

Earths GMagus 631

Chapter 631 - Saint Level

Thrax was told to use a glaive instead of a spear for one main reason: the spear was made more for piercing attack, as such, it could not fully make use of his explosive strength. The glaive was a larger polearm-type weapon that would allow Thrax to still use most of his skills and retain his preference for polearms, thus letting him use both of his greatest proficiency.

[Power Glaives - Tier 4]

[Polearm]

[Length 3.2 meters, weight 46 kilogram]

[Increase strength]

The glaive he used was long and heavy, it was topped with a large one edge blade. As long as the wielder had the proper strength to swing it around, it was the perfect weapon to use when fighting against a group of enemies.

Swisshhh! Swisshh!!

Thrax was able to use his overwhelming strength to swing the weapon easily to tear his opponent apart.

As for Julian, he has always been proficient with the roman short sword gladius, but the magus advised him to use his skills to fill the gap for the group.

That was how he ended up with the role of main defender. Equipped with a shield and a hammer, his main objective was to hold the enemy's advance, not kill them.

[Earth smasher - Tier 4]

[One handed hammer]

[Length 1.1 meter, weight 41 kilograms]

[Spell - Quake]

[Causing vibrations upon impacts]

It was a magical artifact that looked like an anvil with a marking on its two sides. Took him a little bit of time to get used to this weapon but Julian understood that a hammer was the ideal weapon to break enemies' offensive waves and defensive lines. Especially when facing heavily armored enemies, a hammer would do much more wonders than a short sword.

The role was to disrupt the enemy lines, then he would let Thrax make the killing blow.

"Hahaha! Those roles really suit us!" Thrax shouted, while swinging his glaive around, creating a distinct metallic sound every time.

Julian was as much a warrior as Thrax, so he would also like to have Thrax role as the main attacker, however he was raised to be a leader before a warrior. He was glad to accept the role, knowing the importance of his position.

Meanwhile, Chumo and Klea got the role of ranged attacker, while Emery would be the vanguard that finished anything that came through the defense line Julian made. That was the advice and roles given to them by Magus Silica, after she saw their abilities.

As they finished the first 10 Terra knights, the sounds of marching could be heard. Thirty Terra Knights were coming through. Unlike before, the fight this time quickly went south and more complicated as now there were five tier 8 golden armor fighters among them who although unable to cast magic, their battle powers were at similar level.

Above all else the captain, a saint level fighter who was on a different scale altogether.

[Battle power: 130]

When Chumo told them the number, everyone was shocked.

A "Saint" was a prestigious title given to those who have reached peak stage rank 9, just one step below a proper Magus.

This particular saint did not cultivate his spirit force just like the other Terra warriors, but on the other hand, his strength was stronger than Thrax, even with his full Immortal Gate buff and fire aura.

The man also had his own buff skill that increased his own strength and also a special Saint fighter skill [Unbreakable Body] that made him even harder to deal with. As a result, the gladiator champion's loss in a battle of strength was inevitable.

The situation made Klea try out her new tier 5 spell [Greater Chain Lightning] to instantly stun half of the surrounding knights. With them incapacitated, Emery was able to help Thrax and beat the saint down.

However, it still took Emery and his friends all of their strength to finally defeat the 30 Terran knights.

When they tried to catch their breath, the magus told them their training was not finished. There was no chance for them to rest, as two more companies of a total 100 knights arrived to battle them at the same time.

It was now a battle between 100 people against 5. Emery even had to resort to using his Fey shaman transformation. However, their fatigue began to catch up, after three hours, the team lost all their energy, causing them to get hit multiple times until the protective barrier of their new tier 3 armors were gone.

Magus Silica jumped in and stopped the battle,

"Like i said, you must find a way to fight efficiently, the first game is about stamina after all"

Afterward she started giving tips on better ways to work together more efficiently. This was the only way they would be able to get through the higher levels in the game.

One of the main factors of their defeat was also the three Terra captains, whose strength was able to hold any of them even including Emery.

During the break, Thrax, who was unable to accept his defeat, decided to challenge one of the captains for a duel. However the gladiator champion tasted defeat yet again.

Thrax was so impressed with the Saint level strength and their innate ability that boosted strength and defense. He expressed his wish to become one someday. However, Magus Silica gave him an odd look before she said.

"No, you wouldn't want to be like them..."

"Why?" Thrax asked, still staring at them

Before Magus Silica could say anything, Magus Xion decided to explain.

"As a magus academy student, you might want to be a saint magician, but not a saint fighter."

The magus explain that outside the academy, their title mostly known as a magician than an acolyte, and after a certain age when an acolyte was still unable to reach magus level, they left the academy and took magician title instead.

A rank 9 magician was called a saint realm magician, but for saint fighters, they were the title for the previously rank 8 acolytes like them, who failed and gave up on building their spirit core foundation to reach rank 9. They choose to burn their spirit force and trade it with a large amount of battle power and the innate skill they just saw from the Terra captains.

Magus Xion added, as he glanced at them with pity in his eyes. "Yes, this will be the fate of some acolytes who fail to rank up in the academy."

Thrax and Julian, who still had much further to reach rank 9 couldn't help but feel disturbed by the information, promising they wouldn't let themselves fall to such fate.

Chapter 632 - Advance Skill

Having to fight waves of Terra knights was certainly not an easy matter for Emery and the others. All of them were not merely strong, they were also highly trained and very organized.

Previously, Emery and the others had to taste defeat two times consecutively when they faced three companies of Terra Knights.

From their seemingly unstoppable spear vanguard formation that could transition into a sword and shield formations, to the pinpoint accuracy and relentless barrage of arrows the archers positioned at the backline showcased.

Added with the captains and their gold armored warriors, the Earth acolytes could do nothing but accept another loss.

After the second battle, Emery and the others decided to take a longer break to heal their light wounds and bruises, as well as recharge the protective barrier of their suits.

"Five yellow spirit stones and three hours to fully recharge these tier 3 artifacts..." Julian said as he counted the spirit stones that still remain in their pouch. He was completely dumbfounded when he finished his calculation. "We have spent a total of five thousand spirit stones just for these practices!"

Hearing that, Thrax let out a cheeky smile. "Maybe we should ask for some spirit stones for this training too..."

Emery, Klea, Julian, and Chumo swiftly turned their heads to Thrax and stared at him with flat expression on their faces. It was Chumo who spoke out the thoughts the four of them had.

"Shameless."

Thrax scratched his head playfully while the smile on his face widened. "Hahaha, there is no harm in asking, is it?"

The Terra Kingdom had been supporting them with many things ever since last year. Therefore, it would certainly be extremely inappropriate for them to ask anything else.

While resting their exhausted bodies, the group quickly discussed how they should tackle the problem they currently faced called Terra Knights. They desperately needed a strategy to win the battle in the next training session.

The discussion was mostly done by Klea and Julian, who were talking about a variety of tactics and debating which one of them was the best for their current situation. As for Emery, he chose to sideline himself, as he wasn't as knowledgeable as them about this topic.

Emery however didn't just sit idling around. He decided to focus his thoughts on the position he was currently in charge of, the middle position of the group.

Currently, his strong point that the group took advantage of was still the versatility of the spells he had in his repertoire. However, this style of fighting he adopted would always end with him running out of spirit energy. Hence, he was trying to think about ways to improve his efficiency in the fight.

On their third try, Emery decided to incorporate his battle art [Weeping Phantom] into his combination of attacks, to ease the consumption of his spirit energy. Alas, he soon found out the power the battle art had was not comparable to that of his spells.

Therefore, he began trying his newly learned [Shadow Edge] and integrating the skill into his attacks. The end result was satisfactory in Emery's eyes.

The blade skill that unleashed energy able to cut through anything within the ten meter radius in front of him. It was more than enough to break enemy formation and strike fear in their vanguard.

"What the hell?! Why are you just showing this to us now?!" Thrax shouted, who was nearly injured from being in the trajectory of the attack.

