

Earths GMagus 831

Chapter 831 - Faction

The known universe was vast. In total, there were about 50,000 worlds under the Human Alliance's influence and they were scattered all over the three known realms. 90% of these worlds were considered lower worlds, 9% were the middle worlds, and only 1% were higher worlds.

With such numbers, the magus alliance decided to recognize prominent organizations to rule these worlds, to manage its people and resources. These organizations were known as factions.

These factions separated into 5 Grades based on their contribution and overall strength within the Human Alliance: Grade 1 to Grade 5, with those bearing the affix 'Grade 5' being the most affluent and authoritative factions of all.

The bigger the faction the more authority given to it and that determined whether the faction was allowed to be sovereign over a certain number of worlds.

Grade 1 factions were allowed to sovereign over 3 worlds, with the requirement of having at least 2 grand magus as official members or leader of the faction. There were more than 10,000 such factions within the Human Alliance body.

Grade 2 factions were allowed to sovereign over 10 worlds, with a requirement of having at least 5 grand magus as official members or leader of the faction. There were about a few thousand of them registered.

Grade 3 factions, considered the main backbone of the Human Alliance, were allowed to become the caretaker of one whole galaxy. In order to become one, it was required to have one supreme magus as an official member or leader of the faction. There were about 500 of them in the Human Alliance.

Grade 4 faction, considered as the elites of the Human Alliance, trusted with the sovereignty over 3 galaxies and 50 worlds. In order to be considered one, the faction needed to have a minimum 3 supreme magus within as official members or leaders of the faction. There were currently 80 factions that were bestowed with this grade.

Finally, Grade 5 factions, considered the leaders of the Human Alliance, were the 12 strongest powers of the human universe, with more than 5 supreme magus on their helm and a supremacy that allowed them to take care of any world, even the mid and high level worlds.

After explaining all this, Lord Izta looked Emery in the eye, "Now Emery, do you know which grade the Nephilim is?"

Emery knew the Wellenstein, Kaleos and Ouroboros were Grade 3 factions. As for the Harlight, they were a Grade 4 faction. Even the Zodiac City, who's considered to be the leader of the 12 Bloodline Clan was only considered Grade 4. As for the Nephilims, they were stronger than all of them, they were one of the oldest, a Grade 5 faction.

Lord Izta let out a deep sigh when he heard Emery's answer. "I hope this gives you some clear idea about who you are planning to go up against." The man sighed again before continuing,

"Headmaster Altus was right, I was too emotional involving you in something that will only endanger all of you... I shouldn't have done that."

Emery raised his face when he heard Lord Izta's words.

"I really put my hopes in Headmaster Altus, hoping something to be done about the matter of Earth's caretaker with his intervention and authority. But now that man is gone and without the support of the academy, we simply have no hope to achieve anything. So, we shouldn't be causing trouble with the Nephilims anymore. Otherwise, we will only invite doom for ourselves."

Emery saw Lord Izta's hands trembling as he spoke those words. He realized the man had been trying hard to calm down his tumultuous emotions. As a result, he couldn't hold himself from speaking.

"Lord Izta... I have seen myself what one Nephilim could do to our home"

Emery was thinking about how Hades got involved and created conflict in Briton.

"I've heard about what they have done 1,000 years ago from the Abbot, and I know there were even more victims in your time." Emery's gaze firm as he continued, "There must be a way to regain our home back"

Seeing Lord Izta turn quiet, Emery asked.

"What about having help from the other factions, like the Ouroboros or some others, I mean if all 5 of us have 5 different high grade factions to support us, would it help? Will that be a solution?"

Lord Izta sighed, "It might... It might not, depending on what kind of deal you are having... I say you did right with the Ouruobors, they will only add more complication to our problems"

The two once again turned silent. Emery knew the man in front of him had been thinking about such matters for thousands of years, if he had no solution then there might be no hope for Earth. Once again Emery forced himself to ask.

"Please Lord Izta, whatever it was, please tell me... me and my friends we will do our best to try."

Instead of answering, Lord Izta turned his head to the side and talked to an empty air. Immediately, Emery knew the man was talking with Enkidu.

"No! NO! I'm telling you no! It's not possible! What?! I'm scared, you say!? Yes, I am scared! Not for me! What about these kids! What if they decided to reprimand our world!?"

Emery only watched as Lord Izta argued with his invisible friend. Eventually, the man shook his head and returned his attention to him.

"Emery, let me make myself clear, I strongly disagree if you cause further trouble with the Nephilims. You have to understand we cannot fight them, not even in tens of thousands of years. The only way to regain our world is through official orders from the Magus Alliance."

Lord Izta abruptly stopped and was about to argue with himself again. before suddenly turning determined.

"There is one way I can think that would help smooth their decision-making process. The proper way, without the need to beg and wait for help."

Hearing this, Emery was once again full of hope.

Lord Izta took a deep breath before he said the word,

"To make a faction of our own!"

Lord Izta then explains how his Terra kingdom was only considered as a clan, one that was built under Nephilims authority. Hence, they needed to rebuild one anew, a faction of their own.

The first thing that came into Emery's mind when he heard those words was confusion. After all, in order to create a Grade 1 faction, a total of two grand magus figures were needed. Hence, he couldn't help but quickly assume Lord Izta was about to become one.

As if Lord Izta could read his mind, he shook his head and explained.

"As we only need to caretake one world - our world, we might be allowed to form a faction with lower conditions. Still, at least one grand magus figure is needed to allow this to happen."

Lord Izta sighed, as he didn't think he could break through the realm of a grand magus ever. However, Emery noticed the man still seemed to have something to say and hesitated to say it.

"Actually... there is someone, one of us who has made it into the grand magus realm."

Emery was surprised as he had not expected such a revelation. He couldn't help but wonder how it was possible that he had never heard of this before, either from the Abbot or King Fjolrn. However, he quickly noticed the complicated expression on Lord Izta's face and realized things were not that simple.

"We have been hating each other for thousands of years, but maybe you can find and speak to him. In our world, he was once called the Eastern Sage, emperor of Xia Dynasty"

Chapter 832 - Eastern Sage

Sage from the East, Beast King of the West, Northern Shaman, The Great Gilgamesh, and lastly his friend The Warrior Enkidu.

These five people were known as the first generation of Earth acolytes.

Emery honestly thought that everyone of the five had died except for Gilgamesh as what the latter stipulated before.

But then, he did learn from the Abbot that the one known as the Eastern Sage, Emperor of Xia Dynasty was the person who gathered and trained the Abbot and the other second generation Earth acolytes.

"But Lord Izta, I heard from the Abbot that the Eastern Sage went missing mysteriously during the huge war that occurred 1,000 years ago."

Emery could see the surprise on the man's face when the latter heard his words.

The man let out a deep sigh before saying, "So, you've even heard of that huh..? Then, you should know that it is the work of the Nephilim, again."

Lord Izta then took an item from his storage ring and gave it to Emery. It was a small folded paper.

"This is the last information I have heard about him. That's the location he was last seen, and I believe he should still be there. If you could somehow find and subsequently convince him, then we might still really have hope."

Knowing the story that the Easter Sage had gone ahead, gathered, and taught all the second generation of Earth acolytes, Emery was quite optimistic that if the person was still alive, he would be willing to help their cause.

Emery swiftly took the note and kept it safely. This person is a grand magus figure who came from his own planet of Earth, he certainly needed to see him with his own eyes.

Meanwhile, Lord Izta seemed lost in thought. This continued for a while before he turned to Emery and spoke again.

