

Earths GMagus 191

Chapter 191: Grassfield Battle

As he hid behind the tree and peeked his head over, Emery watched the ongoing fight ensue in the middle of the wide grassfield. Right now, in front of his eyes, Emery saw a total of 8 acolytes, two of them from Elite Class. One elite acolyte was currently fighting against four lucky Class acolytes.

Meanwhile, Emery could see the other three people right around the location of the battle. There, another lucky Class acolyte knelt on the ground with wounds on his body while another one was glaring at the second Elite Class acolyte. who stood across the two of them and had not intervened in the fight. The three of them were watching the progress of the battle.

Emery returned his attention back to the fight and was surprised with how the fight went on. Even though the opponent they were facing was only a single Elite Class acolyte, Emery didn't expect the fight to be in the hands of the elite acolyte, instead of the four normal acolytes. After all, all the acolytes who joined the game were those who managed to get into the top 50.

It appeared the elite acolyte who was fighting was a Fire-element acolyte. The [Fireball] spell the acolyte casted managed to suppress the four acolytes' attacks, but wasn't enough to defeat them.

Seeing the stalemate situation, the elite acolyte who observed the fight opened his mouth. "Gerri, what is taking you so long? Can you defeat them or not? We can't waste our time here." the acolyte said with impatience.

"These people are tougher than I thought." the fire acolyte replied. Thinking for a moment, he said, "Alright, then. Nate I am willing to share them with you. Come help me."

Upon hearing that, Nate, the other elite acolyte, grinned, "Alright! Don't mind if I do!"

Looking at the situation turning bad for the other acolytes, Emery decided to stay quiet and didn't interfere. Despite the fact two of them were the members of his alliance, Emery didn't have the obligation to help them whatsoever.

Receiving his teammate's offer, the other elite acolyte named Nate immediately stepped into the fray. Emery could clearly see the acolyte's hand was releasing electric currents, before he launched the spell towards the four acolytes.

[Chain Lightning]

Erratic streams of lightning rapidly shot through the air. But when the spell nearly hit the four acolytes, a stone wall suddenly emerged from the ground and blocked it.

[Stonewall - Tier 4 Earth Spell]

[Stonewall] was a high-level spell that only rank 7 acolytes specializing in Earth element could do. This spell was casted by the Lucky Class acolyte, who glared at the elite acolyte earlier. The acolyte, who had only watched the battle, swiftly joined the battle when he saw the second elite acolyte intervening.

Seeing the infamous [Stonewall], the lightning acolyte face couldn't help but change. "What the hell?! There is a rank 7 among these rubbish? No wonder he was so confident and dared to glare at me earlier."

The rank 7 acolyte immediately darted towards Nate, the Lightning acolyte and proceeded to fight him. Watching the fight between the two acolytes, Emery didn't know what to feel. The battle between the Lightning elite acolyte and the Earth acolyte was quite unique, or should he say unusual?

The Earth acolyte didn't manage to touch the Lightning acolyte due to the difference between speed, while the Lightning acolyte's attacks couldn't injure his opponent because of the [Stone Skin] spell. Emery predicted this 5 on 2 battle could turn into a long battle, but he didn't complain. After all, it was rare for him to be able to spectate a full-magic battle.

Therefore, Emery took advantage of this golden opportunity and paid close attention to their respective actions. Based on the spells they used and the strength they exhibited, Emery could tell that 3 of them were rank 7 acolyte while the other five were rank 6 acolyte.

If the fight kept going on, Emery estimated the battle between the rank 7 Lightning and Earth acolytes would end with the Lightning acolyte's win. Although Emery was quite amazed by the prowess of the [Stone Skin] spell the Earth acolyte used, which was clearly stronger than Julian's; Emery was quite sure sooner or later the Lightning acolyte's attacks would destroy it.

On the other hand, the Fire acolyte was being pushed back by the four rank 6 acolytes. The sheer number of spells the rank 6 acolytes threw at the Fire acolyte slowly put him in a precarious situation. Which meant the battle would tip on the side who managed to hold longer under their opponent's attacks, the Fire acolyte or the Earth acolyte.

Looking at the fragile deadlock, Emery was very tempted to interfere. He believed that, if he helped, this battle would definitely be won by the Lucky Class acolytes.

Weighing his options, the possible pros and cons, Emery finally decided to step in. After all, with the presence of his 2 acolyte allies, Emery didn't need to worry that these acolytes would turn to attack him when they win.

But when he lifted his legs to move, Emery suddenly perceived a signal with his [Nature Sense], heading towards his location, or to be more precise their location. The signal was moving so fast that in a few seconds it had reached the grassfield. A figure was seen and Emery could feel the immense power emanating from that figure.

Looking at his attire, Emery knew the figure was an elite acolyte. The acolyte was a slender man with long black hair and a cold expression. The abrupt appearance of the figure shocked both parties and made them stop fighting.

Emery noticed that, not only the faces of the Lucky Class acolytes changed, but also the expressions on the two elite acolytes. This obviously discouraged him from showing himself.

The man slowly walked forward until he stood in the middle of the two sides, watching them. He then turned his body to the side facing the 6 Lucky Class acolytes. "You, all six of you can attack me together.

Don't worry, those two won't bother us." the man said with a smile, pointing his thumb over his shoulder.

"!!!" Everyone was shocked by the bold words they heard.

The rank 7 Earth acolyte turned livid and said, "You elites are so arrogant! I will wipe off that smirk on your face!"

Right after he said that, the Earth acolyte immediately casted a spell. In a split second, rocks emerged from the ground and formed into two stone golems that were nearly 3 meters high. Immediately, the two golems dashed towards the slender man, who was standing in the middle.

Seeing the approaching golems, the slender man remained calm and slowly raised his hand. As soon as his hand was in the air, the two golems suddenly moved slower until they completely stopped one meter away from the man. If one took a closer look, they could see the golems' were enveloped by black smoke-like aura.

The Earth acolyte panicked, when he felt he lost control of his golems. The man then raised his other hand above his head and immediately, a huge black needle about an arm length formed right above his hand.

Glancing towards the Earth acolyte, the man proceeded to hurl the needles towards him. The Earth acolyte reflexively casted his [Stonewall] spell to block the needles. However, to his surprise, the black needles managed to pierce the wall and even pierced his stone-covered body and stabbed into his shoulder. The stone-covered body that was able to withstand multiple attacks was easily pierced by this ordinary-looking needle.

"Arrgghh!!!" the Earth acolyte roared in pain, as he knelt to the ground.

The slender man immediately formed another needle and hovered it above his hand. Seeing how easily that man could cast the same spell, the five acolytes were terrified, as their faces turned pale.

The attack launched by the slender man turned the situation turned into 3 against 6, with the strongest fighter among the Lucky Class acolytes injured, unable to join the battle. In the blink of an eye, as if they had a spiritual connection with each other, the four remaining acolytes simultaneously decided to run and left the two injured acolytes.

Various colors of lights appeared as the spells to increase speed and escape were being casted. However, they only managed to run a few steps before their bodies suddenly felt heavy, as if there was something pressuring them from above. The black aura seen on the golems also appeared on their bodies.

Feeling the effect of this aura, one of the acolytes said, his voice shaking.

"T-T-This is a gravity spell..."

Turning his gaze to the slender man, who was still standing there casually, the acolytes than realize who they were fighting with at the moment

"Lodos!"

Chapter 192: Trouble

Emery had heard the name 'Lodos' from Silva before. That was the name of the acolyte known to be a maniac. Apparently she thought he was also the strongest of the elite acolytes participating in this game. Emery finally understood why the two elites stood still like a statue the moment this creepy looking acolyte arrived.

Lodos casted a spell and the 6 acolytes there dropped in a kneeling position to the ground. Gravity spells were a rare form of darkness element magic, just like space magic, and not all acolytes were able to perform them. Meanwhile, this maniac was able to perform it easily towards multiple targets, showing he was not just crazy, but also very much gifted.

With the six acolytes now at his mercy, Lodos cast another spell. Six dark needles appeared in the air and ready to pierce those poor helpless acolytes. There really was nothing Emery could do about it. In fact, it would be much safer for him to leave the scene. It was far too early in the game for him to risk everything and face three elites at the same time.

However, before he could leave, Emery heard shouting from one of the elite acolytes.

"Lodos... Can you at least share some of those acolytes with us too? We... We did find them first, didn't we?"

Lodos stopped his attack and stared at the lightning acolyte who talked just now.

"Oh, is that so... Tell me, how many acolytes do you think I should share with you?"

"Well, there are six of them, so each of us can get two... Doesn't that sound fair?" Lodos frowned upon hearing the statement, and the lightning acolyte stammered in a hurry. "Oh, wait, no, no. What I meant is, you can just give each of us one... That would be enough as our compensation for finding them, at least."