Julian quickly added, "This is great, Emery! I'm sure we can win with this! Let's go!!"

The group who was pumped by Emery's display quickly returned to the arena and challenged the Terra Knights again.

[Shadow Edge]

A jet-black crescent-shaped energy shot through the air and hit the Terra knights advancing toward Emery and the others. The wave of Terra knights were prepared to receive the attack, but they didn't expect the skill to contain such momentum.

The violent blast created by the skill managed to instantly destroy the protective barrier of a dozen Terra knights. Furthermore, they were sent flying backwards even faster than when they came.

Seeing that the skill had eliminated a significant portion of the enemy, Emery immediately took advantage of the momentum it had built up. He quickly channeled another [Shadow Edge], while his eyes scanned around trying to find any opening.

The moment it was ready to be unleashed, Emery immediately cast [Blink] and appeared right in front of the still disorganized Terra knights. Launching the skill forward, this time even one of the captains was flung away with their protective barrier shattered apart.

"Hahahah!! Did you feel that?!!" shouted Thrax excitedly, when he saw Emery's feat. "That's my man, Emery!!"

Seeing Emery wreaking havoc across the enemy ranks, Thrax became so excited he advanced further to the enemy line, moving away from Julian and the others.

Seeing Thrax getting further and further away, Julian quickly shouted. "Stop, Thrax!! You are going too far ahead!! Come back!!"

Alas, the Thracian didn't seem to want to hear the command as he continued to charge forward.

"Huh! No! Let's pushed them backk!!"

The gladiator champion's combat sense was literally on fire, as he jumped to the air and lunged towards the rows of Terra knights directly, brewing even more chaos amidst their ranks.

Unfortunately, Thrax quickly found himself surrounded within a minute he entered the enemy formation. The teamwork and discipline of the Terra knights were clearly displayed.

"I told you, you simple-minded barbarian!!" shouted Julian in a frustrated voice, when he saw the Terra knights had cut off all paths of Thrax's retreat.

Thrax, however, glanced in Emery's direction. His gaze told the latter he had pulled all the enemy's attention to him and it was time for Emery to deliver his decisive strike. This was a gamble on Thrax's side. The only reason he was willing to do this was because of his deep trust toward Emery.

However, as Emery leaped to the air and swung his tier 4 sword for the activation of the skill, cracks abruptly appeared on its blade surface. The next instant, the sword shattered apart leaving him with only its hilt.

This unexpected incident also left Thrax in disbelief. His mouth was wide open, as he watched the falling pieces of the sword and in the end, he had to accept spear thrusts coming from all sides.

"Emery!!!!!!"

The consequence was the advantage they had before quickly disappeared like a puff of smoke with Thrax out of the fight. Ultimately, the team's eventual failure followed after.

"...."

The group looked at each other, or rather, in the direction where the remnants of the former tier 4 sword were scattered. Emery's [Shadow Edge] was indeed powerful. It was so powerful it even broke a tier 4 weapon with just a dozen usage.

Emery can't help to think his master was trying to make him broke teaching him this new skill.

Apparently, this tactic was still not feasible for the training, let alone for the high-stake Magus Game.

Not only just because Emery still hadn't completely mastered the skill yet, but also because [Shadow Edge] consumed a considerable amount of spirit energy. Hence it wasn't exactly the ideal solution he was looking for.

During the next break, Emery decided to approach the combat puppet panel and access the system.

[You are rewarded one battle art technique]

[Please choose one of the battle art techniques]

There were two main categories of battle arts. One could enhance its caster's weapon, while the other was utilized to enhance its caster's body.

[- Weapon Techniques -]

[Sword - Spinning Blade]

[Sword - Rending Strike]

[Dagger - Lunging Stab]

[Dagger - Piercing Strike]

[Dual - Cross Slash]

[...]

[- Body Techniques -]

[Strength up]

[Speed up]

[Defense up]

Those battle art techniques were something Emery had seen before, so he just skimmed through them to make sure he did not miss anything. However, as he continued to browse the list and reach the bottom part, he realized there was actually a new section.

[- Advanced Weapon Techniques -]

[Sword - Sonic Leap]

A charge type skill that allows the user to charge toward the enemy at up to three times the user's speed.

[Dual - Soulless Stream]

A series of combo attacks that consists of four stages: 4 strikes, 8 strikes, 16 strikes. and 32 strikes.

[Sword/Dagger - Chain Strike]

A strike type of skill that allowed the user to jump from one target to another in succession.

Emery couldn't help but roll his eyes as he read through this new section of battle art techniques. With this, who would be stupid enough to choose the basic version over the advanced ones.

However, he later found out that these options were only available when he had reached a certain requirement in his stats and weapon proficiency. Some might receive different skills or none of the advanced skills at all.

Now, he just needed to ignore the basic ones and choose one of the three.

The question was which one should he choose?

Chapter 633 - Skill Of Choice

Emery would have to decide which one he should choose between the three advanced skills available, but he was torn by it. If he could, he obviously wanted to learn them all. That was the problem and the reason he took a long time to contemplate his decision.

He give thought to the first advanced skill on the list, [Sword - Sonic Leap]

The three times speed boost was no joke, especially when one's speed was already monstrous to begin with. Taking the example of Emery, his 330 meter per second speed would jump to 1000 meter per second.

His speed would break through the limit and surpass the speed of sound itself. Furthermore, this sudden burst of speed would definitely catch his opponent off guard when used properly.

However, there were naturally some drawbacks about the skill that made Emery reconsider his choices.

The skill apparently required time to channel, and thanks to the existence of [Blink], Emery didn't really have the immediate need to acquire this skill, as it wouldn't be that much of use to him right now.

There was also the potential problem when he became too fast that he couldn't dodge the enemy's counter attack while using the skill. After all, the skill only increased his speed, while leaving his reaction speed untouched.

Moving onto the next advanced skill on the list, [Dual - Soulless Stream].

This weapon advanced skill made Emery drool. The prospect of being able to consecutively strike the opponent thirty two times in one attack was tempting to say the least.

He even thought such an attack would probably be effective against a being like Killgragah, whose body was extremely hard to injure, unless one completely focused all of their attacks in one point.

Emery would definitely need this skill in the future, and he personally wanted this skill. However, he quickly held his desire and proceeded to the last advanced skill available, checking all three skills before finally making up his choice.

[Sword/Dagger - Chain Strike], the last advanced skill available to Emery at the moment.

At a glance, it was merely a movement technique that allowed the user to move from one target to another quickly. But as he continued to read through the description provided, Emery felt as if his mind had managed to catch a glimpse of the skill's true worth.

After a thoughtful contemplation, he found it to be exactly the skill he needed the most at the moment. A skill that would help him defeat multiple opponents within a short period of time, while also minimizing the consumption of his spirit energy.

Alas, this brought Emery to another round of hesitation. After thinking long and hard between the two skills [Soulless Stream] and [Chain Strike], he didn't seem to be able to make up his mind. Eventually he decided to ask his master's opinion.

Magus Xion let out a faint smile when Emery came to him with this dilemma of his. He began by explaining that the advanced skills were considered B rank skills, while the [Hidden Blade] and [Heroic Strike] he had learned were considered C rank.

With this, he then reminded Emery that no matter what kind of skills it was, all his C rank and B rank skills would eventually become part of the progress in developing his own sword skill. They would later help define what kind of sword master he would become.

Magus Xion did not give Emery neither a direct answer nor an opinion of his own. He merely explained the matter clearly and told the latter the consequences his choices would have later in the future.

Fortunately, Emery was smart enough to understand what his master meant to tell him.

Emery thanked Magus Xion for the advice. He then sat down and closed his eyes, contemplating every skill that he currently possessed.

[Heroic Slash] allowed him to deliver the hardest strike he could muster, while [Hidden Blade] was about hitting the target as fast as possible. The two skills were both sword hand skills.