"Emery, thanks to the fact that the war has escalated, I was deployed here. And being on the frontline battlefield for a number of years has really opened my eyes to a truth I never really thought about."

Upon hearing that, Emery's eyes shone in curiosity. After all, any news regarding the frontline battlefield, for some reason, was only known to a certain few and kept secret from the general public.

"When I was in the front line, I came to realize that everyone to my left and right is my comrade, our comrade; there was no such thing as clans or factions on a ruthless battlefield, even though everyone was fighting their best for various reasons known to themselves."

Lord Izta heaved another sigh before continuing. "As much as I hate the Nephilim for what they've done to me, my friends, and our planet, I think we might need to think about the bigger picture." The man looked into Emery's eyes. "So I have to remind you again, Emery. Without the Magus Alliance's support, you should not fight with the Nephilim in any way."

"I would hate and resent myself if I saw you become like me, being forced to serve them..." Lord Izta's voice was hoarse. "But... if you really have to... cooperate with them... then I understand.."

For a second, Emery could see guilt, remorse, and worst of all, helplessness on the face of the one known as The Great Gilgamesh. The man, after all, was forced and had to serve the Nephilim for two thousand years.

Emery watched as Lord Izta calmed himself down and tried to cheer himself up.

"Now that the serious matter is over, tell me more about you Emery. What do you plan to do after you graduate from the academy?"

Emery didn't answer right away because he didn't expect Lord Izta to ask him such a question. Now that he was asked about it, he had never really thought about this matter. The only thing he got was to return back to Earth.

What caught Emery off guard once again was the response Lord Izta gave.

"That's good, return to Earth. I know you will make the right decision."

Lord Izta seemed to be hinting at something with how he phrased his words, but Emery was unable to catch it. However, just as Emery was about to ask what the man meant, the combat fighter had already stood up and brandished his axe.

"Get up, I still have more moves to show you!" Lord Izta beamed a wide smile. "Let's see if you can handle them!"

Seeing this, Emery just swallowed what he was about to say and quickly stood up. The two of them sparred for a few hours afterwards, before Lord Izta ended it in the end. Apparently, it was because they had almost reached their destination.

With a smile on his face, Lord Izta looked at Emery who was covered in his own sweat.

"Let's end our spar right here and clean ourselves. After all, you should not look like that when you arrive at the outpost"

Lord Izta then brought Emery to where the washing room was. They both showered and cleaned their bodies well, ridding themselves of the smell and sweat. The two of them came out of the washing room in proper appearance, and Lord Izta even helped Emery fix his privileged class uniform when he noticed that it was a bit messy.

Patting the yoke of Emery's uniform, Lord Izta spoke in a sincere tone.

"You are definitely one of a kind, Emery. I am really proud of you... say my best regards to the others as well"

Emery could feel the warmth inside when he heard those words. In Emery's eyes, the man currently standing in front of him was someone who was closest to a father figure for him.

Before they departed, Lord Izta said to Emery that he would try to come and visit him and the others before they graduated.

"Who knows, if I make enough contribution to this war, I might be able to speed up my contract with the Nephilim. If that really happens, then I can then finally help all of you with everything I have."

...

The warships finally arrived at its destination and docked at the large dock at the Magus Alliance's outpost.

When Emery arrived at the place where they would disembark from the battleship accompanied by Lord Izta, he could see that Annara was waiting for him.

"There she is. Go then," said Lord Izta as he pushed Emery's body forward. "It's not good to keep your girlfriend waiting."

Emery simply rolled his eyes in response to the combat magus' teasing. Even so, he didn't forget to say his farewell and hoped that the man would remain safe during his service.

With him already disembarking at the post, the door was closed and the battleship continued and returned to the frontline.

Right after, a group of people in gray uniforms approached the two of them. These people proceeded to confirm their identity. Both Emery and Annara then had to go through hours of debriefing before they were allowed to use the portal gate to return to the Magus Academy.

"We're finally going back!" Ananra said with a wide smile. It was clear that she was excited.

The two of them were escorted by the same group of people, and it didn't take long for them to arrive at the Magus Academy main portal. Upon entering the portal, Emery was very excited as he couldn't wait to see his friends one more time.

However, what greeted him on the other side was the sight of a group of magus in gray uniform waiting for him.

"Emery Ambrose? The headmaster has been waiting for you, follow me"

Chapter 833 - Report

After passing through a familiar tunnel and making way towards a separate floating island, Emery eventually arrived at his destination. He had finally returned to the headmaster's place once again, escorted by a group of magus in gray uniform who left immediately after doing their duty.

Entering the office, this time, Emery saw that there was no one else beside him and Headmaster Delbrand who was currently standing by the window with his eyes staring out of the window and doing what he usually did, smoking.

Emery knew that the man's demeanor had always been cold, with hardly a smile visible on his stiff looking face. But this time, in particular, Emery was somewhat expecting one from the other party.

After all, he was certain that he had done his job well. He even managed to return safely after being missing for more than 4 months.

While waiting for the headmaster to finish his smoke, Emery stared at the gray-haired grand magus and couldn't help but remember how he was told that the other party was the one behind the missions that led to the banishment of the wolves clan, the death of many, and subsequently responsible for their detainment.

After a while, the headmaster seemed to have finally finished his smoke. He turned from the window and returned to his seat casually before looking at Emery with a serious expression on his face.

"First of all, I'm sorry for what you have been through over the past few months... I would of course like to congratulate you, but sadly it was a mission that I couldn't really congratulate you on."

It didn't take long for Emery to realize what the headmaster meant, and he couldn't help but agree with the sentiment.

After all, with Magus Leon and nearly all of his team members killed and the large number of people from Kulturmak Planet implicated as they inevitably got involved because of the elf invasion, they couldn't truly celebrate the success of the mission.

This line of thought quickly made Emery think of a figure, and so he asked the man sitting in front of him.

"Headmaster, I can't help but wonder about Magister Kadek's safety. Is there any news about her?"

Emery saw how the headmaster's face slightly changed when the latter heard his words.

The headmaster said; "Unfortunately, the magister didn't make it. Her body was found among dozens of elven magus corpses on what was left of the battlefield."

It was certainly heart-breaking news. Emery suddenly remembered the sight of such a great grand magus who flew by herself fighting against an elven cruise ship. One person against so many, and to hear that she actually didn't make him think if things could have been done differently.

Seeing Emery's reaction, Headmaster Delbrand quickly spoke again.

"We are at war, so this kind of thing is inevitable. It will be easier to remember her for what she already did to the alliance."

Emery was silent for a moment and asked another question he had in mind.

"Then Headmaster, can you please tell me what the situation regarding Zodiac City is?"

The headmaster Delbrand confirmed what the Silva and the Ouroboros Queen told him, that because of what had happened in Kulturmak, the culprit had finally been revealed and both the Wolves and Serpent bloodline had been cleared of any suspicion and those being detained had been released.

Hearing this confirmation naturally relieved Emery a little, but something was still bothering him. It was a question that he shouldn't ask considering his position, but he bravely asked the question anyway.

"Headmaster, what about the culprit? Who was actually behind this all? Is it really the Zodiac city ruler, King Alduin himself?"

Headmaster Delbrand was silent for a moment, this matter was supposed to be a secret, but knowing that Emery was directly involved and even contributed greatly to the mission, the man decided to just spill the information.

"It was the head of the Bloodline Institute, Lord Esbern. He was the one who sided with the elves."

Emery was surprised as he always thought the old goat bloodline elders seemed to be the wise and caring type and apparently Headmaster Delbrand said that it actually was not a pretense. The elder was loved by many; He just cared too much about half-bloods while hating humans more than the elves.