Lodos closed his eyes, and all the floating black spears flew towards the grounded, helpless acolytes. Six long black needles flew towards the unmoving six acolytes.

All the six acolytes screamed in pain, however, none of them died. Lodos decided to only stab their legs and arms on purpose. The poor acolytes ended up being pinned down, their limbs stabbed to the ground and weighed down by the large needles. As if he did not see the blood flowing out and staining the ground beneath, Lodos walked closer towards one of the poor acolytes and asked him.

"This virtual reality is very interesting... Hey, tell me... How do you feel? Does the pain feel real?" Lodos asked, his ecstasy dripping from every word. His lips were curled into an unsettling grin that seems just a little too wide to be natural.

The tier 7 acolyte was still able to stand up. He readied himself to fight even as the large black needle piercing his shoulders and legs made his wounds bleed and widen each time he moved even slightly.

"You crazy fucker." All of a sudden, the acolyte's entire body turned to stone. It was a form of higher stage earth magic. The spell was able to give maximum defense to the acolyte who used it.

However, to his surprise, instantly several black needles formed all around him and quickly pierced him. With his heavy stone body and the increased downward pull due to the gravity spell, he was rendered

unable to move even an inch. A dozen large needles pierced his entire body, making him look like a pincushion of black needles.

The acolyte screamed in agony. His thick skin and increased defense caused the needles to only be able to pierce bit by bit, prolonging the pain he felt all around his entire body. Oddly, even though the needles looked sharp enough to kill if it just plunged a little bit deeper, none of them grazed, let alone stabbed, any vital organs.

Lodos turned towards the other two acolytes and said, his gaze wide in excitement. "Do you want points from these guys? If you do... I can share, but please wait a while. I have yet to play with them... you don't mind waiting, right?"

The elite acolytes shook their heads in a hurry. It was clear the display of power affected them more than they would like to admit. "No, no. Never mind that, Lodos. You can have all of them, and we can look for another target."

"Well, that doesn't sound fair, does it... You know what?" Lodos created two more black needles and said. "You can have the one watching us right now."

"!!"

To Emery's surprise, Lodos looked straight at him and tossed the two black needles towards him. Emery jumped to the side and dodged the attack. The two needles barely missed him and lodged itself straight into one of the trees.

Emery didn't even need a moment to think what he should do. Without wasting an instant, Emery casted [Dark Smoke] to cover his tracks and ran as quick as he could. He jumped towards the top of the trees and moved quickly, while still using his [Nature Sense]. The last thing he wanted was encountering another problem on top of his current one and ending up having to fight against two sides.

Emery kept on jumping, while running as fast as his legs could carry him. However, the sensations he felt from [Nature Sense] told him the two elites were still busy chasing him.

"Damn, they are gaining on me." Emery gritted his teeth. He was beginning to regret his decision to stay and watch the fight unfold.

Both of his pursuers were rank 7 acolytes, and Emery knew it would not be easy to escape. However, if he had to deal with the two of them, at least he should ensure the creepy one would not add to his problem if he put on some distance between him and the place of the battle. The further away the better.

Emery kept jumping around the trees and ran at full speed. However, even though he put all his effort into running, the two acolytes were still gaining on him. Now the acolytes were just less than fifty meters away from him.

"You can't get away from us, you bastard! Come and fight!"

Thanks to his [Nature Sense], Emery was able to hear the distinct sounds of splashing water, which gave him an idea. He ran towards the noise, and stopped at an open lake with a small waterfall on one side and a river stream on the other side. "This is perfect" he thought

Emery stopped next to the lake and turned around, intently watching the two acolytes coming towards him. The two acolytes stopped in front of him and one of them exclaimed in anger. "Hah! Just surrender yourself, Stop wasting our time!" it appears they wish to vent their anger from what that Lodos guy did to them. Two angry elites acolyte against him, this is unfortunate for him, if he don't do it right he will not survive this.

Chapter 193: Water Fight

Although Emery felt his power had increased and would love to give a spin on his newfound strength by fighting those two acolytes head on, deep down he knew fighting two acolytes was too difficult for him. He was not even sure he could defeat one, let alone two, rank 7 acolytes. If he wanted to beat the odds and win, Emery had to use his wits.

The lightning acolyte gritted his teeth in impatience and snapped at Emery.

"You've been cornered! If you surrender now, at least you can save us some time!"

"Save time? If your time is really that valuable. You can just stop chasing me, then." Emery shrugged.

"Huh!! You're just a weakling rank 6 acolyte, and you dare act so arrogant? Bold of you to presume you have any place in this game! Just hurry up and die!"

"Let's see which one of us is more arrogant, then."

Emery did not waste his time and quickly casted the spell [Whip Splash – Tier 1 Water Element] using the water from the swirling lake. Tendrils of water rose up from the lake, forming a ropey, whip-like shape before rushing towards the direction of the two elite acolytes.

Splash!

Of course, both of them were able to dodge the attack easily. They barked a loud laugh and exclaimed in amusement. "Hahaha! What the fuck is he trying to do? That was one of the weakest spells I ever saw!"

Emery disregarded the attempt at taunting him and cast another spell.

Swirling water rose from the lake, before coalescing into two distinct shapes in the air. In an instant, the clear lake water turned into two long lances. They flew and cut the air with a buzzing sound, each heading towards the two.

The two acolytes were unfazed. Without moving as much as a step, they merely gestured and used their spirit aura to help them resist the attack.

Once again, the lightning acolyte became more annoyed. He rubbed the bridge of his nose before laughing even louder than before.

"Oh, my god... I take it back, you're not just arrogant and weak, you're an utter embarrassment to this game and the name of the academy! I can't believe someone like you was able to enter the top 50 test!"

"Hmm.. most likely he had a good team to cover for him, so it's definitely possible. Let's just get this annoyance over with."

The fire element acolyte muttered under his breath, while a fireball appeared in the air. Within seconds, the [Fireball – Tier 3 Fire Element spell] went from a tiny speck to a massive ball, radiating heat and even scorching parts of the grass they were standing on. The fire element acolyte pointed at Emery, and the fireball shot towards him.

As he had seen the fireball spell in action in his previous fight, Emery knew the most important thing was trying not to get hit directly by the fireball. He took one step back and got even closer to the edge of the lake before using his strongest water spell, [Crushing Wave]. A massive wave of water rose up from the lake and served as a wall between him and the fireball, but of course, it was not enough. Using the wave as a decoy, Emery decided to jump into the lake, while the two acolytes were still disoriented.

"Fuck, he ran again!"

"That idiot thought he was safe inside the water, because what, he is a water element acolyte? Your fire attack might not work there, but my lightning spell would be a different story... Haha, he really is just a stupid weakling, after all! Gerri, stand guard near the stream and the edge of the river. We can't let him escape."

"I see. Fine then, you can have this one."

Under the cover of the blue lake, Emery swam around and used his [Water Breathing] spell to help him stay under. Everything he did, including this, was of course a part of his plan. He decided to only use weaker water spells to hide his true ability and jumped into the water as an attempt to separate these two acolytes. In addition, Emery often spent his time reading books, and he knew the effect of lightning when exposed to water. However, he needed to take his chances. Even though his plan had flaws, his chances were much better than if he had to fight two elite acolytes head on at the same time.

From his hiding place under the water, Emery could clearly see the figure of the lightning acolyte. The figure raised his hand and casted [Chain Lightning] towards the surface of the lake. As he expected, the spell hit the lake and prickled his skin. Each strike of the lightning felt like dozens of hot knives stabbing into his body.

"Die, die, die!" Nate, the lightning acolyte, kept casting his spells towards the surface of the lake. With a cruel smirk, he said to no one in particular. "Haha! Let's see how long you can resist this!"

In contrast to Nate, Emery looked calm. His skin glowed a little before starting to turn harder into a layer of dark stone. Upon casting the spell [Granite Skin], he felt the effects of the lightning lessen a little.

After he watched the battle between the lightning element acolyte and an earth acolyte who used [Stone Skin], Emery was curious on how well his hardened skin could hold on against such a powerful lightning spell.

The result did not disappoint him, and the power of the lightning felt less like dozens of knives and more like tiny needles now. Although he wasn't sure if the lake water made the lightning less powerful or if his granite skin was so much stronger, thus able to hold on against such powerful lightning spells.

Ever since Emery upgraded his dark core, he felt all his dark element-related spells became far stronger than before. A part of Emery wished he could stall for time and remain like this all day, however, he

couldn't. This game had a clear time limit, and in order to pass, he had to move at some point. The only thing Emery could do was hope the elite acolyte was more impatient than him.

For now, Emery decided to stall by sitting at the bottom of the lake, while concentrating on maintaining his [Granite Skin] spell.

As Emery guessed, the acolyte finally snapped, his impatience and annoyance finally getting to him.

"Fuck, did he die already? Why is he not coming out yet?"

