empty husk.

It took him an entire minute to completely devour the Naga, and by the time he was done, the fight between the Jade Warriors and the Lizard beasts was also over, with the former being the victor. He then proceeded to spend a few more minutes devouring all the Lizard beast corpses lying in the area.

With the corpse of the last Lizard beast turning decrepit, Emery finally won the battle.

A moment later, he sat down in the lotus position as he had accumulated too much spirit energy within a short period of time. Closing his eyes, he quickly absorbed the energy he devoured into his cores.

[Spirit force has increased]

[Spirit force has increased]

...

When he opened his eyes again, Emery discovered that he had obtained a total of 13 spirit force from ten days of harvesting.

[Spirit force: 1623]

"All done?" Klea asked, and Emery nodded. "Let go!"

Emery cast [Spatial Gate] for them to exit the mountains, and then used the orbiter to fly towards the tempering facility. Upon arriving, they immediately made their way to the dwarf master's workshop.

Even though surprised, Master Dulin was delighted to see that Emery was able to provide the materials he needed much faster than expected. Just like before, he was paid 100,000 spirit stones for gathering the herbs.

Keeping the ingredients safely, the dwarf master turned to Emery and said.

"Do you want to have your second body tempering today?"

Chapter 1073 Final Task

This time, the dwarf master offered Emery the tempering service before the latter even asked. Therefore, Emery couldn't help but be taken aback by the unexpected initiative.

"That's 70,000 spirit stones each, with a minus 40 percent discount of course.. So everything will be 100,000 spirit stones!"

Master Dulin was smiling as he spoke those words. It was apparent that he was hoping to get his money returned. Unfortunately, before Emery could hand the spirit stones, Klea stopped him. Turning to the dwarf master, she smiled and said.

"Master, but we actually wish to work on next month's task immediately. That way, you can get all the herbs you need as quickly as possible!"

Once again, Emery was confused by her words. However, before he could say or question anything, Klea went ahead and picked up the list of ingredients for the next month before thanking the dwarf master and dragging him out of the workshop.

"See you soon, master! We will make sure we gather them as soon as possible!" said Klea as she exited the workshop, waving the list on her hand in the air.

When the two arrived outside the facility, Emery finally inquired about the matter to Klea, to which her response dumbfounded him.

"No, we don't need to spend a single stone more on that dwarf... I will wait for your new creation.. Remember?"

Emery heaved a sigh and said, "Klea, I know that I said I will do it.. But even now I can't say for sure when, especially to make it comparable to Master Dulin's one!"

Hearing that, Klea just smiled and said, "Is it going to be as long as twenty years?"

Knowing that was the deadline for the duel that decided the fate of Earth, Emery quickly responded. "No! Of course not!"

In response, Klea then said, "5 years then. You have to succeed in making one as good as the dwarf within 5 years."

"Don't joke around," said Emery immediately. "Let's just return back, this is such a good opportunity for you Klea, Those tempering will keep you safe!"

However, the girl did not budge. "Good.. It means more motivation for you..." Noticing the look on Emery's face, Klea stared deeply into his eyes and said,

"So promise me that you will achieve it."

Once again, Emery found himself unable to resist the girl. He tried, but quickly found the efforts to be futile. In the end, he said, "I promise."

In an instant, Emery felt a weight crash against his body and a familiar fragrant smell wafted through his nose. Klea hugged him tightly and kissed him before swiftly making a new plan for him.

"We only have ten weeks left before graduation, so we can't waste any more time."

The first thing Klea told Emery to do was to send another challenge to Jai Strider.

"Arrange the duel to happen next week."

Moments after he sent the challenge, a notification appeared on his privileged class bracelet.

[Jai Strider - Rank 7 has accepted your challenge]

Meanwhile, the two of them didn't dally and made their way to the third restriction floating island to harvest more ingredients listed by Master Dulin. With the orbiter, they quickly arrived at their destination.

The third island was a landscape of barren desert, five times bigger than the previous island, and based on the data they had, harbored an intricate labyrinth-like corridor of caves beneath the ground. This place was also supposed to be the hardest one to harvest.

[Puffapod - Tier 4 x 1,000]

[Geranium - Tier 5 x 400]

Fortunately, with [Nature Sense] and the five Chizpur brothers he took along with him, Emery managed to harvest all the ingredients faster and far more than most harvesters were normally able to.

With the little creature's burrowing ability and his [One mind] Emery could spot the plants that were buried under the sands.

The first ingredients needed to be harvested by himself, hence Emery had to do the chores and pick all the cactus-like plants one by one. As the two of them traversed through the seemingly endless desert, they encountered the inhabitants of this place.

The desert sand was filled with worm-like magical beasts. They were varied in size, from a small one which was a meter long, medium size with its three meter long body, and the big one which was a staggering 10 meters long – the latter was a legendary beast.

Emery and Klea, both spent three days wandering through the desert while once again practicing their dual Hexagram formation against the worm-like beasts.

All these worms were earth element creatures, and during the past three days, Emery obtained an increase of 5 spirit forces from devouring them.

"Let's go downstairs now!"

On the fourth day, the two of them finally entered the underground cave network to search for the second ingredient. There, they met and fought hundreds of ant-like creatures measuring 2 meters in size.

[Obsidian Ants]

[Magical Beast - Level 90]

[Battle power: 155]

This creature's primitive method of overpowering with numbers gives a good chance for Emery to further polish his control over the Jade Warriors. The two similarities in strength help him understand the limit of his jade warriors.

There was of course a legendary beast behind these ant creatures – a high-tier one at that. It was the ant queen that they had to face eventually.

[Beddle Ants]

[Legendary Beast - Level 85]

[Battle power: 380]

The creature had a carapace so hard that even his Tier 5 sword could only make a scratch. However, nothing could stop Emery at his current level.

When he saw that several of his offensive spells were unsuccessful in inflicting harm to the creature, he decided to use his strongest spell. The air within the underground cave rumbled as the spell gradually took form.

[Dao Matter]

Dark energy in the left hand while Nature in the other, Emery combined both to bring about a swirling sphere of two colors. It flew towards the ant queen at breakneck speed, and a deafening screech resounded within the cave as the creature's carapace was destroyed into nothing.

Immediately after, Emery's figure shot forward and drove its claws into the exposed part of the ant queen, using [Spirit Devour] to finish off the creature and send it on its way. It didn't take long for its body's essence to be devoured, and as always, he quickly sat in the lotus position to absorb the gain.

[Spirit force has increased]

After he was done absorbing, the queen's ant and the ants he devoured the last 3 days gave Emery an increase of five spirit forces. He went ahead and accessed the symbol in his hand, checking his current amount of spirit force.

[Spirit force: 1634]

By now, seven days had passed since their arrival on this island, and both Emery and Klea had the harvest and training they planned to do. Therefore, they quickly turned their heels and returned to the surface.