Headmaster Delbrand explained to Emery the fact that racial hatred had run deep between the humans and the half-bloods throughout generations, and that such an incident was bound to happen at some point.

Currently, the elders and dozens of its followers were being imprisoned and were waiting for trial and the headmaster said, it's probably not a good idea for Emery to visit Zodiac City for a while.

"In any case, I have to tell you that you have done more than expected, Emery. And for that, I represent the alliance to thank you for your contribution. Of course, apart from thanks, the Magus Alliance has prepared something for you as a token of gratitude."

After saying those words, Principal Delbrand took out a small wooden box from his desk and placed it on the table before gesturing for Emery to come forward and pick it up.

"Open it."

Emery reached for the box after seeing the encouraging look on the headmaster's face and when he opened it, lying on a piece of silk, he saw there was a small golden badge with two stars engraved on its surface.

It was a medal, and the writing engraved on it said:

[Medal of Distinguished Valor]

Seeing Emery's confused reaction, Principal Delbrand quickly gave an explanation. "The medal may be just an ornament, but this award will be permanently inscribed in your records within the Magus Alliance."

Hearing that, Emery still wasn't sure how to react as he really didn't know what the award entailed. Even so, the medal was still a reward and therefore he didn't forget to give a sign of gratitude to the headmaster.

"There's more actually." Headmaster Delbrand said as his hand reached for the cube on his table and fiddled with it. While doing so, the man spoke again. "This is the reward the Magus Academy decided to give you for your contribution to the Magus Alliance"

Immediately after, a notification appeared on the symbol in his hand.

[You are being rewarded with 500,000 contribution points]

[Contribution points: 755,550]

This time, Emery showed a visible reaction on his face, to which Headmaster Delbrand simply nodded. One had to remember that winning the Magus Game of his third-year gave Emery 400,000 contribution points, so this reward was certainly a much-appreciated sum of points.

Once again, Emery nodded and said his gratitude. However, he still didn't leave the office because he was still hoping for something else to ask.

Seeing how Headmaster Delbrand seemed to have nothing else to say and knowing how important that certain reward was, Emery, gritted his teeth and forced himself to ask.

"Headmaster, I was wondering about the situation of the caretaker of my world..."

Hearing that, the headmaster heaved a deep sigh before saying,

"About this matter, it was actually the late magister Kadek who planned to seek this matter, as it was not my place to say. However, I had taken the liberty to check your world's current situation and inquire about it at the Magus Alliance. Unfortunately, I discovered that your world is under special interest by its caretaker."

For this matter, Headmaster Delbrand suggested setting up a meeting with the Nephilim. That is, the man was willing to become a mediator between him and the Nephilim faction.

Hearing this actually made Emery remember what Lord Izta had told him, about not causing trouble with the Nephilim.

For that reason, Headmaster Delbrand's suggestion succeeded in moving Emery, as he also thought that opening open communication with the Nephilim should be a good step towards that progress.

He therefore agreed to the offer and also thanked the headmaster for his willingness to help.

"It's settled then." Headmaster Delbrand said, "As for the date, as everyone is currently busy with the mid-test, I will arrange a meeting sometime after the test."

As he walked out of the headmaster's office, Emery finally felt his body lighten as if part of the burden that had been weighing on his shoulders had been lifted. Now, he could stop worrying about mission, bloodline matters, and focus on completing his academic year.

As he left the headmaster's place and returned to the area belonging to the academy, Emery saw the back of someone who seemed to be waiting for him, the figure wearing black clothes and black hair turned its body around, and immediately jumped at him.

"Emery you're finally back!"

The figure was his Asian friend, Chumo. It wasn't that he wasn't glad that Chumo came looking for him, but Emery looked left and right wondering if anyone else came with him.

"Chumo, are the others coming with you?"

The question quickly made Chumo's face turn pale.

"What happened?"

Chapter 834 - Her Condition

Seeing the expression on Chumo's face which generally said bad news, Emery couldn't help but feel extremely anxious. He had, after all, gone for over 4 months basically without any news, and that was a long time to be in the magus world.

Emery himself had been through a few life and death situations over that period of time.

"What's wrong, Chumo? What's with your expression? Don't scare me! It's not funny at all! Hurry, tell me what happened!" Emery said quickly. It was clear that he was perturbed by the reaction Chumo showed.

However, the response he wanted from the other party did not come. On the other hand, Chumo continued to appear distraught, which only served to further unnerve Emery.

"L-lots of things have happened since you went missing..." Chumo stuttered. "I - Klea... she..."

"What?!" Emery panicked when Chumo finally spoke Klea's name. "What happened? What is it?!" He could literally feel his heart beat so rapidly at the mention of her name that it felt painful.

"She.. I can't really explain.. But she's not... with us anymore."

Hearing that, Emery's body instantly shot towards Chumo and grabbed his shoulders with both hands. Subconsciously, he grabbed him so tightly that Chumo's face contorted slightly in pain.

"WHAT!? What do you mean?! I don't believe you!!"

Chumo didn't say anything and just threw his head away in response. He seemed to be on the verge of tears when he opened his mouth and spoke in a weak tone.

"I.. I'm not lying! If she is fine, then she will definitely be here to meet you!"

Before he could say anything, Chumo shook Emery's hands from his shoulder and turned around. "Come with me. I will show you."

Still unable to comprehend what he had just heard, Emery ended up following his Asian friend while in a state of disbelief. In his mind at this moment, Emery thought that Chumo actually had the ability to joke.

There's no way what he said was true, right?

That was Emery's thought, until Chumo brought him to enter a portal into another world. And, Emery quickly realized what the place was.

Varuna.

The place where the Water Institute was located.

The mesmerizing view of the deep blue ocean and the milky white sand, however, couldn't stop his pounding heart that seemed like it was about to explode. Instead, it only reminded him of the early times he spent with Klea during their freshman year.

Without saying anything, Chumo jumped into the water and Emery quickly followed. The two of them made their way to a part of the facility, but not the place where the acolytes usually gathered.

The place had the appearance of a huge pearl at the bottom of the ocean, and after Chumo and Emery entered inside, they quickly arrived at what looked like a laboratory with a huge water tank in the center.

"What is this place, Chumo?" Emery asked, while his eyes wandered around the place.

Emery turned his gaze to Chumo when he realized that the latter was still not saying anything. As a result, he saw that Chumo was just staring at him in silence while his finger pointed at the conspicuous water tank.

Shifting his eyes to the water tank, Emery could see inside the huge water tank there were many fish swimming, hundreds of them and as big as a human arm. At a glance, he could recognize the fish as a type of lightning element, a species known as Electric Eel to be exact.

Then, it suddenly dawned on him that among the swimming eels, deep in the tank, there was a vague figure of a person floating.

A beautiful girl with dark hair.

"Klea!!"

Thum! Thum! Thum!

Before he even knew it, Emery had used his Spirit Reading and thus could immediately tell that there was no life force within the girl's body. At this moment, Emery felt as if someone had suddenly clenched his heart and made it stop beating.

"KLEA!!!" Turning his bloodshot eyes to Chumo, Emery said loudly. "What the hell happened, Chumo?!"

Chumo didn't say anything in response. Meanwhile, Emery had averted his gaze and slowly walked towards the water tank. His body could be seen trembling.

"Why.. why.." He muttered under his breath. "I mean... what's going on..?"

It was at this moment that an alarm sounded loudly in the air. Emery watched as the Electric Eels in the tank began to move chaotically and conduct high-voltage electricity throughout the water.