Nate looked around the lake, trying to find a sign as to where his prey currently was, but to no avail. [Granite Skin] had made Emery look similar to a simple rock at the bottom of the lake. In the end, after a few minutes of enraged searching, Nate shouted to his friend. "Gerri! Make sure he doesn't get past you, I'll dive in and kill him myself."

The acolyte dove into the water with a splash. Emery finally got the chance he was waiting for. He stopped concentrating on his spell and swam forward. When they saw each other. Not surprisingly, the lightning acolyte was still able to cast lightning spells without hurting himself despite the fact that both of them were in the water. Nate raised his hand and casted more [Chain Lightning] spells towards Emery, while he was trying to swim closer. The closer Emery swam, the stronger the prickling on his skin felt. Without the protection from his granite skin, Emery was sure he would have already died twice at this point.

Emery decided to cast more of his offensive water spells while underwater. He casted another [Steam Lance] and created a lance that dashed towards his opponent while creating a strong current. However, the lance dissipated into nothing at the touch of the sparks near Nate's body.

It was clear, Emery needed to close the distance if he wanted to win. But, his opponent's spells hurt even at this distance. The elite acolyte most likely won't sit still and let Emery approach without resistance. In fact, Nate maintained a medium distance and kept casting lightning spells.

Emery decided to take the challenge head on and swam closer still, while dodging the fast-moving and unpredictable chain lightning as best as he could. The lightning stopped being a tiny prickling and grew into a burning pain all over his body, but Emery steeled his resolve and kept on swimming closer. Just a little bit more, if he decided to give up, his efforts would be all for naught.

Then, finally, there was the chance Emery had been waiting for. The lightning acolyte swam up. He most likely ran out of air and needed to breathe.

Emery wasn't going to waste this chance, he quickly used the [Blink] spell and instantly appeared behind Nate, catching the elite acolyte off-guard. Emery then jumped into his opponent's back and used the strength of all his limbs to hold down the struggling acolyte. Emery planned to hold him down and make him drown. To make sure his plan succeeded, Emery casted [Dark Root Binding], causing thick black roots to appear and tie both of them down.

The elite acolyte panicked and used all of his strength to struggle and break free. But the situation had changed, the hunter had now become the prey. Emery's victory was imminent. But of course, the elite acolyte wouldn't just sit still and let it happen. An explosion of pure lightning energy radiated from his body and hit Emery directly. Its power indicated the spell must be a powerful tier 4 spells.

At that moment, Emery felt the true power of a tier 7 acolyte. The explosion let out sparks of electricity all hitting him directly all over his body. The pain was immense. Emery had never felt such pain in his life, and if he listened to his reflexes, he would have let his arm go.

But no, never. Emery had sacrificed a lot to get his chance, and he would not waste it no matter what.

Emery concentrated on his core and channeled his spirit energy towards the nerve points of his body to strengthen himself. A series of notifications appeared in his mind.

[Immortal Gate: Stage 2]

[Battle power increased by 4]

"Aaargh!" Emery screamed, feeling his muscles tighten and skin strengthen at a rapid pace. The excruciating pain from the lightning subsided a little and his hold on his opponent became stronger, together with his resolve to never let go. But, this battle wasn't over yet. Sensing the end was imminent, the lightning acolyte finally decided to pour all his power into one last strike. It was either all or nothing.

"No! Never!"

Emery held the struggling acolyte even tighter, his resolve to not let go had been renewed. He was ready to use the power of his fey transformation, but before he could, he felt the power coursing to his nerves increase. The change felt like someone broke a dam covering a massive river, and all the power poured inside him and multiplied his strength.

[You have achieved a breakthrough your battle art skill]

[Immortal Gate: stage 3]

[Battle power increased by 8]

That was the last bit of strength Emery needed to strangle the elite acolyte. Within five seconds, Nate, the arrogant acolyte, struggled one last time and finally stopped moving. His eyes wide open before dying, his last thought was of disbelief after losing to a nobody.

[Congratulations, you have defeated an elite acolyte]

[You received 5000 points]

Chapter 194: Fire Fight

The lifeless body of Nate, the Lightning elite acolyte floated in the water for a moment before it slowly dissipated into light particles, leaving nothing behind. As soon as the body disappeared, a notification appeared in front of Emery.

[Congratulations! You have defeated an elite acolyte]

[You have received 5000 points]

Looking at the notification, which told him he won the arduous battle, Emery could not hold himself back from smiling widely. This was his first victory! Not only did he receive points for his efforts, the fight earlier also helped him break through the bottleneck he had in his battle art technique.

[Immortal Gate - stage 3]

[Battle power 46]

Emery was so happy with the outcome he forgot for a second his whole body was currently in great pain and aching all over, after enduring such a strong lightning current. There was also another problem with the other acolyte, who were still waiting for his reappearance, outside the lake. Knowing the acolyte was a Fire element acolyte, Emery felt safe being inside of the water. However, he would still have to get out of the lake sooner or later.

The reason he managed to win the first fight was partly because of his strategy, but Emery was not sure if he could outsmart the next one. After all, everyone in the second game were formidable opponent. Therefore, Emery decided to stay in the water for the moment and casted [Nature Blessing] spell on himself to make sure he would be in his prime condition, if not optimal, for the next fight.

Ten minutes later, when Emery felt his wounds had closed up and his breath stabilized, he slowly walked out of the lake. As soon as Emery's feet landed on the lakeshore, a figure swiftly landed a few meters in front of him like a fallen fireball. The figure was a man with red short hair, the Fire elite acolyte earlier.

Seeing Emery's lone appearance, the acolyte's eyes bulged, as if he didn't believe what had happened. "I can't believe it! You managed to defeat Nate??! How did you do that?!"

While Emery was recuperating and healing his injuries earlier, he had hoped the guy would have left. After all, he spent a good ten minutes inside the lake. Who would have known that the guy had the patience to waited for one of them to appear.

Eyeing the guy, Emery calmly said, "Yes, I did. Hence, I suggest you to leave me alone if you don't want to ended up like him."

However, instead of being afraid when he heard Emery's warning, the guy unexpectedly laughed, hard. "Hahaha! It looks like you do have some strength, after all. That stupid Nate must be extremely angry right now for underestimating and losing to you!"

When Emery heard that, he only smiled faintly and said, "I am sure he is. So? Are you going to avenge him now?"

Upon hearing that, the fire acolyte immediately waved his hand as he denied Emery's question. "No, no, no. I never thought of avenging Nate, actually i don't really like the guy very much. However, we obviously still have to fight. After all, it is what the game for." The guy said while flashing a grin.

After saying that, the acolyte quickly raised his hands and opened his palms. Immediately after, two blazing fireballs materialized on his palms, signifying he was ready to attack. Looking at Emery, the acolyte kept his grin and said, "I am not Nate. Therefore, I will not underestimate you. What's your name?"

"You can call me Emery." replied Emery as he readied his stances.

"Emery... Hmm... good name! I'm Gerri."

Right as Gerri finished his words, he immediately shot the fireballs toward Emery. This time, Emery would fight one on one against Gerri. It was time for him to openly test his current strength against an elite acolyte.

Two raging fireballs rapidly flew towards Emery. Seeing the approaching fireballs, Emery couldn't help but recall the power he felt behind Gerri's fireballs. All of the water-based spells Emery currently had in his repertoire weren't strong enough to match them. Hence, it was time to try using the Darkness element.

Concentrating his mind on the darkness spirit element, the darkness core Emery had contracted rapidly as darkish runes appeared in front of his palm, proving Emery was casting a spell. In the blink of an eye, Emery casted his current strongest offensive spell. [Enfeeble Blade]

A horizontal dark line materialized and shot towards the incoming fireballs. The fireballs collided with the [Enfeeble Blade] and the two spells exploded at the same time.

BOOM! BOOM!

Loud explosions appeared as the two spells destroyed each other. However, Emery noticed that Gerry was smiling, when he saw his spells failing to reach Emery.

"I knew it! I knew that you weren't just a Water acolyte. I noticed it when you ran away before with a smoke. You really did play us before, smart move!"

After saying that, Gerri once again casted [Fireball] spells and firing them towards Emery. In a split second, a barrage of fireballs were seen flying through the air, Seeing the impending barrage, Emery swiftly casted [Enfeeble Blade] and conjured several dark blades that welcomed the fireballs. Both of them continuously carried out long-range attacks using their spells, as they continued to dodge and move around, looking for gaps to hit their respective opponent.

swish *swish* *swish*

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Seeing their battle was even, Gerri exclaimed loudly, "Emery! I must admit that your darkness spell is amazing!"

"Huh?! How so?" Emery asked, while still continuing to dodge and cast spells.

BOOM! BOOM!

Dashing to the left to dodge the dark blade that flew towards him, Gerri replied, "Your tier 3 spells are able to resist my tier 3 spells despite the fact that I am a rank higher than you."