Meanwhile, [Weeping Phantom] was a sword variation skill with advanced movement techniques that would help him to continuously keep up with different opponents. Lastly, [Shadow Edge] was a long range magical attack with an equally destructive capability.

Emery of course did not forget about his Dao technique. In fact, while thinking about this matter, he subconsciously started to absorb all these intricacies and integrated them along with his [Dao Divine Technique]. He fell into a state of enlightenment.

Within his mind, Emery started to create a sword form that incorporated all the sword skills he had into one.

With [Weeping Phantom] as the foundation of this newborn sword form, Emery grasped the principle of Dao, as well as his battle art skills, culminating all these elements together. A balanced, efficient swordsmanship that was both hard and soft, fast yet flexible - all at the same time.

With this framework in mind, Emery finally found what he lacked and required to complement this sword form of his. It was the [Chain Strike] advanced skill.

The technique would be an enormous value to the repertoire of skills he currently had. With the concept of Dao, Emery could find the balance between using his [Weeping Phantom] steps and [Chain Strike] to balance when to walk and when to dash.

Emery quickly gathered his focus and meditated, as he tried to absorb the essence of the skill as much as he possibly could.

Moments later, he started to slowly feel that his understanding of Dao had once again increased. Alas, he was forced to stop his meditation, as the sun had risen on the horizon, signifying that the Terra knights were once again prepared for another battle.

Even so, Emery was not disappointed to be interrupted. Instead, he was excited as it was now time to test his newly-gained understanding in a true fight.

Before the training session started, Emery was unexpectedly summoned by Magus Silica. He was puzzled for a moment, before a surprised expression appeared on his face as the combat magus gave him something he desperately needed.

Magus Silica was generous enough to give Emery a tier 4 sword for him to use.

[Hardened Sword]

[Long sword tier 4]

[Length 1.3 meter, weight. 9 kilograms]

[Increased durability]

This sword Magus Silica bestowed to Emery was chosen in the hope it would be able to withstand more and longer of his particular [Shadow Edge].

The group once again fought the wave of Terra knights. It was now their fourth battle, this time Emery started to use less of his spells and focused on utilizing his sword techniques. Julian and Thrax seemed to notice Emery's actions as they began to adopt a more defensive approach.

The [Weeping Phantom] allowed Emery to move flexibly amidst the opponents, dodging the attacks they threw at them, while also positioning them at the right spot. The moment the Terra knights stood exactly where he wanted them to be, Emery immediately employed one of the 6 variations to hold down the knights.

When he began to be overwhelmed by the tight formation of the Terra knights, Emery didn't retreat back to his group using [Blink] spell they expected. Instead, he unhesitantly struck back with his newly-learned skill [Chain Strike].

Snap!! Snap!! Snapp!!

Emery's body flickered rapidly, as he launched a ferocious retaliation against the oppression imposed upon him. Each time he managed to hit the Terra knights using the [Chain Strike], Emery gradually

understood its essence - a muscle flexibility that allowed him to lunge at incredible speed to and fro the enemies.

Snapp!! Snap!! Snapp!!

Within just a few seconds, Emery managed to repel half a dozen of Terra knights surrounding him, forcing them to take a few steps back and reform their defense.

Julian and Thrax certainly would not let this golden opportunity that easily.

"Attack!!"

Chapter 634 - Last Day

Everyone agreed the fourth battle was the longest and most grueling battle they have ever had. Although their attempt resulted in another failure, Magus Xion and Silica were satisfied with the result of their training. The Earth acolytes all started to get used to each other's skills, and their teamwork improved significantly.

Time kept on ticking, today would be the last day they could train before the games start. Hence, Emery chose not to take a break after the battle. He grabbed his weapon and returned to the combat puppets.

He checked one of the control panels, activated it.

[Combat puppet level 9]

The others looked at how enthusiastic Emery was, and decided to pick up their own weapons and face the combat puppets once more as well. The sight of the young acolytes trying their best once more brought a satisfied smile to the two magus.

For the whole duration of the three hour break, Emery used his time to fight the level 9 combat puppet over and over again, only to lose a dozen times. He was unable to even come close to defeating the level 9 puppets, despite how much he tried, but that did not dampen his spirit, so he decided to continue training afterwards.

Before they realized it, break time was over. It was time for their fifth battle. Just like before, they gave everything they had and struggled fiercely, but in the end, once again they had to taste the bitter defeat.

In between each battle attempt, Emery always returned to the combat puppet to train his skills. Finally, on their sixth battle, Emery and his friends managed to snatch a hard-earned victory.

Just like before, Emery, as the mid fighter, played a major part in their victory. His versatile ability, combined with the two battle arts [Weeping Phantom] and [Chain Strike] was able to cover most if not all the sudden situations in battle. In addition, repeated use allowed Emery to find the rhythm between the two techniques. Now none of the knights ever managed to go past him.

Thanks to that, Chumo and Klea didn't have to defend themselves and they could freely use their powerful ranged attacks. Chumo, the Asian prince, was able to concentrate in controlling the maximum amount of shadows he could and produce a rain of arrows. All followed by the fierce blue rain of lightning that crashed throughout the arena and decimated the Terra knights.

The group successfully managed to keep hold of the flag until the last few Terra knights were defeated. They had to face multiple waves and defeat a total of 150 opponents and in the end, they succeeded.

"We did it!!" Shouted the gladiator champion, excited that their efforts finally paid off.

All five shouted and cheered in unison, both for their victory and their teamwork. With this, they were much more confident of their success in the Magus Games.

With their cheerful victory, the adrenaline left their body almost at the same time. Emery and his friends all dropped lying down on the arena, exhausted. The two magus approached them and gave them some last minute advice, before letting them have a good rest.

It was already late in the day, but Emery decided to return to the combat puppets with his weapon in tow. Unlike before, his friends were all unable to follow.

In order to win, they forced all their physical and mental strength to the limit. Now, all of them were completely drained of energy.

Emery, however, was different from them. He possessed a fey bloodline and had the [Nature Grasp] skill. The two allowed him to recuperate his health and spirit energy much faster than his friends.

As he had recovered most of his energy, he grabbed his weapon and resumed training. He decided to keep the lessons he learned in today's battle experience and integrate all of it into his swordplay.

Thrax, with the help of his [9 Sun Divine Technique] was the second fastest to heal aside from Emery. He opened his eyes only to see Emery was absorbed in his swordplay and training. With a gaze full of interest, Thrax took his weapon, the champion once again wished to challenge him.

Before he could call out to Emery, however, Magus Xion stopped him.

"Let him be."

Magus Xion stared at Emery with a proud smile on his face. It appeared his decision to help Emery, despite risking himself by disobeying his own master, was not in vain. From here, he could see that Emery had already made his A-rank skill into something else entirely.

Not long afterwards, Klea stood up and approached, watching Emery's practice with a stare full of concentration. Beneath the notice of everyone else, she let out a deep, tired sigh. The boy that had always been in her heart was slowly growing into a different person. Now, he was a man with purpose.

Only nine months had passed, yet Emery became so much more powerful that she couldn't help but feel worried. She felt that if she lost sight of him for just a mere moment, he would leave her behind.

"Privileged class... No, don't you dare! I am supposed to be the genius of the group!" said Klea screaming the words into her thought

For all the Earth acolytes, this night felt much longer and colder.

Chumo did not sleep either, he used the last hours to push his body to the limit in hopes that he would reach the 9th rank, but that never seemed to come. He had struggled with it in his whole time on Earth and here, but breaking through rank 9 was not an easy task.

As for Julian, he couldn't help but think he was at the bottom among the five in terms of strength.

He was not as fortunate as Emery, as talented as Klea, as strong as Thrax, or even come close to Chumo in terms of spirit force and strength.

The Roman commander promised himself he would not let himself be the dead weight of the team and will show his worth tomorrow.

Everyone spent the last few hours remembering their own purpose and holding their own resolve.

When the morning came everyone was fully equipped and ready for the games.