Sensing that they came out of the underground cavern, Magus Shena flew down from the sky and approached the two. "Everything done?" she asked, and Emery just nodded in response.

Emery glance at the girl next to him, grateful for her companionship through those three islands. It's all finally over.

"Thank you, Klea"

They then went to the tempering facility and handed over all the ingredients he had collected. He received 80,000 spirit stones for his efforts this time.

"I've finally found an official harvester from the Apothecary Institute, but I hope I can ask for your help again sometime in the future," said Master Dulin earnestly.

Emery naturally accepted the request, since such jobs did give him a lot of benefits.

Now that the debt was paid off, it was now the time for him to prepare for the rematch against Jai Strider, the Metal Puppeteers.

Chapter 1074 Rematch

Emery found himself standing on a yellow plain, ready with his 64 Jade Warriors behind him in an orderly formation. In front of him, separated by meters of distance, stood the man he lost against, Jai Strider with his 15 metallic humanoids.

The battle that was about to ensue between the two was not a monthly arena schedule. Instead, it was an individual challenge. Yet, the number of spectators present in the area was unexpectedly not inferior to those present at the former.

It turned out that the period of 7 days before the duel took place was enough for the news to circulate around and through various circles of people. As a result, there were around a few hundred spectators anticipating the result of this match.

Despite the number of people present, Jai seemed unfazed as he stood in a confident manner. Glancing at the army of Jade Warriors, a faint smile crept onto his face as he said, "I can see you've made some improvements with your summons. I'd really like to see how much you've improved in the three weeks"

Before Emery could say anything, from the side Klea shouted with all her might.

"Emery!! Go kick his ass!"

Her words apparently managed to make the Metal Puppeteer chuckle.

"Alright, if that's the case, I will make my first move then. Let me see how you will handle this!" Turning towards his own summons, he looked at the most eye-catching metallic humanoids and ordered, "Defenders, advance!"

Jai sent his two massive metallic humanoid – the Defenders – as the opening play. The ground trembled as the towering figures charged towards Emery, underlining their presence in the area. Seeing that, Emery quickly replied in kind.

"Mountain Array! Defensive formation!"

Upon receiving the order, the Jade Warriors immediately took action and adopted the formation. Emery decided to play it safe, and his decision was proven to be true when his 32 Jade Warriors managed to hold down the two huge metallic humanoids.

Four groups, each with eight Jade Warriors that attacked in turns yet also maintained tight defense. They weaved around each other flawlessly, moving back and forth to fully employ their advantage, and managed to completely impede their two opponents perfectly.

Crack!

Faced with multiple sword strikes from the Jade Warriors that came like a tidal wave, the previously invincible duo was no longer infallible as cracks began to appear where they were being relentlessly attacked.

This sight naturally whipped up a reaction from the Metal Puppeteer.

"Huh! Looks like you didn't just dye them green." Turning towards the other metallic humanoids that stay put behind him, Jai swiftly ordered, "Boys, attack them!"

Eight metallic figures – the Fighters – entered the fray, to which Emery responded by sending his Sky Array group of Jade Warriors. Various sounds rang out in the area as the two forces made their move.

Contrary to expectations, the 32 Jade Warriors didn't charge at the approaching metallic figures. Instead, they joined their other kins that were part of the Mountain Array, whereupon they divided themselves and set forth towards eight positions.

They were still fighting in defense formation, but instead of rotating their attacks, they adopted another approach. Making use of their positions, the Jade Warriors employed zone defense with 8 focal points, from north to south, surrounding the 10 metallic figures.

In their previous fight, Jai's formation that consisted of the two Defenders and eight Fighters were able to stand firm against Emery's 300 Mineralized Warriors. But now, in just a few minutes, it was already starting to crumble and Jai was forced to send his two healers to reinforce it.

"You can do it, Emery!" shouted Klea, who was overjoyed to see that the last few weeks of their training had not been fruitless. The spectators on the plains, especially those who were present in the previous match, were excited by how the fight progressed.

"I thought the savage acolyte could only fight like an animal, but it seems I was wrong! Look at this fight!"

"You're right. He really deserves to be in the top 5!"

While the crowd of onlookers were discussing amongst themselves, Jai on the other hand was in quite the situation. The smile on his face had disappeared as he realized that he now had to give his entire focus controlling his summons to fight against Emery's.

His summons were still stronger individually, but thanks to the formation they used, the Jade Warriors the latter summoned managed to take the upper hand and put some pressure on them. In fact, if he wasn't careful, he might be able to lose.

"You taught them formation in three weeks! Amazing!"

Understanding that his formation was inferior to his opponent's, Jai decided to take out another metal ball. As it hovered in the air it began to transform like the others, and this time it latched onto Jai's body and transformed into a huge metal suit with four gigantic limbs.

"Looks like the King must join the fight!"

Jai, along with his most powerful summon – the Guardian Queen, shot forth heading straight into the center of the battle. Meanwhile, his two Knights sped through a long path towards the sides. It seemed like he intended to destroy the Jade Warriors formation with a three-pronged attack.

Even though he didn't know exactly his opponent's objectives, Emery naturally would not underestimate such moves. He decided to enter the fray himself, using his [Twilight Transformation] and drawing his Savage Sword.

Since he only needed to maintain 64 Jade Warriors, Emery still had a little more than half the Spirit Pool, which he could freely use.

Therefore he went into the battlefield hot!

After casting [Slipstream] onto himself, Emery streaked towards the center of chaos and cast [Void Mist]. Four exact copies of himself appeared and stopped both Jai and his winged humanoid in their tracks.

At the same time, the real Emery had slipped into the main battlefield. Sneaking his way through the chaos, he headed towards a certain target while channeling dark energy into his sword. The instant he arrived, he attacked without mercy.

[Shadow Edge]

A jet-black crescent-shaped slash appeared and blasted one of the metallic healers apart. Taking advantage of his element of surprise, Emery cast [Blink] to appear right before the other healer and used [Omega Strike] to take it down.

CRAAKKKK!!

It was a swift yet decisive move that struck right into the heart of Jai's formation. By eliminating the two metallic healers from the table, Emery effectively removed one of Jai's metallic humanoid strengths.

However, before he could celebrate his success, the broken figure of the metallic healer suddenly turned into liquid metal. Not only that, it quickly submerged both of his feet like quicksand, rendering him unable to move.

"What the?!" Emery was surprised that Jai had such a move prepared.

With that one move, Emery's [Void Mist] was canceled, leaving Jai and his winged humanoid free. They immediately shot towards the immobile Emery, wanting to deal the decisive blow.

"Hahaha! Everyone always goes after the healer first, so I've prepared a gift!" A massive smile on his face, Jai said, "Now you have lost!"

It was like a huge trap that seemed inevitable. With Emery attacking the healers who were in the middle of the formation, he was now surrounded by all the other metallic humanoids. And under Jai's orders, all the metallic humanoids proceeded to ignore the Jade Warriors they were facing and turned to attack Emery who was in the middle.