"Hmm... is that so? Thanks!" Emery replied, as he did a backflip to evade a fireball coming from above him.

The situation became a bit weird yet harmonious, as they were currently fighting with each other, but talking casually as if they were bosom friends.

"Too bad, you won't win this fight!"

Suddenly, the rate of Gerri casting and throwing fireballs became increasingly faster, and his [Enfeeble blade] spells unable to cope fast enough. Thanks to that, Emery was cornered and forced to completely focus his mind on evading the rain of fireballs.

KABOOOM!!!

Emery was barely able to dodge the last attack, as his body was being flung by the impact of several fireballs exploding next to him. His body spun in the air before he fell and laid on the ground. Gerri, not letting him stand and throwing another fireball towards him, Emery swiftly rolled his body to the side to dodge the spell. The impact pushed him a little, before Emery stood up and stared at Gerri.

"Even though your spirit core was amazing, you are still an amateur in spells, Emery! Your casting speed is too slow!"

Emery didn't even try to refute, as he knew what Gerri said was true. He was still not used to cast this spell. After all, it hadn't been that long since he decided on his specialization. He truly needed more time to master his individual spells. Alas, at the moment, Emery would have to fight with what he had.

KABOOOM!!!

Another explosion occurred, as several fireballs hit the ground. This time though, Emery decided to take advantage of the smoke to hide himself and swiftly casted his most dependable spell.

[Blink]

As soon as the chant finished, Emery instantly disappeared from his spot and appeared behind Gerri. Gazing at the open back, he quickly casted his [Enfeeble Blade] again. But much to his surprise, Gerri was able to react much faster than his estimation. When Gerri felt the fluctuation behind him, he swiftly turned around and quickly grabbed Emery's stretched hand before the chant completed.

Gerri held Emery as his ten fingers grabbed Emery's arms tightly. Looking straight at Emery's eyes, he said, "Impressive space magic. But too bad... your offensive spells sucks."

Feeling the tight grip, Emery quickly used his [Granite Skin] spell, both his arms swiftly covered with granite stone, causing Gerri to be even more surprised.

"Amazing! I didn't expect you to have three affinities. But... what's the use? One element is all you need!"

Surprisingly Emery's not strong enough to pull his arm, instead immediately after, Emery felt pain on both his arms as all of Gerri's fingers were engulfed in flames.. It's a purple flame. The flame was so strong it cracked Emery's granite-covered arms open.

"Haha! This was my ticket into the elite class, Emery."

Emery can feel the fire under his granite skin even right into his bone

"ARRRGGGHHH!!!"

Chapter 195: Purple Fire

Purple fire!

The fire radiating from Gerri's finger felt like a piercing drop of molten magma, and it cracked through Emery's granite skin as if it was nothing but bread. What was even more surprising was that, not only the purple fire was able to go through his granite skin, but Emery, who was confident with his battle power, was still unable to break free from Gerri's crushing grip.

"Such a strong grip!"

Left with no choice, Emery decided to take the chance and use his newly evolved battle art skills.

[Heavenly gate stage 3]

[Battle power increased by 8]

With the battle art boost, now Emery has a total of 46 battle power. Through his newfound strength, he pulled his arm out from Gerri's iron grip. But just as he walked a few steps back, to his surprise, Gerri was still able to follow him close. The purple fire expanded and covered his palm, and Gerri pulled back before striking Emery's chest with all his might.

BAMMMM!!

The strike threw Emery several steps back. Even with his defensive granite skin, the strike still gave him a lot of pain. Not only that, the attack felt like it left a burning fire within his chest. The fire continued roaring and tearing up his insides, and within moments, he spat out a small puddle of blood.

"Yes! How do you like my technique [Flaming Palm]?" Gerri bragged.

With his hand still at his chest, Emery replied "Well, I think everyone would know the feeling of getting hit and hitting someone are two vastly different things." Emery mumbled, half irritated and half amused. The throbbing pain in his chest still remained. "What was that? Is that a battle art, or a spell?"

"It's hand to hand battle art that requires mastery of the fire element. It works wonders when combined with my purple flame skill."

"Ah, I see... Dang, if only I had my sword with me." Emery mumbled.

"So, you are a swordsman too, aren't you? Too bad you don't have a weapon though. That's more reason why I will win this fight".

Once again, Gerri casted [Fireball]. A small ball of fire appeared and expanded bit by bit as he dashed towards Emery's direction. It was clear, Emery was at a disadvantage on every single part of this fight. Gerri was not only adept at long distance attacks, he was also a combat magus, who was extremely proficient at hand to hand combat. Even with his quick feet and equally quick thinking, Emery was not sure he would be able to dodge Gerri's attacks. It seemed Gerri's battle power and his own were not too different. This battle was proof Gerri truly deserved his title as an elite acolyte.

BAMMMMM!!

Once again, Gerri's strike connects, this time hitting Emery's back. The force of the strike caused Emery to fall down, roll on the ground, and hit a tree. Beneath the tree, Emery struggled to stand and spat out another glob of blood.

"Your strength levels are above average, you have good basics, and you have an extraordinary spirit core. Unfortunately, your technique needs polish, and your spells take too long to cast. You're still an amateur at this point."

"Geez, thanks for the advice. I'll be sure to practice harder next time."

"Good attitude, but there will be no next time, loose here means no elite class for you! That's the end of the road!"

Gerri dashed forward, while activating his fire attacks. The weakened Emery was only able to use his [Blink] skill to protect himself. Due to his injuries, Emery was unable to move quick enough or far enough and, as Gerri said, Emery's spellcasting speed was still lacking.

If he wanted to win, he needed a change in strategy.

A massive fireball rushed towards Emery, and he used [Black Smoke].

"Where do you think you're going? Damn it, if you're jumping into the water again I would be surely disappointed." Gerri looked at the lake, hoping his opponent did not take the coward's way out from their battle. Of course, Emery did not run, he merely used the cover of the smoke to hide and give him a chance to use his powers.

[Fey bloodline activated]

[Battle power has increased by 10]

[Current battle power: 56]

The moment his transformation started, black tattoos with the shape of swirling lines started creeping across his skin, while his ears pulled towards the top of his head and his fingernails curled into wicked claws. But, while he felt the boost of power, he also felt his muscles and bones being pulled into several directions at once. The combination of battle art and fey transformation he used has increased his battle power by around 18 points, but as a side effect, his whole body felt as if he was being tortured.

Not wanting to waste this chance, Emery jumped forwards and using his whole strength, he slammed down hard with both fists as he landed.

Gerri was able to see that Emery was going to attack him, but Emery was too fast now and he didn't have the chance to dodge.

BAMMMMM!!

Gerri was quick enough to block the attack with his two hands, but it was still too strong for him, as result, he was thrown down on the ground. Realizing the situation had changed, Gerri spun around and tried to run, but in this state, Emery was faster. Emery jumped and pinned Gerri down on the ground with one arm around his neck, while his other arm pulled back and struck Gerri hard on the head.

BAAMMMMM!!

A direct hit from an acolyte with 56 points of battle power. Gerri spat out one of his teeth right as Emery struck again, causing a nasty bruise at the side of his face. Emery tried to strike for the third time, but

the desperate Gerri suddenly raised both of his hands and purplish light shine from both of them, as he casted his strongest Rank 4 spel [Ignite – Fire Element]

A massive explosion resounded throughout the area, and a burst of flame appeared with enough force to throw Emery several meters back away from Gerri.

Gerri attempted to stand up on shaky legs and an unfocused gaze. After he finally managed to stand up, he exclaimed. "What the fuck, you are also a halfblood! Damn, you really are a monster. How the hell are you not in the elite class?"

Emery struggled before he finally also managed to stand up. His chest felt like a painful furnace due to the force of the rank 4 fire element strike. With still some of the flame burning on his body, Emery cast the [Whip splash] and the swirl of water from the lake splash towards him. Fortunately his granite skin was still giving him some protection or he would already have several burn marks on him. He hissed and gritted his teeth in pain, but he managed to reply. "Thanks for that, I'll take that as a compliment."

It was clear, the next strike would determine the outcome of the battle. "Well sure, you can take that as a compliment, but only after you defeat me, Garri the Violet Flame!"

Purple flames spread from Gerri's palms and blazed atop his whole body, showing off the power of his spirit force.

Emery took a deep breath and readied himself to strike, unfortunately Emery could feel his muscles were at their limits, Emery was not sure how long he could hold his current form. He really had to end this fight as quickly as possible.

"Okay, I'm ready! come at me!" Emery taunted.

Gerri dashed like a human fireball, while Emery still stood unmoved. He took a moment to focus on his opponent's movement. This time with his transformation, Emery believed he could move faster than Gerri. He just needed the right move. Dodge to the right or dodge to the left. His opponent has a better technique than him. It would be very troublesome to let him close.