"What's going on?! What happened?!!"

Despite the flashing arcs of lightning visible within the water tank, Emery clearly saw that Klea's body remained motionless and unaffected. Seeing this, he couldn't help but think that the girl was in some kind of treatment.

"What's happening to her, Chumo?! Tell me NOW!!"

Emery darted to Chumo and gripped the collar of his clothes tightly. However, once again, his Asian friend chose to turn his head away and said, "I'm sorry, Emery... I... I really can't stand it.."

After saying those words, a smile appeared on Chumo's face and he chuckled.

"..."

To say that Emery was stunned into silence was an understatement.

Before he could ask Chumo what he meant by his words, Emery's attention was quickly diverted when he suddenly perceived a heartbeat coming from the body floating in the water tank.

Emery immediately turned around and saw Klea open her eyes. He watched dumbfoundedly as she was absorbing all the electric current in the water and her strength rapidly increased. In an instant, he could tell how strong she was now.

"That's the 7 pillars formed? She's a rank 9 high stage already?!"

Emery was stupefied. The last time they met, he remembered that Klea had only managed to form her first pillar. But now, she had already formed seven of them and reached the high stage of rank 9.

This was certainly quite an achievement after only four months.

It took the girl several minutes to grasp all the lightning energy within the tank before she finally had the capability to notice Emery's presence. She quickly swam towards the entrance of the tank and jumped out of it.

Klea was all wet and her form-fitting bodysuit that clearly showed her curves made her look even more tantalizing under the droplets of water. However, Emery didn't even care about such things at the moment because he simply missed the girl so much.

The girl looked at Emery with a piercing gaze as she walked towards him.

"Emery!" The girl shouted and quickened her pace.

To Emery's surprise, the girl swung her arm and landed her palm on his cheek hard.

SLAP!

Emery's eyes opened wide

"Klea, what... wh-"

Emery was about to continue when he noticed the tears in her eyes and the girl was already half crying.

"WHY??!! You dare ask me why?! You said a few days! It's been months already!! You deserve that, jerk!"

"Klea... I...."

Before Emery could say any word of defense, Klea had jumped at him. She hugged him tightly as if she would never let him go. Her face was buried in his chest, trying to hide her tears that were threatening to collapse.

Emery could clearly feel her body trembling, as the hands around him strengthened.

"You... heartless.." She whispered. "Don't you ever leave me again..."

Emery took a deep breath and moved his hands, one to hug her back while the other to gently stroke her wet hair.

He slowly whispered, "It's alright.. Everything it's alright... I'm here now.. I am already here..."

Hearing that, Klea slowly raised her head to look Emery in the eyes. Seeing the tenderness reflected in his eyes, she couldn't hold it in anymore.

She slowly inched closer, while he too did the same.

Two lips connected with each other as the two of them kissed.

Chapter 835 - Gather up!

Four months ago, the two of them were separated right after they showed their affection toward each other. So it was actually not a surprise that Klea wanted to hold Emery close for quite a while, though the hug continued to the point where Chumo started to yawn.

Emery did not say a word, but he looked at his Asian friend with a sharp, murderous glare for tricking him before. However, noticing the glare thrown in his direction, Chumo only gave a cheeky smile and even gave the two lovebirds a thumbs up.

'This guy!'

A moment later, the three felt a figure approaching them from a distance. It was only when they saw it was Magus Carla who arrived that Klea was finally willing to let go of Emery, albeit very reluctantly.

The girl quickly greeted the water element instructor and expressed her gratitude for allowing her to use the facility. Magus Carla only gave a subtle nod in response as she went ahead and checked on the result of the electric eel upon Klea, before leaving them three.

Making sure Magus Carla had really left, Klea then turned to look at the two boys.

"Let's gather up the team."

Following the girl's words, the group of them swiftly made their way out of the institute and accessed the portal, this time towards the Combat Institute.

Together, they walked across the busy streets, before arriving at the Combat Institute's arena. As the three got closer to the arena, they could hear loud chants from the direction in front of them, gradually getting louder the more they approached.

"Thrax! Thrax! Thrax!"

In the huge arena of the Combat Institute, the trio saw their Thracian friend was currently the center of attention, as he fought against three other combat acolytes within the sand of the arena.

Spears crushed, shields bent and bones broke, causing the crowd to cheer even more frenziedly. In the end, one individual stood as the sole winner within the sands. His name was sung once again, followed by another loud cheer by the crowd.

"Thrax, the immortal gladiator!"

Emery was amazed by how wild the spectators were cheering after his friend.

On the other hand, Thrax was seen loudly shouting to the crowd upon hearing his victory announced, attracting the love and admiration of everyone witnessing.

Thrax was amazing in terms of strength, but that was not all that attracted the crowd. The way he fought fiercely and knew how to get the spectators fired up were the main reasons for his popularity.

When the fight was finally over, Chumo invited Emery and Klea to follow him. He then led them to a place. However, instead of leading them to the backstage of the arena, he brought them past towards a place a little bit further.

It was a small hill situated by the lake at the corner of the Combat Institute, one of the nice places you could find around the institution.

"Chumo, why are we here?" Emery quickly asked, confused and a little curious. After all, even though the place was undoubtedly beautiful and soothing to the eye, he did not remember having anything to do in a place like this.

In response to his question, Chumo just gave another cheeky smile and headed straight for one of the most beautiful villas in the place. Upon arriving in front of the villa he was looking for, the man casually rang the bell at the front door.

Following right behind him with a pondering look on their faces, Emery and Klea still could not quite figure out what was going on. Even so, the two continued to follow without saying anything.

A while later they saw several half-naked beauties opening the door and gesturing for them to enter the villa.

As they reached the spacious living room, their sight was immediately greeted by more beautiful ladies lying half-naked next to a long wide table full of sumptuous dishes.

At the end of the table was one half-naked man, who was none other than their gladiator friend, Thrax being served by these ladies. To say the least, both Emery and Klea were flabbergasted by the sight.

As soon as Thrax saw them enter, he immediately stood up.

"Emery you're finally back!" The Thracian enthusiastically shouted.

At the same time, Thrax quickly made a gesture with his hand to send all the half-naked ladies surrounding him away. In just a few moments, the Thracian became a good host and welcomed them to the feast.

Looking at the exotic dishes on the table, Emery instantly knew this was a luxurious feast.

It was only after the ladies went out of the room that Klea finally snapped out of her daze.

"Thrax, are you really rich now?!" The girl immediately asked with her own cheeky smile.

Hearing this, Thrax stood back up and answered with his voice full of pride,

"You are looking at Thrax, the immortal gladiator, with some many fights I won and millions of fans, yes, of course, I am rich! But don't worry, my friend, Everything that's mine is yours!"

He then heartily laughed before clapping his hands. Just a moment later, a few servants quickly came in to bring more food and wine to the table.

It seemed in the last 5 months, Thrax had been spending his time fighting an endless battle at the Combat Institute arena. Then, he quickly became a new favorite, fighting full of vigor with an undefeatable record. For that, he was being provided with the villa, servants and quite a hefty sum of money.

Upon hearing this, Emery reflexively shook his head. Even though he admitted that Thrax was strong, how could he be unbeatable? After all, Emery could clearly see that he was still only a peak rank 8 acolyte.

While they were idly chatting like that, a man suddenly came into the room, attracting their attention.

"It appears I am the last one to arrive," The man said in a laid-back tone.

The man was no other than Julian, the person Emery had been waiting for. As soon as all eyes landed on the man, he quickly commented on Thrax's previous remarks.