Seeing the approaching metallic humanoids, Emery quickly cast a [Jade Wall] and erected a protective dome around him, while also trying to free himself from the shackles of the metallic liquid.

However, to his dismay, it wouldn't budge no matter what he tried to do. It was clear that this metallic liquid was Jai's strongest binding spell.

Craccck!! Craacck!!

The dome was smashed open by the relentless attacks of the metallic humanoids. However, Emery realized that Jai was actually still high in the sky. He and the winged humanoid didn't charge in.

To his surprised, all the metallic fighters jumped in one by one and grabbed onto Emery.

"What the heck!!!" Emery was confused as to why Jai didn't finish him and send all of the fighters instead. He turned to the latter, only to see him smiling and saying some incomprehensible words.

"All are pawns to the king."

Before Emery could understand what those words meant, he suddenly felt a drastic increase in spirit power of all the metal warriors holding him down. He couldn't move or blink, and in the next second, all eight metallic fighters shone brightly.

KAABBOOMMMM!!!!

Jai's eight metal fighters exploded simultaneously, creating a huge explosion that shook the entire plain. Strong gusts of wind swept through the area, forcing the onlookers to be pushed back several feet.

Klea and everyone watching could see that it wasn't a simple explosion as even Jai's two towering defenders and all of Emery's 64 Jade Warriors were destroyed into pieces.

"EMERY!!!"

Chapter 1075 Gone

The huge explosions on the plain threw the crowd into disarray. They wanted to see the acolyte's condition, but thick smoke filled the area.

"Did Jai kill him!?"

"The Metal Puppeteer just killed the Savage Acolyte!"

Jai Strider slowly hovered down to the ground. As if to extinguish the crowd's hope of Emery coming out unscathed or at least alive, he said in a voice loud enough for them to hear,

"None of my pawns are made ordinary. Each of these pawns are equipped with powerful charge bombs that if used together can even kill a mythical beast."

With the mechanical glasses he had on, Jai then checked the situation under the smoke. "No trace of energy left... that's unfortunate."

The spectators began to whisper among themselves.

This was a formal duel, so even if death occurred, the academy would simply consider it an accident. Not to mention, with the savage acolyte being from the lower world, such an accident would most be soon forgotten.

At least, that was what was in their minds.

Jai silently observed the situation in front of him. He initially expected the Savage Acolyte to be better than this, but it seemed that he had overestimated his opponent a little.

"Too bad," Jai muttered to himself in a low voice as he walked toward the gradually dissipating smoke.

However...

As he continued to walk closer, the ground under him suddenly rumbled. The ground heavily trembled, and soon after, dozens of green earth figures were formed.

Startled, Jai warily leaped backward out of reflex. As the smoke continued to dissipate, a ball of dark light could be seen phasing in and out of space at the center of the blast. The orb then opened up, revealing the half-man half-wolf figure everyone had been searching for.

With their breaths taken away, the crowd fell completely silent. It was only after a few moments that one person finally shouted.

"He's still alive!"

The crowd immediately became clamorous once again. Jai's eyes also widened from surprise, but his lips formed a smile.

"What a powerful barrier!" he couldn't help but exclaim in awe.

Knowing that he wouldn't be able to escape, Emery immediately cast [Aegis of the Void], a powerful protection divine spell that utilized the void space as a barrier.

Fortunately, the barrier was successfully formed just a split second before the explosions hit him.

Soon enough, Emery's 64 newly-formed Jade Warriors surrounded Jai, the winged guardian, and his two knights. Yet despite how the tide seemed to have turned, the Metal Puppeteer loudly laughed.

"Hahahahaha! Amazing! Powerful defense, offense, and summons... Savage Acolyte, let's see this till the end!"

The battle quickly restarted.

However, the situation was no longer the same. Jai needed his guardian in order to keep up with Emery in a personal fight leaving his two knights unable to escape the hexagram formation.

The two metallic knights fell within minutes.

Now that the Metal Puppeteer no longer had any metal warriors left, the fight didn't last long. The moment Emery broke the guardian's wings apart, Jai was much more vulnerable and immediately declared defeat.

There was no need to continue a fight he couldn't win.

"You win, Savage Acolyte! Great fight!"

[Emery Ambrose - Rank 7]

When those words were uttered, frenzied cheers immediately filled the area. The spectators who had fallen silent once the fight continued didn't hesitate to cheer for the amazing show.

One person ran and jumped toward him.

"Congrats, Emery!"

The sight of the couple attracted some strange looks. In particular, two young men standing a little further with a grand magus behind them were staring at the two.

The young man with fancy silver hair was annoyed as he pointed at the scene.

"You see that!? He improved so fast!"

The old grand magus at the back appeared respectful toward the young man as he spoke.

"Young master, don't worry... you are stronger than him."

"Really?" The silver-haired young man looked toward the person in a mask and black cape next to him and continued, "Don't you dare let him surpass you, Anzi!"

The young man in a black cape didn't respond, only silently looking at the cheering couple with certain thoughts.

Meanwhile, Klea pulled Emery's arm, taking him away from the remaining spectators' gazes.

"Emery, I'm so tired of training these past few weeks..." She halted her steps for a moment to look at Emery. "Let's take a break and have some fun!"

"Sure... what do you want to do?" Emery asked with an indulgent smile. He knew just how hard she had to train, and it would be good to take a break every once in a while.

Besides, he was also rather tired from the battle just a minute ago. Both of them needed a break.

Following the Egyptian Queen's suggestion, the two, still followed by Magus Shena, left Planet Hyperion and headed toward Golden City, the largest city just a portal away from the academy.

Under the faintly-gleaming moon and stars, the couple walked the main street hand-in-hand. Despite the dark sky above Golden City, the market district was full of life.

Klea decide to approach the magus and said "Senior, you don't mind giving us some space aren't you?"

Magus Shena smiled before she leaves the couple to continue their leisure time.

Now left alone, the two of them went to check on the food vendors and tried unique delicacies left and right.

The relaxing atmosphere of just walking together and trying all sorts of new things brought them a different feeling of warmth.

It gave them a sense of comfort as if they had no worry in the world.

The two finally stopped and sat in front of a water fountain near the market district. It was adorned with a pale bluish light, contrasting with the warm lights around them.

As the soft light touched them, a sense of serenity filled the air.

"We only have nine weeks left... time feels so short," Klea whispered, a little melancholic.

Emery casually answered, "In this academy, yes, but we have a hundred years in front of us."

The girl smiled. "You're right... silly me."

Klea looked down for a moment.

"We'll become magus and have thousands of years in front of us, yet... why do I sometimes feel that the time between us is ticking fast?"

Emery fell into thought for a few seconds before saying "It could be because of the duel, waiting for us in 20 years."

The girl glanced at him before looking back down. "Yes... yes... maybe you're right."