When Gerri's was just three steps in front of him, Emery decided to dashed forward instead. He covered his head with both of his hands and charges in. Full strength to tackle the opponent in front of him.

BAAAMMMMM!!!!

It was the right move! Emery took him by surprise and due to his higher battle power, the crash hurt Gerri even more and threw him back a few meters. Gerri was now laid flat on the ground

With a little headache after the crash, Emery tries hard to charge in to finish the fight. Thats when suddenly another figure came from nowhere and landed nearby.

"What an interesting fight! I really must join!"

The skinny figure was a familiar sight. It was the creepy acolyte known as Lodos. The situation just turned from bad to worst.

"Damn me and my sh*ty luck!"

Chapter 196: Gravity Spells

Lodos, who was said to be the strongest acolyte among the D elite class, came in the middle of their fight without warning. His wide-blown gaze and shrunken irises, along with his cheshire-cat smile, conveyed bad news for both of them.

"Well, look at that. He's got such a great timing." Emery said in his head, every word dripping with sarcasm.

The fight was almost over, Emery simply needed a few more seconds to finish Gerri and gather his points. Now, the creepy guy everyone has been dreading showed up.

Honestly, he was not even sure he would be able to overpower Gerri with his Fey Transformation and Heavenly Gate. Now, with Lodos joining into the fray, it was definitely impossible. Beating the odds by killing one of the two elite acolytes and almost defeating the other had already taken too much of his energy and he would rather not push his luck by trying to beat the acolyte known for his insanity among the elites. Emery mentally prepared himself to run. Maybe dive into the water, or just smoke out and [Blink] away.

On the other side, Gerri tried to stand up before finally wobbling up and shouting at Emery. "Damn you, Emery! That really hurts!". He turned to Lodos and narrowed his eyes in disdain. "You just had to show up now, don't you? Well, not this time, Lodos! This one is mine, get out of here and find another acolyte to torment or something!"

Flames erupted from both of Gerri's palms, heating the crisp forest air. This time, however, the might of the purple flames was directed towards Lodos.

Unexpectedly, Lodos did not even flinch. He only laughed, his laugh one of amusement and mirth.

"Ah, so you dare challenge me, too? Hahaha! Then great! This is excellent, come then! You can attack me together! Even without getting any point, I would still love to kill you for my satisfaction"

Gerri's involvement made Emery think he had a chance. Their battle aside, Gerri seems to be an interesting person and could be a very powerful ally for him. If both of them team up against the creepy guy, they might have a chance to escape or possibly beat the maniac Lodos.

... Or so Emery thought before all his hope were crushed with a single sentence from Gerri's mouth.

"Me? Fighting you?... No, no, On second thought I don't want any trouble. Nope! Please, mister. Do whatever is you want with him."

"..." Upon hearing the reply, Emery's jaw almost dropped open.

Gerri stepped aside and walked towards one of the larger stones along the edge of the river. He leaped off the ground and landed on top of the stone before sitting on it. "Well, what are you two waiting for? Go on, fight to your heart's content. I'll just be here watching the fight."

"What an interesting person, indeed." Emery cursed for the second time today, to the guy and his shitty luck.

Lodos turned around and faced Emery before raising his right hand high up, "It's you and me now!" Black tendrils appeared in the air and merged into a black rune, a sign he was about to use a darkness element spell.

The gravity spell [Pull Down] was cast, and Emery's body instantly felt a few times heavier, as if the earth itself was pulling him down. Previously he only saw what the creepy acolyte did to others, and now he understands how scary the spell was. It was almost instantaneous and seemed unable to dodge.

"Now die, weakling." Lodos grinned and cast another spell. A pair of black needles appeared in the air and headed straight towards Emery. Both needles made a whooshing noise as they rushed through the air.

Shhhht! Shhhht!

The noises became a harbinger of his death, Would he be losing the game so early?

No, no. He did not want it to end! His mind screamed and his body jolted with newfound energy.

With all his might, powered by his desire, Emery forced his body to move. In the last second before the black needles pierced his body, he was able to breakout. The black aura of the gravity spells around his body was dispersed and he managed to leap out of the way. The needles missed him and landed piercing the ground.

Lodos raised his eyebrows and said. "Oh? That was unexpected. You're much stronger than you look."

Emery sighed in relief. Yet again, his high battle power combination of two buffs gave him the ability to overpower the gravity spells and saved him from those needles.

"That was great!" Gerri cheered from the side.

Emery did not react, but Lodos squinted in irritation at him, and it was his cue to cover his mouth.

"Okay, fine, my bad! I'm sorry, please continue your fight and disregard me here, I'll be quiet as a mouse."

Emery saw his chance and did not waste it, and he cast [Enfeeble Blade], causing a pair of horizontal sword-like black lines thrown towards Lodos. Right before it hit Lodos, however, a black aura-like shield appeared and glowed surrounding the creepy acolyte body, causing Emery's spell to dissipate like smoke. Emery's strongest offensive spells were stopped casually without his opponent needing to raise a finger.

He really should have just taken the chance to run, but right now the gravity spell has instateously affected his body again, Emery again tried to overpower the spells when he realized Lodos smile and amusement with him.

"Great! Then, how about this? Let's see if you can breakout from this one!"

This time Lodos raised both of his hands and clapped in the air, summoning a black aura from all over his body. In an instant, Emery felt his body being weighed down again, but this time the spell was at least twice as strong, if not more. Suffocating black aura clung to his skin and kept him from moving. Even trying to lift a finger and casting a spell was too difficult a feat.

Lodos smiled in satisfaction, admiring Emery's attempts to struggle away. "How does that one feel? You have 10 seconds. If you can get out of that, I'll let you leave."

Lodos snapped his fingers and a dozen massive black needles appeared around Emery's body.

"Nine... Eight..."

Emery pushed his body and tried to take advantage of every ounce of strength in his body. His muscles contracted in full, pulses of pain wracked his body with every movement. Unable to keep his pain contained, Emery screamed and attempted to release himself from the hold of the dark aura.

"Seven... six..."

The more Emery pushed himself, the more pain he felt. The combination of recoil from [Heavenly Gate] and [Fey Transformation] was beginning to affect his body, and the pain only worsened in each second he struggled.

"Five... Four..."

Emery knew his body was at its limit. He pushed it one more time, but instead of being able to overpower the spell, the strength coursing within his body started to wane. The two buffs he was using were both disappearing... followed by his body returning to his normal shape, the fey transformation started to retract and disappear.

Seeing this Lodos's cheerful face turns to frown "What!! is that your limit? Disappointing!"

It was not just Lodos who disappointed, Emery also blamed himself for his failure.

"Just die!" Lodos shouted, his gleeful smile replaced with anger. The needles floating around Emery started to drop one by one towards him.

Emery could only watch and curse his own weakness as the needles flew closer. But, right before it pierced his body, suddenly the ground all around his body was shifted and thorny vines grew instantly. The vines wrapped all around his body, forming a distinct pattern while cocooning him in a protective embrace.

[Wall of Thorns – Tier 4 Plant Element]

Every single needle was stopped and stuck on the thorns. However, Emery saw one needle pierce through the wall and only stopped inches away from his face.

"That was close."

It was an impressive plant elements spell, but unfortunately, it was not his. Only those who have reached rank 7 would have the chance to learn this particular tier 4 spell.

A moment later, parts of the thorn wall moved, letting Emery see what was happening outside. Standing beside him, stood a pale skin woman with white hair.

"Silva!"

Her friendly figure really gave a light breeze upon his fortune. When Silva turned around, she quickly started to scold him.

"I specifically warned you about this guy, and you have to fight him first don't you! Your stupidity was beyond help!"

On second thought, it's not really a friendly face nor friendly words, but still delightful to hear.

Chapter 197: Silva's Help

Silva looked at Emery through the opening and asked him. "How badly are you hurt? Can you still fight?" She asked, the tone in her voice clearly conveying the concern she felt for him.

Emery was about to nod and tell Silva he was alright, but when he was about to, his body betrayed him, as his mouth spat out more blood. Fighting with Nate, Gerri and Lodos in a quick succession really took a toll on his body. In hindsight, his current state was inevitable, he did really push himself 'a little bit too much this time.

Not wanting Silva to worry, Emery gave a strained smile and answered. "I am fine, Silva... No need to worry about me."

"Huh, worry?! Who even has time to worry about you?! I'm not even worried, I just happened to pass through here and found you by chance!" Silva frantically explained her 'reason'.

Emery's smile turned into a grimace. His attempt to downplay his own wounds failed miserably, as his face clearly lost a lot of color. He really shouldn't force his body with the two buffs like that.

"You really are unlucky and foolish." Silva shook her head and sighed, before turning around to face Lodos.

"Hey, Lodos! This acolyte is my friend, will you let him leave this time? Let's consider it a favor, I will repay it later. I promise you won't regret this."