All five wearing the black combat suits heading toward the assembly for the biggest event of the academy

[One hour until the start of the Magus Games, all participants are invited to gather in the great assembly]

Chapter 635 - Great Assembly

The shimmering glare of the sun was tearing the veil of the darkness, illuminating the magnificent buildings and beautiful landscape within the Magus Academy with its unrivalled brilliance.

The day is finally here!

[One hour till the games start, all participants are invited to gather in the great assembly]

After seven days of staying, Emery finally left Terra Kingdom along with his four friends.

Following the short rest that slightly relieved their exhausted body, Emery and the others immediately made a one way trip directly to the main academy's Grand Assembly Hall.

All five of them arrived in front of the large stairs and saw the huge crowds that flooded the area. The objective of these people was naturally the same as the group, to enter the Grand Assembly Hall for the upcoming Magus Game.

Actually, as they made their way to this place, Emery had some reservations about this year's Magus Game. That due to the current tense situation with the elves, the Magus Game would somehow not be as festive as its many predecessors.

But seeing the sea of people that threatened to cram the hall to the brim, it was apparent that Emery couldn't be more wrong in his thoughts.

Emery threw his gaze around, stretching his field of vision as far as he could possibly do, as he tried to take in how many people were currently on the scene. All around him, just from what his eyes could see; there were at least ten thousand people filling the area.

As they climbed up the stairs and entered the Grand Assembly Hall, all five of them still couldn't manage to hold the awe that was leaking out of their faces and gestures when they saw the architecture design of this place.

There was simply nothing on Earth that could be compared to such a place. It was a dozen times bigger than the pride of the Romans - the Colosseum Arena, it was more magnificent to look at than the Pyramids built by the Egyptians, and it filled with as many crowds as all of Britannia combined.

At the moment, more than half of the assembly had already been filled with people. Today was merely the first game of the Magus Game, but it already felt as if it was the final.

Different kinds of people could be seen everywhere in this place, once again expanding Emery and the others' insight about the profundity of the human race as a whole.

While the group was having this once-in-a-lifetime experience, Emery was distracted by a voice calling out to them.

"Are you all surprised!?" shouted a young man with eye-catching red hair. "This is the third year's Magus Game, so of course it's crowded!!"

"Gerri!" A faint smile appeared on Emery's face when he saw this unusual friend of his. But then, a thought suddenly came to his mind when he saw the latter approaching him with his typical easygoing look. "You.. have you got a team?"

"What kind of question is that!? Of course dude!" Gerri replied as he smacked Emery's shoulder hard. "This is the last hour! How would I join the game without a team!?"

Honestly, Emery felt a bit terrible when he saw how relaxed Gerri was with him, knowing that the latter had offered to join his team previously.

But then, the Violet Flame quickly called out to his team. As Gerri's teammates made their way toward where he was, Emery was surprised because he didn't expect those people would join him in a group.

Seeing the expression Emery had on his face, Gerri put his two arms around two women that the former knew very well. They were Okoye and Aiko the Jade Flash.

"Look, Emery, here are my team beauties."

Gerri had a wide grin on his face as he spoke those words. Emery glanced over to the two women, and his eyebrows couldn't help but twitch when he noticed their expressions.

It was seen that the two women weren't very happy with the treatment he was giving them, but the two didn't overreact and just chose to ignore the red-haired man.

"Two beauties in my arms, and here are my two beasts." Gerri said brightly, not forgetting about the usual smile perched on his face all day long.

Emery's eyes were immediately attracted to the two figures with massive build that came approaching in their direction. These two figures were almost twice his height and had crooked horns on their heads; Emery was familiar with them.

"Igor! Ivan!!!" spoke Emery excitedly. "You two made it!!!"

Emery was certainly elated to see the two goat bloodline half bloods that had helped him during the previous Magus Game were in a good condition. Even though their time with each other could be

considered short, everything that they went through together at that time had forged a close connection between them.

The trio quickly went into conversation as Emery asked why he didn't see them on the first day. And apparently, the reason for them to be late was because most halfblood acolytes that came from middle or high realm worlds had to pass a certain screening process that took a few days.

Emery nodded in understanding when he heard that. Either way, he was happy that they could make it back to the academy.

Now that the two goat half bloods were standing in front of him, Emery couldn't help but to ask about one certain person.

"Hmm... Do you have any news about Silva? Will she come back to the academy this year?"

Emery saw the two look at each other for a while before turning towards him and shaking their heads. Just like the news he heard, a day before the attack, all serpent bloodlines mysteriously went back to their home planet before deciding to cut off all means of communication.

This made Emery let out a bitter sigh, and this action of his naturally didn't escape Klea's eyes who had observed him attentively. The Egyptian Queen secretly smiled, inwardly hoping that crazy chick would never return.

Klea grabbed Julian's right arm with her left while grabbed Chumo's left with her right. She was clearly mimicking what Gerri had done to the two young women.

She then said, "Let's go to our spot!"

Chumo could do nothing but accept his fate of being manhandled by Klea. He could only show a helpless smile on his face and looked at Emery with an apologetic look as his body was forcibly dragged by the Egyptian Queen.

Seeing the three people getting farther away, Emery quickly gave his best wishes to Gerri and his teammates before chasing the trio along with Thrax.

The group headed down toward the arena where the seven thousand plus acolytes had gathered. This gathering of acolytes naturally comprised those from regular class, elite class, and privileged class.

Like in previous years, they were all divided into ten divisions. Emery and the others quickly made their way to where hundreds of all division 7 had gathered.

The moment they arrived, Emery and the others instantly felt all the eyes that were looking toward them. Especially so for Emery, who was the winner of last year's second game and also the one who managed to reach the final.

Emery took note of all the gazes he received, particularly the ones that came from those in white uniforms -? the acolytes of the privileged class. Naturally as all the classes were divided throughout the divisions, there were a few of them assigned to the group seven where Emery's group was.

Among them, Emery recognized one that immediately made his mood turn sour. A young handsome man with luscious golden hair and that arrogant condescending smirk on his face; Armand the Nephilim acolyte.

"That man has a screw loose on his head!" whispered Klea who had unknowingly stood next to him. "Don't worry about him and just focus on the game."

The words Klea spoke were intended to cheer Emery up, to lift his spirit. Looking at the relaxed expression on the latter's face, it was clear that it was certainly effective.

Emery found that he missed Klea's encouragement dearly, as it had been a while since she had last done it for him.

The two unwittingly stared at one another for a moment and time seemed to stand still between them, until it was suddenly interrupted by a soft voice that said, "Emery Ambrose!"

Emery woke up from his trance-like state, turned towards the voice that called out to him and saw a beautiful girl with long, straight red molten hair. His eyes were immediately caught by the white-colored privileged class uniform that covered her sensual figure.

Emery somehow recognized the girl but couldn't put a name on her face.

"You are Emery Ambrose, aren't you? Do you remember me?" asked the girl with a bright smile.

Emery didn't even have a chance to speak as Klea immediately put on her defensive stance and asked, "Who the hell are you?!"

The girl, however, ignored Klea and quickly came close to Emery. She got so close that her skin directly touched his. "I am his... How to say this.."

Killing intent flashed across Klea's eyes when she saw how intimate the other party's actions were with Emery. As for Emery himself, he stood there frozen, overwhelmed by what was going on.

"His... martial aunt."

Emery felt like he was doused with a bucket of ice water when he heard the girl's words. The answer the other party gave bewildered him, to say the least.

Martial aunt, is it? If that was the case, then that meant... the sister of his master.

Before Emery managed to recall the girl's name from the crevice of his memories, it was Chumo who spoke from the back. "That's Annara, remember? The renowned number one acolyte of the Darkness Institute."

Upon hearing that, Emery felt like everything that jumbled up everywhere suddenly connected together. He immediately turned to the girl again, and this time realized that behind her cute smile, there was a cold piercing gaze concealed within her eyes.