"There is actually nothing to be confused about. Although it's true that our friend here is undefeated, let's just say it's only the lightweight title, everyone under rank 9." The man said with a casual smile.

This question quickly irritated Thrax.

"Huh! At least I'm doing honest work and earning my own money, unlike a certain Roman leech!" He retorted.

Just like that, the two bantered as always. Watching the two argue, he just realized something different about Julian's attire, which pleasantly surprised him.

The Roman friend was wearing a different acolyte uniform, it was grey and white just like his, a privileged acolyte class uniform.

"How did that happen?"

Chapter 836 - Advanced

More than six thousand acolytes joined the second game that was held three months ago. It was a final screening between the elite class and privileged class.

A mock battle of 50 versus 50 acolytes, where the privileged acolytes took the role of commander, the elite acolytes became the captains, while the regular acolytes acted as the troops.

At that game, Harlight Faction decided to allow its newest member, an elite acolyte from a lower realm world, to become the commander of its team. It was a decision based on the acolyte's previous games performance.

Julian didn't waste such an opportunity and managed to demonstrate his skills in military strategy and leadership in front of the faction and everyone else in the Magus Academy.

He was able to lead a seemingly ordinary group of 50 acolytes and made it into the top 5 ranks. This feat of his became the ticket that allowed him to enter the privileged class.

"That's amazing, Julian!" Emery praised with a smile.

He was certainly happy that more Earth acolytes managed to enter the privileged class.

"This is exciting! Are there any more surprises I should know about?"

Emery asked as his gaze quickly alternated between his four friends. Along with the question, he also went to check his friends' cultivation realms.

[Klea - acolyte rank 9 high stage with 7 pillars formed]

[Julian - acolyte rank 9 mid stage with 5 pillars formed]

[Chumo - acolyte rank 9 low stage with 3 pillars formed]

[Thrax - acolyte rank 8 peak stage]

Emery secretly clicked his tongue when he saw how strong his friends had become. It was actually quite surprising for him to see Julian had passed Chumo in cultivation rank.

After some thought, he guessed the three months he spent in the privileged class were definitely the reason for this meteoric rise.

"Well, at least Emery is also still rank 8 acolyte, so I'm not alone in this." Thrax quipped.

Julian glanced at the Thracian and said, "You do realize that Emery has a different measuring scale than us, don't you?"

Hearing that, Thrax snorted. "Huh! I know very well I can't beat Emery, but I still can beat your sorry ass anytime!"

"I'd really like to see you try!"

The small, supposedly heartwarming reunion between the five friends quickly turned into a little duel between the two old rivals. None of the other three tried to stop them.

Everyone in the group knew each other enough, so as not to stand on each other's reverse scale. In fact, it had become a mutual understanding it was much healthier for the two nemesis to fight it out physically.

[Julian Caesar]

[Battle power: 86]

[Spirit force :752]

[Thrax]

[Battle power: 115]

[Spirit force: 500]

The two walked into a rather large clearing beside the villa. Of course, the other three Emery, Klea and Chumo followed them out to watch the fight that was about to take place.

Thrax immediately started the fight strongly by activating his [Immortal Gate - stage 6]. A cloak of blazing energy swiftly enveloped his body as the skill gave him an additional 64 battle power, coupled with the spear technique that seemed to be burning fiercely.

Emery and the other two watched as Thrax shot toward Julian at breakneck speed.

Julian activated his own skill the [12 Golden Bell Divine Technique] in response. An almost indiscernible sheen appeared on his body, as if he had run into a metal fortress, the thrust of Thrax's blazing spear was stopped without difficulty.

However, the Thracian did not become discouraged seeing his attack was stopped. Instead, the fighting intent in his eyes became even stronger.

Combined with his [9 Sun Divine Technique], which basically provided with nearly inexhaustible stamina, Thrax quickly pulled his spear back and launched another powerful attack immediately like the Immortal Gladiator he was known for.

They both knew that their fight had only just begun.

Meanwhile, Emery, who became an observer together with his other two friends, showed a fascinated look while watching Thrax and Julian exchange blows. No matter how many of their battles he watched, it was still very interesting and insightful.

The two had dueled nearly a dozen times, but officially their scores were still one to one.

And, this one was definitely not considered an official fight. Hence, after multiple exchanges and realizing the situation was about to escalate, it was finally Klea who stopped the fight.

"Alright, no more." The girl said as she stood near the two. "I don't want to see blood shed on such a happy occasion."

Upon hearing that, the two immediately stopped and stored their weapons.

"Hah, you're in luck, Roman." Thrax quipped, not forgetting the appropriate expression.

"Hahaha, my Thracian friend, I was still using half my strength earlier."

Thrax was startled and said "Half? Hahaha I only used a third of mine."

While the two seemingly mortal enemies continued to throw mud at each other, the Egyptian queen standing at the side finally couldn't hold it in anymore and threw two loud smacks at the back of their head before the bickering came to a stop.

The rivalry might seem unhealthy, but Emery knew better, it was one of the reasons the two had advanced so much.

While Klea busily scolded the two, Emery turned to Chumo, "What about you, Chumo? How have you been?"

In response to the question, the Asian young man looked at Emery with glee.

It was at this moment that Emery realized his friend Chumo didn't get any divine technique from their fortuitous opportunity back on Earth, nor did he have any institution or organization standing behind him, specifically supporting him.

"Don't worry about me, Emery. I'll definitely catch up with all of you." A pondering expression appeared on Chumo's face before he smiled mysteriously and said, "Actually, I have a surprise... You'll see later."

"Nice, I can't wait!"

Emery proceeded to tell the group about what had happened to him over the past four months. Starting from the mission in Kulturmak, being stranded on an island in a godforsaken planet, being locked up in the Ouroboros and also the fortuitous encounter with Lord Izta during his return journey.

He also told the group about the plan of establishing their own faction and Lord Izta's suggestion of meeting the Eastern Sage. There was also the planned meeting the headmaster arranged with the Nephilims after the mid-test.

Having finished saying all that, Emery realized there was concern in the eyes and expressions on his friends' faces. But, before he could say anything, he suddenly felt a powerful surge of bone-chilling aura come crashing down from beside him.

Emery turned his head on instinct, and his gaze was immediately met with a wicked smile and fiery glare.

"An island with two girls you say? How interesting..."

This particular question quickly established itself as one that managed to make Emery's heart skip a beat, as his mind suddenly stopped on a certain incident.

The intuitive Klea quickly said, "Why are you suddenly nervous, Emery?"

Emery didn't think that now was the right place and time to talk about this matter, but if Klea really wanted an answer, Emery was ready to answer truthfully

To his complete surprise, however, Klea suddenly said,

"Hahaha, Of course I know what kind of person you really are, Emery." The girl said with a chuckle "I actually feel sorry for her. I hope you don't break her heart too much."

Hearing that, Emery's mind immediately recalled his last moments with a certain white hair girl and he involuntarily let out a long sigh.

"See?" Klea smiled faintly. "You are an open book, Emery."

The girl seemed to have misunderstood, but before Emery could explain, Julian grabbed his shoulder and interrupted with a serious expression,

"Emery, I was hoping to discuss the Nephilims and the possibility of creating a faction, but right now the most pressing thing for you is the mid-test. How much have you learned about it?"

"Not much at all," Emery responded quickly, before changing what he just said. "Actually, close to nothing."

Julian's face darkened when he heard Emery's answer. "This isn't a game anymore, Emery. The test is going to be set on a planet in a calamity stage. There's going to be a lot of risk involved"

Unbeknownst to Julian, hearing this made Emery even more excited. He actually didn't worry much about a real life test, especially after everything that had happened over the past four months.