Klea laid her head on Emery's shoulder, and Emery hugged her waist. For a while, there was only silence between them. Even though the street was filled with people, it felt as if only the two were in this world.

They had never felt so close.

Soon after, Klea thought of something.

"Emery, you promised me a gift!" She abruptly looked up. "We're in the market, so..."

Emery gently smiled and responded, "Of course! What do you want?"

To his surprise, Klea stood up, staring at him with a frown.

"That's not how it works... It has to be a surprise!" She put her finger on her chin to think and said "I'll give you three hours! Find me something nice, okay?"

This time, it was Emery who frowned. Finding gifts wasn't his specialty, and it never was.

"Remember, something nice, okay? I'll also find something for you as your congratulatory gift, so don't disappoint me!"

The Egyptian Queen then left with a bright expression, while Emery looked at her leaving figure with a heavy sigh. There was a certain thought hoping for her not to leave, but it was probably just the problematic task at hand. If only she could just choose what she want, Emery willing to spend all his spirit stones on her.

Either way, he only had three hours...

"Should I buy her some nice food? No, that's something Morgana would like..."

"Maybe I should buy her something useful..."

"A sword? No, that's something Silva would like."

"What would Klea like...?.. Ahh, I am really bad at this!!"

Emery thought hard about it. He walked around the large market district to see what he could buy for her, but none of them struck him as something Klea would love.

Time ticked fast and emery felt the pressure was much harder than the apothecary exam.

It took him almost all the three hours he was given to find a proper gift. Thinking that she might like something beautiful, he finally decide to stop at a jewelry store and bought a bracelet adorned with rainbow-colored gems.

"I hope she likes it..." Emery muttered a little nervously as he walked back to the water fountain. At the same time, he couldn't help but think about what Klea was getting him.

"Hm?"

Emery looked at the place where they previously sat but Klea wasn't there.

"She's late..."

Emery patiently waited.

5 minutes, 15 minutes...

When half an hour finally passed, Emery quickly became anxious. If Klea knew that she would be this late, she would have sent him a message.

His heart suddenly raced fast and started to look around for an answer.

At that moment, Emery noticed a figure in a black cape staring at him from the distance.

Chapter 1076 What do you want?!

Emery immediately focused his entire attention on the suspicious figure and noticed that the other party was wearing the Magus Academy's privileged class uniform under their black cape. Coupled with the mask that entirely covered their facial features, the figure instantly became his number one suspect.

The next second, he appeared right in front of the figure using [Blink]. Eyes glaring straight at the unknown individual, wanting to see through the facade that concealed the identity beneath, Emery spoke with palpable anger.

"You... did you take her!?"

A man's deep calm voice rang out as the figure spoke.

"Don't make a scene. Follow me." Without waiting for Emery's response, the figure turned and started walking away. Through all of this, the other party's attitude was calm, almost indifference.

Unfortunately for the unknown figure, with Klea's safety at stake, Emery was unable to keep his cool. Casting [Blink], he once again appeared right in front of the figure, stopping him in his tracks.

"Tell me what happened to her!"

The unknown figure, who Emery assumed to be a young man, was silent for a while before finally speaking, "She's fine.. Come with me if you want to see her."

Emery was annoyed by the calm demeanor the other party had, and he clearly showed it on his face. However, he didn't do anything else. He understood that the most important thing he needed to do now was to stay calm, lest anything happen to Klea, and see what the man was planning.

But of course, Emery quietly grabbed the communication stone that Magus Shena had given him. At the same time, he spoke to the unknown man.

"Where are we going?I'm telling you don't you dare hurt her, otherwise..."

The youth whose face was covered by a mask continued to maintain his composed demeanor as he continued walking, but Emery didn't mind it too much anymore. The two sentences he sent should be enough to inform the Dragon magus of the situation.

The two of them made their way through the bustling streets, heading towards the other end of the city. To be precise, the young man brought Emery to the city's industrial area filled with factories and warehouses.

It could be said to be the unpleasant side of the acclaimed city, with its surroundings filled with thick black smoke and ear-splitting noise. Nonetheless, such a place was indeed the perfect location if they were planning to harm Klea without anyone knowing.

"In here," the man said as he walked to one of the large warehouses in the area.

Quickly following the unknown man inside, Emery was greeted by an empty space. There was nothing inside, apart from the dozens of boxes lying in the corner of the warehouse. Not a hint of Klea's figure could be seen.

Seeing that Klea wasn't here, Emery turned to the figure and shouted, "Where is she? Why did you bring me here? What do you want?!"

Ignoring the questioning shouts, the man calmly walked to the center of the warehouse. He then turned around and touched the bracelet in his hand. The next second, Emery received a notification on his own bracelet.

[You have been challenged by: Anzi Tamasi - rank 6]

[Will you accept?]

Emery's eyes widened when he saw the notification. He immediately turned his gaze to the man again, shock evident on his face. He did not expect that this masked unknown man would turn out to be the next privileged acolyte he would challenge.

Countless thoughts flashed through his mind as Emery began to think about the possible reasons why he did this. But in the end, he had no idea. He could swear that he had not had any interactions or problems with the other party prior to this.

Therefore, he said, "I will not accept your challenge, unless you tell me why you are doing this."

Anzi slowly opened his mouth, his voice calm and deep as he said, "I don't like crowds..."

Emery was annoyed, extremely so. That was not what he wanted to hear. Out of impatience, he shouted angrily.

"Are you playing with me!? If you want to fight me, why do you have to involve her, dammit! WHERE IS SHE?!"

Again, Anzi was silent for a while then said, "The Cross family has her in their custody. She's... a leverage, so you will never threaten Master Shatter's position."

Master? Shatter?

Emery's mind began to quickly go to work, hypothesizing possible scenarios of what was happening right now. In the end, he arrived at one name and the memory of what Roran had told him resurfaced. Ranked 5th on the privileged class leaderboard – Shatter Cross.

Moreover, the person who was ranked 6th in the leaderboard turned out to be a subordinate of the rank 5th?

In that instant, anger welled up inside Emery. Still, he repressed it for now because he still didn't know Klea's situation.

Responding to Anzi's words, Emery scoffed. "Huh! Your master has to kidnap a helpless girl to keep his position? How funny!"

However, to his surprise, the answer Anzi gave was unexpected.

"The girl is not helpless... It's not funny at all."

Emery inwardly heaved a sigh hearing that. Klea must have given one hell of a fight to whoever kept her now. Calming down his raging emotions, he looked at Anzi and spoke again, trying to gather more information.

"Shatter doesn't want me to take his position, does he? Then how about you?! Why did you send me a challenge?!"

Opening his mouth, Anzi spoke in a calm tone again.

"I want you to know that you can't beat me..."

Emery snorted when he heard those words. "Huh! If I really can't win against you, then your rank 5 master shouldn't have to worry about me and carry out kidnappings!"

"No.. He does worry... because you could forcefully challenge him without defeating me."