This girl was most probably the youngest disciple of Grand Magus Zenonia.

Chapter 636 - The Team

"Let me introduce myself to you, Emery Ambrose." the young girl said with an elegant bow. "I am Annara Vairmont, the twelfth and youngest disciple of Grand Magus Zenonia."

As Emery thought, this young girl with long, straight molten red hair was in fact Grand Magus Zenonia's direct disciple. She was one of the selected few who managed to be chosen by the grand magus as a disciple last year.

Emery remembered her first impression as a young, friendly acolyte when they first met. It's been three years since then and the young girl had certainly grown well, in certain aspects.

Annara walked around Emery while staring daggers at him from top to bottom. Her gaze was invasive, as if it wanted to lay bare what was hidden within. Her gesture showed that she still maintained her arrogance, but her touch was all over his body as she circled around.

"I really don't understand why my master and Magus Xion were so interested in you.. But don't you worry, I will not judge you with prejudice too quickly..." Annara lifted her head and stared directly into Emery's eyes. "I tend to know your secret..."

Breaking the eye contact, she then glanced at Klea and gave her a condescending look. As if that wasn't inappropriate enough, she proceeded to give the others beside Emery the same treatment.

When her eyes landed at Chumo, she stopped for a second and asked, "You are part of this group too?"

A look of surprise appeared on Chumo's face because he didn't expect the other party to notice him. He quickly panicked when he realized he was being recognized by the literal top dog in the Darkness Institute. As for her question, he unconsciously nodded his head.

Annara turned her head back to Emery, looked at him and said, "You are... uncommon, But I can't say the same with your teammates. You should find a better one.."

The faces of Klea, Julian, Thrax, and Chumo immediately turned ugly when they heard those words. Like always, it was Thrax who exploded first, However, Emery quickly held him back.

With a meaningful smile on his face, Emery replied. "I am fine. Thank you for the advice... martial aunt."

Hearing Emery's answer as well as the sarcastic remark of her status, the smile on her face just grew wider instead of getting angry. Her eyes narrowed as she said, "Let's see if you can make it to the last stage. If you manage to do so, then we shall talk again... I am watching you, Emery Ambrose."

After saying that, Annara didn't wait for any reply as she immediately turned and walked away from the ground with her back straightened.

Looking at her figure that was getting farther and farther away before being lost in the sea of people around them, Klea finally let out what she had been holding back. "What an arrogant bitch! Be careful, Emery. Zenonia must have sent her to keep an eye on you."

Emery didn't say anything and only nodded his head. He didn't want to bother himself too much with this matter. After throwing this short encounter with Annara to the back of his mind, he swept his gaze over to the other privileged class acolytes who joined division 7.

There were actually nine of them, acolytes dressed in privileged class' signature white uniforms.

Other than the two people Emery got into contact with - Annara and Armand, there was also Roran Harlight - the regular class acolyte who managed to enter the privileged class last year.

Currently, Emery saw that he seemed to be busy talking with his team members, which consisted of him, another privileged class acolyte, and two elite acolytes.

Taking note of this in his mind, he then turned his attention over to Micah and Orycon who both seemed to also have a privileged class acolyte in their team. The two most probably have huge family clans to back up to as well, which can be expected with their talent.

Meanwhile, Lodos seemed to be walking on the one man army path as Emery could see the former team up with 8 regular class acolytes. This was an outrageous plan, but one that certainly fit perfectly with the Maniac's temperament.

Still, Emery couldn't just instantly underestimate the other party's team and act as if the eight acolytes didn't exist and were just a burden. Who knew there might be a hidden gem among them.

There was another team that came up to see Earth team, more specifically to approach Klea. It was Anas of the Kaleos who came to introduce the genius hailing from their side.

A large, muscular man with brown skin with a tint of bronze in it. The man didn't say anything when Anas began to narrate how incredible he was. Even so, Emery didn't dare to underestimate the other party as Emery could faintly feel his strength from his gaze alone. It was calm like a lake, yet profound like the ocean.

With the Kaleos team being the last that Emery paid attention to, he immediately drew his wandering gaze back and closed his eyes as he began to condition his mind for the upcoming game.

Emery opened his eyes and a glint briefly passed through his two eyes when he saw there was only a few minutes left.

Right before the Magus Game kicked off, Chumo told the group that all the privileged class acolytes were all rank 9 high stage acolytes with six to nine of their pillars had already formed. Hearing that, the group's expression turned serious for a moment.

"Don't worry, it's not like we will be fighting them, right?" Julian said in his attempt to break the tension. "We just need to survive longer!"

"No way! We can't just aim to survive longer than them! With Emery here, we have to get the number one!!" said Thrax with enthusiasm.

Emery could only smile wryly at his friends' antics. He both felt happy and concerned with how much trust his friends put their fate on him.

Not long after, a man was seen standing up on the VIP seating area and made his way towards the main podium overlooking the arena. Every pair of eyes on the scene focused their attention on this figure.

The man was none other than the previous deputy, now Acting Headmaster Delbrand. The grey-haired middle-aged man didn't give off half the aura that Headmaster Altus emanated, but no one dared to take him lightly as everyone could clearly feel his strength when he opened his mouth and began to speak.

"Acolytes of the Magus Academy!"

He called on the acolytes, and then looked toward the tens of thousands of audience present in the Grand Assembly Hall. Several dozens of blue cubes flew and circled around him, projecting his image to the large screen and everyone else who watched from outside the academy.

Delbrand started his opening speech by speaking about how some people wished the game to be postponed or canceled due to the tension that everyone knew about. He fought those people with his belief that the Magus Game would be more important than ever now that such a crisis stood right at their front door.

The Magus Game would not just be a means of entertainment and wouldn't merely to showcase and nurture the best talent, but also to show the display how passionate the future generations were, how they were also strongly thriving for progress.

The speech that Delbrand delivered seemed to have had quite an impact on the crowd, as murmurs were heard followed by a burst of cheers in the audience. Seeing that, a smile emerged on his face and he ended his speech with saying his hope that Headmaster Altus could return safely and giving his best wishes to the participating acolytes.

"May the best acolytes win!"

Just like the previous games, after the headmaster's speech, the event was immediately taken over by the appearance of the same beautiful magus who now had colored her hair pink.

Magus Serene flew to her podium and then quickly started explaining the rules of the first game. As for the participating acolytes, the awaited notification immediately appeared on the symbol on their hand.

[Will you be participating in the Magus Game?]

[Yes]

[Choose your team]

[Kleopatra from elite class 7 would like to invite you into the team. Will you accept?]

[Yes]

Klea began to add everyone's name, and Emery couldn't help but be stunned when he noticed that the gladiator was breathing heavily. It was apparent that the latter was unable to contain his excitement.

"C-Calm down, Thrax!"

Alas, the Thracian only became more and more excited as the clock neared its destination.

"Alright, Earth team! Are you guys ready?!" shouted Thrax, to the smiles of the rest of the group.

The five close friends huddled and put their hands together. They were ready for the game.

Chapter 637 - Defend The Bridge

In the last year's Magus Games, the main objective was to stay alive as long as possible so one could become one of the last 50 teams. This time, there was no maximum number of surviving acolytes, there were just levels, and all acolytes would be personally judged on what level they could survive till.

The acolytes all gathered in the arena, and in the middle, a pink-haired magus explained all the new changes to the rules. Her voice was amplified with magic, so that it echoed throughout the place and was heard by the thousands of acolytes gathered there.

As she announced the names and the teams that came as the result of their previous team registration. The numbers started appearing in their mind as each acolyte's personal symbol lit up.

[Total acolytes who have joined: 6,554]

[Total teams registered: 712]

[You are allocated to Arena 7]

[Total teams on Arena 7: 101]

[Total number of acolytes on Arena 7: 692]

The number was quite surprising as the year started with 10,000 acolytes. It was as the headmaster said to him when he returned 2,000 acolytes were purged from the academy.