Lodos frowned and upturned his nose in disdain, as if he had smelled something truly putrid. "Where's the fun in that? I never needed a favor from anyone in my entire life."

Silva glanced at Emery before replying to the lunatic man. "What are you looking to get from this fight anyway? Fun? If so, why do you waste your breath and energy bullying a regular acolyte, let alone an injured regular acolyte? Are you really that bored?"

"Hear, hear!" To everyone's surprise, Gerri who only watched so far decided to chime into the conversation. "That regular was badly beaten after defeating Nate and almost being killed by yours truly, Gerri the Violet Flame! I almost won when you, an elite, came swooping in. For what? You want my points and my prey, huh? You shameless elite!"

Upon hearing Gerri's addition, Silva and Emery looked at each other, both unsure whose side Gerri really was on.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, Gerri's words seemed to have the right effect intended, as the expression on the crazy acolyte changed and he gritted his teeth in annoyance. "What do you want? You expect me to let my prey escape just like that?"

Silva paced around them, as if thinking as hard as she could, before snapping her fingers. The expression on her face looked like she had an idea, a brilliant one.

"Ah! Lodos, I have a way so you don't need to release your prey, but also protect your honor and still have fun!"

"What is it? I am listening." the crazy acolyte said, while crossing his hands.

"The easy solution is letting him recover from his wounds first! Let's see, maybe one hour...? No, no, no! Three hours!" Silva excitedly replied, while flashing three fingers to Lodos.

Lodos huffed. "No! 10 minutes. That's all I can give!"

"Lodos, think about it, what do you think a 10 minute recovery can do? Might as well do the deed and kill him now and be the laughingstock of the entire elite class acolytes."

Lodos appeared to be even more annoyed, when he heard Silva's words. He was silent for a moment, while his feet tapped the ground as he gave the suggestion some thought. Releasing his crossed hands, he said, "Fine, you can have 30 minutes. Not a second more." He then sat on the ground and immediately entered a meditative state, preventing Silva from arguing any further.

Emery glanced at Silva, who made a wicked smile, before glancing at Gerry and asked him. "So, Gerri, what about you? What do you want?"

"Me...? No... Nothing! Just consider as if I am not here at all. I am just part of this large stone." Gerri said, as he gestured at the large stone he was sitting on.

Silva decided not to bother with him and ignited him and his stupid jokes. She released the [Wall of Thorns] spell that has been surrounding Emery.

"Thanks, Silva." Emery said, quickly sitting down in a meditative position. Without wasting time, he casted [Nature Blessing] on himself.

Silva looked at Emery, her expression a little shocked. "Ah, is that one of the rare plant element healing spells, right? You're always full of surprises, every time I see you something new comes up."

Emery only commented with a smile, he focused all his energy to heal himself.

"So, how long do you need to heal yourself?"

"I'm not too sure, Silva, but most likely the whole 30 minutes... I'll try my best, hopefully I'll recover enough to be able to fight him at my full strength."

Emery's answer made Silva frown again.

"You absolute moron, who even said you needed to fight him... Look, as soon as you get healthy enough, give me the sign. We will run as fast as we can."

"..." Emery looked at Silva, dumbfounded.

Seeing Emery's reaction, again Silva looked annoyed. "Okay, Emery, I'm going to tell you this just once, you better open up that thick skull of yours and understand this. There is no honor involved with people

like him, okay? Especially not during such an important game like this. Who needs honor when your whole future is at stake?!"

Emery bit his teeth and nodded. Ever since he could remember, starting from his childhood, he was raised with the way of the knight. For every knight worthy of his salt, honor was something, a treasure more valuable than anything else. Upholding the code of honor was a privilege, such was what his father always said to him.

However, Emery could understand Silva's point of view. Thinking about the current events, he might be more flexible in the future, but right now he needed to recover from his wounds first.

Emery, Lodos and Gerri all sat in a meditative position, while Silva stood firm on guard in case something happened to Emery.

They stayed that way for a while. As the situation went on, Emery could feel his body refreshen, as his wounds were healing and he started feeling so much better. However, he felt something weird within him. Therefore, Emery checked his condition and found something that really shocked him.

[Fey Bloodline - Erratic]

Emery gave it a try, but as he feared, he couldn't access his [Fey Transformation] skill. Was this the cost of him forcing both the battle art and fey transformation together? 'This is really bad.' Emery thought.

Apparently, Silva paid close attention to Emery and realized something was wrong, when she saw the changes in his expression.

"Is something wrong?" Silva asked.

Emery was about to answer but then, instead of answering, he threw up another blood to the ground.

At the same time, Lodos shouted, "Time is up!"

"Silva, you should just leave. Don't worry about me." Emery said with difficulty as he tried to stand up.

Emery could see Silva was conflicted to decide. Moments later, she said, "Emery, we can't run away while you are still hurt. Therefore, just focus on your healing, and when you are done, you give me the sign and we will run together, alright?!"

Upon hearing the idea, Emery said, "No, Silva! I can't let you do that!"

"You fool! Who do you think I am? Before joining the elite class, I am the best acolyte of class 77! Of course, I can hold that creep down. Don't worry. I have detailed information about Lodos. You might not be able to see it clearly, but his gravity spells have a limited area, the stronger force he uses, the smaller the area. I might not be able to defeat him, but surely I won't be easily defeated. You Just focus on your healing!"

Silva walked towards Lodos and said "That guy is not healed yet"

Lodos didn't seem to care anymore and said, "I can't wait anymore.. I have given him time. If he's still not ready then it's his loss! He can just die!"

Silva then stood firmly and said "I can't let you do that!"

"Then you two can just die together!"

Emery then heard Silva chanting "Ye, my queen dowager grant me your power," after that, Silva's body started to change. Her pale skin turned shining and Emery could see slight scales appearing all over her body, her eyes changing too. Emery could tell her power just increased, she just used her bloodline transformation. She jumped in, dashing towards Lodos at high speed. "Lesst uss ssee who will die!"

Chapter 198: Trump Card

At the moment, Emery's body was soaking wet, as his mind was concentrating on casting his [Nature Blessing] spell, healing his still wounded body to the optimal state as fast as possible. Feeling the pleasant feeling coursing through his body, Emery perceived his previously wounded spirit core would return to its normal condition soon. However, he still had to focus his mind, as he knew the situation was turning for the worse every second passed.

Emery was no longer concerned about the drastic problem plaguing his fey bloodline. He could handle that matter later. Right now, he just needed his spirit core to function properly again to help the girl, who was fighting with the crazy man in front of him.

AAGGHH!!

Loud pained screams resounded in the air, as an apparent grimace appeared on Silva's face. The sound of Silva's flesh being pierced by the large needle-like spell, combined with the agony one could feel in her scream, haunted Emery's mind. He could no longer close his eyes.

Emery's healing spell was still maintained, while he carefully saw everything Silva did to fight Lodos. Since he knew he would have to fight the man himself, Emery split his attention into two and observed each step she did to handle this madman.

As he watched the raging battle, Emery noticed the solution to the seemingly unbeatable gravity spells. Apparently, speed was the solution. Yes, pure and plain speed. Thanks to her speed, which was astounding even amidst the ranks of elite acolytes, and her experienced battle sense, Silva was able to predict and dodge the gravity spells Lodos tried to throw at her, before he could even finish to cast them.

By the off-chance she did get caught by the spells, Silva swiftly used her high battle power, courtesy to her half-blood heritage, to break free from the spells, before they could be strengthened.

Watching the fight unfolding before him, Emery realized this was a battle of speed and long-range spell attacks. When Lodos was casting his signature black sharp needle spell, Silva casted her [Leaf of Steel] spell to welcome it.

The fight went on and Silva seemed unable to get closer to Lodos no matter what she tried. The closer she got to Lodos the easier it was for him to trap her with the gravity spells. Hence, the battle turned into a shooting contest, one where Silva was badly losing.

As he fired his needles, like someone who was watering their plants, Lodos had another spell activated, one that acted as his defensive spells the [Shadow Barrier]. The spell covered his entire body with a faint layer of darkish glow when he was attacked. Moreover, the spell was still active whether he moved or not, in other words, the defensive spell was mobile.

Meanwhile, even though Silva's [Wall of Thorn] spell was very powerful. The flexibility of the spell was not really its forte, as what the spell did was raise a few meters tall thorns barrier from the ground.

The spell was a formidable one when used as a defensive option. However, the situation of the fight where the two of them were throwing and dodging spells to each other, which made them move around, was not really the best condition for the spell.

Emery could tell Silva was slowly being cornered by Lodos. When it looked like she was about to lose, Silva finally used her trump card. Thorny roots, which looked like those that would appear when the [Entangle] spell was casted, emerged around Lodos' figure. But then, when they got close to him, the vines suddenly turned into dozens of snakes and began attacking Lodos from several different directions.