Emery was amused by the man's words which clearly implied something. "So... you're saying you're stronger than your master?"

"Yes.. I am.."

Hearing the calm voice saying those words, Emery inwardly heaved a deep sigh of helplessness. All of these privileged acolytes had the same irritating sense of self-confidence as one another, and it was really starting to tire him out.

Either way, unlike what his master feared, he actually had no intention of skipping the man. So this fight was actually bound to happen, only now it was happening earlier than planned.

Emery might as well defeat the man first, and deal with that bastard named Shatter later.

[Accept challenge?]

"Yes."

As soon as Emery accepted the challenge, Anzi took off his black cape. As the cape fell to the warehouse floor, Emery's attention was immediately drawn to his shoulders which were exposed by his clothes. They looked deformed, like the wrinkled skin of an old man.

When Anzi reached for his mask and removed it as well, it revealed half the face of a handsome young man with dark hair while the other half looked as deformed as his shoulders. It was eerie, to say the least.

Emery naturally would not judge his opponents by their outward appearance. In fact, Anzi's unexpected appearance only made him worried. It was because either the man was born deformed or his defects were a side effect of experiments performed on him, and with the huge faction behind him, Emery chose to believe the reason was the latter.

Seeing Emery's facial expression, Anzi turned to smile wickedly as he said, "You don't seem disgusted? ...you should..."

As soon as Anzi finished saying those words, Emery could clearly feel the overwhelming power emanating from his opponent. In the next second, Anzi's body suddenly darkened, his deformed skin turned hardened like a tree and his body grew rapidly until it reached twice its original size, a 2,5 meters giant.

What surprised Emery the most was that, through his Spirit Reading, he was able to learn that the other party actually possessed more power than any acolytes he had ever seen, including Zach in his Dragon form.

The young giant calmly said

"You will see that I am the strongest acolyte in the academy!"

Chapter 1077 Inhuman

Emery was slack jawed hearing the other party's words. The man dared to claim himself as the strongest acolyte.

To be honest, Emery found the man's words a little amusing knowing well that there were five other acolytes standing above him. However, seeing how serious the man was with his words, he decided to give the latter benefit of doubt and looked at the data that appeared on his bracelet.

[Anzi Tamasi]

[Mental score 10350 - rank18]

[Physical score undefined - rank 1]

A gasp escaped Emery's mouth as he saw what was written, before he abruptly turned his head towards the man.

"Rank 1 in physical score!?"

Currently, Emery took the fifth rank in the physical department. He knew that the Titan's bloodline Zetto held the third rank, while Zach Talon occupied the second rank. Therefore he didn't expect the silent man in front of him to be ranked first.

He once heard Klea mention that the person occupying the sixth rank was known as the Inhumane. Now seeing that said person exactly, Emery couldn't help but wonder if it talked about his strength or the severe deformation of his body.

The undefined score, however, only meant that the man managed to pass through the limit set in the physical test first than everybody else. It didn't actually mean that he was definitely stronger than his predecessors, but also vice versa.

This fact, plus seeing firsthand the strength the man was capable of, once again Emery's primal urge for battle emerged like crazy, tempting him to let go of all inhibitions and brawl against the person standing in front of him.

However, with Klea's safety still at stake, Emery decided to fight with all his strength from the start, so he could end the duel as quickly as possible.

[Twilight Transformation]

With his strongest transformation active, Emery's myriad of spells were further enhanced and hopefully would be an added factor for him to win the duel.

"I'm ready!" said Emery, staring at Anzi with a serious gaze.

The latter, however, didn't do anything. He stood still where he was, confidence radiating from his body with his arms folded across his chest. Seeing that his opponent didn't seem intent on making the first move, Emery didn't hesitate.

"Alright. If you don't want to, I'll go first then."

At this point, Emery had already enough experience with privileged acolytes to know that they were all uniquely strong in their own rights. Hence the key to fighting and winning against them is to know what exactly is their uniqueness.

For that reason, he took out the Savage Sword from his Spatial Space and swiftly channelled his spirit energy into the weapon. His figure then streaked down a curved path before swinging his sword, sending a powerful slash of dark energy towards Anzi.

[Shadow Edge]

His attack flew swiftly through the air, taking only seconds to reach its target. In response, Anzi's body turned slightly and swung his arms, using the back of his enlarged hand to receive the attack.

BAAAMMMM!!

A deafening sound occurred as the two clashed with each other. However, that slash of energy couldn't push Anzi back a step. Emery saw his attack only made a small scratch on his opponent's hand.

Nonetheless, he did not stop and ran to the other side, throwing [Shadow Edge] one after another at the inhuman.

BAMMMM!! BAMMMM!!

Emery was surprised to see the three Shadow Edges he threw were stopped empty-handed. If what he had previously thought was just an assumption, this scene clearly proved that Anzi's tree-like bark was extremely durable, reminding him of Twik's body if not better.

The three strikes that Emery sent were a test of Anzi's strength, and from what he saw, it seemed that the sword he always wielded might not be as effective against this one particular opponent.

"You can throw those energy blades as much as you want.." sneered Anzi with a thin smirk. "They won't have any effect on me."

But then, as soon as he had said such words, a drop of black liquid fell onto the warehouse floor. As his blood dripped from the wound on his hand, a look of surprise could be seen on Anzi's face.

It seemed that Emery's attacks were stronger than Anzi expected. Nevertheless, it only slightly surprised him.

"What kind of fighter this man really is?"

Meanwhile, Emery was brainstorming how to deal with this opponent. At first he assumed that the man had low agility like his huge build suggested, but seeing the way the latter quickly moved his hand to receive attacks, that didn't seem the case. Probably, it was the lack of mobility, seeing that from after he finished transforming, Anzi still had not taken a single step.

Not wanting to rush things, Emery decided to further test the man's abilities in one other way.

[Jade Warriors]

After creating 64 of them, the summons quickly surrounded Anzi in all directions, locking the man in their formation.

"Attack!!"

Without further ado, the formation formed by 8 groups consisting of eight Jade Warriors began to act. They took turns fighting, attacking from various sides simultaneously, and managed to deal dozens of hits to Anzi's body. But the man seemed unfazed by the onslaught, as he calmly grabbed the Jade Warriors one by one, crushing them with his bare hands.

Right now, Anzi was like a fortress on a hill. He didn't move an inch from where he was standing, but there was no way to confront the man either.

From the looks of it, the Jade Warriors was a wasted effort, as they were simply not comparable to the man. Hence there was no reason for Emery to summon them back after they were all destroyed by Anzi's slow yet steady retaliation.

While observing and waiting for Anzi to finish off his summons, Emery steered his spirit pool, replenishing the spirit energy he had depleted for the next round.

Finally, a few minutes later, all of Emery's Jade Warriors fell under Anzi's hands.