"That is all for the rules! Without further ado, you may all step into the portal, and the game will start shortly. Good luck!"

Emery and his friends looked at each other, silent determination in their gaze, before they entered the portal one by one. As soon as each of them passed through, multiple lines of information were transmitted into his mind.

[Welcome to Magus Games! You will now be sent to a virtual arena, the pain felt during the games will be real, death however, will not.]

[Body and personal items have been scanned. All items above tier 4 are prohibited]

As Emery read the announcement, he let out a sigh. Fortunately, as he predicted, only items inside the storage ring were being scanned, and in anticipation of that, Emery has moved all the items he would use for the battle in his ring, while storing the rest in the [Spatial Storage]. Most likely, considering the virtual arena, he would not be able to access his storage.

[You are part of Team 88]

[Your point : 0]

[Team point : 0]

[Objective - Defend the Orb at the Bridge]

[The Magus Games will start in 5 minutes]

Just like last time, each participant will receive personal points for killing more targets.

The darkness subsided, and Emery opened his eyes, to see himself and his four friends standing in a small square room that could barely fit all of them. Sounds of groaning came from their surroundings, and the floor shook in a rhythm, indicating they were being lifted up. Right as their awe subsided, the ceilings opened. It was just like last time.

All five looked upon each other and nodded, before they jumped out with their weapons ready, Sword for Emery, Shield and hammer for Julian, Glaive for Thrax. Bow for Chumo and Lastly a magic staff for Klea.

They remembered the stone bridge, it was a 8 meter wide bridge that stretched far leading towards two large stone gates on opposite sides, and floating next to them, there was a large, shiny blue orb.

"Alright! I can't wait to slay some goblins!"

Thrax said, while he twirled his weapon in excitement.

"Thrax, remember, this is our third year! We can't possibly be fighting goblins again!"

"Haha! What are you worried about Roman? Whatever comes next, I am ready! Which door will it be!?"

Thrax asked, as he pointed the tip of his large glaive towards one of the large gates. "Would they come out of this one, or maybe the other one- Ah, never mind that."

[The game has started]

A creak could be heard from the stone gate, right as it started to shake. The ground trembled, and a piercing roar echoed from behind the gate. Without wasting time, Thrax quickly readied his stance, along with the others.

The gate was obscured with light, but little dark dots started to appear as the light diminished, allowing them to see bits of the creature.

"Definitely not a goblin! Is that an Orc?! Hahaha! I am ready!! Let's go!"

Within less than a second, Thrax's words were caught in his throat. The creature that came out of the massive gate was three times the size of an orc, and its height reached almost four meters. The creature possessed two heads, one with a horn, and another with two horns. It has two pairs of hands, each holding a spiked club that swung wildly with each step they took.

"GROWWLL!"

The ground shook as the monster screamed, and it was enough to surprise them, but not enough to scare them.

"Ahh! That is an Ogre! This will be fun!" Thrax exclaimed

Right as the first ogre came out of the gate, the second gate on the other side of the bridge started to shake again. Just like the first one, the large stone gate opened to reveal another of the same creature.

"Two ogres? That doesn't matter, we can do this!"

Unfortunately for them, it did not end there. Right behind the two large creatures, footsteps could be heard, followed by dozens of shadows. The five instantly recognized them as orcs. They kept on flowing out of the gates, dozens, and hundreds, quickly joined in. The wave of green-skinned orcs started to flood the bridge.

Right at this moment, the group came to a realization. This Magus Game started right from what they picked up last.

[Level 1 - The Horde]

[Two-headed ogres and an endless wave of resilient orcs. Their numbers and savage fighting are the true terror of this challenge. Defend the orb at all costs!]

[Twin Headed Ogre - Battle power 100]

[Orcs - battle power 50]

The endless horde filled with soldiers came charging at them from two sides. From their expressions, Emery could tell that his friends were not too concerned about fighting these enemies, as they are, in the end, merely creatures that move on instinct and subsisted on their strength alone.

However, Emery was concerned about what would come next. If this is the first level, what would the fifth level look like?

The last few orcs walked out of the gate, and as if on command, they charged forward following their leader, the two headed ogre. With a confident smirk and a grip full of resolve on their weapons, the five shouted in unison.

"Here They come! Fight!!"

Chapter 638 - Level One

The first level had just announced its start, and it quickly turned into a huge battle. Not only did it start with the oversized creatures that were the previous game's strongest opponents, it also started with a simultaneous attack from two different sides right away.

Hundreds of green skin creatures, as well as the two-headed ogres were rushing frantically with murderous intent. Even so, this ferocious scene didn't manage to deter their fighting spirit at all. Instead, it made them burn even fiercer.

"I'll be going first, guys! Don't fall behind!" Thrax said with a little laugh, as he dashed towards one side of the bridge with his huge glaive raised high to the air.

Looking at the back of the Thracian, who swiftly got further away from the group, Julian couldn't help but curse, "Oi! Don't charge in alone! Dammit! That moron!! Not again!"

The reason Julian cursed was that Thrax had once again ignored their plan that had been laid out before the game started. The plan was to keep their teamwork tight, just like what they had been practicing with the Terra knights.

After all six battles they were about to go through, the group had voted Julian to be the one who called the shots during the fight itself. Hence, Emery and the others were waiting for Julian's instructions. Alas, the Thracian was too submerged in his passion of battle and charged alone like he usually did.

The Roman commander quickly beckoned the Asian prince next to him. Knowing what the latter meant with his gesture, Chumo quickly said,

"200 Orc grunts from each side, with no more than 50 battle power. As for the ogres, they are the same as last time. In addition, all of them only have the equivalent of tier 1 weapons."

His ability [Eye of the Raven] not only could measure the prowess his enemy had, but also provided him with various other parameters such as their speed, strength and even weapons. The only limitation was its inability to 'scan' those his eyes didn't see.

After hearing the report, Julian nodded, meaning there was nothing to worry about their opponents, he quickly gave Emery a look; without even saying a word, the latter immediately dashed to the opposite side of the part where Thrax was going. There, similarly many monsters were rushing at his figure.

This was one of the default formations the group had decided from the start.

In the event the enemy launched two pronged attacks at them, it was decided that Emery would handle one side, while Thrax and Julian would take care of the other one. As for Chumo and Klea, they would act as support for the vanguard trio, sending long-range attacks at the enemy behind the safety the trio provided.

Rapidly crossing the distance between him and the waves of creatures, Emery swiftly revealed the weapon he would be using for the massacre that was about to come. This time, he took out two jet-black blades that his hands quickly grasped.

These two beauties were two of Magus Xion's tier 3 custom-made blades that he had given to Emery before he left the Terra Kingdom. Knowing Emery would most likely destroy his weapon with his destructive skill, his master decided to lend him all tier 3 blades he had.

'Lend' was the specific word Magus Xion used. He really loved the swords he gave to Emery, because he made them himself. The reason he agreed to 'lend' them was that the Magus Games would be held in the virtual arena. With that assurance, even if Emery were to break all of them, they would still be in prime condition after the game was over.

For that reason, Emery was happy to be 'lent' five blades from his master.

Swisshh. Swisshh.

Without further ado, Emery quickly used the dozen orcs in front of him as warm up practice. Air seemed to be cut apart as he swung the swords in his hands, separating the bodies of four orcs from their heads in an instant.

The orcs naturally retaliated, as they began to surround Emery from every direction. Alas, the lethal dance the latter was about to perform was destined to end these orcs' lives before they could even realize they were dead.

Snap! Snap! Snap!

In the span of a few seconds, Emery's figure flickered between the orcs like a ghost, as he delivered the killing. Every slash of his swords would send the orcs right into death's embrace, as their decapitated body dissipated into faint motes of light.

With his current prowess that was armed with extraordinary sword skill and overwhelming Battle Power, it would be more than a miracle if one of these orcs managed to touch the tip of Emery's clothes.