Silva was about to enjoy the sweet taste of victory, as she saw her trump card was about to hit Lodos. However, her smile was broken by the sight of Lodos rising up into the air. The crazy man casted a spell named [Pull Up] from one of his many gravity-based spells, and effortlessly evaded Silva's trump card.

The last spell Silva casted seemed to affect her state, as her speed was reduced by quite a lot. That was exactly when Lodos was finally able to trap her with one of his [Pull Down] spells. Silva finally got caught, and seconds later, dozens of black needles flew from above and whizzed through the air towards her.

This time, Silva unfortunately wasn't fast enough to break free and avoid the needles completely. As a result, two of the needles were successfully embedded into her leg.

AARRGGHH!!

Another loud scream was heard, as the needles went deep into Silva's leg. Once again, Lodos casted the combination of [Pull Down] and [Shadow Needle] spells towards the groveling Silva. This time, she was surely unable to dodge.

Looking at the precarious situation Silva was in, Emery knew he had to make a move now or it would be too late. He swiftly consolidated all the spirit energy he had gathered and channeled it all into his darkness core.

Immediately after, all three other element energies were channeling their power towards the center, and then an explosion of energy was created, as Emery's darkness core returned to its optimum state.

As soon as he felt his spirit core was restored and he could use it again, without even getting up from his cross-legged position, Emery swiftly casted the [Blink] spell. His figure warped through the space and instantaneously appeared near Silva.

Swiftly sweeping the young girl's body, Emery immediately took Silva away from the danger, as dozens of needles pierced the ground where Silva was standing just an instant earlier. He carried Silva in his arms, as he put distance between them and Lodos.

Expecting to be scolded again by the young girl for taking too much time on healing or carrying her like this, to his surprise, Silva was very silent at the moment. Emery noticed her face seemed to be a little red. However, he quickly threw the sight to the back of his mind, he had no time to be concerned about those things right now.

Seeing Emery's energized appearance, the crazy man turned to his cheerful state, as a smile could be seen on his face.

"Come, come, come. Both of you, come and attack me... I am bored." Lodos said, beckoning with his hand.

"Be careful, Emery. This guy is a freak." Silva said, as Emery put her down and prepared to fight the lunatic. She then immediately cast healing magic on her wounded leg.

"I know." Emery said with a nod.

As he walked towards the man step by step, Emery brought out everything he could use. First, he used the [Immortal Gate] battle art technique to once again increase his battle power. Then, knowing the best strategy to fight against Lodos thanks to Silva, Emery decided to use his new spell.

Lodos, who saw the approaching Emery, prepared to launch his attacks again. Emery made up his mind to cast the new combination spell he had just learned recently before the game began.

The spell was a combination spell between two elements just like [Shadow Bind Root] and [Granite Skin] spell. However, this time, it was a combination of water element and darkness element.

Dark blue glow appeared around Emery's figure as he was casting the said spell. Moments later, the spell activated.

[Shadow Mist - Tier 3 Combination Spell]

The spell created a stream of midnight-blue cloud all around the area where Emery and Lodos were standing. Shortly after, multiple images of Emery could be seen inside the mist. When the real Emery moved, all the mirage images also moved together with him. The sight was like what one would see upon entering a room full of glasses on all sides.

Chapter 199: Madman

The [Shadow Mist] spell cast by Emery made it look like there are many figures attacking at the same time, Lodos decided to throw his needles and gravity spells to several spots where 'Emery' was. However, when the spells landed on Emery's illusions, it appeared the real Emery was not in any of those places.

"What a coward spell!!!" Lodos roared, when he realized his spells didn't do anything as more 'Emery' appeared around him.

Seeing the spell did its job, Emery began firing his [Enfeeble Blade] towards Lodos. The familiar darkish blade construct rapidly flew in the air and hit the man, but unfortunately, it was easily stopped by the [Shadow Barrier].

Lodos quickly fired more of his [Shadow Needle] spells towards where the blade came from. However, the needles once again only hit empty ground. Seeing that, he became even more irritated, so, this time, Lodos channeled his energy into the dark rune in his hand. And immediately after, almost a hundred shadow needles were created in a matter of seconds.

The sudden appearance of hundreds of shadow needles made Gerri jump into the air, as he hurriedly hid behind the large lock he was sitting on. Meanwhile, Silva swiftly casted her [Wall of Thorn] again, beckoning Emery to take cover with her.

Betraying all the expectations put on him, Emery didn't decide to take cover. Instead, he charged towards the cluster of shadow needles floating around Lodos. Staring at a dozen illusion charging towards him, Lodos kept his cold look and fired his needles. In an instant, hundreds of needles flew towards all sides.

Seeing the rain of needles zooming to him, Emery focused his concentration and counted the range and speed of the needle carefully. When the needles were only inches away from hitting his body, likely causing him to become a real life human-sized porcupine; Emery casted [Blink] and warped forward and appeared in the area where the needles had already passed. Emery himself was surprised to be able to time the spells so accurately.

When he reached a few meters away from Lodos, Emery could clearly see him rising up using his spell, as he tried to gain distance, while still casting both the [Pull Down] spells and creating more shadow needles. Lodos evading to the air made the mist immediately became of no use, as the mirror images were unable to affect him anymore.

Now that his movement could be clearly seen, between the needles and the gravitational pull, Emery decisively chose the needles. Therefore, he casted [Blink] spell continuously and in a random interval, to make sure he wouldn't get affected by the [Pull Down] spell.

However, as his attention was focused on the gravitational pull, he got stabbed left and right by the needles. The [Granite Skin] that covered his body only managed to hold half of the needles' penetration ability, as they still managed to stab him a few centimeters in.

Lodos flew up higher into the air, while Emery followed him with his [Blink]. This was the first time Emery used the spell in this manner. Everytime he blinked, he would then fall in the air, before casting another [Blink].

Again, Gerri's words kept repeating in his mind as he chanted, 'Cast faster! Faster! Faster! Faster!' Emery was in full concentration mode, so much he forgot about all those needles piercing his body. He forgot about the pain, as his only thought was to chase Lodos.

[Blink] [Blink] [Blink]

"What are you really??!" Lodos roared, completely shocked by the way Emery chased him.

The reason Lodos was shocked was because, as a darkness element specialist, he himself knew [Blink] wasn't a spell that could be easily mastered, let alone be continuously casted. Space-related spells weren't something one could play on whims, as a single mistake was all it needed to end one's life in the most gruesome way. Lodos thought there was no way someone could continuously cast space-related spells in quick succession. Well, at least before this fight happened.

The two figure floating around in the air with one chasing right behind another. Finally, Emery was only less than 5 meters from Lodos. But, the closer he got, the easier it was for Lodos' spells to locate its target.

"I got you!" Lodos shouted, as his gravity spells finally affected Emery.

Emery felt as if his body was tied with a diamond rope, causing him to be unable to move even an inch. He would stay that way floating until he broke free from the spell, and, without his transformation ability, there was no way Emery could do that.

Looking at the captured prey on his 'palm', Lodos started to laugh, "Hahaha! Finally, you annoying worm! You can die now!"

Lodos quickly proceeded to cast as many black needles as he could and fired them all towards Emery. However, seconds before the needles could hit Emery, Silva was already next to him in mid air. Lodos was shocked when he saw the sudden appearance of Silva. They were in the air! How could she get up here?

Glancing to the ground, Lodos noticed a several meter tall [Wall of Thorn] right beneath the position of the two of them. It looked like Silva was using her defensive spell as a jumping board.

Unfortunately, plant magic was generally useless in the air, since the magic itself usually needed the ground as the medium. Hence, Silva chose to use her own body enhanced by [Oak Flesh] and took the needles on her own.

Blood splattered as Silva was hit by several needles, dyeing Emery's face red. Looking at Silva's bloody figure fall to the ground, Rage came into Emery, strong enough he managed to break free the gravity spell. He knew he couldn't let this opportunity given by Silva go, as he already got so close with Lodos.

Emery channeled his energy to his spirit core and once again casted [Blink], appearing right in front of the stupefied Lodos. He then swiftly casted his [Enfeeble Blade] up-close.

BAM!

Loud sound reverberated in the air as the blade crashed onto the [Shadow Barrier]. Alas, the barrier still managed to block it completely.

"Hahahaha! Your spell can't destroy my barrier, you weakling!" Lodos said, laughing madly.

[Enfeeble Blade] [Enfeeble Blade]

"Hahaha! It's no use!" Lodos laughed hard, as his barriers were bombarded by Emery's spells.

Emery still didn't give up as he proceeded to use all the spirit core he had in his darkness core and casted the most powerful [Enfeeble Blade] he could currently unleash. An extremely condensed dark blade formed, before it flew towards Lodos at breakneck speed. Seeing the spell, the expression on Lodos' face couldn't help but change.

BAAAMMMMM!!

Unfortunately, even though the barrier had received all Emery's spells head on, they only managed to create cracks on it.