Throwing the last Jade Warrior aside like trash, the latter looked towards the former and said, "Like I said before, I am the strongest acolyte; even your rival Zach is no match for me. The only reason he can have his current rank is because he didn't fight me."

Emery actually found his opponent's words hard to believe, but what he had seen so far did give some credibility to it. The man had agility worthy of being on par with other top acolytes, formidable strength and extraordinary endurance. As for magic, he most likely didn't have one except for some regeneration-type which made fighting him even more annoying.

Normally it might be easier to keep distance against Anzi in battle, but in duel, to win against the man was to break his defence. Therefore Emery thought of his two strongest offensive and chose one.

Channelling spirit energy through his two cores, Emery cast [Void Mist]. His figure disappeared for a moment before reappearing with four copies of himself that could be phased in and out space like a spectre.

The four Emerys shot forward, attacking their opponents in four different directions. This time, Anzi seemed to have finally gotten serious as he used a battle art that allowed his two large arms to move swiftly like shadows and hit all four figures at the same time.

Swishh— BAM! BAM! BAM! BAM!

Four consecutive dull sounds rang out in the air as the four Emerys were hit and flung in various directions. However, Anzi soon discovered that none of them were the real figure of his opponent.

It was at this moment that the real Emery suddenly burst out of the mist that enveloped the warehouse, two energy spheres could be seen spinning above his hands. Emery brought the two together and released a powerful [Dao Matter] directly at his opponent chest.

KABBOOOMMM!!

A huge explosion occurred inside the warehouse, shaking the entire building down to its foundations. Smoke was everywhere, so visibility was obstructed. Nevertheless, considering how Anzi had received the attack, Emery expected the spell was enough to destroy half of his body.

However, just a second after the explosion, Emery saw his opponent coming out of the smoke. Caught off guard, the latter managed to grab one of his arms. He immediately tried to break free, but it was too late.

CRAAAKKKK!!

"ARGGGGHHHHHH!!!"

Chapter 1078 Cannot Die

ARRGGHHHH!!!

Emery's Twilight Wolf form boosted him with nearly 400 battle power. However, Anzi the Inhuman was able to rip apart one of his arms with just his bare hands..

It was clear that the man's strength was as inhumane as his endurance.

Enduring the pain that engulfed his body like a forest fire, Emery quickly cast [Blink] and teleported away to the distance. As he gripped his arm to stop the bleeding, for some reason, his opponent didn't chase after him.

When he saw that there were no follow-up attacks, Emery turned to his opponent and finally found the reason.

He could clearly see how the Inhuman's chest was charred and torn with dark liquid dripping from his blackened skin. However, seeing how he was still standing calmly with a similarly composed expression, Emery couldn't help but think that Anzi didn't feel much pain from his attack.

As the inhumane was regenerating from his wound, Emery also quickly cast [Regrow Limb] spell to restore his arm. However, while his spell was doing its job, his mind still couldn't believe that Anzi could still stand after receiving his spell.

[Dao Matter] was his strongest offensive spell that could send a high-level legendary beast to its death. Therefore, he found it really hard to believe that an acolyte would be strong enough to take its full brunt and remain on its feet.

"Is that your best offensive spell?" said Anzi, snapping Emery out of his thoughts.

The words were spoken in such a plain tone that they sounded like a mock to Emery's ears.

"Yes. it is," replied Emery after calming his emotions.

Still wearing a calm expression on his face, Anzi spoke in a serious tone, "With so many spells, You are versatile indeed... but it seems you don't mastered any of them"

Emery nodded at his opponent's remarks, as he agreed that this was the path for someone who had multiple element affinities like he. If for example, Emery only focused on one of his many elemental affinities, by now he should be able to cast more powerful spells.

The Inhuman who had always been quiet since their initial encounter suddenly seemed more chatty about this matter, as he continued to speak, "Your path goes against everything that the Cross family teaches me."

As his ripped arm was still not yet a hundred percent restored, Emery decided that he might as well fill some of his and his opponent's curiosity to buy him some time.

"What do you mean by that?"

Anzi was silent for a moment before opening his mouth again. "I was born and raised to be the strongest defender, a protector to the faction and master; that is my path"

Once again, his opponent's words made Emery remember how the other party's master was the one who kidnapped Klea. The anxiety of not knowing how she was currently starting to overtake Emery once again, and he decided to end this battle quickly so he could find her.

Strengthening his resolve, Emery revealed his second greatest offensive skill.

Based on what Emery had seen so far, the Inhuman must definitely be a dual element acolyte of darkness and plant, hence he should be able to devour the other party without side effects. The reason he had been holding onto and didn't immediately resort to this cruel approach was because he was not willing to hurt others permanently.

Unfortunately, the current situation demanded Emery to start acting more ruthlessly towards the man.

Six razor-sharp blade claws shot out from his knuckles, revealing their brutality to the world. He also cast [Slipstream] onto himself to make sure that he would not be caught by Anzi's hands again.

Raising his claws to the air, Emery looked at the man and said, "I'm sorry for having to do this.. But you left me with no choice."

[Void Mist]

Multiple figures disappeared dashed together and one appeared behind Anzi, whereupon he quickly thrust his claws into the latter's back.

Splatt!

The claws penetrated through the tree-like skin, but it wasn't enough to severely injure the Inhuman as it only inflicted a moderate wound. However, this was enough as he was still able to slowly devour the man's power through the direct link established by his claws.

Swisssh!!

In response to Emery's actions, Anzi swiftly used the hand-to-hand battle art he employed to simultaneously take out Emery's [Void Mist]. The attack came even more rapidly, and after a few misses, it successfully landed on Emery's face.

BAAMMM!!

The blow was so strong that Emery could clearly hear the sharp sound of his jaw breaking from the impact. A sharp pain immediately assaulted his face, while the momentum forced him to be blown away.

However, he definitely wouldn't let the man off the hook that easily.

Howwlll—

Emery once again charged forward. Teaming up with his replicas, he attacked Anzi from multiple directions, inflicting multiple wounds on the latter while slowly draining his power. But of course, he wasn't unscathed as Anzi was able to counter some of it.

Blood splattered on the floor of the warehouse, dying it crimson and black; it became a silent witness to their brutal fight.

The fight between the two of them continued for several minutes, during which hundreds of attacks were exchanged. Emery managed to spill his opponent's spirit force from each of his attacks, hence he was quite sure that his opponent's spirit pool would soon be depleted. This fight became much similar to when he fought the Naga.

But on the other hand, he himself wasn't in such good shape either. His body was battered, despite the fact that his [Undecaying Flesh] had worked tirelessly to repair his broken bones and injured parts several times.

HOOWWWLLLLL!!

The more brutal the fight became, the more Emery's primal urge surfaced, gradually causing him to lose all restraint and run wild as the fight went on.

Hundreds more strikes were exchanged between the two, and before long his opponent's tree-like dark skin started to shrink and his movement gradually stiffen. It appears Emery's victory was guaranteed.