However, Julian's expression looked like he hadn't finished delivering important news. Emery also finally realized that Klea's expression also changed.

This quickly gave Emery a bad feeling, his hunch was proved right when he heard Julian's next words.

"Emery, for the mid-test, all the teams were already briefed and registered last week. We all here already have a team. I'm afraid that you will have to fight alone. You should quickly inquire about this."

Chapter 837 - Registration

The five friends quickly concluded their reunion and the sumptuous feast that came along with it. After hearing stories of what had happened over the past four months from them, Emery decided to go check on the academy's mid-test registration.

"I really hope you won't miss out the registration, Emery," Julian said, who had apparently grouped up with Chumo and Thrax for the mid-test.

Despite their rivalry and tendency to jab at each other at every moment possible, Julian greatly appreciated Thrax's incredible strength in combat. The same could be said for Thrax, as he understood the importance of Julian's leadership and military expertise. Combined with Chumo's reconnaissance ability, the three of them played a cornerstone role in winning the previous Magus Game.

"Hah! If it wasn't for you coming and begging me, I would have never joined your team." Thrax snorted at Julian, as he folded his arms together.

Unexpectedly, the Roman didn't welcome the provocation in the usual way. "All right, all right Thrax. Let's not start again, unless you want to get smacked again."

After snickering at Thrax's expression that looked like he had just eaten a fly, Julian then looked at Klea with a smile. "It's truly unfortunate we won't be accompanied by our prettiest member this time."

Apparently, Klea had been waiting for Emery's return until the last minute possible. Even so, she couldn't join Julian's team, as the position the three reserved for her had been filled up by someone under the order of the Harlight faction.

Julian approached Klea, but he walked behind her and spoke to Emery. "Don't you let this one go, my friend. She's one of the kind."

Afterward, it was Klea's turn to speak. "Don't worry, Emery. I will talk to the Kaleos. I'll definitely find a way to be on your team, so keep a spot open for me!" She said with a sweet smile.

In response, Julian quickly spoke again. "Wow! That's heartless indeed. Don't you feel bad for Anas? After all, he always kept one spot open for you."

Klea didn't respond to Julian's words and grabbed Emery's arm, while saying to the other three, "Let's have this gathering again soon. Thank you Thrax for the hospitality. See you all later. Bye, Chumo."

The girl gave a little wink to Chumo, before she quickly pulled Emery's body towards the door. She moved quickly, as she didn't seem to want anyone to follow.

On their way back to the academy, Klea suddenly told Emery her regret, how she should've believed he would return and wait patiently rather than accept the Kaleos' offer. Emery flashed a gentle smile when he saw her sorry expression.

"It's okay Klea. You don't have to feel sorry. I don't mind at all."

Instead of being relieved by Emery's answer, it only made the girl raise her eyebrows. At this moment, Emery suddenly felt an inexplicable chill.

"You don't mind or you don't care?"

"Hahaha... Of course, I don't mind. Why do you think like that?" After avoiding the disastrous question, Emery secretly heaved a sigh of relief. Once again he couldn't help but think it was indeed difficult to be in a relationship.

Meanwhile, Klea, who was satisfied by Emery's answer, took out something from her pocket and gave it to Emery.

It was a small note that looked quite familiar. Emery immediately guessed what this note was when he heard what Klea said next.

"This should have been enough for me to trust that you will return. Again, I'm sorry."

Emery opened the note to confirm his guess, as expected he saw his own handwriting.

[I am safe and will be back soon. I am sorry for making you worry - Emery]

Klea then expressed how much the letter had given her relief. However, instead of listening to her, Emery's mind was currently on someone else.

'She really did deliver this, after all.' He thought to himself.

Unknowingly, a smile appeared on his face and confused Klea who saw it. Emery suddenly felt a smack in his stomach, strong enough to bring his thoughts back and turn his attention to the culprit.

"You're making fun of me for missing you, aren't you?!"

Even though startled, the gears in Emery's mind turned as he quickly responded, "No! Not at all!"

Once again, Klea raised her brows and threw another headache-inducing question. "So you're not happy to know I missed you?"

"..."

'Being in a relationship is really not easy.'

Some time later, the two of them finally arrived at the Magus Academy hub. Klea quickly went to the reception to inquire about the next mid-test. As they were not a regular acolyte both of them were led to a private room, where a senior staff member came to help them.

However, the answer they received was something they didn't expect to hear.

"I'm sorry to say this, miss. Your name is already registered and you are not allowed to change teams at this juncture. There is a specific position already prepared for you." Seeing the dumbfounded look on Klea's face, the senior staff spoke again. "Once again, I'm sorry."

Thanks to that, the senior staff quickly received an earful of scolding from Klea, until Emery decided to stop her and inquire about his unregistered self.

After receiving his identification, the senior staff quickly gave a check on the database. Emery saw Klea had suddenly become a little anxious.

"Please wait a minute, sir. This is quite unusual."

It appeared Emery's situation was still undecided, so they had to wait for a decision from above. Klea became restless when she heard that.

"Emery, What if you can't join at all?! That means you won't graduate!"

The two waited an hour before another, more senior staff arrived in their room. The moment he entered, his gaze immediately fell on Emery.

"Emery Ambrose?" Seeing Emery's confirmation, the man nodded. "Come with me."

The two of them were taken to another room, and as they walked, the man began to explain.

"I apologize for the inconvenience."

The man explained that usually in Emery's situation, where one was late signing up, automatically meant they would not take the test. However, it turned out Headmaster Delbrand himself had stepped in and decided to allow him to join the test.

"It's been decided you will be put on a team with two other people who are also late signing up."

Hearing this, Klea quickly spoke up. "Just three? While the others are a group of 20!? Can't he be added to my group? Check the Kaleos group! I'm sure we can push one person in!"

The man only smiled at Klea's words and said, "This is the headmaster's decision."

Emery saw Klea was about to speak again and quickly stopped her. "It's okay, Klea." He then turned to the man and asked, "May I know which two people will be in my group?"

Before the senior staff could answer, a familiar female voice sounded from behind.

"I guess we're on the same team again, Emery."

Emery looked back and was surprised when he saw who it was.

"Annara!"

Chapter 838 - Briefing

"I guess we are in the same team again, Emery." The red-haired girl spoke casually as her eyes fixed on Emery's face, seemingly ignoring the suspicious look the person standing beside him threw at her.

The two just separated yesterday, but Annara's current appearance looked so much different than the last Emery saw her. She had cut her long hair so short it only reached her necks and she was also beautifully dressed.

Even though not really an heiress like Silva, the girl did like to show off her status coming from an elite group. The dress, the jewelry, the perfume; the whole outfit Annara was wearing right now quickly made Klea frown.

It didn't take long for the Egyptian queen to stare at her with a cold gaze, and for her to reply back with a mischievous grin.

"You must be Klea. Nice to meet you." Annara spoke in a friendly tone. "Emery has told me a lot about you."

It was only moments later that Klea responded in an indifferent tone. "Did he really? I hope he didn't give you too much trouble."

"Trouble?" The red-haired girl spoke those words in an exaggerated tone of surprise. "Who? Emery? No, of course not. He's a perfect gentleman"

Hearing that, Klea glanced at Emery for a moment before replying, "Did he now?"

Annara gave Emery a mischievous smile before saying "Actually he was a little bit more than just a gentleman, he can be such a... wild beast!"

The words quickly made Klea pissed "What is that supposed to mean!"