Emery's figure danced flawlessly and leisurely amidst the hordes of orcs, as he continued to swing his swords, carving a path of destruction behind.

While Emery was having the time of his life going through what he had learnt during their training session, while also killing the orcs wantonly, a relatively similar situation was unfolding on the other side of the bridge where Thrax was at.

The air seemed to tremble for a moment as several massive, green-skinned monsters were sent flying through the air by one swing of Thrax's tier 4 weapon. Blood splattered in the air as they crashed onto their kin and accidentally killed some unfortunate ones.

A maniacal laugh was heard through the air, as Thrax lunged forward with his glaive brandished. "Hahahah!! Come here!!"

He went on to a rampage in the middle of the orc horde. Each blow he carried out instantly took out the life of several orcs, while injuring many others. It was apparent the Thracian was simply too strong for these orcs.

As if their suffering wasn't enough, the orcs were immediately sent into another chaos, when Julian jumped into the middle of the orcs and smashed the massive hammer on his hand to the ground.

A shockwave appeared and violent winds blew around the surroundings as the bridge was cracked by the force it received. Julian's attack instantly killed five unlucky orcs, who stood right at the center of impact and sent a dozen more in all directions, creating a huge opening within the orc hordes.

Seeing this, Thrax quickly took the chance to dash in through the sea of orcs and make his way to reach the gigantic ogre that was standing on the back. Of course, he didn't forget to kill as many orcs as he could, while he ran past them.

Julian once again cursed when he saw what Thrax did, but eventually decided to let the latter go. Instead of busying himself with the famous reckless of the group, it was better for him to focus on not letting any of the orcs reach the two people behind him.

Talking about the duo at the back, Chumo could be seen already forming four clones of himself and taking out a tier 3 bow.

[Obsidian Longbow - Tier 3]

[Length 1.4 meter, weight 5.5 kilogram]

[Skill - Spirit Arrow]

This was exactly the same bow he used last year, but this time, with his vastly improved spirit force, each shot he fired with the bow didn't affect his energy that much anymore. As for why he didn't take out the tier 4 bow given to him, he decided that it was best to keep it for later.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

Consecutive sounds of something flying through the air were heard, as Chumo began his barrage followed by his clones. Two of them fired their arrows at the side where Emery was, focusing their attention on disrupting the orcs' formation, while the other two concentrated their barrage on helping Julian repel the orcs that threatened to burst through his defense.

Chumo's face was the epitome of calmness. He continued to fire arrows, like there was no tomorrow. However, if one paid closer attention, they would realize that the girl standing next to him appeared even more calm than him!

Well, to be honest, she was actually extremely bored.

"Just get this level done already."

Chapter 639 - Elites

BOOOOOOMMMM!!

An ear-piercing explosion echoed in the air. A huge 2-meter long club as thick as a tree trunk swung towards Thrax, but the gladiator champion managed to dodge it easily by side stepping, causing the downwards strike to hit the stone bridge instead.

Furious that its attack had been dodged, the ogre raised the club again and swung it at Thrax one more time. This time, it visibly exerted more force, as one could see the club moved way faster.

Unfortunately, its efforts were simply not enough. Thrax once again dodged it with ease.

As if that wasn't bad enough, the second attack the ogre did actually hit the orcs that stood around it, smashing many of them into an unrecognizable pile of bits and paste.

Seeing his subordinates die under its own attack, the ogre became even more infuriated.

Now that Thrax had seen enough of the ogre's strength, it was time for him to begin his own attack. When the third swing came sweeping towards him, Thrax didn't move away. Instead, he raised his glaive with two hands and blocked the club with all the strength his body could muster.

His feet skidded a few steps back due to the force behind the strike, but it didn't continue for long, as Thrax immediately applied more force to his glaive and resisted the ogre's might that was trying to overpower him to submission.

"Aarrggghhhh!!!" Thrax screamed out loud, as he blasted the club away, subsequently sending the ogre stumbling two steps back. Taking advantage of the opening, he immediately jumped in the air and gave his glaive a full rotation, before sending it straight down - a full-powered swing from above his head in a downward motion.

[Mighty Swing]

Swish! The air was cleaved to two by the sheer pressure this strike generated.

Splaaaatttt!

Blood briefly colored the air, before splotted the ground like rain.

ROOAAAARRRR!!

An ear-deafening, pain-filled scream echoed through the air. The two-headed ogre dropped the club in his hand and clutched them right where Thrax struck, only to find their hands slowly getting further away from each other.

His [Heavy Smash] battle art coupled with the innate strength of the tier 4 artifact was able to cut through the skin of the ogre and tore the creature in half right in between the two heads.

BAM!

The two separated parts of the ogre fell heavily to the ground, raising a cloud of dust that briefly obstructed vision.

"Now you can finally rest in peace... being finally apart, I mean."

Thrax said those words with a cheeky smile on his face, as the ogre slowly dissipated into particles.

Now that the ogre was dead, the orc horde, who were still surrounding Thrax, began to attack him again. It didn't take long for his figure to be lost within the sea of bloodthirsty creatures. However, though his situation looked bad, only the excited voice of the Thracian could be heard from that horde.

"Alright!! Now it's all of you next!!"

Julian, whose position wasn't far from Thrax, heard this and could only shake his head, as he watched the gladiator playing around with the orcs.

On the other side, Emery could barely be seen shifting and flickering around rapidly amidst the hordes of orcs, as more and more of them dissipated into particles. Then, his figure was seen dashing in between the ogre's feet. With the two swords in hand, he carved two deep wounds and made the ogre fall to its knees, before he jumped on its back and stabbed a sword right into its nape.

Following that was a short scream filled with pain before the ogre's figure dissipated, just like the one killed by Thrax. With its disappearance, Emery's feet returned to the ground. However, he still wasn't done.

The next instant, he began using [Weeping Phantom] to clean up the rest of the orcs. The orcs could only accept their fate of being helplessly slaughtered without even touching Emery's shadow.

The degree of threat in this year's first level of Magus Game was twice that of the previous game's last level. However, the fact that Emery and the others could defeat them without breaking a sweat was clear proof of their effort and progress.

Within the next ten minutes, all 400 orcs and 2 ogres that came out of the stone game were killed, dissipating into particles. The bridge was once again empty, with no enemies and only Emery's group.

"Get back here, Thrax!!" The loud shout from Julian reverberated strongly throughout the bridge.

"Alright, alright," Came the cheeky reply from the Thracian.

It only took Emery one cast of [Blink] to return to the group. As for the gladiator champion, he walked back leisurely. His demeanor looked as if he had just returned from the playground and had a great time.

[Congratulation for clearing level one]

[You are awarded with 1000 contribution points]

[Total number of acolytes: 692/692]

[Five minutes until level 2 starts]

Looking at the number of remaining acolytes, it was clear none of them had been eliminated yet, naturally, this was to be expected. After all, it would be such an embarrassment to die fighting such orcs in their third year. To be completely honest, Emery expected that those who managed to do such a thing would immediately be expelled from the academy.

"Be ready. The next wave is coming."

The stone gate creaked open once more, this time the silhouette covering the light seeping out of it wasn't just filled with a large creature, but also crowds of a slightly different kind.

The shadows were followed by the footsteps of creatures making commotions.

Thud! thud! thud!

They were certainly orcs, but instead of green, these creatures' skin was gray. Moreover, the group could still see dozens of greenskin ones among them, but their figure was exponentially bigger than their counterpart.

The gigantic build as well as muscles, coupled with the savage look that they had on their faces certainly made those orcs look much more fearsome. They were definitely not normal orcs.

Emery and the others didn't have to wait long for information regarding their upcoming enemies to be shown in front of them.

[Level two - Elite Orc]

[The Uruks, modified orcs raised specially for battle and led by their champions. Twice the size and stronger than the grunts. Evolved and bloodthirsty orcs born from the most bloody battles]

[Orc Champion - Battle power 80]

[Uruk - battle power 60]

When Julian saw the new hordes also chose to come from two sides, he quickly beckoned his friends.
"Gather up guys."