Emery relentlessly fought, and finally was able to see an opportunity, an opening that might win him the duel, he swiftly used his claw battle art [Rake Strike].

In the heat of his bloodthirsty urge, Emery subconsciously aimed his claws at his opponent's vitals and pulled all his strength to strike right at his opponent's heart.

Spillaatt

Three sharp claws pierced Anzi's heart. The force crushed it apart, instantly making the man drop to his knees, head slump weakly as his life sign dissipated.

Anzi the inhuman died.

A look of horror appeared on Emery's face as he looked at the body stuck in his claws.

"No!! No! No!."

In that instant, Emery awoke from his bloodthirsty state and quickly used [Nature Blessing] to try to heal the man. However, much to his surprise with the spell, he realized that the man inside was nothing short of human, his heart crushed and there was definitely no life sign, but...

Shockingly, the body still moved, and before Emery could do anything, the Inhuman grabbed his neck with both hands and gripped it tightly.

"ARrrggghhH!!"

Seeing the look of confusion and disbelief on Emery's face, Anzi whispered, answering the question he knew was in his opponent's head.

"You cannot kill me... I... cannot die " A ferocious look appeared on the man's face, the first time since their encounter.

Emery felt as if his neck was about to be crushed apart.

Unwilling to give up, Emey used his last bit of strength to his arm, and his sharp claws stroked the inhuman head, piercing it from both sides and forcing him to release his grasp.

Emery kicks the bleeding man to get some distance and wonders if this time the inhuman has finally died.

He didn't...

Chapter 1079 Kidnapped

A few hours earlier...

Klea could be seen walking out of a shop. She looked down at the item she just purchased, a satisfied smile on her face.

"Emery is definitely going to love this!" the girl happily said to herself.

Thinking about the expression her boyfriend would make when she gave him the gift she personally handpicked, Klea couldn't help but brightly smile to herself as she skipped very lightly from joy.

However, just after walking a short distance away from the shop, the Egyptian Queen suddenly paused in her tracks. Someone was following her, and it seemed that the other party didn't care to hide their presence very much.

Klea warily stood in place. Moments later, as if answering her suspicion, someone stepped in front of her.

Klea closely observed the other party.

From their body proportions, the other party was most likely a man. He donned a black cloak over his body, with the Magus Academy's privileged class uniform underneath and a mask that covered his face.

It didn't take long for Klea to recognize who he was, so she opened her mouth.

"Are you looking for Emery? He's not here."

The young man didn't respond to her words as she expected. Instead, he calmly said in his deep voice, "Come with me... and don't make a scene."

Klea, however, only stood still and smiled, even sneering a little. "Are you serious right now? Only a naive fool would follow a shady guy who talks like that."

The Egyptian Queen knew about the person in front of him. After all, he was part of her 'Soon-to-be defeated by my love' list. He was indeed powerful, but she wasn't the least bit scared.

The market district was full of people; only a reckless fool would cause a scene at such a place.

The young man silently looked down at her. His voice was calm, but his sharp eyes clearly contained threats.

"If you don't come with me... the savage wolf will be in trouble."

Klea glared at the man's eyes with a sneer. "You suck at lying!"

She quickly racked her brain and thought about the dozens of possible reasons why this man approached her. She couldn't quite figure out which one it was, but knowing a bit about his background and relation to the rank 5 Cross family...

Whatever it is, it can't be good.

After a moment of thought, the girl firmly looked at the masked man in front of her.

She made up her mind.

"I will come with you... but not today."

As soon as she said those words, the Egyptian Queen swiftly cast [Gust of Wind]. The violent rush of wind hindered her opponent's sight and, at the same time, propelled her upward into the sky toward her newly-formed summon.

Everything was done in less than three seconds, something only a genius could've done. While the people on the street were still confused by the sudden blast of wind, Klea had already flown high in the air.

"Too slow! See you at the duel later!" the girl cheerfully exclaimed from above.

She was about to cast a spell to warn Emery when all of a sudden, she felt something violently shake her mind. Her summon instantly dissipated, and...

Her body stopped moving as she fell from the sky. With just one sudden spell, the Egyptian Queen quickly began to lose consciousness.

"A grand... magus... Emery... is in dan...ger..."

...

After what felt like an eternity, Klea finally awoke in a large, unfamiliar room. Her head was throbbing, but she still tried to take in everything in her surroundings and analyze the situation she was in.

A warehouse?

As she continued to slowly turn her head, her eyes soon met an old man standing nearby. Her heart skipped a beat, but she quickly regained her composure.

This old man should be the grand magus from before.

"Elder, what do you want from me?" Klea asked the old man with a respectful tone. She seemed calm, but her heart was wildly beating.

The old grand magus looked at her with a reassuring look. "Rest assured, I won't harm you... Come look at the fight."

Klea was rather doubtful, but she decided to follow the old man's words for the time being. After all, if he truly wanted to do anything harmful to her, there was no way she would be able to escape. How she ended up here was proof of that.

Klea stood up and carefully walked toward the window near the grand magus.

A distance away from where the two were, two young men were fighting fiercely in a warehouse next door. They were quite far away from the window she was looking from, but with her spirit reading, Klea could tell who the two young men were.

The grand magus briefly glanced at her before calmly looking at the two young men outside.

"It seems that we don't need you after all... Anzi can finish him in a fair duel. I was worried for nothing."

Klea's mind quickly turned as she understood the gist of it. She began to observe her surroundings and think of the best way to deal with the situation.

She first thought about shouting for Emery to hear, but after using spirit reading, she found that there was a thin aura surrounding where she was. The grand magus used some kind of spell to hide their presence, which made her cross the idea of sending Emery a message.

From afar, she noticed that Emery was struggling against the other person. Even his powerful Dao matter spell wasn't working on his opponent.

"That's now how you do it, Emery..." Klea couldn't help but think in her mind.

Her grip on the sides of her clothes tightened. She wished that she could be there for Emery, but she was powerless against this person in front of her. The thought of simply charging out even crossed her mind when all of a sudden, a figure descended from the sky above.

Magus Shena!

Klea's eyes immediately shone. Her grip loosened as relief washed over her.

After slowly descending toward them, Magus Shena paid her respects to the old grand magus before saying,

"Senior, the two can fight, but there is no need to keep the girl."

However, despite the amount of respect Magus Shena showed, the old grand magus wasn't even willing to look her in the eye.

Not only did he not have an ounce of respect toward her, but his expression clearly showed his disgust toward the dragon bloodline.

"It is none of your concern, half-blood. Go back! return to your animal kingdom!"

Chapter 1080 Bad Blood

Ever since Roran had warned them, Klea had set aside some of her time to do in-depth research on the faction behind the fifth rank of the privileged class, Shatter Cross. Thanks to that, she found out that there was a dark history between the Cross faction and Zodiac City.