The red-haired vixen gave Emery a look before saying "I mean his wolf form of course, what else?" The girl chuckled a little and this quickly made Klea even more irked.

From the sideline, Emery's heart beat fast. That red-haired girl probably still has resentment for him leaving her during the mission last time. If he didnt do anything, this problem in front of him might get even worse than him not participating in the mid-test.

"Ehem!" Emery quickly stood between the two of them to prevent further sparks,

"So Annara, let's focus on the mid-test. How much have you heard?"

As Emery spoke, the red-haired girl looked toward him with a mischievous smile, "Nope! I haven't been briefed about it as well."

On the other hand, the senior staff seemed ready to give the briefing, hence the situation quickly became under control - for now at least.

Even though Klea was not happy she couldn't be in the same group as Emery, she was satisfied enough to see Emery could still take the mid-test. When the senior staff started the briefing and she saw what was being displayed, she became even happier, because Emery was going to the same planet as her.

There were three calamity stage planets that had been selected for the mid-test, so the participating acolytes would be divided into three different batches. Of course, the division of the batch was done randomly.

[Planet Andora]

The mission clearly explained they were coming to sweep and completely clean up a planet that had been in a calamity stage. The term 'calamity stage' here actually translated to 'on the verge of extinction'.

In addition to the official staff and crews of the Magus Alliance deployed for this occasion, the academy would send thirty to forty groups to each planet, of which each group consisted of 20 people.

Each group would then be assigned to a certain location, with urther objectives that needed to be completed while they were at the location.

With more objectives received and completed, naturally one would receive more points, which would certainly determine their ranking in the mid-test. Moreover, the division of points was further divided into two categories: individual and group.

This mid-test was an example the academy prepared to let the acolytes know what it was like to be on a real mission. With that goal in mind, the participating group format would naturally follow the normal configuration for field mission - working in a group with a chosen leader.

Since this was an exam, a certain minimum number of points of course had to be achieved in order to be considered passed, or there would be a risk of failing the academy and not graduating.

"Do you finally understand, Emery? This is why I am emotional. You being in a small group of three is absurd. Not only will it be difficult for you to complete objectives and earn points, you... you will be in constant danger."

When she heard Klea's words to Emery, Annara interrupted the conversation.

"You don't have to worry too much, girl. I'm pretty sure the third member of our group is a privileged acolyte as well. This way, it's actually better because we don't have to worry about those weakling acolytes dragging us down."

Annara, once again, received a piercing glare from Klea for her words. In response, the red-haired girl just flashed a mischievous smile at the latter again.

Emery, on the other hand, focused his attention on the data the senior staff displayed about the planet he was about to head to. Besides its abnormal calamity situation, the planet was an ordinary [L type planet] with plants, trees, rivers, sea, etcetera. This meant there would be a lot of natural energy at his disposal, which was good for him.

As for the creatures that roamed the surface of the planet, there were quite a few that were displayed in the data.

There were apparently millions of them, from low stage to high stage with the occasional appearance of magical creatures. In addition, it was written that not all creatures living on the planet were in the database.

On a side note, the acolytes were allowed to bring whatever equipment they had. However, the way and how the artifacts were used would have an effect on the final score. For example, bringing an army of powerful machines or weapons of mass destruction would naturally lead to a large number of points deductions.

As for the duration, the mid-test would be held for 10 days straight and would start 15 days from today.

After seeing all the data, Annara commented, "Our current headmaster is quite an interesting person, huh? To even think of sending acolytes to real life battle, I guess war changes many things."

Klea, who was clearly still worried about Emery, grabbed his arm and said, "We have to plan to meet and help each other, like last time in the game."

Emery held her hand and nodded his head, but they both knew such a task would not be easy, as the scope was an entire planet and each of them would definitely be given different objectives.

"I'm sure there is a way. The Kaleos and Harlights, we can all work together. I will talk to them about this matter."

Hearing Klea's words, Annara seemed to be a little skeptical of the idea. Combined with the small smirk on her face, the two were about to get into another argument, which Emery stopped just in time.

While stroking the hand of Klea, who was irritated, Emery said. "Don't worry, Klea. We will think of something. We still have time, after all."

Now that Emery only had 15 days to prepare for the mid-test, one thing for sure was that he must successfully breakthrough to rank 9. For that, he believed he needed those [Spirit Foundation Pill] to help him.

With Emery's objective being at the Hyperion privilege planet, the two had to once again be separated.

Annara smiled at Klea and said, "Don't worry, I will look after your boy here."

Chapter 839 - Physical

[Hyperion]

Within a dome-like place with porcelain white finished, a figure was moving forward at an impeccably fast speed. Dark stones shot from all around the figure, yet none of them managed to land a scratch on his body.

"He makes this look so easy!" a female magus exclaimed from behind a panel of glass, her loud voice and expression clearly displaying her amazement. Around her stood a few members of the academy staff and a red hair acolyte, each of them observing the scene on the other side.

"He hasn't even transformed yet!" the magus then muttered to herself in disbelief. The more she paid attention, the more she could not believe what she was seeing, prompting her to pay extremely close attention to the figure breezing through the obstacles.

At that moment, a beep followed by a message directed to everyone in the room appeared.

[Level 8 will soon begin.]

[Gravity space activated 30 times, gravitational force applied.]

The wall instantly opened and 10 instruments were added to the previous 30, quickly filling the entire dome with the projectile weapons shooting the white stones.

However, the figure inside the dome suddenly roared.

Howl—

[Fey Transformation]

The figure was none other than Emery. Five months ago, he went to the test room to check his physical and mental rank among the other acolytes, and today, he repeated the same chore as soon as he returned to Hyperion privileged center.

These seven levels were his limit last time. This time, as soon as he successfully went through these levels, he immediately used his innate ability, first-stage transformation.

[Battle power increased by 30.]

[Battle Power: 238 (268)]

Emery barely reached 200 points of battle power last time. However, unlike then, his first transformation now allowed him to move at a speed fast enough to dodge all those projectiles with ease.

[You have passed level 8.]

[Your physical score is 9,000 - Rank 33]

He looked around, and to his surprise, there were actually more acolytes who were able to pass the level, whereas he previously failed in rank 27. Looking at these numbers, Emery realized that it was not just him who significantly progressed in the last five months.

[Level 9 will soon begin.]

[Gravity space activated 50 times, gravitational force applied.]

At this moment, 20 more instruments came out of the wall. With the addition of those instruments, the place quickly became crowded with weapons that rapidly shot sharp stones.

With the seemingly endless barrage of stones from all sides and the increase in gravitational force in the dome, Emery quickly got hit by one of the stones from the side.

Bamm!

The stone was small, but it caused him to feel quite the pain.

"He finally got hit!" Upon seeing this, Magus Ramona, the female magus who had been closely observing him from behind the glass, suddenly exclaimed full of excitement.

Even after spectating for quite a while now, the magus was still amazed by how much Emery had improved since she last saw him. She even suspected that it was a different acolyte, but no matter how she looked at it, it was indeed the kid who was practically a nobody from the lower realm.

While watching Emery swiftly and agilely go through the barrage of stones, the female magus was unconsciously rooting for him to get hit by more of the stones. Her posture even slowly leaned more and more toward the panel of glass as she glued her eyes to his figure.

Unfortunately, that one hit was the only one she got to see at this level.

[You have passed level 9.]

[Your physical score is 10,000 - Rank 19.]

The magus' eyes widened.

"He's crazy!!" the magus muttered. She really could not believe her eyes. She blinked her eyes a few times and immediately looked at Emery's figure on the other side to check if her eyes were deceiving her, but it only filled her with more disbelief.