Lodos was smiling widely as he saw the result. "Goodbye, it's been fun!" Lodos said, as he casted more shadow needles to attack Emery. However, he then realized there was another figure showing up behind him.

"Who?!" Lodos exclaimed, turning his head around.

A powerful bright blazing fire blasted upon the barrier, giving the final push needed to shatter the barrier completely. The figure was Gerri.

"You're right..." Gerri said with a smile, "It's been fun indeed."

Lodos was so enraged he changed the target of his shadow needles to Gerri. Realizing the situation, Gerri swiftly created a small burst of explosions that propelled him to the side with great speed, successfully dodging the needles.

Emery, on the other hand, would not let this golden opportunity go by. He blinked one more time, this time right next to Lodos, unfortunately the last spell he casted made his core empty. Emery finally settled with the strongest punch he ever threw...

BAMMM!! Emery could hear a cracking sound from Lodos' jaw. Not willing to end just like that, he quickly strangled the maniac with two of his arms, betting that Lodos didn't have the battle power needed to resist Emery. With both of his hands locked, unable to maintain his spells, there was only one possibility for Lodos.

Down.

The two hugged figures immediately fell down from the sky.

"Release me, you bastard!" Lodos shouted, trying desperately to break free.

Upon hearing that and feeling his struggles, Emery proceeded to hold him even tighter. And to make sure Lodos won't be able to escape, he was prepared to fall with him.

"NOOO!! You madman!!!"

Emery smiled, appreciating the irony of being called a madman by a maniac himself.

BOOOMMM!!!

Dust and dirt scattered in the air, as the two figures fell hard into the ground, creating a small crater. Emery felt his entire body screaming in pain. He was sure many of his bones were broken due to the fall. However, before he could lament his fate, Emery received a notification.

[Congratulations! You have defeated an elite acolyte]

[You have received 5000 points]

Chapter 200: Congratulation

[Congratulations! You have defeated an elite acolyte]

[You received 5000 points!]

Emery laid there on the ground and took a moment to relax and compose himself, while looking at Lodos' body slowly disintegrating into motes of light particles resembling fireflies. Against all odds, he managed to win against the strongest elite acolyte.

His entire body ached and pulsed with pain due to his wounds, but his mind felt as sharp as ever. It appeared the reason why the fall killed Lodos, but not him, was due to him being at the bottom, when they fell and secondly because of his low battle power.

Indeed, Emery could not deny that Lodos was ridiculously powerful. The creepy guy was armed with extremely powerful spells, be it offensive or defensive, but behind the protection of those spells, his body was far too weak. He lost in a physical battle. At times like this, Emery was grateful he took the teachings of Lord Izta and boosted his battle power with foundations of physical training

Emery was still unable to believe he won. On one hand, he knew the achievement of beating the strongest elite acolyte was something truly worth celebrating, but, on the other hand, he still had enough of his wits to realize he wouldn't have made it if not for Silva and... Gerri's help.

The thought of Gerri prompted Emery to stop relaxing and muster whatever strength he had left at the moment. In this state, even one weakest attack would throw him out of the game.

Emery looked around and saw Silva looked even worse than him, while the red-haired Gerri still looks perfectly healthy.

Clap! Clap! Clap!

Gerri clapped his hands and gave Emery a wide, kind smile.

"Congratulations for the win, Emery! I have to admit, that's the best fight I've ever seen in my life. Damn, it's so awe-inspiring."

Before Emery could ponder what he would do next, the question he had for the entire fight spilled from his mouth. "So, tell me now, why did you help us?"

"Me? Help? That was no biggie, I only did some little spells here and there."

"That doesn't answer the question."

"Aaah... Well, yes, I just thought it was such an interesting fight, and I'd hate to see you lose after you expended so much energy and effort. Also, about Lodos, I'm glad he's gone. Without that psycho, I'll have more acolytes to hunt."

Silva walked closer to Emery. She grimaced with every step, feeling the pain from the numerous stab wounds on her body. Emery quickly casted [Nature Blessing] for her and for himself and both of them sat in a meditative position to stabilize their own condition.

"So, what.. do you intend? you... going to... kill us now?" muttered Silva while still in pain

"Nope, of course not... I will let you live... Think of it as my present to congratulate both of you for your success, especially you, Emery. After seeing how you beated Nate and Lodos, I will have to call you Emery the Mad Acolyte now... What do you think? Haha! It's not as cool as Gerri the Violet Flame, but I personally think it suits you a lot."

Emery lacked the strength to retaliate or even feel bothered by what Gerri said. So he decided to close his eyes and continue casting healing spells on himself, using whatever remaining energy he had.

Gerri cleared his throat before continuing. "But me not harming you doesn't mean you're safe..."

Emery realized the same thing, too. For quite a while now. Both Emery and Gerri both gave a glance towards the woods.

Gerri then quickly said, "Anyway, before everything becomes even more complicated here, I'm going to take my leave first. Good luck, and... I hope to see you again."

As soon as he finished talking, Gerri channeled his fire element power and propelled himself up to the sky, flying away. His method of flying and the orange streak he left behind him, as he quickly flew like some sort of meteor through the sky.

Right as Gerri left, what Emery feared, finally came true. Half a dozen figures came out from behind the trees. Every single one of them was a regular acolytes like Emery. Some of them have been watching the fight for quite a while. The others have just arrived, surely attracted by the noises of their fight.

In a normal situation seeing this group would be a good thing, but now Emery was sitting here with Silva, an elite acolyte, and they were both heavily injured.

"This.. is another.. trouble.. damn.. your dumb luck.. affected me also.." Silva irritated

One of the acolytes seemed to recognize him "You're from class 77, aren't you?"

Emery gave them a nod.

"Wow, man. That previous fight was epic!"

"That acolyte you managed to defeat was Lodos, right? That's amazing! We are all really proud of you."

Emery eyed some of them and saw two of the acolytes had the mark attached to their wrists, symbolizing they were part of the alliance. However, he did not recognize the others at all.

The two acolytes with the mark approached him and said. "You're Emery, aren't you? We should go together and get to the appointed place as soon as possible."

Emery slowly turned his head and looked at Silva who was sitting next to him.

"As for the girl..." The acolyte was silent. They witnessed the girl helping Emery fight, and they are now unsure on how to deal with her.

One of the other acolytes decided to say something. "What do you even have to think about? You're looking at a free 5000 points sitting right there."

"I..dare.. you!!" Silva exclaimed while cough off blood

That acolyte was from another group. Unlike the one from the same alliance as him, all the other acolytes had zero reasons to let Silva survive this game.

Emery frowned and looked at Silva, and saw that her face was much paler than usual. However, her gaze clearly conveyed anger and disgust.

"Can you guys let her go? She has helped me before."

One of the acolytes laughed and said. "No need to take it too seriously, friend. This is just a virtual game, and I'm sure an elite acolyte like her has so much support and connection that will allow her to keep staying in the elite class. Meanwhile, for most of us, this is our only chance."

The other acolytes seem to have made an agreement, while those on Emery's alliance seemed to be conflicted on whose side to choose.

Seeing his words made an impact, the acolyte continued. "We should do it fast, before she recovers."

"But which one among us will get to do the honors? What do you two think? If none of you want the points, that's even better."

The other acolytes discussed amongst each other, as if Silva's fate had been decided. Meanwhile, Silva was too weak, too weak to even curse, let alone cast any spell. Remembering what she did, Emery grabbed Silva's hand, attempted to console her, and whispered. "Don't worry about it too much, I will protect you."

Upon hearing that, Silva's expression changed from rage to bewilderment. For a moment, Emery worried he had said something wrong, but he decided to continue. "Okay, stay close."

It was all a gamble. Emery had never done before what he was going to try now. He couldn't even be sure he would be able to pull his plan off. But, he grabbed Silva's hand tighter and decided to take the chance. Silva looked at him and nodded.

That was his cue, he cast the [Black Smoke] spell, letting a dark mist cover the area around him. While the other acolytes were disoriented, Emery hugged Silva and casted [Blink]

"They ran away!" the scream of the acolytes could be heard, but this time he heard it from far away. The two of them now stood next to the lake. It was his first time using [Blink] with another person, but he succeeded. Emery casted another [black smoke] before hurling a huge rock into the water to misdirect the acolytes making them think they both jumped into the water. Once again, he casted [Blink] and the two of them reappeared near the closest treeline.

Just a few moments more. Emery gritted his teeth and forced all of his strength in order to use [Blink] one more time. After that, they both ran through the woods, with Emery carrying Silva still.

Emery felt his whole body and spirit start to turn chaotic again, but at this desperate situation, Emery can swear he saw a glimpse of a smile on Silva's face.

He then found a perfect spot to hide just underneath a rocky hill. He used [Soften Earth] and created a small opening. The two of them crawled inside and he closed it, leaving just a small gap as a light source.