Standing in the same grade – Grade 4, the bad blood and conflict between the two traversed through eons of time, spanning over thousands of years and costing innumerable lives.

Therefore Klea assumed that both Magus Shena and the grand magus must have known each other very well.

She thought that the usual Magus Shena would stay calm and composed. However, the female Dragon bloodline brought out her crystal spear instead before taking a stance. Her entire demeanor screamed ready for a battle, as she fiercely spoke.

"The young acolyte is my mission. Stop the fight and release the girl this instant!"

Upon hearing her words, the old grand magus swiftly replied, "No"

The expression on his wrinkled old face turned serious as he said, "I won't let another half-blood defeat our prince."

The half-blood the old magus meant was the Dragon bloodline protégé Zach, who defeated Shatter Cross.

Klea became anxious when she realized that the Full Moon magus was prepared to fight the old grand magus. After all, if the two of them really fought, their clash would definitely make the matter bigger than it should be.

The tension in the atmosphere rose as one of the old magus' arms began to be enveloped by crackling lightning, while Magus Shena made the air temperature in the warehouse drop swiftly.

Klea could not do anything but watch as things gradually headed in a dire direction.

It was at that moment, when things were about to spiral out of control, that a figure suddenly burst through the warehouse door. Everyone's attention immediately turned to the newcomer.

To Klea's complete surprise, the figure was a good-looking young man with silver hair that she recognized right away. It was none other than the root of this situation, the heir of the Cross faction, Shatter Cross.

The presence of the Cross Prince quickly made the old grand magus stop his spell. Meanwhile, Shatter swiftly walked over, glanced towards Klea, and then returned his attention to the latter, opening his mouth saying, "So it's true, uncle..."

Not giving the old grand magus a chance to speak, he immediately added, "This is so embarrassing!"

The old grand magus turned respectful and said, "Young master, you don't need to get involved in this.. I will take care of it."

Hearing those words, Shatter went towards the window and looked at another warehouse where a fight was taking place.

"You see, there's nothing to make a fuss about! That so-called Savage Acolyte has no way of defeating Anzi!"

Everyone's attention was drawn because of those words. Right now, they all could see how the Inhumane acolyte was still able to stand even after having his head pierced by Emery's claws. This was shocking, especially to Klea who knew very well how deadly those claws were.

The old magus' demeanor suddenly turned submissive. Gone was the attitude he had previously shown to Magus Shena, as he said, "You are right, young master. It... was my mistake. I shouldn't have done this without your say."

"That's right, uncle... you should have."

The young man's expression turned to a smile as he added, "But then, if Anzi can kill him, this could become a fortune."

Hearing the way the two spoke as if there were only the two of them in the world greatly annoyed Magus Shena. Klea could see that the dragon magus readied her spear preparing to force them to stop.

However, Klea quickly signaled for her to stop with a shake of her head. After that, she turned and tried to talk to the young master of the Cross family – now knowing that the latter was the one calling the shots.

Giving the best smile she could, Klea said, "Young master Cross, how lucky you are to come at the right time."

It was clear that those unexpected words managed to pique the young man's interest.

"What do you mean?" asked Shatter, looking Klea straight in the eye.

"It's fortunate, truly." She said ambiguously. "If you don't come, the two will invite trouble to the faction being instigated by the Golden city authority for nothing."

Shatter still didn't understand what Klea wanted to say, and realizing that, the girl continued her words.

"You see... I know and can guarantee that Emery will not and will never skip his fights. So you don't have to worry about him skipping a challenge. Means, you can keep your rank safe and protected by your subordinate, young master."

Klea said those words as if she was supporting and congratulating the Cross Prince, but in reality, it only irritated the latter and made him mad. To his ears, her words insinuated that by ordering Anzi to forcefully make Emery accept a duel, he was actually scared by the notion of fighting against Emery.

"Huh?! Are you saying that I'm afraid?" He snorted and scoffed. "I never said I couldn't beat that half-blood!"

"Is that so?!" An expression of exaggerated surprise appeared on Klea's face hearing that. To further exaggerate her reaction, she covered her mouth with her hands. "Young master, are you saying that you could win without using any tricks?"

The response came right away, loud and clear.

"Of course, I can!"

Hearing that, with a smile Klea spoke softly. "Then why are we here, young master? Keeping me here will trouble Emery's mind in the fight.. Such a cheap trick not worth of Cross faction"

She paused, glanced at the warehouse where the two people were fighting, before continuing, "And... Why are we watching their fight secretly? This kind of behavior doesn't match your grandiose, don't you think?"

A stunned look appeared on Shatter's face, before he nodded his head thinking her argument made sense.

"Yes, it is not!"

The old grand magus seemed to want to interrupt, but eventually decided not to say anything seeing how the Cross Prince had made up his mind. He just followed right behind as Shatter led the group into the warehouse where the fierce battle was taking place.

As soon as they entered the warehouse, Klea's heart ached to see Emery's miserable state. Wounds were visible all over his body, while his breath was panting as if the air had completely disappeared.

The arrival of the group brought the fight to a halt. At first, Emery was wary of the new arrivals. However, when his eyes caught sight of Klea's figure and saw that she was safe and sound, a joyful expression appeared on his face.

Klea ran up and jumped at Emery, and the two embraced. The first words that came from Emery was his worried about her condition. Such words coming from someone half dead only once again made Klea feel touched... and angry for the Cross faction.

Seeing the two, The old grand magus, however, quickly shouted.

"The duel isn't over yet, or are you admitting defeat?"

What the old magus didn't know was that such words didn't matter one bit to Emery as long as Klea was safe. In fact, if it were not for his concern for her safety, he didn't really care who won and lost.

"I should just surrender," He said to Klea, worried that something bad would happen if he didn't. To his surprise, the girl hit him on the head and said,

"That guy just kidnapped your girl and you want to give up? Are you really a man?"

Emery smiled at her words saying, "But I don't think I can win.." Glancing at the silent Anzi, he continued, "I've tried everything; that man can't be killed.."

To his surprise, the girl smiled. "Do you really think I will let you fight him again in your current state if I don't have a way?"

A curious expression appeared on Emery's face.

"You have a way? What is it? Tell me."

The girl took out a box from her storage ring and gave it to him saying, "This is my gift to you, Emery. You can use this now."

Emery quickly opened the box, brimming with anticipation. An enlightened expression appeared on his face as he saw something that made him realize how to defeat the Inhumane that seemed undefeatable by all his means.

Seeing them talking for some time, the grand magus once again shouted, "Are we continuing or what?!"

This once again made Magus Shena angry, but Klea turned to them, facing the Cross young master as she ignored the old grand magus, and said.

"Does a few minutes break give you trouble, young master? In the meantime, you can treat your guard dog as well."

Now that Klea already had Emery next to her, she became even more fierce and forced the Cross Prince's hand.

"Fine! 10 minutes break!"

Klea turned to smile. That much time should be enough for whatever she had planned and prepared to do.