At the same time, Chumo said, "300 each, one in every ten is an Orc Champion. Furthermore, they brought a weapon equivalent to tier 2 with them."

"Huh!! Easy peasy!!" Thrax scoffed.

It was clear that, although their new opponents looked much more threatening, the number of battle power these Uruks had didn't deter the gladiator champion at all.

This time, however, Julian insisted Thrax listen to his arrangement. Fortunately enough, though a little pissed, Thrax had seen enough battle to know when to be serious. Hence, he shut his mouth and perked his ears.

Julian told the whole team, especially to Thrax to not be fooled by the Battle Power shown by those Uruks. He had read about these Uruks before and thus he knew they were known to be much more difficult to fight against than the orcs.

As if proving his words, the Uruks could be seen walking in an orderly formation. In addition, they would absolutely obey the orders they received from the Orc Champions.

"Orcs with a brain!! Urrghh!!" Complained Thrax.

Julian also reminded the group about the matter of saving up as much as stamina as they could, because there were still many levels ahead of them. He told the group about his guess, that the next level would most probably be flooded with these types of orcs. Therefore, they had to take this opportunity to get used to fighting them.

In the end, Julian clapped his hand and said, "We don't have to rush this! Let's fight them beautifully this time!"

Unexpectedly, Thrax nodded his head and didn't say anything unbecoming to Julian. Afterwards, the two walked together standing shoulder to shoulder as their weapons directed towards the new wave of enemies.

"Fight!!"

Chapter 640 - Level Two

Just like what Julian had told the group earlier, the Uruks were not only stronger and had better equipment than the orcs, they were also well-trained in battle. In addition, they have a semblance of tactics and the capability to understand orders.

Right at that moment, Emery realized that he was no longer fighting a mindless creature but one that he would meet when he was on a real battlefield.

Fighting against the Uruks and the champion felt so similar to fighting the Terra silver and golden warriors. However, the differences were these creatures have twice the numbers of the warriors and possess a different fighting style that completely emphasized their innate advantage of physical strength.

The Uruk have metal armor covering their shoulder and chest. They also wield a huge saber as their weapon of choice, a completely different way of fighting than the orcs.

It was just as Julian said, this was a good chance to get used to the creature's fighting style before they got overwhelmed by waves of them in the later level.

However, it was much easier said than done.

Emery's blade clashed against the Uruks, generating sparks and creating loud, ear-piercing noises. Their numbers, coupled with their above-average innate strength and fearless fighting style, managed to send Emery to a corner and forcing him to use his spell already.

[Shadow Mist]

Black smoke seeped out from every crack and orifice, coalescing into shadows that were reminiscent of his form. This was a mere low-tier spell that required only a small amount of spirit power and didn't take much concentration to cast, hence, Emery was able to focus on his sword skills.

Illusions similar to himself appeared all over the bridge, and even though the Uruks' could understand commands and have some understanding of tactics and strategy, their intelligence still haven't reach that necessary level to properly react to the illusions as they were immediately distracted, chasing and slaying black replicas of Emery while completely ignoring the real one.

As a result, the hard situation Emery got himself in was immediately resolved and he was able to kill them one by one effortlessly.

Splat! Splat!

The Uruks' were cut apart by the swords and turned into faint motes of light as soon as they fell into the ground. As one by one the Uruks around started to fall and the area began to clear a little bit, Emery spotted an opening and closed in to attack one of the champions.

Splat!

Blood splattered as he managed to thrust his sword into the champion's chest. However, the orc was not dead yet even with Emery's blade piercing it deep until the tip of the weapon poked out from its back. The orc champion let out a blood-curdling battle cry and gripped Emery's sword arm with a powerful hold.

"Groowlll!!!"

Right as the growl reached the ears of the Uruks, all of them seemed to finally realize about the fake shadows they had been attacking and started to run towards Emery to attack his real self.

Emery tried to temper his strength against the orc champion and release its grip from his wrist, but it proved itself too strong. In the end, he was forced to resort to using [Immortal Gate - Stage 4] to bolster his power enough to release himself for the Orc Champion's grasp.

Right as his sword arm was freed, Emery swung his blade in a wide arc, cutting off the orc champion's head and letting it roll on the ground.

As the head rolled away, Emery cast [Blink], only to reappear a few meters away to catch his breath.

When the orcs came charging at him, multiple arrows came raining down from his back followed by a bolt of lightning from the skies.

Both attacks came from his friends at the back; Chumo and Klea who would quickly fill in whenever one side of the bridge was pushed by the enemy, just like what happened to Emery just now.

Klea raised her tier 4 magic staff, letting bluish-purple lightning balls gather on its tip and threw the magical energy towards the sky. Instantly, a massive blast of thunder fried more than a dozen Uruks to crisp until they all disappeared into energy particles.

[Magic Staff - tier 4]

[Length 1.4 meter, weight 5 kilograms]

[Skill - spell empower]

A glowing orb around as big as a fist was seen attached and shining at the top of the staff in Klea's grasp.

This was the most basic weapon for a magician. It was able to channel spells through the orb to enhance the spell power to a certain degree depending on the time spent to channel and the caster talent.

It is an ideal weapon for a caster that fights within a team. It would allow a higher output with the same spirit energy cost in exchange for a longer casting time. Considering the team would be able to compensate for that by protecting her until her spells hit, this was the perfect weapon.

Emery gave a nod to his two friends and once again charged in, fighting the hundreds of remaining Uruk.

On the other side, Julian and Thrax worked shoulder to shoulder and did their best to protect the 8-meter wide bridge.

Even with their teamwork, it was still a difficult and grueling battle, as they each had to fight against 3 to 4 Uruks at the same time. In order to defend the bridge better, they boosted their [Immortal Gate] to stage 4. Even though they were capable of using the stage 5 gate, they decided against doing so in order not to strain their muscles.

Thrax had much better strength, and as such, he could kill more Uruk in a shorter span of time. However, Julian's battle art, [Shield Charge], was the one that saved the defensive lines most of the time, leaving nothing to pass through.

A few minutes passed, and none of the Uruk managed to come close to the orb while the Earth acolytes gradually got used to the opponent's fighting style.

Splatt splatt!!!

200 Uruks remained.

Their formation was tight, and their teamwork was excellent after rigorous training. With every round of attacks, half a dozen of Uruk or even more fell to the ground and dissipated.

100 Uruks left.

The enemies' numbers steadily decreased and with this, Emery and his friends increased their pace. More and more Uruk fell to their weapons and turned into motes of lights, until finally the last Orc Champion fell, dropped dead to the ground.

As soon as the Orc Champion's decapitated body disappeared, the bridge once again cleared from all of the corpses.

Emery took a deep breath, realizing the achievement he and his friends have done. He knew that the battle wouldn't be this smooth if it wasn't because of their training and the tier 4 weapons on their hands.

However, although no one had gotten hurt, this time they were panting, clearly out of breath. Hence as per training they quickly returned back to the center and Klea used her [Soothing Mist] to freshen them up once again.

[Congratulation on clearing level two]

[You are awarded 5000 contribution points]

[Total number of acolytes: 678/692]

[Five minutes until level 3 started]

Apparently, there were 14 acolytes who failed on the second level. Considering what kind of enemy they faced, Emery guessed that it was either caused by negligence, bad formation, or just insufficient equipment quality.

Five minutes passed, and they have recovered all their strength. The string of victories made them glance at the stone gate, clearly excited and unable to wait to see what kind of battle they would be facing next.

Just like the previous levels, the stone gate swung open, and at first, they merely stared at something that resembled a writhing, moving shadow.

Right after, they heard the rhythmic banging of leather, as Uruks playing rousing music walked behind a massive figure that stood in the middle. Unlike before, the figure who led the Uruks this time has a form of a warrior king.

[Level three - The Warchief]