"Even some crescent-moon magus can't pass that level! What is he really?" Magus Ramora turned to look at Annara next to her and asked. To her disappointment, even Annara looked almost just as surprised as she was.

Although Annara last saw Emery more recently than Magus Ramora, the last time she saw his full power was during the fight against the beholder. Even so, that incident only happened less than two months ago.

'What actually happened to him in the last two months?' the girl silently thought, a little dazed.

[Level 10 will soon begin.]

[Gravity space activated 100 times, gravitational force applied.]

"There's no way he'll be able to pass this level!" Magus Ramora confidently said to herself. Still, her eyes were already glued to Emery even before the level started.

A moment later, the gravitational force instantly increased even more and a total of 100 instruments simultaneously came out of the wall. Even more powerful stones swiftly bombarded everyone inside, and in just a few seconds, one of those stones managed to hit Emery.

These stones were, in fact, metal piercing projectiles with the capability to tear apart even saint-level combatants.

"See, he can't do it! Hahaha, of course he can't!" Magus Ramora happily laughed with satisfaction. However, her expression immediately changed when Emery's body began to change.

[Night Transformation]

[Battle power increased by 40.]

[Battle Power: 238 (308)]

[Battle Howl]

[Battle power increased by 15.]

[Battle Power: 238 (323)]

Howl—

The two ladies were stunned. The large wolf creature did not only dodge, but also crushed all the incoming projectiles. Even when the metal projectiles injured Emery's body, his [Undecaying Flesh] quickly kicked in, making him unstoppable in this environment until finally, all the machines stopped shooting and a message appeared.

[You have cleared all 10 levels of the physical test.]

[Your physical score is undefined - Rank 5.]

With this, Emery had basically cleared the test. The dome simply had no capability to measure someone with higher battle power than a half-moon magus.

However, it seemed that four privileged acolytes cleared the stage before him, making him the fifth place by default.

It did not strike him as a surprise that there were four more privileged acolytes that could pass half of the magus' physique test. After all, these people were the best of the best in thousands of worlds.

Magus Ramona was speechless. In contrast, Annara was so excited that it was clear to hear when she asked, "Are you ready for the mental test!?"

With his transformation came the primal urge for more challenge. Hearing the girl's question, Emery glared in Annara's direction.

"Bring it."

Chapter 840 - Mental

[You are now entering the spirit test]

[Level 1 will soon begin]

This time, Emery knew better what he was getting into, so he continued to maintain his composure as he found himself standing in the middle of an empty space surrounded by bright floating orbs that quickly approached him and began to suppress him with spirit pressure.

Knowing that it would be a fairly straightforward test, Emery's facial expression did not change as he switched from his [Night Transformation] which focused on physical enhancement to his [Day Transformation] which focused on spirit enhancement.

As Emery's massive body started to shrink and his jet-black fur began to turn to a silvery color, Magus Ramona, who was observing the course of the test, straightened up in shock and had her eyes fixed on Emery's body.

"What's this now?!"

The female magus had her mouth slightly open, as she had not seen this side of him before. As a bonafide magus, she could clearly sense Emery's body started to radiate a powerful surge of spirit force in rapid manner, and with it, she and the other people watched the screen showing how he just calmly stood there as the test level increased.

[You have passed level 1]

[Level 2 will soon begin]

[You have passed level 2]

[Level 3 will soon begin]

...

Following the arrival of the next level, the pressure that the floating orbs imposed on Emery also increased to match his level of difficulty. However, compared to the previous time when he started to

feel a painful sensation at level 5 and was determined to have failed at level 7, this time the feeling of discomfort only started to appeared at level 7.

This sight, once again, made Magus Ramona nervous and she started biting her nails in anxiety. "I really thought he was just a brawl type... but from the looks of it, it seems I was completely wrong."

[You have passed level 7]

[Mental score 7000 - rank 64]

[Level 8 will soon begin]

In addition to the mind-boggling performance he was showing right now, the magus' disbelief was also due to the fact that Emery was still a rank 8 acolyte. In fact, he was the only one in the privileged class who was still rank 8 acolyte, which clearly showed that he had some sort of limitation in his cultivation progress.

While it was still quite absurd, it was still somewhat believable for Emery to have such monstrous physical capabilities since he was known to be a half-blood.

However, the same couldn't be said for the cultivation realm, which was supposed to be more predictable. Hence, she was in complete confusion as to why this mere rank 8 acolyte was still able to stand straight under that much of spirit pressure.

While Magus Ramona was lost in thought, Emery had already passed level 8 and was soon entering the next level.

[You have passed level 8]

[Mental score 8000 - rank 39]

[Level 9 will soon begin]

The female magus, actually, wasn't wrong.

Even though Emery's dual-core was a unique, one-of-a-kind miracle that allowed to have basically twice as much spirit pool and power, his secret of breezing through this test lay within the innate ability that his [Day Transformation] had, the spell/magic resistance.

This, coupled with his terrifying spirit power, gave him the mental capacity high enough to nonchalantly stroll past the previous levels as well as past level 9.

[You have passed level 9]

[Mental score 10000 - rank 26]

[Level 10 will soon begin]

Finally, it was at level 10 that Emery started to feel the awaited pain that gradually became stronger as time passed. It was a completely different sensation, one that made him couldn't help but think that the previous nine levels were nothing compared to level 10 he was currently experiencing.

The feeling was similar to when he was upgrading the bloodline when he stood in front of the magnificent wolf. He was unable to move and in a matter of seconds, the spirit energy in Emery's nature and dark core swirled chaotically due to the tremendous pressure and then rapidly exploded out of control.

It happened so suddenly that it made Emery lose control of his body and fall to his knees. Immediately after, he lost his consciousness and everything went black for a moment.

[Spirit Test concluded]

[Your mental score 10250 - rank 18]

[Physical score undefined - rank 5]

[Calculating your new ranking from the physical and mental score...]

[Congratulations! Your final test rank is 9th]

At the same time as the last notification appeared, Emery found himself back in the real world where his body was lying in the tube-like chamber. It didn't take long for the chamber to open, and as he slowly came out, Emery noticed how he was welcomed by dozens of strange and awkward stares.

"What's wrong? Did I do something wrong?"

There was no immediate response, which caused the atmosphere to become even more awkward and Emery gradually felt uncomfortable.

"No... On the contrary, you did extremely well."

Emery's final result was enough to leave the talkative Magus Ramona at a loss for words.

It was at this moment that she realized that the young man she teased five months ago no longer existed, and the one standing in front of him right now could definitely be a genius who would become a prominent figure in the magus universe.

Annara who was standing beside the female magus was not much different. From what she had just seen, what she heard that night in prison about Emery defeating a half-blood magus was clearly not made up.

After hearing Magus Ramona's words, Emery ignored the gazes still directed at him and walked towards the screen where his detailed results of his test were already displayed.

As for the test details and comprehensive evaluation of him:

[Emery Ambrose]

[Privilege acolytes member ID: 83192008]

[Average stat comparison]

[Battle Power 238 (323) SS]

[Strength 210 (319) - SS]

[Agility 248 (312) - SS]

[Endurance 256(338) - SSS]

[Spirit force 1000 - S]

[Spirit Power - S]

[Spirit Control - A]

[Spirit Pool - SS]

It was certainly a result worthy of being in the top 10 of all the human geniuses of the thousands of worlds.

The 9th rank listed next to his name certainly made Emery happy, and at the same time proud of what he has achieved.

With a small but confident smile on his face, Emery turned around and said to Annara.

"So who do you think I should challenge first?"